



Hey you dumb cluck, you shot my Gurnsey COW!



This is a DEER!

# PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

## EMAIL MAY 2009

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### DINA EMAILS:

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I found next photo on eggbid.com (called milky lavender). What do you think about the color?



### RON HUNTLEY REPLIES:

The [Indian] Fantail in your photo is indeed a milky. It is a blue spread, milky, dirty, dom. opal phenotype. One way to spot milky on Indian Fantails and a few other breeds is the slender tail feathers. The milky gene, for some reason, causes the tail feathers to be much thinner [narrower] than normal. Indian Fantail breeders would love to correct this problem.

### EDITOR:

Responding to Frank Mosca's question on whether a couple birds were ember. I responded "These do not show the characteristics of ember. The molted ember have much reddened primary flights".

FRANK MOSCA WRITES? EXCERPT

I'm wondering as I type this if, and this is a big IF, everyone seems to have agreed. (I'd like to see the breeding data that Gary Young has come up with on ember being the same as "tuffy" & "buff" in Oriental Rollers.). If tuff and buff and ember are one and the same, then does smoky interfere with ember expression of red in the flights? Many of the "cinnamons" in Orientals show this reddening but some of the buffs and tuffs show only minimal reddening in the flights as I remember.

DAVID RINEHART WROTE:

Dr. Hollander told me a few months before his death that the ONLY heterozygous expression of recessive red he could identify was when you had heterozygous recessive red on Lebanon bronze. It turns the white of the wing tips and the tail bar to a dusky red color. Other than that, he could NEVER identify recessive red in a heterozygous state.

ALLEN REPLIES:

Thank you, David, I have said this over and over, but have given up on the non-believers.

RICHARD WRITES: excerpts

Allen, red Lebanons are homozygous ash red T-patterns with the addition of Lebanon bronze. The fact that hetero rec. red effects even the small portions of a red Lebanon that Lebanon bronze does not affect, I take as further proof (if needed) that rec. red does affect the appearance of ash reds. It is my understanding that it was Dr. Hollander's nature not to make any pronouncement unless he was absolutely sure of it. His statement is nothing less than I'd expect.

The birds Dr. Hollander did recognize a difference in were ash reds. If you accept that, is it not logical to assume that if there is no Lebanon bronze present then rec. red at least might affect the balance of the ash red plumage as well? Many years of observations has convinced me that not only might hetero rec. red cause a difference in ash reds, it has almost invariably done so. If there have been exceptions, I can't recall them.

MICHAEL SPADONI WRITES:

I'm a bit surprised Doc only stated e with Lebanon bronze showed when heterozygous (+/e). I find it easy to pick +/e birds when combined with ash red, I can also pick on most of my blacks which are +/e also, these blacks need to be in good sunlight to see the red hue over them, more obvious when side by side with a non het rec red bird.

Many others have also reported on this group in the past being able to see +/e in the combinations I mention.

I have had no luck in picking +/e in blues or browns, but the red/bronze lacing in nest feather often is the only clue. I have also seen the red beak ring on newly hatched +/e youngsters that then disappears.

RON HUNTLEY WRITES:

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I agree with Michael. It is very easy to spot an ash red bar hetero for recessive red. They are a muddy red phenotype. If you doubt that then why not prove me wrong and put an ash red mealy (no indigos please) to a recessive red and see what pops out. All of the ash red bar phenotypes will be a dark muddy red color like the two in these photos below, 100% of the time. Doubt me fine, but try it for yourself and you will learn something and that is always a good thing.



Note the muddy red color of the wing shield and darker than normal flights of these two +/-e mealy phenotypes. Compare these two birds with the typical non-rec red mealys below. Don't let the color brightness fool you. Their ash color wing shields and ash color wing flights are indeed a much lighter ash color than the birds above.



BRETT SAVAGE WRITES:

Ron, I notice a similar difference when I had ash red t-check Modenas carrying recessive red, but I also noticed some variance in the same. It makes me wonder how much of the difference we see is due to the recessive red itself and how much could be due to any darkening modifiers such as sooty, dirty, etc. that may have been inherited along with the hetero rec. red. Has anyone notice this same thing using jus unimproved recessive red? Just wondering.

