



Wish they wouldn't put this feeder so high. Tweet-a-de-tweet tweet. See I am a bird!

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EDITOR:

This issue will deal with ember. Although ember or ember-like phenotypes have been seen in past years; it wasn't until my good friend, Larry Long, captured some wild birds of this phenotype and reared more that anyone really took notice of the trait. Larry brought this phenotype to attention of Dr. Hollander and myself. He later gave specimens to a number of other fanciers in the U.S.

The birds that Larry caught produced young that looked like recessive red but molted most of the red away leaving red on the primaries and the bar. A typical molt sequence for a barred bird from juvenile to adult plumage is shown below..



Starting to molt from all red, nearly done molting to adult, Typical adult.

For years we have dealt with a recessive red that we called various names including unimproved recessive red. These were $e//e$ but apparently did not have the right compliment of modifiers to produce a good solid color recessive red. Both recessive red and unimproved recessive red juveniles normally stay the same color when they molt to the adult plumage. There are lots of exceptions to that statement but these are because of other gene action. Such things include whitesides, undergrizzle, and some piebalds.

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Unimproved



good ee//ee color

ROBERT McKEE writes: 22sept'08

We do keep calling these rec. reds; molting blue unimproved rec. red, but I think we need to test on the original stock.

RICHARD CRYBERG:

They are not unimproved rec. reds. They are embers. Ember is an allele of rec. red. Ember has proven to be exceptionally sensitive to other genes present. Most anything added makes them redder in the nest feather and often the adult feathers.

ALAN EMAILS

Dale Husband has had ember in his Kurdish Oriental Rollers for 60 years. I also keep this strain. The first two photos are of the same bird as a young prior to the molt. The next photos are after his molt. He is a smoky ember. We also have them in dilute and what we believe is pale.

ALAN EMAILS:

Rec. red is common in the breed as a whole but as far as his Kurdish strain is concerned, he has not out-crossed them to any other strain since he's had them. That is not to say rec. red is not in there. Here is a different one from this same strain. This one is what Dale calls a buff. There are 5 different phenotypes in this strain. Dale doesn't know what they are but has always called them tuffs, buff, red bar tuffs, cinnamon and creams.

RON HUNTLEY SENT THESE TIDBITS

In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair, the chair-man". Today in business, we use the expression or title "Chairman" or "Chairman of the Board".

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in "straight laced" ...wore a tightly tied lace.

RICHARD KURSCHNER EMAILS:23sept'08 excerpts & paraphrased.

...the buffs I have taken to be dilute versions of the tuffs. I've been researching ember or what I believe to be ember for a number of years. I have had a tremendous advantage in starting with homozygous ember. My original was a strange color given to me by a friend for testing. (he turned out to be smoky bar blue). Mated to a blue T-pattern Showpen Homer hen, produced only normal blue T-pat. And one blue bar. This slightly sooty blue bar produced a cock that was mated to a sister. They produced an ember T-pat hen and a smoky ember barred cock.

I believe smoky suppresses the effect of ember.

EDITOR:

The following pictures are not of ember but are of atlas. This coloration is found in the Arabian Trumpeters and in the Oriental rollers. The [] designates my opinion of each picture. Tuff as named in literature is named after an attitude (tuff) not a color.



Tuff [blue atlas]



Buff [red atlas]



Dilute [yellow atlas]



[Blue atlas]



[Blue atlas]



[Blue atlas with X factor]

Notice that all these have a lightened head and lack red in the flights or bar. The last 5 show smoky. The X factor produces lighter heads and an odd color tail and sometimes white feathers in the tail. The head and tail may vary from year to year getting lighter in color.

These birds come out of the nest this color and do not change in the molt except on the red and yellow atlas the head does lighten, in some cases to near white and the tail feathers sometimes change color to lighter also.

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RICHARD KURSCHNER EMAILS:24sept'08

Here are further photos of my smoky ember cock. He is a softer gray about the head than ordinary smoky blues, reminiscent of what we see sometimes in blue grizzles, but with a creamish tint rather than white.



EDITOR: This is a red atlas, notice the extent of bronzing in the flights and the peculiar tinted tail coloration.

EDITOR:

Although there are some similarities, there are more dissimilarities between ember and what are known as atlas color. The atlas do not have recessive red as part of their genome. Two blue bar Arabian Trumpeters can and do produce young with the atlas coloration. The atlas coloration has the head lightened and the bars a smeared smoky look with some bronzing. The ember on the other hand do not have lightened heads, the bar is sometimes nearly as bronze as Ts1, and the primary flights are a distinctive glowing ember color. This glow was what made Doc. call this coloration ember. The tail may have a tinting but does not have the same tint as atlas.



This is a nice series showing an ember and two dilute embers.

RON HUNTLEY WRITES: 23sept'08

This is an ember cock directly from Dr. Hollander's loft. He is down from the embers Larry Long gave to Dr. Hollander for study. The bird carries Doc's homemade band number 202E, which I assume means the 202nd ember produced. In this photo, the bird is starting his third year molt.

Note how the red glow of the flights is missing from the two recently grown new feathers. Also take note of his wing shield bar colors. They are not bronze nor red, they

are now more black in color. In addition, they show just a slight plum color similar to that shown on its head and neck.

Compare these colors with the ones from Australia and the ones from the Tuffy, Buffy lines. They are not the same. This bird is a true ember and does not carry smoky, however, its wing shield color is similar to smoky.

