



Editor, & Michael Spadoni



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EDITOR:

Here I sit five days before the NYBS and cannot get this newsletter started. This issue marks the beginning of my 31st year as editor of the Pigeon Genetics Newsletters.

Have had a cough for the last five weeks that should have lasted only 7 days. It has made me lackluster, lazy, out of pep. How about a couple funny, well maybe not funny but smiley, to perk me and you up?

At a car dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment."

At a muffler shop: "No appointment necessary – we hear you coming."

In a Podiatrists office: "Time wounds all heels."

At a radiator shop: "Best place to take a leak."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes, Sit! Stay!"

MICHELLE ROTTLER EMAILS:3aug'11

I have a Saxon Priest cock which looks dilute ash red check to me. I believe it came from a cross of a recessive red and a blue white bar. I do not know if the red had white bars also and obviously the parent hen was dilute and the parent cock at least carried dilute. This doesn't seem unlikely, since I read that to make that nice brick recessive red, it often isn't on top of blue, or the blue shows through. I was holding him this morning though, and I can see a whitish bar at the end of his tail. So what could he be then? He also does not have white bars or spangles, just darker yellow checks and bars.

MICHELLE ROTTLER EMAILS:

I'm sorry I don't know how to put photos into the email, so here are the links. I have a tail, which I hope is good enough, it looks pretty bad from being on wire. I am hoping you can see that the tip is a lighter color, also one of the feathers

is more gray and has some black flecks on it.

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[Michelle entered email addy sites for the tail, the wing, the lower chest/underbody and the birds seen below.]

RON HUNTLEY WRITES:

Michelle, let me do it for you. As for your question of what color is the bird, my guess would be a dilute blue indigo. In the second photo of three birds, the center one is what your yellow would have been if it did not have the addition of dilute gene combined with its blue indigo. A blue indigo t-pattern is more red than indigo in color. Dilute changes that red to yellow.



GENE HOCHLAN WRITES:

Don't you think that guessing Indigo is quite a reach in Saxon Priests?

1212

ARIF WRITES:

Guessing? The fact is even Michelle is not sure of the parents, so isn't guessing a picture the only alternative here? Should we get a DNA sample to see what color this middle bird is? What are you saying Gene, Saxon Priests don't have Indigo? Ron, I agree with you. The middle bird definitely looks like an Indigo from the picture.

MICHELLE ROTTLER:

Well, I am welcoming any guesses! I know that aside from ash red there are other things used to bring out good recessive reds. I believe indigo is one of them, as well as ash red for a base, but don't know if that has been used in Saxons for sure. What I do see is a lot of poorly colored recessive reds because people assume you can cross any color of the same breed without realizing what it does to the color, plus many probably only have a few available to them to start with (like me).

I think the red in the photo is not indigo, it is a poor recessive red over a blue base. The bird came from someone who only had red white bars and blue white bars and crossed them. I got the yellow bird with the hopes of improving that red.I love the look of the yellow bird.

RON:

I am a Homer guy myself and as such I have never bred a Saxon Priest. That is one reason why I said it was a "guess".

Photos are not always the best indicators of true genetic colors but the red bird in the center with the bluish tail didn't strike me as being an ash red bird. The two other birds do look to be dilutes of some sort: so, if the center one was an indigo then the one on the left certainly could be a dilute form of it. Also, indigo, like ash red, will have the dark fleck marks in their tails; but in this case it is not an indicator of sex as indigo is not linked. A dilute indigo dark check or t-pattern will be a yellow phenotype very similar to an ash red dilute. Still like I said it was only a guess and a helping hand in putting the photos up in email form.

EDITOR:

Ron, thanks for putting the pictures up for us. My guess is that the bird on the right is either a dirty [dilute] blue or a brown. that the middle picture is an unimproved recessive red, het indigo and the bird on the left is a dilute, probably a dilute ash indigo as evidenced by the tail feather color.

Not sure about Saxon Priests but Saxon Whitetails do have indigo in their mix. I bred very iridescent "reds" which were homozygous t-pattern indigo.

MICHELLE ROTTLER:

Thanks for the response. Do you raise whitetails? I would guess that any of the German color pigeons have similar backgrounds to make them those rich colors. However, I would have thought that indigo on a recessive red would be an "improvement" and that is why I guessed that the red was, as you say, unimproved, over a blue base. My hope is that the red is a female (it still hasn't molted into the

iridescence around the neck yet) and that the yellow will be a start in improving it. What do you think?

Also, I think that the one on the right is a dilute spread blue (dun), as the dilute blue (silver) I have still has black borders on the white bars. I am going out to photograph the different “blues” I have to compare to each other. I have dilute blue, plain ole blue, a darker one (dirty or sooty?), and some that are clearly browner. Some of the brown ones have clean dark bar edges and then I have one with orangey-brown borders to the bar, but I thought that was more of a problem with the toy stencil genes than anything else, although some of these genetics are fairly new to me. I was into pigeons about 15 years ago, but there were no discussion groups or extensive photos to compare with (that I knew of) so I just read through the genetics book I had and experimented (very limited) with my own birds. Now I am finally back into pigeons and I think this group is just great!

