



Isabelle



Ribbon tailed Ash red



Light Andalusian Swift

# PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: LESTER PAUL GIBSON

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### ROBERT BENNION EMAILS: 13nov'03

Crossing Oriental Frill (Black & brown) blondinettes (solid color = non-pied) with Rollers has never produced any birds with any evidence of bronzing in bars or chequering or any bronze "punching through" on Spread blue/black in the F1 generation. Subsequently from these crosses, pink/bronze chequered and pink/bronze barred birds were produced that had spot tails. This indicates to me that Toy Stencil is not part of the genotype of the 'laced' blondinettes that I used. Had I used barred Blondinettes, perhaps my results would have shown that Toy Stencil is necessary to produce the white bars of this variety.

Keep up the good work with the magazine, the coloured photographs are a real bonus and it is great to see some of the more unusual colour combinations.

### MY COMMENTS:

Robert, I should have delved into your results a lot quicker. You did state that color of the blondinettes were Spread and laced, but not what color or pattern the Roller was. However, your later statements indicate that the Roller was barred since you got checkered and barred progeny. If your Blondinettes were laced, what happened that you got no T-pattern. You state you did get spot tails so fs (frill stencil) was part of the genome. The pink/bronze bars and checks could have been an effect of the fs gene. It is not surprising to me that you got no bronze punching through. Many times this happens with Toy Stencil when Spread is present. We do not know why it punches through some Spread birds and not others. However you should have gotten bronze C patterns in the barred and checked young. And these pink/bronze should have molted to white the next year, if the Toy Stencil combination was present and in the right mix.

### BRYAN BEDDES EMAILS 12nov'03

I was wondering if you had done any work with the grizzle in Silesian Pouters and could possibly shed some light on the genetic makeup that results in a bird that is nearly white, yet retains the intense red bars. The detailed description in the Silesian breed makes it sound as if Undergrizzle might even be involved. I've pasted below an excerpt from it. What makes it confusing is I know that Ug can sometimes even whiten the C-spread area of the shield, but here the bar color remains intense and unaffected.

“Red or Yellow Grizzle – A very weak toned underfeathering makes the head and body cream-colored, the shield whitish. Wing bars are an intense red or yellow and well separated; the outer part of the flight feathers appears white while the inner part shows some pigment; tail, light without a terminal bar; in the neck feathering, from the base of the feathers to 3/5ths of the length, the color is white. The remaining 2/5<sup>th</sup> is a red or yellow patch of color bordered by white which displays a light green iridescence. This colored patch is scarcely visible when the globe is deflated but an inflated globe shows these colored patches as a well distributed speckling.”

Another question on the topic of Ug is with a breed that I raise, and that is Old German Owls. I saw where you judged OGOs somewhere...was it Louisville? Anyway, I hope you could comment on the so called “red lace” shield expression. I’ve included a picture for reference. If this bird is in fact Spread, would the expression of Ug on the underlying pattern be any different? These ash-red and yellow laces are quite common in the breed, yet there isn’t anything comparable on the T-pattern blues. Any thoughts?



Picture of OGO laces [sorry couldn’t find the others].

MY REPLY 24nov’03

I have not worked with the “grizzle” or the Silesian Pouter. I have reared the whiteheaded Black Silesian, but have never seen one of the yellows or reds. From what I read (between the lines) is that the color is probably Ice Grizzle Ash. Would love to work with that color. Do you know where I might get a pair or at least a couple birds to work with? The feather sent with the later post is not like anything I have seen before.

I judged OGOs at several shows. The red lace pattern is what is known as strawberry and is usually the action of Sooty on an Ash red Spread bird. A similar phenotype can be produced on rec. reds and blues with Toy Stencil.

#### EDITORIAL ADDENDUM

15 december ’04 – The “grizzle” of the Silesian Pouter is evidently just the action of Ice on the genome of the Ash red or yellow Silesian Pouter. It is not consistent with a grizzle and Ug is not involved either.

#### SOME REVISED NUGGETS OF WISDOM (SENT BY JDF)

The other night I ate in a family restaurant. Every table had an argument going. According to a recent pole, men say the first thing they notice about a woman is her eyes, and women say the first thing they notice about men is they’re a bunch of liars.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Have you noticed that a slight tax increase costs you two hundred dollars, and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents?

Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.

