



White belly trait on Black White belly trait on blue ck White belly trait on Kite Bronze

PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

EMAIL MAY 2006

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GRAHAM MANNING EMAILS:22nov'04 excerpts

I'm still trying to understand what is going on with this red Almond squeaker. As far as I can tell? this youngster is a cock and must be homo Ash red with the St linked to B*A and its genotype is B*A, St//B*A, CT//CT, d//d+, e//e+, K//K and whatever other modifiers might be in the mix! It's missed out on getting any Spread from its father



EDITOR:

That is very pretty bird. It is definitely homo Ash red Almond and I believe the recessive red is bleeding through almost as if it were a Deroy. I realize the marks of Ash are all present but it sure is light in color for just an Ash Almond.

JAMES GRATZ EMAILS: two emails combined

I noticed something different about this cock last summer. He is very washed out for a T-pattern. I thought he might be recessive opal. Never had that but who knows what will pop out. 100% racing homer as far as I know.

The cock is paired to an Ash red bar hen. Last nest were two Ash red T-patterns but they were washed out/laced like the one attached. This nest are two Blue T-patterns, washed out just like the dad. What could this be? If I was looking at the red I would think that it was spread but I don't have spread in my racers, never have.



BOB TAUSCHER WRITES:

For whatever it is worth, starting with the blue check cock picture, I rule out smoky because the albescent strips are not affected. I do however, think that Sooty is part of the picture by the way the pigment is expressed at the tips of the wing shield feathers. Two pigment expressions more difficult to categorize are the stippling noticed in retices and other areas of the wing as well as the overall pigment muting. The tail however, reminds me of a hetero chalky blue check cock I once had, particularly the light lacing effect – as does the overall muting of plumage. Frankly, this puzzles me since I would not normally expect to find chalky – So I likely am not even close, but this is my best SWAG.

Regarding the Ash red sons. My first thought is sooty hetero recessive red expression on Ash red and that the lacing will molt out. This of course, does not explain the muted expression of Ash red pigment. I have only seen one chalky Ash red cock, (chalky linked to the wildtype “blue” locus) but not in juvenile plumage – and fully expect that someone on this list will be more knowledgeable on these mutants than I am. Anyway, other than chalky, what other mutants do we know that diminish pigment expression this way and produce this lightened tail lacing?

99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

42.7 % of all statistics are made up on the spot.

If you are so smart; what is the speed of dark?

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

How can you tell if you are out of invisible ink?

NATHAN SIDEBOTTOM EMAILS:

This is a young hen out of a bluebar cock and a white hen Arabian Trumpeter pair. The white hen was out of a pair of bluebar pied with bronze of some sort and who knows what else. The cock was out of plain bluebar but they carry silver? Some of his siblings appear washed out. What would this young hen be?

RON HUNTLEY REPLIES:

Your hen looks like a blue bar reduced, het gimpel.

GRAHAM MANNING REPIES:

I think it has dilute, smoky, Indigo bar, and possibly ember?

NATHAN REPLIES:

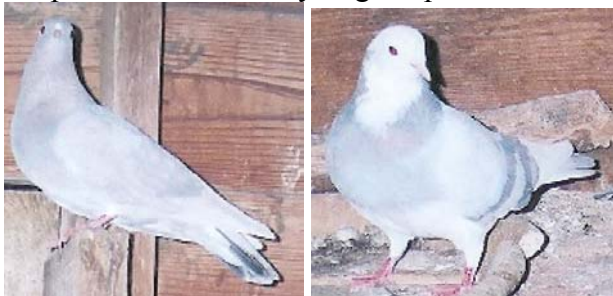
Ember is when the bird starts out a red/brown color then molts in blue but keeps a sort of bronze? Cast to the feathers in places? If so, then yes, I do have ember in my flock and this birds grandparents on the hens side carries it, they keep showing all sorts of different colors and patterns.

EDITOR:

I would call it a pastel yellow atlas and it may have any or all of the above genes in its makeup.

