

Helmet Happenings



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From the Editor

Well show season is finally here. Another national young bird show has come and gone. It was good to see the other members and their birds again. We had 24 exhibitors and 128 birds. Congratulations to Steve Petito, Don Phy and John Hoekstra on their wins. All the results are in this newsletter.

I did buy a couple of birds at Louisville that I thought would help with my breeding program. One was a red hen that was always stationing the way the Helmets are supposed to. She wasn't fully on her toes but hopefully she will help get my reds standing with their eyes over the balls of their feet. I think this is one thing most of us need to improve in our birds. We have had several articles on it and I hear it a lot from other members at the shows. Our helmets stand like DUCKS!!

The National will be our next big show and included within is show information and an entry form. Be sure to get your entries in on time. We all suspect it will be a big show this year. The show hall is in very close proximity to most of the district 10 members (Canada) and most of us plan on going. As you can see from the NYBS exhibitors, District 10 had the most exhibitors there and had 10 birds in the final line up. Giulio Marcoccia had a real good showing with 7 birds in the finals. We will really pump up the numbers and increase the competition at the National. Bring your winter parka. Michigan can be quite cold at that time of year! See you there.



Champion MFC at the National Young Bird Show held in Louisville Kentucky Oct 27, 2007. Red cock bred and owned by Steve Petito.



Champion MFPH at the National Young Bird Show held in Louisville Kentucky Oct 27, 2007. Blue cock bred and owned by Don Phy.



Champion SFC at the National Young Bird Show held in Louisville Kentucky Oct 27, 2007. Red cock bred and owned by John Hoekstra.



Champion MFC muffed at the National Young Bird Show held in Louisville Kentucky Oct 27, 2007. Blue hen bred and owned by John Hoekstra.

AHA Show Report

Show / Club: National Young Bird Show Medium Face Crested
Location: Louisville, KY
Date: October 27, 2007
Judge: Victor Cardillo
District Director: Bob Dunlap in absentia
District: 6 **Event:** National Sectional District
Number Shown: 89 **Total in Event:** 128
Number Exhibitors: 18 **Number Districts:** 9

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	1087	Red	YC	Steve Petito	50.25
2	329	Red	YH	Don Phy	37.69
3	326	Black	YC	Don Phy	30.15
4	2724	Black	YH	Raul Delgado	25.13
5	155	Yellow	YH	Gulilio Marcoccia	20.10
6	126	Yellow	YC	Gulilio Marcoccia	15.08
7	113	Blue	YH	Gulilio Marcoccia	12.56
8	107	Dun	YH	Gulilio Marcoccia	10.05
9	118	AORC	YC	Gulilio Marcoccia	7.54
10	123	Blue	YC	Gary Parsons	5.03
11	158	Dun	YC	Gulilio Marcoccia	2.51
12	79	AORC	YH	Gulilio Marcoccia	2.01
13	1352	Silver	YH	Paul McRae	1.51
14	1344	Silver	YC	Paul McRae	1.51
	917	Red	YC	Steve Petitto	1.51

Brought back
 2nd to
 champion
 Junior bird not
 listed above

<u>Exhibitors:</u>	<u>Districts:</u>	<u>Exhibitors:</u>	<u>Districts:</u>
Tony Patti	12	Victor Cline	14
Raul Delgado	12	Steve Combs	7
S&S Lofts	8	Bob Bollinger	7
Don Phy	4	Gary Parsons	10
Paul McRae	10	John Hoekstra	10
Steve Petitto	5	Harold Strawniak	7
John Raposo	5	Leonard Kuzminski	6
Donna Johnson	3	Gulilio Marcoccia	10
Bob Lein	11	Randy Kopp	10



AHA Show Report

Show / Club: National Young Bird Show Medium Face Plainhead
Location: Louisville, KY
Date: October 27, 2007
Judge: Victor Cardillo
District Director: Bob Dunlap in absentia
District: 6 **Event:** National Sectional District
Number Shown: 35 **Total in Event:** 128
Number Exhibitors: 13 **Number Districts:** 5

Place	Band	Color	Class	Exhibitor / Breeder	Points
1	332	Blue	YC	Don Phy	30.25
2	82	Dun	YC	Giulio Marcollia	22.69
3	852	Yellow	YH	John Hoekstra	18.15
4	116	Black	YH	Gary Parsons	15.13
5	309	Red	YH	Victor Cardillo	12.10
6	810	Red	YC	John Hoekstra	9.08
7	313	Yellow	YC	Victor Cardillo	7.56
8	2653	Blue	YH	Wes Pfadenhauer	6.05
9	311	Ash Red	YH	Victor Cardillo	4.54
10	1894	Silver	YH	David Henshaw	3.03
11	410	Silver	YC	Harold Strawniak	1.51
12	431	AORC	YC	Harold Strawniak	1.21
13	2472	Ash Red	YC	Charles Dwight	0.91
14	1891	Ash Yellow	YC	David Henshaw	0.91
15	2470	AORC	YH	Charles Dwight	0.91
	501	Blue	YC	John Hoekstra	Brought back 2nd to champion; Junior bird not listed above
	1903	Blue	YH	Kayla Flinn	

