

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

(Founded by Dr. Willard .F. Hollander)  
Editor R.J. Rodgers Nova Scotia Canada.  
Co-Editor Jith Peter Kerala India.

October 2022

Can you believe the TIME., scientists have noted that the World has suddenly started spinning a little bit faster, and that seems quite plausible given that Spring and Summer have both vanished.

Now , for the Topic of this Issue : **Terms we like to use in our Pigeon Fancy !**

The Breed standards have gradually been changing over the past several Centuries but particularly so over this past Century World-wide.

We have only to look at the Modenas in each Major Country to see that drastic development, as well as with Jacobins , Fantails ( both British and Indian) ., and on and on.

These changes have all been made in the name of 'improvement' and up-grading to meet new Breed Standards set by Specialty Clubs.

Sadly along with that , there has been very little attempt to break away from any of the old terminology being used to describe the colours in the Ideal Standards of perfection. These old terms obviously are more outdated than most realize. In some cases they contradict the type and Colour that they are designed to describe.

Some old terms were born out of ignorance from the start and perpetuated by those who were equally unsure about what they were attempting to describe.

There are a small handful of these people still promoting terms that otherwise have been all but eliminated . Newcomers can fall into their trap and inadvertently promote the errors as fact all over again because they feel confident that these so-called experts know what they are talking about!

**"ITS TIME TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND CLEAN UP THE NONSENSE!"**

Examples : (1) Do you want your Stipple Almonds to have Yellow ground , Gold ground, or Red ground? All of these terms are being promoted by those who insist that THEY KNOW what they are talking about and that THEY ARE experts in Almond breeding. -- However why do you think the stipple gene with T-Pattern , bronze and hetero recessive red is referred to as an "ALMOND"? -- The answer of course is that it is NOT YELLOW, It is NOT GOLD, and it is NOT RED ! It is as stated in most all literature, "ALMOND". The areas that would have been white in a Sprinkle are bronze and are desired to be an ALMOND shade such as seen on the inside OR outside of a roasted Almond shell in one even tone of rich dark almond . This genome in Danish Tumblers is called 'brown Almond' when of course it is not ,

I think the European Classifications presently are : Sprinkle , Multi-Color Almond , and Classical Almond.

The **Sprinkle** is a 'unicolor ' bird of Ash/Red., **Blue/Black**, or brown/ Chocolate, broken by stipple white to create the appearance of Colored flecks/sprinkles for which the phenotype is named. It can be a bi-color if the carried colour gene allele expresses in males. White is not a colour, it is the absence of visible colour! The only credible publication regarding the Stipple gene and Almonds in recent years is that published by Axel Sell and he makes only one brief reference to the term "spangling" in one sentence to acknowledge that the NPA ( I assume of England), as he does not say which Country), describes the black flecking as spangling. However the flecking is the residual base pigment that will eventually cover in considerably and no longer even remotely resemble spangles if it ever did.. other names for the black areas are: Stippling and Flecking which for Stipper sprinkles and Almonds are much more appropriate.

The **Multi-color** bird is a phenotype that takes into consideration not only additional modifying genes but also variation in color tones caused by incomplete de-pigmentation and/or admixtures of various color pigments, some of which may be carried as alleles on the second chromosome strand . In addition is something referred to as (CNV), Copy Number Variant, the additional copies of a specific gene variant that is typical in most all Almond phenotypes, and helps identify the type of Stipper allele.

The **Classical Almond** is a bird that has been carefully bred using a set formula of 'components' to either enhance other traits or to block the de-pigmenting action of the Stipple gene. Hollander used the term Components but there may have been others before him. Breeding good quality Classical Almonds is sure to separate the Men and Women from the Boys and Girls of the Hobby! The generally accepted formula is : hetero Stipple, Homo Saturated T-Pattern black mimic. hetero or Homo Kite bronze, and hetero improved recessive red. Even with this formula, the (CNV), copy number variant plays a role in the final phenotype , maybe changing the expected to something less desirable . The components may be available in various combinations such as the Almond recessive red (DeRoy)., and the white mottle recessive red (Agate).

