

The Pigeon Genetics Newsletter, News, Views & Comments.
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(Founded by Dr. Willard .F. Hollander)

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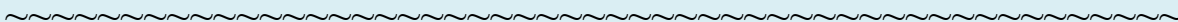
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Issue "B" (two of two) November 2017

(Where beginners and Pros work together for the good of genetics)



Melanistic senagal Dove and Almond - like Morning Dove from the Net.
Morning Dove photo by Mera Dodd and Kevin Rutledge . Photos sent in by
Shoibal Sabbir of Bangladesh.



Welcome folks to the Newsletter and our new "look" as we take more new approaches to bringing Pigeon Genetics Topics your way.

birds and this , I thought , may allow me to continue in the Hobby ! There are few rewards other than the enjoyment of sharing YOUR ideas and experiences.

I was delighted to have been able to add Jith Peter of India as co-Editor , and depend upon his keen eye and near photographic memory to make the Newsletters as informative and complete as possible. He has not been free to help with a number of Issues , but we hope that he will have a bit more free time soon.

Over this past year I was unaware that my health was declining rather rapidly. At 73 I guess that can be expected. I am presently awaiting word as to whether or not I will have to undergo two different eye surgeries. I am also having some early signs of Kidney failure , and have had an ongoing forty two year struggle with an enlarged prostate , which may soon require a different approach.

That having been said , we will try to continue with YOUR help.

I know that there are individuals out there who are considered Experts by their followers. Let's hear from some of you. It would be very helpful to members and the Hobby as a whole if you would demonstrate some of your experiences with photos showing the points that you have discovered and promote as genetic facts.

A picture is indeed worth a thousand words ! Experts raise many birds , they keep immaculate records , they breed in single pair units only , and they keep all cocks and hens separate the rest of the year. It would be so nice to see photos of their set-ups and the young at various stages as they progress in individual breeding cages that demonstrate the facts we hear about . I think it would be so much more helpful if we could see the set-up for breeding and young in the nests.

When I became the new Editor it was not because I am a genetics Expert or professed to have all of the answers . It was because I had to part with my beloved

TOPIC : brown flecking in feathers .

Hi Bob,

I was reading the genetic newsletter and was pondering on the first article for almond. As far as almond... not sure if she is or isn't but had a few thoughts that she may be ash yellow. But... the wing photo with the darker patch sort of looks as if she may be but don't know. **{ No Steve , both parents are blue /black.}**

Here are some things we do know is that the father carries both brown and dilute and it may be possible that he is ash yellow and carries brown. If he was intense colored almond he should produce some blues and browns. The only two offspring mentioned was a khaki and the other was one that could be ash yellow or almond. Would be interesting to know what he did produce or if these were the only two ever produced. **{ Here when you refer to Father , it appears that you mean the Almond sire of the dam , but the two pictured young are from her by a Silver (dilute blue) cock} .**

The other thing that I wonder about is the flecking on the tail. Is it actually black or could it be brown? I was told by a racing pigeon fancier, long before I started to be interested in the genetics, that an ash red pigeon with black flecks in the tail is a male and carried blue, but to be careful and look closely. If the flecks are brown it is a hen. Sometimes a hen can have brown flecks.

Here is a case I had concerning brown flecking. Two years ago I decided to use an ash red male to mate to one of my brown port project hens. He carried blue, so I reasoned that I should produce ash red and blue hens and for the males, ash red carrying brown and blue carrying brown. From that mating I produced two ash reds with brown in their tails. I assumed from that that I had two ash red males that carried brown. However, when they matured, I had one male one female. The female had the most brown in it's tail. A couple of the feathers had up to 25% brown patches. I watch closely now with the flecking in the tail.

The other thing I questioned was when you said, 'Being a hen and possibly pure for Stipper'. I may have been on a whole different train of thought but Stipper is a sex-linked gene and she either has it or doesn't, the other chromosome being the sex gene. Just wondering if I missed something? **{ No, perhaps just worded in a way that was a bit confusing , I meant that we did not know IF she was indeed Stipper (pure stipper) as in hemizygous , as opposed to non-stipper}**

Did anybody ever tell you that Portuguese Tumblers multiply like rabbits?! I was up to close to 150. Too many! Have to change my breeding plans and schedule as they are harder to sell/give away. Not a lot of people with pigeons right now. We have lost , for the most part, the youth and if nothing changes, the future of the fancy. The last couple of years I have mated the best 8 pairs together. When I am finished with the pure mate ups, I use these birds to mate to the projects that I am working on. This year I will mate up early. Looking to start in about three weeks with my pure birds and break them up by the end of march and then my projects which I will break up at the end of june. Next year I will breed in individual cages and really cut back on the numbers produced.

