



Isabelle



Ribbon tailed Ash red



Light Andalusian Swift

PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

EMAIL VERSION OCTOBER 2005

EDITOR: LESTER PAUL GIBSON

PAGE 261

MICHAEL SPADONI EMAILS: 13may'04

Now this one is interesting as it has a 2 gene difference. The bird is a recessive opal, but one wing is silver. If the whole bird were dilute, I would assume the red opal bars would be yellow?

EDITOR:

Two things here, recessive opal is linked to the pattern gene and dilute rec. opal is usually sulfur yellow. However, the bar is black instead of dun (as is usually found on silver birds) so I would expect the opal to be dark also. The bird is very possibly het, opal so only one gene difference. Very nice mosaic though.



LARRY LONG FORWARDS EMAIL:

“Hi Larry, I was gifted this bird by an outstanding flyer here in SA. The father is a blue check, the mother a blue bar. I guess recessive opal but what do you say? I’ll attach a photo.”

Hello Dr. Wim, I wish I were better at looking at pictures. No, I don’t believe this to be recessive opal. My guess is reduced which really puzzles me because it’s not common in high quality racing stock. The silvering on the neck is a sign of reduced. The

pattern is very whitened, more like dominant opal or toy stencil than recessive opal although it is again a sign it could be reduced.

I would like to see a picture of the wings spread and the back or rump showing. If this is recessive opal, I would look for a lacing pattern across the rump. If this is reduced, look at the tail bar and reduced makes it look like the bar color is pushed to the end of the tail. If it is reduced it should have been short down and if recessive opal, long down.

This picture looks like a hen. If it were a cock it couldn't be reduced but that would be a strong clue it is recessive opal. I would ask the breeder if he ever raises cocks of this color from the pair or any other blue colored pairs. As a final help for you, I'm going to turn to one of my mentors, Dr. Paul Gibson. Dr. Gibson publishes the Online Genetics Newsletter and I would suggest with your interest that you sign up for it. Ok, Paul, what do you think, reduced or recessive opal and why.



EDITOR:

I guess I am looking at a different set of pictures than the first one you remarked about, Larry. What I am looking at is a set of three showing open wings, spread tail and top view open wings. What I see is a very pretty soft colored bird with white secondary flights. The bird is not recessive opal. It does have attributes that make one think of reduced checker but that cannot be the whole story. It also looks very much like it is milky blue check. I do have a reduced milky blue check that looks very much like this bird. The chance of a pair of homers both carrying reduced and milky so as to produce this bird is quite slim, I would think, but that is what it looks like.

A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR WITH A SLAB OF ASPHALT UNDER HIS ARM AND SAYS, "A BEER PLEASE AND ONE FOR THE ROAD."

A SANDWICH WALKS INTO A BAR. THE BARTENDER SAYS, "SORRY, WE DON'T SERVE FOOD IN HERE."

A JUMPER CABLE WALKS INTO A BAR. THE BARTENDER SAYS "I'LL SERVE YOU, BUT DON'T YOU START ANYTHING IN HERE."

RON HUNTLEY FORWARDS:

“David Cheng – I would like to know if you can help me identify the color of this pair of rollers. They are not exactly white. I don't know which category they fall under. Your help is appreciated.”

Hi David, I'm not sure what color your near whites are. I am going to pass your photo on to Dr. Gibson and see if he can answer your question.

EDITOR:

Ron, near whites can only be determined by knowing the parents and grandparents. Certain genetic combinations or multigenetic combinations will produce near whites. Doctor Hollander used to use the phrase “sand in the gears”. When you get too much then the result is near whites. If you add enough genetic traits, the result is frequently near white.

I produce near whites in Starlings quite frequently. They are always hens and are the result of a couple males carrying reduced. These hens have been black or rec. red Spread reduced, genetically. I also produce near whites consistently with homozygous Almonds, homozygous Faded. Spread Chalky, dilute reduced rec. reds, whites from E. Swifts that show vestiges of the Halsring and are similar to those shown above that David has. Usually, the second year they will show enough color to guess as to their genetic makeup.

I know this does not answer the question of identifying the birds in the picture but it does give you an idea of the complexity of finding the answer. [Since writing the above, I have had so more experience and believe these may be reduced Spread Ash reds.]

PATIENT: “Doc, I can't stop singing ‘the green, green grass of home’. “That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome.” “Is it common?” “It's not unusual.”

I went into the store to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't see any.

