

PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER EMAIL NOVEMBER 2010

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EDITOR:

I have ceased rearing pigeons as of this month. I will continue to produce this newsletter.

I will start this newsletter with some of my most recent activities. One interesting test was to cross Timisoara with blue bar grizzle. The results surprised me. I used a hetero Timisoara to a hetero grizzle. The grizzle (G) and (Ttg) combined to produce:


dad young


The young birds came out of the nest barred grizzle.

and molted to

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a Timisoara wing & tail marked white bodied bird.

926

In the Baldhead vs white cap tests:

Baldhead homo indigo ash red

X White cap Archangel

The F2 segregation from these were:
1)white caps with 2 white flights & white caps with 7 white flights,
2)mixed caps (includes hetero white caps, hetero baldhead, and hetero both white cap and baldhead) with either 2, or 7 white flights (some with 0 white flights and some with 6 white flights),
3) baldheads with 7 white flights, and baldheads with either 2 or 7 white flights (some with 1 to 6 white flights), and
4) 2 with no white on head or white flights

The last two F2 young reared: an indigo ash red non pied and a baldhead indigo ash red.

Caller: I'd like the number of the Argo Fish Bar, Please.
Operator: I'm sorry but there is no listing. Are you sure that the spelling is correct?
Caller: Well, it used to be called the Bargo Fish Bar but the B fell off.
AND THEY WALK AMONG US! AND VOTE! NOW, THAT IS SCARY!

BERTUS PRETORIUS WRITES: 14feb'09 Paraphrased.

Can you help me regarding white caps and white flights? The gene that causes the white caps, is it an autosomal dominant or recessive or ?? And what about the white flights?

I have bred Mookee cocks onto gimpel hens with nice looking priest marking (white caps) that have resulted in offspring without white caps. I cannot understand.

EDITOR:

I have been working with white caps and white headed Bh birds for several years. I have found that they are not the same. The Mookee cap looks like the Gimpel cap but they, as you say can breed young without white caps. I get three phases, no caps, marked caps, and clear caps from the cross of Bh birds to white capped Gimpels. This tells me they are genetically different.

Normally when we cross a Bh bird to a non Bh bird we get a mark across the top of the head above the ears. But in this cross, I got some birds with no white mark at all. I suspected that the Mookee cap and the Gimpel cap were about the same but your results and mine say that that may not be true either.

Normally the white flights are dominant. However, not all white flights are dominant. I know that the white flights found in the Bh Rollers is dominant. Crossing to the Gimpel white flights produces a variable number of flights: one, two, three, five, or 9 & 10. Since those of the Bh birds are dominant; one would have to go to the F2 generation to segregate them. I believe they are variations of the Wf gene. However, I did rear 2 young from the Bh Roller X white capped Gimpel that had no white on the head or flights.

The article in the July 2010 email pigeon genetics newsletter and the above should answer most of your questions. Concerning the white flights: they are a dominant character. The difference between 2 and 7 white flights seems to be an allelic one but there is some variation. The exact number varies even on the same bird from one wing to the other.

Stray white flights are not part of the above but are produced by recessive pied genes.

Tech Support: May I help you? Caller: Yes, I'm having trouble with Word Perfect. Tech Support: What sort of trouble? Caller: I was typing along and the words went away. Tech: Went away? Caller: They disappeared. Tech: What does your screen look like now? Caller: It's blank. Tech: Are you still in WordPerfect? Caller: How do I tell? Tech: Can you see the C:prompt on the screen? Caller: What is a sea prompt? Tech: Never mind, can you move the cursor around the screen? Caller: There isn't any cursor, it won't accept anything I type. Tech: Does the monitor have a power indicator? Caller: What's a monitor? Tech: The thing with a screen like a TV. Does it have a light that tells you it is on? Caller: I don't know. Tech: Follow the cord to the wall to see if it is plugged in. Caller: Can't tell, it's too dark.
Tech: Dark? Caller: Yes, the office light is off. Tech: Turn the light on. Caller: I

can't. Tech: Why not? Caller: Because there's a power failure. Tech: A power failure? OK, we have got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in? Caller: Yes. Tech: Good, go get them and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from. Caller: Really, it is that bad? Tech: Yes, I'm afraid it is. Caller: Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them? Tech: Tell them you're too stupid to own a computer. Can you believe? They fired the tech?

EDITOR:

Many times questions arise about the expression produced by the linkage of the St gene. Many almonds have the St gene linked to blue/black. These include the 'classical' almonds as well as most of the many faces of almond.

Murray Gaskins sent a post with some of Doc Herring's ash red linked to St in hetero. males. This can give the expression seen in the following photos.

