

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

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Final Issue of this publication!

This is indeed the final Issue of the Newsletter - Pigeon Genetics News, Views, & Comments.

I appreciate all of the emails and chat messages saying how much you will miss this Newsletter and all of your kind words. I especially want to say a final Thanks to **Jith Peter** , **Ash Hammet** , **Shoibal Sabbir** and **Dr. Lester Paul Gibson** for their support and efforts to provide assistance over these past eleven years.

I am eighty one now and while I have had a number of health issues mainly associated with normal aging, I have recently been enjoying considerable improvement and have decided to eliminate any deadline stresses etc., as they often can contribute to flare-ups of other problems. I rebuilt my greenhouse and look forward to many years yet working with gardening and my tropical aquarium fish.

Most likely someone will sooner or later start some other similar Pigeon Genetics Newsletter . I sincerely hope that it explores many of the new ideas that I have worked so hard to present to all of you , rather than continuing the repetition of many of the old ideas that have been proven wrong by articles in this publication.

I am pleased to present to you an article by **Jens Stinner**:

The following is his account of his progress with this unique genetic mutation that was thought at one point to have been lost ! His photos are of birds that he has bred and illustrate the information given.

The Rusty Project

by Jens Stinner .

Germany.

Rusty with the genetic Symbol (ry) is a simple recessive Factor that became extinct in Germany 10 or more years ago.

Homo birds with this factor show a reddish tone on the body on a check basis or a grey tone interrupted by light striping when Spread is involved. Both variants show striping in tail bar and saddle with lighter tips of the flight feathers, while the striping is more intense when Spread is added.

(Original Rusty before tail molt).



The project to bring Rusty back started in very late 2021 when I saw a picture in a sales ad from a swarm of homing pigeons with around 300 birds. These were kept as barn birds and had free flying the whole day. Obvious, when checking the type, head shape and size of the beak warts, was also the presence of stray and city pigeons that joined the swarm and most probably also brought their genes in.

(Original Rusty after tail molt).



One bird of them caught my attention because it looked different to, for example, hetero Indigo. It seemed to have a light and striped tail bar and looked as if it had a different red tone on the wing shields than usual birds with Indigo, Bronze or recessive opal etc. The picture was bad and from far away, the parents unknown. But I bought the bird (a check male) and when I had it in my hands the first time I was as good as sure it is a Rusty. A test mating with a check homo recessive Opal hen was done in November 2021 in a separate loft. To prove its not recessive Opal that can also show striping in the plumage and may have a similar reddish tone on the wing shields. The youngsters that hatched were common checks.

(Original Rusty with recessive opal hen and youngsters).



Being now sure it's a Rusty I started in 2022 to make birds hetero for Rusty. To avoid inbreeding and to make a good color basis I mated the male to 5 different hens. Amongst these were brown, brown with stencil bars, blue check, blue bar, and black. All 16 youngsters that hatched in 2022 were common Black, Blue bar and Check. Unfortunately they were ALL male.

So 2023 was a repeat of 2022 with a similar result of many males, only 4 hens could be raised and all 4 were late in the year. With those 4 hens, 4 hetero pairs were made in May 2024. The expectation was to have 25% homo youngsters from the offspring of these pairs. Amongst many many hetero birds the first homo ones hatched. 2 blue bar Rusty, both male. And finally a black homo Rusty hen but with almost no signs of Rusty.

(First homozygous Rusty youngsters on blue bar).



The breeding result in 2025, where the first homo pair was used, brought a nice amount of homo birds in both genders. Check Rusty, Black Spread Rusty and a first hen in Brown check Rusty.

(1st. homozygous Rusty brothers spread and Checker.)



(Same spread and Check brothers during the molt.)



(1st. hen in brown check Rusty.)



The experience I made is that the birds with the factor Rusty look all very different. The red is more or less intense, the striping is from strong to almost invisible. Furthermore hens seem to have less color as the males have and birds out of Hetero x Hetero matings show less striping and intenseness of color than the birds out of homo x homo matings . Also the striping changes with the first moult and gets more intense and clear. What still remains as a mystery to me is the very high hatch percentage of males I have had, but with the birds in both genders now existing it should be no problem to bring back a solid population of Rusty to interested breeders lofts.

