



Carmine Bee Eater



European Bee Eater



New Zealand Fruit Pigeon

PIGEON GENETICS NEWLETTER

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PAGE 759

A man boarded an airplane in New Orleans with a box of crabs. A female crew member took the box and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator, which she did. The man firmly advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for the crabs staying frozen, and proceeded to rant and rave about what would happen if she set the crabs thaw out.

Shortly before landing in New York, she announced over the intercom to the entire cabin, "Would the gentleman who gave me the crabs in New Orleans, please raise his hand?" Not one hand went up, so she took them home and ate them herself.

SENT BY JDF.

MICHAEL SPADONI WRITES: 8feb'08

Looks like the Czeck Bagdad is pencil (pc)



EDITOR:

Yes, they are pencil. The effect of pencil needs more study. All these birds appear to be spread so why the difference in expression? From work I have done on the Hana Pouter and the Breast Pigeon; it is quite evident that the effect of pencil obliterates the expression of the bar. It washes out the shield and tail like the whiter bird on barred birds, so why are the other two not washed out? The red and the black showing "white

760

bar” are just hetero for the pencil gene. The ‘white bar’ is just the extent that pencil has whitened the base of the feathers similar to undergrizzle. This is why I maintain that pencil is a partial dominant and the symbol should be Pc

MICHAEL SPADONI WRITES:8feb’08

Tiger/mottle (G^T) is not a typical grizzle (G). I see two significant differences between G^T and G. Add spread to G and you end up with a pepper head, as spread suppresses the action of G. But add spread to G^T and it makes no difference in expression. Blue grizzle will have the typical grizzled feathers. Blue tiger grizzle does not have grizzled feathers. It has whole white feathers. Ash red grizzle generally results in a white or near pure white pigeon. An ash red tiger grizzle has the same white feathers disperse similar to the blue/black.

MURRAY GASKINS WRITES:

I am fairly sure I have seen each of the phenotypes you describe. Most of the tigers I have bred come pepper headed out of the nest then molt in the white spangled appearance like the kite mottles. Brander, recess red, spread and grizzle can also produce some interesting phenotypes, this combo show an interesting influence in this milieu.

MIKE HUGHES WRITES:

The best way to make orange eyed whites is to use white grizzle.

MURRAY GASKINS WRITES: excerpt

I am aware of using ash red to get yellow eyed whites/homo grizzles and also pearl eyed whites from homo ash/homo grizzles. Homo grizzles are referred to as white grizzles by the club, Tippler and Tumbler guys call them stork marked.

MIKE HUGHES WRITES: excerpt

White grizzle is a grizzle that the hetero looks about the same as a homozygous regular grizzle. As far as I can tell, a homo white grizzle will be pure white no matter what other genes are present.

RICHARD KURSCHNER WRITES: paraphrased

Homo grizzles have been referred to as white grizzles for as long as I can remember. There is said to be a type of grizzle that has been named “white grizzle”, that when hetero. looks like homozygous regular grizzle. Confusing or not? Enough people have reported it that I am prepared to believe that it exists, though not fully convinced. It does seem reasonable that when hetero birds are almost white that they should be white when homozygous. As far as I know “white grizzle” is not in Australia.

GRAHAM MANNING WRITES:

Actually I’ve been thinking it (white grizzle) might be here? I’ve been producing some mainly white het grizzles in my Serbs on blue base but might be due to some classic grizzle and tiger grizzle combos? I’ve been wondering about the so called white grizzle gene also. Would be good to see some data. If mating out to unrelated blues, no

other grizzle types should filter out. If they do then the effect is just due to combination of factors. But if the tests have been done, then fair enough.

RICHARD KURSCHNER WRITES:10feb'08 excerpts

So, from what I have seen and read (still not enough though), a gene for “white grizzle” exists. Trouble is always going to arise with identification and the name. I don’t think it likely at all, that homozygous grizzles will still not be called white grizzles in the future. The phenotype of homozygous grizzles and heterozygous white grizzles look so alike that who is to know by appearance what type of white grizzle you are looking at. “White grizzle” should be a fabulous gene for making self whites.

EDITOR:

Just to summarize the information on grizzle, tiger grizzle and white grizzle. Grizzle (G) is modified by the C pattern. Grizzle coloration is present on the youngster and does not change much from squab to adult. When hetero grizzle the barred pigeon is most affected. The effect of grizzle on checker shows less and less as we go from light check to dark check. And the spread bird shows least of all with just peppering on the head. Brown pigeons show the same effect as the blue base. However, ash red show much more effect across the spectrum from bar to check to spread. All being whiter even when heterozygous. Homozygous grizzles in blue and brown on the other hand produces a near white bird with colored wing tips and tail tips. A few colored feathers may be seen on the upper neck and head.



Top: blue bar het grizzles.

