

Owls 001



Owls 002



Owls 003

Pictures sent by Mick Bassett through Joe Powers

PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

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You go girl: sent by JDF

One day a 6 yr old girl was sitting in a classroom. The teacher was trying to explain evolution. She ask a boy, "Tommy do you see the tree outside?" He said yes. She asked, "Do you see the grass outside?" He said yes. She said, "Go outside and look up and see if you can see the sky. He said ok and returned saying yes, he saw the sky. She said, "Did you see God up there?" He said no. She said "That's my point. We can't see God because he isn't there. Possibly he doesn't exist."

The 6 yr old girl spoke up and wanted to ask the boy some questions. The teacher agreed and the little girl asked Tommy, "Do you see the tree outside?" He said yes. The little girl said "Do you see the grass outside?" He said yessss! She asked, "Did you see the sky?" He said yessss! The little girl asked, "Do you see the teacher?" He said yes. She asked, "Do you see her brain?" He said no. She said, "Then according to what we were taught today in school, she possibly may not even have one!"

TERRY WARD EMAILS

Paul, I forgot to mention I added brown into my black Starlings too. The are a nice dark chocolate brown. If those Starlings aren't Spread, whatever makes them solid colored works with blue and brown.

I noticed something else odd, I had a couple of Ashred Pheasants, and their tails were solid red, not gray. I crossed one on to one of my blue Pheasants to check and see if what I had was really Ash red, and not rec. red. Acted like a sex-linked dominant, and I never seen rec. red in my pheasants anyway. I do believe it to be ashred. My pheasants have been crossed with my Starlings, and I'm wondering if they are carrying this possible Spread imitator, and if it does funny things with ashred too. Have you ever crossed an Ashred to a Starling before?

Tech Support: "OK. At the bottom left hand side of your screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?" Customer: "Wow! How can you see my screen from there?"

TERRY EMAILS AGAIN (excerpts): 24mar'06

Sorry the photos aren't the greatest, I didn't have anyone to hold him for me. You can easily see that he is Ashred, it is more apparent than I thought, but his tail and flights are pretty red. You can see he is het for blue. Maybe he is Indigo? He was solid red as a youngster, maybe a little gray in the tail and flights, but the Ts didn't show until the molt. I have rollers marked like this, one is brown and she is Indigo.

You know something, I had totally disagreed that penciled was a partial dominant for a long time until I suddenly raised a het. penciled that was real obvious that it was penciled. I talked to Dal Stone and he said he can usually tell if a bird is het. for penciled.

I have a pair of Stellar Pouters that are the deepest rec. red I ever saw in any pigeon. I want to add Brander to them. I picked up a pair at the National.



[sorry, the color is way off but I could not correct it. The color is rec. red.]

EDITOR:

Terry, I feel confident that the red Suabians are not Ash but are rec. red. I have reared a number of them and though some show some lighter marking in the tail, they are still rec. red. You stated that they were solid red as youngsters, which further indicates that they are rec. red. When you put Ash red into Brander bronze it comes out white ribbontail. And the Starlings are Spread. I rear them in Black, Chocolate, Blue, Silver, reduced and recessive red.

Phone Directory inquiry: Caller, "I'd like the number of the Argo Fish Bar, please."

Operator: "I'm sorry, there is no listing for that, are you sure you have the spelling correct?" Caller: "Well, it used to be called the Bargo Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off."

Caller inquiring about legal requirements while traveling in Europe: "If I register my car in France and then take it to England, do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?"

Tech support: "I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop." Customer: "Okay." "Did you get a pop-up menu?" Customer: "No." "Okay, right-click again do you see the menu?" Customer: "No." "Okay, can you tell me what you have done up to this point?" Customer: "Sure, you told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.

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MICK BASSETT SENDS:

Pictures of some nice red breasted Krasnodars. Sure are pretty. These come out of the nest a deep recessive red and molt to this phenotype. Preliminary tests show that these are on an Ash red base.

Note the nice ribbontails in the next volare.



GARRY GLISSMEYER EMAILS 23mar'06

Paul, some months back I queried of you, wondering if you had any experience (or knowledge) about why milky made feathers soft, particularly tail feathers. As I recall, you responded and said you were not aware that it did.

So, we in the Indian [Fantail] fancy have been puzzling and wondering what is going on with our breed, wondering why so many of our milky birds have soft feathering, and narrow feathers (tail in particular)

Then, today, on the Indian Fantail site, Lonny Zillmer, breeder up in Wisconsin, posted a comment about his dad's rollers and the milky problem. Thought you might find it of interest.

Go to PHOTOS and look for a recent posting, showing a homozygous Indigo youngster titled: 4wk homozygous Indigo.

MY REPLY – I do not have that one yet. At least I cannot find it.