Now - what about the amount of base color remaining in the feathers? We know that it has traditionally been desirable to be 50% color and 50% white break. How should we describe that? There are various terms used around the world . In most European Countries it seems that "Sprinkling" or "Flecking" are the most popular for Stippers that lack bronze and/or recessive red. The way the stipple gene whitens is generally seen as the broken areas or "Break". Some people refer to the overall picture as "Break".,

and/or the Color flecking as "Spangling". Others see the 'flecking' as "Stippling" and thus the Stipple gene and the Stipper locus . Man-made Almonds consist of Black flecking on an Almond ground body with white break in the Flight and tail feathers as well as a combination of black and almond stripes , streaks and patches.. There are standards written in some Breeds but sadly lacking clarity .

The term "Spangling" is usually reserved for birds that have whitened areas on a checker pattern, **not** associated with any Stipple gene specimens. The poultry breeders refer to phenotypes where each white feather TIP is colored, as being spangled. I do not know who came up with the idea of using it to describe the flecks on a stipper Almond , but it may date back in England to the 1700's; however, I think it is completely misdirected, and even back then they used much more appropriate terms for the black spots.

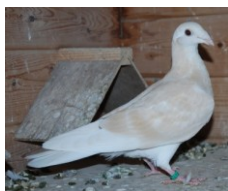
Reading J.C.Lyell's Books you can quickly see that the use of the various TERMS is often under attack as he and others did not agree with many of the terms in use back then. Today we have to consider that we will need to have new terms for the many new phenotypes we are creating ! The advent of "MUTATION" in Pigeon Colors has brought about many new and varied phenotypes !

We now have reached a point where we are hard pressed to differentiate between one phenotype and another. Many mutations tend to 'wash out' , fade , or bleach base pigment but not stop its expression altogether. Naming the resulting phenotypes can be a challenge, but breeders have done well here!

We actually have already named one mutation 'washing out' , another 'Faded', and another 'bleached'. Along those lines we also have 'dilution', 'pale', 'extreme dilution', 'reduced', 'erased', 'pastel', 'pink eyed dilute', and ' white out'. Then we have any two or more of the above that can be expressed on the same bird creating yet different phenotypes, as well as having various other modifiers to cause even more or less de-pigmentation. This often leaves us with phenotypes that give no hint as to their genotypes and thus an impossible task of deciding what they are, not to mention many basically colorless birds of very little beauty or interest! I see this trend causing the total destruction of good colour in all breeds in the near future. We will be hard pressed to find specimens that do not carry one or many more of these muted colour genes. However they are fun and we no doubt will see many more in the future.



**Grzegorz Szprngiel** milky. **Porumbei Colorati** reduced Ash-het Ecu, **Wojciesz Dorota Szoldra** reduced



**Charles Kendrix**. (?), **Hein Van Grouw** Extreme dilute ash -Red, **Rob Grogan** reduced brown (S) (St)



**AZ Unique Lofts** recess opal spread smoky. **Porumbei Colorati** Stipper rubella. **Mike Bordelon (?)**

Just a few to demonstrate how de-pigmentation may change phenotypes in various but similar ways .

There is no doubt that we could fill many pages with photos of specimens that challenge anyone to identify just what their possible genotype may be, most of which would be close to white or bone white in phenotype.

~~~~~

**Bill Jacox:**

I am hoping that you will present some information on " ice" I am 4 years into my. Project, I need some help. ~ Bill.

Depending on how certain mutations are combined., we may have a number of phenotypes that look like the " Ice" factor.

Milky, ecru, some forms of Stipper, reduced , rubella applied to ash or brown bar or barless may make a very similar phenotype to Ice on those two base pigments and Patterns.

Ice however has one prime difference in that it does not cut the pigment expression on the 'C' Pattern areas , the Tail band or the Flights. They should remain as dark as normal for coarse and smooth spread areas.

Another mutation known as 'erased' seems to be responsible for the lightened Coarse spread wing pattern areas and to some extent also the concentrated smooth spread sub-terminal tail band. That gene may also be responsible for the overall whitening of the Ice phenotype.

Dr. Gibson noted that a key to very whitened Ice phenotypes is whether or not the birds had a dark crescent on the breast region. Not all pigeons in the three base pigments have this crescent marking , and those that do tend to also be darker all over thus the white of Ice becomes more slate gray in tone. You therefore must avoid using any birds in your Ice programs that have a darker breast /neck crescent area.

Photos below from an old file , I believe taken by **Mick Bassett**. Open to correction.



