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PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NSW INC

Est. 1917



Pictured: Des Sander Champion Magpie PFS Annual Show 2010

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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2014

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THE PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NSW SOUTH WALES INC.

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RENEWAL – PENSIONER - \$8.00
RENEWAL – SENIOR & COMBINED FAMILY RATE - \$15.00

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CLUB MEETINGS: ARE CONDUCTED ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM, VENUE BEING THE PIGEON & POULTRY PAVILION, FAIRFIELD SHOWGROUNDS, SMITHFIELD RD, FAIRFIELD. VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

CLUBS NEWSLETTER: THE EDITOR INVITES SUBMISSIONS AND ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS, INCLUDING REPORTS, ESPECIALLY FROM COUNTRY AREAS.

RINGS: PIGEON RINGS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM OUR RING SECRETARY FOR \$0.45 EACH, ONLY AVAILABLE IN LOTS OF TEN. (COST \$4.50 FOR TEN RINGS) PLUS \$2.50 POSTAGE.

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SHOW RESULTS

This issue is loaded with results from our Premier Young Bird show and Eastern Classic Annual Show 2014

GOLD AT LAST

After Seven years of perseverance, help from fellow Australian Performing Tumbler Fanciers.

DES SANDERS

The PFS of NSW said farewell to one of our long time Life Member Mr. Des Sanders.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

John Hickman

2 Great PFS show, PMV1 Update, Passing of a Fellow Fancier – Mr Des Sanders.

Welcome to our August 2014 (Winter) Newsletter, unfortunately early this month one of the Patrons of our Club, Des Sanders, passed away. Our prayers and condolences go to his family. Des was a great supporter of our club and fine mentor to me when I first started breeding Kings, Carneau and Swiss Mondains. Des will be sadly missed by the members of this Club and the pigeon community. We managed two shows again this year, our Young Bird Show in May and the 98th Eastern Classic at the End of June. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our International Judge, Graham Bates from the UK, for taking the time and trouble to travel down under and help with the success of our Show. He was always approachable and took time with many of our fanciers to share his experiences and knowledge of the breeds he judged. A big thank you to our interstate judges Phil Cleghorn (Qld) Alan Muttimer (Vic) and of course the NSW judges that supported us again this Show. Thank you also to the 33 fanciers that exhibited 683 of their birds. It was great to see you all again and the numbers of exhibits is slowly growing again. Congratulations to Mal Davis for exhibiting a Fantail as the Reserve Champion Bird of Show and Lenzland Lofts showing an Australian Show Pen Homer as Champion Fancy Pigeon of Show. The Eastern Classic was another great success. We had 39 fanciers exhibiting approximately 800 birds. We were fortunate to have Richard Greenwood as our International judge from the UK. Thank you Richard for joining us and assisting with our show. We hope this will not be the last time you visit us as I understand you have family in Perth Western Australia. Congratulations to Lisa and Catherine Weekes for their great work in running the Show and also the great photos of the Breed Champion they publish on our PFS website. We should also have lists of the successful Breed Champions at both shows in this edition.



Pictured: Terry Stephenson, Richard Greenwood UK and Dennis Murphy holding the Champion Nun 2014.

PIGEON TIPS

~

Never stop trying to learn. Everyone learns something new each year. It's the toughest sport to master next to golf. Just when you think you've worked it out you find you know very little at all

Congratulations to Anne Henderson for an impressive Jacobin that was judged as Reserve Champion of the Show and John Hanson of Blenheim Stud for the Blue Brunner that was Champion Fancy Pigeon of Show. Quite a few Fanciers travelled to Ipswich for another successful National Pigeon Show. Some successes are listed below but full details will be shown later.

Well done to Fred Frendo, Neville Jenkins, Jacob Duncan, Phil Bachner, Steve Pithers, John Hanson (Blenheim Stud), Anne Henderson and Derek Garland.

As spring is around the corner, good luck for the coming breeding season and remember be very careful with introduced pigeons into your lofts as the PMV 1 virus is still a problem. It has affected an inner Sydney loft very recently with introduced pigeons. I hope you all breed many top quality birds for next Show season in 2015.



Pictured: Trevor Joseph and Mal Davis with his Champion Black Fantail 2014



Pictured: Mal Davis Champion Black Fantail 2014



VALE: DES SANDERS

By Walter Hitchell

The PFS of NSW said farewell to one of our long time Life Members Des Sanders on the 7th of August 2014. Des had a very long association with the PFS Of NSW always remaining true to his first love in pigeons The English Magpie. He also kept Jacobins for many years. Being active it was surprising to find out he was 87 years old. He is survived by his wife Eunice and his son Eric and daughters Lynette Carol, Janice and Robyn Christine (deceased). Beloved grandfather of 18 and great grandfather of 6. In the early days Eric also showed pigeons and with his family background continues to have interests in other birds and small animals.

Des was a Patron as well as a Life Member of the PFS and also a previous president as well as being a recipient of a RAS of NSW Service Medal which bestows Life Membership of the RAS of NSW on the recipient. I have known Des along with Jim Mackay, Vaughan Kelly, John Hanson and Bob Clarke although Des had a few years on us. He joined the PFS in 1963. We remember back to monthly meetings at the Sydney Trades Hall which were characterised at times by other meetings (trade union) being very boisterous and a little confronting to teenagers which we were. After a few years we were told the Trades Hall was to be demolished and outside groups like us were told to find other premises.

We did this and moved to the Railway Institute where our meetings were held for many years. I think the Trades Hall is a historic building as it is still there in Haymarket.