Samsung Electronics caller, "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"

Operator: "I'm sorry but I don't understand who you are talking about." Caller: "On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning."

GARRY:

Paul, here is Lonny's comment (I thought you might find it of interest.)
The picture of the bird posted had absolutely nothing to do with the below observation, other than some were saying the homozygous Indigo was beautiful when further modified with milky.

So it seems other breeds, or instances, have been affected by the milky gene in the tail feathers. Interesting!

How would one even go about studying the cause/effect of such a thing?

Lon Zillmer – Back when my father and I were flying competition rollers, he started breeding these birds he called “Lavender strawberry lace” which was just Spread and milky on an Ash red pheno, and they were the prettiest birds in the kit box until it came time to train them in the air. Over the course of the summer he brought me 9 of them. The trouble was the milky would soften up the tail feather so much that when they went to put on the brakes and come out of the roll, there were no brakes and they'd roll down so hard they looked like a feather pillow explosion. By the end of the summer there were none. Once he bred the milky back out they weren't as pretty, but they did lose that tendency to explode.

EDITOR:

Thanks, Garry. The reply by Zillmer makes it pretty clear that there is a tie in with milky producing “soft” feathers in the tail. I only have two milky birds at present and they are both males. I will check them out and see if the feathers seem different than non-milky. Thanks for this lead. Some things are there all the time but we either don't see them or just ignore them and this seems to be one of those things.

It is information like this that helps promote knowledge in the field of pigeon genetics as well as practical pigeon biological information.

[At the time of writing this newsletter, I have quite a few milky Arabian T's. I went to the loft just now and compared the milky and non-milky tail feathers. At first, I saw no difference. Then I pulled tail feathers and compared them. The milky feathers were on an average 20% narrower than non-milky, slightly shorter, and the feather shaft was noticeably narrower ventrally on the milky.]

CHARLES KHATER WRITES:25mar'06

Years ago I purchased a lot of birds from the late Rick Orr. He told me that he gets the pure white bars from breeding [Dom.]Opal to [Dom.]Opal. I know that it is a lethal factor but it seems to work. Also Indigo combined with [Dom.] Opal will give you a lightened effect on the whole plumage.

When I was breeding Rick Orr's opals together, I would get some blue bars, these were always very dark blues (Dirty gene?).

Last year I mated a blue white bar hen to a beautiful CBS cock and they gave me a very white bar young cock. That is one of the very few times I have been able to get white bars out of an opalXnon-opal cross. Most of the time the opals out of that kind of mating gives me pink or bronze bars. [The opals Charles is talking about here are Dominant opals].

EDITOR:

I was at an animal ranch a while back and was looking at the emu, ostrich, and rhea birds. I especially looked at their feathers and saw that although the feathers were differently colored and different lengths, they all had one thing in common. The feathers were simple without barbules and hooks. Here is the tip of one of the body feathers.



JOE POWERS EMAILS: 2apr'06

My horseman Pouters:



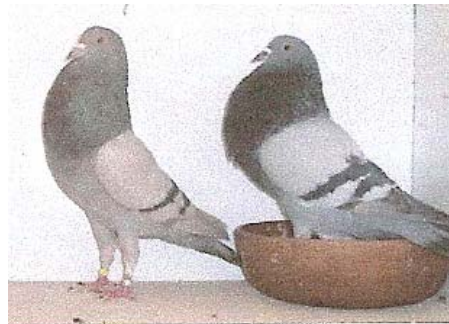
Blue bar wh flt X Boyd brown
Bar Grizzle hen



Sibling pair of Grizzles.



Grizzle cock het brown X
Silver bar hen out of D'olier pair



Paddy Moran pair



unmated Grizzle bar hen
Grizzle hen again – dam to the Blues above.



the Boyd brown bar

EDITOR:

Joe, those sure do not show as much Grizzle as one might expect except the unmated Grizzle hen.

MIKE BASSETT EMAILS:4apr'06 excerpts

Krasnodarer Tumbler [see picture on page 508]

This striking breed comes from north of the Black Sea region known as Krasnodar. Known since the 1700's the breed has been standardized in reds in Germany since 2000. During courtship they posture with the wings held high giving a dramatic picture. It is an excellent duration highflyer which twists, tumbles, and stalls in flight. The eyes are pearl with slight red veining allowed. Young birds are red with irregular white feathers, it is not until the second molt, rarely the first, that the typical markings may be seen. Some, especially females, never do molt to the proper coloration.

