



Pied bronze T-pat



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pied bronze bar Sooty

PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

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To err is human but to blame someone else shows management potential. ☺ ☺ ☺

O-----|-----|-----X

This is a line denoting what we call a gene as far as dominance is concerned. If O is recessive and X is dominant then all the line in-between stands of what we call partial dominant. Some of the genes will fall in the lower third, many in the middle third and some in the upper third. Some of the genes we call recessive are in the lower part of the lower third and some of the genes we call dominant are in the upper part of the upper third. This produces variation in the depth of the expression and is sometimes referred to as penetrance.

JAMES MUCKERMAN EMAILS: 1july'05

I have a pair of Spread browns that hatched these youngsters. The male parent is brown and the female is Ts1 brown. One of the babies is evidently a Spread and the other appears to be a bar. This is possible out of two spreads, isn't it? They are not in a separate breeding cage but are the only two browns in there.



EDITOR:

Yes, it is possible. It just shows that both your Spread browns are heterozygous for Spread and that they are also at least heterozygous for bar.

OBSERVATIONS ON FEATHER LENGTH

Ron Huntley: Concerning long feathers to short, the answer is short. The reason is short feathers are dominant to long. Therefore the first generation will be heterozygous for long and short but only the short feather type will be produced.

Frank (T.O.M.): Ron, in Modenas long flights and tail feathers are dominant over short. Once one has established the short feathering, breeding to a long feathered bird easily destroys the shorter effects. Do you think that in some breeds we see just the opposite effects? Any one else ready to discuss these effects.

Drew Lobenstein: An observation...I have crossed Jacobins (extremely long feathers) a number of times. The resultant young are always longer feathered than the cross. I have used Fantails, Croppers, Parlor Tumblers, Bokharas, Chinese Owls, LFCL Tumblers....always they come longer feathered like the Jacobin.

Ron Huntley: Frank, when I say short verses long, I am in reference to the standard wild type being the short verses the much longer (as found in Indian Fantails and Saints) as being the long feathers. Are you in reference to a very short as found in your Modenas tail and the standard wild type as being the long. If so, then we are speaking from two different perspectives. I have never bred Modenas so I can't say how that works but I have done so with Saints and Indian Fantails and in both cases short (standard wild type) is dominant over long.

Frank (T.O.M.): Ron and Drew, thanks for the comments. In regards to the standard wild type, if we are in reference to pigeons such as our Racing Homers, these flights and tails are much longer than in the shorter feathers one should be breeding in the present day Modenas.

I expect the original Modenas found in Modena (Italy) were of much larger feathering as these birds were bred for flying. Then the Germans and English got their hands on them and started to develop them into somewhat show birds of that period. Then they were imported into the States. And now today we have our present show Modenas after many years of breeding by a lot of well known fanciers who took a keen interest in this breed.

This being said, in Modenas the short feathers is recessive to the longer feathers found in Modenas in years past and still in some birds of today.

Correct me if I am wrong, Ron, but what you are claiming is that those breeds of today with even longer feathers than, let us say the present day Racing Homers. These birds are bred back to Homers, the Homer shorter feathers are dominant?

EDITOR:

My research over the last 40 years or so shows that short feathers such as those found on the Modena are recessive to normal and that long feathers such as those of Jacobins and Old German Croppers are partially dominant to normal. Normal being not the Racing Homer but the Feral Street Pigeon which is about as close as we can come to

wild type. Many breeds have normal length feathers but the Racing Homer feather lengths are variable. Whenever Racing Homers were used in these experiments, the length of the flight feathers varied to somewhat longer or somewhat shorter than those that I considered normal for the size of the progeny which is also varied. It was quite evident that Racing Homers are not all homozygous for feather length genes.

However, it must be said that normal is also variable since it varies in relation to the size of the bird. For instance, Figuritas have normal length feathers as does the Giant Runt. Thus normal varies with the size of the bird. We must recognize the effect of the size of the bird compared to the length of the feather. What does this mean? It means that whenever you crossbreed two breeds that have normal length feathers such as Roller and Runt – the feather length will normally vary according to the size of the offspring and not be longer or shorter than what is normal for that bird..

I have bred Rollers with the short feathers of the Modena and called them sparrow feathered since the feathers were about the length found on wild sparrows. Of course, the bird is a poor flier since the feathers are too short in relationship to the body to support good flight.

The shortest flight feathers I have bred were 2.5” on a Roller and the longest 13” on an Old German Cropper. The shortest tail feathers were on the above Roller were 2” long and the longest were on the Old German Cropper 8” long.

Present data suggests that feather length is controlled by body size and by genes. Genes of this group may be alleles.

