



Sandy male



Sandy female



Sandy with e//e

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EDITOR: Dr. LESTER PAUL GIBSON
417 S. Chillicothe St., Plain City, OH 43064

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A successful rancher died and left everything to his devoted wife. She was a very good-looking woman and determined to keep the ranch, but she knew very little about ranching, so she decided to place an ad in the newspaper for a ranch hand.

Two cowboys applied for the job. One was gay and the other a drunk. She thought long and hard about it, and when no one else applied, she decided to hire the gay guy, figuring it would be safer to have him around the house than the drunk.

He proved to be a hard worker who put long hours every day and knew a lot about ranching. For weeks, the two of them worked and the ranch was doing very well.

One day, the widow said to the hired hand, "You've done a really good job and the ranch looks great. You should go into town and kick up your heels." The hired hand agreed and went into town that Saturday night. One o'clock came and he hadn't returned. Two o'clock and no hired hand. Finally he returned around 2:30 am, and upon entering the house, he found the rancher's widow sitting by the fireplace with a glass of wine, waiting for him.

She called him over to her. "Unbutton my blouse and take it off," she said. Trembling, he did as she directed. "Now take off my boots and my socks." He removed each and placed neatly near her boots. "Now take off my skirt." He unbuttoned it watching her eyes in the fire light. "Now take off my bra." Again he did as he was told and dropped it to the floor.

Then she looked at him and said, "If you ever wear my clothes into town again, you're fired."

BELMIRO WRITES:26july'11 (some editing).

I have made a breeding chart that is a summary of what happened in my loft. As you can see, the ash red hen is normal (not ecru). She produced two sons, with different males, with the capability of producing ecru. The males from 1988 and 1990 are not related at my loft and never raised any ecru daughters and they were at the breeding loft 10 years.

So I think that this is the first documented ecru mutation reported since the very beginning. I would like to hear speculations about it. How could the sexual gene from the ash red hen mutate....during meiosis???? I don't know anything about the mutation

processes. Others theories? All the ecru females are extreme dilute blue. An interesting puzzle... Somewhere is also evolved opal, but that is another story.

EDITOR: (edited from earlier reply)

Belmiro, I just read your email of July 26 depicting the first documentation of an ecru mutation. You depict a pair of Homers: A blue check 1990 male mated to an ash red female 1992 that produced an ash red bar female and an ash red male. You state the ash red male with normal females produced some ecru daughters. Your chart shows an ash red male mated to a blue check female and they produced an ecru daughter. You wonder how the ash red hen mutated. Then you also state the ecru females are extreme dilute blue.

First, you cannot get an ash red female from a blue male. Second, did you breed the "ecru" females back to their fathers or to blues to make sure they were not dilute ash reds? Third, I am sure that the ash red hen did not mutate. If any mutation took place it would have been in the blue male. Remember, the ecru coloration is on blue base not ash. The tail feather picture does look like an ecru feather, but your pictures of the birds look more like ash yellows with some lightening factor. They do not look like my ecru.

ALAN ASKS:9aug'11 Has anyone ever seen a Faded Spread Ash red split for Blue?

EDITOR:

This question resulted in pages of emails and pictures of Alan's 'Faded' JIennense birds. Some of the pictures and emails follow: The first bird was the reason for Alan's question because he wanted to produce more like this bird.



Spread 'faded' dun?



Faded black



Faded black



Spread Faded Ash



Faded ash

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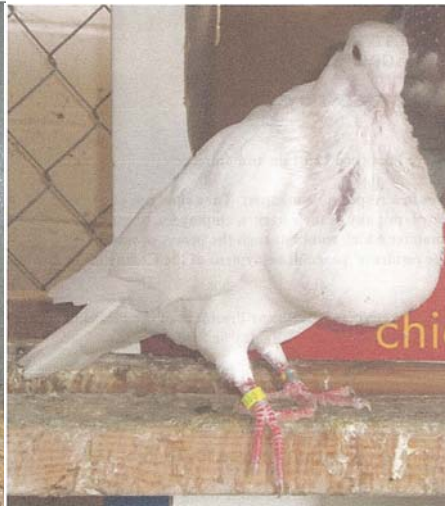
Faded Ash red



Spread Faded? Faded Ash red



Faded Ash red



Spread homo Faded Ash red



Pair of Faded ash reds



Faded blue bar



Spread 'faded'



Spread blue and Spread 'faded'



Homo faded



Blue or dun bar



Brown or dun bar



brown bar & rec. red

ALAN: Cichlidlovers@msn.com

The reason I am asking is I still haven't figured out what modifiers causes that "spread almond" mimic phenotype on my Jiennense. I know Faded is involved and there

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is not Almond in them. I thought we figured out it was Faded Blue Spread, but I saw some Faded Blue Spreads and they look nothing like my birds. They are muddy black. I want to produce more but don't know how.

