



**Franconian Magpie**



**Bernharden Magpie**



**Kiebitze Tumbler**

# PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER EMAIL MARCH EXTRA 2007

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EDITOR:

BAM, RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES!!!!!!! Mick got me! Or did he?

MICK BASSETT EMAILS: 3sept'05

Hi Joe [Powers]. Can you please get a message to Paul G'? Just read the newsletter with interest but two points,

a) the 'Franconian Magpie' is not, it is a Franconian (Frankische) Herzeschecken (Heart-Pied) or (Heart-Marked) re the "colored 'heart' between the shoulders. If the translation 'Frankische Elster' was used to a breeder here, no one (or few would guess?) would know what you meant? There is another breed, the Bernhardiner Schecke, that I have also heard English speakers refer to as 'Magpie', again would cause confusion here.

b) 'Saddle' and 'Shield' (or 'Side as in 'White Side') certainly are not 'exchangeable terms' in Europe, the word 'Saddle' or 'Side' in pigeon terms would be unrecognizable, the term 'Shield' alone is used for the 'Shield' = 'Wing Shield Marking', regardless of white or colored. A 'White Side' here, would infer to the breeder the bird has 'White Sides' ie the 'Body'.

Magpie is 'Elster', (or the countries translated equivalent) except the Berlin Short Face where it is described as 'Bunte', especially when it had the addition of the desired white Breast mark, but at least with this and some other breeds, then most would recognize the word Elstern or Elster=Magpie. The Viennese Gansel Tumbler, (a separate breed with nothing to do with the Viennese Short Face breed, not even historically), is named after a breed of Goose with the same markings.

'Kiebitze' is 'Lapwing' as in the Old Austrian Tumbler, while having little to do with the 'Genetic' validity of the markings, using the correct names for those breeds/markings, may help International Relations and Understanding.

EDITOR:

Mick is right, they call it a Frankische Herzeschecken which translates Franconian Heart-Magpied and Elster translates Magpied. Also Schedke translates Magpied. If it causes confusion there, I am sorry, but that is the way the words translate into English.

The Kiebitze has a white underside. This is not a true pied but is produced by a type of grizzle.

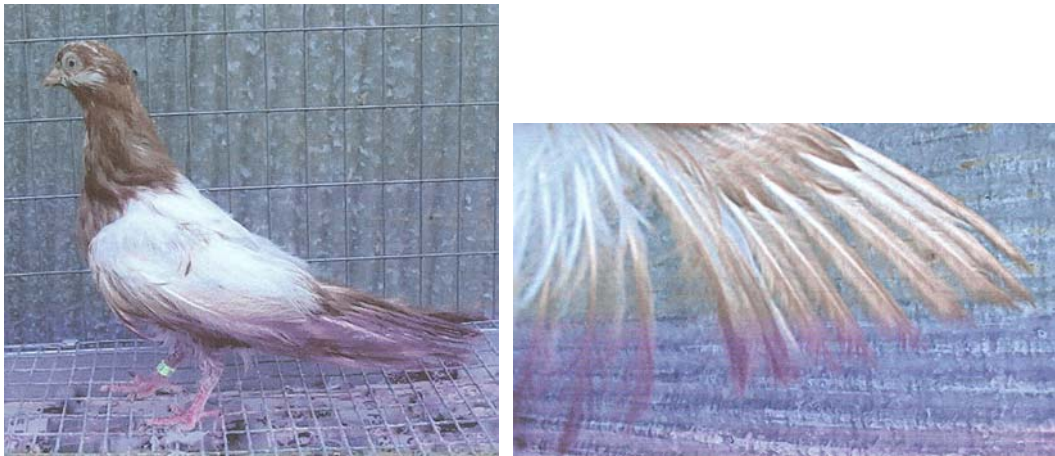
I know the word Kiebitze is named after a bird called a Lapwing and that Gimpel is named after a bird known as a bullfinch and that the Starling Pigeon is named after a Starling etc.