EDITOR:

And then you get feather mutations like this one sent by Jaime. We called it Cottonball. As you can see it is missing a number of tail feathers and the primary flights.



and its muffs are quite short.

MICK BASSETT EMAILS:

Tip on ‘wild’ and ‘flighty’. Get a pair of really tame ‘dopey’ fosters, hatch the first generation of ‘Wild Things’ under them, young pigeons remember and learn from the actions of the parents from hatching.

The next generation under the ‘steadier’ fostered, will be even better and so on, it doesn’t work with all breeds equally well but it does work. In 3 generations, I had Nuremburg Larks that were really steady, the young flying onto me as I entered the loft. Visit a fancier here and they hit the window like bullets.

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[Mick sent these pictures.]



A couple pictures of some very nice Nuremberg Larks.



Toy Stencil barred Fairy Swallow

Bohemian Piedwing (Tiger Grizzle) Swallow

Just a couple interesting pictures.:



A nice picture of a young reduced brown bar sent in by Frank Frail ex the Indian Fantail Club.

Anyone who thinks old age is golden must not have had a very exciting youth.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you are in deep water.

How come it takes so little time for a child that is afraid of the dark to become a teenager that wants to stay out all night?

How come we choose from just two people for president and 50 for Miss America?

A backyard barbeque draws two things -fkues abd rekatuves, er that's flies and relatives.

JIM MUCKERMAN EMAILS:

I got some pure Cattrysse Homers from a guy in WA. When he sent them both were Blue bars. It appears the one has changed a bit, I believe it is safe to say this bird is Sooty?? [Yes, this is common that the Sooty shows up after the first molt.]

JIM MUCKERMAN EMAILS:13july'05

Below are some messages I got from the guy I got my Cattrysse birds from. Please read them through. He mentions different variations of Blue birds but toward the end he talks about Crayonne [Pencil] which sounds to me like the young I raised out of the pair (I sent you pictures earlier). Have you heard about Crayonne before?

EDITOR:

Jim, the bronze is not Pencil (Crayonne is not a valid name). Pencil was described by Mme Franqueville. She wanted to name it crayonne but since cr was taken by crest she changed the name to pencil and symbolized it with pc. It is an entirely different coloration from your bronze. The bronze you have is evident in the flight feathers of the Sooty parent. Gene tells you his Blue Checks moult into Pencils. What he

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is calling Pencil is not Pencil but a form of Sooty that is restricted to small markings similar to those you have above. What he is calling Crayonne is evidently the bronzy coloration which your young birds show which I believe probably is a recessive opal with very low expressivity. This is some type of bronze that Blue Checks may molt into Tiger Grizzles but nothing else.



Example of Spread Pencil.



A penciled Breast Pigeon

Penny, a good assessment nurse was awakened at 4 am to make a house call. She reluctantly got dressed and braved a snowstorm. After examining the patient, she told the patient to send immediately for his lawyer, relatives and friends and make a will.

When she got home and told her husband what she had seen and done, her husband asked, "Was the patient that bad?" She replied, "No, I just didn't want to be the only sucker called out on a night like this."



EDITOR: A nice Charcoal Lark. Since there were none in the U.S.; I spent several years reproducing this coloration and distributed them around. Frank Mosca also independently made this coloration but called it something else.

One of the quickest ways for a young man to fail in life is to work so hard that the boss thinks he's after his job.

FRANK POVAH EMAIL: forwarded by Michael Spadoni EXCERPT

I had my first pigeons more than 50 years ago – and I can still vividly remember the markings of the first few pairs. Those days we kept them for looks, not purity – “crest heads”, “mosaics”, and so on.

AL EMAILS:

Hi Frank, you said something about mosaic, I’ve seen a few in my days, here is a photo of the only one that my birds ever threw me, she came out of the Fab. from a long line of blue bars. [I suspect the ‘mosaic’ Frank was talking about was what we call rec. opal.]

ONORIO CATENACCI WROTE:

Just looks like it’s only overmarked on one wing shield. I know the wing shields should be symmetric but I guess I would just expect to see more of a marked difference between one half of the bird and the other.

RON HUNTLEY WROTE:

Onorio, it meets all the requirements, i.e. two different genetic phenotypes on the same bird.

EDITOR:

Yes, it is a mosaic. It is also marked over the neck, body, most of the tail, and a good portion of the wing with what in this case must be a mutation called smoky. Notice the light beak (which could also be caused by the pied head), the darkened back and rump, and the absence of the albescent strip on the one side of the tail. All signatures of smoky.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You won’t live long enough to make them all yourself. Remember, money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail. Smile and the world smiles with you. Frown and they will leave. BE HAPPY.