Enjoy the newsletter and as always, talking pigeons and pigeon genetics!

Have a great day! Stephen

I sent details in separate email ., but did not address the Ash hen brown flecks matter . I discussed it with Jith .. We both would like to see good shots of that hen ., but feel that the only explanation would be a Mosaic. However not to say that it could not be something new or unknown to date . ~ Bob .

From Steve: I tried to find something on the brown flecking in hens. I checked in 'The Pigeon' by Wendell Levi on page 312, left hand column, the last paragraph before (518) Bronze (Kite) A sex-linked mating must be

made with ash red hens; so, a blue cock X ash red hen will produce red cocks and blue hens. The reciprocal mating, ash red cock (pure) X blue hen does not show sex-linkage, only reds being produced from the first generation. **However, the cocks from this mating usually show black flecking while the hens do not, their flecking, if any at all, being brown.**

I have seen this brown flecking several times before when I only had ash red and blues. Usually they are very small flecks. Most references on the internet will state that all ash red hens with brown flecks are ash red cocks carrying brown. Would be interesting if others have seen this. I will try to get a picture. I do not have the bird now but may be able to find a picture somewhere. Will have to search. I do have one but it doesn't show the tail well. You can see the patch but from that pic it is hard to determine that it is brown. As I say, I will try to find another one.

Stephen.

Now that you refer to it , I have read that before , and I believe I have seen where others have talked about it in the past. It makes no genetic sense when one considers that no "brown" (Chocolate) pigment is involved at all ! I cannot think of any explanation based upon anything we know . Perhaps under modern day microscopes it would be found NOT to be brown at all. I will see if I can scare up any more info on it ! ~ Bob.



Feral hen ash- red feather , not as Steve has referred to , but showing tonal differences that can look blue or brown.

TOPIC : Gimpel Bronze Racing Homers.

Another Project by **Octavian Sarafolean** : Taken from My Unnamed Unique Genetic Pigeon Traits Facebook Group. Extensively Edited for clarity.

Birds from my Gimpel Project , I want to make gimpel bronze homers (at least gold head and chest) .



Dam: **of above youngsters** , She is dilute het. gimpel bronze and bleached + het, rec opal.



Octavian Sarafolean : I can't find a picture right now (**of her sire who**), was mated to a rec opal indigo female, i had a few youngsters but i only kept this female. this female is the mother of the blue male with red neck and she is mated to (**him**) her son from which i got the 2 little chicks.

Octavian Sarafolean - the female (**pied**)was mated to a Nuremberg lark and i kept 2 males from her and the Nuremberg lark... one blue check (**sire of the Silver hen**) and one indigo blue check (**sire of the last Indigo hen**) .

Grand-Dam:



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Here are the three pics of the son/ mate of silver hen :  
(1) as a youngster in two pics., then as an adult.



**Octavian Sarafolean** - Definitely not smoky , Sooty and might be bleached .





Paternal Grand-Sire of the chicks :



(The father of bronze bar blue left photos here ) , a t-pattern sooty het rec. red het rec. opal .



**Octavian** : At that time i mated them together because i wanted to make dilute rec. opals, but i had a few surprises from these 2..... i had cherry like rec. opals which seem to act dominant. i don't know if the blue male ( left photo here ) , with red neck is het rec. opal or not ....i just kept him for the gimpel project.

**Bob R.** : I see , yes - the indications from this seem to point to recessive opal as there is nothing to indicate Ts is involved in any manner.

**Octavian** : The red from the pattern is definitely not from rec. opal, even if you get dark rec. opal you can see the (?) in the tail if the pattern is not visible.....

**Bob R.** : Then ??

**Octavian** : i would go with some kind of bronze or even toy stencil but with pour expression .



Another granddaughter of the Pied Blue Indigo hen. , sire an Indigo blue check.

Parents of the barred youngsters above, again.



## TOPIC : Distribution of BRONZE.



### Blue T-Pattern Kite ~ Rashed Pigeon Loft .

Here with the addition of a flash , we can easily see the effect of a bronze that emanates from within the structure of each feather giving the appearance of being partially covered or masked by the Blue / black. We usually refer to these as KITES. However there is another expression whereby the bronze appears as a Tarnish effect over the ends of each feather :



Photo : Steve Scott NewBrunswick Canada .

This is also referred to as "KITE" Bronze. In this case there is a possibility of a bird being hetero recessive

red , but in the case of Lahores , recessive red is virtually unheard of , thus we must look at another possible expression of Bronze.

Brander is a type of bronze that tends to express as an overcoat and is thought to harbor Kite Bronze.



Brander Bronze (Chila) -  
Ridhoy Khan CTG Online Pigeon sales, Dhaka  
Bangladesh.

