



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

PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: LESTER PAUL GIBSON

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An RCMP Officer pulls a car over on a busy highway. When the Mountie asks the driver why he was speeding, the driver answers that he is a juggler on his way to do a show that night and doesn't want to be late.

The Mountie tells the driver that he is fascinated by juggling, and that if the driver will do a little juggling for him then he won't give him a ticket.

The driver says that he has sent all his equipment on ahead and doesn't have anything to juggle.

The cop tells him that he has some flares in the trunk of his patrol car and asks if he could juggle them.

The juggler says that he could, so the Mountie gets three flares, lights them and hands them to the juggler.

While the juggler is doing his act, a car pulls in behind the patrol car, and a drunk gets out. He watches the performance briefly, then goes over to the patrol car, opens the rear door and gets in.

The Mountie goes over to the patrol car, opens the back door and asks the drunk what he thinks he's doing.

The drunk says, "You might as well just haul me off to jail, cause there is no way in hell I can pass that test." (sent by Brian Heck)

EDITOR

In the June issue the ember was discussed and it has been suggested by a member that Atlas is the homozygous Ember.

Here are a pictures of Atlas and of an Ember. My Arabian Atlas Trumpeters never produce Ember and I do have recessive red in the breeding. Notice the distinctive head coloration of the Atlas which is a smoky blue bar plus some gene that produces the yellow head (which sometimes molts to white).



Atlas (smoky blue bar plus ?)



Ember blue bar showing typical coloration

AXEL SELL EMAILS:8feb'05 (to Ron Huntley)

In the attachment you will find photos from Arabian Trumpeters – Smoky-blue, Atlas (red-atlas), Yellow Atlas (dilution) from the exhibition in Sinsheim in December last year. They are identical with those I had several years ago, and they are not recessive red in their juvenile plumage.

In addition, a photo of an Anatolian Ringbeater “brown-bronze” is attached. The breeder told me that this color is not rare in the breed in Turkey, and the young are not recessive red in the juvenile plumage but similar to dun. The similarity to some of your photos nevertheless is great, especially the color of the primaries. I was told that the bronze mainly shows up only after the first moult. There also exist blue bronze bars and blue bronze checks, however, again these are blue still in their first plumage.

In respect to Ember, it would be interesting to get especially information on how the question was decided whether Ember is recessive red plus a modifier, one of the opinions in the Pigeon Genetics Newsletter some years ago, or an allele to recessive red. In both cases the first generation of a cross with the typical recessive red should result in recessive red youngsters. Thus there must be some additional evidence for the hypothesis of allelic genes.

Thank you also for your permission to use some of your photos, they are great and give a great impression of this trait and possible combinations.



Smoky-blue Arabian Trumpeter



Atlas (red-atlas) Arabian Trumpeter



Yellow Atlas Arabian Trumpeter



"Brown-bronze" Anatolian Ringbeater

EDITOR:

Thanks Alex, several things here that catch my attention. First, none of the Atlas show the distinctive very lightened head of the smoky-blue plus? shown on the previous page. Also your smoky-blue does not have as much smearing of the bars like I see here although, that does show up in the red and yellow Atlas. The "brown-bronze" Anatolian does resemble Ember but normally Ember does not have the wash of bronze over the bird.

And your comment about whether the Ember is an allele or a modifier has not been settled in my mind and research. I hope we can get the answer this year or next. Two things bother me here. One is the lack of a classifiable homo Ember and the lack of assortment of phenotypes. I intend to mate an Ember to an unimproved recessive red again to see what happens and mate a F1 Ember X non-recessive red back to a recessive red to see if any of the young will be Ember. These tests will hopefully help answer the allele vs modifier question.

EDITOR:

Over the last couple years a great controversy has arisen over the "Blue Gene" and Doc Hollander was quoted from his booklet "Origins and Excursions in Pigeon Genetics." On page 20 he discusses the inheritance of blue. He is quoted as saying "Blue jeans but not blue genes." He goes on to say, "Not anymore than there are blue chromosomes." In the first paragraph he says, "Blue is not inherited." And he goes on to explain that parent do not transmit color to their squabs, the squabs grow it.