<u>Exhibitors:</u>	<u>Districts:</u>	<u>Exhibitors:</u>	<u>Districts:</u>
Don Phy	4	Gary Parsons	10
David Henshaw	6	John Hoekstra	10
Wes Pfadenhauer	3	Victor Cardillo	7
Harold Strawniak	7	Charles Dwight	8
Randy Koop	10	Giulio Marcollia	10
Paul McRae	10	Kayla Flinn	10
Joe Granger	6		



AHA Show Report

Show / Club: National Young Bird Show Medium Face Crested Muffed
Location: Louisville, KY
Date: October 27, 2007
Judge: Victor Cardillo
District Director: Bob Dunlap in absentia
District: 6 **Event:** National Sectional District
Number Shown: 2 **Total in Event:** 128
Number Exhibitors: 2 **Number Districts:** 2

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	263	Blue	YH	John Hoekstra	
2	931	Yellow	YC	Jacob Shuster	

<u>Exhibitors:</u>		<u>Districts:</u>		<u>Exhibitors:</u>	
Jacob Shuster		6		John Hoekstra	
				<u>Districts:</u>	
				10	

AHA Show Report

Show / Club: National Young Bird Show Short Face Crested
Location: Louisville, KY
Date: October 27, 2007
Judge: Victor Cardillo
District Director: Bob Dunlap in absentia
District: 6 **Event:** National Sectional District
Number Shown: 2 **Total in Event:** 128
Number Exhibitors: 1 **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	822	Red	YC	John Hoekstra	
2	823	Yellow	YH	John Hoekstra	

<u>Exhibitors:</u>		<u>Districts:</u>		<u>Exhibitors:</u>	
John Hoekstra		1		John Hoekstra	
				<u>Districts:</u>	
				10	



AHA Show Report

Show / Club: EHPC Fall Show Medium Face Crested
Location: Waynesboro, PA
Date: October 14, 2007
Judge: Victor Cardillo
District Director: Victor Cline
District: 14 **Event:** National Sectional District
Number Shown: 29 **Total in Event:** 40
Number Exhibitors: 5 **Number Districts:** 2

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	1259	Red	OC	Galen Goshorn bred by Bob Bollinger	
2	487	Red	YH	Steve Combs	
3	2718	Red	OH	Galen Goshorn bred by Raul Delgado	
4	1436	Black	YH	Galen Goshorn	
5	1420	Yellow	OC	Bob Bollinger	
6	1260	Yellow	OH	Bob Bollinger	
7	488	Red	YC	Steve Combs	
8	1715	Blue	YH	Bob Bollinger	
9	1407	Silver	OC	Galen Goshorn	
10	2965	Black	OH	Victor Cline	
11	3444	Ash Yellow	OH	Galen Goshorn bred by Bob Bollinger	
12	146	Blue	YC	Galen Goshorn	
13	1716	Dun	YH	Bob Bollinger	
14	1431	Black	YC	Galen Goshorn	
15	2967	Black	OC	Victor Cline	
	1826	Red	OC	Steve Combs	Brought back 2nd to champion

<u>Exhibitors:</u>		<u>Districts:</u>		<u>Exhibitors:</u>	
Victor Cline		14		Steve Combs	
Galen Goshorn		7		Steve Brockett	
				Bob Bollinger	
				7	

AHA Show Report

Show / Club: EHPC Fall Show Medium Face Plainhead
Location: Waynesboro, PA
Date: October 14, 2007
Judge: Victor Cline
District Director: Victor Cline
District: 14 **Event:** National Sectional District
Number Shown: 10 **Total in Event:** 40
Number Exhibitors: 2 **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	1261	Yellow	OH	Bob Bollinger	
2	313	Yellow	YC	Victor Cardillo	
3	1423	Blue	OH	Bob Bollinger	
4	3449	Yellow	OC	Bob Bollinger	
5	311	Ash Red	YH	Victor Cardillo	
6	305	Red	YC	Victor Cardillo	
7	309	Red	YH	Victor Cardillo	
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<u>Exhibitors:</u>		<u>Districts:</u>		<u>Exhibitors:</u>	
Bob Bollinger		7		Victor Cardillo	
				7	

AHA Show Report

Show / Club: EHPC Fall Show Short Face Crested
Location: Waynesboro, PA
Date: October 14, 2007
Judge: Victor Cline
District Director: Victor Cline
District: 14 **Event:** National Sectional District
Number Shown: 1 **Total in Event:** 40
Number Exhibitors: 1 **Number Districts:** 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Exhibitor / Breeder</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	914	Yellow	OH	Steve Brockett	
---	---	---	---	---	---
<u>Exhibitors:</u>		<u>Districts:</u>		<u>Exhibitors:</u>	
Steve Brockett		14			

CHOOSING JUDGES

By Toni Patti

I felt it was important to write this short article. Each year we receive a nominations sheet for National judges. This is good and I don't ever want to see it change. Some clubs are much less democratic in their method of choosing judges. I believe however, that there is a flaw in our selection process. Everyone is able to nominate people for all the varieties. This should not be! If one does not raise a particular variety, he should not have a say in who judges them. We need to see to it that the people who are showing a variety have the input and not someone who is not affected by the outcome.

