

October 2019 Newsletter -

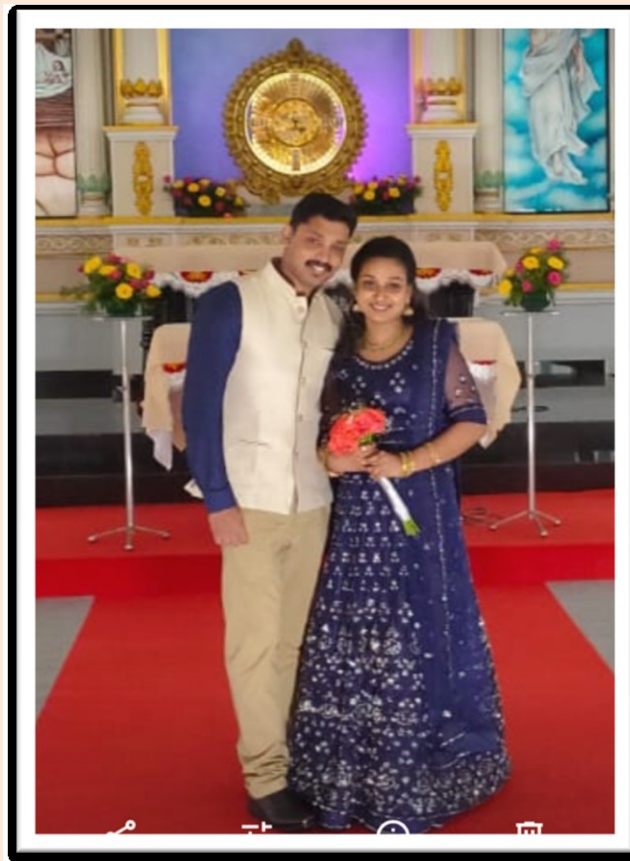
The Pigeon Genetics Newsletter, News, Views & Comments.
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(Founded by Dr. Willard .F. Hollander)

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I am very pleased to announce - The traditional engagement and subsequent Marriage of Jith and Maya on the 9th and 12th. of September . The Wedding took place on the 12th. of September . Wishing you both much Happiness and Blessings in the years to follow!



TOPIC : #1 How do we know when we are receiving the most current and factual information regarding "colour Genetics " in the Pigeon hobby ?

There is no doubt that ever since the Net was created , there have been many 'want-to-be-experts' out there giving their opinions as to what is fact and what is not in our Pigeon colour breeding programs. Can we trust the information on the Net? Websites are often out dated and full of misinformation. However published Books are also, and have been ever since the first ones were printed.

So If we cannot believe what is out there in print , and certainly not what many judges at the shows are saying , then who can we believe and trust ?

The answer of course is to read and listen to as much information as possible and NOT take any of it as FACT ! You will hear some ex- "sperts" saying : " well it says in this or that person's Book that ... , so it must be true!" That is rubbish ! I feel certain that there are no websites available that are not basically copies of the work primarily of **Doc. Hollander** of the U.S.A. He was **not** one to boast of his own knowledge , and has been known to say that he could be wrong , but his work is so revered that it is treated as Gospel ! Unfortunately it is also often taken out of context .

There is a tendency for Authors to basically repeat the work of others leaving readers with a false impression that their words are born out of experience in the loft , as opposed to simply restating that which someone else had passed on from someone else. I have read where one fellow accused all the other website builders of copying HIS work from his website, when indeed it could be said that they were all copying the work of Hollander. It should be noted that since Hollander passed away , very little new information has appeared anywhere!

The most unfortunate aspect is that people will not work together. Doc. Hollander began this Newsletter in an attempt to bring everyone together and to make PIGEON GENETICS available to as many as possible FREE of charge ! We have subscribers who publish material elsewhere but who do not contribute to the Newsletter. They watch from behind the scenes to learn privately as they do not want anyone to see that they are here learning or for others to see how little they know should they comment incorrectly.

We are open to all points of view , however as Editors , we also MUST adhere to some basic standards that we feel will stabilize the presentation of colour genetics information. One such avenue is the use of terminology. That is extremely important going forward , as in the past it has been allowed to go so far asunder that it is next to impossible to understand what traits people are talking about in some circles. Hollander began this work and we continue it!

Starting in the NEW YEAR , we will present a new format , and deal with one topic only, each Month .

TOPIC #2 : The bronze in Almonds .