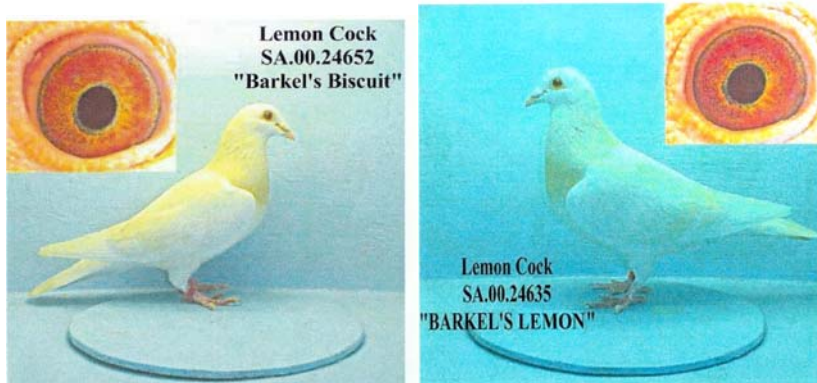
How is it that one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.

## WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ECRU.

The color ecru was selected and symbolized (ec) by Jim Muckerman, Jerry Sternadel, and Lester Paul Gibson. The term ecru was actually suggested by Jerry's wife.

This color was introduced to the world by Jack Barkel of South Africa as Barkel's Lemon. The following are a couple pictures sent by Mr. Barkel to promote the sale of this coloration.



Historically a South African, Jack Barkel saw this coloration in a Homer line in South Africa in what was known as the Slimme. He purchased the bird ostensibly to increase and bring back the Slimme line. Then he decided to switch and make this the basis of what he called Barkel's lemons. This came to include blues as well as this coloration and thus these were no longer Slimme line but Barkel's lemon line. This line has made him enough money that he opened a loft (breeding station) in St. Louis, Missouri.

If these birds had been this color, it would have indeed been quite a boon to the coloration of pigeons. However, these "lemon yellow" pictures were evidently a clever ploy to sell this line. Since some did not like the lemon connotation, it had been suggested that the name for the color be changed to pearl.

The actual color of these birds is ecru (light tan or beige) resembling unbleached linen. These birds have very short down when hatched and nearly pink eyes. They have very indistinct markings which show up after the molt. After the molt the eyes change to normal coloration.



Young squabs



Fledgling



Adult coloration

Most but not all develop a tail bar. Research is still under way by the three named above as well as Larry Davis and Dr. Wim Peters DVM in S.A. A lot of conflicting breeding results have been brought forward; some of which does not make sense or advance the knowledge of the inheritance of this coloration.

WILLIE EMAILS:

These birds were given to me as “slates” (smokey) but I think they are something else. I believe one is smokey and both are faded. Am I right??

MICHAEL SPADONI REPLIES:

I would say they are both Sooty, they could also be Dirty, I don't think Faded is involved.

RON HUNTLEY RESPONDS:

Michael, I don't see any signs of Sooty on either bird. However, I do see smoky and some other modifier, which is causing the wing bars to be lighter in color.

MICHAEL REPLIES:

I agree that they are smoky, I still think that additionally this one [the Horseman] is also sooty. A close look at the wing shields, I think, shows too much smudging for smoky alone. With Sooty also being present, it gives the impression of having checks. Also notice the dark beak furthering my belief that there is more than smoky.

THE EDITOR'S TWO CENTS:

I believe they are both smoky and Sooty. Although, I am not positive. I would have to see where the mark is on the feather to be sure whether it was also Sooty but as both Ron and Michael say - neither the Show Homer nor the Spanish Horseman are just smoky or the beaks would be light. I think it is smoky that is lightening the overall color and Sooty that is darkening up the beak.

BOB MANGILE WRITES: EXCERPTS

I am attaching an old photo that I dug up from 1984. Stanley Snare drove up here one evening with his grandson with what he called a strange Modena squeaker. The photo is poor quality but the white tail band is evident as well as the white in the bases of the flights, I have it noted as a possible checker, but not sure. It does not look like a good example of Dominant opal to me. Maybe Modena breeders have seen this plumage type before. Clearly it isn't Ash red, and not likely Spread either. Just wonder about frill

stencil or toy stencil in combination with bronze. Anyway, have fun trying to figure out this unusual plumage. These type things will drive you insane! Just about succeeded on me but need a year of two more for complete insanity.



