



Some more pictures of the cherry mutation sent by Souzas.

PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

EMAIL SEPTEMBER 2010

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Sent by a friend: In Honor of Stupid People –

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On a Sears hairdryer – Do not use while sleeping. (Shucks, that's the only time I have to work on my hair.

On a bag of Fritos – You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside. (Aha, a shoplifter special.)

On a bar of Dial soap – Directions: Use like regular soap. (How would that be?)

On some Swanson frozen dinners – Serving suggestion: Defrost. (Good suggestion!)

On Nytol Sleep Aid – Warning: May cause drowsiness. (I'm taking this because?)

EDITOR:

Just a note about SEX. If you think it is simple, you are mistaken. I'm sure all of you know what parthenogenesis is but did you know that many small animals such as insects multiply by parthenogenesis? Did you know that at Wooster, Ohio they produced parthenogenic turkeys? Whereas parthenogenic insects are females. Parthenogenic turkeys are all males. Did you know that all honeybees that are produced from fertilized eggs are female and all unfertilized eggs are males.

Here are a few other SEX anomalies involving adult animals. Did you know that some fish change sex? That clams change sex?

If they change sex from male to female – it is known as protandry.

If they change sex from female to male – it is known as protogyny.

There are stranger things which even occur in humans. If a person has the physical traits of one sex and the genetic instructions for the opposite sex the term for that is pseudohermaphrodite.

If an organism that has both male and female reproductive organs at the one time and which develops the opposite sex organs, the term is sequential hermaphrodite.

Around 55 years ago while I was taking care of the bird lab at the Ohio State University, a gentleman came in with a couple hen pheasants. He stated that they would

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change into roosters. He said he had had several do this change. And he wanted to know why they were changing. Both birds did have a couple rooster colored feathers on the lower neck. Over the passage of the year, sure enough they changed into rooster pheasant plumage. They were posted in the lab and it was found that they both had cysts on their ovaries. Thus they were not changing sex but the cysts were allowing the hormones to change the sex influence on the plumage.

KENNY DAVIS:1/1/09 excerpt

Here are some pictures of Mosaic Oriental Rollers produced in the loft of John Skistimas, enjoy.



[Looks like a dilute rec. red with black



Looks like a rec. red with rec. yellow rump with brown patches and tail.]

and here are a couple shades of kite bronzes.



[Notice the intensity of bronze on the bird on the right. The left one has most of the bronzing of the flights on the inner van and so does the one on the right.]

TWO WOLVES!

An old Cherokee told his grandson about a debate that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves that are inside us all." One is evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

BRETT SAVAGE WRITES:3jan'09 excerpts

I have been told by some on this list [geneticsforpigeons] that the best andalusians are without any darkening modifiers. When I first bred andalusians I made the mistake of breeding them to good shiny blacks that were T-pattern sooty smoky. Now I'm crossing them out to blue barless with indigo that I got from Al to try to get rid of the modifiers and the T-pattern.

[The first bird] is mated to a barless indigo so I hope to get some without the smoky and with spread on barless rather than on T check. I am expecting to lighten them up so the lacing stands out better. From my limited experience, sooty smudges up the pattern worse than smoky. You can see the [Roller] is much darker. Easy to mistake for black in bright light.



[The first bird is a smoky T-check carrying barless. The second is a Roller that is both sooty and smoky.]

STEVE SOUZA WRITES: Larry, nice looking bird. I like the opal effect on the flash.

LARRY DAVIS WRITES: Steve, then you'd probably like to see what it does to the adult tail

STEVE WRITES: The original tail looks like just the opal is affecting it. Does the flash only kick in after the molt?



[The bird in discussion.....juvenile tailadult tail.]

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EDITOR:

I believe the tail is being affected about the same by flash in both the juvenile and the adult. The distinctive signature is present at the basal half of the tail in both. Note how the feather is white each side of the shaft, leaving the shaft colored. As usually happens, the adult markings are a little more muted. The end of the juvenile tail is being affected by both opal and smoky. The end of the adult tail is being affected more by opal.

