



Happy Valentine's

The Pigeon Genetics Newsletter

News , Views , and Comments .

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The Brown series , Chocolate pigment .

(1) - Beginner Genetics :

Christie and Wriedt described the colour pigments as they saw them under the microscope and they gave the name **CHOCOLATE** to the mutated pigment that gives us the brown series colours when it is combined with the Pattern Series . It only shows as a completely Chocolate Pigeon when Spread factor is also present , which prevents the lightening effect . The term **brown** is used throughout the Scientific world where pattern is not considered .

Most often breeders think that they have Brown / **chocolate** , when in fact they have **dilute** blue / Black, **Dun**.

There are a few key areas that help to tell the differences ., but even those can present a challenge . Most brown series birds especially when also spread factor (**solid Chocolate**) ., will fade considerably as the feathers age and in particular become exposed to the direct rays of the sun. This also happens to all other colours and patterns but not as pronounced as with the browns . More on this topic in the # (3) Advanced section.

Both Dilute Blue series birds and Brown series birds will have False pearl (whitish coloured) eyes. The Brown series , however are much more likely to have this very pale coloured eye Iris and cannot express orange/red colour Irises ..

The flight feathers are naturally more of a tan / Ochre tone even without fading in the sun ., as opposed to the silver of the dilute blue series . However again there are exceptions that have stumped breeders for two centuries.

Intense **Brown** series , Bar pattern



Intense Spread brown , **Chocolate**



Dilute Spread brown , **Khaki**



Dilute blue series (**silver**) , bar pattern. pg.2



Intense Spread blue , **Black**



Dilute Spread blue , **Dun**



The above pictorial examples are just about ideal for each trait ., but there can be a considerable variation in each due to the many other Modifiers that either Lighten or darken . Note the "Tan " tone of the brown series & "gray" tone of the Blue series . Above six photos : (1) CPFA Show ., (2) Bertus Kok , (3) Clint R. (4)Crisol Pigeon, (5) Net. (6) Fb .



Photos , Editor.

Above is a blue series **feather** with the darker colour where the next feather shaded the first leaving what looks like a print of the second , on the first. The full bird photo shows age and sun fading of the last feathers while the newly growing feathers are much darker. Jith Peter ran a few tests on plucked feathers in India where the sun is very hot , and also readily saw that this fading can be quite pronounced .

(2) Intermediate :

Most of us just keep our favourite Breeds , and mate attractive birds together with little thought to genes. If some one tells us to "TEST" a given bird for a genetic trait , chances are they will say ... "Mate it to a Blue Bar ". The idea is that WILD TYPE for colour is generally accepted as Blue series colour and Bar pattern. We know how these two basic traits should inherit when mated to any other trait. Establishing any new hierarchy based on that , is helpful.

Brown series birds are quite rare in that most lofts will not have any to offer , and therefore , many Breeders admit to never having owned a brown in any Breed . The trait is recessive to both Ash - red and blue/black. Therefore a brown in the most recessive pattern " barless " makes a useful TEST bird for other apparent recessive traits , and to find out what base pigment is hidden by epistatic traits such as Spread , recessive red , Ecru etc.

Once you have a pair of brown or Chocolate birds ., you can breed many . The colour , much like Dun , does not appeal to the masses within the Hobby . However , some can be extremely beautiful .

Spread brown series (Chocolate Pigment West of England Tumblers) , breeder Clint Robertson Canada.



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**Letters from you : Some minor Editing may have been done but not involving what you see here .**

Hello, Bob:

I'm impressed!

Absolutely love and enjoy how you have so understandably laid out the genetics newsletter, your writing and the clear/sharp pics.

This is going to be an enjoyable learning experience for me.

😊 I'm not expert enough to contribute much, but probably "advanced beginner" !

But will chip in when I have Qs or a POV.

You are going to become a very popular guy among us, I predict.

Thank you for the time you put in on this digital newsletter, for us.

The U of Utah (I went there my freshman year) and interestingly, my second son helped put himself through college by working in the Science group as a paid apprentice, in the Pigeon Research section!

Today, he is a PHD, Psychologist with people. Garry Glissmeyer.

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Hello Bob,

just came home from Woodstock and more pigeon stuff at home-great!

Well done, will send you some photos later. Take care and thanks a lot for your work!

