

Feb. 2018 Newsletter.

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

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"The latest updates from around the World brought to You Monthly"

TOPIC : DISCUSSION ABOUT A NEW TRAIT TO MOST, COINED "WHITEOUT"

No we are not talking about the winter of 2018 , we are talking about a subject brought to us by **Charles Kendricks.**

History :

I was given the racing homer hen by Mike Bordelon. Mike bred her down from a bird he got from Gene Hochlan. When Mike got the original bird he was told it was a new trait called whiteout.

{Editors} We had copied most of the info on this that Charles had posted on the Facebook Group - Strictly Colour Genetics for Pigeons , but then after we consulted with both Gene Hochlin and Tim Kvidera who had received a bird from Gene also to do tests , we realized that some of the original material did not coincide with the new. After giving both gentlemen an opportunity to rethink their input , we now continue with the revised information.

Charles continues : Due to the results of the breeding I have done with this hen , I believe the genetics (I am working with is not the same as the one Tim has) , and mine is not sex-linked and thus not an allele of Almond as Gene { Hochlan} had suggested in the {old} PGNL article. I am not sure the phenotype is the result of only one gene.

{ Here are pictures of Charles' birds }

cock



hen



X



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cock.

This first son indicates that the traits of this hen are not Dominant sex-linked nor homo spread. There were a number of traits that Charles entertained as possible, including Anthrazit, and Lemon plus some other traits possible including undergrizzle.

Samples of additional offspring.



You will see from Tim Kvidera's article below , he and Charles appear to be testing two completely different traits under the name "Whiteout".

We presented various other similar traits on the Facebook Group in order to make comparisons . The first is a homozygous Undergrizzle bred by **Jith Peter** :



Then Jith's Lal-band , and Lal- band cross expressing an unknown Undergrizzle-like trait:



I contacted **Gene Hochlan** regarding his Whiteout trait , and here is his response.
Hello Bob,

Concerning "Whiteout": Found this mutant in a recessive red R. Homer cock who was somewhat lighter than normal but not pale or dilute. Mated him to a Blue Barless Splash hen and from then on I raised near- white offspring. I maintained them for a couple of years but had so many projects in the works at the time that I gave Tim Kvidera a start in this mutation. He actually did some real investigating into Whiteout so he is the one to contact. He may be a member of GNV&C. I do not have his e-mail address. - Gene

Hello Again Bob,

Have given the Whiteout mutant more thought. The original e//e R. Homer cock was not bred by me.

He could have been a version of Deroy and it seems to me that I theorized that Whiteout was another allele of Almond. Tim Kvidera will know more. Keep up the good work on the Genetics Newsletter for I always thoroughly enjoy it. - Gene

My Experience with Whiteout

By - Tim Kvidera

No pun intended, but I write this in Minnesota while Mother Nature is dumping 10 - 12 inches of snow with 30 mph winds on my yard. Gene Hochlan about a decade ago observed what he suspected is another almond allele that severely restricts the expression of the base color of the bird. Young birds are virtually all white with minor amounts of base color spotting. This spotting increases some with age, but not as fast as with other almond alleles. He presented me with a whiteout hen 08/268 which I paired to a blue check Janssen Racing Homer. All white outs raised were cocks and all young hens were blue series. Whiteout 08/268 over the years has also shown to be dilute and hetero spread.



2015 photo of 08/268



Not much more base color at 7 years of age, is S//+

Most of her seasons she has been paired to a son, 11/13437, in attempts to produce homozygous whiteout cocks. Only once have I been successful in fledging what I assume to be a homozygous whiteout cock. He is a robust bird with some visual and probable equilibrium issues. But he has been able to adjust and thrive in a community loft with many other homers. At four plus years he remains entirely white with no base color {reversion}. All other suspected homozygous cocks have been non-thrifty squabs, many with eye issues, and perished within a few weeks.