~~~~~

Hello Bob Rodgers,

I guess they don't know me. So let me introduce myself: I'm **Rainer Krebs**, 60 years old, from Rees, Germany. I have been dealing with the inheritance of rare colors and factors in carrier pigeons for more than 30 years. I am also an avid reader of your Genetics newsletter.

But it wasn't on your mailing list for a long time, but I found it through Martin Gangkofner from Germany.

I find it very interesting to read what is being "tinkered" with in the pigeon world.

Sorry, my English is not good, so I have to work with a translation program.

In the last newsletter (page 14) I noticed a color designation of a cock that I don't want to leave as it is. I know how this color combination of D and NL came about.

For me, this cock is clearly not reduced in appearance, as written. Possibly carrier of the gene. A close breeding friend of mine also misclassified an animal with a similar color designation. He got it as a rubella spread. But a mating with a Rubella/mixed Andalusian Blue hen resulted in homozygous Andalusian Blues, among other things.

He did not produce any Rubella spread from this mating, which was actually to be expected, also because mixed Andalusian blue hardly or little appears "under" Rubella.

The cock on the adjacent photo, the Rubella spread, "from an unknown breeder", is mine and the photo is taken from my HP. Kind regards and please keep up the interesting news.

Rainer Krebs



Special thanks to **Martin Gangkofner** for sending **Rainer** our way!!

Here are some of the beautiful colours bred by Rainer and presented for your enjoyment.

Hallo Bob,

Thank you for your quick response.

I got my first Reduced in the 80s from Thomas Voß from Hamm in Germany, who got this factor rather accidentally (mixed heredity) by Qualmondfarbene Longfaced Tümmler from UK from Scott Sharp.

Thomas crossed them already with racing pigeons of his father, whereby the heads were still quite small.

Furthermore I got a bird from Andreas Leiß from Austria. A Rusty, which was heterozygous for Reduced.

From these pigeons I bred over some years then the reducedfarbene pigeons, which spread then also in Germany and NL.

Up to now, I have not seen any so dark Reduced. All rather brightly, with the unicolors into the silver going and with the drawn ones into the pink.

Somewhat darker are the combinations with kite bronze, the pale factor and the dirt factors.

Meanwhile, too many unfavorable or optically similar factors are combined with each other, so that many animals simply cannot be determined with the naked eye.

Also, it is unfortunately due to the ignorance of some breeders who then give such animals with wrong genetic classification and third parties maintain this classification.

Enclosed again a photo of a supposed Rubella, which was also none. Wrong classification for being misleading!

... and some examples for me typical Reduced from D and NL.

Regards Rainer



Letter from **Joe Power** re- **Tim's** article on Whiteside.

Hi Tim -

I have no idea of who or where you got your test birds from. When I got mine it was Russ and me in Minnesota and a fellow in Iowa or maybe Kansas, whose name I cannot recall. Russ had birds from him I believe. There were a few breeding whitesides in muffs, mostly in the NE. I can't think of anyone else who had whiteside CL in those days though there were probably some. John Tidwell was huge on whitesides in California but his interest was more on making blacks in the late seventies into the eighties (more on this below).

I spread whitesides all over the country. John Johanssen got the whiteside factor from me. Jimmie Raposa got the last of John's. As far as I know Jimmie is the best source for them today. So in the late seventies or very early eighties most of the whitesides would trace back to Russ, the other guy, or most likely those of mine which were a modified family of Russ's, with some going back to the other fellow. I can see him standing here but just can't pull his name up. My very last ones went to several guys in Texas before we moved to Kentucky. I do not know what happened to Russ's when he died. I had no interest in them as mine were better from the crosses I had been making.