I wrote that I do not understand why anyone is hung up on this "Blue Gene". It doesn't matter where it (the gene) is located just that it does its job. If I walk into a corn field and pick an ear to eat, does it matter which stalk it came from. And if I knew exactly where it came from, would it taste any different?

The same is true for the blue (which is not blue pigment but is black pigment). If I agree with one side or the other, does it matter? The only thing that matters genetically about the "blue" is that it is our base of reference. It is alpha and omega, it is the right shore and the left shore, it is a point that for all intents and purposes probably cannot, nor will not be settled even by genetic mapping. Thus it is a subject that is great for philosophic discussions but I do not think it is a genetic one.

Use it, love it, or hate it as you wish, but accept it on faith that it (the gene for black pigment) is there working to feed our quest for knowledge.

JEFF HASTINGS INQUIRES ABOUT A COLOR CHART FOR THE BRONZES

EDITOR:

There are no color charts for the bronzes. The bronzes are still under study and research has separated some of them. There are bronzes that affect different areas of the birds. For instance, Archangel or Gimpel bronze affects the body but only slightly the wings and tail. Thus we get a two colored bird which is what Gimpel implies. Toy Stencil bronzes affect the bar and checks but not normally the rest of the feather. Brander bronze affects the whole bird. (Brander bronze is a combination of Kite bronze and recessive red).

Some bronzes affect the color only in certain combinations. For instance, the Indigo gene produces bronze in the bars and checks but more so in the T-pattern. Toy Stencil complex produces bronze only when heterozygous. Some traits produce bronze in the transition zone between white and black on a feather such as in Undergrizzle.

Some of this was covered in my 1993 book "Genetics of Pigeons" and more is covered in my 2006 book "Genetics of Pigeons 2005".

MIKE EMAILS

Pretty interesting stuff on the Trumpeters! Since you mentioned whites and blacks; here is some info I've found while investigating the AT over the years. The birds went to Thailand via traders and when they were imported here, they were given the name Thai Laughers (The fanciers there called them Laughers). With the exception of a very few birds the Laughers in Thailand were white. This is according to R.W. Prichard who brought them to the states.

From Saudi Arabia birds also found their way into southern Europe via traders and sailors, and they were introduced into Germany. Since they were from Saudi Arabia, and were vocalizing pigeons, it seems the Europeans tagged them with the name Arabian Trumpeters. And as far as all the colors are concerned, it was most likely the Germans that came up with most of the colors.

Also in Saudi Arabia and the surrounding regions, the voices of the birds can differ greatly. For example, I had stock descended from the Prichard imports and stock from Saudi Arabia and Iran imports. These had very different voices when compared to the Thai imports. [Doesn't surprise me. The ones from Iran spoke Farsi!!! 😊 😊]

While a number of fanciers don't agree with what I have concluded from my research; I'll stick to my guns and say all these pigeons are more or less the very same breed.

EDITOR:

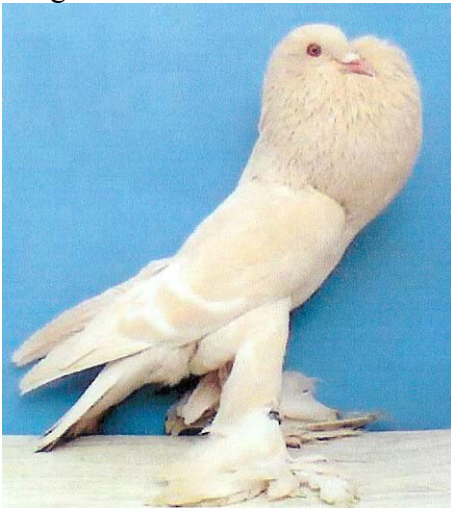
I have mated Thai Laughers to Arabian Ts and agree with you completely that they are the same breed. The voices with mine did not vary except maybe in pitch. The trumpet was the same. I also have a few Altenburgs and they definitely have a different trumpet. Gary Fillmore worked with these and named the genes for the two breeds.