If this philosophy is not adopted as a rule, I think it should at least be an unwritten rule and we should be reminded of it each year....Tony Patti

District 7 Report

By Bob Bollinger

The shows are finally starting to ramp up here in the East. I have only been able to make a few shows because of work and travel commitments. While I hear that the number of birds shown are down, people seem to be having a great time. Personally, I had the worst year that I have ever had raising pigeons. It turns out that PMV hit my youngsters and the overall health of the loft deteriorated. I always vaccinate my birds but I must have purchased a carrier last year. I lost most of my youngsters before their vaccinations took effect. My old birds took less losses but it was a long road to a fully healthy loft. In the end I only have 1 YB MFP and 4 YB MFCs to show this year.

District 14 started their show season quite nicely. Victor Cline is to be commended for all his efforts to call people and arrange a nice meet at the EHPC fall show. Victor Cardillo traveled 3 hours to judge the show and everyone had a great time. Congratulations are in order for Galen Goshorn and Steve Combs for their champion and reserve champion wins with MFCs. Bob Bollinger won champion MFP with Victor Cardillo taking reserve. The show results are included in this bulletin. The host club for the show (EHPC) always has a parade of champions to select the best birds overall in the show. The MFC and MFP helmets took first and third places respectively in the parade. What great exposure for the breed!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the NYBS, Pageant, and the National.

District 1 Report
By Karl Mike LaCom

In less than 3 months District 1 looks forward to hosting what promises to be a great Western Sectional meet at the Pageant in San Bernardino, Ca. The new judging area and lights are ready for the plainheads and expected 200 MFC's! The MFC's should keep Bob Bollinger busy for Friday's judging!

Saturday will also be exciting as our (2) auctions will be held that morning before the late afternoon checkout. Personally, after experiencing my first Futurity Auction in Salt Lake City two years ago I am already WORRIED about the possibilities!

Hope to see you in November!

AHA President Resigns

On Oct 2 President Bob Dunlap informed me that he is resigning as AHA President and District 6 Director.

Dennis Bray, Western Vice President has graciously accepted the post as AHA President. Thank you to Dennis for taking on this important task for our club.....Charles Dwight

Pigeon Canker ¹

G.D. Butcher, D.V.M., Ph.D.²

Trichomoniasis (pigeon canker) is the most common disease of pigeons. Approximately 80 percent of pigeons are infected with this organism. The organism is a microscopic flagellate classified as a protozoan. Different strains, *Trichomonas gallinae* or *Trichomonas columbae*, vary greatly in their ability to cause disease. The disease occurs worldwide in warm climates or during warm weather. It may occur at any time of the year in commercial squab operations. Adult pigeons frequently carry the trichomonads without showing signs of disease. When the adult pigeon is stressed, however, the organisms may multiply profusely. A mild infection can then turn into a serious condition. Stresses include other diseases, parasitic infestations, or overbreeding.

Affected pigeons in a loft may cease to feed, become listless and ruffled in appearance, and lose weight before death. Pigeons often have difficulty when closing their mouths because of lesions in the oral cavity. They drool and make repeated swallowing movements. Watery eyes may be apparent in birds with lesions located in the sinuses or tissues around the eyes. Diarrhea, increased water intake, and respiratory distress may be noted. Birds may die

suddenly due to suffocation if the lesion blocks the opening of the trachea. The disease becomes more severe in birds that are noticeably emaciated. The thin weakened bird loses the inclination to fly and will "take to the wing" reluctantly.

Pigeons that are carriers often transmit trichomonads to their young during feeding. The disease is common in 10- to 24-day-old squabs. As a method of feeding their young, pigeons regurgitate the sloughed, fat laden cells lining the crop (crop milk) into the oral cavity of the squabs. If squabs are infected with only small numbers of the protozoan, they may develop immunity which is maintained by constant low-level exposure. If squabs are infected with large numbers, a severe outbreak may occur and endanger the entire young generation.

Lesions of canker are usually most extensive in the mouth, pharynx, or esophagus but may occur at other sites including the crop, proventriculus, or sinuses. The infection is promoted by minor injuries to these tissues. The spelts and awns from grains can easily cause small lesions. The lesions first appear as small, circumscribed, and elevated areas on the surface of the oral mucosa. They may be surrounded by a thin red zone. The lesions may increase in size and coalesce. The build-up of white to yellow/tan caseous material may be sufficiently extensive to partially or completely block the lumen of the esophagus. Organisms may also enter the body through the unhealed navel of squabs. In this form, necrotic tumor-like swellings occur under the skin adjacent to the navel. Lesions can spread to various internal organs, particularly the liver. Large, well-defined, and yellowish areas of hepatic necrosis may be found on necropsy examination.

Typical signs and lesions are very suggestive of the disease. Demonstration of large numbers of organisms in the oral fluids is usually considered enough evidence for diagnosis. The small plaques in the mucosa should be differentiated from pox, vitamin-A deficiency, or candidiasis.

Since the organism is transmitted from parent to squab, every effort should be made to treat or remove infected birds from the flock. If possible, depopulate at regular intervals and thoroughly clean and disinfect the premises.

In addition, the following preventive measures should help: practice a high standard of sanitation at all times; do not add birds to an established flock since they may be carriers (if birds are added, quarantine for 30 days); and provide a source of clean, fresh water eliminating all sources of stagnant water.