EDITOR:

Gene thought these heavily stippled birds were actually Spread Blue Sandy. Then Alan sent the rest of the pictures above and states that he always thought they were Faded. Alan, I have looked at your pictures and I think the bird depicted is an Almond. You evidently had a reverse mutation of the Faded back to Almond.

I can see why Gene thought sandy because I too see sandy in some of the birds.

Simply mate this bird to any T-pattern or black bird and you will get more like it. It is interesting to me that this phenotype has popped up in several of the Almond alleles. I have seen it in Qualmond, Hickory, and Faded breeding.

JERRY STERNADEL WRITES:

Which gene is the faded linked to? Blue or ash red?

OCTAVIAN SARAFOLEAN REPLIES:

They are all linked to blue, they all originate from a blue check faded female. The one showing bars is spread.

EDITOR:

Faded, which Hollander described in 1938 and symbolized as Of (for Feildman's opal is a bleached out phenotype that shows very few if any flecks. Later Hollander changed the symbol to B*Of (since it was sex linked and seemed to be an allele of brown. In 1951, he again changed the symbol to St*F (for Faded as an allele of Stipper=Almond) where it remains today. A hetero faded male is somewhat bleached out and a typical female is nearly normal in color. The homozygous male is usually white with a few colored marks somewhere on the bird. In Dewlaps, Faded males retain reddish or bronzy color in the neck even when homozygous. The word stipper means flecked or freckled.

I show pictures of Sandy at the top of this issue (taken from my 2005 book) of what Hollander (1983) stated and what he told me when we talked about Sandy. He stated that Sandy is similar to Almond but without the strong tendency to flecking. Sandy females sometimes are lighter in color than the males. Males have a fine flecking on the head and neck with few flecks on the body. Hollander stated that the flecking does not increase with age like Almond. When I asked him to see some of his Sandy, he said, "Sandy is very hard to keep going and I no longer have any."

If I were to compare Sandy to Almond; I would have to say sandy looks like an Almond ground color without color break in the body area. The flecking is small and confined mainly to the neck and head.

If I were to compare Sandy to Faded; I would say that they are very similar except that Faded does not have flecking in the neck and head and color is usually confined to the neck area.

This leaves the heavily flecked birds that appear in all these groups when we breed them. I have seen these Almond colored birds show up in all of the Almond series except frosty. I believe they are very probably reverse mutations to the original Stipper gene.

Almond is Stipper plus Kite bronze plus. Classic Almond is Stipper plus Kite bronze plus T-pattern. Jerry Sternadel states that Modena breeders use Magnani for almond but actually I think they use Magnani for Stipper. Most Modenas do not have the Kite gene included. The Indian Fantail breeders use 'Almond' for all alleles of St.

GENE HOCKLAN WRITES:10 aug'11

Tim Kvidera gave me a start in Spread Sandy R. Homers several years ago and I have simply maintained them, so my experience is rather limited but I can say that the Blue Spread version looks identical to Alan's Pouters. I have mated mine to Blue Spread only and the phenotype maintains itself quite easily. Maybe I should spread them around for I get the feeling that the numbers are dwindling. I see in my notes that I did send a Sandy to Vahe' in California in Feb.2011

JERRY STERNADEL WRITES:11aug'11, excerpts

I had Sandy years ago in Modenas, or at least that is what Bob Pettit told me they were. They were not spread, were cocks, and they only had flecks in them and no real break as in the case of normal almonds. They had an almond looking ground color only much lighter. They were produced out of Magnani Modenas and had no recessive red in them to my knowledge. My Sandy never increased in flecking and as near as I can remember never produced any birds that did. That was over 30 years ago.



ALAN WRITES:

Gene, is this the bird?

GENE HOCHLAN WRITES: excerpt

That is the bird. I only have one Sandy cock left and he is the son of the pictured bird and his color is the same.