NATHAN EMAILS:

Here is a barless cock bird, kind of a powder blue color. I just wondered if he was anything other than barless. The second pic is one of his sons. The old cock bird is mated to another pale blue but she has bars and the same white head that goes down her neck a bit as in the son. So far, they haven't produced another barless but all have been the pale color. I will try to get a pic of the hen he is paired with.



ROLAN FROM CHILE EMAILS:

This is an adult hen, she has produced several young this year. I am sure that she is an Ash red T-pattern or dark check. Can somebody explain to me why the brown color in her tail feathers. These flecks I can accept in a cock but in a hen??????

EDITOR:

We do not know the answer to this puzzle. I have a mosaic hen that is about half Ash red Check, half Blue Check, and about 1/3 of her tail is brown. The best explanation is that probably the Ash red gene is not really at the brown locus but very close. So close that one cannot separate the effect.

JAMES GRATZ EMAILS: 28nov'04

I have attached some varieties of ember that I have not seen posted before. Ember is truly beautiful at times. These were bred from the ones Larry Long procured from the wild. They are Indigo ember, pale ember, dilute ember, and dilute Indigo ember.



NATHAN SIDEBOTTOM EMAILS:

More Arabians. These first two are nest mates from a pair that is a bluebar with white feathers and bronze in his bars, and a bluebar shield mark with bronze in her bars too. They feathered out red and white and as you can see they molted in different. Ember maybe?

The third pic is of a cockbird hatched from a bluebar cock that looks as if he has a dusting all over his body and a hen that's a bluebar pied that's a full sib to the first two.

EDITOR:

Yes, the first two fit the description of ember.

NATHAN WRITES:

The first pic is a hen hatched from a bluebar cock and a dirty?? bluebar hen, both dark. They produced bluebars and washed out looking birds like this one, some with more of the washed out look and white feathers. Is this what you call silver??

The second bird is too young to know gender. It's out of a brown cock and a two tone brown pied hen. This pair has produced a couple whites and now has a buff in the nest.

EDITOR:

Yes, the first bird is silver (= dun bar). The second bird does not look brown????

A trucker came into a truck stop café and placed his order. He said, "I want three flat tires, a pair of headlights and a pair of running boards." The brand new blonde waitress, not wanting to appear stupid, went to the kitchen and said to the cook, "This guy out there just ordered three flat tires, a pair of headlights, and a pair of running boards. What does he think this place is ...an auto parts store?" "No," the cook said. "Three flat tires means three pancakes, a pair of headlights is two eggs sunny side up, and the running boards are 2 slices of crisp bacon."

“Oh, OK!” said the blonde. She thought about it for a moment and then spooned up a bowl of beans and gave it to the customer.

The trucker asked, “What are the beans for, Blondie?” She replied, “I thought while you were waiting for the flat tire, headlights and running boards, you might want to gas up!”

JIM IN PHOENIX EMAILS

Attached is a pic of an Od or milky hen. Parents Od checker cock and blue bar hen. Both carry milky. Nest mate is a white bar Od cock. I have another checker hen that is milky rather pink looking, no relation to this bird. I hope this is Od or maybe both?



EDITOR: Sorry Jim, it is a milky not Od.

GARY FILLMORE EMAILS: 28nov'04 [eye color]

I was glad to read in the September issue of the Newsletter that others are interested in eye color. If their interest is more than passing, I would suggest that they read Hollander's *Origins and Excursions in Pigeon Genetics*. Section XII gives an excellent summary of the mechanics behind eye color. For those who do not have his book handy, I will summarize my understanding of the effects.

The eye color is determined by the color of the fine pigment granules on the outer surface of the iris interacting with the red color of the blood in a “spaghetti-like mass of tiny blood vessels on the surface of the iris”. The pigment can be either yellow or white. It can also be absent altogether.

The eye colors produced by these combinations are:

Orange Eye: Yellow pigment; ample blood vessels.

Red Eye: White pigment; ample blood vessels.

Pink Eye: White pigment; moderate blood vessels.

Pearl Eye: White pigment; few or no blood vessels.

Yellow Eye: Yellow pigment; few or no blood vessels.

