

The Pigeon Genetics Newsletter, News, Views & Comments.

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(Founded by Dr. Willard .F. Hollander)

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This Month ~ "OUR YEAR IN REVIEW" ~ Your responses to this year's Newsletters !

Below material submitted by Tim Kvidera with thanks. It is a follow-up on the Silkie Issue of April.

Bob,

Thanks for continuing on with the genetics newsletter. Found the April issue regarding feather mutations very interesting. I do not recall having seen microscopic photos of some of the mutations before. Hein Van Grouw did a very nice article. Thanks for sharing it.

I have been messing with many of the feather freaks for many decades. Have not done much serious research breeding of them though for many years, only propagating them to keep some from vanishing. But when I was working more intently with them I developed a table that you might find interesting regarding the relationships between many of the more common feather mutations of that time. It is far from all inclusive, and includes some not mentioned in Hein's article.

Unfortunately the vast majority of pigeon breeders classify any bird with a degenerative feather mutation as "silkie." There are a multitude of genes important to generating wild type quality feather. A mutation to any of these may cause a "silkie" effect without actually being caused by that identified initially as silkie (L). Add to that the confusion caused by the discovery of the feather mutation in the squab farm that became known as Palmetto silkie when the lace mutant had been traditionally called Fantail silkie. These two have been found to be not alleles, and should probably not be both called silkie. And then when Hollander found another, he initially called it "slightly silkie" before settling on Frayed as its moniker. I entered a couple of Fantails in a show calling them "pseudo silkie" for Doc to see them before I ended up calling them fringe.

Most of the feather mutants have been found to be dominant, or more properly codominant. A few have been found to be recessive. And none to date have been identified as alleles. Granted there has been extremely limited testing done though, as there are very few crazy enough to keep them, let alone seriously breed them. I often have been shown, or presented with,

assorted feather mutations that have "popped up" in others' lofts and sometimes have worked with them when no one else would. But lately no investigations, just maintaining them.

Thanks again for publishing the Hein Van Grouw article. It has a great compilation of historical information on silkie.

Best Wishes,
Tim Kvidera

Inter-relationships Between Known Feather Mutants 2/88

	Silky	Frayed	Porcupine	Frizzy	Fringe
Silky (L)	Published 1930 Cole & Hollander correcting Steele, 1925, on silky being dominant autosomal <i>Phenotypic silky is attributable to two separate non-allelic dominant genes, Palmetto silky and Fantail silky Dooley 2003</i>	Not alleles Hollander & Miller 1978	Not alleles Hollander, Origins XXVI	Not alleles Kvidera, 1986	Not alleles Kvidera 1986
Frayed (F)	Not alleles Hollander & Miller 1978	Discovered 1956 Hollander, Published Hollander & Miller 1978			Not alleles Kvidera 1987
Porcupine (p)	Not alleles Hollander, Origins XXVI		"Discovered" numerous times 1875 to date, not necessarily all of which have been genetically the same. Latest Mangile 1981	Not alleles Mangile 1985	Not alleles Kvidera 1986

Frizzy (fz)	Not alleles Kvidera 1986		Not alleles Mangile 1985	Hochlan Chinese Owl frizzy same as Mangile Roller frizzy Kvidera 1986	Not alleles Kvidera 1983, Probably not linked Kvidera 1986
Fringe (fg)	Not alleles Kvidera 1986	Not alleles Kvidera 1987	Not alleles Kvidera 1986	Not alleles Kvidera 1983, Probably not linked Kvidera 1986	Discovered in Fantails Kvidera 1981, <i>Linked to milky Hollander2001, Possibly linked to pied white Mangile 2003</i>

Italics = comments added since 1988

Eds.{ Also a slight correction from the April Issue . Hein Van Grouw is Dutch not German as stated. }

Some of the Kind words from YOU!

From **Jada Spiegel** : Can you add me to the mailing list for the Pigeon Color Genetics Newsletter please? I've already learned so much from what I've seen of the newsletter online! Thank you so much! I love that the newsletter is always working to increase our knowledge of genetics and is willing to change the terminology if it will add to our collective understanding.