Lahores , as well as Jacobins , and Indian Fantails are thought to carry another recessive Bronze yet to be identified definitely but reported here in PGNV&C by **Gene Hochlin** some time ago. He found that it only expresses on Ash-Reds and disappears when mated to Blue/Black Series birds .

When we look at the flights and to a lesser extent the tail feathers we will see that there is always a Bronze expressed in the inner vane of the flights in particular when observing Kite bronze.

If recessive red is carried then we may see that red extending farther up each feather toward the black tip. Red is usually seen in the neck feathers also in this case.

**Paul Gibson** describes bronze this way : (Quote from his 1995 Book 2nd. Printing) , Bronze is the result of an admixture of the Black and Red pigment granules (eumelanin & Phaeomelanin ). The bronzes are enhanced or dulled by the increase or decrease of the percentage of red versus black granules. Bronze color can be produced by a direct gene effect , by an indirect gene effect, or by a variable gene expression. (end quote ).

I believe that understanding Bronze is paramount in understanding its role in producing Ideal so - called Classical Almonds . ( Bob R.)



**TOPIC :** Does Almond hide grizzle ?

Question by **Kamal El Motaouakkel** : Is it possible that the Almond hide the grizzle in the offspring? I got from this pair about 7 chicks and none of them are grizzle.



Bob R. - **The bird on the floor (hen?) , appears to be a Print Grizzle , possibly with Pied factor also . The bird in the nest , may be a Stipper , but does not look much like one . Can you show us the young ?**



**This ash youngster will probably moult out to closely resemble its sire , but due to the many genes involved, it is not possible to correctly predict.**





Kamal - One of the offspring, I don't what color is that!  
Maybe Almond also



Bob R. - **Yes , the black above this bird appears as if it may be spread factor and Kite , so that stipper male must be spread as well. This final photo looks ash - Red, so that cock may be a spread ash Stipper. Each parent is hetero for their specific genotype , so non-Grizzles , and non- stippers are being produced . However you may get, not only some Grizzles , and some Almonds , but also a combination of the two as seen with some of the whites. All of those may be combined with spread or with T-pattern, or any other pattern that may be carried. Dirty factor is involved , and smoky is involved .**

Kamal - So the whites contains grizzle and stipper and other modifiers?

Bob R. - **Possibly both , or especially if the sire is ash , they may simply be ash-red Print Grizzles.**

Kamal - Okay thanks a lot Bob.

Bob R. - **You are welcome , this pair demonstrates how there may be many phenotype possibilities due to the genome being somewhat complex. The more modifiers that are present and/or carried hidden, the more variation we can expect . Last note pertains to your original question regarding the Almond "hiding " the grizzle in the offspring. It would not hide it in the sense of "masking" it . However due to the fact that both the grizzle family and the Stipper family cause a breaking down effect on base pigments , we end up with birds that have very little pigment expressing and so it can**

**be a challenge to determine just what genes are at work.**



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It is generally recommended that grizzle is not part of any "Almond " breeding program. That is due to the fact that I mentioned earlier , regarding the action of both the Stipper gene and the grizzle genes. All of these genes inhibit the expression of colour in the feathers , skin , beaks and toenails to varying degrees. This means that if you want basically a white pigeon , then go for it ... but if you want standard expressions of one trait or another , you will want to apply ONLY the traits that will assist you to that end !

Genetic traits that depigment , inactivate colour, diminish colour , suppress colour are : Stipper and its alleles, The grizzle family, Pied factor., frill stencil. Toy Stencil, Dominant Opal , recessive opal., Ice ., Bleached., milky factor ., Undergrizzle., Flash grizzle ., Pencilled, reduced, dilution, pale , Ecu., Ino ., and Albino. Ash-Red by its very pigment granule shape and application has a tendency to facilitate the action of the other mentioned traits .

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Let us know if there is something that you would like to see published in future Issues , and we will try to provide information related to your topics. Thanks to all of you around the World who have been so kind about enjoying each Issue and not being able to wait for the next one ! That makes it all worthwhile !!

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Topic : Recessive red Saddle Racers , possible ?

Tom DeMunnik

of Ontario Canada has been trying to introduce recessive red into his strain of Saddle Homers using a very richly coloured ash-red T-pattern Saddle Racer and a recessive red Long Faced Clean Leg Tumbler. This of course was a misunderstanding , as the saddles from such a cross in the following generations that happen to be recessive red , will not express the clean Red shield , but instead will end up mottling after the first moult. Here are his results that I was able to explain to him later.



The bird on the left shows the bronze in the flights extending well out to the ends typical of hetero. recessive red. This would be sulphur/yellow on a dilute blue series bird , so brown appears to be the correct colour of these hens .