I use these terms because they are familiar to me and the term Magpie refers to a bird here called the Magpie that is remindful of the coloration of the Franconian and others that have the white wings and a colored body.

#### DAVID RINEHART EMAILS 25aug'05

This bird was posted today on yahoo's genetic site by a James Gratz. He is wondering what it is and so am I. I will send along a picture in a few hours of a bird that I received from Larry Davis. I have never seen a porcupine, but I don't think this is it. My bird has more 'porcupine like' flights and tail feathers but the body plumage is near normal. From the description of WFH's 'Origins & Excursions' book I would think that 'porcupine' affect all the feathers, as Willard commented that they usually froze in Iowa winters.

What do you think? Dr. Miller, you have given WFH porcupines in the past, so what's your opinion?



*A kleptomaniac woman had been caught shoplifting in a supermarket. She appeared in court bringing her long suffering husband for emotional support. The prosecution proved the theft had taken place so the judge told her that, considering her record, he was forced to impose jail time. "This time you stole a can of tomatoes. Let use suppose that there were six tomatoes in the can. Do you agree?" The woman agreed.*

*"Then I sentence you to six nights in jail." The husband jumped to his feet, addressing the judge, "Your honor, may I approach the bench?"*

*The judge said, "Well, this is highly unusual but I will make an exception in this case. You may approach the bench." The husband hurried to the judge and leaning forward, he said in a low voice, "She also stole a can of peas."*

DAVID R. EMAILS:26aug'05

Attached is a photo of a bird that Larry Davis sent me yesterday. One of his club members raised this bird from a pair of normal Racing Homers. The bird is a squeaker and apparently a T-pattern. I don't believe it is WFH's porcupine, since the body plumage is near normal. I think this bird could make it through an Iowa winter with a little help. There's some bare skin showing on the wings, but the body is fine.



BOB MANGILE RESPONDS:

The photo of the pear-eyed white-sided Tumbler? in the photo is probably a porcupine. Years ago raised several of them. The young are difficult to get past ten days of age and have a crusty skin. The feathers on a fledgling look like a porcupine, i.e., all quills. After the molt the body feathers tend to appear more normal but the flights are much less normal. There might be several different mutants of porcupine-like plumage in pigeons and only testing could reveal the truth. Also, the mutant, if it is the same one, can produce a different expression on a different breed. Just something to consider. If these birds are easily produced then I'd say that the porcupine birds that I had are different than the bird in the photo.

This bird might be a fringe (fg//fg)? Looks to fit that better than a porcupine.

EDITOR:

I believe it is between fringe and porcupine. The picture of porcupine in Levi shows all the body feathers to be quill-like. But one from Mangile does show some body feathers.



Here is a picture of a porcupine from WFH



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MICK BASSETT EMAILS:

These pictures clearly show the difference in cere development between youngsters and older female and older male (last years birds)[Carriers] and yes, I have noticed this beak needs a trim! Already he is showing maximum cere development for exhibition here in Germany (due to the animal 'rights' movements here).



Female

Young

Male

Sorry, didn't enlarge well.

EDITOR

And here are a couple pictures of German Barbs.



*I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die from natural causes.*

*Never take life too seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.  
Some people are like Slinkies. Not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.*

FRANK MOSCA FORWARDS:

Here is a note I got from Paul Marini regarding Faded. Paul G. this is the guy that used to run the Palmetto Pigeon Plant for about 30 years.

PAUL MARINI EMAILS:

I too did not hear from Willard during his last year. We did talk once and he told me about his heart attack when he was 94, I presume he died in his 95<sup>th</sup> year.

As a matter of historical record, some of the best geneticists I know including Fred Tedsen and Nigel Barton did not have Ph.D.s and did very well indeed as professional breeders! Your work is class-A and I enjoy reading it.