JOE POWERS WRITES:4aug'11

Looking at your photos, it surely seems that the birds are not the color they should be if one is looking at what the Germans breed. The Euro standard I have shows the acceptable colors over there as Black, Blue, Red and Yellow in white bar or check/lace, as well as Barless Blue.

With the above in mind, it would then seem you have a poorly colored ash yellow bar (even though one tail feather surely looks indigo) and a very poor colored red (unimproved recessive red?) and a silver (our standard allows silvers). Any of the good American Rare Breed judges would not score any of these very highly due to their poor color – even the silver is too dark for good color. The crests on all three are also poor and the beak crests are [poor] as well. Molting should improve these somewhat but not to the level that I would like to see on a Priest in a show. I do not mean to down grade your birds, but just trying to convey to you that the poor color is far from the only problem you have. I do not know where you obtained your start but unfortunately they are not of a very good quality from what I can see on my monitor. Sorry.

You asked about Saxon Whitetails – attached are some photos of some of mine. All of which are for sale in case you are interested in some. The photos are of two adult pairs, and then the others of three young from this year [not shown].



Excellent recessive red whitetail Saxons.

1214

EDITOR: Just a few pictures of indigo:



Egyptian Swifts, whitened neck ring is a trait called halsring by Germans.



Mooker (usually have two white flights).



Tumbler



**West of England Tumbler (classical Baldhead phenotype plus bib).
All the above are spread indigo (Andalusian)**



Indigo bar



Indigo T-pattern



Indigo spread

The best indigo colorations are on blue/black base and the hetero indigos are the most attractive. On rec. red, indigo tends to make the bird redder. On brown base, indigo usually tends to make the color muddy or puce. On ash red base, indigo is very hard to see. Usually the face is tinted indigo and the undertail coverts have a purplish marking, but this is hard to see in many indigo ash reds.

The first indigo was found by Levi and bred out of a white Carnaeu cock. It is interesting that indigo birds frequently have ink spots similar to ash red hetero blue males. However the ink spots do not denote sex on indigo as it does in most ash reds.

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Heterozygous Indigo bar



Hetero. Indigo bar, hetero Bh



Het. Indigo T-pat



Homo. Indigo bar



Homo Indigo bar Sooty



Homo Indigo Check



Homo Indigo T-pat.



Homo Indigo check Jacobins



Het. Indigo, homo Spread

[Pictures from my book, Genetics of Pigeons 2005]



Dilute homozygous indigo (either sooty or dirty of both)



Excellent laced andalusian



homo t-pattern dilute indigo



A couple nice spread indigo (andalusian) Indian Fantails.

A five year old boy went to visit his grandmother. While playing with his toys in her bedroom while grandma was dusting, he looked up and said, "Grandma, how come you don't have a boyfriend?" She replied, "Honey, my TV is my boyfriend, I can sit in my bedroom and watch it all day long. The TV evangelists keep me company and make me feel so good. The comedians make me laugh, I'm so happy with my TV as my boyfriend." Grandma turned on the TV, and the reception was terrible.

She started adjusting the knobs, trying to get the picture in focus. Frustrated She started hitting the backside of the TV hoping to fix the problem. The little boy heard the doorbell ring, so he hurried to open the door, and there stood Grandma's minister. The minister said, "Hello, son, is your grandma home?" The little boy replied, "Yeah, she's in the bedroom banging on her boyfriend." (sent by JDF)

Holy Humor:

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up and a kindergarden boy said "He is an artist." "Really? How do you know?" she asked. He said, "You know – Our Father, who does art in Heaven."

1218

JIM MUCKERMAN WRITES:8aug'11

I paired 1882 to wild type BB hen and got what I thought were 2 BB youngsters. Now that they are feathering out better it seems one of them may be Flash Grizzle. This youngster is the smaller of the two and feather quality is not that great on this one. At this point I can't say for sure if it is Flash?

1882 is the sire to Jerry's cross-over cock (283).



EDITOR:

I don't know what you have here but I feel sure it is not flash grizzle. I suspect the bird had a slight to moderate sickness which caused a glitch in the pigment distribution. It will probably disappear when it molts.

Have you heard the latest? There is talk that the U.S. Government is considering minting 1 trillion dollar platinum coins to get out of the deficit. Just think, they could mint 17 and be completely out of debt. Or they could mint a thousand or so of them and own the world?

EDITOR:

In Southeastern Ohio there is a ranch where they raise Texas Longhorn Cattle. They imported some cattle from Africa. They crossed these Watusi with the Longhorns and produced several types of interesting horns. The following shows one of the results of this cross. Took these pictures myself, so they are real.



Longhorn



Watusi



Hybrid