{Editors' Note~ We do not "Change Terminology" , we present the original terms and give explanations why they should be utilized by all fanciers rather than colloquial usage created as "Showroom speak" that has no genetic bases.}

From **Terry Lapointe**: Thank you so much for this wonderful newsletter, learned a lot! We look forward to the future newsletters very exciting stuff!! **Terry**

From **Nick Dawyd** : Thanks for newsletter please could you add **Graeme Boyd** .

From **Hein Van Grouw** : Hi Bob, Many thanks for that { April Issue}. Looks great.

From **Mike Miles** : Hi Bob First of all thank you for continuing to write the newsletter, there is a lot of insight for those of us who like to read about pigeon genetics. One day I'll write something of my little research on my back yard breeding. I wrote a simple book on pigeon genetics and I am trying to update some of my reference material. Do you know when the Newsletter was started, and I am assuming it has never stopped ? Thanks **Mike Miles** West Jordan Utah.

From **Ranjith Balram** : Dear Bob/Shoibal we would be much obliged if you can publish our show poster in the next edition.The poster is hereby attached for your kind perusal. Advance Christmas & New Year wishes. --

Editor's response: Thanks **Balram**.. this will not be published in the genetics Newsletter as we do not publish anything there except articles on Genetics . ~ Bob R.

From **Gary Young**: What do you know about the Skycutter breed of pigeons? I was able to obtain some. They hover in the air like helicopters when initially released and occasionally do a back flip. Then hang out on the rooftops for the remainder of the day. When a hawk appears, they fly down and hide in the bushes with the chickens. They have an extra joint in the wrist area of the wing and resemble a poor fantail with extra feathers in the tail and wings.. I have some almonds, branders, peds, and tiger grizzle's. ... then he adds-

I am pleased to see that the first two youngsters from this gimpel looking Arabian Trumpeter mated to a known gimpel cock have gimpel colored heads and also bodies. So they must be homozygous for the recessive version and probably heterozygous for the dominant version of gimpel. Past experience breeding Archangels taught me that to get the gimpel color on down to the undertail and hocks requires that they also be homozygous for the dominant version. This will be a future goal while getting the trumpeting voice and dark eyes back.

I have worked with gimpel since the 1980's when I was bulletin editor for the American Archangel club. All my experience indicated to me that there is a distinct genetic factor for dominant gimpel and an another factor for recessive gimpel. I have always noted them in my records as gp which covers the head & neck, and Gp which covers the underbody. To call it kite has always seemed confusing to me because so many people call so many things kite.

I have mated homozygous gimpels (Gp//Gp, gp//gp) to stipper and produced what some might consider almond. But it is not as good as the almonds produced with brander or the dark kites found in Short faced Tumblers and other almond strains in other breeds.

There is a good possibility that the gimpel I have found in my Arabian Trumpeters is the result of a cross with a Nuremberg Lark generations ago as I was told was a rumor. I don't know if Lark breeders even know their birds are gimpel probably on a pale or brown base.



Excerpt from a post by Paul Gibson:

The gp and Ts can print out on the same bird. Ts1 does print out with bronze bars and dark checks on some birds. Don't know why. The bird you show above is typical of a gp cross with a non wild type bird. The bird also looks like it is hetero for recessive red? These results explain why some think gp is not a recessive but a partial dominant. We must always, compare a trait like gp with wild type and not a bird modified from wild type.

This past season, I rechecked the inheritance of gp. I originally did this work on it nearly 20 years ago. When I mated Archangels to either Ice, Damascenes, or wild type; I got all young without any sign of bronze or of gimpel pattern (gp). This assures me that I was correct in my original designation. In 1993, I listed it as a recessive or nearly so. That was because some F1s showed crop bronzing. Now I know this was because the blue birds I used had a trait for darkened crop, a modifier which lets the bronze show there.