EDITOR:

The following is a compilation of some notes on Pied markings.

David T. bred Baldhead to Nun pattern and reared 4 young – all are an intermixture of color and white. Backcross to Baldhead produced 6 Baldheads.

Michael Spadoni mated a Jacobin (Baldhead) to a white bar Fairy Swallow and got a mismarked hooded Baldhead with a white bib and showing some Toy Stencil.

David ? writes that a friend of his crossed a LFCL Tumbler to a Nun and produced a bird that had a lot of white on the chest, wings, and body but was basically a “splash” with colored wings. The bird mated back to a Nun produced 2 perfectly marked showable Nuns as well as a few near misses and mismarks.

Antonie Farinha writes he crossed a brown Nun to a Capuchine (Baldhead) and produced F1s with varying degrees of white and color, but had no particular markings. The F2s were so far all marked like the Capuchines (Baldheads).

Andy Reed writes when crossing self marked Chinese Owls to Baldheads he got all colored birds with a few white flights and a white band from eye to eye around the back of the head. Baldhead mated to self marked American Show Racers produce two almost Mookie marked with the white line through the eyes.

Editor : in some of my research I worked with Baldhead in several breeds, a little with Swallow pattern, quite a bit with Lahore Pattern and some with the Helmet pattern. I found as listed in literature that the Bh gene produces a Baldhead phenotype. I suspect that some Pied colorations are the result of one or more genes or are modifications of other pied colorations.

Working with Baldhead has led me to be convinced that the Classical Baldhead is made up of the action mainly of three genes. The Bh gene produces the white head, the Wf white flight gene produces white flights, and a recessive gene for white tail produces the white tail. When these are combined the belly and legs usually are also whitened.

I crossed hetero Baldhead to Lahore and produced all homozygous Bh phenotype F1. F2s also were 100% Baldhead. ???????

The Lahore Pattern has been batted around and those that have worked with it feel very strongly that the pattern is the result of three genes. As listed above the Swallow pattern is recessive.

The Helmet Pattern is recessive and produces some Helmet Pattern from the F1s but these need work to bring them back to showable Helmet Pattern. Usually they have an area of color mismarking their backs.

Michael S. states that he doesn't think a cross of Baldhead to Saddle done by Andrew Reed is a valid test since he considers them the same gene, just a different expression. I am not sure whether he means the saddle as found in the saddlebacks of Australia or the shield-marked that we mistakenly call saddles.

My matings of Baldheads to Bell-necks produced saddlebacks and mating of these saddlebacks to bell-necks produced more saddlebacks and some bell-necks. I haven't gotten any further than that in my research on Baldheads, Bell-necks, and saddleback markings. This summers matings of saddlebacks to Baldheads has produced some young that look like Baldheads with the front of the neck white from the head to the belly.

David, you stated that when you crossed Nuns to Baldheads, you got birds with colored heads and tails which is what I would suspect; but were the heads solid colored or did they have a white mark across the head above the ears?

My research indicates that the Baldhead trait genetically affects just the head as a partial dominant. The Bh gene by itself gives us a white headed colored bird like the Silesian Pouter. However, it seems there is some influence on the number of white flights. The white flights are controlled by a dominant trait. The tail feathers are controlled by a recessive gene for white tail.

Because of this we can select for white or colored tails, white or colored flights, and white or colored head and any combination of these.



The 'classical' Baldhead



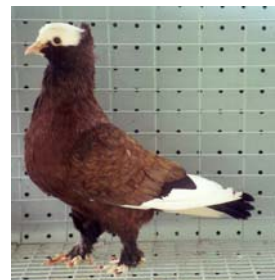
heterozygous Baldhead (Bh + Wf)



White head only



White flight only

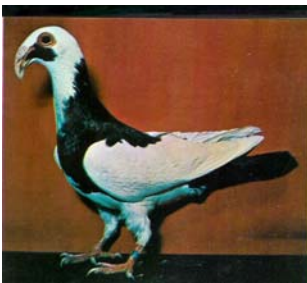


white head and flight

AS YOU KNOW, THE GASOLINE SITUATION HERE IN THE STATES HAS PRODUCED UNPRECEDENTED HIGH PRICES. I SAW A LOCAL POLICEMAN DO WHAT HE COULD TO HELP. He turned his cruiser into a gasoline station. ☺ ☺.



white flights, tail & leg

Whitehead, bib, tail, thumb
flights, belly, legWhite head, wing, flights,
belly, leg.White head, bib, wing,
Flights, belly, leg
(modified Saddleback)Australian Saddleback
(Saddleback phenotype)

bell-neck phenotype

As you can see from the above, all these phenotypes are part of the so called 'classic' Baldhead phenotype.