FRED LOCKE WRITES: 7apr.'06

There has been a lot of discussion on the West family site about kites and almonds. I raised West almonds about 20 years ago and had good success with the standard kite of that time period. (Mostly bronze through the flights and muffs). Now they are breeding kites that are almost completely bronze. I tried to get the guys to explain to me why there is so much bronze now but genetically they had no answer. One said he crossed a yellow agate to a kite and that improved the bronze. They also talked about breeding out the blue but I explained to them that it is a blue based bird. Their comment was to do a better job of covering up the blue with more bronze. So here are a couple questions: What is an agate??? Is it just a recessive yellow or red that comes out of an almond kite breeding or is it genetically different than a recessive yellow or red??? Is an agate always mottled or rose wing?? If they are using a yellow in the kite almond breeding, does this mean they will get dilute almonds and kites?? I think a dilute kite would be a sulfur. What would a dilute almond be called??? What is the makeup of a Deroy??? Are torts just a kite with grizzle??? What causes good ground color in an almond and what causes good break??? I'm looking to get back into these colors but I'm trying to understand the reasons the guys are doing what they are doing. Most of these gentlemen are not the standard genetic nuts. Just good West breeders. Thanks for your time.

EDITOR:

Good to hear from you. I will try to field your questions. First, yes, you were using kite bronze on a blue base, usually T-pattern. The reason the ones they are using are much more bronze is the addition of recessive red. In the case of the yellow being used, yes, that adds another dimension letting there be lighter feathers interspersed among the full color.

What is an agate? The term has several meanings according to who is using it and how they are using it. First, those that are phenotypically rec. red are called an agate. The same for the dilute (rec yellow). Is an agate always mottled or rose wing? Such birds are called that by some. Actually, genetically the rose wing is a rec. red het whiteside. But Almond breeders usually refer to any rec. red as agate (except Deroy).

If they are using a yellow in the kite almond breeding, they can get dilute almonds or dilute kites. And yes, a dilute kite is sulfur colored and some are just called kite by almond and tippler breeders. What would a dilute almond be called? – It would be called a dilute almond- however since the almond is linked to blue, it would be rare to get a dilute almond (you would have to get a crossover). Usually what you get are dilute hens but not dilute almonds. I think I have only seen one dilute almond and that was an Indian Fantail.

The make up of a Deroy is homo. rec. red and hetero almond. These look like rec. reds but usually have a lighter underside. Occasionally they will develop a few flecks in the neck area as they age.

Torts are usually anything blue with bronze tints (at least in Roller breeders). To me a tort is a blue base bronze undergrizzle. Torts may also be grizzle along with the blue base bronze undergrizzle. Many “torts” are pied, bronze and undergrizzle.

Good ground color in an almond is produced by blue, homo T-pattern, dirty, sooty, homo kite, and het. rec. red. Other darkening factors may be present. Break is caused by the gene Stipple preventing uniform color penetration. The effect of St decreases with age, so the ‘break’ increases and the bird gets darker and darker reaching the pinnacle of “classical almond” at about three years of age and becoming more flecked as they age. Some darken up quicker than others and some darken up slower. This can be selected for. Characteristically an almond gets darker because the St gene is unstable and the bird is reverting toward T-pat Kite which is a near black bird usually with a bronze tint. Almond bar blue base will revert to blue barred after about 8 -10 years of age but will still breed almonds. Hope this helps.



A representative young Almond

SENT BY JDF



A representative three year old Almond

Wife: “What are you doing?” Husband: “Nothing.” Wife: “Nothing...? You’ve been reading our marriage certificate for an hour!” Husband: “I was looking for the expiration date.”

Wife: “Do you want dinner?” Husband: “Sure, what are the choices.” Wife: “Yes and no.”

A newly married man asked his wife, “Would you have married me if my father hadn’t left me a fortune?” She replied sweetly, “I’d have married you **NO MATTER WHO LEFT YOU A FORTUNE!**”

SENT BY JDF:

A man was flying from Seattle to San Francisco. Unexpectedly, the plane stopped in Sacramento. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft, the plane would re-board in 50 minutes.

Everyone got off the plane except one gentleman who was blind. The man had noticed him as he walked by and could tell he was blind because his seeing eye dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of him throughout the flight.

He could also tell he had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached him and called him by name saying, "Keith, we're in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?"

The blind man replied, "No thanks, but maybe my dog would like to stretch his legs."

Picture this: All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a seeing eye dog! The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines. This is a true story, so you see things are not always what they seem.

ART EMAILS:16apr'06

I have a cock bird from an andalusian mother and a medium check blue father who comes from a long line of flying rollers. My guess is that these rollers are just blue/black and ash red without any/many color modifiers. The mother, I believe is an opal...I guess dominant opal. The mother's side produced yellow, andalusian, a bird that looked very brown and had long down as a baby but did not fade, [and] a phenotype that looks just like a blue barless. I would guess that there was more than one modifier from the mother's side.