I also mated Archangels to Brander bronzes to check if there was allelic connections there. The F1s were all grizzled Kites just like one gets when Brander bronze is mated to wild type. I mated Archangels with sulfured blue Egyptian Swifts and all young were consistent with Archangel markings. Segregation in F2s produced only Archangel bronze and Swift bronzing. I mated Archangels with Kites and produced only Kites or Kites with bronzing on the crop. These results also showed me that I was right originally in my designation of gimpel pattern as a recessive.

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The January Issue featuring the Kaabre, drew this response from **Gens Stinner**.

Good evening, Thanks a lot for adding me to your distribution list. Much appreciated. I am looking forward to receiving it monthly now. Getting those Patin has not been easy they are rare and kept almost only by Afghans in Germany and they usually only sell them to other Afghans and not to Germans. Took me a year almost to get some good stock birds. But they are a pleasure for the eye, pretty and tame with good bodies. The Afghans call them Sia Patin Sorkh Ghol which means black Patin with red flower. I will send you a picture in separate mail so I can delete it separately afterwards. My inbox is always at its capacity max. Thanks again and have a good evening, Jens .



Thanks for the second half/year INDEX, Bob. I enjoy anticipation. **Garry Glissmeyer.**

Hi Bob, I'm sure you have read "Here's why pigeons do backflips" at science news.net.  
**Gary Young.**

These are some clever topic names. Love them! **Jada Spiegel.**

Dear Bob, Hope that you are doing well. Thank you for the newsletter. Kind Regards.  
**Amal Sadanandan.**

From **Hien Dang** - Dear sir Bob Rodgers As a friend of **Mr. Jaap van strien** who is member of your pigeon genetics newsletter. I write this email to tell that I'm finding the way to learn more about pigeon genetic here in Vietnam, but we can not find any good source to learn. Luckily, **Mr. Jaap van strien** told me that he got email from you, and that is a very good documents for me to read. Finally, I want to join the email loop to receive the newsletter. Please kindly add me to the loop: and if you can send or tell me where I can download old documents you sent before.

From **Sophie Jutzi** - Good afternoon I found your email on pigeons.biz where people were asking about ways to gain access to the pigeon genetics newsletter. As I was unable to find any information on whether the newsletter is still running, I figured I would ask directly. If it is still ongoing, I'd love to be added to it. Kind Regards **Sophie Jutzi.**

From **Chuan Ooi** - Dear Mr Sabbir, I am forwarding this email to you, because I did not receive any reply from Mr Rodgers. Is there anyway you could notify Mr Rodgers of my correspondence to him (the email enclosed below), please? There are several issues of the Newsletters that were missing in <https://www.genetikaholubu.cz/newsletters/#rogers>, and I would like to get a more complete and continuous reading from contributors. **Dr Milan** had asked me to contact Mr Rodgers directly for back issues of the Newsletter. I am trying to get more in-depth information regarding the various crests inheritance, in particular from Jacobin crosses to peak-crested and non-crested birds. There was also a brief reference about Jacobin crosses to shell-crested birds such as the Nun and the Bokhara Trumpeters that I like some clarification. Hope this email will reach you without a glitch. Thanks & regards, **Chuan**

Note - not sure how I missed this but Here is Shoibal's reply - Hi **Chuan**, Nice to hear from you. Thanks for sharing below chain mail and I would definitely convey your message to Bob. And hopefully he might be fine and reply you for sure. If you missed or need any particular month copy of newsletter, pls share us month here I will share with you. Thanks. Regards ~Sabbir.

Again from **Chuan** - Thank you again for your prompt response, Mr Sabbir. Mr Rodgers had replied to my email. I m not currently in your mailing list. Please email the Newsletter to address given. Regards from Perth, Western Australia, **Chuan**

From **Bill Greenslade** - Great newsletter, Bob. I'm sorry that you have to carry the load of producing the newsletter all by yourself, especially when you no longer even breed pigeons. You are truly a dedicated fancier, much more so than the rest of us "slackers". We all appreciate your efforts. Take care. **Bill**

From **Aris Zikos** - Dear Bob May this email find you strong, healthy and joyous. My email address is changing. Could you please update The Genetics Newsletter database by replacing my existing address with the new one: Thank you in advance. I also want to thank you one more time for your commitment to educating and passing on your knowledge to us about pigeon genetics for free. God bless you with everything you need. With appreciation **Aris** .