I recently watched a video where a gentleman stated that you had to have a recessive red in the breeding program in order to place bronze into an Almond. That is not correct. The bronze trait comes from the KITE T-Pattern birds in the breeding program. True there is usually also bronze in recessive reds , and true there is usually a recessive red in the Stipper breeding program to help enrich the bronze . However If you take a Kite bred stipper and mate it to a Kite T-pattern bird, you will have strong (homozygous) kite bronze in the feathers of the Almond young. Keep in mind that an Almond is a 'Kite' bronze bird that is patterned bar, checker , or T-pattern, affected by the "Stipper" gene mutation. Any white break areas are the stipper gene effects. The saturated T-pattern homozygous Kite is the best choice as it offers the most base colour and bronze resistance to the breaking action of the Stipper gene. Ideally the white break should only appear in the flight tips and tail subterminal band where smooth spread does not express any bronze.

Portuguese Tumbler -**Steve Scott**, Oriental Rollers **Walter Wojcieski** .



TOPIC #3 : The correct names (terms) for the effects of the 'Stipple gene" ~

Recently there was a Racer posted on a Group in Facebook. I answered the fellow's question and several other people then basically repeated what I said with slight variations , but one fellow said it was simply "a Stipper (St). That of course, while not incorrect, is just too broad of an answer to be of any help to anyone. Any bird that has the Stipple gene expressed IS a Stipper . The symbol given for that name is (St). Capitol 'S' to show that it is a dominant gene. Any Almond (Classical or Multi-coloured) is a **Stipper.**, Any variation of a spread factor bird with the Stipple gene is a **Stipper.** So you can see that it is important to be more specific when telling someone what "COLOUR" a specific bird may be ! When spread factor is combined with the Stipple gene the resulting phenotype is called "Sprinkle" . Non- spread birds that then show their pattern but lack bronze may appear similar to sprinkles. They then must be identified by their base pigment and pattern if possible, as well as saying Stipper. A common mistake is to call these Almonds. Below: labeled as a pure faded male ($St^F//St^F$) Octavian Sarafolean., and two oriental Rollers (sprinkle (St//+, S//+ or S//S) . post by Quido Valent in Strictly Colour Genetics Group. Similar phenotypes but requiring specific descriptions .



TOPIC #4 : The naming of a phenotype may be tricky ~

Recently on Facebook a breeder made the statement that two birds were both "YELLOW" when in fact only one was dilution factor recessive red (yellow). The other was a Pale factor recessive red , and that colour is called "Gold". Show committees in some areas do not differentiate between the two and place both in the same colour class. Gold (pale factor) is about 1/4 way between Intense recessive red and dilute recessive red (yellow). Gold is a considerably deeper tone than yellow and to the inexperienced eye may just appear as a 'BETTER' quality yellow. If this practice of combining the entries were to continue , then there is a possibility that the actual true yellow could become obsolete in some Breeds. This breeder in particular said that he found that the actual yellows had much better feather quality than the Gold. I find that odd as one would expect each stage away from the Intense phase would show increased weakening of feather quality. The diagrams below show Intense recessive red , possibly a Gold pale phase , and dilution phase Yellow. I think the middle bird is a dark or enriched yellow however, as Gold is usually even deeper toned than this. Photos by **Mick Bassett.**, dilute (gp) **Tim Kvidera.**

recessive red - Intense

Gold - Pale ?

Yellow - dilution



{ I have found that a true Gold can be almost indistinguishable from a light red. }

Gimpel Copper - Intense



Gold - Pale



Sulphur - dilution.



{In the above photos Gold appears to be about half way between Intense and dilution not a quarter as this is gimpel bronze (Ka1 & ka2) , not recessive red.}

TOPIC #5: The identity as vague as the phenotype ! Post by **Shoibal Sabbir** with **Shareef Mohd** in Unnamed Unique Genetic Pigeon Traits Facebook. See below. Shoibal said : Let's guess if they are smoky faded fs! - Bangladesh.



Here are a few comments on this photo:

Bob Rodgers - They look as if Gimpel was used at some point. Quite unique and attractive. Male and female the same basic colour. I retract the spread factor comment as the tails appear to be expressing only the spot, albeit larger and less defined than usual. The flights are the only

significant difference between the two in phenotype. Only a test mating will reveal some of their secrets. Any time that I had a pair such as this , I first allowed them to have young together with two reasons in mind ... (1) to get more of the same incase I lost the parents for some reason , and (2) to examine the homozygous state. Then I would break the pair and test to wild type.