As you can see the linkage of St to B^A may result in only the blue showing. I should caution everyone that even St linked to B+ will darken with age and may sometimes look very similar to the above after several years.

The B^A-St hens, of course, would only show ash red. Homo Ash red males would look similar but show more ash red flecking.

Almond blue bar
Notice not much break & gold bars.

Almond homo ash
Two tone caused by St effect on one Ash Gene allowing the other to express.

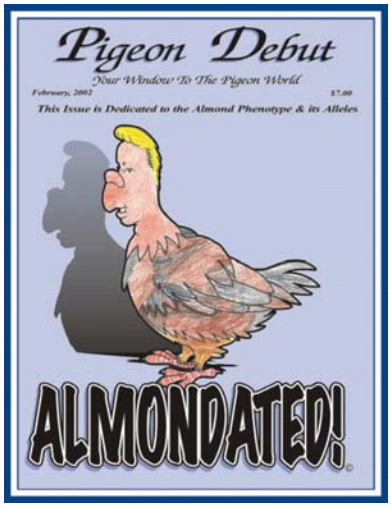


Here are three tails from hetero ash red/ blue-St males. Notice the differing amounts of blue and ash exhibited.

Here are a couple more almonds:

A dilute ash red Almond

An almond brander.



Almondated self portrait

Almondated exposed! He is NOT blonde.

<u>KERRY HENDRICKS EMAILS: 15jan'09</u>

Bob Mangile and I have both worked with penciled [pc] and we published the results of our data in the genetics newsletter a couple years ago. Our data shows

penciled to be an allele of gazzi along with recessive white. Penciled appears to be recessive. Since it appears penciled is an allele of recessive white, make sure you don't have recessive white involved. A bird that is Z^pc//z^wh will have some color around the head and the rest of the bird being white or some variations will show a penciled effect in other areas of the bird, but not near as extensive as a homozygous penciled. Here is a link to the article that is now posted on Bob Mangile's website: http://www.keycreations.com/~rmangile/Pigeons/Gazzi_Penciled.html

[This email was in response to a query from Alan about how to get more color into his penciled Rollers.]

MICHAEL SPADONI EMAILS:

I have read Robert Mangile's article several times and agree it goes a long way to proving pc and z are alleles. There was one thing that didn't quite set well with me and trust that is that pc to me by appearance was too different [from] z and z^wh.

For example, if you pick any other allele grouping there is a common theme to the allele group, in that it gradually changes in the expression from the wildtype as you step through the alleles. Such as Almond (St) series & the pattern (C) series, d series, cr etc.

Gazzi is a pied pattern made up of whole coloured feathers and feathers devoid of pigment in a specific pattern. The gradual expression from z to z^wh should be a predictable increase in whole white feathers the further we move from wildtype, such as gazzi to Nun to self white. Not gazzi to pc (a grizzling of feathers) to white.

At the moment I just can't think of any other gene that has such a major departure from it's known alleles. I try to look at things very simplistically, but I do know things are not always simple.

[Here Dick Cryberg states: You keep saying this for some reason. I do not understand why.]

Because I had yet to hear a possible explanation to the pictures (that have been shown before).

[Here Dick Cryberg states: After all, the best evidence we have on the gazzi marking in Strassers is that the gazzi gene is not even present.]

Just to confirm are you saying the Strasser is not a gazzi marking?!

[Here Dick Cryberg states: And we have no evidence at all that pencil is present in these birds. As the markings in Stassers only remotely looks like the proven pencil markings in other breeds it is quite a stretch to conclude as fact that it is pencil.]

Yes, it does look a little different to what we normally see with pencil, it could be a form of undergrizzle, it could also just as easily be a different expression of pencil.

All those that believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.
I almost has a psychic girlfriend, but she left me before we met.
When everything is coming your way, you are in the wrong lane.

[Other discussion continued to be concluded by Michael.]

The breed used for many of the pencil experiments appears to be Hana Pouters. I do not keep Hana Pouters but from the information I can find, many Hana are penciled, so it should not be possible to have cleanly marked gazzi penciled birds if they are true alleles. Since all Hana are gazzi, that then begs the question how can they also be pencil?

It's a legitimate question, I am just trying to get an explanation of this, see picture.

Farbe, Farbenschläge und Zeichnung

Zuchtstand und Verbreitung

The following is a discussion between Kerry Hendricks and Michael Spadoni.

K.H.: I'm not sure if you are referring to Bob Mangile's and my report on penciled when you say the breed used most was Hana Pouters, but if you check the report again, I only used Saxon Breast Pigeons in my matings. A quick check of the numbers shows I made 29 matings which produced 156 young while Bob made 35 matings and produced 210 young. He used Hana Pouter.