Bottom: blue bar het grizzle sooty and homo grizzle



Ash red het grizzle



Ash red homo grizzle



ash red t-pattern grizzle



Spread blue grizzle (pepperhead)

This shows a sample of some of the easily recognized grizzle (G) expressions. Some are not so easily classified and many interesting phenotypes arise when other factors and modifiers are added to the stew.

A few groaners:

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you but don't start anything."

A dyslexic man walks into a bar.

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says, "A beer please, and one for the road."

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other "Does this taste funny to you?"

"Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'" "That sounds like the Tom Jones Syndrome." "Is it common?" "Well, it's not unusual."

I went into a seafood disco last week...and pulled a mussel.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire and the kayak sank, proving that you cannot have your kayak and heat it too.

(sent in by Brian Heck)

Tiger grizzle (G^T) on the other hand comes out of the nest solid color and after the first molt produces birds that are about half white feathered and half colored feathered from the head toward the rear of the bird. This pattern is fairly consistent no matter what the color or pattern of the pigeon. The white feathers may increase some as the bird ages. Homo tiger grizzles usually are but slightly whiter than hetero.

Some pied birds look very similar to tiger grizzles but pied birds come out of the nest already pied. Pied can be combined with any of the three discussed here.



adult

Left blank because it could be any solid color
Hetero tiger grizzle young



Homo tiger grizzle young



Homo tiger grizzle adult (molt not finished)



Tiger grizzle indigo



Tiger grizzle rec. red

White grizzle (G^W) come out of the nest near white when hetero and homo are normally completely white but may show a colored feather or two. In the Homers these are frequently referred to as white bandits. However, not all 'white bandits' are white grizzle.



Hetero white grizzle



homo white grizzle

Is this the end of the 'grizzle story'? No, only the beginning. There are several other 'grizzles'. A couple that have been described are undergrizzle (Ug) 'a partial dominant that is not part of the grizzle allelic series' and Timisoara Tumbler grizzle (Ttg) which is a dominant found in the Timisoara breed (also known as Temeschburger Schecke) and is currently being checked against the (G) grizzle for allelism.

A couple more 'grizzles' are known but have not been named yet. Both are complexes. One is known as black whitesides but should be called 'spread whitesides'. The other is a white belly phenotype found in Stettin Tumblers and Kiebitze Highfliers. When a blue bar Stettin Tumbler was crossed with a khaki bar hen; the resultant young were all hetero grizzles with partial white bellies.. When these F1s were mated, the resultant offspring have segregated into hetero grizzles, homo (storked) grizzles, and non grizzles without white bellies.

EDITOR:

Anne showed me a bird that she thought might be ecrú.

MY REPLY:

I have thought a lot about the bird you showed me. I am not sure what it is genetically, but it is not ecrú (lemon) color. We have reared enough ecrú in a number of base colors to say for sure that it is not the same. It is not dilute either or it would be silver. It might be brown, which I doubt because of the neck coloration, or possibly reduced.

It is also possible that it is a new mutation but that could only be determined by testing. One of these should be mated back to the father to try to produce them in both sexes. One should also be mated to a silver male to help determine for sure if it is in the dilute series. If not, the male young will not be silver.

What does the plumage look like before the first molt? Does it change?

I have faded brown Saxon Monks. They are quite different from the odd “yellows”. Also there is not a possibility that the blues these birds come from are carrying brown. They do not change color when they molt. As babies they look exactly like the babies in the article on extreme dilute in the Purebred Pigeon.

I have been told that white on a bird makes the ground color of the bird lighter. The thin line at the edge of the white bar on my birds looks to me like the same color as the checks in the Homers in the extreme dilute article. I think a blue bird with white bars tends to look lighter in its ground color than a blue bird with wild color checks. If you put a white head, tail, muffs, and flights on the birds in the article and remove the checks and replace them with bars, I think the color matches my Monks.

Maybe Ron Huntley could send me a Homer cock and I can try a cross. Right now, I have to keep the father with his blue hen. They seem to be interested in making babies and his two “yellow” daughters do not. If he gives me more “yellows” I will put him with one of his daughters. Right now I do not have access to a silver Monk.

MY REPLY: excerpts

Several things – contrary to Ron Huntley’s article – the proper name of this gene is ecru (not extreme dilute). We (Jim Muckerman, Jerry Sternadel, and myself) named this gene way before Ron’s article. Whether this gene is in the dilute series has not been conclusively proven but that is beside the point. There does seem to be a lethal factor with ecru so that very few young [especially males] survive from a pair of ecru.

Ecru do change color with each successive molt becoming darker so that they end up nearly identical to what we call yellow (cream) by the end of three years. Several genetic traits can produce young similar to the ecru babies. Heterozygous toy stencil do not produce discernable Toy markings. Ecru in spread looks like ecru e//e, ecru in blue look like very light creamy khaki, ecru in brown seem to be more brownish, while ecru ash red is slightly, if any, darker than [ecru] blue. Ecru bar and check are very similar in color with the markings hard to see the first year. Ecru with bronze (kite or Ts) look like those with blue base color.