Modena squeeaker  
Stanley Snare - 1984

THE EDITOR:

Bob, this is a very unique color display. I believe though that the bird is an Undergrizzle Dominant opal, gazzi. Those white markings on the tail are unique arrow point markings that may be something else but I do not believe the bird is Toy Stencil or frill stencil.

Thanks for sharing the photo. Wonder what it looked like when it molted? ☺ ☺  
Boy I wish I knew how to make those smiley faces all the time. ☺

STEVE C EMAILS:

I have a question regarding Dominant opal. The expression of Od tends to be variable. If my goal was to get a blue bird with light colored pattern (close to white); would it be best to start off with an Od bird that is very pale [light] in the pattern, or doesn't it matter as long as the Od gene is there?

RON HUNTLEY RESPONDS:

Steve, to get a blue bird with light colored pattern (close to white); I would breed a blue bird pure for smoky and heterozygous for Dominant opal.

EDITOR:

I must have missed a communiqué from Steve before the next one but Ron makes a couple good points.

RON WRITES: EXCERPTS

Steve, you are reading more into my answer than what I wrote .....  
Of course it matters how Dom opal is expressed. The expression is the result of many, many, other factors also present. You want a bird that is in the bar pattern if white bars are what you are [trying to produce]. A dark Dom. opal will complicate things as you try to breed for bar.

You wouldn't want a grizzle Od either. The list is endless of what you don't want. What you want is to keep it simple and close to wild type in color as possible. Smoky when pure will darken the birds overall color but will not prevent the lightening effect of Od in the spread areas. The white bar will not be any whiter but the contrast between the white bar and the rest of the bird will be greater with the presence of smoky. This contrast is going to make the white bars look better.

HELMET BREWER WROTE:

We enjoyed the lace tailed Fantails; but we also wonder if they come in ribbon tail? And what would be the difference....??

RALPH SMITH EMAILS: 21nov'03 excerpt

The frill stencils have lace or spot tails and we are just not sure what causes that. I have blacks with lace tails and blacks with spot tails.

We also have them in checks and bars and also in Satinette.

THE EDITOR BREATHS:

My research indicates that the lace tailed birds are T-pattern and the spot tails are bar pattern. When John Potter and I started to work with this trait, we were told that the Spread birds have lace tails. We, like Ralph, found that that was not always the case. Sometimes bar tails and pseudo-bar tailed birds molt to lace tails so we were not sure what was going on exactly. Maybe these were check or bar with Sooty, I never solved this to my satisfaction. About that time, the raccoons wiped out my project. I still work with the fs project but do not have barred birds in the line. All my Spread birds now have lace tails consistently so maybe I was right about the bar phenotype???

STEVE SOUZA EMAILS:21nov'03

Not (knowingly) having Ts in my loft, I have a question about the phenotype of a Spread bird that has lighter gray to white C pattern areas.

Is Ts complex required to create a black bird with white (or lighter) bars or checks? Can something else cause it? Dominant opal (Od) perhaps? Or Ts1 alone on black? I understand that Spread Blue with homozygous recessive opal produces sex-linked phenotypes, where the hen shows minimal lightening of the black, while the cock shows more lightening and lacing to the black. Can recessive opal combined with something else cause lighter C areas on the black?

GRAHAM MANNING REPLIES:

I think Dominant opal needs to combine with Toy Stencil, but I don't know for sure? I'm not sure what you mean with the Ts1 "alone" on black? Spread is epistatic to Modena bronze (is masked by). I remember when the first American import Modenas came out after restrictions were finally lifted here in Oz. I noticed "bronze spangled blacks" being entered into the shows. I was puzzled as from my genetic readings I had learnt that the bronze should be hidden? Could have been a different type of bronze used? Or perhaps they weren't really 'S' blacks? I haven't seen any around for a while, just thought I'd comment on it though as it is still a mystery to me.

Anyhow, to my knowledge, modena bronze on it's own can't cause stenciling when you add S. Not sure on S and Od though? Mate an 'Od' bird to a black modena and mate F1s together to see if any 'stencils' show up? I'm pretty confident those crosses would have been made by now to test for linkages and so forth. I haven't done much with stencils, but I no doubt will give them a try in the future. Argent Modenas sound interesting to me.