M.S.: I didn't say the "breed used most", I said, "used for many of the experiments". It was mentioned several times in the first 2 paragraphs of yours and Bob's report that Hanna's have pencil, & states the many crosses done with Hana's in testing.

K.H.: I don't know if the Strasser in Dina's photo is penciled and/or gazzi. As I said before, I would like to test it. Also, I don't believe penciled Hana pouters are gazzi. Penciled can produce a gazzi-like phenotype which I've done with the Saxon Breast X Roller and Racing Homer crosses. That's not proof that the Strassers and Hana Pouters that appear to look like penciled and/or gazzi are or are not gazzi. We need to test birds and accumulate data. I am still working with penciled as I'd like to have more data.

M.S. Look at the picture I posted again. Bottom right there is also a black gazzi (non-pencil). Not all Hana's are pencil, but all non-pencil Hanas are gazzi, so this would also most logically mean that the penciled gazzi are also gazzi. The gazzi marking is part of the breed, if the bird is not gazzi marked it is not a Hana Pouter. Just like there is no such thing as a solid coloured Nun.
Hypothetically asking "if" some Hanas are pc & z, would that also mean it casts some doubt as to whether they are alleles but rather could be linked. I hope you are able to get your hands on one of these birds to unravel it.

K.H. The pied series is interesting and there is plenty of work to be done. I'd encourage everyone to fill those individual cages, keep accurate records, and take pictures!

EDITOR:

It has been reported that Dr. Hollander stated that even though Strassers phenotypically look like gazzi, they do not have the gazzi gene. Does anyone have a copy of that report?

I never had a Strasser to test but the Hana Pouter is stated as created about 1880 from a cross of Pomeranian and English Pouters with the Moravian Strasser.

My research showed the Hana Pouter is definitely a gazzi and many are both gazzi and pencil. I have tested the Hana for both gazzi and pencil and both are definitely there. Since the Pom and the English are not gazzi, then the gazzi had to

come from the Strasser. Likewise neither the Pom or the Engish are pencil, so the pencil had to come from the Strasser.

As I have stated before, my early research with Hana Pouters showed that the ones I had were both homo for gazzi and pencil. And the pencil breeds as a partial dominant. I was conducting my research on the Hana Pouter penciled at the same time(circa 1981) as Mme. Franqueville was conducting her research on the Tete Noir de Brive. She concluded penciled was a recessive. My research showed it to be a weak partial dominant.

I crossed Breast Pigeons with Rollers and produced both Breast Pigeon markings and Moorehead markings in the F2.

I crossed Breast Pigeons and gazzi German Modenas and produced 100% Hana types in the F1. Smaller but still Hana types and they were all both gazzi and penciled. They were hetero for pencil and homo for gazzi. F2s and F3s produced 100% gazzi and hetero pencil, with a very few homo penciled and non-penciled.

This shows that although the Breast Pigeon is not a typical gazzi, it breeds as homo gazzi. And pencil segregates separately from the gazzi and ratios show it is linked but not an allele.

A couple pictures show some of the expressions of pencil.

<u>EDITOR:</u>

In the above dialogue, Kerry stated that he had produced gazzi-like phenotypes from a cross of Breast Pigeon and Rollers and Racing Homers. I am sure he did because I got the same thing. However, that is not the whole story. I crossed Breast Pigeons with gazzi German Modenas and got homozygous gazzi. The Breast Pigeons were tested and found to be homozygous gazzi even though for some reason they do not appear to be gazzi phenotype. However, I did produce gazzi penciled young that in the F2 showed variability in the neck color, sometimes even on the same bird. One side breast marked and the other normal gazzi marked.

In summary, my research showed that the concerns raised by Dina and Michael were indeed valid and that the gene for Pencil is not an allele of the gene for gazzi. My breeding results showed that these two genes were linked and that both genes could express on the same bird at the same time. Historic evidence indicates that

both these genes were combined in the Strasser and transferred in making the Hana Pouter.

The following pictures are from my book "Genetics of Pigeons 2005".

Pencilled Breast Pigeon

Pencilled gazzi Strasser

Penciled gazzi Hana Pouter

Pencilled Breast Pigeon

Pencilled Czech Baghdad

Pencilled Tete Noir

Pencilled, Baldhead Danzig

Pencilled Black

As you can see there is a variability of expressions. Checking the flights shows a similarity in expression in all those that have dark flight tips.

F1 Breast Pigeon X gazzi German Modena