So why did I get a kite cock and two self non spread brown hens out of a intense red saddle cock bird?

The Ash cock carries brown or dilution, so mated to the recessive red hen that obviously masks blue/black, will produce the following : 50% ash-red young cocks & hens with the sons carrying blue and recessive red that may also be kite bronze., then 25% blue cocks that may also be kite bronze and carry recessive red., and 25% brown/ dilute hens that will carry recessive red and may be kite bronze. There would be no spread factor young unless the recessive red dam was also masking spread. There will be no recessive red young as it is a recessive mutation . If in the next generation with full siblings mated together you were to get a saddle young that was also a recessive red , it would MOTTLE out in the shield . Pied and recessive red are not compatible in this case .



Barry McPhee,.

recessive red Baldhead mottle wing.

TOPIC : Rare colours in the Giant Homer.

Jerry Sindelar presented these in a Feb. 12th, post in our Facebook Group Genetics "Pros & Cons " Photos taken at the NYBS , (National Young Bird Show U.S.A.) belonging to James Plowdry MI .

Faded Blue Bar.



Almond



Deroy (almond recessive red).



reduced recessive red



The Giant Homer was created by crosses between Squabbing Homers and the English Show Homers to increase size and remain competitive with Carneaus and Kings.

Deroy .



Blue Bar (Champion 2016).



That origin in the U.S.A began in the 1920's and it was used as a dual purpose squabbing and Exhibition Breed. I was told that since then crosses out to the Schetti Modena and ASR's have introduced more colours as well as improving the type and

stance or station of the Breed. There is no reference in any standard descriptions to indicate that as fact. Unfortunately as with any Breed , introductions of other Breeds is kept as a "Loft secret" , especially if the result is desirable , and eventually lost in the Breed. I think the short compact Body and raised tail speaks for itself as an indicator of King and /or Modena , as well as the ASR style head . (Bob R.)

Ideal weight for cocks is 35 oz. and Hens 33 oz. A range for cocks being 30 to 40 ozs. and 28 to 38 ozs. for the hens.

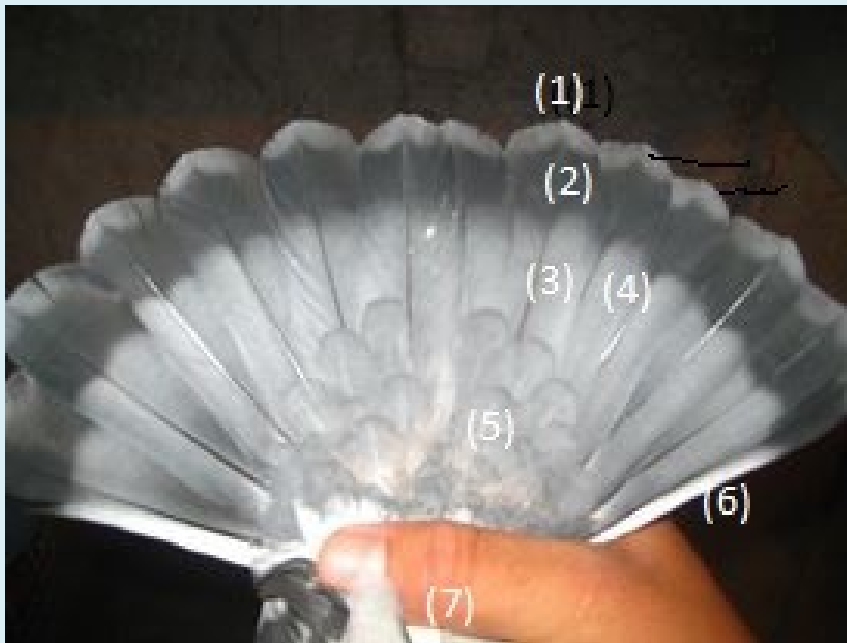


Eng. Homer type.



Andalusian and Dominant Opal Dun from Wendell Levi's Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds .

TOPIC : Reference points in the tail and wing that give us colour Modifier hints .



- (1) Terminal Tail Band
 - (2) Sub-Terminal Band
 - (3) Rachis , mid-rib
 - (4) inner vane
 - (5) Cushion
 - (6) Anbescent strip
 - (7) Albescent Rump
- The Rump feathers are behind thumb)

Ryan Harvey Photo.



**Toy Stencil
Saddle mark.**

**Intense Blue Bar showing the
Toy Stencil Full Complex in bar
area and the black smooth
spread ends of the secondary
flights .**

JWel Hana Photo.

That is it from the Pigeon Loft , Next Issue December 1 . Please drop us a line and let us know you are still out there actively involved with Pigeons . Jith and I are always anxious to hear from YOU! Thanks again to all those who have helped with Photos and articles !