RICHARD CRYBERG RESPONDS: excerpts

Doc's band number system is really neat. The bird (202E) means that its records for the pair producing this youngster are on page 202 and the E means it is the 5th young banded from this pair.

A few years ago, Ron gave me a cock bird that is blue bar, het smoky, e^E//e. That was the first ember I had and is ancestor to most of my [ember] birds. He looked just like the picture Ron showed. Ron told me he started out quite red in the nest feather and molted blue. So it fits that birds het for e are redder in nest feather than homo. ember.

RICHARD CRYBERG: EXCERPT

A homozygous ember with no additives comes out of the nest nearly like an adult ember with no additives. It is merely a blue bar pigeon that shows a very small amount of red in the shield, a bit of reddish in the bars, the ember glo in the primaries and a redder than normal chest. After the molt, the red in the shield is all gone and the red in the chest is almost gone. The tail looks blue in both nest and adult feather.

EDITOR:

The following pictures show some of the phenotypes encountered.



An ember check. As you can see this looks a lot like an ash check without the ashy tips on the flights and with a bar tale.



This shows a dark shield version.

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These two look more like a bronze version of atlas. For all the background color the bars are not red nor are the tips of the flight feathers red.

These are a bunch of wings, tails and side views of some ember barred birds.





All these show reddening of the bars and primary flights.with some tinting of the tail from normal wild type. Some of the barred ember have the bars very close to Ts1 coloration.





These two appear to be indigo embers.

RICHARD KURSCHNER WRITES:2oct.'08

I've found the photos I was looking for of a spread ember cock. Interesting that he shows a barred tail. The tails of all my homozygous embers have been much the same. He was feeding babies at the time. I'd had him a couple years before I got around to breeding from him, mainly to prove he was indeed spread. Three out of 4 young were black. For comparison I've also attached photos of a spread ember//recessive red hen. She was one of 3 sisters that were all spread ember//recessive red and the one that most approached the homozygous cock in color. One sister was a pretty good red in nest feather but she became darker on the belly and under the wings with the moult. Would still easily pass for a recessive red though. The other sister was midway between the two mentioned. The cock bird was the same colour in nest feather. All the hens started out much redder than the cock bird and moulted darker.



Spread ember cock



Spread ember//recessive red hen sibling to above cock bird.

DICK CRYBERG WRITES: 2oct'08 excerpt

Yep, those are spread embers alright. I have made them too. I also see a difference from bird to bird in the ratio of red areas to black areas. Some show much more black than others, to the point some areas on them are near black. My guess is this may [be] related to dirty or smoky.

EDITOR:

Doc. wrote up a paper with Larry as a co-author calling the trait ember and stating that it was an allele of recessive red. These early birds were a combination of ember and recessive red.

It was soon theorized that this coloration was everything from unimproved recessive red to what was known as buff and tuff in the Arabian Trumpeters. And even the "cinnamon" in milky fantails and a color in Dale Stones Archangel derivatives. People were seeing it everywhere from Archangels, Arabian T's to Oriental Rollers.

In such context it was consequently seen all around the world. Some Kurdish pigeons showed the same or similar trait as what Larry had captured and brought to our attention.

Dick Cryberg, Richard Kurschner, and Ron Huntley are to be commended for their following up with additional research on this coloration.



Just not sure where this bird should be catalogued. But it looks like a spread ember.

Just not sure where this bird should be

For more information on the ember coloration see Ron Huntley's website:
 "Ron Huntley's Rare Color Homing Pigeons" and scroll down to Ember color modifier.

JAMES GRATZ WRITES:2oct.'08

There is a funny bronze in Archangels that covers the black shield of the really good ones in the juvenile feather. Molts out...better in cocks than in hens. This bronze could be different than Arch bronze. Somebody needs to isolate it, maybe not possible, and see if it is ember or what it is. There are 20 ember projects out there! Few hundred pied projects! Lots and lots to do.

EDITOR:

I have worked with this bronze wash on the wings of Archangels as has Frank Mosca. It occurs on those that molt in the best green sheen. It is my opinion that this is part of the effect of the iridescent gene and the gimpel gene gp. The gimpel gene produces the bicolor by preventing the bronze from covering the wings and tail. Sometimes it just does not do a complete job and some of the bronze carries over onto the wings. This is a balancing act between having the entire body bronze including the head and tail undercoverts with the wings colored and having the entire bird bronze. Entirely bronze birds do pop up from time to time and breeders just cull them. I had a couple entire bronze phenotype Archs that I was going to use to test against the other bronzes, but they would not pair up with anything. I lost them when they were 4 & 5 years old.

From Turkey <http://ozturkguvercin.com/necmettin2>

These pictures from Turkey show a new combination of traits, at least to me.



EDITOR:

My read on these birds are that they are a combination of Forellen Ice and Archangel bronze in gimpel pattern. They also show a type of crest that may be new in that it appears on most birds to be parted down the middle of the head.

This makes a lovely pastel colored bird and the above is also produced in a dilute color. Last year I crossed Forellen Ice with pale Archangels and now am working with the F1s (which show no bronze anywhere). These F1s are het. Forellen Ice in color. The first F2 this spring resembles some of the above birds in color with most of the color on the crop only. This is one of the few projects I am carrying through this season.