A story about Willard: While at Palmetto, I made a deal with the originator to the Texan Pioneer auto-sexing pigeon to buy his entire stock since he was going out of business. As an aside, he did not go out of business and continued to sell breeding stock, so he lied to me. Anyway, Doc and I proceeded to make some outcrosses and backcrosses to investigate why more females hatched and survived than males. It turns out the fading gene is semi-lethal for males such that about 10% of the hatching males die prior to hatch or shortly thereafter. Over the years nobody bothered to mention this when dealing with Texan (or is it Texas?) Pioneers. We did not publish the data but I did discontinue work with the fading gene for this reason. Do you have any updates on the allele?

EDITOR:

Thanks very much, Frank, for forwarding this information. I visited the Palmetto Pigeon Plant a number of years ago and Dr. Levi showed me around the plant. Quite an operation. I did meet Paul Marini while I was there and he was quite busy keeping things going.

LARRY LONG WRITES:

Well, I think I got some good results from the cock out of the Komorner cross to support that there is a Dominant Crest. I was out checking my pigeons and checked the two babies from this cock mated to a Racing Homer. One looks like it is going to be like the sire. It's more of a fin or blade than a crest and that's what I call it. Has this ever been named before?

This is not a typical crest, not like a shell, but like a peak crest that is carried lower on the neck. It's below the skull. Do you want some pictures? I know my Komorners have been crossed with Jacobin and Capuchines for sure. I'm getting some interesting segregation of mane, chain and roses on the sides of the neck.

EDITOR:

There was a 'breed' started that had this trait 'one sided feather fin on the neck'. It was called a Leonardo. The trait was Dominant and derived from Jacobins. In fact, I worked with this trait years ago. It is interesting but not a keeper, I didn't think. There is a picture and text on page 230 in Levi's "Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds".

WHAT COLOR IS THIS?

Couldn't find in my notes who asked the question but here is the picture.

JOE CUSSICK III WROTE:

I think the yellow feathers on the shield and flights will expand into larger amounts of yellow pigment. I have had this before in my rare color Homers and saw it a lot with my Danzig Highflyers when I had them. I'd like to see this bird in a few months.

RICHARD CRYBERG WROTE:25sept'05 excerpts

G\*T in my Homers start much lighter than this almost all the time. The colored areas will mainly be at the feather tips and will not be even solid like this bird. They will be grizzled. Then after the first molt some baby feathers will come in solid color, others white. All white baby feathers come in solid white after the molt.

It is obvious there are multiple grizzles and they can behave in very different ways upon molting. If this bird molted like mine it would be close to a solid color as an adult except for the tail.

Quinn also reports (in his notebook) that G\*T can darken on the first molt.

LAYNE GARDNER WROTE:

So here we get to the real nuts and bolts of things. We have similar juvenile phenotypes that molt into radically different adult types. What are the determining factors. It will be interesting to note the molt of this bird and also to determine what additional genes are involved.

EDITOR:

Well fellows, here is the adult plumage. Joe and Richard nailed this one. The gene involved is Undergrizzle and this is very typical of that trait on e//e birds in full or dilute coloration. Another gene causes the bird (which may look nearly identical as a juvenile) to molt whiter or even white. This latter gene is in what now looks like a complex which we have dubbed molt-to-white. Richard notes that G\*T can molt darker in the first molt. This is probably because the bird is also Sooty and this fills in the center of the feather.





The tail and head may darken with the next molt.

LINK MARTIN EMAILS: 25sept'05

Here is a late young Dragoon from a Qualmond cock and a Blue bar hen.



RON HUNTLEY RESPONDS:

I think the bird's sire must carry reduced because this young hen looks like she is a reduced Qualmond bar.

EDITOR:

I believe Ron is right. The whitened lower neck and crop distinctly look like reduced in the juvenile. Also the color of the bar is remindful of reduced bar.

*Life is sexually transmitted!*

*Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.*

*The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.*

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JIM MUCKERMAN WRITES:26sept'05

Sorry I'm so late getting these Pencil pics to you. These birds are from Bob Mangile. The first on is I believe spread, also there are two dilute brown or just brown pencil birds. Please let me know what you think.