The antiprotozoal drugs which were used successfully in treating this disease, such as dimetridazole and metronidazole, have been removed from the market. Experimentally, a number of drugs are active against trichomonas infection. Use of 0.1% copper sulfate (100 mg per 100 ml of drinking water), 0.5% hydrochloric acid or 0.02% mercuric chloride (sublimite) is worth investigating. The optimum time to treat breeding pairs is at the initiation of egg production.

Footnotes

1. This document is VM75, one of a series of the Veterinary Medicine-Large Animal Clinical Sciences Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and

Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date May, 1996. Reviewed May, 2003. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. G.D. Butcher, D.V.M., Ph.D., professor and avian veterinarian, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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Sex-Linkage by Frank Mosca

Sex!! Neat stuff, huh? Especially if we talk about pigeons, because pigeons are different in many ways from mammals. First, pigeons have no external sex organs so it's often difficult to tell male from female -- but you knew that already. Even more interesting, at least from the bird's point of view, is that male pigeons have two XX chromosomes and females only one. Females also carry a little slug of material in addition to their X chromosome. That little slug of material can be passed on to an egg, but for most purposes we can ignore it because it seems to carry very little information of interest to us.

All chromosomes, including these X chromosomes, carry information on them which the bird's body uses like the commands of a computer program. This information tells the pigeon's body to produce feet, feathers, eyes, pigment -- in short, everything that goes into making a bird the animal it is. Some of this information is stuff that we as breeders want, and some is stuff which we don't. The stuff we want might include instructions to grow feathers which curl on the wing

shield, or to produce pearl eyes instead of orange ones. Some stuff we don't want might include instructions to grow extra toes or crest or webs on the feet.

If all chromosomes carry information, what's so special about the X chromosomes? They're unique because they're the ones which determine sex -- gender, if you prefer. Do you see where this might lead? If we could somehow peer into a fertilized egg and see whether it had two XX chromosomes or just one X chromosome and that little slug of material, we could instantly tell whether the young to be hatched from that egg would be a male or a female (cock or hen). Well, we can't quite do that yet - at least, not without destroying the egg -- but we can do some quite amazing things with this particular piece of information. There are certain mutations, i.e., changes from the normal information associated with the wild pigeon, which have been found to sit on these X chromosomes.

Let's suppose for the moment that one of these mutations can only show it exists (perhaps by changing the color of the feathers of the bird) when it is the only information in the egg. If the normally seen wild-type pigeon information is also present, it will override any instructions from the mutation. Remember, the mutation we're discussing is on the X chromosome.

If the mutation happens to be on an X chromosome in an egg which has only one X chromosome, then it must obviously change the resulting bird's color. I say obviously because the mutation is the only information available for the bird's body to work with. There's not another X chromosome there to carry any competing information. Just as obviously, the bird hatched from this egg will be a hen because it has only one X chromosome.

On the other hand, if this mutation is in an egg with two X chromosomes and only one of them has the mutation while the other has the normal (wild-type) information, then the mutation will remain hidden to us. The resulting pigeon, necessarily a cock because it has two X chromosomes, will show what we consider to be the normal, wild pigeon-type color. However, the mutation is in no way destroyed! It is merely hidden.

Now suppose, there is a second mutation - also on an X chromosome. This mutation has no relation to the first mutation, and, in fact, may not even be in the same bird as the first one. This mutation is different than the first we discussed because it codes information which can override that provided by the wild-type pigeon. That means, no matter what egg it shows up in, whether an egg with one X chromosome, or one with two, we will be able to see its effect. You've just learned sex-linkage! See, that wasn't so hard. Let's try a few real-life examples to explain it further.

Let's take a brown cock, any pattern, mated to a blue hen. Brown is a sex-linked recessive mutation. Don't panic at the terminology. We've already described it. Recessive simply means that in the presence of the normal information provided by the wild-type, the mutation will not be able to show its action. We'll use the genetic language because it's a shorthand way of saying all of that.

So we have a brown cock which can only produce sperm carrying the mutation for brown on the X chromosome. (Because he's carrying two X chromosomes, each of which carries the mutation for brown on it -- otherwise he wouldn't be the color he is.) We have a hen which can only produce the wild-type information for color -- that's why she's blue -- in her eggs. This wild-type information is designated in genetic shorthand by the symbol \pm . The genetic shorthand symbol for brown is b.

An X chromosome from the cock's sperm and the X from the hen may meet in any particular egg. In that case, we have two X chromosomes in an egg, a cock produced and a youngster hatched which must grow and feather to be a blue. Remember, the mother's wild-type information will, in this case, override the father's recessive information. Please understand!!!! This doesn't mean the hen is somehow stronger or more important than the cock, nor vice versa. It simply means that, in this case, the hen happens to be carrying the information which is acted upon by the youngster's body. Sometimes, the father may carry the information acted upon. That doesn't make him more virile or somehow more studly. It just means he got the information from one of his parents.