Special thanks to **Jens** for this great report on his revival of this unique mutation!

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Hi Bob!

Very sorry to hear you're quitting the newsletters. Words can't express how much I enjoyed & appreciated all your hard work producing those amazing documents. I started receiving them about 12 yrs ago. My good friend Garry Glissmeyer told me about them when I was driving him nuts with questions on genetics when I started with Indian Fantails in about 2010. I've saved many many of them for future reference.

You will be missed!

Sincerely,

**Dan Lichtenwalner** North West Minnesota

Hello Pigeon friends

It's been a couple years since giving away all my birds and with time on my hands have gone over all my genetic notes in producing red and black white sides in different breeds over a six year period. The first article is my journey in trying to find out what genetics and modifiers are relative in producing white sides. I found it the hardest part as you can tell in the article, with so many different opinions.

Its the second article that is probably the most informative comparing the red and blacks and how they are connected . The main differences are that the reds are recessive red on a ash red base, while the blacks are blue base. They both carry the same grizzle factor and both are non-spread.

The third article is is visual pathway into the blacks that I struggled with until I realized that the spread factor is detrimental to both the recessive red and black white sides. Over all I am trying to show the different modifiers that are relative to each color.

Please feel free to pass on these articles to anyone who may have an interest into breeding these difficult markings. However its not rocket science and with a bit of basic genetic understanding you can make a white side in any pigeon breed.

Hopefully this mailing can help others who may have a interest in a new challenge in the pigeon hobby.

Wishing all enjoyment in the pigeon hobby.

**Tom de Munnik**

Good morning Bob

Just a short note to thank you for how much you enhanced my genetic white side project for a six year period.

I had flown racing pigeons pretty well my entire life along with off and on show pigeons.

I had a great amount of help from several experienced fanciers trying to sort out the white side pattern. However without your help and support over the entire period, it would not have been such an enjoyable event.

Bob I will be forever grateful for the time you have spent to help not only myself but multiple other fanciers over the years. I sincerely wish you a happy retirement that affords you all the other pleasant things that interest you.

**Tom**

From **Hein Van Grouw** -Thanks for that, as usual.

I'm very sorry to hear that the Newsletter suddenly may come to an end. Well, suddenly....? You have made it clear in the past that you, quite rightly, would like to

'retire' and that someone else should take-over. Unfortunately, that didn't work out and you took over again. I fully understand how time-consuming it is and, just like you, I also find the internet much more difficult to navigate nowadays. It is almost unbelievable that among the readers there is not one person who has the time to take over your editor's job.

Anyway, with a full day-job I cannot commit myself to be the editor I'm afraid. What I can offer is that I can fill at least two more issues this year. And if other people can also promise to do one or two, then we may be able to keep it going till the end of the year. Stopping at the end of the year may be 'nicer' than halfway the year.

Let me know your thoughts, please.

All the best for now.

**Hein**

Bob thank you very much for the news letter. I'm excited to see the ASR there. This news letter is particularly relevant for me re heterozygous etc.

nice example of alliteration too.

I can appreciate the effort and commitment which went into producing it.

Have a good day.

Regards

**Hans Hergert**

Thanks again Bob for the reading pleasure

J. de Jong.

Kleurpostduiven-Zeist.

Hello Bob, Thank you for all your hard work. I have really enjoyed the newsletter over the years. I understand burn out. I have done a number pigeon club newsletters. You have done a wonderful job. You deserve to retire and pass the torch. Thank you again. **Christine Nyland**

From **Tom de munnik**.

Good morning Bob Just a short note to thank you for how much you enhanced my genetic white side project for a six year period. I had flown racing pigeons pretty well my entire life along with off and on show pigeons. I had a great amount of help from several experienced fanciers trying to sort out the white side pattern. However without your help and support over the entire period, it would not have been such an enjoyable event. Bob I will be forever grateful for the time you have spent to help not only myself but multiple other fanciers over the years. I sincerely wish you a happy retirement that affords you all the other pleasant things that interest you. **Tom**

I may have repeated publication of some comments and missed others but after a change to windows 11 all of my files have been scrambled or lost. I am now in the process of deleting everything . A NEW start is in order and I have not settled on a subject/ project.