While attending a marriage seminar dealing with communications; Tom and his wife Grace listened to the instructor say, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other." The instructor asked Tom. "Can you describe your wife's favorite flower?"

Tom leaned over, touched Grace's arm gently and whispered, "It's Pillsbury, isn't it?" The rest of the story gets rather ugly, so I'll stop right here.

JOE POWERS SENT THIS PRETTY PHOTO

Paul, I know how you like pictures, but was not sure if you got the one that Layne posted. I did not, so I asked him to send it to me. Putting it here for you in case you did not get it.



beautiful Isabel Saxon Pouter.

[This bird is genetically Dom. opal bar recessive red.]

EDITOR:

The following is a series of emails about (Is it black (Spread) or not?).

ROLAN OLIVARES EMAILS

I know that the black spread pigeons don't [have] to have the whiteline on the outer feathers in the tail. I send you photos. [Did not see them.]

RON HUNTLEY

Yes, your bird is a spread black. Some spread blacks will have the white strip on the outer side of the tail while others do not. We do not know why but they do, both types are spread blacks.

MICHAEL SPADONI

I agree it is spread. In regards to the albescent strip showing or not, I put this down to the penetrance of the spread gene (or the penetrance of the wildtype albescent strip?) The tail bar is also visible on this black. Like every gene, there is some inherent variation, so the different expressions of the spread gene in addition to what other modifiers may or may not be present, affect the phenotype.

Just a side note, I read (I think in Quinn's book) albescent is the more the colour given to the outer tail strips we know but with wildtype, there is the same [effect] on the rump and under the wings, you will note on smoky you lose the albescence on the whole bird.

RON HUNTLEY

Michael, as you say, with "smoky you lose albescence on the whole bird". For some time now, I have pounded the question on the overall effect of smoky has on white in general. I asked Dr. Paul Gibson if smoky would mask white. He was not sure. Have you or anyone else seen a smoky with an eye tic, splash or other white markings? If so, can you provide me with a photo? I have several smoky Homers in brown, blue and Ashred and not a single one has any white feathers. It's a small sample I know, but do you know of any that do show white?

HOG EYE

I have produced several smoky birds with this type of grizzled white. I can't recall any offhand that were of the piebald pattern but then sometimes I can't remember yesterday. I don't recall ever seeing any eye tics in this breed. You got those Michael?



EDITOR:

I believe these may be Pencil types.

MICHAEL SPADONI

I can confirm that you can have white with smoky. I have a pied smoky blue bar Bokhara. In the nest it had white in the boots. Now going through the first moult, it had white moulting in the wing shields. This bird is het. rec. white.

I also have magpie marked Saddleback Tumblers that are smoky blue and the markings have remained true.

When I get home tonight, I will send the group some pictures.

FRANK FALBERTSON EMAILS:20feb'05 excerpts

I've had Dirty, smoky, and sometime Sooty in my old style Utility Squabbing Carneau for a long time. F1s (heterozygotes) always show the dark feet and beak typical of Dirty and have the outer tail strips grayish white. Pure smoky has an epistatic effect in the presence of Dirty which lightens the skin and beak (and no white tail strips). A few of my red and yellow ribbontail (T-patterns) hens get the eye tick and a few scattered

white feathers about their heads after they're 3 or 4 years old. Limited crosses with these show that they lack Sooty. So from this limited work, I would tend to think that maybe Sooty restricts the white ticks.

Have you ever made pseudo blacks from T-pattern with homo Dirty and Sooty, rather than Spread?

TIM KVIDERA WRITES:

Got a puzzler, maybe. Raised the bird below this past season. Fourth nest from a father x daughter pairing in an individual pen. I assumed it was a recessive yellow Dom. opal heavy badge. The old cock is a gift from the top Flying Tippler fancier in North America who flew him over 17 ½ hours in competition. So, I am not sure of his genetic background, but his endurance flying heritage is impeccable. I have bred from this cock two years and raised 12 ybs and this is the first to appear to be dilute. Sorry, I did not record the down length of the youngster in question.

