

June Newsletter 2018 .

# The Pigeon Genetics Newsletter, News, Views & Comments.

( Founded by Dr. Willard .F. Hollander)

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

Here we are mid-year already and the Breeding season is just about at its end in many regions of the world as pigeons begin to moult. Some of you may be enjoying Spring shows . Next your attention will be on the Fall Shows and planning your strategy to nail those top three positions in your specific Breed classes.

Colour is likely to be one of , if not the most popular topics , now that even the beginners are becoming very aware of "Colour genetics " and just how much fun it is since pigeons are such an ideal subject for this study!

This Month , we thought you may enjoy a series of topics involving various devoted Breeders around the world as they take on new Breeds or new mutations .

We will visit the loft of my dear friend in Bangladesh - Shoibal Sabbir for a peek at his new acquisitions from India.

Then it is off to India for a brief stop at the loft of my long time friend who is a son to me as well as co-editor of this Newsletter- Jith Peter. He will be home very soon for a two month vacation and we will have a look again at his Lal Band -Ghagra Breed.

Then we check into the activities at the loft of Charles Kendrix to find a great many new and interesting things going on there !

Then a look at some Doves at the lofts of Abdulah Al Qafi, in Bangladesh , who has been so helpful previously as he willingly offers the use of his photos for our Newsletters .

Our final visit of the Month is with Brad Stuckey of the U.S.A. who is working with the Brander trait .

**TOPIC** : KHAAL PIGEONS OF SHOIBAL SABBIR IN BANGLADESH .



Shoibal and his Son . ( budding new Pigeon Fancier ).

Photos Courtesy of **Shoibal Sabbir** .





The stained baeks and black portions of the toes and nails indicate Dirty factor (V) is present.



Here the young are showing their typical Black & white nestling phenotype that changes after the moult to have Brander or Brander-like feathers and patches of feathers appear primarily in the white areas of the breast and wing shields. These are being foster parented by Satinettes. More in the future .

He also has Roshan Chiraag and Lal-Band Ghagra from India that we will visit another Issue .

# TOPIC

KERALA INDIA AND A VISIT WITH JITH PETER.

Spread Factor Lal Band bred by Jith during his tests of the genome for this unique Indian Breed .

The bird in the first photo is a spread Saffron in juvenile plumage bred from the birds in the background of the second photo. The sire is a spread homozygous Saffron(left), and the dam is a pure Lal-band (right). The youngster was just a few days old when I left home almost two years ago, so I haven't been able to confirm its gender yet. However its colour seems to be similar to spread Ash-Red , though a bit darker than its sire. The same youngster and its nest mate which is in the foreground in the second photo.



Bob Rodgers - Extremely interesting , look forward to you getting back home to see them as I am certain that you are also !

The significance of this is greater than most realize , and once jith is able to observe the mature bird , he will then know its gender. He hopes that he will have time to do a series of breeding tests before he returns to Oman in two months but it will be the rainy season when the birds cease breeding .

We will keep you abreast of anything new . Jith began tests on spread factor Lal-band Ghagra several years ago . We have seen evidence of lal crosses in photos and loft videos in other parts of the Country, but these were as a result of large flocks with many different traits free to interbreed and not designed to test or follow any specific traits and their effects on the Lal-Band Ghagra genome.

Photos courtesy of **Jith Peter**.

# TOPIC : TRAVELLING NOW TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA , TO EXPLORE A

TYPE OF GRIZZLE ? presented by **Charles Kendrix**.

This series is a pair I put together to test the white cock. I believe he is tiger grizzle and grizzle. I was hoping for a black and white tiger grizzle youngster but I missed the spread from the hen on the one squab they produced so far. The one solid dark feather in the shield seems to indicate it is dark check or T-pattern.

All Photos Courtesy of **Charles Kendrix** .



