



Pictures of an ash red & blue bar mosaic Holle Cropper sent in by Lynn Watson.

PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

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Here it is 2011 already. Hope 2010 was good to you.

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38" (Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you." "Scripture?" replied the burglar. She said she had an axe and two 38s!"

GREGG ZILBERG EMAILS:

For the last three years my blue bar blended tail cock had been producing 20-25% strange looking babies. Babies are extremely poor feathered for the first three weeks of age. After 5-6 weeks the feathering changes to normal. Every other year that cock was paired to a different blended tail hen. Another observation: all 4 white tailed daughters from these matings produce non fertile eggs. The cock never produces white tailed sons and every one of his blended tail daughters breed normally.

Have you met something like that in your practice and what could cause this kind of abnormality. P.S. Any progress with Serpastie flying?



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EDITOR:

A very interesting email. Poor feathered young – yes, this is a condition that is known. I used to get this type feathering when I raised canaries. In canaries, we called it hard feather. However, in pigeons, several of us have just called this slow feathering. Certain feather tracts seem to not develop until late. Had this recently in Egyptian Swifts and they really looked like (Chimney) Swifts. Although the feathering looks normal by say 8 weeks, it usually is not. When you turn the bird over the breast bone is usually still not adequately covered. Also some of the feathers around the eyes and the tertiary wing feathers are still not present.

I remember when I first saw this condition, I thought the parents had plucked the feathers but close examination revealed that there were some pinfeathers under the skin and no signs like blood that any had been plucked.

Concerning the white tailed daughters not being fertile – no, never heard of such a trait before. The cock not producing any white tailed sons also may be something new. Very odd since no white tailed breeds are known to be sex linked. The numbers are small, so it just may be a fluke (chance of the draw so to speak) which would disappear after enough young were produced. The infertility trait, though, really needs to be studied.

As reported before, my Serpasty flying came to an abrupt end when the hawks cleaned me out of them.

ARPAD EMAILS:

Crossed blackwing Archangels to blacks with and without Ts. (Ts involved pair below.) No pale or dilution was introduced into this project.



Notes on job interviews sent by JDF:

He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.

This young lady has delusions of adequacy.

This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts the better.

This employee got into the gene pool when the lifeguard was not looking.

Has a photographic memory but with the lens cap glued on.

This applicant fell out of the family tree.

His gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.

F2 generation segregated as the pictures demonstrate:



. The [left picture] shows the presence of the Arch bronze only, and the [right picture] shows the presence of Ts1 only (I believe.)



These two can be put together, as you can see in these pictures:

EDITOR:

Thanks for the very good pictures of the cross of a blackwing Arch with a black Ts bar. The blackwing Arch is genetically a dark check or T-pattern blue with darkening factors. Had you mated the Arch to a blue check or T-pattern, you would have gotten more information and the bronzes would have been easier to differentiate. Blackwing Archs do have some bronze on the shield [when young]. This normally molts away in the adult and these areas that were previously bronze tend to become green iridescence. When the young do not have this juvenile bronze on the shield they tend to be less iridescent.

You may be reading the bronzes on your birds correctly but only the original Arch is gimpel pattern. The young show bronzing from the Arch and the Ts but none are gimpel pattern.

The two F2s show baldhead and white cap. Made me wonder if the white barred black parent was hetero for both. It does have a black spot on the head.

The last two pictures show hetero baldhead, no white flights, T-pattern bronze (Ts1), and Archangel bronze crescents on crop area. Wondered if they were also spread? Spread prevents most bronzes from showing. It prevents Archangel bronze from expressing over most of the body except for crop area of the foreneck. Spread usually does not prevent Ts bronze expression.

You also wrote, "Then I discovered a new gimpel (negative) pattern?" Did not understand this statement.

You think the primaries on my bird are too light. I do not have the picture at hand but rest assured, it is pure Archangel stock. If my memory serves me correctly, I believed the primaries were darkened by the bronzing since this is what usually happens when you have a solid bronze bird. The lighting distorts the coloration. Sorry about that but that is the best picture I have of an all bronze Archangel and I will be the first one to admit, it is a poor picture. I had other birds in my loft that appeared to be all bronze but they were not.

[Here it is the 16th of December and already we have had two weeks with the temperature below freezing and no thaw in sight. Looks like global warming has hit us hard. ☺ Young sea turtles had to be rescued from the frigid waters of the east coast of the U.S. before they froze. Birds that stay north of central Ohio until severe Canadian weather drives them south in late January or early February are visiting my bird feeders already.]