Homozygous whiteout cock still no base color {reversion} at 4+ years



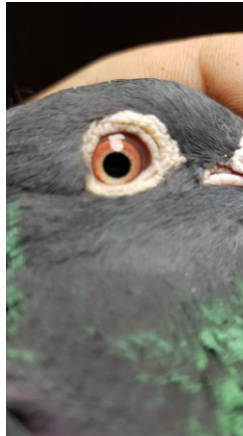
Eye issues on suspected homozygous whiteout, bird perished a few days later.

Phenotypically whiteout birds are very similar to sandy. But whiteout appears to be more lethal in the homozygote than sandy. I have been routinely successful in making homozygote sandy cocks, but only once successfully made what is suspected of being homozygous whiteout. Homozygous sandy cocks have never shown bladder eye, as the above homozygous whiteout does. Many of the whiteout birds have irregular shaped pupils. Many, but not all, of my whiteout birds have been bulleyed. But that may be due to the original hen being bulleyed. Her son 11/13437 is not bulleyed. (END).

TOPIC: FALSE PEARL EYES.

Octavian Sarafolian.

I have something odd in my loft. I have 2 birds, a male and a female that have False pearl eyes. They are not related. These eyes should be on brown birds, but both of them are blue based, one spread and one check. The photos are with the female.... male's eyes look like pearl in photos, you can see them only live, to notice that they are in fact false pearl.



First row ; normal yellow eye, Brown Hen., and False pearl. Second row two photos of a blue series bird with the same false pearl eye which he is questioning . The eye in between is of the brown hen top center. Bob her is a black hen , see the eyes. { I think the flash makes them appear as yellow eyed , but he said same light.}

Black hen with a yellow eyed hen .



(Below) [Octavian Sarafolean](#) and here is the male...that has a lighter eye color (tends to white) and a pearl eyed hen.



[Bob Rodgers Group Admin](#) None of these above examples , appear to be false pearl to me. A false pearl {as I know it} is indeed a pearl white eye around the pupil , (not orange / yellow), but also with the red blood vessels showing. While I see nothing unusual about the above colour on blue series birds , I do find it odd to see this on a brown series bird. { The son left, may be pearl as the flash makes it yellowish}

This material has been edited with info subtracted and added for the purpose of this Newsletter.



A Chocolate brown Indian Fantail , Jijo Thomas, and a Khaki Blondinette **Shoibal Sabbir** with false? pearl eyes, { as I know them} . They are cream coloured as opposed to Pearl white . They are caused by the same chemical as pearl eyes but appear slightly different.

[Octavian Sarafolean](#) False pearl is a very very light yellow shade that is always present in brown birds with yellow eye gene and not the pearl eye, as the quantity of pigment is less on feathers and eyes too, the Stripper gene does the same thing... but i have never seen it on a blue based bird without the genes above.so as the yellow in the eye is very light just like the brown hen's in the first and second photos which is true "False Pearl". {Editors , Eye color is controlled by separate genes from feather colour}

[Bob RodgersGroup Admin](#) I have always seen them as Pearl = white Iris., False pearl = off white with a very slight yellowish tint. Never rich yellow orange ., but unless there are a great many DUNS out there mistaken as browns , then seems I am wrong !

[Bob RodgersGroup Admin](#) As I said , it seems that I am wrong regarding False pearl eye. That means that there are other sources that are also incorrect . I wondered when I talked about Lynn Krall's birds if there was more than one brown mutation out there as it mutated at that locus about seven times. Perhaps not all browns as we know them share the same eye colour genes ?? Regardless , that presents the same question in relation to your blue series birds with this bright yellow eye.

[Octavian Sarafolean](#) I will definitely test them, and try to get more information/photos with their family. i noticed the odd color of the eyes of the black female for a while now..but wasn't so interested about that, but when the 2'nd bird with no link with the first one had similar eyes.... that got my attention. The friend that gave me the 2'nd bird said that he has another brother of the male with same eye color. I asked for photos and i hope i can get some and post them here.