MICHAEL BORDELON WRITES:

My Sandy have a pale yellow background with hardly any flecking. I originally got my start from Tim Kvidera. Your bird looks like a spread almond.

GENE HOCHLAN WRITES:12aug'11

Paul, really appreciate you taking the time to give us all this great background information on Faded, Sandy and more. This is the kind of cooperation it takes to clarify

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various questions people have about individual mutations and their relationships to others.

For me it is really heartening to see the enthusiasm generated by some of the latest topics of discussion and it also shows the expansion of the appreciation for genetics among so many pigeon fanciers.

Your efforts, over many years, have been responsible for much of this interest and don't ever think that it isn't appreciated immensely!



A Jiennense in flight.

JIM DEMRO WRITES:12aug'11

I have a number of Faded birds. Attached is a Faded spread brown hen. I have a Faded T-check ash red hen and she has flecking. Her father is an ash red check and has quite a bit of flecking. I just got rid of a faded blue bar cock that had at least one dark dirty [feather]. He looked like a normal blue bar except for bronze bars. I couldn't figure where the bronze bars came from until he produced a normal looking faded blue young bird. I even had a homozygous extreme dilute cock once. You could just barely see the bars. When he molted he lost any color in the tail. I have almost never seen two faded birds that look alike.

Just for interest here is a photo I took this morning. Green eyes. I would guess them to be faded also. In my homers they have bulging eyes with the faded like this one. [For] some reason the faded check extreme dilute hens are the same darkness as non faded.



Faded spread brown hen



Green eyes.

EDITOR:

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Thanks, Jim. I would have expected a faded spread brown hen to be nearly chocolate colored. Over the years, I have seen a number of green eyes from light green to dark green and am not sure yet whether these are orange or pearl or a separate mutation. I know the blue eyes that appear in some breeds are pearl.

ARIF MUMTAZ WRITES: 13aug'11 excerpt.

I have been studying pigeon genetics for less than a year now, and I try to publish my research on my website. <http://mumtazticloft.com> To be honest, as much as I have written, researched, and study genetics in general, and pigeon genetics, I am not qualified at all to teach anyone anything yet. I probably confuse the heck out of many people while trying to help them with genetics. It is a very complicated subject and the fact is we don't really know much about it.

EDITOR:

One day Mr. Mumtaz's site may be a source of good genetic information but as he says, he is not qualified to teach anyone anything yet. His site is a mixture of factual pigeon genetics, fanciful assumptions, science fiction, hearsay, and other jibberish.. It is fun to read though and shows how one without experience can really muddy up the waters, so to speak. He cites authorities, a couple of whom are nimrods themselves, and generally has very little to nothing of his own to contribute to the study and understanding of pigeons genetics useable for the pigeon fanciers.

EDITOR:

On Aug. 11 & 12, there was a series of emails between John Quinn (no relation to Joe), Gene Hochlan, Mike Hughes, Dina Mergeani, and Arif Mumtaz. In these communications from Arif, he injects statements that questions "the +40% range between the St locus and the d & r loci" espoused by Joe Quinn. And says "The same goes for Paul Gibson to be able to say for sure that the ecru mutation {that he claims he had found} is located between the dilute and reduced loci". **I did not find the ecru mutation!** Jerry Sternadel, Jim Muckerman and I merely named and symbolized a mutation that was found in South Africa that Jack Barkel had incorporated into his lemon line Homers. Several people have reared birds from ecru crosses that indicate the locus for ecru is not the dilute locus but may theoretically be, on one side or the other, close to the dilute locus.

Arif also states that nobody seems to have produced crossover between dilute and reduced.. This is a statement made because of his lack of knowledge on the subject. Years ago, John Potter produced several reduced/dilute birds and gave me one to work with but it died before I produced young from it.

He further states that we cannot say how long the sex chromosome of pigeons is and what genes are on it. And that there could be a lot more genes on the sex chromosome. Well, we have pictures so we know how long the chromosome it. Also it is a sure bet that there are many more genes on the sex chromosome. That is true of all chromosomes. It is true that when we get to the autosomal chromosomes we do not

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know which genes are located on which chromosome nor how long the chromosome is that they are located on.

It is also quite evident that Arif has yet to understand the mechanism or concept of the crossover phenomenon. But he is trying.

EDITOR:

A couple nice Indian Fantails.



