



Mutant Robin! This has been called an albino Robin but it is not an albino, it is not white nor does it have pink eyes.

## PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER EMAIL NOVEMBER 2009

EDITOR: LESTER PAUL GIBSON  
417 S. Chillicothe St, Plain City, Ohio 43064

Page 801

*Darwin Awards: A man, who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago, returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.*

*A man walked into a Louisiana Circle K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened to cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash, which the clerk quickly provided. He fled leaving the \$20 on the counter --- the total cash he got from the drawer was \$15. Sent by Ron Huntley.*

### **AXEL SELL EMAIL: responding to my letter on page 792 of last month**

**Hello Paul, thank you for the additional info. For sure, I recognized your findings and it is interesting now to see again the growing interest in Gimpel Bronze. I just have the fifth young Gimpel-Homer cross in the nest and again from the breast up to the tail, a difference to wild-type. The light checker Homer hen looks quite normal and is from a racing strain of normal looking birds without known modifiers. There are also some other interesting observations, e.g. in respect to peak crest. From the white flight Archangel with a Tumbler hen, about 50% of the youngsters had a peak crest though I doubt that in Vienna Highflyers and related breeds the trait for peak crest exists at all. In contrast, the Homer cross resulted as expected in 100% plain [head] up to now. Thus “enabler everywhere”!? The self gold Archangels indeed seem to be simple recessive gold ee, plus pale. My fellow Archangel fancier now did a cross of light bronze Archangel and a yellow Moravian Strasser hen with the result of 50% self gold and 50% near to black pale youngster with some (limited) gold on the breast. The hen genetically obviously black colour plus spread and diluted recessive red. In this case again all youngsters were plain headed. I will play around with limited resources for a while and keep you posted.**

*If you drink pepsi at a coke factory – will they fire you??*

*Why do you have to “put your two cents in” but it’s only a “penny for your thoughts”?*

*Where is that extra penny going?*

**FARM-PIGEON WRITES TO GENETICS-FOR-PIGEONS:5may'08**

I would appreciate it if you can advise me on the color of this bird. I have no idea about its [parents] or its genetics.

**EDITOR:**

Being Jacobins; they are baldhead, white flighted (actually too many here) and white tailed. The color of the body and hood are, I believe, almond. The bird appears to be a three year old male and is quite iridescent on the dark feathers.

**DINA MERGEANI WRITES:15may'08 responding to an email I wrote about crossing Saxons breasts and gazzi German Modenas.**

Paul, a friend of mine has a breed called Botosani Tumbler. Some of them are pencil and others are self color. In his loft he has two kinds of marking of the head of pencil birds, like you say with a bib (rare, looks like Saxon Breast pigeon) or without a bib (frequent, looks like Tete-noir). We supposed that the first kind is recessive to the second kind. I have another friend with the same situation, too.

**EDITOR:**

Dina, these are the type patterns that I breed out of Saxon Breast matings. The bib marking and the modified Moorehead pattern head. As you indicate the

Breast Pigeon bib type is rarer than just the head marking. It has been my observation that the Moorehead head marking does occur less often than just the dark head pattern. I do have some birds that are split with the dark head marking on one side and the bib on the other side. Matings indicate the Breast Pigeon marking is a modified Moorehead pattern.

Neither of these show pencil pattern.

**DINA WRITES:**

A friend of mine just sent me a photo of his new young Fantail. The parents are recessive white and tailmark (with solid black tail). Could the color of this birds tail be pencil? The other photo is a pencil young.



**Tailmark Fantail**



**Pencil young bird**

**EDITOR:**

Dina, this tailmark Fantail could be either what is called flash grizzle or it could be undergrizzle (they frequently look similar on Fantails and Indian Fans.) It is not pencil. The second picture is typical of young pencil birds. Much of the color on the wings and tail usually molt to white leaving the dark head.

This is one of the differences between undergrizzle and pencil. Undergrizzle expression usually is less in the adult than the young feathers but pencil goes the other way and becomes whiter.

*Another Darwin award:*

*When a female shopper in New York exited a convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 and the woman gave them a detailed description of the man. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They drove back to the store with him. He was told to stand there for a positive ID. To which the thief replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."*

*Susan (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. "Please don't give me this juice again," she said, "It makes my teeth cough."*



804

**LINK WRITES: 26may'08**

Here's 2 more recent pictures of a mosaic that I posted a couple weeks ago.



Right side



left side

**EDITOR:**

Very interesting. It appears to be a grizzle black but the mosaic area appears to be yellow.

**JIM THACKER WRITES: 3june'08**

Is this young bird ash red?



**TOM BARNHART REPLIES:**

I feel safe in saying it is NOT an ash red. Faded could be involved, but I hesitate to make a call without seeing the parents.