Octavian Sarafolean - Seems qualmond or faded + frill , don't think smoky is involved.

Faiz Manzoor - I've had similar birds , wings were a little bit different colour. Never got any Qualmond offspring from them.

{This post did not draw any more comments . They may be either T-Pattern, barred or barless . Possibly Faded (St^F). They would be fun to test. Hope we have more input with your ideas.}

TOPIC #6 : Norm Lofing writes : Hi Bob, Do you have any information on why the Toy Stencil migrates down into the tail of red argents sometimes ?? Thanks Norm Lofing

My response: Hello Norm, nice to hear from you .. I can only surmise as I have no proof of this, but we know that Ts1 and Ts2 affect the coarse spread pigment of the wing shield in particular. I have noted when discussing the Stipple gene , that residual Kite bronze not only resists the whitening of the stipple gene but often does not express well in the tail area of their T-Pattern Kites and Almonds. I believe that is due to a lack of a gene that deposits what may be 'coarse' spread in the inner vanes of the tail feathers. If that darkened area is present in the blue series birds , then bronze expresses there in the t-patterns and eventually the Almonds. This may hold true for recessive reds { and Ts bronze} that do or do not express stencil effect from Ts. Lack of the dark tail area = a solid red tail., dark area expression in the strain= Ts expression down into the tail feathers. One could also consider homo sooty as something to look at. There may be two types of Sooty , one dominant and one recessive., but I rather doubt that they are involved. Have you noticed if the thighs also express Ts when the tail does ?



Photo by **Hein Van Grouw** .. not of an Argent Modena , but an ash - red naked neck Pigeon . Just added to show the deep red on the inner vanes of the tail feathers that I am referring to in my response. Jith mentioned that 'frill stencil' may be causing the extended white , but apparently they do not get any typical (fs) birds in the Argent program.

TOPIC #7 : Question from **Ben Ricketts** ~ Edited.

Hi all, Looking for conformation / opinion. Parents are splash whites , hen is dilute according to her tail bar. Both have red in their backgrounds. Squeaker is a dilute I believe , as it was hatched bald {naked} and very pale. Hen was nowhere near as pale {light} as the baby. Both parents are from the same family so I guess the cock carries dilution. Do I have a white dilute or Splash dilute like mum? Is there such a thing as a white dilute? White normally covers other colours. The Family produces white, red , and tri. I never had any other colour until the splash dilute hen.



My response also edited since the original post. {These photos suggest a grizzle trait, seeing the flights and tail feathers may suggest something else. There is such a thing as a pure white that is also a dilute, but it would look no different (as an adult) than one that is intense phase. (Of course it is possible to have a white baby that is also a dilute.) (Splashes are basically white birds that have large splashes / patches of colour usually on the top half of the bird. They may have some individual feathers or small areas of colour also. The hen could also be a stipper /Almond but I think it is grizzle trait and possibly a pied factor. White does not actually cover other colours , white is the result of no pigment colour present or visible. (Later when I looked at this post , I realized that you were asking if the baby was the white and dilute. I misunderstood you to ask about the pictured hen. She appears to be a result of the mismarked Gazzi Design .) }

TOPIC # 8 : Mohammad Atiq wrote: I want to know why these blue birds do not show bar or check pattern on the wings , however the tail band is visible. Is it advisable to use such birds in a barless mating ? Thanks.



Bob Rodgers - These are saturated T-pattern birds. This is the most dominant of the pattern series. They can carry one of the other patterns below them , so mating to a barless may produce either another T-pattern or whatever pattern they carry. Those young will then carry barless. Then you could pair two siblings together, or mate one of them to a barless to get more barless. The order of dominance descends this way : T-pattern, Checker, Barred , then barless as the most recessive. There are also stages within the checker pattern of dark, medium and light check. Hope this helps . By saturated I mean that they also have other darkening modifiers such as Dirty factor , smoky factor and possibly Sooty factor. I think that if you want good clear barless birds , it would not be a good idea to use these to make barless. You need a nice barless to mate to a clean blue bar or blue check that does not have the darkening traits .

Mohammad Atiq - Ok thanks for the advice. I have one more question. What is best for barless mating, checker or barred bird? I have been told it is better to use a checker bird, what is the reason behind it?