**Bob Rodgers** This fits so well with other conversations that I have had. IF Tiger is as Hollander believed , the original grizzle , and Classical Grizzle is a mutation from it and thus an Allele , then a Tiger could carry (G) . The white would have to be a Tiger that is expressing the (G) allele , which I find highly unlikely . Do you know for certain that the white is not a homozygous grizzle that is Ash hetero for blue/black ? The youngster does not fit the standard phenotype for either Hetero Tiger or hetero (G), but in my view does fit what we have been calling "Print " Grizzle . Some years ago Paul Gibson mated two Storked birds ( homozygous Classical Grizzles ) , and believed that the offspring were in fact Tiger grizzle, which would squash the Hollander hypothesis. If your white is a completely different phenotype created by a blend of two different grizzles that are in fact alleles , then they would be co-dominants. I have never before considered that to be the case.

**Charles Kendrix** The white cock has a few dark blue feathers in his neck and chest so I don't believe he is an ash red. I figured that he had pied factors for white flight and white tail along with the blue. I didn't raise him so I don't know what the color was on his parents. I think someone probably went to some trouble to create a near solid white with orange eyes. I don't think tiger grizzle and grizzle are alleles. This squab seems to be both types of grizzle, and if they were alleles it should have been one or the other right? I expect this youngster to moult in a lot of dark feathers in the shield with the adult moult, but those feathers may not be solid color as in the typical tiger grizzle I have had rollers that were only homozygous grizzle that were very close in appearance to the white cock, but they had more obvious colored feathering and some bronze feathering showing.

**Bob Rodgers** .Theoretically , if Tiger is the original and dominant over Classical , then it can carry classical , and as we know from other traits , a carried trait can sometimes give a slight expression on an otherwise dominant Allele , but I cannot say I have ever seen a clear cut example of that in the case of Tiger and (G) . Perhaps the Cock is a homo Print Grizzle plus pied ? Print Grizzles often have a bronze ( considered Tippler bronze ). plus Classical Grizzle , often pied factor , and Undergrizzle. Due to the latter , they tend to get somewhat darker after the moult. I have read that some feel that Tippler bronze fades away and in so doing causes a whitening effect., that sounds obvious , but no idea if it is so.

**Charles Kendrix** I am not familiar with print grizzle. The only print grizzles that I think I have seen were some highflier breed. Those have a white body that transitions into a lighter gray head. I have not seen any that were as white as this homer cock. These are a couple of updated pictures of the youngster. I am kind of lost on this bird. I had been thinking it would molt into a blue and white mottle, but I realized with the grizzled flights that it seems to carry normal grizzle, but it is not homozygous as most near whites are since the hen doesn't have grizzle. I am thinking is grizzle and tiger grizzle causing the storked appearance.



**Bob Rodgers** To begin with , I do not see this as "Storked" , even in phenotype as the Tail and flights have more colour than a true Homozygous Classical Grizzle. As I said earlier , if the Cock is a homozygous Tiger , then theoretically this young should be a Mottle. If the Male was a Tiger carrying Classical (G) , the young would be either a Tiger , or a Classical Grizzle . I am inclined to stick to the original idea that the sire is homozygous Print Grizzle and the young typical Hetero Print . It will be interesting to see how it produces in future .

**Jith Peter** I am skeptical about the statement that this bird could be a heterozygous tiger classic grizzle as we know that tiger grizzle causes white feathers to moult in with the juvenile Moulting and its expression is limited in the juvenile plumage. So I would expect to see much more coloured feathers on a juvenile bird of the previously mentioned genotype. Perhaps I might be wrong about that and if they are indeed alleles, some sort of additive effect might allow both the mutations to show their full expressions in the juvenile, but I feel less likely. Having said that, I remember seeing birds with the genotype of heterozygous classic grizzle with as much white as it has, out of blue bar mated to hetero classic grizzle with the typical expression. I am curious to see if the few coloured feathers on its back would disappear with the Moulting.

**Charles Kendrix** The pair has one in the nest again now.

**Bob Rodgers** If that sire is homozygous for any grizzle , then all young should be grizzle , so that will tell us a bit for certain.