JAMES GRATZ WRITES: EXCERPTS from two emails.

There have been suggestions that grizzle as in Frillbacks might also be a different grizzle but I cannot say if that is true or not. I suspect it is not true but obtained a Frillback recently to see what comes of it.

One can breed blue bar grizzle to blue bar grizzle in Frillbacks for years and not get anything close to stork marked. Something is different! Different grizzle or different genome or perhaps some inhibitor gene.

I'm not married to the idea that there is a Frillback grizzle. Something is different though, because the 1:2:1 ratio does not happen.

DINA MERGEANI WRITES: 6jan'09

In 2008, I've had an accidental pair of ash red Frillback hen X black Chinese Owl frill cock. They had two offspring: a hen without grizzle effect and an ash red T-pattern cock with a slightly grizzle effect (pepper head).



EDITOR:

Concerning the grizzle in Frillbacks; over 20 years ago, an investigation began with the "different grizzles" found in various breeds. One of these was the Frillback 'grizzle'. Outcrosses resulted in birds very similar to those produced by Dina. Also some "Frillbacks" like the above were purchased at a swap meet. Young from the Frillback crosses and the boughten birds were tested with blue bar Rollers and the resultant offspring produced nice Frillbacks, birds similar to Dina's and 'normal' Rollers.

This resulted in the naming of the partial dominant gene curly (Cu) for the Frillbacks and Ptarmigan Pigeons. Further research over the years showed that indeed there were two partial dominant genes for curly which I named Cu1 and Cu2. One is found in the Mfattel Dewlap and the Ptarmigan. Both are found in the Frillback. Now

there has been another change resulting is extreme curling in the modern Frillback. This may be caused by a modifier such as slightly longer feathers or a third gene for curl.

Back to the ‘grizzle’ affecting the Frillback. My tests showed that the grizzle involved is (G). The F2 ratios were not 1:2:1 for grizzle but were skewed. More tests finally revealed that there was a modifier gene that prevented the expression of the homozygous grizzle. Homozygous grizzles affected by the modifier were hardly discernable from the heterozygous grizzles. These homozygous grizzles mated to het. grizzle Rollers produced some storked young. The tests were not run extensive enough to be sure, but it appeared that the blocking modifier gene is probably recessive.

CHRIS ROGERS WRITES: EXCERPT & paraphrased

I would like to cross Nun pattern into English Trumpeters. I plan to cross 2 Nun hens to blue bar ETs. Breed as many young as possible, then select from the F1s and produce F2s. I am unsure of the next step to move the pattern into ETs.

JOE POWERS REPLIES: 6jan'09 some paraphrasing

I would get the best two Black Nun cocks I could find and mate them to the two best Black English Trumps I could get. Use Nun cocks because they are going to give you a lot more young in a breeding season on the Trump hens than you would get from 3 times as many Nun hens on Trump cocks. I would use Black Trumps because they are [much better than Blue Bars]. More bang for your buck. I would select Black Trumps that have no white feathers anywhere – not one. Getting ones that are bred from Black and Andalusian with no [pied factors] would ensure faster progress into what you are trying to do.

I've crossed many colors and breeds over the years and I can tell you that you will save years by going with what is right when you start the project. Even waiting a year or two to get the above birds to start with will result in faster progress than going with the Nun hens. [Nuns] are considered a greenhouse breed which breed better when it is real hot. I see you are in Arizona but when doing the project, put all the odds you can on your side when you start – so go with Nun cocks and Trump hens. Good luck and have fun.

DREW LOBENSTEIN WRITES: exerpts.

Chris, listen intently to Joe's advice....it is square on! When you get the F1 young raise enough to use 3 pair..or more...two pair to get the Nun pattern back and one pair to go to the ET again for type. Don't discard anything. We'll talk again when you get there ... and you see what you have to work with. Ask Bob McKee to explain figure eight breeding to you...set a goal...work toward it...don't discard anything...again...Don't discard anything...patience and persistence will be your best friends in this process. Don't discard anything...oh yeah and one more thing...don't discard anything...even if you think it is not useful to go forward...one day you will wish you had it back. Thank Joe for his advice...again it is straight on...take advantage of his experience here without question. Best wishes from a veteran of the trenches.

