The Pigeon Genetics Newsletter, News, Views & Comments.
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(Founded by Dr. Willard .F. Hollander)
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The Pigeon Market of Mirpur-1: A Hidden Gem for Bird Enthusiasts in Dhaka

Introduction

Nestled in the bustling heart of Mirpur-1, Dhaka, lies a thriving subculture not many are aware of — the pigeon market. Every Friday morning, this otherwise ordinary area transforms into a colorful and noisy gathering of pigeon breeders, hobbyists, and traders from all over Bangladesh. The market has grown over the years into a hub for both seasoned fanciers and new enthusiasts, drawn by the variety of breeds, competitive prices, and shared passion for pigeons.

Location and Timing

The market is situated just beside the Mirpur-1 roundabout, stretching across the sidewalks and alleys near the Shah Ali Mazar and adjoining areas.

- Day: Every Friday (some sellers also gather on Tuesdays in smaller numbers)
- Time: From early morning (~6:00 AM) to around noon

Despite the crowd, the atmosphere is friendly and vibrant, filled with the cooing of birds and haggling voices.

Commonly Found Pigeon Breeds

The Mirpur-1 market is known for its wide variety of pigeons, ranging from local utility birds to rare ornamental breeds. Here are some of the most popular types you'll typically find:

Local/Meat & Common Breeds

- • Gola
- • Gorra (Red-Black Pied Gola)
- • Deshi Lal (Local Red)
- • Sada Gola (White variety of Gola)

- • Chittagong / Sylheti Local Pigeons

Racing / Homing Breeds

- • Giribaz (High flyer)
- • Tippler
- • Homing Pigeon (Posta Pigeon)
- • High Flyers

Fancy / Ornamental Breeds

- • Lahori
- • Siraji
- • Kolkata Fancy
- • Miskeen
- • Lucknowi
- • Modena
- • Jacobins
- • Fantail (Indian, American, Thai)
- • Frillback
- • Satinette
- • Capuchin
- • Tumbler Pigeon
- • Trumpeter (e.g., Bokhara Trumpeter, Arabian Trumpeter)
- • English Carrier
- • Helmet Pigeon
- • Nun Pigeon
- • Dragoon

Large / Show / Premium Breeds

- • King Pigeon
- • German Modena
- • Runt Pigeon
- • Pouter / Cropper (e.g., English Pouter, Pigmy Pouter)
- • Hungarian Giant
- • Ice Pigeon

Voice/Trumpeting Breeds

- • Bokhara Trumpeter

- • Arabian Trumpeter
- • Damascene (cooing vocal breed

Market Dynamics

The market is largely informal but highly competitive. Prices are negotiable, and experienced breeders often visit early to get the best deals. Sellers may also offer:
- Breeding pairs
- Squabs (young pigeons)
- Pigeon feed and medicine
- Cages, drinkers, and accessories

Many hobbyists come just to exchange ideas, compare birds, and learn more from expert breeders.

Cultural Importance

Pigeon keeping has deep roots in Bangladeshi urban and rural culture. For many, it's more than a hobby — it's a passion passed down through generations. Pigeons are also kept for:
- Competitions (flying height & duration)
- Status symbols (rare breeds)
- Pets and companions
- Small-scale business or income source

Buyer Tips

- Inspect the health of the bird: Look for bright eyes, smooth feathers, and active movement.
- Ask about lineage: Especially for show or flying pigeons.
- Negotiate prices: Most prices are flexible.
- Quarantine new birds before mixing with your flock to prevent disease.

Final Thoughts

The pigeon market in Mirpur-1 offers a fascinating look into a vibrant subculture that thrives in the heart of Dhaka. Whether you're a seasoned fancier, a beginner, or just curious, the market is worth a visit — for its birds, its people, and its charm.

Below is a curated list of video resources showcasing the vibrant pigeon market in Mirpur-1, Dhaka. These videos cover market activities, pigeon varieties, prices, and colorful breeds.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93XvEX5CLQ4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASZmzGIftTA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLyeIjmyA9I&t=10s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8NQHd6NbqQ

Pigeons market Mirpur -1 | Huge crowd | Best pigeons market in Dhaka
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TcDvhIByhs

Pigeon Market Visit 4K | Mirpur Pigeons Market
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WohdQQvoyUA

When passion for pigeons becomes livelihood - TBS News
https://www.tbsnews.net/features/panorama/when-passion-pigeon-translates-livelihood-259195

Colorful Pigeons in Mirpur-1 | Unique breeds in Dhaka
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tqe4opn19Mo

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It seems that there was some sort of misunderstanding and Shoibal did not think that this Month was his Issue , so he did not have it prepared. The above information is what he put together in a hurry. I have completed this Issue with part of the September Issue covering the identification of "Spread factor". <<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<

I also am not certain if I will have computer access after tonight as Microsoft is changing from Passwords to a Keypass system and I have not been able to apply for that as it simply takes me in a circle over and over again.

