

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

(Founded by Dr. Willard .F. Hollander)

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This Month's Topic : "**The Dudes in the Hoodies**" ~ Crests and other reverse feather anomalies.

It is particularly interesting that mutations in the normal 'lie' of the feathers has occurred in a number of totally unrelated Bird Species. The one that seems to be the most prevalent is that which we call the "PEAK CREST" This is commonly found in Pigeons and Doves in particular. A few feathers grow out in the reverse direction at the base of the skull and come together in the shape of a needle point peak. This has been transferred to a number of breeds of domestic Pigeons and it has also occurred in the Dove species 'Streptopelia roseogrisea' . Satinettes by **Shoibal Sabbir**.





(Lyell)

Most Peak Crests have a 'mane', that is, the feathers tend to reverse gradually such that they come together to create a Mane albeit very insignificant. When the bird tenses up for any reason this causes the skin to tighten and the mane and peak become more compact and pointed .

There are other feather anomalies that appear to create a peak but the feathers are not reversed. This tends to be more common in Doves and pheasant types. The feathers grow longer and are lifted when the birds express emotions such as fear or impressing a potential female mate. The skin in this case raises the feathers much like we form 'goose bumps' on our skin when cold or startled. Pigeons can do this in the same way to trap or release heat but their crest feathers cannot be fully raised or lowered.

Looking back through the years , it seems that the Peak Crest was a very early mutation from wild type. Shell crests are not even mentioned in some of the earlier publications and no reference to Breeds commonly known today for having Shell Crests.

The Hood of the Jacobins , Capuchines , and several other Breeds does have a very early History and it is a combination of several crest features that have been developed over the years.

All Crests today have undergone considerable evolutionary change and most of that has been due to careful selective breeding by Pigeon Enthusiasts around the World.



{Bob R.}

(S.Erlensee)



The Hood of the Capuchin consists of a large semi-circular shell crest like that of the Jacobin but reaches around less profusely so that it does not cover the face and does not create a 'Chain" at the front of the neck. This has been made much more full and attractive in recent years.

Below : **Richard Leimann** commented on his English Trumpeters on Facebook recently , He said :

"Best red Des Moines was my young hen. She is 8th. generation gimple bronze, means 4th. gen pure English trumpeter. Notice drilled in rosettes. This breed had better start working towards getting back these nice rosettes."

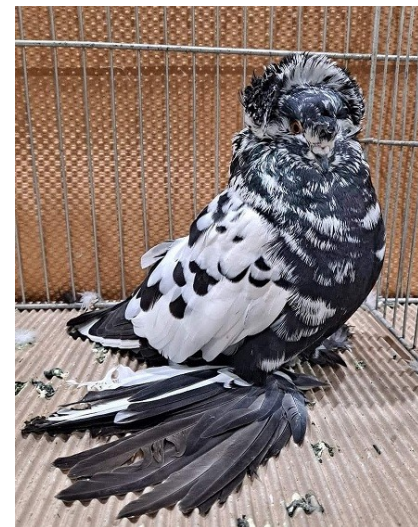


Below baldhead 2016 Ch. Melbourne Aust. Photo **James Mandilas** .

Sebastien Demuyter.



23-July-2016 ANPA 2016 National Show - Melbourne
Champion English Trumpeter
IMG_0460.jpg - © Photo by James Mandilas

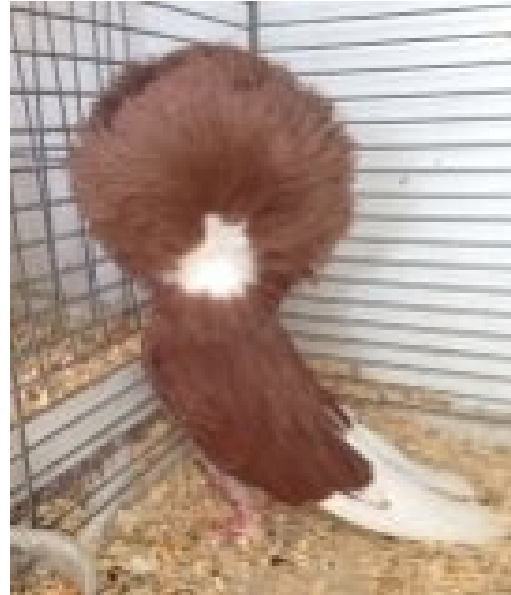


The aim is to have the Mane blend gradually into the Cushion to support the shell crest. This is a struggle in many breeds obviously as the reversed feathers are usually in complete opposition to the normal downward pointing neck feathers.

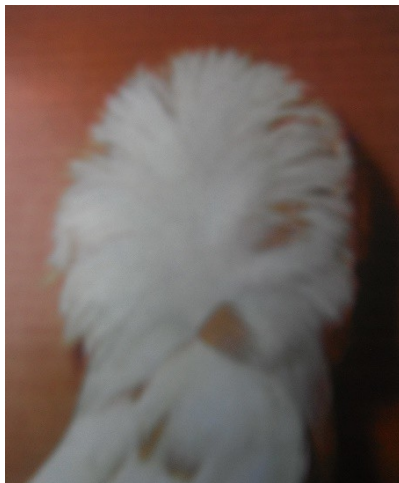
The Jacobins have undergone tremendous changes over the years and this has been to every aspect of the bird but in particular to the Hood ornament. As with all show Breeds , feather quality has been improved and that has allowed for greater advances in feather ornamentation.



Lithograph by **Lyell** 1800's



Red by **Clint Robertson** 2015 CJC Champion.