Jerry with regards.

~~~~~ page 4.

*Hello Bob*

*Thanks so much for continuing this great news letter on pigeon genetics. I am glad you have divided it into three categories including one for beginners. No matter how simple it may seem to*

*some folks, someone else may find something of interest. I only wish I had known about pigeon genetics when I was a much younger man. Now that I am in my mid 60's it is very difficult to get new information to sink in . (not that it ever did.) The thing that keeps me reading is my incredible passion for knowledge . I only wish I had known that learning was so much fun when I was still in school. But as they say 'that's water under the bridge'.*

*Yes....please continue to send out the news letter in colour. Sure it costs a little more to print but it adds a touch of class to my genetics binder. I get my grandsons on my lap and we go through all the pretty pictures. Who knows, maybe it will spark some interest one day. Please continue to keep up the good work. Dave Enns*

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Bob,

You are doing great with the newsletter thanks for your inspired work. I see the group is growing, this is a tribute to the work that you put in.

Thanks for helping this hobby be better!,

Best Regards, Charlie Rowe

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**{ Perhaps I should note here that we now have 151 members , I send the Newsletters out to Groups of 30 , so that if there is any problem ., it does not affect the entire membership List.} Editor. Bob .**

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Hi Bob, Happy New Year!

This is a well organized publication on Pigeon genetics. Unfortunately I don't receive all issues since you get it rolling from Dr Gibson. Congratulations for such successful work on the publications. Thank you!

Aylwin { Not certain why he did not receive all Issues along with the rest of the Group , but I have re-mailed all of them!}

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I have read the newsletter properly...as usual...Excellent!...very nice pics also!  
Jith Peter,

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Hi Bob, Edited. Thanks for new issue-it's great!

I was sending it to more breeders , hopefully you will get more subscribers from overseas soon...haven't send you anything about subscription, only what I recommended to you that you could/should charge some fee to cover at least your expenses spent on internet fee etc... J Sindelar.

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**{ I will continue to offer the Newsletter Free of charge ; however, Donations in the form of cheques for \$100.000.00 or more may not be readily refused !! } B. Page 5.**

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Hi Bob,

Nice newsletter. Thanks!

I believe the ash red barred Capuchine { last Issue } * is dirty and sooty. No grizzle and probably no smoky. The only smoky I have seen in Capuchines is the result of crossing to Flying Flights to improve blue color.

Sooty in ash red is peculiar and it seems that nearly all ash red barred have some sooty in them. Even in breeds that have really good colored ash red barred birds, i.e. Rhine Ringbeaters there are birds with sooty. It seems that these good colored birds mated together should produce all young free of sooty--if sooty is a simple dominant. If sooty is a simple recessive, my percentages never matched up--I got far too many sooty birds.

I guess I should mention that breeds with washed out ash red barred color, i.e. Homer breeds don't seem to show sooty. However, I wonder if that is because overall washiness washes out the sooty as well. I find the very light wing shield with deep red bars and neck to be particularly beautiful. The dilute, called Erbsgelb in German (pea yellow) is likewise attractive and maybe a bit easier to achieve than the intense.

All my rambling is just to say that I don't clearly understand sooty. At times there seems to be a "muting" of sooty resulting in an apparent sooty free shield but I don't know why. More study is in order.

Again, thanks for the newsletter. Best wishes, Layne.



Ash red Capuchine in question from last Issue *



I think this may be the cream colouration Layne referred to above !? (From Fb).

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**Thanks to all who were so kind to send along their appreciation!**

**Now , back to the brown series :**

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brown checker Pied Racer (Ryan Ward)



Dominant Opal Brown checker Saddle marked Racer (Ryan Ward).



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Pageant of Pigeons 2011 Khaki Bar. Sent in by Gary Parsons to CPFA Website .





Page 9 Volume 2 2015. Level (3) Advanced : There have been a number of mutations of "brown" , but as far as we know ., only the one affects what we presently have in our breeding programs . Further study of DNA will be needed to uncover more information .

Now I have copied a few comments taken from previous Newsletters , and Books ., on the topic of Identification of Brown series versus Dilute blue series.

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Paul Gibson Newsletter March 2006 Edited : Sometimes it is very hard to tell a genetic silver from a brown. There are several clues . First when your young hatches ., it will have short fuzz if it is a silver . When it is old , the best clues are the young it produces and the fact that brown colour fades in time while silver does not. To check the bird for fading of the colour , spread the flights . If the covered part is darker you can be pretty sure the bird is brown. With all the combinations now-a-days , it may be very difficult to be sure which colour it is but the clues above should separate them for you .

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**J.C. Lyell's 1800's Book** : { note: the following information may not conform to today's knowledge , just presented here as part of the comparison of ideas about Silver and brown}The Silver ( dilute blue ) - - In this colour the body tint assumes a dun hue , and the neck and wing bars become a darker dun . There are two show shades of silver , known as brown barred and black barred . They bear the same relation to each other as the whole coloured duns found in Carriers and Barbs .The carrier dun is soft and ruddy, while the Barb Dun is often very dark and merging into black. Although the dark barred silver is called black barred , this is a misnomer , for real black bars on a dun tinted body colour are , I believe , incompatible with nature . (J.C. Lyell)

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Paul Gibson Newsletter : discussing photos of browns -



The same dichotomy is found in dilute blues. We have what most think of as the dilute and then we have a dilute that is nearer blue as far as the wing bars and tail bars are concerned. The bars are black not dun but the bird definitely has silver (dun) flights. I think what you are experiencing here is probably the same

thing. [There are black bars and dark flights on the blue bar, black bars and dark flights on the pale but the overall coloration is “paler”, black bars and dun flights on the darker “dilutes”, and dun bars and dun flights on the dilutes.] This darker dilute has never been separated from the dilutes but may be the effect of a modifier.

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(P.G)

**The dilute blue (silver) is a hetero barless. In cases like this where the bar seems to be black and the flights light, one must go by the flights to classify the bird. Most likely both are smoky since their beaks are so light. Neither show good body bronze but it may moult in. (P.G) Sept. 2011.**

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Association lovers les pigeons de tous le genres (Facebook post) Blue series Indian Fantail with Almond linked to brown.

There is obviously a considerable difference in the tone of colouration among the three named expressions . (1) Dilute Blue series (Silver black bar) or "True Silver " , (2) Dilute Blue Series (Silver Dun Bar) , and (3) the brown Series Chocolate bar . The latter two can be almost, if not , indistinguishable.

Below are :

GBHomer Attaullah Saleem , Dun Barred (Vicky Colpits), . Brown bronze bar (Anwarul Kabir)



Silvers (Racer Mitul's Loft) , Dun Bars (Editor) , and Brown checker bred by Charlie Rowe .



Two dun barred Silvers below bred by Editor . , and a Chocolate barred brown (A Blevin)



That brings us to the end of another Month and new discussions .. Next Month we will talk about "dilution" in particular . I hope you will take a moment to drop me a line or more , and of course offer any ideas or opinions you may have on any Genetics topic.