**JIM WRITES:**

Here are the parents. I got them from Alan Bliven. I think he said the hen was a blue almond but I could be wrong about that. I thought the youngster might



be a smoky ash red.

**TOM BARNHART WRITES:**

805

The hen looks like a qualmond. That would be my guess for the young bird. And it will be a male.

**JIM THACKER WRITES:**

Here is the birds nest mate. It shows a lot more blue but has a lot of reddish color on its chest and lower neck that you cannot see in the photo. Could some type of bronze be at work in both birds?



**TOM RESPONDS:**

I don't know about bronze, but I certainly see qualmond again. The bronzing in the breast might be an indication that it carries recessive red.

**JIM WRITES:**

The thing that is throwing me is that neither bird had short down in the nest. Do qualmonds have the short down in the nest like almonds? The pair has another set of babies in the nest now and one does appear to be short downed. [pair of young above]

**DAYLE HOLTZCLAW WRITES: EXCERPTS**

The pouter cross hen looks like a spread blue Qualmond. The cock bird does not look recessive red on my monitor. He carries blue since his offspring are blue. If he is not recess. red he is a carrier because it shows in the 2<sup>nd</sup> offspring. The multiple striations on the tail are tell tale for qualmond.

I will be anxious to know results of future offspring since I am interested in learning anything I can about qualmond.

**JIM THACKER WRITES:**

The next question: I have a young bird out of an almond cock and a blue hen. Both carry gazzi and recessive red. Their first nest had an almond and a gazzi (pic included). The next nest had an almond and the young bird in question. What would you call this color? It is still in juvenile feather.

**EDITOR:**

The cock bird is what is typical almond in Modenas and referred to as Magnani. The first two young show a gazzi bronze carrying recessive red, and a typical young magnani. The next bird appears to be a dilute, powder belly almond hen which will molt more typical magnani.

**JIM THACKER WRITES:**

Is the first Hungarian brown or unimproved recessive red? It is out of a nice color yellow hen and a blue bar cock.

Is the crested squeaker an ash red check or could it be something like ash red sooty? It is out of a black hen and an ash red OGO cock.



**EDITOR:** the Hungarian is brown T-pattern. The crested bird is spread ash red.

**ARPAD CSEPLO WRITES:**

Perhaps I am the only Hungarian reader of the PGNV&C, so I'd like to refer to M. Spadoni about the "Hungarian Highflier". There is no such breed called "Hungarian Highflier". Szegedi Highflier Tumbler exists, but it looks a bit different from that on Mike's photo. The breed exists in self, pied, and so called "orvos" versions. The orvos is born white and becomes more and more colored with age as Michael said. The differences are that the Szegedi orvos exists only in deep purple red markings, with bluish gray beak and eyecere. They do fly long and high



with typical slow motions. Beak is longer and the crest is higher on the head. The important difference in color is that Szegedi orvos never looks like Michael's bird. The plumage is not edged with color but the white and entire colored feathers are mixed in diff. degree. It looks and acts like the Timisoara Tumbler but on negative film. Once I crossed an orvos to a blue bar and the chicks showed some grizzling. Spadoni's story fit to an other breed called "South Bachka Tumbler". It is more similar to the picture, exists not only in red but black, and yellow and really is not a champion flyer. The only picture I have of an Szegedi orvos is the bird in the middle.

About bronzes: unfortunately I can't obtain either your book nor Levi's Encyclopedia, so I must find out everything myself. I think Ts and gp interact. I mean they support each other. How is it possible to have a dark check (CT) blue with bronze bars? (I have some.) How is it possible to have a black beak, black skin chick (theoretically dirty) molt to wild type blue. (Kolozxvar Tumbler does it.)



Szegedi orvos (center)

gpXTs1 (F1) juvenile

gpXTs1 when adult

#### EDITOR:

Great information, Arpad. The orvos is evidently an ash red grizzle with a modifier that gives the purple hue. Unfortunately the Szegedi Tumbler is listed in Levi as "Szegedi Tumbler or Shell-crested Hungarian Highflier" and the type Michael shows is exactly as shown in Levi for orvosok (tigered) and is listed as existing in black, red, and yellow.

The gp and Ts can print out on the same bird. And yes, Ts1 does print out with bronze bars and dark checks on some birds. Don't know why. The bird you show above is typical of a gp cross with a non wild type bird. The bird also looks like it is hetero for recessive red? These results explain why some think gp is not a recessive but a partial dominant. We must always, as you so aptly stated in one of you emails, compare a trait like gp with wild type and not a bird modified from wild type.

This past season, I rechecked the inheritance of gp. I originally did this work on it nearly 20 years ago. When I mated Archangels to either Ice, Damascenes, or wild type; I got all young without any sign of bronze or of gimpel pattern (gp). This assures me that I was correct in my original designation. In 1993, I listed it as a recessive or nearly so. That was because some F1s showed crop bronzing. Now I know this was because the blue birds I used had a trait for darkened crop, a modifier which lets the bronze show there.