Pied markings do tend to lighten the Ts markings toward white but , of themselves, do not affect the ground color that I have seen and I have seen hundreds. Pied with dominant opal does enhance the effect of Od and whiten the markings. The thin line on the edge of the bar is the color the bar would be if not for the Ts effect.

I suggested that they might be reduced but since you say they do not change color, that probably rules out reduced since most reduced do change color in the molt.

Andy Rooney on Prisoners

“Did you know that in the U.S. it costs forty-thousand dollars a year to house each prisoner? Jezz, for forty-thousand bucks apiece, I’ll take a few prisoners into my house. I live in Los Angeles. I already have bars on the windows. I don’t think we should give free room and board to criminals. I think they should have to run twelve hours a day on a treadmill and generate electricity. And if they don’t want to run, they can rest in the chair that’s hooked up to the generator.”

MARIO FENECH WRITES: 17feb'08 paraphrased

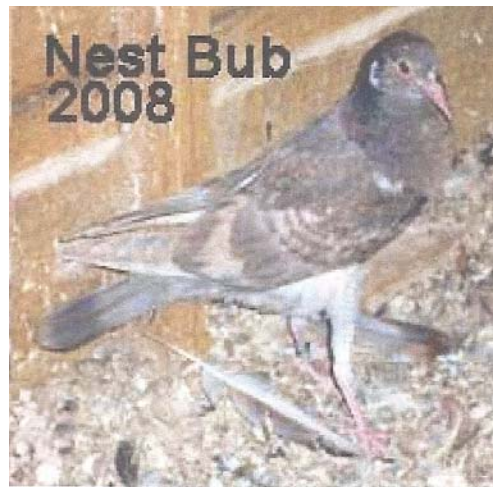
I am sending photos two of which have three images on the same photo. There are two different hens. I believe they are grizzles. Now they are kite grizzle. I usually only mate to blue cocks but one hen I mated to a kite T-check.

The 2003 hen is mated to a Kite T-check and here is the offspring with its mother.

The 2004 hen is mated to a blue cock – with her 2007 bub which I believe is a cock T-check with little white and no grizzle. The 2004 hen produces young similar to herself which have been hens. The nest mates are usually T-check kites but with less grizzle effect or white.



203 hen



EDITOR:

Mario, concerning the 2003 hen which you show mated to a Kite T-check. Either the father has grizzle cancelled by the bronze or he is not the baby's father. The baby is storked, which is homozygous grizzle (G//G) tort. The hen looks like she is tiger grizzle so none of this really computes.

Hen 2004 and her blue bar mate are producing what would be expected since she is T-check, bronzed and hetero grizzle.

BRETT SAVAGE WRITES:17feb'08 combo of two emails

Are these young birds recessive opal? Below is mother.

Here is another, not my bird. Is this dominant opal bar?



Spread blue recessive opal



Dom. opal bar



Dom. opal bar



recess. Opal bar

RON HUNTLEY REPLIES: excerpts

When spread is there, the lacing is often darker than the other portions of the feather. Recessive opal like dominant opal is variable. The first bird is still in its juvenile molt and what appears to be white bars is in fact just from the spread factor and not bars at all. The bird is spread blue recessive opal. Your hen is typical of a blue bar recessive opal. Note the color on the breast and the bar.

The original bird is a dominant opal and possibly sooty. Notice the bar which could pass for dominant opal or reduced. Reduced birds tend to be more pink while dominant opal tend to be more bronze in the bar.

If you still are not convinced that this bird is dominant opal bar, then look at the tail. If it is dom. opal the tail bar will be washed out. If reduced, the end bar will be a soft gray color.



Reduced blue bar



reduced checker pied

EDITOR:

Brett, Ron has done an excellent job of determining the traits involved. The pictures he summated of the reduced birds shows the typical reduced tail coloration with the light basal part and the terminal darker bar. I think the first bird (spread blue recessive opal) is probably also indigo.

EDITOR:

Concerning the combination of Od and opal – if the bird is not spread, then there usually is a trace of color at the tip of the tail and this color may vary. If the bird is also spread – there is no tail bar or tail tip to give us a clue. However, the depth of color is usually less in the combination. The juvenile feather usually still exhibits the characteristic lighter area in the middle of the crop which disappears after the first molt.

FRANK (T.O.M.) ESTABROOK WRITES:

Paul, you know that I have great concern for argent Modenas. In my years of trying to breed decent black argent, I have had some with Od that never expressed except in some cases. A very close inspection of blacks, the upper vent area showed some faded off colored feathers. Later found that these blacks were Od. Just thought I would pass this along for whatever it is worth.

A Pennsylvania pub serves the world's biggest hamburger – weighing in at 9 pounds. Cost \$23.95, loaded with fixings. It is made with: 2 whole tomatoes, a half head of lettuce, 12 slices of American cheese, a full cup of peppers, 2 onions, plus a river of mayonnaise, ketchup, and mustard.