Recessive opal is an autosomal recessive. So I'm thinking the lighter cock birds you mention is more of the typical 'brightness' seen in cock birds in any case. I think the brightness is due to the cocks having the 'twin' sex chromosomes so more expression of colour is likely to be evident. The 'hemizygous' hens (one sex chromosome) are generally noted as displaying their colour slightly darker. The fact that rec. opal is present is probably helping this sex-linkage...no I'd prefer auto-sexing effect, but is not actually causing it.

Recessive opal with Spread will give slate grays. Similar to the Spread Indigo effect. Gibson reports that: "Heterozygous S opal Blues are very poorly colored blacks which show the C markings." Recessive opal may turn out to act like one of the Ts complex components perhaps? Anyone tried any crosses?

#### THE EDITOR REPLIES:

Some good discussion going on here. Need to interject a few notes. Heterozygous Ts1 with or without Ts2 indeed does produce bronze spangled black birds but for some reason, not all the time. Still working on this aspect. There are a number of genes that enhance the effect of Ts in some birds.

Genes that I have found that enhance the Toy Stencil effect in hetero Ts birds, include rec. opal, Dom. opal, and in the juvenile – Indigo. However, Indigo and Ash red tend to mess up the pattern of the Ts and do not produce sharp bars, etc.

Recessive opal Spread birds are not sex-linked. The male is laced similar to a reduced black and the female is just a poor black with the C areas showing blacker. This is not sex-linkage but is sex-influenced, just like a chicken hen and rooster.

HELMETBREWER EMAILS:12nov'03 (in response to a long discussion between he and Graham. (excerpts).

Enjoyed this Graham...Willard Hollander did not agree with Quinn on his bronze being K based. Willard does not see Agate nor Undergrizzle.. except as an observation? Without observation however, what would we have as breeder understanding. IE before Quinn...nuttin'.

If anyone says CANNOT BE DONE...then you do it! But if they say, I prefer to eliminate rec. reds from my Stencils, then find out WHY?

THE LISTS where FANCIERS fail to take understanding form disagreement; fall to pieces...likewise the HOBBY?

The rcbc that POSTED recently the stencils of several years ago; is the person on the North American Continent, that is, without a doubt the current leader in GENEPOOL type BREEDING! We might ask tho, Who was his Mentors...but also HOW MUCH observation he is keeping to himself?

AFTER JQ comes the AMERICAN GENEPOOL. But only for the AMERICAN FANTAIL. We must also realize that it has been the likes of Lester Paul Gibson who closely followed JQ. IE THE BOOK U MENTION. The BIGGEST observation from Pigeongibson was that ma//ma, in its variations, within the same family, was/is in fact Ts1... This observation turned Hypothesis has been substantiated by the Genepool.

Leon Stevens made the first brown fantails. Kreutter made brown saddles from these & dated 1979. Leon was so aggravated that not a single FANCIER would give him \$25 for a starter that he sent them all to Kreutter in NY.. Kreuter could not dispense a single brown gened Fantail because that was the deal with Leon...[what a shame].

The list is longer.

#### BRIAN BEDDES EMAILS:

Here is a fun picture [for those] of you that are interested in Toy Stencil. What I find interesting about this bird is that it is only heterozygous. It's the result of an unintended mating between a Racing Homer and a Fairy Swallow...unusual to get this good of Ts expression in an F1.



[It is also unusual to get a Fairy Swallow cross that does not show white ticking on the face? A beautiful dun.]

#### BRIAN BEDDES EMAILS:

I didn't breed this particular bird, but I have seen it in person and don't believe Od is involved. There have been a few other occasions, however, where I have seen Ts heterozygotes with similar beige to near-white stenciling. One was out of a stenciled Ice Pigeon and the other was out of one of Dal Stone's frill stenciled Rollers. It would almost seem that there was some unknown gene in the stenciled parent that makes them abnormally prepotent.

In the case of the Ts/fs Roller cross, this bird in turn was mated to a non Ts bird and I still got extremely good Ts1 bronze expression...as good as you would see on any Modena...and thus 2 generations removed from the only stenciled parent.

#### EDITOR:

I do not believe Od is involved either. Rec. opal might be. It is distinctly Spread and dilute. The bird out of Dal Stone's bird could have been reduced. The bronze is Dominant so that is not surprising to get good Ts1 bronze expression 2 generations later.