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"Hidden Hints Haphazardly Hinder How Humans Have Historically Honored Heterozygous and Homozygous Habits , Helpful or Hametic?"

No matter what helpful rule you may create, there already is an exception that prevails! Recently a member of one of my Facebook Groups started posting what he considers "Helpful Hints" regarding the identification of the various modifiers and mutant versions in Pigeon Colours.

One hint involved how to recognize when heterozygous, or homozygous SPREAD FACTOR masking Pattern is present as opposed to T-Pattern alone. Most everyone can recognize each of the basic Patterns, and spread factor just by a quick glance. However there are many different combinations and variations to understand. The hint given in the Group was that the tail band showed in the T-Pattern, but in hetero spread it was much less visible , and in the homo spread it was not visible at all. However '**that is not based upon Breeding experience Fact**'.

Dr. Lester .P. Gibson once wrote that the difference between hetero and homo spread can be seen in the 'rachis' (mid-rib quill) of the tail feathers . They will be a deep shiny black in the homo state while being dull or off colour in the hetero.

Here again we have to take a closer look at the many variations and combinations to determine if we are actually correct in our past analysis.

Below we will consider a comparison of both Known and Unknown genetic traits that all appear to be some sort of Spread expression, keeping in mind that some of the Pattern series closely resemble spread factor and that they may all involve any number of other modifiers, some of which may not have been discovered yet, we can only suspect that they may exist.

Observations include those of **Paul Gibson, Axel Sell, Ryan Harvey, Stephen Scott** and Bob Rodgers from Breeding records.

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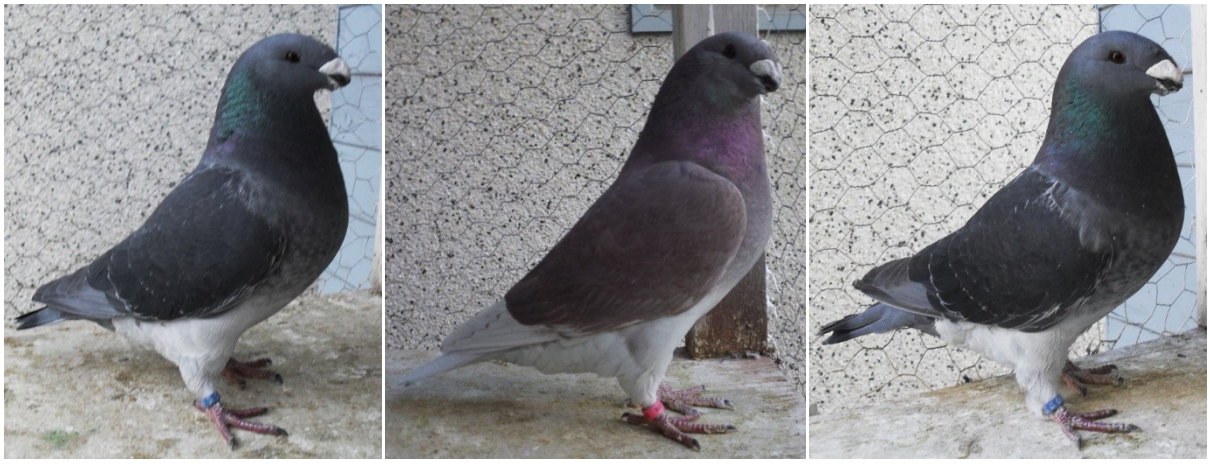
The first four birds are T-Pattern ASR's by **Gary Keith** of Canada. Note the very typical light underbody region. This will vary due to the darkening Modifiers such as Dirty (V) , smoky (sy)., and Sooty (So).