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RON HUNTLEY REPLIES:

Brett, an ash red with smoky (deeper, richer red which also extends into the tail feathers and brings out the ash tail bar) or one with dirty (an increase in ash color around the head and neck) or even sooty (a strawberry wing shield) all look different from the two e//+ birds in my email above.

EDITOR:

My experience with hetero rec red is much like that of Michael and Ron. Many of my ash reds are more pronounced even than Ron's pictures show. Invariably, the tail bars and flights of ash red birds are whitened and in hetero rec reds they are gray or darkened.

Brett mentions Modenas and that is another place rec red is quite apparent in the hetero state. The bronze Ts areas are brightened and in the t-pattern the red is usually pushed up the neck onto the head. When Modena breeders moved away from bronze headed birds they also moved away from bright bronze.

This reddening of the bronze phenotypes is seen in Kites and Archangels as well as Toy Stencil bronzes.

LYNN KRAL EMAILS:14nov'07

What color are these? Brown base or ashred base?



EDITOR:

Now this bird is what I would call an enigma. It appears brown but if it were brown it should not show the tail ribbon. But then it does have Od in the lineage. It does show some reddishness in the 4<sup>th</sup> picture. The feathers are not light faded but also does not have a good ash mark on the secondary flights. The flights appear to be brown. It looks like an indigo ash red??



MICHAEL SPADONI EMAILS: nov.'07 excerpts

Below is an F1 from a Swallow to Nun cross.



I found Bokhara x white resulted in tailmarks, rumpmarks, and whites. Nun crosses [to colored] 95% have white navels and a couple had white flights. Swallow to self crosses produced selfs and white navels. Swallow to Bh Jacobins produced 100% baldheads with small increase in white at head. F1 bred to Swallow bred Swallow, Bh and some non symmetrical near whites and one with colored wing shield and appeared to a combination of Bh and Swallow pied.

EDITOR:

Yes, the piers are very difficult to work with and many experiments of pied to pied reveal nothing as far as the genotype or allelic relationships are concerned. However, as Michael has said, usually the phenotype of many piers are from darker to white. As an example, one study I did was with a mutant white that occurred in a flock of Archangels (Kissler's). The original bird had a large round white spot on its breast. When it produced another, the two were mated together and the resultant young had more white on them, mating these together produced some whites with colored tails and mating these together produced some all white birds. Mating these to solid birds showed the trait was recessive white but by selective matings, quickly moved from a single spot to an entirely white phenotype within just a few generations.

Another example which did not go this way was when I mated a white self to a black self of the same breed. The resultant young were all patterned pied and subsequent matings produced only self colored and pattern pied birds. After several generations they still stayed in this mode and never moved farther toward the white end.

[PROJECTCONSULTANT@VERIZON.NET](mailto:PROJECTCONSULTANT@VERIZON.NET) EMAILS 1dec'07

I have a few questions about ice colored pigeons. Is the ice gene the same in all breeds? I am told there is a lightening effect with the Damacene – is that correct? What happens when you put the following genes into ice?

1. Milky?
2. Dominant opal spread
3. Ecu

4. Platinum
5. Faded with ecru

I have a very unusual bird a true ice chez ice pouter hen – I am thinking of using a true silver ecru carrying faded with this bird. What have been your results in Ice birds and the different kinds of ice – if there are different kinds of Ice.

I am thinking of putting pale into the ice from archangels and extreme dilution from ecru – I am after a bird with a black tail bar and black flights and as light as possible.

Do you know of anyone with Ice that are clean legged and frill stencil?

Any guess on what is going on with the ice gene versus other genes that lighten the blue color? Pale, ecru, recessive opal, dominant opal, dilution.

I am close to creating brown forellen ice and khaki forellen ice. I believe John Nelson had brown forellen ice from some imported birds.