Now let's see what happens when one of the cock's sperm which carry that information for brown on the X chromosome meets an egg which contains no X chromosome from the hen but only that little slug of information from her instead. We'll have a hen hatched from the egg. Remember? A hen has only one X chromosome and that little slug of material. She must also be brown since that's the only information her body has available to work with. Do you see what we must have then? All XX eggs are male and all from this mating must produce blue youngsters. All X (plus material slug) eggs must be female and all from this mating must be brown. There you have it! Sex-linkage. You can tell the sex of the young in the nest from about day six or so when their feathers begin to open.

Another example: Suppose the cock is dilute. Since dilution has been found to be a sex-linked recessive mutation, we know both his X chromosomes must have the mutation for dilution (*d*) on them. If he had the information for wild-type coloration on either of the X chromosomes, it would override the information for dilution. Because he does carry the information for dilution on each of his X chromosomes, it means every one of his sperm must also carry the information for dilution. The wild-type hen, however, can only produce eggs with one X chromosome carrying the information for wild-type or eggs carrying that little slug of material. If the cock's sperm thus the X chromosome with dilution on it hits an egg carrying that little slug of material, it will be the only information in the egg and a short-downed, dilute hen will result. Conversely, any sperm hitting an egg with the wild-type information in it from the hen, will result in a two X chromosome embryo - a male, long-downed, wild-type in color, carrying dilution hidden. This mating is even easier to sex than the first one mentioned above since any youngster hatched with long down can be determined instantly at time of hatching, so can any short downed youngster.

I'm going to stop here, but consider for yourself -- what would you get if you mated a blue cock with an ash-red hen? Ash-red is a sex-linked mutation on the X chromosome. Blue is recessive to ash-red. (Actually, it's more correct to say ash-red is dominant to wild-type (blue), since wild-type is our standard, but I'm trying to give you a hint here.) Extra hint: Look back at the brown cock/blue hen mating. Try using this as an example.

If you get that and feel ready for more advanced testing, consider this: (reduced is a recessive mutation located on the X chromosome.) What will you get if you mate a reduced cock (*r*) and a non-reduced (wild-type +) hen? (I'm not even going to suggest that you check out the dilution example above.) How about the reverse of that mating?

(By the way -- I know some people prefer to list avian chromosomes using a different letter arrangement including Z. I've purposely chosen to ignore that symbology for three reasons. 1.) This is not a college level genetics course. 2) Most of what's known about pigeon genetics has been discovered by fanciers using X and XX as

symbols. Any follow up work from here will direct you to such usage. 3) Any non-pigeon geneticist who wants to know about pigeons can come to us and use the symbols as we do. So n'yah!)

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ASH-RED (B^A) by Frank Mosca

The term red as applied to pigeon color is a can of worms. It's used for colors which, while somewhat similar in appearance, are very different genetically. There's no blame attached to anyone for this. After all, breeders described the birds long before genetics was even thought of. However, because fancier names can be somewhat confusing when we talk about reds, I'm going to use the genetic terminology and explain as I go.

First off, we know that the reds we're discussing include shades like brick-red, copper, chestnut, and bronze. Domestic pigeons don't produce scarlet, crimson or carmine. That's not to say all pigeons can't. Many wild fruit doves are colored as flamboyantly as any parrot. Other wild pigeons such as the Bleeding Heart Dove show splotches of brilliant red color. Unfortunately, the pigeons which produce these flaming red colors are only distantly related to our birds, and cannot be crossed to form fertile hybrids with them. So, until we either find an analogous mutation in our own birds, or some gene splicing scientist is able to snip out the information we need from a wild species and bring it across into ours, we're going to have to be satisfied with the reds we do have. Of course, some of those are quite attractive, especially when combined with other modifiers, for example, gimpel bronze, pale, and maybe the whitewing mutation Paul Gibson has found in ash-red gimpels. To see what I mean, take a look at the Arad Pigeon photo that I got from a penpal in Norway. (not shown)

So, what is red in our pigeons? Let's start with the red of the racing homer, the ordinary red of most pigeons. The red you can find in almost any city park. Let's look at it in a barred bird. What do we see? First: the pattern is similar to that of the wild-type blue bar pigeon. The wing bars show on a clear silvery-ashy shield, the tail bar is visible. However, neither wing bars nor tail bar is the same color as it is on a wild blue bar. The wing bar is not black, but rather a brick-red color. The tail bar is also not black, but neither is it brick red. Instead, we find that it has been washed out to an ashy-gray color. We also find the same ashy-gray color on the edges of the wing's flight feathers. Note the flights and tails on the photos above.

It was this duality of action, the reddening of the bars and feather color and the ashy-lightening of the tail bar and flights that led W.F. Hollander to choose the name Ash-red for the mutation which produces this condition. Ash-red is extremely common and found in many breeds, either alone or in combination with other mutations. Its genetic shorthand symbol is B^A but I won't go into the reasons for that designation in this article.

But what is Ash-red? In a wild-type blue bar pigeon, the material that colors the feathers is called melanin. To be more specific, it's actually called eumelanin. This material is laid down in the feathers and is shaped like a rod. The mutation for Ash-red goofs up the instructions in the bird's genetic structure which causes the body to lay down those rod-shaped eumelanin granules. Instead, the body lays down irregularly ball-shaped piles of pigment. You can imagine it as if thin, metal rods were suddenly trampled by a hippopotamus. The long, thin rods are now irregular globs of metal.