From **Laurel Julson** - Hello Bob this is Laurel in Utah. We have chatted before about my husband. His name was **Dee Julson**. He lived for your newsletters every month. lol, I have a genetics question. I have the old **Casperson** line. I've kept it pure. I got them from a dear friend and guru **Gar Workman**. He got them directly from **Casperson**. Recessive red, recessive yellow and black. I always hated the black but I keep them anyway. Pearl eyed. Once in a very great while they would throw what Gar called "orange". Do you know about this color? How do I make it? I have 1 orange and don't want to loose the color. It looks like a very deep, rich, yellow. Thank you so much, **Lolly**.

From **Dr. Arthur Wright** - Bob, I will be grateful to be placed on your mailing list. I am particularly interested in the color mutations of the Laughing dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis*. Should there be references to color varieties in earlier newsletters, I will be pleased to have the reference details. Do you have a subscription policy? If so please advise me of the annual subscription rate. Sincerely. **Arthur Wright**.

From **Touhoua Yang** - Hello sir, If I recall correctly, in 2016 there was an issue of the Genetics Newsletter covering the "oyster/oystershell" phenotype developed by **Lynn Kral** in Indian Fantails. Would you happen to still have a PDF of it available? And thank you so much for all of your work. Sincerely **Tou Yang**

From **Hans Dyer** - Hello, I've read many of the pigeon genetics newsletters and found them immensely important. I do so via a Google search. Is it possible to subscribe? Kind regards. Hans { Yes Hans , I will add your email address to one of the mailing lists , it is free . Thanks for the interest and your comment! Much appreciated! ~ Bob R. }

Return from **Hans** - Bob, I'm so pleased. They really are outstanding. I've always *demand a lot from my reading and this newsletter more than delivers*. Greatly appreciated Bob , I also appreciate the commitment and amount of work you put into this. thank you.

From **Rilo Legowo** - Interesting articles. Thank you

From **Hans Hergert** on my Strictly Colour Genetics for Pigeons Facebook Group also administered by Shoibal Sabbir - **Hans** commented: (edited) "Almonds are way out of my depth although the recent news letter has been incredible in supporting my understanding, that newsletter is truly outstanding you'll not find anything of that quality out there."

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Shoibal and I would like to take this opportunity to Thank each and every one of you who maintain a membership in this publication , and in particular those who offer regular photos and articles etc. Many of you respond each Month with a single "Thank You" and that also helps to keep us motivated and encouraged. {{ Please make sure to NOT send it as a 'direct reply' to the Newsletter mailing as it goes out to all of the members only on your list and they may not want to receive such responses, mail directly to either me or Shoibal. }} While Shoibal and his Father are both very active breeders in Bangladesh, I have been forced to give up the birds here in Canada. Sadly I have heard from Breeders or their families who have announced that they have either had to give up the birds due to lung problems , or who unfortunately have suffered some other health issues and indeed a couple of supporters who have passed away. This is all part of life that we must all face. Many of you are in Countries that have been having terrible conflicts over borders which have escalated into the possibility of all out war among many of the major world Military Powers. The outcome of which could mean devastation to everyone with no winners. That insanity began with just two or three like-minded dictators whose greed and egos are more important to them than the over one million young healthy minded and bodied soldiers as well as civilians that they gladly sacrificed and as I write this, with no end in sight. We sincerely hope that the bloodshed will stop and Peace prevails.

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Now for a look at the Mutation "brown/Chocolate" - the most recessive allele at the Major Colour Locus. It of course is also sex-linked. It is eumelanin the same as blue/Black. It has been examined by laboratory testing to find that it actually has mutated on at least seven (7) different occasions so that it is not certain if every brown we see today belongs to the same mutant gene. There may be several different 'brown/Chocolate' mutations out there and indeed possible cases where one brown is carrying the second brown mutant. We may never know , but one hint could be that not all browns have the false pearl eyes that once were considered a given! There are dark Chocolate brown coloured birds with red/orange eye Irises.