I also mated Archangels to Brander bronzes to check if there was allelic connections there. The F1s were all grizzled Kites just like one gets when Brander bronze is mated to wild type.

I mated Archangels with sulfured blue Egyptian Swifts and all young were consistant with Archangel markings. Segregation in F2s produced only Archangel bronze and Swift bronzing.

I mated Archangels with Kites and produced only Kites or Kites with bronzing on the crop.

These results also showed me that I was right originally in my designation of gimpel pattern as a recessive.

#### AHMED WRITES:

What is indigo? Where did it come from? Someone told me that indigo and andalusian are dominant and there is no way that cock [can] carry indigo or andalusian. I was trying to introduce indigo to French Mondains and I was told to take it to other breeds. But when I put a blue cock French Mondain to a yellow hen French Mondain, I got indigo. Taking this young hen to a black then I got andalusian.

I also have a pair of Fantails, a black cock mated to a yellow hen and got from them an indigo cock and a red hen? Just wondering if some one could tell us if the indigo and andalusian are recessive or dominant and explain what is going on.

All pairs are in individual pens.

#### JAMES GRATZ RESPONDS:

Indigo was discovered hiding in recessive reds, just like you found it.

#### EDITOR:

Indigo is an autosomal dominant. It was discovered by Wendell Levi in 1936 from crosses of Blue Homers to white and red Carneaux at the Palmetto Pigeon Plant. He gave it the symbol (In).

Egyptian Swifts and Syrian Swifts are the only other breeds that are known to have the gene at that time. Homozygous indigos look very much like ash reds and dilute homo indigos look nearly identical to ash yellow.

#### RON HUNTLEY WRITES:

If you like a cool color combination, feast your eyes on this one. He is one of my favorites. (b,+,//b,ST^q,d).





**STEVE SOUZA WRITES:**

Love what the qualmond did... but wonder what the non-brown is that the qualmond found?? Is it perhaps het e? or simply what the qualmond did to the intense brown vs the khaki?

**JAMES GRATZ WRITES:**

I have no experience with qualmond but also wondered about rec. red. Very pretty and unique bird.

**EDITOR:**

Ron, you are so right. This is a cool combo. I have frequently used almond in my experiments because the sex linked colors exhibit even though they are hetero. This is the first time I have seen that same effect on a qualmond. To see both khaki and the brown really makes a good color combo. A couple people thought they saw rec. red but I see none. Not saying it is not there, just that I don't see it.

I let people talk me out of all my qualmonds, so I cannot go there. Congrats on a coool color.

**RON HUNTLEY WRITES:**

No recessive red in this bird. What you see is brown and khaki combined together with spread and qualmond. Sorry here is how it should have read.  
b,d//b,St^Q; S//+ .

The dilute brown (khaki) is on the opposite Z chromosome from the one containing the brown and almond factors. Spread is an autosomal so it is separate. What you see as a light red color is actually khaki. Look closely and you will not see any red, just three shades of brown. This photo was taken just after the molt so no sun bleaching is involved.

The almond series or family of mutations is the only exception to the rule that a recessive must be hemizygous or homozygous for it to show. Almond and or qualmond factors turn off or greatly restrict pigment production coded on that same chromosome, thus allowing whatever in on the opposite Z chromosome to express itself.

A similar thing happens when you have reduced included in the same way. Here is a blue qualmond dark check heterozygous for reduced cock bird. He sure does not look like a blue check does he? <grin>

The lighting was not good that day so I need to get some better photos. This bird is more pink and gray in color.

*[Recently scientists have worked out the genome of the potato. They report that the potato has 12 chromosomes and 850 million base pairs. That is about 1/4 the size of the human genome.]*



**STEVE SOUZA WRITES:**

Thanks for clearing up that question. I would like to let folks know that all the qualmonds I have, originated from Ron's bloodlines, and they are great birds. Qualmond brown in Racing Homers.

That having been said, I have put the St<sup>^</sup>Q into a number of my racing families, including an ash red line. What I noticed is that not only does the qualmond affect the brown on the same side of the chromosome, but in case of the brown/ash red cock, it also affects the ash red by reducing its appearance as well... creating a nearly white bird out of a barred ash red (het brown and qualmond) cock.

**DAVE SANDHOFF WRITES: On Indian Fantail Club.**

What color again?



**Garry Glissmeyer Comments** - Some sort of grizzle is showing in the feathers... but wow, look at that distinct, almost painted on pattern on some of the secondary flights! Hard edge, like a ruler had been used. Hey, Dr. Gibson? Enlarge 2X, very interesting.

**My Comments:** This bird and its sister appear to be spread almond or qualmond. I think closer to qualmond. Why is it gray instead of white? Influence of other genes in the mix which may be het. rec. red. Is that a possibility?