While there's actually a chemical change from one melanin type to the other, for our purposes we can just figure the basic coloring material is about the same. In its ball-shaped arrangement, we call the coloring material phaeomelanin. Depending on how phaeomelanin is arranged in the bird's feathers and on its concentration in those feathers, it appears to us either brownish or reddish.

As breeders, we happen to find the color effects pleasing so we keep the mutation around and try to raise more birds carrying it. Since this particular mutation is a sex-linked dominant, that's very easy to do. All we need do to get more Ash-red birds is to pair an Ash-red with any blue/black or brown bird. If one pairs an Ash-red hen with such a cock, all Ash-red youngsters in the nest will be cocks and all non-Ash-red birds will be hens. If one pairs an Ash-red cock with a blue/black or brown hen, one gets Ash-red youngsters of both sexes, as well as other colored young of both sexes if the Ash-red cock happens to be carrying any other color factor (i.e., if it's heterozygous, rather than homozygous, for Ash-red.)

Please note, and this is important, with Ash-red, the bird's pattern is still visible. We can look at an Ash-red bird and see if it's a barless, bar or checker. Unfortunately, we again meet one of those worms caused by the difference between genetic jargon and fancier jargon. What many racing homer breeders call "barless mealy" is almost certainly not a barless pigeon. Rather, it's usually an Ash-red bird, barred or checkered, which happens to also carry a second mutation called Spread.

Spread is a mutation which can basically be considered to take the tail bar color and "spread" it over the entire bird, like an overcoat. Thus, a spread blue pigeon is a black, and a spread brown is self-brown. Because the Ash-red bird has an ashy-tail bar, the Spread mutation reproduces this color over the entire bird. Voila, a "barless" mealy. I say "barless" because the Spread factor usually prevents you from seeing the bars, though they are there, just as you normally don't see the bars in a black, though they, too, are genetically there. True barless birds do exist, by the way, some are even racing pigeons. I have friends who've flown them to all distances.

Other reds known in domestic pigeons are recessive red and the various bronzes. Those, however, are the subject of another article.

ADDENDUM: 10/2006 There is some evidence now available: "Biosynthesis of Eumelanin and Phaeomelanin" by Richard Cryberg, that Ash-red and Brown may not be alleles, but just closely linked. This is still being worked on now and would be an exciting finding if true. The link is to the article at Robert Mangile's site - another excellent place to check out.

Recessive Red by Frank Mosca

Red pigment is red pigment -- Doc Hollander has thunked me over the head about that often enough. Ignoring the bronzes, there are at least two main inheritance pathways for red pigment in pigeons. One is a sex-linked dominant mutation -- Ash-red. This is the common red of the homing pigeon. You can read about it in the Ash-red article already on line. In this article, we discuss the other red -- recessive red. Recessive red is neither sex-linked nor dominant. Instead, it is a recessive autosomal mutation. That means that both cock and hen have to carry two copies of it for it to show itself and that the mutation is carried on chromosomes other than the sex-chromosomes. Recessive red is also epistatic to many all patterns and many other mutations. Epistatis is easy to understand. It's just a term which mean that the particular mutation under discussion can hide other mutations which we would normally expect to see. It differs from dominance in that it is not on the same chromosome as the mutation it hides. For example: checker (chequer) is dominant to barless. Both mutations are on the same chromosome and are alleles, alternatives to each other. A bird carrying a gene for checker and one for barless will be seen as a checker. However, if this same bird also carries two genes for recessive red, it will be seen as a solid brick red colored pigeon. In like manner, if a bird beside it - let's say one which carries brown, Spread, Checker and Indigo also carries two genes for recessive red, we'll see the same thing: a brick red pigeon. A recessive red pigeon can quite literally be almost anything under its coat of recessive red. It's like putting three men in red sweaters -- one may have on a black shirt, one no shirt, one a red shirt, but we can't tell because all we see is the sweater. Similarly, we can have four pigeons in front of us, all recessive red, all appearing the same. That is, they have similar phenotypes. Yet, all may be very different genetically. Recessive red doesn't have it all its own way though. There are some mutations which in turn are epistatic to it - recessive white, e.g. A solid white pigeon may be recessive red under that white and we can't tell. Other mutations interact with recessive red to produce something different enough to be distinguish visually. Almond with recessive red produces a lighter colored pigeon with darkened spots throughout. English Shortface Tumbler breeders call such birds DeRoys and the name has been taken into the terminology of many breeds now. Recessive red mottles seem to be the result of homozygous recessive red interacting with some bronze (Ken Davis is working on this hypothesis at the moment); recessive red with dominant opal gives a somewhat attractive pinkish color. Reduced recessive red also produces a somewhat pinkish bird. Though in both these cases, the "pinkish" term leaves much to the imagination especially for those who hope they're going to see something like a flamingo. Recessive red with recessive opal - I have no idea. I've never seen such a bird. Dilute with recessive red give us recessive yellow, and so on. If you have one recessive red bird and wish to have more like it, simply mate the bird. Take any of its young of the opposite sex and mate it back to the recessive red parent and you should get about 50% recessive red in both sexes. You can also intermate the siblings and get about the same. Now comes the problem. If you're trying for show quality recessive reds, it's not an easy task. Recessive red doesn't usually do a great job covering the blue of the tail and underbody when it's all alone. Most show quality recessive red birds are combinations of bronze, reds, Indigos and any other reddening factors to make each feather of the bird appear a deep chestnut color from beak to tail. Producing such a pigeon is by no means an easy task and it's definitely a tribute to any breeder who can raise one.