EDITOR:

Excellent advice by Joe and Drew. Just a note. If you do not get some Nun patterned birds in say the first 10 young from F2s, then your best bet is to take one of the F1s back to the Nun. Use Nun patterned birds from this to mate to any of the F1s that show the most E.T. features. Keep in touch with Joe and Drew for more suggestions. Keep good records including pictures and hopefully this project will take less than 5-7 years.

BILL PETERSON EMAILS: 7jan'09

Paul, this is one of the young Figs with the red in white flights. They are near whites and I wondered if maybe there was white grizzle in the Figs. I would seem not from what others have said. The parents are both carrying recessive white but that should not matter. The hen is ash red saddle and the cock is ash red split dilute, no white feathers. Two of their 4 young have been like this one. The other two were one rec. white and one ash yellow velvet young hen. The younger is looking very close to this one with a lighter beak and they seem to molt in some red feathers with time, no ash colored feathers only the red of ash red. My biggest question is what puts the red so far out the wing and why is it not ash?



[Bill, this phenotype has popped up for me and I call it reverse finch marks. It does appear with whites but mine had no grizzle component. The marks are more bronze than red and popped up in my Suabians. It was associated with recessive red not ash.]

I've learned that no matter what happens, how bad it is today, life goes on and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a 'life'.

I've learned that if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the best you can, happiness will find you.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles four things: a rainy day, the elderly, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

The first picture is homozygous indigo blue bar, bird is in the molt so is looking rather shabby. The second bird is his nest mate and is hetero indigo. The third bird is a Roller cross and is maybe more what you are looking for. She is homozygous indigo T-check. If I recall correctly, she is also dirty and maybe smoky. She is a pretty good ash red mimic, don't you think?



Normally redder. In//In Typical indigo bar In//+ Normally redder than photo In//In

BILL PETERSON WRITES:

You may be right, I sure can't say that you aren't. I just expected to see a bird that looked more like ash red in a homo indigo. He is lighter, I'll give you that. Thanks for the pics.

BRETT REPLIES:

Hi Bill, yes, I'm sure. The neck is darker red because of the homo indigo and the body and tail lighter. Here is a hetero indigo barless hen. And again the homo indigo barless cock.



[Nice hetero indigo hen, looks dilute.]



[Again homo indigo is normally redder than this. Believe is also dirty.]

JDF SENDS: You cannot fix stupid! Headlines in papers.

Alton attorney accidentally sues himself. [Sue crazy lawyer.]

County to pay \$250,000 to advertise lack of funds. [Hey, I would do it for 1/2 that much.]

Australian army vehicle disappears after being painted with camouflage.[Good paint job]

Volunteers search for old Civil War planes. (Let me know how that works out.)

Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons.[Would have bet on that!!]

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MIKE (flrsnmr05) emails:29jan'09

These are pictures of a vey old breed from the middle east. I posted them for anyone who is interested. What do you think their genetics are?



[Syrian Fantails (Hindi type), known as Seldschuck. The color is ice barless self]

EDITOR:

Just some interesting pictures of Indian Fantails



Dan Skiles'
Dom. opal, Spread Gizzle



Pepperhead Grizzle + Ug



Garry Glissmeyer's
Flash grizzle tailmark

Notice how the Dominant opal lightens the feather shaft area of the tail feathers, undergrizzle whitens the entire basal part of the feathers, and flash grizzle whitens the vane and leaves the feather shaft dark.

DINA MERGEANI WRITES: 28jan'09

I have a short question for you: what do you think, is this pigeon ash red or rec. red.

MICHAEL SPADONI REPLIES:

Ash red plus plenty of bronze.

WESLEY PRICE REPLIES: excerpt.