EDITOR:

Jim, the first picture is a Moorhead Pencil phenotype, the second is a Pencil but could pass for an Undergrizzle if you did not know the parents. The third picture looks like a brown het pencil and the fourth picture again has the Moorhead coloration but in brown and yes, I believe both browns do show Pencil in the bar area.

*Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital dying of nothing.  
Gardening rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.*

*If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?  
Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.*



TOM BARNHART WRITES:

I have done a lot with mating barless to bar, and it is not always the case that the bar gets narrower. Sometimes narrow bar can be used to trace the presence of the barless gene but not always. I have seen birds that were +/-c where the bar trailed off to the point where it was as thin as a pencil line. I have also raised birds that were +/-c that had bars just as wide as any typical bar. More again of the normal distribution of the expression of bar. And I have also had birds with no barless in them that had extremely narrow bars, so I no longer depend on 'narrow bars' as indicating the presence of barless unless I know the bird has barless somewhere behind it.

EDITOR:

I have been wanting to discuss barless, bar, and multi bar for a while and guess this is as good a time as any. First, as Tom says, you cannot always tell a +/-c (het. barless) by the bar width. Second, you cannot always tell a barless by its phenotype. I will explain this below with pictures. Third, there are extreme variations in bar length and widths, etc. Fourth, this is all compounded by another factor – three barred.

Hetero barless may manifest itself by showing only one bar in the juvenile feather. It also may manifest itself by either a partial bar or one bar and a partial bar. All these molt to barred birds.



All depicted are known heterozygous bar and barless.

452 Barless phenotypes are mistaken for barless especially in Ash reds when Spread is part of the genome. Also birds may show bar when they are indeed barless when Sooty is involved. This usually results after the molt of the barless Blue. It is not usually as evident in other colors.



barless Dirty blue Roller



barless pale Archangel



barless reduced blue



barless Dom. opal whitewing Archangel



Pseudo-barless reduced rec. red



Pseudo-barless Spread Ash bar (Sooty)





Pair of barred Frosty Thuringers



T-pattern Suabian

The homo barred birds may vary by breed and by individual in a breed. Some birds look like they have very narrow bars when in fact, the covert feathers or overlap are longer and cover part of the bars making them to appear narrow. The bars on long feathered birds such as the Jacobin meld into one wide bar. Also there are birds that have one or both of the bars much widened. Other traits affect the shape of the bar.



The normal Ash red bar shape



Reduced Dom. opal bar Indigo



An excellent recessive red Ts bar converging bars.



a reduced Dom. opal bar Archangel parallel bars.

*Do illiterate people get the full effect of alphabet soup?*





Parallel bars (Toy Stencil)



Wavy bars (note how far front bar extends)



Frill Stencil, Toy Stencil bars (note length)  
(part of tail was pulled to allow fs to show)



Dirty blue with thin converging bars  
(note depth of head/neck/flts &tl)



Confused bars



Close set wide bars and converging bars

*If Wiley E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that Acme crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?*

*Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?*



Sooty? Bars (azuro)



Atlas with Sooty bars



Wide bars on Sooty bird



Wide bars on Runt



Strange shaped Ts bars (lead color?)



strange shaped bars & streaks (not Sooty)

*Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!  
KEEP SMILING!!! GOD LOVES YOU BUNCHES AND BUNCHES!!!!*





Long bar on a mosaic Homer



really long bar

Some birds have a third bar (a fault in some breeds). The third bar may be a partial bar or a full bar. The third bar is hidden in some Checker phenotypes but pop out when a barred version is reared. Breeding for third bar in a couple cases produced birds with apparent fourth and even fifth bars. These latter were produced by an alignment of the checks so that they made a row across the wing.



Blue three barred



Rusty three barred

I think the above will give you something to think about. There are several mysteries there.

*Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?*

*A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.*

*Q. Who was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible.*

*A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.*

*Police one-liner.*

*Yes, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven.*