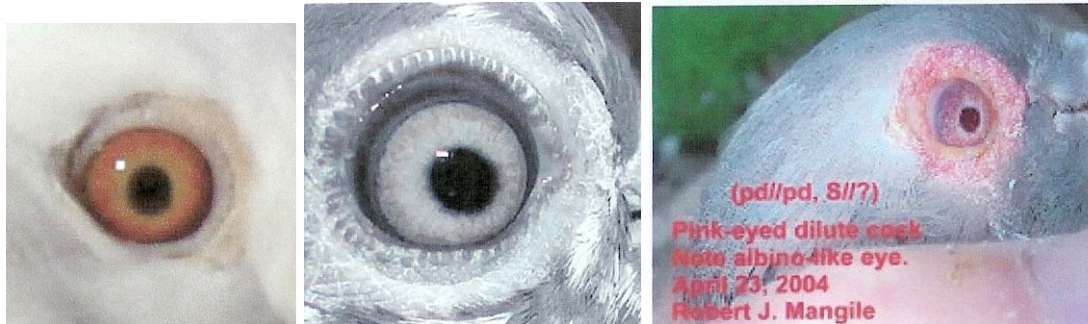
Bull Eye: No pigment (black pigment on the back of the iris shows through).

Wild type has yellow pigment and ample blood vessels. There are several ways to get “Bull Eyes” such as recessive white- *z*wh*, penciled- *pc*, and a dark eyed factor-*dk*, common in Ice Pigeons and Laughers. There are also at least two ways to get white iris pigment: pearl iris, *tr*, and pink-eyed dilute, *pd*.

The striking pink eyes of albinos (and pink-eyed dilutes?), which also have a (sparse?) white iris pigment, is caused by the pink coloration of the inside of the eye which being void of pigment allows the red color of the blood vessels to dominate.

EDITOR:

Here are some pictures to illustrate what Gary is talking about.



Wild type orange

pearl

pink-eyed dilute

We realize that there are quite a number of eye colors but most are based on the Orange and pearl traits. Wild type orange is based on the yellow eye pigment and blood vessels etc can change this to shade of orange and red-orange. Pearl eyes also may be several colors from blue to tricolor blue-white-red. The most common? have the inner ring blue and then pearl, which sometimes even shades to a red outer ring. Levi in his Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds lists colors such as chestnut, bloody red and blue, rat eye, purple-gold, toad eye, purple, light purple, split eye, and gray gravel eyes.

EDITOR:

When it comes to infidelity, Joe Quinn states the infidelity rate is 12 to 17%. I have found it varies by pairs and whether there is a pushy dominant male in the pen. Some pairs will be over 50% being nearer 90% but other pairs will be near zero. In fact, I had one hen that would not lay an egg unless she was mated to one certain male.

JERRY S. EMAILS:5dec'04

Paul, I have attached two pictures from an auction site. They are listed as barless Ash reds. Would you please comment? I may be wrong but they look like Spread Ash red and homo Indigo to me.



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EDITOR:

I think they are Spread Ash red but not barless. Just Spread Ash and Sooty produces the Strawberry color in the juvenile on the left which molt to look like the one on the right.

They may have other genes but that is all it looks like to me. If they were het Indigo they would not look red. If they were homo Indigo they should not have that much color in the adult plumage and the ear feathers should be Indigo. If they were Ash red and het Indigo, they should have more bluish color on the face.

The young bird does have some smutty color but that probably is just Ash.

HOG EYE EMAILS:

At a show this past week end, I came across a bird with a little different pattern. I have no information on it other than what you see. There was a similar bird in an adjacent cage. Is this common and I just don't get out much.



EDITOR:

Yes, it is quite common. You really should get out more. Just kidding. Sure is a strange light checker? effect. The bars are affected odd too. The two were probably from the same breeder.

JOE POWERS EMAILS:4dec'04

Thought you might enjoy these – new Pouters in the German Standard.



NetherBayernKroppers[Thanks, Joe. Look like Archangel colored Swing P. very pretty.]

She said, "My husband and I divorced over religious differences... He thought he was God and I didn't."