**Secretaries Report
By Charles Dwight**

Where is the AHA going? Does anyone care? Of 86 nomination ballots sent out only 5 were returned. One was well past the deadline.

We only have 2 or 3 members who contribute anything. We had a President who has resigned. Our Vice Presidents and District directors are seldom heard from.

We only have a few districts that can get enough birds to have a point show. We cannot get enough birds at our national show to have a point show in all varieties.

We have transformed our Helmets so they cannot feed their young. They show like ducks, not like the perky birds that show up on their toes like they should.

We have put short face beaks on our medium face birds. If you show a bird with a true medium face our judges place it down because the beak is too long.

It is time for us to wake up or there will be no AHA.....Charles Dwight

**Treasurer's Report
March 2007-Sept 2007
By Charles Dwight**

Income

Dues	\$175
Bands	\$131
Band Postage	\$9.50
Non AHA Band Registrations	\$5.00
Total	\$320.50

Expenses

Postage	\$9.01
½ 2008 Bands	\$525.00
Stamps	\$8.34
Bulletin Printing	\$170.51
Bulletin Postage	\$99.21
Total	\$812.07

Totals

March Starting Balance	\$3650.34
Income	\$320.50
Balance	\$3970.84
Expenses	\$812.07
Sept Ending Balance	\$3158.77

2007 A. H. A. Officers

President:

Bob Dunlap
7608 U.S. Hwy. 127
Sherwood, OH 43556
Phone: 419-899-2558
E-Mail: pigeonsbright.net

Eastern Vice President:

Tony Patti
95 River Rd.
Preston, CT 06365-8038
Phone: 860-889-0078
Fax: 860-889-2497
E-Mail:
tony@nepigeonsupplies.com

Central Vice President:

Don Phy
7200 North Martin Luther King
Oklahoma City, OK 73111-8518
Phone: 405-478-2089
E-Mail:

Western Vice President:

Dennis Bray
P.O. Box 211
Lakewood, WA 98259
Phone: 360-652-8788
E-Mail:

Secretary/Treasurer:

Charles Dwight
1093 ST. RT. 101E
Clyde, OH 43410
Phone: 419-547-8184
E-Mail: mrsd@wcnet.org

Publicity Director:

Curtis Oberhansly
PO Box 1452
Boulder, UT 84716
Phone: 435-335-7434
E-Mail: curtiso@hughes.net

Points Director:

Harold Strawniak
1308 Barkley RD.
Portvue, PA 15133
Phone: 412-673-2469

District 1 Director: OPEN

Bulletin Editor:

Paul McRae
943 Dawn Valley Road
RR #2 Tupperville, ON
N0P 2M0 CANADA
Phone: 519-683-1519
E-Mail: paul.mcrae@nav-international.com

District 2 Director:

Henry Ebbelaar
P.O. Box 368
Outlook, WA 98938
Phone: 509-837-3814
E-Mail: hanke@bentonrea.com

District 3 Director:

Lew Wescott
509 12th St.
Sterling, IL 61081-9177
Phone: 815-626-7113
E-Mail: lewisandkathy@essexl.com

District 4 Director:

Don Phy
7200 North Martin Luther King
Oklahoma City, OK 73111-8518
Phone: 405-478-2089

District 5 Director:

Steve Petitto
2139 E. Leewyn Dr.
Sarasota, FL 34240
Phone: 941-343-9598

District 6 Director:

Bob Dunlap
7608 U.S. Hwy. 127
Sherwood, OH 43556
Phone: 419-899-2558
E-Mail: pamerin@SMTc.com

District 7 Director:

Robert Bollinger
15529 Field Stone LN
Stewartstown, PA 17363
Phone: 717-993-0994
E-Mail: RSBollin@aol.com

District 8 Director:

James Jensen
1541 W. Galbraith LN.
Kaysville, UT 84037
Phone: 801-544-9390
E-Mail: jensenkunkel@hotmail.com

District 9 Director:

Pavel Lutsenko
9411 Paisley Dr.
Vernon, BC V1B 2M9 CANADA
Phone: 1-250-542-7650
E-Mail: Helmeteer@gmail.com

District 10 Director:

Paul McRae
RR #2
Tupperville, ON. CANADA
N0P 2M0
Phone: 519-683-1519
E-Mail: paul.mcrae@nav-international.com

District 11 Director:

Jim Bean
7320 Adams St.
Lincoln, NE 68507
Phone: 402-466-3620
E-Mail: husker-helmets@msn.com

District 12 Director:

Raul Delgado
174 3rd ST.
Troy, NY 12180
Phone: 518-272-0413
E-Mail: crownlofts@aol.com