Do you think it is possible to retain the ice color and get indigo forellen ice?

#### EDITOR:

I don't know to whom this information is going. It would help if you would add your name at the bottom of your communication.

I can answer some of your questions. Yes, the ice gene seems to be the same in all breeds. Yes, Damacenes have an extra gene that lightens them to snow white. The ice mutation produces a bluish tint to the overall color making a tone that resembles looking into clear ice on a lake.

What happens to ice when you put in milky? When homozygous for both genes, it produces an ice colored bird with the bars checks, etc, a milky cream color.

Dominant opal spread and ice (het for Od, homo for ice) produces a laced phenotype. The ice would have little or no effect since the spread will usually nullify the expression.

I have no idea about the effect of platinum since no research has been conducted on that to my knowledge. I would guess that it would depend upon the patterns of the platinum.

No research has been conducted with ice on ecru. Faded with ecru produces a lighter color of ecru (almost white). Ecru turns both blue/black and ash red to a soft creamy tan hence the name ecru. The effect on brown seems to effect the brown less and leaves a darker coloration.

The projected crossing of pale into ice and ecru will not produce a black tail and flights.

I do not know who still has clean legged ice. I had them for years but have only one forellen at this time. Of course, this is not toy stencil. (You mention ice and frill stencil but that only puts white bar on the tail and white across the ends of the flights and pinkish bronze in the wing bars.

Is it possible to retain ice color and get indigo forellen ice? Yes, it is, but the indigo may have a bronze caste to forellen. The open check and bar pattern can produce a nice indigo pattern but the dark check and T-pattern will usually have a lot of bronze. Also the indigo must be kept in the heterozygous stare or it will be identical to ash red.

*Your smile counts. The more smiles you share, the more we donate. And always remember to smile at your enemies. It makes them wonder what the heck you are up to.*

*You are regretfully invited to the wedding between my perfect son, The Doctor and some Cheap Two-Bit Tramp, whose name escapes me right now.*

*The biggest disaster in my family's history will take place at:  
9pm on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*And no doubt end in divorce. Hopefully in time to still be eligible for an annulment. The overwhelmingly disappointing heartbreak of a ceremony will be followed by dinner, where nuts will be served because whatsherface has an allergy.*

*For high blood pressure sufferers, simply cut yourself and bleed for two minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. Remember to always use a timer. Just kidding!*

#### AXEL SELL EMAILS:24nov'07

Paul, this note about albinos in a strain of top Birmingham Rollers might be of interest. I am in contact with the breeder. I will put some of the info on my homepage, a short English abstract and a photo.[info from Alex's homepage below]. All five youngsters are entirely white with light feet, light beak, and the typical pink eyes. They also show the typical erratic behavior of birds with vision problems described by WFH.

#### 'Albinos in Birmingham Roller Pigeons

The first passing mention of albino pigeons according to W.F. Hollander dates back to 1937: In a report on different eye-colorations in the domestic pigeons R. Lienhart mentioned that in northern France in a strain of Racing Pigeons two albino squabs occurred, but both did not survive. The next two reports were from clean-legged Long Faced Tumblers in the USA, tests by W.F. Hollander gave evidence for a non-sex linked recessive inheritance of the trait. Later on some more albinos were reported, e.g. in Carneau and Racing Homers. The factor is rare if it is preserved at all. Now a couple of light red grizzle Birmingham Roller from a top breeder and flyer of this breed in northern Germany, Bernhard Kolthoff ([www.bernhold-kolthoff.de](http://www.bernhold-kolthoff.de)) produced five albinos at one strike and all viable. Tests with former albino strains would be of interest, however, they are not present in Germany, if they exist at all.'



Albino Birmingham Roller

EDITOR: note on white flights.

As a general rule, if a pigeon has 5 to 7 white flights terminally, it is a dominant. There are several white flight traits that are caused by recessive pied mutations and these can be progressively selected to produce some white flights. Many times these latter are interspersed with colored flights whereas the dominant white flight traits have the end flights white. Remember since the white flight trait is dominant that it can be hetero for white flights and thus throw half the young without white flights.