The picture shows an ash red bird, since you genetically can't get rec. red with a .

BILL PETERSON REPLIES:

Are you sure about this? The baldhead gene won't work with recessive red but there are other things that make pigeons white. Swallows that are recessive red do not have a red spot and some are mismarked without the colored snip. These birds do not have the baldhead gene.



Am I ash red or recessive red?



Michael's ash red white bar.

MICHAEL SPADONI WRITES:

Fairy Swallows are not recessive red, they are ash reds with bronze. What makes you think you can't get white bars on an ash red? Here is one bred a few years ago.

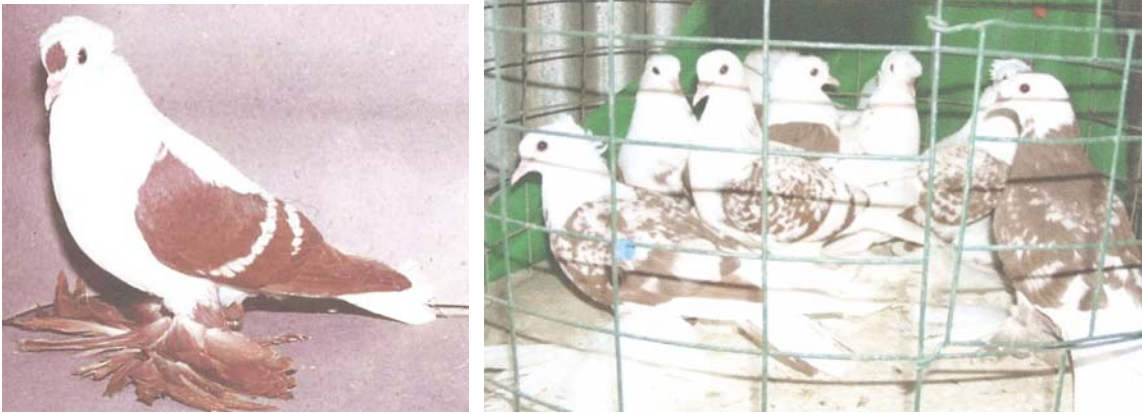
BILL PETERSON WRITES:

Michael, that's interesting. As I said, we had a discussion about this awhile back and it seemed that nobody could come up with an example of an ash red with white bars or spangle. I know that I had Silesian swallows that were recessive red and yellow. The conversation was more about red saxon whitetails that never seemed to come in white bar or spangle because they were t-pattern ash reds with bronze. This led to a discussion of other breeds of German toys that were known to be recessive red with white bars such as swallows. Shields also came up and I don't think anyone ever said one way or the other which they were because of the belief of the baldhead genes involvement in white headed pigeons.

This bird could pass for ash or silver from the photo. I take it that you know it is ash. Perhaps it is only spread ash or t-pattern ash that will not produce clear white bar or spangle, which would make sense. Bar pattern should have no trouble and perhaps it doesn't have. Still, I don't remember seeing the combination before for whatever reason.

RICHARD KURSCHNER WRITES:

Bill, I had not had doubts that toy stencil could express on ash red and I have no doubts that Michael's bird is ash red. I did have major doubts and still do, that it is possible to add enough bronze plus whatever else necessary to take an ash red bird (particularly a barred one like Michael's) to solid red. Not saying it is impossible but at present, far from convinced it could be the case. With a dense t-pattern base I could imagine it possible to get a rich deep red but such a bird with toy stencil added would have a wing shield more white than red. Not sure what the flights would look like but imagine they would not be solid red. I cannot at present see what such as those in the attached photos can be other than recessive red.



RICHIE DARLING WRITES:29jan'09 excerpts

Richard, my Saxon shields are ash red. When you open up the wing, the intense colour fades out, see attached picture. Last year, I outcrossed a silver Saxon Monk cock to a Saxon shield hen. Bred two strawberry ash red cocks and two silver hens. One of the silver hens mated back to a Saxon shield cock has produced 9 young, various sexes all red in various shades, see attached photo. Swallows are both ash red and rec. red. Generally a cross of rec. red to black will produce ash red in various shades, usually quite dark, see photo. Also attached a photo of rec. yellow and an ash yellow for comparison.