STEVE SOUZA WROTE:

There are times when the mosaic effect is far less dramatic than the bird you and Ron were commenting on, and with much less symmetry. Here is one I hatched earlier this year. It's an Ash red Grizzle with a partial Blue Splash tail.

LAYNE GARDNER EMAILS:6aug'05

Here is another example of a mosaic with very subtle effects. I'm guessing the right side (bird's left wing) of this clean leg Field Pigeon is expressing some influence of the Ice factor. The left side is common blue white bar.

As we examine our birds for these more subtle mosaic effects, it seems apparent that mosaics may appear more frequently than once supposed.



Gardner's bird



The Larry Long's Homer

EDITOR:

LARRY LONG & I saw the above Homer at a Kankakee Swap Meet a couple years ago. This year he gave it to me. The spot on the wing is Ash red. This Ash red area on the wing has now expanded and also three feathers in the tail have become Ash red. Here again I see the odd effect of Ash red moving into blue areas on a male bird.

The owner of a drug store walks in to find a guy leaning against a wall. The owner asks the clerk; "What's with that guy over there by the wall?" The clerk responds, "Well, he came in this morning to get something for his cough. I couldn't find the cough syrup, so I gave him an entire bottle of laxative." The owner, wild-eyed and excited shouts, "You idiot! You can't treat a cough with a bottle of laxatives!" The clerk calmly responds, "Of course you can! Look at him; he's afraid to cough!"

EDITOR:

Here is a nice picture of a Black Grizzle Altenburg Trumpeter called a pepperhead. This is quite typical of a Grizzle Spread Blue. Although some do not have quite this much expression on the head.



Pepperhead Altenburg



Steve's Frillbacks

STEVE StCLAIR EMAILS:

Hi Paul, Can you tell me if the bird on the bottom is a true silver or is it a redbar? These are out of one of my import pair from last year.

EDITOR:

Steve, there is really not enough info above to be sure. However it looks like a silver bar. What color are the parents? Looks like they will be a really well curled pair of Frillbacks.

JIM MUCKERMAN SENT THIS SILLY FROG JOKE.

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patricia 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 she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office.

She finds the 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?" (You are gonna love this.)

The bank manager looks back at her and says, "It's a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone." (You're singing it aren't you?)

FRANK (T.O.M.) EMAILS 6aug'05 (2 emails combined)

Paul, thanks for the answer to my Od concerns with the interactions of Od on e//e. Have a young Modena fancier in Canada that is attempting a color chart for Modenas.

And now another question for you to solve. Which of the three genes are the most dominant in respect to one another. Tiger Grizzle (G*T), Grizzle (G), and White Grizzle (G*W)? Has this ladder of dominance been defined?

EDITOR'S REPLIES:

Dom. opal on a rec. red bird will lighten the red color and yes, the patterns will show through. I have one homo Od. rec. red hen that is a very light pink, almost white. Od affects the rec. reds the same as it does other colors, so you will get a variety of Od expressions on the e//e. The effect of Od though variable, is to wash out the color especially in the pattern (C) areas and the tail bar.

Concerning the dominance of the three listed Grizzle genes; there is a problem. First, no, the 'ladder' of dominance has not been defined. But the big problem is that from homozygous grizzled birds; I have repeatedly bred both G*T and G birds. In fact, I have bred birds that were both G*T and G on the same bird. I even have come to the point that I doubt that G and G*T are alleles.

But how to prove it one way or the other? Homozygous G barred birds are normally stork marked. Homozygous G*T birds usually are grizzled in the nest and then molt to Tigered. These usually become whiter with age. When mated together the young are G*T. The effect of G is affected by the pattern – diminishing in effect from bar to check to T-pat to Spread. The effect of G*T is not affected by the pattern and has essentially the same effect on all patterns.

21st Birthday

Turning 21, a boy from Duluth, Minnesota, named Lars had heard stories of an amazing family tradition. It seems that his father, grandfather, and great, grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 21st birthdays to the boat club across the lake for their first legal drink.

So when Lars' 21st came around, he and his pal, Sven, took a boat out to the middle of the lake. Lars stepped out of the boat and nearly drowned. Sven managed to pull him to safety. Furious and confused, Lars went to see his grandmother.

"Grandma," he asked, "it's my 21st birthday, so why can't I walk across the lake like my father, his father, and his father before him?"

Granny looked into Lars' eyes and said, "Because your father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were born in January and you were born in July."

Little Johnny was walking down the beach, and he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes," she replied. "Do you read the Bible every day?" he asked. She nodded her head yes. "Do you pray often?" Johnny asked. Again she nodded yes.

With that he asked his final question, "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"