Two types of dominant white flights are known. One normally has two terminal white flights as in the Mookie and one has normally 7 terminal white flights as in Baldhead Rollers.

MICHAEL SPADONI EMAILS: 10dec'07

A very nice expression of reduced on a blue, T-pattern, Bokhara Trumpeter, looks like a touch of bronze also. Interesting how it appears to be Gimpel marked.

RON HUNTLEY EMAILS: 10dec.'07

Michael, the wing shield looks way too dark for a simple blue T-pattern reduced. Spread maybe but a reduced blue shows the coarse spread pattern in a pink and gray color, not black and gray. As a T-pattern, your bird should look almost pink but does not. This suggests to me that it is probably a spread reduced since the spread factor would cover the coarse spread pattern (pink and gray color) with black and gray color of smooth spread like that seen on the tail.



non-spread blue reduced



spread reduced



MIKE HUGHES WRITES:

Ron, my spread reduced birds have the pattern clearly visible.

RON HUNTLEY RESPONDS:

OK, Mike, I have an open mind so please show us photos of these spread reduced pigeons with their pattern marking showing. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words and from them we can see how much pattern is still seen under the spread.

MIKE WRITES:

Here are three pictures – one is a spread bar reduced, one is a spread check reduced and one is a check reduced without spread. As you can see, the bars are clearly visible and if you know what you are looking for so are the checks. That is why I suggested barless for the trumpeter.

DAVE ANTOLIN EMAILS:9dec'07 excerpt

Saw a gorgeous young cream/yellow laced Old German Owl at a show recently. What would be the best way to produce a bird like this?

RON HUNTLEY REPLIES: paraphrased

What I see is a young ash red checker, modified by dilute and spread. She is a dilute strawberry on a saddle marked bird. Here is an ash red dark checker with spread (strawberry). Add the dilute factor [and saddle marking] and you have your young hen's color.



MAUREEN HOOPER ASKS: paraphrased

Yellow and red laced OCF that turn white after the first molt to Seraphim has happened in my friends loft several times. Is this what happens in white side?

STEVE SOUZA WRITES:

I believe that the “Seraphim” developed by Anne Ellis pre-2001 was more a breed (however accidentally discovered, but purposefully developed) and not simply a phenotypic effect??

EDITOR: A response to a question about whitesides by Steve Souza

The recessive red whitesides that Tim Kvidera worked with is the same whitesides I worked with for the last few years. The young come out of the nest solid rec. red or rec. yellow. Upon the first molt, the white feathers appear only on the wing shield. The heterozygous ones are various rosewings, some had more white than others. The homozygous ones had the whole wing shield white or nearly so. Those that had a few stray red feathers in the shield could be plucked to produce a neat whiteside. At no time did any white feathers appear anywhere on the bird except on the shield and the back between the wings.

On the other hand, I also worked with the whiteside of spread birds (so called black whitesides) and this genetic trait produced juveniles that had from a few to many to solid white shields. This trait transferred to spread recessive reds with various amounts of white feathers on areas besides the shield. The white feathers were present on the squab and if they gained anymore white feathers they were negligible. Many of the squabs had grizzling on the upper necks and head which usually molted away in the adult. On the other hand, some of these black “whitesides” would come only with pepper head markings and little or no white on the shield.

This whiteside is evidently some type of grizzle. I was able to make dun and spread ash and spread rec. red whitesides with it but it would not show on non spread birds. All these had some stray white feathers especially on the head and upper neck.

**A BIT OF HISTORY**

**Immediately after creating the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress voted to purchase and import 20,000 copies of Scripture for the people of the new nation. Patrick Henry, who is called the firebrand of the American Revolution, is still remembered for his words. “Give me liberty or give me death”, but in current textbooks, the context of these words are omitted.**

**Here is what he actually said, “An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it Almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, Give me liberty or give me death.”**

**Was Patrick Henry a Christian? In 1776, he wrote this, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great Nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”**