[Charles Kendrix](#) I don't think all browns get the false pearl eye. This homer hen had what appeared to me a dark reddish plum looking eye.



Brown **Charles Kendrix** , and



brown Tiger grizzle , **John Smillie**.

Bob RodgersGroup Admin If we go back to Joe Quinn , we see that eye colour in Pigeons is of two types. Wild-type Orange /yellow, and the mutant pearl/white colour. He apparently was of the opinion that brown pigeons seldom ever had orange /yellow eyes. This theory is repeated in several pigeon genetics Websites and Books on pigeon colour genetics. The reason for this oddity is a matter of speculation at best in all cases , with the assumption that there is a correlation between the gene that causes the brown mutation , and its inability to then produce the pteridine that gives the orange/yellow eye. False pearl eyes are instead produced being a creamy white and are a version of the Pearl eye caused by "quanidine". The red we see in any of the many colours of eyes depends upon the amount of blood vessels visible, which can vary greatly to the point of covering in the entire Iris.



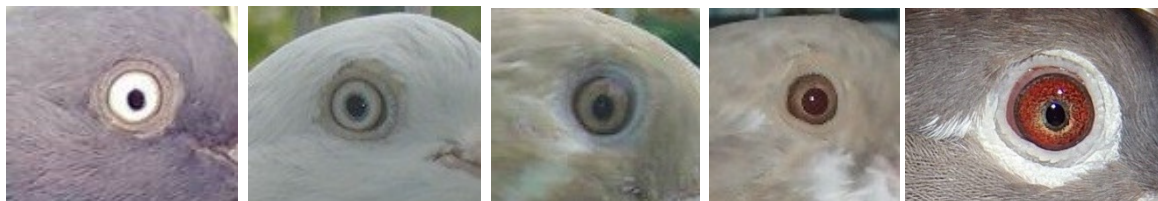
Orange / yellow , red blood vessels - Bob R.



Orange /yellow, restricted red blood vessels -Bob R.

Hollander also found that the brown series birds could not produce the normal orange /yellow eye colour and thus a false pearl eye was typical. Shoibal Sabbir noted that his brown squeakers exhibited a different eye colour through the skin at hatching and the adults are seen in dilute and Intense below.

Before we can debate the actual colour intended by the term "false pearl" we need to know if in fact it is as a result of the chemical Quanadine , and IF indeed all brown series birds can only produce this trait, and not the chemical pteridine necessary to cause the orange /yellow eye iris. We also need to know why the brown series would utilize quanadine in such a way as to produce "false pearl" as opposed to a normal Pearl eye.



Pearl (fish eye) (+), pearl , (grizzle) , false pearl (dilute) , false pearl(Int.), Yellow eye?(false p)

Jr. Khan Rehan

Unknown

Shoibal Sabbir

Shoibal Sabbir

Octavian Sarafolian



TOPIC : ANDALUSIAN

One term that seems to be causing a great many people a problem understanding is "Andalusian" . This term is intended to describe a Blue series bird that is both Spread factor and Indigo factor. In other words it is a **Black Indigo**. It may be pure (homozygous) for spread or impure (heterozygous) for spread factor. You may see those scientific terms abbreviated as "homo" , and "Het.", or "hetero.". Indigo Spread ash-Reds , and Indigo Spread brown /Chocolate birds should NOT be referred to as Andalusians.

An Andalusian will have just one infusion of Indigo to express the desired phenotype (what the bird looks like). If it has two doses of the Indigo gene , one from each parent , then it will be changed from the desired effect of Andalusian, to a much lighter (whiter) state with a slightly darker looking head , and perhaps a slight laced effect to feathers especially on the shield region and tips of flights and tail feathers in some instances. These are in effect homozygous Indigo spread blue/ black (Andalusians) .