I started with almonds in my Komorners in 1971 with two half Komorners half ESF from Len Eklund. I had no T - patterns in my few Komorners back then. So I intensely inbred to the two original birds to get the needed mix needed for classic almonds. With help (ESF and information) from a couple of ESF breeders in New York I was on my way. In February of 1973 Doc Hollander and Bob Pettit visited. Doc was impressed when I showed him 4/5 mosaic marked birds from my start up family of almonds. He sent me his mosaic booklet a week or so later and wrote: to "Mr. Mosaic" on the cover.

Anyway, from this family of ESF Tumbler developed Komorners I started getting reds that molted some white feathers in. Contrary to the agates I had been getting that had white in their baby feathers. I hear fewer and fewer guys talking about agates coming like this today with most molting white in. (What caused the flip on this?) So I took those few reds which molted white in as they developed and bred them together to get full whitesides after a few generations. Tidwell heard about this and flew to Kentucky to look at them. Twice. He bought all I had, even those I didn't care to sell. He told Alex Rawson about them which brought him into the conversation. He was interested as well. Alex did one of his drawings - a black whiteside LFCL and sent it to me. A treasured drawing here. This proved that no grizzle was involved since I had made many tests of the almond family with blues in the mid seventies looking for grizzle. Never produced any grizzles. I then made an out cross to start a grizzle family in my Komorners.

The Portuguese Tumblers today have the whiteside family in the almond mix. They have a different bronze - I think from the French Tumbler crossed in to make the Tri Color - not brander as many feel. Almonds and deroys are not the usual and normal ESF typical color expression. Sorry to ramble but wanted to get with you on the whitesides.

Hope y'all well there. Won't see you at any shows. I'm not going to any more due to almost dying last year from psittacosis. My fifth time with it - it went systemic on me. Liver and spleen probably will never be back to normal. Or my lungs. Thankfully it didn't go to my heart.

Infectious disease and pulmonary doctors want me to get rid of my birds. They said I was knocking on death's door and the next time the door might be open. So my loft is closed. No birds come in. New or back from a show. Keeping several pairs of horseman (exD and indigo) and then Portuguese in black, andalusian, reduced and working on sprenkle since I don't care for the odd bronze created T-pattern almonds. Got the psittacosis from five German imported Portuguese that came to me out of the box from quarantine sick. A friend had four of his Ports die in quarantine. Says a huge amount about the quality of quarantine when birds die in quarantine and the rest still go out sick. The first four times I got psittacosis was from judging. I am sure you remember the so called 'Lincoln death' - that was the first big hit of psittacosis though many denied it. Roger Steinbruckner had birds posted at the U of M on my suggestion. I didn't lose any birds thanks to a friend in Chicago who told me what it was. A Dutchman with a quarantine station who also told me how to treat for it.

Most frustrating having to decide on no shows or no birds and no shows. No judging and no visiting friends. Regards, Joe

A few photos of **Joe's** birds :









The photos and information have been submitted by my very Good Friend **Shoibal Sabbir** who often contributes photos and info to the newsletter and who was one of the esteemed Judges at this 2022 Show. Names of the above participants shown in individually photos below.



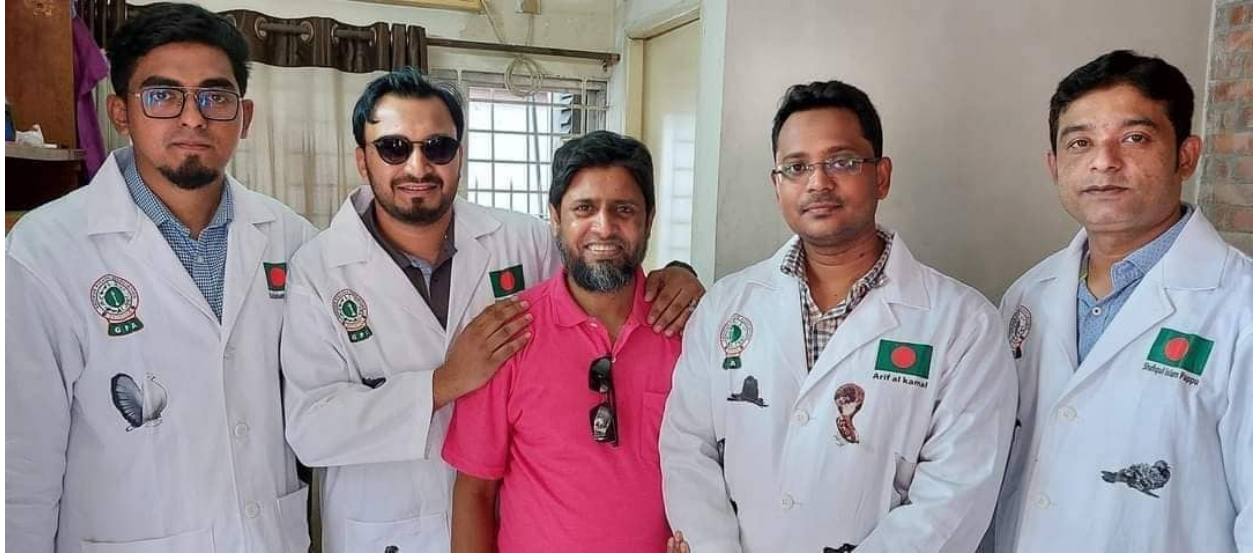
Shown below he is assisted by the Show Clerk kawsar who is a renowned breeder in Bangladesh of the Bombay Pigeon.