What is the point of all this? It shows us that we must be very concise and not draw quick conclusions when it comes to pied phenotypes. The research must not say "I got a pied or mottled phenotype. Either include a picture or describe the bird so well that we see a picture in our mind.

I believe many of these traits are linked (occur on the same chromosome).

JOHN PIRE WRITES: 19may'04 (John did some tests to determine if Ringneck Dove eggs were affected by brief immersion in warm and cool tap water from the sink; green algae water from a fish tank, or dirty eggs washed under running tap water.)

Test 1 – (Tap water) Results: Both eggs hatched. I do not believe immersing the eggs in the tap water had any effect on the fertility or embryo development and both eggs hatched.

Test 2 – (green pond water) Results: Both eggs hatched. I do not believe the "green algae/bacteria" pond water had any effect on the fertility or embryo development of the two eggs.

Test 3 – (dirty eggs cleaned with paper towel under warm tap water.) Both eggs fertile. I am predicting these eggs will hatch also.

EDITOR:

Thanks John, these are the important type tests that tend to disprove “old wives tales” like – “If the eggs are dirty, it is a waste of time to try to clean them because they will not hatch after being cleaned.”

TWO COWS WERE STANDING NEXT TO EACH OTHER IN A FIELD, DAISY SAYS TO DOLLY, “I WAS ARTIFICIALLY INSEMINATED THIS MORNING.” “ I DON’T BELIEVE YOU,” SAID DOLLY. “IT’S TRUE, NO BULL!”, EXCLAIMED DAISY.

I WENT TO BUY SOME CAMOUFLAGE TROUSERS THE OTHER DAY BUT I COULDN’T FIND ANY. I TRIED BEFORE ABOVE BUT STILL NO LUCK. ☺

DISCUSSION ON THE ALBESCENT STRIP:EDITOR:

Just a note. I believe Spread has nothing to do with the presence or absence of the albescent strip. I, as well as many others, have researched this and find no effect of Spread on the albescent strip. A bird that is Spread may or may not have the strip whitened but that is not because of Spread.

KIM WRIGHT:

Thanks Steve and Paul. I guess it is just one of those things that I’d been told and seemed to fit with most of the birds that I had. So is smoky then the only known gene to cover or remove the albescent strip? My Spread blacks don’t have an albescent strip but then their beaks are black and I presumed they weren’t smoky.

EDITOR TO KIM:

Many blacks are smoky, Sooty, and Dirty Spread Blues. This does produce a dark beak. Do we have proof that Spread does not by itself, produce birds without an albescent strip? Many tests have been done and that evidently is the case but it’s not set in concrete. You will see people call a black with an albescent strip, false blacks or pseudo blacks. Also you will see where people breed blacks out of blue bars. I have bred blacks out of blue bars but they were still Spread as tests showed. One of the blue bars was in reality a Spread bird, either by parentage or from mutation. It (a hen) must have been homo Spread because it produced Blacks with different blue males and no blue young. This would rule out the mutation theory.

These blue bar Spread non-blacks have an odd tint to them. I believe there is floating around, a gene that prevents the Spread from expressing. A similar thing can be seen in some lines of Frillbacks where there is a gene that prevents Ash red Grizzle from being white and a homo. Blue/Black Grizzle from being storked.

It is true that you can produce a black bird without the Spread gene. The first ones I ever saw were produced by John Potter in Galien, Michigan. Later, I also produced some from some of the birds John gave me but it takes just the right combination of homo Dirty, Sooty, and smoky.

Albescent strip research continues to quest for possibly other answers.

FRANK (T.O.M.):

Paul, I know that this has been a discussion in the past. In Modenas, I have yet to see a Black colored bird have this strip. Or other colors that I knew to be Spread. In my pursuit of black Argents, I have yet to produce any birds that I would class as smoky factored birds from mating of hetero. blacks to non-spread birds. And as I have written many times, my red Argents bred from Blacks never show the albescent strip. I contribute this to the fact that those particular red Argents are Spread factored. Breeding these reds back to Blues have given me Blacks without the strip, and other colors (non-spread) showing the strip. Just my views on this matter.