District 13 Director: OPEN

District 14 Director: OPEN

2008 NPA GREAT LAKES GRAND NATIONAL
January 24th-26th

SHOW RULES

1. **Failure to recognize or abide by these show rules will exclude participation and forfeit entry fees.**
2. **ENTRY FEE** is \$5.00 per bird for entries post marked by Saturday December 15, 2007. **LATE ENTRY** is \$6.00 per bird for entries postmarked from December 16, 2007 through Saturday January 5, 2008. No entries will be accepted with a postmark later than Saturday January 5, 2008 (**no exceptions**). No refunds will be made. Make checks and money orders payable to: **Great Lakes Grand National**. No entries will be accepted over the phone. Each individual exhibitor needs to submit his/her own entry form. Please make additional copies of the entry form as needed. Send all entries to the Great Lakes Grand National. Early entries are appreciated. Once entries are submitted, hold all substitutions until check in at the show.
3. **All exhibitors** need to check in at the GLGN desk to get their personal entry list, a map indicating the location of their breeds, and banquet tickets.
4. This show recognizes all seamless bands of a reputable banding organization and approved affiliated clubs. All birds must be seamless banded and within one size for that breed. Please give letters preceding the band number. (ex: ADC 705) when completing the entry form.
5. Reliable and competent judges have been selected by the specialty clubs and their decisions may be appealed only upon written protest to the Executive Committee of the NPA, together with a protest fee of \$25.00, which will be forfeited if the judges decision is sustained. Appeal must be filed within 12 hours of the disputed decision.
6. Each exhibit entered must be the bonafide property of the exhibitor and must be shown in its natural condition. The right is reserved to disqualify all unworthy specimens. Proper trimming and preparation is considered as natural condition.
7. The show management will not be responsible for the loss of birds. However, the best security will be given. Clean water and feed will be provided.
8. An NPA Yearbook listing exhibitor's names and placings to one past half the class will be printed and mailed to all NPA members exhibiting at the show for \$10.00 and a charge of \$15.00 to all others.
9. All birds will be individually cooped.
10. No substitutions will be made prior to check-in to the show. Exhibitors must make all changes on the coop cards and give those changes to the specialty club secretary prior to judging so that appropriate changes can be made on the judging sheets. Open class substitutions will be permitted only when made in the same class, color, age and sex as the original entry. Substitutions shown with specialty clubs will be allowed as the individual specialty club allows.
11. Representatives of the GLGN reserve the right to reject all unhealthy or diseased specimens received for exhibition. If sickness develops, diseased birds will be removed from the show hall at the discretion of the representatives of the GLGN.
12. The NPA Great Lakes Grand National officially opens on Thursday, January 24th at 10:00 AM. Birds may begin to be cooped at NOON on Wednesday, January 23rd. All birds must be cooped **NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 24th, 2008. BIRDS WILL BE RELEASED FROM THE SHOW HALL AT 5:00 PM ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2008** after all exhibitors have verified that all of their birds are in their possession.
13. The number of placing will be determined by the specialty club.

2008 Official Entry Form

2008 NPA GREAT LAKES
GRAND NATIONAL

January 24th, 25th, and 26th
Mount Clemens
MICHIGAN

ENTRY DEADLINE POSTMARKED
Saturday DECEMBER 15, 2007
Entry Fee \$5.00 per Bird

LATE ENTRY DEADLINE POSTMARKED
Saturday JANUARY 5, 2008
Entry Fee \$6.00 per Bird

NOTE: Do not use YEARLING unless your breed specifies
that it judges YEARLING classes.

Exhibitor # _____

Exhibitor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Jr. Exhibitor's Age _____

I make all entries below subject to the rules of the show.

Signature _____

**Please include all sale birds at the bottom of your
entry form and check sale section bird.

Do Not Use	Young Hen	Young Cock	Yearling Hen	Yearling Cock	Old Hen	Old Cock	Sale Section Bird	Breed	Color	Band #
		X						Dragoon	Blue Bar	ADC 705
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										
17										

**Please make a copy of this entry for your own records.

SEND ENTRIES TO:

Great Lakes Grand National
P.O. Box 180823
Utica, MI 48318-0823
Phone: (248) 683-5137
Email:
mail@NPAGreatLakesGrandNational.com

	Quantity	Total
Bird Entries @ \$5.00 per Bird	Birds	
Late Entries @ \$6.00 per Bird	Birds	
Sale Birds @ \$5.00 per Bird	Birds	
NPA Banquet @ \$30.00 per Person	Tickets	
NPA Yearbooks (\$10.00 for NPA Members; \$15.00 for non-members)	Yearbooks	
NPA Annual Membership Dues (\$20.00 Adult; \$5.00 Juniors; \$25.00 Family)		
	TOTAL	
	REMITTANCE	

**Check here if you'll be sending your birds via the US Postal Service _____

National Judges Vote

The following were nominated for judging our National show in Detroit Michigan in January 2007. Please fill out and mail in the ballot below before November 26, 2006. The response was real poor for the nominations. Please make an effort to get your vote in....thank you

Mail to:

Charles Dwight
1093 ST. RT. 101E
Clyde, OH 43410

Acclaimed

Medium Face Plainhead - Dennis Bray
Muffed - Dennis Bray
Short Face Crested - Gary Parsons

Vote Ballot

Medium Face Crested		Short Face Plainhead	
Bob Bollinger	<input type="radio"/>	Dennis Bray	<input type="radio"/>
Tony Patti	<input type="radio"/>	Tony Patti	<input type="radio"/>