Here we have Prize awards to: Gentleman in the Blue & white shirt- Faysal Hossain - Pigeon Breeder and Importer. and red shirt - Md. Monirul Islam ( Pigeon Breeder)



Center Gentleman - Qurashy Md Tanvir Hasan General Secretary NPABD.



Judges with **Mr. Fozlul**, center - (Breeder, Supplier of Pigeon Food, Grit & accessories)



Judges with **Mr. Nabiul Islam Babu** , center - ( Well known Jacobin Breeder).

Certainly a very Professional Presentation and evidence of the enthusiasm and comradery that exists among fellow Pigeon Fanciers in their Country. Congratulations to all concerned and Best Wishes for the Future!

Some of you may recall the fuss made by a couple of people a while back regarding my use of the term "DESIGN" , saying that "I" made it up. Here is another case where people simply have not studied more recent Books . Wendell Levi wrote on page 51 of his Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds : "**INHERITANCE OF COLOUR ARRANGEMENT OR DESIGN. By design is meant the arrangement of different colours with white or with each other. The Gazzi Modena is all white , with a coloured head, tail, and wing saddles. That is a Design. Designs inherit independently of colour and also independent of pattern.**

**This Gazzi Design is a recessive character inheritance. There are numerous designs, for example : magpied, monk - marked, the unusual coloured -and -white arrangement of the Lahore and others."**

Editor {So you see folks I do not make them up! }

Much more recently the Professors at the **University of Utah** (UofU) published a report on a DNA study of donated feathers from birds that Breeders thought were Almonds , or some of the alleles at the (St) locus. The Profs did however refer to the Variegated colouring of Almonds as a "Pattern". Now you have seen in the past that Pattern was used for many colourations in Pigeons including the Designs.

**PATTERN** of course is already well established in Pigeon literature to describe the various wing shield expressions of **Barless, Barred, Light Checker, Dark checker etc.** Some argue that barless is not a pattern, but it is one of the alleles at that locus. These are the **ONLY** acceptable **PATTERNS** in the Hobby.

This brings back the age old argument as to whether **Self** and **Solid** mean the same thing as is stated in Levi and perhaps other books. I content that it should not. Both self coloured birds and Solid coloured birds may be either 'Whole coloured' or Pied Design birds. Therefore Self would more appropriately apply only to the Pattern series which are still whole colour or one single colour pigmented birds but which express with other genes to create wing and tail patterns. Condensed smooth spread in the tail band, Coarse spread on the shield patterns , and Clumped smooth spread elsewhere in general.

The Solid coloured bird is also whole colour but expresses as a solid colour through all coloured feathers. These traits are epistatic to all other pattern expressions. **Spread factor** and **recessive red** are the only two that actually fit this description , but they each require additional modifiers to make them truly epistatic.

**Recessive white** ( bull eyed) is what Joe Quinn called a different kind of epistasis in that it cuts off the pigment expression as opposed to just covering it over.

There you have it for another Month... next stop, November.