Bob Rodgers - I see no reason why a checker would be better unless it is KNOWN that it already carried the barless gene. Otherwise bar is fine. All babies will come either Bar , or in the case of checker , all

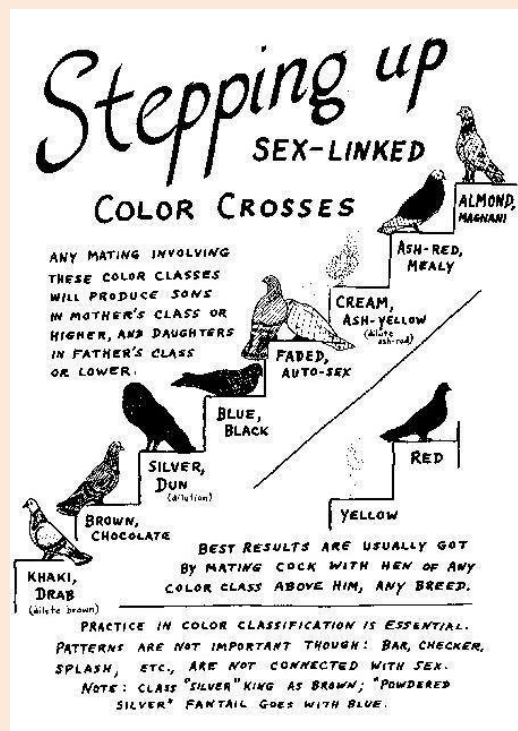
check young as both are dominant over barless. Then you have to mate one of the young back to the barless parent , or a full sibling to start getting some barless babies.

Ricky Wilkinson - to move barless into **another breed** , I was told { source Michael Spadoni} to mate your barless to a "T- check" pattern, (b//b X Ct//Ct) all young will be T-pattern carrying barless (Ct//b). Then Step 2 Mate the f1 young to a checker , you will get 50% T-pattern carrying check (Ct//C) and 50% checker carrying barless (C//b). Dispose of the (Ct//C) and keep the (Ct//b) . Then step 3. Mate the f2 to a bar +//+ and you will get 50% checker carrying bar (C//+) , and 50% bar carrying barless (+//b) , dispose of the checker young. Finally Step 4 , Mate the barred youngsters together for , I think 25% barless young and by this point you are 3 to 4 generations in , so the young from this mating should pretty much look like the breed you are trying to add barless to.

Editors' note : { I answered as if he was working just with the one breed as that had not been stated otherwise.} { It should be said here that throughout this procedure , selection of young to breed on **MUST** be carefully made so as not to move any of the traits from the donor breed except the pattern, on to the recipient breed or it will take a great deal more work and time.}

TOPIC # 9: For the Record :

It is interesting how a few loud voices can cause people to believe something that is not true! You may recall the fuss a number of people made about me calling Intense brown spread by the name Chocolate. They said it was a name I **invented!** That was just one example , but if we look back through past material we will find the truth of such name applications. While it was Christie and Wriedt who coined the name 'CHOCOLATE' after they viewed the pigment under a microscope ., Quinn and Hollander and Gibson also called spread brown as Chocolate. Take a look at this chart made maybe long before I was born:



Topic #10 : The Rochan Chiragh Breed, **Mohammad Atiq** writes: What colour are these?



Bob Rodgers - The colour is blue series black bar, but it also is affected by a modifier. The modifier seems to be 'Ice' factor. It is possible that other factors could be involved.

Ryan Ward - I'm sure there's more involved !! Would ice leave that dark of neck crescent?

Bob Rodgers - Right.. However the bars are not showing the "erased" gene that usually affects the pattern on Ice. If these are the 'Rochan' Breed. I think it is an unknown factor to us in the west. I may be wrong, also may have the name spelled incorrectly without checking , and yes there is more to it. Roshan Chiragh.. quite certain that is what these are.

Mohammad Atiq - Yes sir , these are Roshan Chiragh.

Bob Rodgers - {Added note: When breeding good Ice, Paul Gibson stated in his Newsletters that it was necessary to avoid any birds that had a dark crescent breast marking, as it had a tendency to darken the entire bird. The dark crescent is desired in the Rochan Chiragh and probably the related gene also accounts for the distinct bar pattern . The erased gene effects appear to be absent in these birds }

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**TOPIC #11:** Some kind words from you our subscribers:

Dear Bob. I have spent the past 16 months from May 2018, in and out of hospital .I hope to be walking again (with luck) by May 2020.Mostly as a result of falls and subsequent broken bones.....arm-bones, ribs, hip, and pelvis.....and so it goes ....have come out of hospital again yesterday.God bless our wonderful Nurses and Doctors....Re bronzes I have been of the opinion that there are several types of Bronzes.....The one that got to me in the past was Modena-bronze....and of course Tippler bronze .....I look forward to reading more about same.Cannot keep birds now alviolititis of lungs .....and inability to walk.....or stand without support , my apologies. Best wishes,.....**Madelon Gilligan**.....New Zealand.