GRAHAM MANNING:

It's been my observation also that in rec. red APTs that don't have the albescent strip, is an indication of the rec. red masking Spread factor. I've had matings of these reds to Kites and have observed blacks (S) amongst the progeny. I know the Spread didn't come from the Kites! I also have rec. reds that do show a definite albescent strip, and I'm yet to observe when mating one of these reds to a Kite (basically a blue T-pat with bronze) to have a Spread black result? I'm not saying it couldn't happen mind you. I should, for the sake of testing the theory, set up several matings of rec. reds to blues and record the data. Trouble is I firmly believe that mating my rec. reds to black is far better for improving colour than mating them to blues is going to be.

Another point I wanted to mention was, there are the occasional pseudo blacks around (not S). And I am unaware at present if these particular "false" blacks do in fact exhibit the albescent strip? The breeds I am referring to that have these false blacks is Vienna Tumblers, Stettiners, etc. I'm sure some of you have heard of blacks resulting from crosses of very dark (Dirty?) blues within these breeds. We all know that usually a black resulting from two blues is regarded as a bit suspect, but in these breeds, I'm told that this does in fact happen. That's why I'm thinking these 'blacks' are not the regular 'S' black and in fact another mutant/s is at work. The presence of lack of an albescent strip on these particular breeds would be of interest to me.



Blue bar without albescent tail strip



Blue T-pat with albescent tail strip

Having many legal problems, including a divorce, a man had become thoroughly disgusted with lawyers in general. One evening in a café, the conversation got around to his pet peeve and he started “venting”. “All lawyers are jerks,” he proclaimed loudly.

A man nearby heard this, looked disturbed, and sauntered over to him. “Look, I heard what you said and I am highly offended by it.”

“Why is that – are you a lawyer?” he asked. “No, I’m not, I’m a Jerk!”

Remember – a smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don’t like you.

- you are special and unique.
- if you have a great friend, take time to let them know that they are great.

HOLLIE TIFFANY WROTE:

The first pigeon I picked up was a small hen. She was very aggressive and at first I thought she was a small male. Others that I’ve had have thrown themselves at me and pecked. They cooed and were very aggressive. You couldn’t get near them. How can you breed this aggressiveness out of them?

STEVE SOUZA ANSWERS:

The aggressiveness you speak of is a combination of genetics and conditioning. Others on the list have commented in the past that you train your birds, especially the babies, to know you are a friend (handle them daily, hand feed them, talk to them, etc.). They will become more acclimated to you and know you won’t hurt them. Food is a very effective training too.

The other part is definitely genetics. The majority of (American type) Modenas I’ve seen are very aggressive, while most Rollers are not. My Homers are all very tame as a result of both training and eliminating the aggressive ones from my breeding program. As soon as I crossed a Modena into one of my projects, the young for 2 generations were ALL very aggressive. They are mostly back to calm now in generation 4.

A side notein one of my projects, I mated a very calm Homer male to a very aggressive Modena hen (protective mom syndrome) ...after several rounds of young, the previously calm Homer cock is now quite aggressive as well....learned behavior??



Editor: Not pigeons, but this year I hatched a few dozen cross breeds (Leghorn hens to Aracana Roosters and one of the chicks had one side downless, the other side normal. It now has a few aberrant pinfeathers on the bare side and is normally feathered on the other side.

JUDE (INCLUDED A COUPLE PICTURES I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE. 20&23 may'04



A very nice S.Toy Stencil, frill stencil lace. It has 'angelwings' or 'duckwings' which is caused by too high a protein mix.



A nice colored Brander Bronze Fan.

MICHAEL SPADONI EMAILS: 26may'04

Remember a while ago I showed you a picture of a mosaic black with rec. red patch on the rump, head, and under one wing? The conclusion was it was somatic mutation.

There is a twist, that throws that result to the wind. Today I noticed another one with a yellowish patch on the back. My breeding records show it to be a sibling to my 1st mosaic. There is a slight difference with this one in that the patch is only on the back and it's white and red. Whereas the first had no white in the mosaic patches.

So what explanation would there be for them to produce 2 young with this?? And is it a somatic mutation of something else? The mother of these is a mismark black with white on the back and carries e. The father is rec. red.

EDITOR:

Michael, I remember saying that the mark was not rec. red in the last one but were colored at the tips similar to an Almond type feather. These although somewhat lighter are still the same. And again, I must say, I haven't a clue what color this mark is.



Is this mosaic spot somatic or genetic?? It is quite unique.