Andalusian T-pat. - **Stanley Stammer** , Young Andalusian showing pigmented edges -**Vicki Colpits**.

A similar effect to a homozygous Andalusian can be achieved by combining the dominant Opal gene with the Andalusian . This is referred to as an "Opalusian". When an Andalusian is combined with another mutation called "Anthrazit", the result is called an "Anthralusian".



Nicolae Florea Opalusian. Andalusian T-Pattern and Andalusian Checker both by **Sayed Elanany**.

The best way to get a good show colour in the Andalusian is a topic of confusing statements . There are many ideas to consider. One trait that we do not want in the Andalusian is "bronze" , however Indigo on coarse spread of the Pattern series changes the pattern to various expressions of bronze . Spread factor tends to resist this bronze expression to some extent , but not always. "SELECTION" again may be the answer as we do not know exactly what MODIFIERS play a role in expressing the bronze . By selecting for the best colour Andalusians , we automatically eliminate the unknown along with adding both the known and unknown desired traits .

The accepted STANDARD Colour description for Andalusian in most Breeds is : An overall Mid-night Blue with Black lacing. This black lacing will be much more concentrated in areas such as the head and neck where much smaller feathers are found and where twisted feather formation is common. That is due to the refraction of light as well as modifiers that tend to push pigment toward the ends of the feathers. It has been shown that at least in some cases , feathers that may appear laced on the bird , when plucked and placed on a piece of white material , show no actual darker edge. (Axel Sell) . However when we examine the common blue bar we will note that some show a white lacing (counterpart effect to what Axel mentions) , and dark lacing . The difference again may simply be light refraction and shadows. I however mated a Sooty blue bar to a non-Sooty Blue bar , and the young hetero Sooty birds all expressed a noticeable dark lacing. Close observation will demonstrate that while all feathers do have a rather "frayed" outer edge , darkening modifiers such as Sooty , deposit additional pigment toward the end of the feathers falling just short of that frayed edge .

Below are a series of photos that I took of a pair with a normal Blue bar hen mated to a Sooty blue bar and their youngster showing the Sooty laced edges to each shield feather.



X



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Bob R.

Below are two blue bars that show no obvious light or dark laced effect :



Willie Halpern Blue bar no lacing ,

The same in blue bar as an adult , **Gary Keith**.

Below are two dark modifier birds , the first with dark lacing , and the second with light lacing.



Dirty Factor blue, dark lace effect.....

Unimproved Black, light lace - **Jith Peter**.

In many cases with photos , the presence or lack of an obvious lacing may simply be the result of shadowing or no shadow , such that more or less light is reflected from the frayed edges of feathers on the shield. This would be the optical illusion that Axel Sell described in some of his comments . If we create Andalusians from Blue barred birds then it is possible that the laced effect will only be optics , and thus not actual additional pigment .

Indigo allows a bronze residue which is not wanted on Andalusians. Spread factor tends to counter this effect but it is wise to choose birds that do not have any expressed bronze . Then the saturated T-Pattern that is also Sooty factor should afford you the best strong laced expression on your Andalusians . Bronze is rarely seen in American Show Racers , so it is no surprise that the Andalusians in that Breed are of very high quality!

Below are other traits that diminish pigment such that we see a laced effect.



Full complex toy Stencil " Tic" (T-pattern).



Full Ts complex "Arrow head" (Check) Mick B.



TS & fs + spread and Sooty Shoibal Sabbir.



reduced T-Pattern" laced" - Stephen Scott.

That is it from the Pigeon Loft for another Month, see you all in March as we look forward to the warming sun and longer days of spring. We could not be more pleased when we receive comments like the following from **Ranjith Balram** : Dear Bob .

On behalf of the Pigeon fanciers here in India, I am glad to say that your magazine is really helping a lot as all genuine breeders are subscribing to this magazine, we saw the changes in the recent shows held in our country.

Thanks a ton and God Bless.