**Charles Kendrix** I was under the impression that tiger and grizzle had been proven to not be alleles. Is that true?

**Bob Rodgers** No , not proven , only suspected as the result of one mating. ( To my knowledge ).

**Charles Kendrix** I did not expect a youngster with so much white on it, and that is why I thought it possible both grizzlies were involved. It also was not dark like young carrying tiger grizzle where the white molts in later. The grizzle in the flights I believed was just normal grizzle showing through. Judging by the starting color of the beak on the next one, it may turn out very close to the appearance of the first one.

The second squeaker photo above looks "smoky factor" , and the dam shows no albescent strip, so we can add smoky to the genome .

**Charles Kendrix** Judging by the starting color of the beak on the next one, it may turn out very close to the appearance of the first one.

**Charles Kendrix** There is only this one squab in the next round. Although it is still a little early to be certain, it looks like it is going to be ash red judging by the flights. I don't know how these youngsters are coming out with so much white even if the cock is homozygous classic grizzle. The cock also has to be blue//ash red to produce the two different colored squabs on this black self hen. I am almost certain she is also non-grizzle.

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**Charles Kendrix** This picture is the youngster in the nest now. I think it is a spread ash. It has one dark ash feather showing in the secondaries. I believe this feather is in the bar area. It appears to have ash flights. The large amount of white is also present in this one.

**Charles Kendrix** I also think this one may be spread, but that will be very hard to tell with all the white. The skin got dark but not near as dark as the blue based one.



**Bob Rodgers** I am starting to wonder about (G<sup>W</sup>), grizzle white, that Paul first reported on and gave the symbol as a Dominant.

**Charles Kendrix** I had not heard of that gene before. It is certainly a possibility that this is something other than grizzle or tiger grizzle in combination. I am thinking I may need some young off one of the squabs to ever see for sure it isn't a combination.

**Charles Kendrix** I had made the assumption that the sire was a blue pigeon, but the apparent ash red indicates that he can only carry blue and should not show it. He has three or four very dark feathers in the chest that I had thought were black. I need to pull one of those and take a look at it under good light with a magnifying glass. I think it possible he may be a dark ash or even recessive red beneath all that white.

**Bob Rodgers** He must be split for or masking blue as he is producing blue, and obviously this latest chick is red pigment, so he must be either of the reds yes. The blackish feathers are to be expected if he is hetero blue Ash, but not if he is recessive red.

This is yet another phenotype that seems to be a Mutation emanating from the loft of Mike Bordelon. It appears to be a grizzle trait that does not comply with any of the usual expected results when dealing with any of the known grizzle traits. We have also seen a Stripper allele "whiteout" that traced to the loft of Gene Hochlan via Mike's loft, and another trait that had various unexpected phenotypes including a type



of undergrizzle particularly in the flights , and de-pigmented body tones in some young. Charles Kendrix is working on two while the whiteout was advanced by Tim Kvidera.



This is a recent photo of the blue grizzle cock bred by Charles Kendrix . Besides being a beauty , he offers a challenge to decide if he is living proof of a co-dominant combination of Tiger grizzle and Classical Grizzle , a typical heterozygous Print Grizzle , or a new grizzle mutant. We look forward to see what develops from subsequent breeding tests of these birds !

# TOPIC

NOW WE SWING BACK TO INDIA TO SEE SOME HYBRID DOVES AT THE LOFT OF ABDULLAH AL QAFI .



Photos Courtesy of **Abdullah Al Qafi**.

The dove Breed is the Spotted Dove male mated to a tangerine Ring neck Dove [Streptopelia risoria](#)



There have been quite a number of hybrid Doves bred in India involving a number of different breeds of doves and with Ringneck Doves and domesticated Pigeon breeds. We will hopefully get to see Qafi's young after they mature and also to see if some of these hybrids prove to be fertile . I have heard that in some cases there has been limited success with fertility , of course also depending on the closeness between the species involved . We thank Abdulah Al Qafi for sharing this with us !