As you can see some fanciers are still a little confused as to the association of recessive red and pied. And this is to be understood. Some recessive reds molt to white as in Anne's Seriphims which feather out shades of red as juveniles and molt to white. Also there are varieties such as the Krasnodar that come out of the nest deep recessive red and molt to white except for the belly. And the Tschinny which also molt from red to a pied phenotype.

Many of our red pigeons may look like recessive red because of bronze factors and actually are ash red. A number of others are recessive red over ash red bronze base.

The original picture by Dina at the top of page 911 is a bird that looks rec. red saddle but probably is a bronzed ash red.

How can we be sure? Only by testing. If we test against blue/black we may get ash red when in fact the bird is rec. red over ash red. If we test against rec. red and get any color besides rec. red then we know it is not rec. red but is ash red.

The only known linkage with the recessive red is the Bh gene. These come out of the nest nicely marked and molt into gayly pied birds. A saddled bird can be either Bh or not Bh. Only testing will tell. The so called 'bell' marked pied birds are Bh with modifiers. As seen in an earlier Pigeon Genetics Newsletter, there are more than one type of white head or cap and only one (Bh) is known to be linked to recessive red.

Saxon Whitetails that I bred that appeared to be rec. red were either ash red or homo. indigo t-pattern toy stencil.

Most of the ribbon tailed breeds are ash red with bronze without recessive red. Silesian White Headed Pouters have a dominant white cap that is not linked recessive red. White headed Trumpeters look like Bh but have proven to be TB (trumpeter bald).

ARPAD CESPLOA WRITES:1feb'09

These are those 'Egri Kek' (means: blues of Eger town) mentions in PGNL. This small size Hungarian breed exists only in this particular colour version, what we consider as dirty blue bar. They are highflyers, and their breeders say they fly so fast and tricky that not even a falcon can take them.

Now, the odd thing is that there is a colour difference between genders, cocks are always relatively lighter and hens are in darker colour. What could cause this?



Male



Female

RIP WRITES:

I can attest to their flying style, they are the fastest fliers I have ever flown, and the only breed, I ever had, that made 90 degree turns in total unison. I can also tell you

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they are not totally “hawk proof”, but can’t get much closer, its more like “Ivory soap” 99.9% pure. You never say never.

I discussed hen color with JWQ, by letter, when he was editor, and sent him feather samples. I don’t recall if it ever appeared in the PGNL but basically he concluded that it was yet another “dirty”. As I recall, he said with his classy wit, “dirty is dirty” in the context that “dirty” was a dirty subject with lots more than one form involved.

EDITOR:

Arpad, this breed appears to be a color variety that Goodwin described from the region of India. This color difference between genders is more pronounced in this breed but is found in wild type blues. This has been carried forward into a number of our breeds and the hens are darker than the males. Sometimes it is pretty subtle but it is there. Thus it is a wild trait.

Rip states that Joe intimated that there was more than one form of dirty and now it seems research has shown that there are probably four or more types of dirty.

FRANK ESTABROOK EMAILS:

I got this picture from a fancier overseas. Thought I would share. Was wondering if any of you would share some info as to what might be the cause of the whitish markings in the body area?



EDITOR:

The cause of the whitish markings are toy stencil complex showing up on the feathers that are also sooty. This is the same effect as shown on Suabians. There is a bronze component with these feathers also which is also seen in the Suabian that is independent of the bronze components in the toy stencil complex.

Headliners on papers:

Caskets found as workers demolish mausoleum. (Who would have guessed that.)
Ten Commandments, Supreme Court says some Ok, some not. (We can choose?)
Utah Poison Control Center reminds everyone not to take poison. (Aw, why not!)
Statistics show that teen pregnancy drops off significantly after age 25. (Funny, I would have thought it dropped off after age 19?)