
Northern prickly pear in my flower bed.


Close up of individual flower.

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STEVE EMAILS:26july'07

Wonder if you could shed some light on a hood question. I've been working on Fantasy for a few years now and from time to time I get birds with a large crest. Sometimes a chain and no crest, maybe a crest and left chain, maybe a right chain. I tried breeding from a hen that had only a crest and left chain. She has yet to throw a right sided chain in any of her offspring, leading me to believe that a hood consists of three parts. What are your thoughts?

EDITOR:

I have had the same experience and took left chain to left chain and produced only left chain. Sometimes the chain was normal length (if there is such a thing) and sometimes it was much shorter. I believe that there are more than two parts to the Jacobin hood. Originally the hood was described in 1927 by Christie & Wriedt and given the symbol (Pe) for Jacobin type hood. They concluded that Pe//?,cr//cr or Pe//Pe,cr//cr would produce the hood.

My research with the Jacobin hood showed that when the Jacobin was mated to a shell crested bird, a large shell crest could be produced but not really Jacobin type. When mated to a peak crest, I got a smaller shell crest. When mated to a non-crest, I would get a shell crest showing that the Jacobin indeed possesses a gene for a dominant crest.

Mating two F1s together produced a segregation of crests, usually a left chain or a combination of the two, and smooth head. If Pe is a dominant, one should get two traits but not three or four which I got. So, I think you are correct, there probably are other components to the hood.

The Capuchine seems to have a similar hood but with shorter feathers. Also as you found and as stated above there is also involvement with the chain as a separate entity.

One other thing is that the Jacobin has the ability to raise and lower the hood feathers. I understand from others that this ability is shared by a couple other breeds.

STEVE REPLIES:

Thank you very much for your time. It might just be my odds but when I get a single chain, it has always been the left. I have however produced a young bird this year that has a right chain. It has nothing else of value to offer but I'm going to keep it to breed to a left chain and see what comes out of it. To be honest, I've been successful putting chains on birds using Saints, Capuchines, and Saint/Cap crosses. When I took on this Fantasy project it looked a lot easier on paper.

DINA WRITES:6aug'07

I know that dirty [V] increases black pigment on blue base and could have a "poor" spread effect. On ash red base, sometimes we have dark ash and sometimes don't. Why? Thanks in advance.

RON HUNTLEY REPLIES: EXCERPTS

Dirty on an ash red produces an ashier phenotype with lesser amounts of red showing on the head and neck. Dirty thus increases the amount of smooth spread displayed. A dirty blue or brown would be darker and a dirty ash would be lighter.

JERRY STERNADEL EMAILS:8aug'07 paraphrased

Here are some pictures of a young bird recently fledged. Dad is a black hetero brown Figurita, mom is a brown laced frill stencil. What is causing this frill stencil-like expression. The wings and tail do not show this pattern on the underside.



EDITOR:

These are very good pictures and I wish I knew the answer but I don't. Ralph Smith had this same thing happen a couple times. The tail resembles what we are calling flash grizzle but the wings appear to be a possibly a combination with undergrizzle. The whitened areas do not go through the feather but only sow on top of the feather. There is no albescent tail strip so it is probably also smoky?

I had a bad day today. I rear-ended a car this morning. The driver go out of the car and, he was a dwarf! He looked at me and said, "I am NOT happy". I said, "Well then, which one are you?? A that's when the fight started.

LOUBET MICHEL (France) emails:14aug'07 paraphrased

According to you, what could be the color of this pigeon.


MICHAEL SPADONI REPLIES:

Looks like an ember with Ts1 bronze on the bars.

JAMES GRATZ REPLIES: excerpt

My first thought is that it looks like ember.

EDITOR:

It is apparently a brown or silver toy stencil (Ts1) bar (highlighted by ember) ember. Looks brown but I think the bar should be darker if brown.


These show a better example of ember.

DIANE JACKY EMAILS:19aug'07

I was curious about something… I've always understood that browns and khakis have pearl (or maybe pearl gravel) eyes. Do they actually ever get color in the iris like lemon, yellow, etc? Reason I ask is that I sometimes hear of birds described as brown or khaki but they have colors in the eye as mentioned. Of course, a white headed or bald brown or khaki could be expected to have bull eyes due to the pied sometimes but figured if anyone knew of other color eyes on browns and khakis, you would. Thanks in advance for your attention to this query.

EDITOR:

Diane, the eyes of brown and khaki birds are described as false pearl. To me they look pinkish. When bred to blues they produce normal yellow/orange eyes. There are browns and khaki with pearl eyes and these are usually very whitened like a walleye pick and thus have been referred to as fish-eyes. Some combinations can affect the tint or final color of the wild color yellow/orange eyes and pearl eyes. Sometimes we get blue eyes but they are pearl with a modifier. There are many 'colors' of yellow/orange eyes. Some can be blood red but then so can some 'pearl' eyes. I understand the Chinese pigeons had about 50 different colors of eyes. I have been working with some green eyed birds and it looks like they are modified wild type orange eyes.

Not a lot of research has gone into eye color.

JAMES THACKER EMAILS:17aug'07 paraphrased.