# TOPIC

BRAD STUCKEY'S BRANDER PROJECT. U.S.A.

**Brad Stuckey** I am going to work on improving Brander Bronze in my Thuringian Whiteheads. I had crossed one of my imported Black cocks with an imported Red hen because I didn't have enough of each color to make pairs. I was also afraid that with only having this small handful of the breed in the US, I might need to know what it would take to cross and then clean up the colors if vigor ran low in the future. For 2017, I bred said pair and produced two well marked cocks that were saturated T-pattern Ash-Red. They showed ink spots and ash on the ends of the flights. This year I am breeding them to pure Red hens. The Reds produced are pretty good with very little ash showing, but I was surprised to get a Brander Bronze from one of the matings! She is well marked and her color is pretty good so I think I'll mate her back to her father and see what I get. 😊



**Brad Stuckey** One of my Reds. I really like this breed. There are very few "Monk-marked" breeds in which the flights are to be colored. I find that a lot of young are produced which have a couple white flights anyway. I am culling all of those

**Bob Rodgers** This is particularly interesting to me as I have long wondered just what the so-called "KITES" actually are in the case of Very dark T-Patterns and black birds with head, neck and shield bronzing in Breeds such as Oriental Rollers and English Short-face Tumblers, that are used in producing Classical Almonds.

# TOPIC

SOME FEEDBACK FROM THE LAST ISSUE.

**Hein Van Grow of England writes :** Thanks for the newsletter, I certainly enjoyed it (as usual). I like to let you know that I fully agree with your statement *White does not Mask , hide , nor cover anything. White is the result of TOTAL DEPIGMENTATION. We do not see any colour because there is NO COLOUR present ! Genetically, the bird is still a coloured bird , but none of those pigment cells / granules have been expressed in the feathers , and in the case of a recessive white , also not in the skin , beak, toenails , foot scales , nor eyes.*

I also cannot understand, because of the reasons you perfectly worded, why people consider recessive white being epistatic. However, funny enough, I'm not aware of Albino ever to be considered epistatic by pigeon keepers, whilst in an Albino the same thing happened (although with a different nature); there is no colour present.

Anyway, regarding 'Ecrú' (Extreme Dilution) you know I do not agree. Let's say it in this way (in my opinion); *Extreme dilution does not mask, hide, nor cover anything. Ecrú is the result of a very strong decolouration of the pigment. We hardly see any contrast between the patterns and the rest of the plumage because the pigment is hardly coloured.*

As the way the pigment granules are distributed in the different parts (coarse spread, etc.) is unaffected by Extreme Dilution I do not think one can select for masking the patterns as the pigment distribution will not change.

And the fact that the patterns are already difficult to distinguish, and with selection perhaps even more, is for me not a reason to consider it epistatic (see the reason I mentioned above in *italics*).

And regarding the base colour; my experience so far is that there is a clear difference between ED in the three different base colours so ED certainly does not mask these. All the very best. Hein

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**Andreas Boisits writes :** Hello Bob, Thank you for your further explanations. I am glad, that this is clear now and I had more or less expected this answer. To me it was not obviously clear in the newsletter (and maybe for other readers too), that the three series of pictures (showing recessive reds, blacks and Ecrus) should not demonstrate the same. If you compare them as you did, and you state "We can see that it may be possible to selectively breed Ecrú to totally mask any pattern or colour" then to me this implies that you intended to demonstrate, that all three series of pictures demonstrate the possibility to select for an epistatic trait. The pictures of the recessive red series show very well, that this is possible in this trait. The series of the black birds also show that this is possible there. But the five pictures of the ecru birds do not show, that this is also possible in this trait at the moment, because all five show ecrus that do not mask anything. No doubt, you labelled the ecru pictures correctly, also the spread one, but by comparing the three series of pictures in the way you did, you might have been leading us readers to a somewhat wrong track. Best regards, Andreas

That is it for June , CU all again in July for another Pigeon tour around the World !