So what is my problem? The bird in question has shown all indications of being a cock bird. My current plan is to pair "him" to a recessive yellow hen.

Can Dom. opal have a diluting effect on recessive red? Is the bird maybe something other than recessive red? If it is a variant of rec. red, it could be extremely useful to any of those who have attempted rec. red Baldheads, a combination often claimed as being difficult or impossible.

Attached are photos of the youngster in question, its father a blue bar Dom opal white flight and the mother a blue bar badge.



Dom opal rec. red young



Dom. opal father



Mother

LARRY LONG EMAILS: 18feb'05 excerpts

I played with the photo editor to view this picture better and I agree that it is Dom. opal recessive red combination. The pied marking tends to lighten the color even more. I feel comfortable about making this guess because Bob Pettit had some Baldhead Rollers like this color.

EDITOR:

Nice youngster, Tim. I agree with Larry, it is Dom. opal rec. red. If it were yellow it would be lots lighter in color. This is the combination that makes Isabelle.

A frog joke sent by JDF

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see by her nameplate that her name is Patty Whack. “Miss Whack, I’d like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday. Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it’s okay, he knows the bank manager. Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral. The frog says, “Sure, I have this,” and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink, and perfectly formed. Very confused, Patty explains that she’ll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office. She finds the bank manager and says, “There’s a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral.” She holds up the tiny pink elephant. “I mean, what in the world is this?”

The bank manager looks back at her and says...

“It’s a knickknack, Patty Whack, Give the frog a loan. His old man is a Rolling Stone.”

EDITOR: THE FOLLOWING PICTURES ARE NOT PIGEONS BUT THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THEM. They were washed ashore during the tsunami. They look more like alien creatures instead of earthly creatures.





EDITOR:

Tim, the one thing in your pictures that is amazing to me is the facial marking of the hen and young ee. The father must be hetero for the markings or the badge marking is dominant. I often wondered if the badge and Baldhead were allelic but never worked on it. I know the Baldhead and chuck marking are many times found on the same bird, so badge must be something else.

TIM KVIDERA EMAIL

To throw another wrench into the mix. The “badge” yearling hen out of the old WF cock has a mother with no white on her head. She is a bishoped blue bar. Only two external flights white on each wing.

EDITOR:

Thanks for the added information. Every little bit helps us to understand? what may be going on.

STEVE CORVUS EMAILS excerpts

I have a question regarding modena bronze. Attached are pics of a hen which was the result of a mating between a Blue Argent Modena cock and an Indigo hen Racing Homer hen. I had always assumed modena bronze was dominant.

Can the bronzing on this bird be attributed to Indigo?



Indigo mother



Argent (Toy Stencil) father



offspring

EDITOR:

Steve, “modena bronze” is not recessive. The reason Bob Pettit thought that way was that when the “modena bronze” (actually Ts1) were mated to wild type, a lighter bronzing is produced. This lightening is the result of hetero Ts1 and the genome into which it was put.

We know now that ma is the same as Ts1 and is part of the Toy Stencil complex. Your Modena male is a very nice colored T-pattern and has the full compliment of the Toy Stencil complex.

Your hen is a very well colored Indigo T-pattern. I have never seen that little influence of the Ts1 gene on an offspring. With the Ts1, Ts2 and ts3 genes all being heterozygous, the bird should have been very well marked with bronze T-pattern.

JIM MUCKERMAN EMAILS: 21feb'05 excerpts

I took some pictures today of a couple of what I think are Spread Indigo cocks. Please let me know if you concur or if they are something else. I raised these in an open loft last season. I have a possible Od hen also let me know if I am off base on this one, it is again in an open loft.

Then I have this little possible dilute Indigo Fig cross which shows some pattern in it.



Apparently dilute T-pattern Indigo



Looks like dilute Spread Od



look like dilute Od

Even with picture this good, one cannot always be sure without knowledge of the parents.