Bob , Thank you for the nice Newsletters. I always enjoy them. I still have never heard anything on the Hubble Breasted Pigeons, Genetics part. { Editors sent all we had } . Also , do you have any members that have any deep spinning rollers that have rare colours for sale ? Again thank you for the wonderful Newsletters. I know they are a lot of work for you to put out . Thanks ,  
**Rick Wolf.**

Good morning Bob - Great newsletter on an interesting topic to say the least. A great read. I hope Bill Greenslade , Bob Pommer and Ko van Vliet will respond to your request. Ko van Vliet has spent a life time with ESFT , hand feeding his father's birds when he was just a boy. He keeps the bronze HF Chimney Sweeps as feeders for the short beakers. It's hard to get good information and one gets different versions of bronze in discussions with breeders. I have followed your description of bronze as Kite/bronze and assumed that Kite is the base and recessive red being the variance of bronze . Then in another discussion on Non Spread , Non smoky , Dark Kites, being Kites with blue series T check and Homo Dirty which some call Dirty/Kites. Good for you to bring up this particular discussion and hopefully we get some basic universal dialogue on Kite and or bronze. Take care. **Tom Ah deMunnik**, Canada.

Hello Bob. My name's Ash Hammett and I am a friend of Joe Powers' and I was hoping you would add my email to the pigeon genetics newsletter? I really enjoy learning and reading about other people's experiences. Y'all do a great job! Thanks! -**Ash Hammett**

Thanks as usual Bob, looking forward to this **Frank Hammond.**

Hi Bob Great job on the September Newsletter. I'll have to read it over a few more times to fully comprehend it. The idea that Kite is a phenotype not a specific gene is truly interesting. The old time ESFT breeders insisted that kites had to be almond bred in order to be used in an almond mating. Kites were dull, dark black in appearance with some bronzing showing in the flights. They did not have bronzing (rec red?) showing in the coarse spread area on the shields. Breeding kite to kite brought out the red overtones on the shields as well as increasing red in the flights and secondaries. These were not deemed to be suitable mates for almonds. Probably some of them were used but the advice given was always to use an almond bred kite when

selecting a mate for an almond. I realize that everything has changed from 50 years ago. The advice from back then was always that proper almond expression required het Grizzle, something that is no longer deemed desirable. When I see photos of almonds, kites, branders, etc. I take them with a grain of salt because it seems most breeds have their own standard as to what qualifies as a proper colour for the named factor.

Having worked with bronze show tipplers for several years, I am still not convinced that there is a separate gene for brander, although I admit that it is possible. I have not seen any of the breeding results that proved the existence of a brander gene, but then, I haven't seen anything that proves the existence of a separate kite gene, either. Working now with whiteside highfliers I realize the importance of all the enhancers to the phenotypic expression of color/pattern. There are a multitude of commonly accepted "facts" that may or may not prove to be true. Many of the comments made in the last newsletter are extremely relevant and applicable when it comes to genetic knowledge. Thanks for all the great work you are putting into the newsletters. You are doing a terrific job and the results are truly appreciated. **Bill Greenslade.**  
Canada

**Adorn Loft** ~ Thank U !

Editors - { Lastly , We have not been able to send the Newsletters to ten (10) subscribers who have "yahoo.com" email addresses. They are returned as 'disabled' . Please notify me if you know of someone who may be affected so that we can rectify the matter somehow! Not all yahoo accounts have been affected.

That is it from the loft until the first of November , hope that you enjoyed the content and have gained some insight into a topic affecting your program.

Keep in mind that members would LOVE to see what you have and what you are doing , just as you enjoy seeing what they are doing in their lofts. Please feel free to send us your photos , ideas, questions , etc. any time. We will add them to the Newsletters in appropriate Issues.

**A picture is indeed worth a thousand words ! We have often had people ask a question about a topic that we had just explained in a previous issue . They had seen and remembered the photo , but not the information that was offered.**