A brown Kite belonging to Ed Buffet



A Dom. opal Kite belonging to Lynn Kral

ALAN ASKS: 14aug'11

Can anyone tell me if these birds are toy stencil or just frill stencil.



GREGG SALE REPLIES:

They are both. I'm working on the same thing as are others. Glad to see you doing it also.

EDITOR:

They are both as Gregg says. They also appear to have other genes that are affecting the color, such as Archangel bronze and sooty. I also appears that the Toy Stencil trait may have been introduced from the Suabian.

ALAN ASKS: excerpt Has anyone put the roll gene into them yet?

GREGG SALE REPLIES:

That is what I am doing and some gentlemen are doing out east. The hen (see pictures) I am working with is a Dal Stone creation that has been in progress for quite some time. I took her to a very good performing Od. Now have her on her son. The other two are two of her progeny. I just picked up a frill stencil that is further along performance wise than I am and will be taking her to both the father of these youngsters and to a cock off this pairing.

Anyone have any ideas as to why the brown phenotype on the one youngster yet a blue tail and wing tips? Father is similar but is absolutely only het brown. I won't make any judgements on this until I see the mature birds and determine sex but feel the dominant opal is part of the reason.



Toy Stencil, frill stencil,
Showing Arch bronze



Het. Toy Stencil, Dom opal



Typical bronzy T-pattern
Toy Stencil, Dom opal,

EDITOR:

By now you have seen the molted color of the young and know the second young is not brown but is a blue. This coloration is very frequent in young Suabians and is bronzed blue not brown. I am surprised the tail bar shows so prominent since it is Dom. opal inspired.

ARIF MUMTAZ WRITES: excerpts

I have been working on them [Rollers] and trying to put performance in them also. With the performing Birmingham Rollers, I have a barless project, toy stencil and frill stencil project, and a pattern or color called ribbontail project, and a dominant opal project.

All my ribbon tails are roll-downs. My toy stencil, frill stencil, and ribbon tails are from Dal M. Stone. I believe one of the most known BR fliers in the country, James Turner, is also working on them and I think he is way ahead of me.

GREGG SALE WRITES: excerpt

The little hen I just got is bred from a James Turner cock. James is a master of the art.

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EDITOR:

Above Arif commented about crossovers to which I responded “Think about it for a moment. There are hundreds of sperm cells. Only a few of them may have crossovers, the rest are replicated without crossovers.

DAVE RINEHART WRITES: 15aug’11 excerpts

Arif, crossovers normally occur 50% of the time. There are exceptions to regions and even entire chromosomes, but these are exceptions. In the known autosomal group [of chromosomes] in pigeons, it occurs about 3 times more frequently in the female. But again, this is an exception and the only known exception in *C. livia*.

Linkage maps in all species is based on the fact that crossovers occur at this 50% rate. The method by which we define and measure crossovers is always between two loci, and that distance can never exceed 50% the length of the chromosome.

As you noted, it is evidently confusing to many and even to some of this group who should know better.

ARIF ASKS: excerpt

What is the known autosomal linkage group that has about 3 times more frequency of crossover in the females? Can you please explain the 50% rate in a little more detail?

MIKE HUGHES ASKS: excerpt

Does your 50% rate for crossover include double crossovers? Could crossovers be occurring 100% of the time and we just don’t have the physical evidence.

EDITOR:

Well, this got me to reading and getting up to date as to new ideas about crossovers. Don’t know where Dave got his information but it did not look right to me.

Researchers at UC Davis, UC San Diego, and Harvard state “Meiosis includes a crucial step in which DNA is broken and either repaired by “crossing over” with another chromosome or healed without a crossover. Each pair of chromosomes must have at least one crossover for meiosis to work. New research shows that the decision to crossover or not is made much earlier than previously thought, and sheds new light on the molecular basis of this process.”

So Mike, this answers your second question. And it places in question the “50%” rate Dave espouses.

And the idea he states about the distance between 2 loci involved in crossovers can never exceed 50% of the length of the chromosome? Where did that come from?

A single crossover can occur, or a double crossover, or even a three point crossover. It seems these can be, and usually are, even or they can be uneven producing shorter or longer chromosomes than that of their parents.

Khil PP, Camerini-Otera (Genetics and Biochemistry Branch National Institute of Health) states that there are hotspots of meiotic recombination that can be used to predict recombinations (in human mapping) and they can change rapidly over time.

This is all academic and does not really help predictions of %s in our pigeons.