Perhaps we could also take a look at the term 'modifier' . **A modifier gene is one that causes a 'partial' or "minor' change to the phenotype expression of a gene at another locus**. That is what genes such as Dirty , smoky, and Sooty, noted above, do. They darken or lighten certain areas in the overall feather phenotype. We could argue that all mutants do that but they do not. Spread alters the entire phenotype as does recessive red. I believe that the colour phases : dilution and alleles , reduced and alleles, the Opals , the stencils , Stipple and alleles etc. are not actually modifiers as they totally change wild type. Below in photos 5&6 also by **Gary** , we can see that the pattern is still very visible in photo 5. I have seen comments saying that this is heterozygous spread and while that is very likely so , I do not consider it a guarantee. Both Spread factor and recessive red require modifiers to cause them to be more "epistatic" (able to mask or cover pattern). In fact recessive red can mask spread factor.
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Now let's take a look at another possible chink in the armour: Quite a number of years ago Dr. Gibson was attending a show and a fellow breeder asked him what colour a bird was that appeared to be a strangely coloured dark Dun Bar. Paul said Spread factor. No one believed him so he got one and did some tests to wild type. As he suspected they produced solid blacks. ---Just a few years ago I wrote to Paul with this photo : She was sired by a spread factor Lahore that also was a chimera, (a mosaic of Black & Dun) and out of a Blue white bar Saxon Monk. (Toy Stencil full complex). I have shown it in other Newsletters and on Facebook many times.

He identified her as a spread factor bird of the same genotype as he had viewed at that earlier show in the U.S. Here she is with her sire showing Dun patch, and her dam "stand-in", as I do not have a photo.



X Saxon Monk.

I paired her with a blue checker wild caught Feral Pigeon and she produced two solid black sons. The first one here shows a slight bluish cast to his underbody. They have the typical heterozygous baldhead design and dominant white flights. I have shown you these photos many times over the years. There are still new members who do not have those issues.


There were several oddities in all of this for which I still have no explanation. (#1) was that She had a Black barred sibling brother, Paul said that he did not have any such phenotypes , just the dun bar.


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I mated him to this Opal Check and got one solid and one showing bar pattern in spread black.

Then the above Dun Barred hen had a solid black sister, and the (#2) oddity, a dun barred brother. As we all know a dilute son cannot be produced by a male when he carries the dilution gene but is not bred to a dilute , so it seems that the fact that the original sire was also a Chimera allowed the son to sire both Intense and dilute sons which seems not to comply with our expected outcome.

There were a number of "shade" or "tone" difference in colour from the various matings - shown here.




After I raised a number of young from various crosses from both within the family and outcrosses, I gave some birds to **Stephen Scott** of NewBrunswick Canada to do further testing. **Stephen** taught me quite a bit about colour genetics in the earlier years and I value his observations. He eventually made the following comments:

(1) Birds may be Non-Spread “T” Pattern carrying bar, darkened beyond saturated “T” Pattern Velvets by additional modifiers to appear spread.
(2) Or they may be Spread hiding “T” Pattern partially , expressing their coarse Spread pattern as if they were Barred birds – cause unknown as yet.,
(3) Or They are as we first thought , Spread partially allowing Barred pattern to show thru with a variable darker or lighter than black , or Dun phenotype – cause unknown as yet . - end comment.

Knowing that Spread factor and Pattern are linked (on the same Chromosome)., I have since realized that I did not take the required steps to bring checker pattern and this spread enigma together. The checker hen I got is shown below in two photos to indicate that the lighting in photos can make a huge difference in the true phenotype of any given specimen, (2) is her real color.

This medium checker hen was out of a solid black full sister to the Dun Bar above and sired by a black 1/2 Lahore cock masking checker. So the solid black dam was also hetero spread. More steps were required to bring the Chk. Pattern and spread together.

1  2 

Note: that the white muffs do not correspond with the flights when the underbody is coloured. The muffs also do not correspond with the coloured flights of a Lahore even with a white underbody.

Axel Sell wrote about his experience with this or a similar case in his Book where all specimens were of the Intense phase, black Barred -

Ryan Harvey sent us photos a few years ago showing a similar result with all Intense phase black barred birds similar to those that Axel had. (I do not believe either reports are of the same trait that Paul & I presented).

Stephen Scott decided to name the spread factor that was involved **"Open Spread".** However; I had already named it **"incomplete Spread"**. A few onlookers called it "Unimproved" spread but we are familiar with the usual spread factor birds that usually lack one or more darkeners so that they do not have a fully masked phenotype. Usually Spread factor regardless of whether it is hetero or homo will not fully mask pattern unless it has two doses of each of the known darkeners. That is extremely difficult to keep track of in any breeding program, so we can be quite certain that Breeders are not as sure as they pretend to be about any given pedigree. Below two Spread factor blue/Blacks , one bred from this incomplete spread line and the other wild caught. Photos : Bob R.