BERTUS EMAILS: 7mar'10

Paul, in your last email you mentioned something about the Mookee X Gimpel that I don't understand. You remember the brown Mookee X golden bluewing Gimpel hen...the squeecker is nearly copper all over with check wing...you said you expected that since brown is not pale or dilute but a color of its own.

1. What did you mean by that?
2. I have mated the same cock with an ash whitewing and got those 'dark golden' squeeckers (you remember?)...why weren't their base colour also the same as in nr1 with the golden bluewing hen? Are you saying that the golden on the ash bird is much 'stronger' than the golden on the blue bird?
3. I would like to breed the attached bird...that is why I have used a golden bluewing – but did not even come close!!!
4. What do you think will come out if I take the golden bluewing squeecker with the nice clear cap and breed it back to his mother...what are the chances of getting a golden base bird.

EDITOR:

1. What I meant by that is that brown is not pale or dilute but full color. Thus the young was full color not pale. Gold (pale) would not show up in the young. The young females would be brown and the young males would be blue base hetero for brown.
2. In this mating the young females again would be brown and the young males ash red. The ash coloration makes the difference in depth of color, not the pale.
3. Sorry, forgot what that bird was.

4. Where did the golden bluewing squeecker come from? If you breed a golden bluewing back with his mother that is also golden bluewing, then you will get golden bluewing birds. The base coloration will still be blue.

CHRIS EMAILS: 12march'09

Paul, attached are a brown bronze bar chick and his parents (this chick could molt into some white bars). The parents are: the cock is on the photo named son and the mother are the white bar on the left of the photo motherXson-son. The brown chick and the cock on the motherXson-son photo are siblings. I mated the motherX son-son to produce more white bars for my toy stencil mookkee project. I am still a long way from the Mookkee type but I have bred a few nice blue bronze [bar] chicks with white caps and white flights. The chicks are from the cock in the motherXson-son photo. I am also trying to breed out dirty and sooty from the toy stencil. I have used a Starling for my toy stencil.

I thought Ts1 was Modena bronze, but Modena bronze does not show on the russets or silver dun (brown family). What are toy stencil bronze then? How do Modena bronze and brander bronze differ from each other, if they do? What will toy stencil X brander bronze produce? I have a pair of brander bronze chimneysweepers, still breeding them to acquire enough for transferring purposes. I have a few bronze bar chicks which have molted into useable toy stencil birds, not the best white but have some white.



Brown



mother X son-son



White bar son's chicks



son

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MY REPLY:

I was confused by your statement that Modena bronze does not show on the russets... But it does. Ts1 is the same color as "Modena bronze". Can you explain why you say it does not show? If you have Levi's Encyclopedia, look on page 246. There you see the effect of bronze on the checkers. Ts bronze affects the checks and the bars and any feathers that are sooty. The color appears on the sooty feathers after the first, second or third molts.

Brander bronze is not a single unit but is a combination of homozygous kite, homozygous t-pattern, hetero recessive red and undergrizzle. There usually is dirty in this combination also but I don't think it is necessary. I am testing Brander bronze X toy stencil and Brander bronze X Archangel bronze and do not have enough data to report at this time. I am also testing Brander bronze X E. Swift bronze.

Usually one has to mate back to the white markings to bring out the white.

CHRIS REPLIES:

Sorry, if I confused you, but I thought they were different. Our Modenas in ZA do not show the bronze as clearly as the bronze chick I posted. A fellow Modena breeder tried to move Modena bronze to Racing pigeons and he said it was difficult to transfer. The crosses I made from a black white bar Starling to blue bar Mookee produced for me all blue bronze bars and from a brown spread Mookee cock and a black white bar Starling hen, I produced 2 brown spreads without any bronze and did not breed further with them. The bronze was transferred easily so far. That is why I assumed they were different. I do not have Levi's book, but I shall ask a fellow Modena breeder to send me one of his russet/silver dun.

My friend says that russets colour is more intense than that of the Mookees. Shall send you some of my brown check Mookees and the russet photo to compare.

I breed my bronze bars to white bars and the white bars from that mating I use for the next cross. I'm also trying to breed bronze bars without the white.