I have a question about inheritable behavior. Is the rolling behavior of breeds like the Birmingham Roller a dominant characteristic? What is its inheritability? If I cross a Roller with another breed to introduce color will the offspring lose the rolling behavior?

ALLEN RESPONDS:

The roll/tumble gene (ro) is recessive and you will lose the roll.

ALAN ASKS:

I am curious about the (ro) gene being recessive. Is it recessive like recessive red wherein if I bred an (ro) bird to a non (ro) bird, would the offspring all be heterozygous for the (ro) gene?

GREGG RESPONDS: EXCERPTS

There is a lot that goes into the BR beside the 'ro' gene. After 38 plus years of breeding BRs, I would advise you to consider it more complicated inheritance than the toy stencil complex. Using only very good stable outstanding [roll] performers.

EDITOR:

The studies on the rolling performance by Entrikin (1971) have determined that pigeons that tumble or roll have a recessive gene for rolling (ro).

Those that have raise and worked with any type of rolling/tumbling pigeon like Gregg or researchers into genetics of rollers realize that is but a small part of the story. If you consider all the variations of tumbling and rolling in pigeons; you quickly realize that much more is going on.

Some pigeons tumble backwards in one flip or two while flying a relatively straight flight, some tumble while diving, others while climbing, some 'tumblers' spin around on an axis, some tumble on the floor or just off the surface. Some rolling pigeons flip more than three times while dropping, some roll many times while dropping and some even hit the surface (rolldowns) and may injure or kill

themselves. Parlor Rollers cannot fly upwards and roll on the ground, some rolling as far as several hundred feet. Some now over 600 feet.

Usually these performances are a learned behavior at least in part. When young birds are flown they do not start to rolling/tumbling until about the time they become sexually mature. Those that tumble backwards start by so called tail standing. They will fly along, turn into the wind and flip their tail up and drop a few feet. They may do this for days until one day they flip clear over. Then they may go back to tail standing a day or two and then flip all the way over and continue to increase (in Rollers) their ability to roll. This ability also varies with some rolling a few feet and others rolling 50 feet or so.

Some breeds of Rollers perfect this to synchronized rolling with a group of others. Usually these are the best performers. Here again variation enters the picture. Some roll very loose so that it looks like you could put a baseball or softball through the 'hole' in the area around which the bird rolls and spin loosely. The very best tight roll rollers have the 'hole' the size of a silver dollar and spin very fast.

To make this harder to understand are birds that can change their depth of roll to coincide with the group. I had one hen that when with birds that roll 10 feet would roll 10 feet and when with birds that roll 50 feet would roll 50 feet. Of course, these measurements are guesstimates since I did not have an actual measurement.

<u>ALLEN WRITES: (two emails)</u>

Here is something interesting as well. Crosses with Parlor Rollers X non Rollers produce extreme roll-downs in the F1. If it's a recessive why is this so?

The Parlor has been around a lot longer than the BR, but it was not used in the make-up of the BR. I think that the two are completely different sets of genes, and a mix of the two doesn't perform well. In other words, it's like any other gene. If you mix them for what ever reason, you have to get the PR out before you can work on the spin. I do however, believe that the BR roll-down was used in the PR to get the distance. That's just what I believe, for years we worked and worked to get a 100' PR and in the last few years they have jumped to over 600'. Please explain that to me.

<u>EDITOR:</u>

Those Parlor Rollers that rolled over 600' were in California and Mary-joe is legal there for medicinal use??? ☺☺

<u>JERRY STERNADEL EMAILS:20aug'07</u>

Here are two pictures of four ecru side by side. [one pic below]. From left to right, is a faded ecru blue base, an ecru blue base, a faded brown ecru, and another faded ecru blue base. Same lineup in both pictures.

Parents of the two faded ecru are blue base ecru hen and faded blue heterozygous for ecru and brown cock. This is the same pair that produced the faded ecru cock I had at the National. The normal ecru blue based and the faded brown ecru's parents are a faded blue base ecru (cock I had at National), and an ash

yellow hen, just a little bigger than a Figurita. They have two more in the nest and they are both naked with pink eyes just like the first two were that are pictured here.

All three faded birds have white tails. …..

Faded ecru blue base ecru, blue base faded brown ecru faded ecru blue base

<u>EDITOR: 2 emails.</u>

Jerry, I have deliberately kept information from you about the faded combination. As you remember, I have an ecru male from you that is hetero faded. It would not matter what the parent hen is (yellow or other), my hen is not dilute. There is some combination of the faded ecru that produces a "pseudo ash yellow" phenotype. Yes, I have one and she is mated and on eggs. I plan to mate her back to an ecru carrying male to try to determine exactly what is going on. I really don't know. It may be that the bird is indigo (that is in there too but then she should be "pseudo ash red) but cannot be dilute even though she appears to be a dilute.

I kept this information from you because you are getting a lot of ecru color morphs that I am not getting and I did not want to influence you concerning the possible ramifications of the yellow phenotype. I knew with your luck, you would get one in time.

I also have another ecru related coloration that I may as well tell you about. Again, it concerns a 'pseudo dilute'. This bird is khaki color all over and is out of black parents with the male carrying ecru and there is no dilute in this mating set.