Then to make things even more complex, another form of Saturated T-Pattern was developed Centuries ago in the black wing Gimpel Archangel. Then later a T-Pattern Kite pseudo Black ESFT hetero for recessive red was created in an Almond breeding program.

These birds have additional modifiers such as Kite Bronze but lack Sooty and usually also smoky as both of those genes are detrimental to a good Classical Almond . This contradicts the description usually applied to a saturated T-Pattern. Therefore; the question is - "How did this pseudo black come into existence?" No-one knows and no-one can even hazard a guess! Hetero recessive red (e) extends the kitiness over the head, neck and shields in the So-called Kites of the ESFT.. Last two photos Archangel **Mick Bassett** Germany. English Short Face Tumbler -**Joe Power** U.S.A.

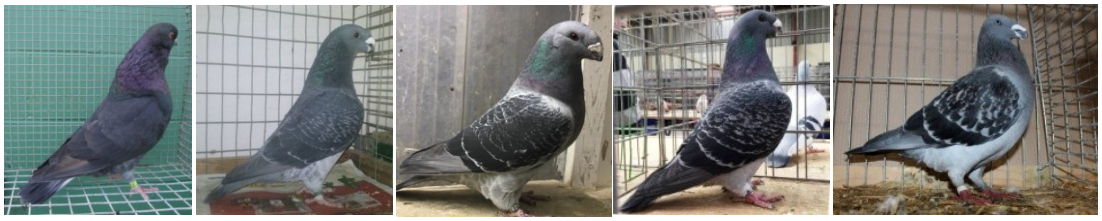
When tests of the Black-wing Gimpel Archangel were done against wild type blue bar , everyone seemed to expect that a T-Pattern would be revealed. However such was not the case, the result produces a Dark Checker (C^D), also written (C^Dk). The reason for that may depend on those three modifiers : Dirty, Sooty, and smoky. Testing by the Uof U determined that Dirty and smoky were alleles so cannot express equally on the same bird. Sooty is very variable and darkens with age. It also may have two forms , a dominant and a recessive symbols (So), and (so).

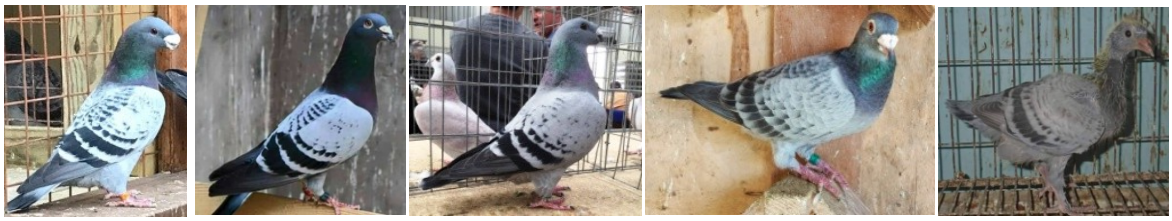
Has anyone given any thought to my suggestion a few Months ago regarding the possibility of a second kind of spread whereby the Coarse spread of the wing Pattern is spread over the entire bird rather than the smooth spread of the Tail band and flight ends being spread all over the bird which is what we know today? I think I have proven that both smooth spread and coarse spread pigment granules are found throughout all coloured feathers but are concentrated more-so in certain areas. I think that we have to attempt to isolate just what type of spread causes the deep shiny blacks that totally mask the coarse spread Pattern even without additional darkener modifiers.


Mick Basset photo.

By the way - in the May Issue I inadvertently typed (b) as the symbol for 'barless' when in fact the symbol is (c), the symbol (b) stands for brown. . In 1911 **Bonhote & Smalley** selected (C) for checker. Mr. **Horlacher** gave (C) for crest 1930, but **Hollander** changed it to represent Checker again in 1938. **Hollander** gave (c) for barless in 1938. He also gave C^T for T-Pattern (velvet)., C^D) for dark checker. I find it a bit odd that barless still gets (c) when in fact it seems to be a direct mutant from Bar whereas the Checker series is believed to be an introduced mutant and not naturally occurring at the pattern series locus, as I understand it.. There are multiple expressions of the Checker pattern. We have been told that they range in order of dominance down from (C^T) to (C^Dk) to (C^M) to (C^L). There are however a number of variations in between these to further confound the matter.