The cock looks a lot like the one on page 63 of Paul Gibson's new book. Paul calls that one Shakhsharli bronze (Sh), but neither parent here was even remotely similar. Does that should rule out a dominant gene? Also, the only bronze that I have shows it self near the center vanes of the feathers.

It is a very pretty bird and I am breeding it to a hen that is related to his checker father(grandmother). Unfortunately I don't have his mom any more.

I would like to stabilize the color in a strain. But other than breeding a bunch of squeakers and hoping for another one, is there any other thing I could do? So far I have had 5 babies out of him and they were all medium check blues. I will try mating back some of the most likely daughters to him. Thanks for any thoughts.

*Why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a penny for your thoughts?"
Where does the extra penny go?*

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?

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EDITOR:

Hi Art, this is a very common color morph of the Dom. opal pattern. It is a dominant gene but the phenotypes are quite varied with Od, from white to dark bronze and even hard to find. It is distinctly not one of the common bronzes (at least I don't consider it one). Fifty percent of your young should be Od from this mating. And, if you like this expression, then mate him to a dark t-pattern.



Od T-pattern blue

LARRY LONG EMAILS:

I have a friend that has one rosy neck hen roller. Is it Archangel Bronze, Dominant opal and Toy Stencil? He has this "I have 3 cocks available recessive red that is supposed to carry dilute, a black, and an opal bar." I recommended the recessive red to



breed to it. How wrong am I?

EDITOR:

My rosy necks are reduced, Archangel bronze, and may or may not be toy stencil. However, this bird appears to be Archangel bronze, Dom. opal and reduced blue. I agree with you that he should use the rec. red as the mate.

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride; he sticks his head out the window?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They are both dogs!

GARRY GLISSMEYER EMAILS 19apr'06

Hello Paul and Ron: This bird has show up on our Indian web site. Posted by Rip Ripple. He is a bit unsure of the parents, but says the mom is a Kite and the dad is an Ash red. Could be a spread ash, or would have to be, I should say.

The darker nest mate is obviously BA,S – but I'm puzzled by the white little bugger. I want to say it is a homozygous Indigo, but couldn't be from the parents. Rip said he has had two clutches from this pair and both times he has had a "white" and a "red" baby, like these. Lynn, Rip wrote me an email this morning about these. Any thoughts?



reduced spread ash



reduced spread ash and spread ash babies

EDITOR

I believe the bird is a reduced Spread Ash red and a female. I rear reduced birds and the recessive red spread reduced Starlings look much like this. I believe roller breeders refer to this coloration as pink lace. The lacing may disappear when it molts.

LYNN KRAL PUT THIS PICTURE ON THE INDIAN FANTAIL SITE:

It was floor egg and appears to be dominant opal grizzle. She says the wing molted whiter. Very pretty phenotype.

If Wyle E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?

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DALE ASKS:

Have you ever had a squab with white down instead of yellow in your milky matings? I have a friend who is raising milkies in Giants and he has 2 squabs in the nest. One is a typical reduced with short down and almost naked, the other is normal down but white instead of yellow.

MICHAEL SPADONI REPLIES: 24apr'06

I have had white down in the nest many times. I tracked it once to see if there was any difference in the feathers to its yellow downed sibling but found no difference. I have also had very rich yellow that I thought may ultimately result in deeper coloured feathers. I didn't record results so can't give a definite answer.

I did raise a black Nun that had dark gray down on the areas of the markings (head, rump, and wing tips), the rest of the body was a very pale yellow near white down. See the picture. Nuns are homo Dirty for the most part & this one ended up with a very intense rich colour with lots of sheen in the feathers.



EDITOR:

I have reared young that started out near white, yellow, and even orange down and they all ended up similar in feather color. As a couple others have said, the density of down and the length of down are quite variable with some coloration. Also the skin color of the squab can vary from black through shades of gray to bright pink. A lot of data needs to be collected before we will know how many of these variations in the squab predict the phenotype or the genotype of the adult.

I would like to conclude this issue with a question to you readers. Many of you know that Dick Cryberg has accused me of not following the Rules of Nomenclature in my writings. He is correct. I have not always followed the rules. I talked this over with Doc Hollander on several occasions and he understood what I was doing and why.

The rules state that recessive phenotypes should be given a lower case symbol and dominant and semidominant phenotypes should be given a symbol starting with an upper case letter. The rules also say that all mutant phenotypes should begin with a lower case letter unless they are a proper name. For the purpose of effective communication and understanding, I capitalize the first letter of the dominant and semidominant phenotypes so that they correspond with the symbol. Thus when I write Grizzle, I am referring to Grizzle and when I write grizzle, I am not referring to Grizzle but to grizzle coloration.

Which way would you prefer that I use????