The length, density and shape of the elongated neck feathers with a center Rose reach out to create the Chain up the front of the neck and the Mane at the back culminating with a cap shell crest that has what is referred to as 'whip in' which covers the entire head when the bird is at attention. This is the Globe and you can see the difference here between a Mottle of the 1940's (**Levi**) compared to a 21st. Century Yellow bred by **Clint Robertson** of Canada. For those not familiar with the Breed , it is capable of completely relaxing the globe feathers to see to fly , eat and care for its young etc. All feathers on this Breed are longer than normal .

Jacobins in Ash-Red, Breeder **Srk Showan** Bandladesh.



Yellow **Ranjith Balram** India



Ash Cream Bar **Justin Robertson** Alberta Canada. ----- Painting of **Clint Robertson's Black** by Bob R.



Typical Peak Crest (generally considered to be a recessive to non-crested plain head). **Shoibal Sabbir**.



Depending on the Breed some standards want the supporting feathers in the form of a mane or a cushion , while others desire a clean crease or break between the crest and the neck. All Peak crests should come to a sharp point when the bird is stationed at attention.

Brad Stucky Peak Crested Lemon Gimple.



Dawn Wisniewski Double Crested Doves next three.



The Russian Trumpeter below has a double crest with a very circular Shell Crest and a round forehead tuft that covers the entire head. This Breed suffers considerably as it cannot Fly well, cannot walk well , and cannot see well. Often the huge muffs on the feet also cause feathers to not emerge properly and the toes become infected and extremely sore. Breeders must be very vigilent in their care of these birds.

Michael Spadoni



Amitav Ghosh



The Chinese Owls also have feather anomalies but the reverse head feathers ' cravat' are on either side of the head cupping up toward the eyes and not meeting at the back of the skull. - **Marius Loan**.



An interesting side note , when my friend **Ryan Ward** mated his Chinese Owls to a non-crested bird he got Peak Crested offspring, obviously Peak crest was carried by the non-crested and the cravat recessive.



Development of the Toy Stencil Blue Bar Capuchin bred by **Layne Gardener**.

When I mated a Capuchin to a Bald head show Roller I got offspring with a one-sided crest. This has been reported by a number of Breeders around the World and the same has been observed when non-crested were mated to Jacobins. The Lotan is a Breed that has been selectively bred to have a one-sided shell crest.



Lane Gardener photo - 2020 Reserve Ch. Indigo Cock Armarillo USA National.- **Ron Davis**.

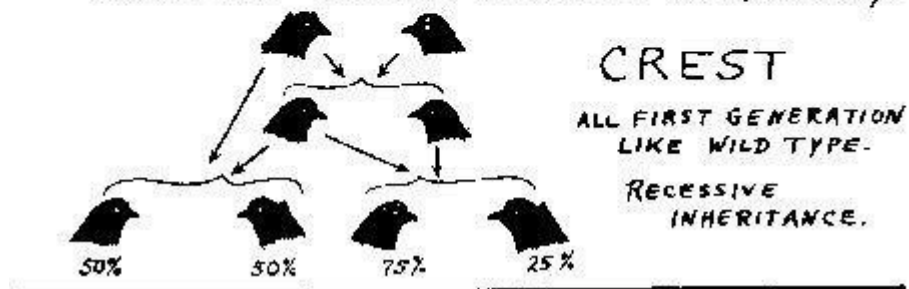
We have covered the genetic inheritance of crests in a previous Issue and there is nothing new to report. Peak is reported to be recessive to plain head and Shell crest. It does not follow the normal rule of expected ratios in following generations however , and this has led to some dispute regarding its relationships with the various other Crest mutations.

It is important to make absolutely certain that the test stock used does not carry a hidden recessive gene as that will cause a very inconsistent result. Otherwise any result from the expected , will tell you that there is a contradiction that can be genetically explained beyond what was previously believed.

This is from **Hollander's** Booklet showing that yes indeed Peak crest is recessive to a truly non-crested bird. However it is when we cross Peak with other forms of Crest that we see some irregularities. Generally it is felt that Shell Crest is Dominant , but a full Shell crest does not come from a cross between a Shell Crest and a Peak Crest. Instead there is an intermediate form referred to as a 'thumb nail Crest'. It is wider than Peak but much more narrow than a shell crest.

TEST RESULTS

BELOW ARE SHOWN THE BREEDING TEST RESULTS WITH THREE TRAITS. THESE ARE TYPICAL, SIMPLE. PERCENTAGES REFER TO NUMBER OF BIRDS, ROUGHLY.



Shell Crest Medium Face Helmet by **Gary Parsons** - Canada.





These Archangels of various colours, including Gimpel (Black & Copper), all sport a Peak crest. You can see that they are not exactly ideal in shape on every bird. Photos Mick Bassett Germany.

Hope you enjoyed another look at the Dudes in Hoodies. We enjoyed bringing them to you! The Mutations took place years ago indeed Centuries ago , it is our job to maintain and if need be , improve them. Breeds that we feel have benefited the most in this regard over the past few years are the English Trumpeters, the Helmets, the American Fantasy , the Komorner Tumblers and the Jacobins.



Beautiful Black South German Shield with a nice Shell Crest ending in defined Rosettes - submitted by International Judge now living in Canada - **Jerry Sindelar**.

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We wish all of you a Very Happy New Year and hope you will continue support our efforts with this Newsletter! Please do not feel you have to wait to be invited separately to participate with material, Photos and articles that you have produced from your personal experience . We are always open to input!!

In February we take yet another look at "GRIZZLES" , so if you have done ant testing with the Alleles please send me photos and info - [Bob\\_rodgers556@hotmail.com](mailto:Bob_rodgers556@hotmail.com)