EDITOR:

The three bronzes you mention are quite different. Gimpel bronze (gp) when homozygous produces a bronze body and the wings and tail are a non-bronze color depending upon the trait (b series) involved. Modena bronze (Ts1) is part of the toy stencil complex and produces bronze bars and checks. When the full toy stencil complex is present, the bars and checks are white. As stated earlier, Brander bronze is a complex involving kite bronze.

It is not uncommon for the hetero toy stencil to fail to show effect on a spread bird.

BILL PETERSON EMAILS: 11/mar/09 excerpts and paraphrasing.

[Bill and his wife Jane, Jerry and his wife Lorraine, visited Bob and Liz Mangile at Mangile's.]

Bob and I discussed the pencil gene in depth. I asked where he got the penciled gene and he said he uses the Hana Pouter. His data concerning the hets being wild type birds could be a bit misleading since he admitted that many do show some presence of pencil. He referred to them as wild type because he believed the appearance was not worth mentioning in his way of thinking. Pencil effect can be greatly increased by the presence of any of the white [pied]. I have some that have pied factors that show a great deal of what appears to be undergrizzle.

We also discussed gazzi and the allelism with recessive white and gazzi. This led to a discussion of what is real gazzi. I remember his feeling that gazzi is nothing more than a set pattern and a form of pied. The thought that these markings may not be genes of their own but rather patterns set by selection.

EDITOR:

And here is more proof about the gene for pencil being a partial dominant. Admittedly toward the recessive end of the scale but nevertheless not truly recessive. Wild type should not show any trace of the influence of the gene being tested.

The thought that gazzi is nothing more than a set pattern of a form of pied, is consistent with what is known. But the question is, what exactly do we understand about the pied form. If we describe the trait as having a dark head, colored wings and tail; then yes, it is a pattern derived from a pied pattern. However, if we investigate, we will find that the gene expression is modified to produce birds with just dark heads and tails. Also, since I found Breast Pigeons are also produced by the gazzi gene as are Moorheads (Schmalkalden, Selesian, & South German).

Where does that leave other head and tail marked pied patterns such as the Helmet and the Chinese 2 pieces of steel (black). Both of these react quite differently under test. They both produce birds with dark patches on the back besides the head and tail in the pied F2s after being outcrossed to solid colors. The gazzi outcross does not produce such birds.

STEVE CORVUS EMAILS: 11mar'09

I was hoping for some feedback regarding this bird. All [three] photos are of the same cock bird. He is out of a dominant opal blue bar hen and a faded spread brown cock. My confusion arises from the fact how much he changed from juvenile to adult and also comparing him to two of his brothers. Photos attached in separate email.

The two brothers, from the same parents, are (I am assuming), a dominant opal faded? blue spread, and a faded blue spread.

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Nestling



Juvenile



Adult cock



Brothers to the above cock.

EDITOR:

A few years ago, a fancier in Australia sent in this same type phenomenon. We termed it juvenile bleaching.

EDITOR: Ran across this info? On a science channel a few weeks past. Not pigeon genetics but genetic ideas.

Did you know?

One third of all life on Earth lies below the seafloor, makes and eats methane and dies in the presence of oxygen?

By sampling seawater at four sites in the Sargasso Sea, Craig Venter announced he increased the number of genes on earth by 1.2 million?

Carl Zimmer says molecular seeds came before DNA? He says the primordial welter of planetary formation, the fundamental chemistry of life begins with formaldehyde, water, hydrogen cyanide and ammonia.

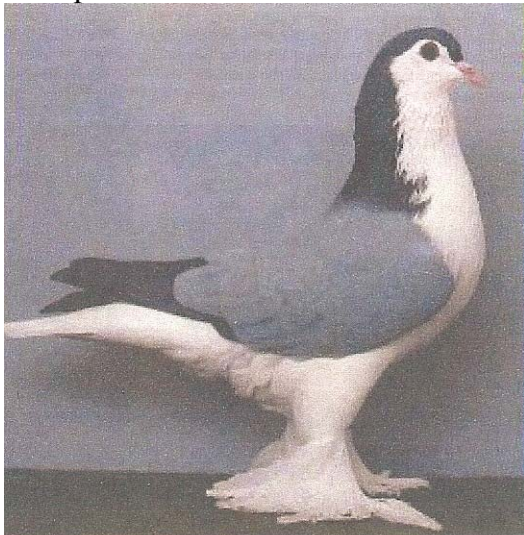
The primordial cells are claymation cells composed of nucleotides, fatty acids, & water. The nucleotides must link together to form RNA strands and then the RNA must be housed inside a fatty acid membrane. A ubiquitous clay known as montmorillonite does this so that the nucleotides spontaneously assemble themselves into RNA which is then trapped inside bubbles called vesicles. The result is something that resembles a cell which under proper circumstances, could grow and even divide.