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A recent Afib episode caused temporary abnormal eye sight problems so I will see a Doctor tomorrow to discuss that matter. Apparently it is a possible side effect that no one warned me may happen. Also hospitals in the UK are reporting a high number of seniors in particular who have suffered bleeding in the brain following a fall. This has a common denominator , blood thinners. I therefore will have to discuss that as I am on a blood thinner and frequently fall . This getting old sucks big time!!

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Almond Classic, some of the youngsters I bred this year. Octavian Saroflean



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From **Hans Herbert** - Both hens.

First, phenotype is extreme dilute from heterozygous extreme dilute almond cock not carrying dirty and a recessive red pied hen also not carrying dirty. This hen is typical of my birds. Dark bars and milky coffee coloured body.

Second hen is from heterozygous blue grizzle cock heterozygous extreme dilute not carrying dirty. The hen is a blue checker heterozygous for dominant opal. Not carrying dirty. The colour is much washed out and also much brighter. I have not seen extreme dilute so pale and vibrant and I'm wondering if this might have something to do with the bird inheriting dominant opal.

Certainly want to develop this. Really taken by it.



My response :

The dam of the second hen must be a Dominant Opal as she cannot be hetero for a dominant trait. We have to sort out what you mean there but because of that this hen cannot have that gene either.

I have had a number of chat or email messages lately questioning the inheritance of some of the even common traits. It seems that breeders are having trouble determining what "CARRIED" means and if they see a Dominant trait in the pedigree , they think that that gene is being carried hidden by a bird that is actually a recessive trait itself. That cannot be possible. You may recall all the ur-roar about the idea of using SPREAD factor in an Almond breeding program. As long as you do not USE any of the spread Almonds that bird produces in your subsequent program, you can take advantage of getting the genes you want from the spread bird while plugging them into your Almonds that may otherwise LACK the characteristics that you desire from your spread factor line. The gene is ONLY there if you can see it expressed on the bird because spread is a dominant gene. I realize that it lessens your chances of getting immediate results , but in a pinch a knowledgeable breeder can take advantage of it. No dominant genes can be present without you seeing them on the bird. Recessive trait birds are just that, they are pure for that recessive trait and cannot express any dominant trait that may appear in its background pedigree.

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### **Voiajori Colorati - Romania**

A 6 year old Homozigous Faded het dilute male.



"Faded " is just one of a number of (Alleles) - mutated VERSIONS of the (St) Stipple gene mutation at the Stipple Locus. The base pigment is blue/Black. The Pattern appears to be a very dark checker but could be a rather incomplete spread factor. A surprising number of the alleles at this locus when combined with spread factor or a saturated T-Pattern will present as "Sprinkles" and thusly will increase in the black flecking as they age . NOTE: None have a bronze ground because Kite bronze and/or recessive red have not been added. They therefore cannot be referred to as ALMONDS which we hear a great deal.

**Break is white** only, despite what some will tell you and it is the depletion of base colour caused by the (St) gene. **Ground is added red pigment. Base is the original pigment** from the major colour locus : Black, Dominant Red, or Chocolate, the tones we SEE when they are combined with the Pattern series. These are the Colour series blue, Ash, and brown.

Once you have that organized and permanent in your mind it will make genetics so much easier to get!

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This bird by **TSmoke Vrbada** appears to be a "silver Sprinkle" but is believed to be genetically a Qualmond. I was not able to determine the genetics from the pedigree . I suspect that it is (St) sprinkle but the fact that the "Break" is smutty rather than pure white is probably due to modifiers such as Dirty factor and the pattern under spread. They are commonly produced so have been given a separate recognition in Germany I believe as "Silver sprinkles".

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Well Folks that is it ! I regret leaving all of you. When I took on the Newsletter we had a mailing list of 150 subscribers and the fee was Ten dollars a year as **Dr. Lester P Gibson** had to print and mail many of the Issues by snail mail before changing to email.

**Doc. Hollander** wanted it to be FREE so I was able to do that despite the fact that I had to pay over \$200.00 per month just to be able to collect the files and mail it out. I have enjoyed it completely and have learned a great deal along the way. We grew in subscribers to 400 and have maintained that all these years but recently dropped to 319 after I announced that it would be ending.

I, and on behalf of **Shoibal Sabbir**, wish each and every one of you all the Best and a Happy New Year ahead!

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