When the bird is intense, it can carry only one dilute allele (and if this is ecru then we should not get any other 'dilutes'. As you once said, it takes only one to disprove ecru is not an allele and I have two in my loft that do not fit the picture. There may be something else going one that we are missing but you also have had some non-conforming results. When you think about it, with the low numbers we have in ecru, there are way too many unexplained color shifts.

Why do your faded brown and faded blue ecru have white tails? Why does my 'yellow' ex ecru line have a white tail?? To my knowledge none of its parents or grandparents do.

The fact that your silver cocks out of ecru hens have never produced any ecru is in keeping with my results. After 3 years, no ecru young.

Also, I have two blue check het ecru mated to their ecru sisters (out of Jim's ecru cock mated to a reduced hen) and have only produced one ecru this season so far. The rest of the young are blue check. No reduced. I should be getting 50% ecru (males and females) and 25% blue checks or bars, and 25% reduce hens. As you can see these results are odd too. I have yet to rear a homo ecru male.

JAMES GRATZ EMAILS:21aug'07

Trying out a new system. Any thoughts on the variation exhibited in these birds? All are ash red T-pattern.

A nice group to show the variations in depth of ash red. Thanks.

RON HUNTLEY REPLIES:

James, I would say they are three different variations of ash red allele or in combination with other mutants or both? Are all three hens?

JAMES REPLIES:

Yes, all three are hens. The variation, to me, is hard to believe. The Voorburgs are very intense red. I think a bronze or two is responsible plus iridescence…I occasionally get a poor colored one that still is better color than the dark Homer. The dark Homer I think of as normal ash red. I have no idea why the one is all washed out. I seem to be getting several of them lately

Part of why I posted this is that there is always variation. Always. Some are wondering why the roll varied. Same thing as the ash reds…it varies.

DICK CRYBERG OBSERVES:

That dirty makes a big difference. He also suspects that smoky makes them redder. And says, for sure bronzes do.

EDITOR:

All the darkeners, smoky, sooty, and dirty plus some yet described darkening factors darken not only ash red but many colors. Also bronzes and recessive red enhance the redness of ash red pigeons.

AMANDA EMAILS:23aug'07

My sister recently got some new pigeons and there are a couple that I am not sure what color they are. I think that the pigeon in the center of the photo might be either blue bar dirty or blue bar spread. Can someone tell for sure? Thank you!

GREGG SALE REPLIES:

The top of the head and the underbelly say it is not spread. If they were the same color as the body then I would say a poor expression of spread but they are not. Dirty in my Rollers always leaves some of the toenails black and even a few of them in the hetero state. The bit of white on the tail edge looks more like the brilliance of a white feather than an albescent strip. That coupled with the light beak and cere tend to indicate sooty. My best guess is sooty and smoky combined. But like you, at first glance I would think dirty. I am just giving you my best guess based on my experience. Someone may tell us that dirty can exhibit without the darkened toenails and we will both learn something.

If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?
If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

EDITOR: **717**

I concur with what Gregg said and as you and he say, the bird in the center looks like a blue bar dirty. I suspect that that is what it is and the feet are affected by the pied factor since the upper part of the foot has white feathers. Of course, its head is badge marked and it is probably a hetero baldhead.

GARY YOUNG EMAILS:3sept'07

Paul, thought you might be interested in some pictures of the juvenile molt of a sooty ember Catalonian Flying Pigeon.

EDITOR:

A very beautiful series. Congrats, Gary, for recording the molt from the 'unimproved rec. red' phenotype through to the finished light checker beautiful bird. This bird does two things. It lets people see the red phenotype from the start of the molt and then what was covered by the rec.

ALAN EMAILS:3sept'07 paraphrased

Does anyone know if the eye cere of a brown base bird is changed? I know brown affects the eye and gives a brown bird "false pearl" eyes, but does it affect the eye cere as well? Some brown Granadino Pouters and some recessive whites on a video have pink or flesh colored eye ceres instead of red ceres like others. I wonder if the gene that produces brown causes it? If so, the rec. whites could be browns genetically? I am interested in buying the birds and any help is appreciated.

JAMES GRATZ RESPONDS:

I don't think so. I am working on brown in Voorburg Shield Croppers. VBs need a clear/white cere. I am struggling with the browns. They keep coming with deep red cere and red beak.

AMI BENARROCH RESPONDS:

Alan, I can assure you that that is not the case….What you may have is 2 possible scenerios….1) the birds have been kept away from the sun and their pigmentation may be lacking intensity. 2) the birds are not pure Granadinos and may have some Ladino crossed into them. One the last scenario… the shape and width of the head should support your final decision. Best of luck.

MIKE BORDELON EMAILS:5sept'07 excerpt

I had a pair that produced a little "monster". It was a cyclops, one eye in the center, no upper beak, and very little skull. It went full term but, of course, died. It was also albino.

EDITOR:

Interesting email.

JOE POWERS FORWARDED A NUMBER OF PICTURES FOR US TO ENJOY.

I believe these are called Habul Ruman Owls from Syria. Editor