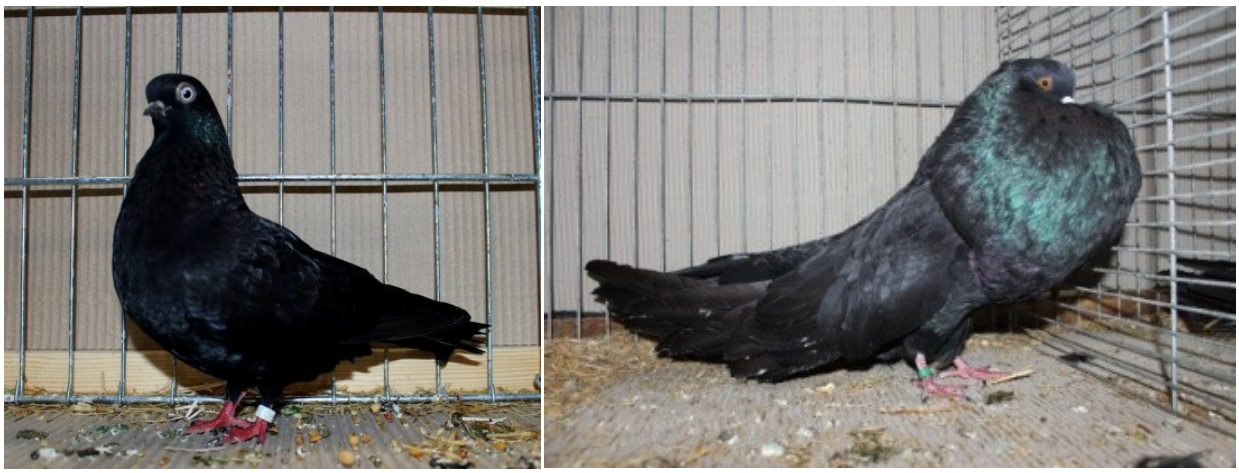
(1)Tom A Demunik., (2)Michel Meinetten., (3) Hubert Hefter., (4)Michael Spadoni., (5)M. Basset., (6) Mark Longbottom., (7)Ajai Raj., (8)Michael Spadoni ., (9) Fabio Lopez., (10)Shoibal Sabbir.,





There are even more versions of the checker Pattern than these as I am sure many of you have seen.

Here are a number of solid blacks with high sheen . Note some have black beaks, some horn tipped., and others clear colourless. As far as we know they all are smooth spread or condensed smooth spread plus "Spread factor". **Mick Bassett** photos Germany.



Close observation in hand while out in natural lighting will usually reveal exactly what pattern is being masked by spread factor. The coarse spread granules tend to show through even the homo covering of the condensed smooth spread granules. Even if some specimens did have a new "Coarse" spread factor over the entire bird , I am not sure how we could test or prove that we have something different from the normal concentrated "smooth" spread.

We may have to go to one of the other two major base pigments to prove that point. As we know spread factor and "smooth" spread granules produces a completely "ASH" phenotype which is the colour of the tail band on ash-Reds. So comparatively, a Coarse spread spread-factor bird should be a deep brick red all over. We know that such birds do exist but we may have been incorrectly describing them genetically. If it proved possible that this is spread factor coarse spread granules, then the trick would be to transfer it to blue/Black , and brown/Chocolate .

This issue will be one page short due to the fact that I was not expecting to combine it with the September Issue and ran out of time..

I am very hesitant to also announce that this may well be the last Issue of this long running Newsletter. The work involved, plus the lack of supporting material makes it extremely time consuming and stressful to keep it going . This is all further problematic when the people who run the Internet keep changing the system in the name of making things safer and easier but for people like me who do not deal well with a lot of Bells & Whistles ever changing, it just adds frustration. They constantly do up-dates , and those have made it just about impossible for me to get any of my saved photos when I need them for a Newsletter. It takes a great deal of added steps to try to make things work. The same has happened with my mailing lists which have been messed up a number of times just by them changing how we can access the Email Box and keep a filing system that works well. Probably many of you would not find it as confusing , but I am not a computer wiz . Again I thank Jith and Shoibal for their support and help.

SO, if you do not hear from me again , you will know that I have retired from this venture and perhaps even facebook . It has been rewarding and I wish all of you the best! ~ Bob.