Christie & Wriedt in 1927 selected Pe for Jacobin Hood and said it was a partial Dominant. What does the symbol for Jacobin Hood, Pe, stand for:

LAYNE GARDNER SUGGESTS – It could stand for Perucke, which is German for Jacobin. (Perucke is a kind of wig).

PAUL GIBSON SUGGESTS – It could stand for Pelerine which means cape. Axel, could you clear this up for us?

EDITOR:

The thing that amazes me is that back then there was not much written about genes of pigeons but they pegged this one on the button. My research showed the gene was a Partial Dominant crest (hood) that only produced the Jacobin type crest when mated to a shell crest, which, of course, is recessive. Thus the Jacobin has to be homozygous for crest and for hood for the trait to manifest itself. Mated to non-crested bird not carrying crest, some of the young were crested and some not but the resultant crest was small like the Capuchine.

The other thing about Jacobin Crest is that it has muscular control to raise or lower the hood crest or hood. No other pigeon has this kind of control of the muscles of the neck that I know about.

MICHAEL SPONDONI WRITES:

I am having difficulty understanding how you can have both crested and un-crested young in the F1s in a Jacobin to wildtype mating. The Jacobin is (Pe//Pe, cr//cr). So all the F1s are (Pe//+, cr//+), they have the same genotype, how can there be different phenotypes? You would suspect a 3rd gene at play.

Do you mean the feather is short or the crease created by the change in feather direction on the skin come down both sides of the neck, where on the Jacobin it is more like a huge rosette centered on either side of the neck?

I have Jacobins, Bokharas & Nuns, so have some of the extremes in these breeds. I don't think the Jacobin has any additional control. I do think they learn to use the muscles to their own advantage. They can, when relaxed, allow the hood to open up, Just like the front half of a Bokharas rose has reversed feathers pointing forward; they can relax them so they let back vertical. Nuns and Bokharas especially can relax their shells so that they lay down the neck, almost appearing like a plain head.

EDITOR:

I have the same difficulty trying to figure out how you can get two types of crested plus non-crested. Some matings produced 100% shell crests. F2s segregated to shell crests and crestless, as well as one sided crests which actually looked more like manes (or chains) than crests. Only in one mating did I produce and am still producing both crested and smoothhead from a mating of Jac and Roller.

For that to be, the Jac must be hetero for Pe. However, in the prior matings, never did I re-attain the Jac Hood in the F2s. Something else definitely has a play and I did not get the right mix back together. Yes, the feathers were shorter and the crease was like the Capuchine. I did not get the rosette back. I was not aware that the Bokhara and

the Nun were able to control their crests, though I have seen a lot of Bokhara but not the Nun.

EDITOR:

Can you have a recessive gene that does not express even in the homozygous state? Can you develop a line of birds that have a recessive gene that doesn't show in the homozygous state? Can you produce such non expressive birds for generations? Only to have it show up many generations down the line?? The answer to all these questions is yes!

The gene for frill stencil is one such gene. Selections can be made for everything from beautiful white bars in the tail, to tail feathers with central spots, to tails with only a couple feathers showing the trait, to tails that do not show any spotting. Can you have a Partial dominant that does the same thing? Can you think of one? One that known very well is Dominant opal. It may express very strongly or hardly at all.

JIM MUCKERMAN EMAILS: 25dec'04

Am I mistaken or is that flash grizzle in the tail feathers of this blue bar splash? What is your take on the whitish area on the bars?



EDITOR:

Hi Jim, you are not mistaken. This is the condition that we have been calling flash grizzle. As you can see, the bar is not really white but the white is showing in the wing because the base of the feather is whitened up that far.

There are three things that can produce the somewhat whitened bar besides Toy Stencil and Dom. opal. They are het. Pencil plus Undergrizzle, flash grizzle, and frill stencil plus hetero Toy Stencil.

Recent work with this trait indicates that it is a recessive. Undergrizzle and Pencil are partial dominants. Also, in some instances the whitening in the feathers caused by this trait has diminished as the bird aged.

JDF SENDS: I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it. I work hard because millions on welfare depend upon me. Some people are alive only because it is illegal to kill them. I'm not a complete idiot, some parts are missing. God must love stupid people because he made so many of them. Procratinate now!!!