GRAHAM MANNING EMAILS:

Ok, here's some pictures of a couple Racing Homer squeakers that are nestmates. Both have T-pattern based on blue colour. I think both are Grizzles, but just wondering about the expression and if one may be a Tiger Grizzle and if there's any Undergrizzle involved?

First picture shows the one I think may be Undergrizzle? Although not really evident in that picture, I'm including that shot to enquire about the white underside of the squeaker. You will note the white feathering starts roughly where the keel begins and continues underneath the bird to base of tale. Not all grizzles exhibit this white underside, but it is still seen often in some grizzle stains. What is that effect called? Is it due to some kind of 'pattern' gene perhaps?

Second picture is a wing spread-out shot of that very same white bellied squeaker. Note the flecking in primaries that I'm wondering may be undergrizzle? This squeaker also has some pied 'tics' on head and some pied wing feathers, and of course that lovely white underbelly. But wing shield is T-pattern (slight juvenile bronze evident) and shows only slight effect from grizzle gene. Nice checkering all down the back also.

Third picture is the nestmate to the first squeaker. This youngster has Grizzle, but I'm thinking it may moult in Tiger Grizzle? (Just a feeling I have basically, as I saw what I think was Tiger Grizzle present in the genepool where the parents of these birds hailed from). It does not have a white underbelly like the first mentioned baby. It does have grizzling underneath but it's mixed in with blue and looks nothing like the 'pattern' effect noted previously. I would like to bring attention to an area of feathers in this birds wing however. I think they're called primary coverts. They appear to be faded, mottled sort of bleached out look? Compare with earlier squeaker and you should notice what I mean. What could this be?

My initial thoughts? Well first squeaker has Dirty factor or something similar. That helps darken the shield area and shut out grizzle effect on T-pattern area. The second squeaker I'm confused about that 'bleaching' or whatever it is. Not smoky as far as I can tell. There as an albescent strip although not present in picture on the outer rectrices. Hope you enjoy the pictures. I look forward to thoughts on them.



YE EDITOR REPLIES:

Both birds appear to be T-pattern as you state. Both also appear to be Sooty. I do not think the first bird is Grizzle but is Dirty and het. Undergrizzle. Dirty would account for the dark color, the dark feet and beak, and Undergrizzle sometimes shows the white marked flight feathers. The lightened pigment basally (on the flights) is typical of hetero Undergrizzle. The white underside is, I believe, a separate trait (which I call white-belly) that is seen in some European varieties (such as the Stettin Tumbler). It is a pied trait and can be found in many colors from blue bar, rec. red, black, etc.

The second squeaker is definitely Grizzle and may also be Undergrizzle. You will know when it molts. Both birds could be Tiger Grizzle but you would not know until they molt. If neither parent is Tiger Grizzle, then this rules it out. Be interested to see them after the molt.

BRYAN BEDDES EMAILS: 24nov'03

Thanks for the reply on the Silesian "grizzle". I did manage to find a small picture to give you some idea about what I was talking about. There is no Ice involved to the best of my knowledge. I saw an actual example of Ash red Ice only yesterday on a red bar Damascene, and the expression is different...the red bars are lightened up to a paler, frosty shade. It's not the more intense red we see here in the Silesians. I would guess this might be an allele or something to G, since conventional grizzles are also common in the breed. Gary Young offered some input, and I've pasted his comments below.

GARY'S COMMENTS:

Yes, I am familiar with this – it's the stuff that Frillbacks have. It's not regular grizzle because the homozygous condition does not produce stork mark (I called it FB grizzle back in the 70's and 80's while corresponding with Doc Hollander and Paul Gibson and they didn't disagree). Evidently the ancient FB breeders found out that this was the best color to bring out the feather curl to human view. Actually all FB's have it. I found three variations – dark, medium, and light. I was able to mate dark to light and get medium, but stable strains of each variation can be developed and maintained. Some of the lighter ones are nearly white with dark bars (the factor does not seem to affect the coarse spread of the bars).

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

Oh, so long ago. Yes, I remember the Frillback issue. I believe John Potter found that there was a modifier that blocked the action of Grizzle. I remember I had a couple blue bar Rollers that consistently produced Grizzle young. Don't know whether this was the same thing as what Frillbacks have or not.

A FEW REVISED NUGGETS OF WISDOM:

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday ...lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder, no one talks of seeing UFO's.