*The following photos and information may have already appeared in previous Issues over the years but we offer it again along with what we hope is new info for some of you.*



**Rob Grogan** Chocolate barred brown. Blue bars are actually Black Barred blue. The black is condensed pigment, the blue is clumped pigment making it appear gray , or as we call it 'blue'. { The Mookee is listed as Chocolate but may be black in strong light. Breeder ??}



*Juvenile Chocolate Bar brown.*

*The term Chocolate was named by Christie & Wreidt in about 1925. Since that time Scientists have adopted the term Brown in reference to the same pigment mutation in other Mammals in particular. The way we use it demonstrates the difference between the actual pigment granule colour and the phenotype created when that pigment is degraded visually by its combination with colourless background, (clumped). Thus we have Ash/Red for dominant Reds plus pattern, blue/Black for wild type patterns ., and brown/Chocolate*

*plus pattern. You will note that Ash is different in that the condensed smooth Spread of the Tail band and flight ends are light ash instead of the pigment dominant RED. Only the coarse spread expresses as 'RED". Here are other examples where the term 'Chocolate' is used: A fellow speaking about the colour he bred in tropical Fish. The Bristlenose Plecostomus - "I recently had two spawns of my brown (chocolate) bristelnose pleocs. "* We also know that there are Chocolate Labrador Retriever Dogs, Chocolate Guines Pigs ., so I do not believe that we are presenting anything out of line with the normal use of that term to describe the colour of the condensed Pigment in Pigeons.



*brown Toy Stencil Barred Saddle. **Ryan Ward.***

*Toy Stencil de-pigments Coarse spread so the chocolate bars and checks in this brown become whitened.*



*Chocolate bar brown. **Arkadiusz Zajac.***

*The juvenile Pigment is almost always lighter in tone than it will be after the moult. The brown youngsters will darken overall. The dilute phase will be even lighter in both juvenile and adult feather and is referred to as Khaki/Drab. The brown/Chocolate pigment is eumelanin which is the same as that of the blue/Black pigment. It DOES NOT have any "red" pigment in it to make it chocolate colour as you will find stated in websites and books.. Red pigment is Phaeomelanin such as we find in Ash/Red , recessive red, and the bronze factors. The brown/Chocolate mutant is recessive to both Ash/Red and blue/Black. It cannot carry either of the two alleles in either a cock or of course a hen. Colour is sex-linked.*



*Two photos of dilute blue/Black ( silver Dun Bar) that can easily be mistaken for brown. The intense phase is blue/Black with darkening modifiers. Photos/Breeder Bob R.*



*You usually can tell when a bird is brown/Chocolate Series by the 'false Pearl" eye iris colour. The flights, if coloured will be a lighter tan shade. The eyes may be rather pinkish looking at hatching. The dilute offspring appear to have very pink eyes in the nest and are virtually naked of hair down. The brown/Chocolate pigeon makes an excellent specimen to test other colours to see what is*



carried hidden rather than using wild type blue/Black, but keep in mind that once you add it , it will keep popping up from future generations.



**Jonventry Pigeons** Indian Fantail Spread

brown/Chocolate.

The best example that I have seen of a deep rich Chocolate Phenotype are these West of England Tumbler youngsters by **Clint Robertson** of Alberta Canada.



Well, my Friends, that is all we have for this December , We will be back in Jan. 2025 with more of what you like! Please do not forget that we NEED your ideas, photos , and articles!

Send any time to : [Bob\\_rodgers556@hotmail.com](mailto:Bob_rodgers556@hotmail.com)

**Topics for the New Year:** **Jan.** {The Dudes in the Hoodies} ., **Feb.** {Grizzle ,Sizzle, Schmizzle}, **Mar.** {"Tippler-Tossing pigeons of Bangladesh and their Racing Seasons" by **Sabbir Hossain** (Shoibal)} ., **Apr.** {These Boots weren't made for Walk'n}, **May** { "Size does not Matter", or does it !?}, and **June** {"Summer Surprise"}

"HAPPY HOLIDAYS < ALL THE VERY BEST FROM THE EDITORS"