That any two people on Earth share 999 of every 1000 DNA bases, the “letters” of the genetic code?

ANURAG PURI EMAILS: 29 mar. '09

I was referred to you by Jim Muckerman of Mexico [Missouri]. I breed Lahores in Delhi, India and wish to learn about getting new colors by breeding. You can see what little I have at www.freewebs.com/fancypigeons

I wish to know how the attached color can be achieved and can bars be developed from plain solid colors?



EDITOR:

I could not view the pictures of your Lahores in the method presented. If you attach pictures to your email, then they would be available to me.

I do not feel that I can advise you without knowing what you have to work with. You mention bars and yes, there are Lahores bred in bar and check also.

EDITOR: (LATER)

I was able to open your photo gallery this time and see some of your Lahores. Now I am more confused by your questions. I see you do have bars and checks in your flock. If you mean, can you get bars and checks from a black, then yes, you can if the black is carrying that pattern.

The picture on the last email is a coloration which we call dirty barless. Can you get this coloration with your present flock? Not likely, but possible if you mate two birds that are carrying barless. This is a recessive pattern to blue bar and blue check.

Usually birds carrying barless have narrower bars or even one bar when they first feather but molt in the two bars. If you have two such birds you can mate them together and achieve the barless coloration. The dark coloration is a dominant one called dirty and produces the black coloration of the neck and on the flights. Hope this helps, I am located in central Ohio, U.S.A.

ANURAG EMAILS:2 april'09

The bars that I have were bred from the same color parents so I don't know how to create these patterns. It would be most helpful if you guide me to a book or website where I can learn about the basics of pigeon color terminology and breeding.

Although I have had pigeons for over 6 years now, I know very little about breeding different colors at will. When you say "barless" or "recessive" I really do not understand.

EDITOR:

I have been writing this newsletter and studying genetics of pigeons for so long that I tend to forget that newcomers to the field of genetics sometimes do not know the basics that the rest of us take for granted. Barless means that no bars are present across the wingshield like those seen on page 953 of this newsletter. Recessive means that a trait is covered up by wild type. Basically wild type is defined as the original blue barred (black barred grey ground) pigeon.

There are quite a number of good books concerning pigeon genetics and colors. Joe Quinn published a booklet "The Pigeon Breeder's Notebook, An Introduction in Pigeon Science" in 1971. It is a good beginners book. Axel Sell published a book "Handbuch der "Tauben" in German and in English in 1986. I published two books on pigeon genetics. One in 1993 and one in 2005 which comes in full color and contains all the genetic traits known up to 2005.

EDITOR:

The above made my mind whirl off into thoughts about what we see and what we don't see that is there. I believe most know of the trick of how to tell whether a black bird is bar or checker without testing. It is simply to go into the loft after dark and shine a flashlight on the black bird. Normally the pattern covered can be seen. Camera flash pictures sometimes do the same thing.

And then there is the phenomenon of subliminal pictures that were imbedded in ads on TV to get people to buy certain products. And a similar thing was prevalent in shopping malls around 10 years ago where they were selling pictures that had pictures

embedded in the picture that one could only see if it were viewed correctly. The trick was to stare at a spot on the picture until the hidden picture suddenly appeared.

A while back my wife was taking some pictures and this is a picture of our cat. She thinks she is people as was sitting in one of our chairs.



As you can see she is sitting on her rear with her front legs held down in front of her and mugging for the camera. What is unique is that this cat is jet black except for the few white hairs under her chin and a white spot on her belly.

All of the lightened facial, head, shoulder, leg halo, under foot, and tail markings are the result of the action of the flash camera and do not exist to the naked eye.

All these things must be taken into account when we take pictures. Usually the best pictures are taken without a flash on an overcast bright day to get the best color like we see with our eyes.

CHRIS IN ARIZONA emailed this picture of mosaic Roller.(2008)

Just a pic of a nice mosaic Roller cock I have. He has produced a few mosaics but all cocks. His father is an almond and his mother is a red bar self.