In the fifties the PFS held its shows at Granville Showground in the Poultry Pavilion. When you entered your birds everybody was then locked out of the pavilion until judging was finished. It happened once to me as I then became a steward. It was good training to volunteer as this led to us "old blokes" always working at the shows.

Des has been a mainstay to the PFS still attending meetings up until the last few months. He chalked up his golden anniversary with the PFS which is an achievement for anyone to reach in a organisation.

When the idea of a National Fancy Pigeon Society was first mooted the idea was to standardise rings, adopt National standards and hold a National Show. There were various birth pains mainly due to clubs worrying about losing their members and their autonomy but this was overcome by only allowing Clubs to be members (at the time). The PFS had coloured rings so a National ring was ordered with the colour green and this coincided with a world wide shortage of aluminium tubing. Des and I made the decision to forgo the English manufacturer and sourced a supplier in Belgium. They didn't colour their rings so we found an anodiser in Sydney which meant many individual trips before we had our National coloured ring. Then we had to fulfill the orders from the clubs that had signed up for the national ring. Without the input by Des I would have torn my hair out if I had to cope with this on my own. The clubs involved had no idea of the work involved with this National ring. Des did shift work and this enabled him to be available during business hours. For years I had thick green aluminium wire that had been used in the anodising process.

We have lost a very valuable member of the PFS and the Pigeon Fancy. In the words of Vaughan Kelly "a man of honour and integrity based on his strong Christian beliefs".

"Requiescat in pace"

A Life time of Memories – Des Sanders you made your mark on the Pigeon Fraternity - RIP



Pictured: Des and Don Burke at the Sydney RAS



Pictured: Jim Mackay receiving his Champion award from Des Sanders



Pictured: Des Sander judging with his steward Mark Wilson



Pictured: Des Sander Champion Magpie PFS Annual Show



Pictured: Des Sander looking on at his Champion Brunswick Beard



Pictured: Des Sander Champion Brunswick Beard Sydney RAS



Pictured: Vaughan Kelly looking on whilst Des judging the Blowers at the Pouter club show

An
Australian
Performing
Tumbler
fanciers
success
~
After seven
years of
perseverance



GOLD AT LAST

Geoff De La Motte

After seven years of perseverance, help from fellow Australian Performing Tumbler fanciers, Bob Morris, Vaughan Kelly and Mark Wilson with an outcross and nice Red APT hens, I have finally produced Pale Factor APTs based on Recessive Red and Yellow. Pale Factor on Recessive is called Gold and I don't have a name yet for Pale Factor on Recessive Yellow. I have focussed mainly on Pale Factor Yellow and the resulting colour is stunning as can be seen in the photo, especially the Young Hen by herself.



Pictured: *Gold Australian Performing Tumber 2014*

It all started following a conversation with Bob Morris who offered me an outcross which he said carried the Pale Factor. The cock he gave me was a real cocktail of breeds and looked nothing like an APT and may have been based on Brunner Pouters, Gimpel and I don't know what else. I am sure Bob Morris and Wal Hitchell could advise further on the "recipe". Anyway, it took at least three years of cross breeding the original cock to Red APT hen to produce the occasional Pale Factor bird accompanied by a myriad of other colours including Blue Chequer, Brown, Gold, Dilute Gold. A heavy cull was carried out every breeding season to purify the line and produce a higher percentage of Pale Factor birds. Breeding young Pale Yellow cocks back to non-related Recessive Red hens followed the old "cocks for colour, hens for style" principle and every season produced birds more and more like the APT Standard.

They also produced stronger birds with plenty of hybrid vigour not always achieved with close inbreeding. Young Pale hens were also bred back to pure Red APT cocks. The standard has just kept improving especially in relation to type, colour, conformation and size. The most difficult problem to overcome was/is eye colour which is supposed to be Pearl in APTs, but they kept producing Yellow eyes.

Constant culling and some luck has increased the number of Pale APTs with the correct eye colour but I would like to see this become more dominant. One more breeding season I believe will produce a team of competitive Pale Yellow APT and I hope to bring them to Sydney 2015.

I hope readers/fanciers enjoy the photos of my journey and would be pleased to hear from anyone with comments. Cheers, Geoff De La Motte.

2014 YOUNG BIRD SHOW RESULTS

Grand Champion Of Show 2014 -
Australian Showpen Homer -
Lenzland Lofts



- *Champion of Show - Australian Showpen Homer - Lenzland Lofts*
- *Reserve Champion of Show - Fantail - Mal Davis*
- *Champion Lace Fantail - Steve Pithers*
- *Champion Saddle Fantail - Steve Pithers*
- *Champion Jacobin - Anne Henderson*
- *Champion Blondinette - Matthew Blaszczyk*
- *Champion Satinette - Matthew Blaszczyk*
- *Champion Holle Cropper - Mark Wilson*
- *Champion Norwich Copper - Anne Henderson*
- *Champion Pigmy Pouter - Blenhaven Stud*
- *Champion Reversewing Pouter - Anne Henderson*
- *Champion Medium Faced Helmet - Plain Head - Phillip Dew*
- *Champion Nun - Trevor Joseph*
- *Champion Performing Birmingham Roller - Trevor Joseph*
- *Champion Szegedin Tumbler - John Veljanovski*
- *Champion Exhibition Flying Tippler - Jim MacKay*
- *Champion Turkish Tumbler - Jason Grech*
- *Champion Swiss Mondain - Margaret Hickman*
- *Champion French Mondain - Blenhaven Stud*
- *Champion Lahore - Phillip Dew*
- *Champion Konigsberg Moorhead - John Veljanovski*
- *Champion Fantail - Mal Davis*
- *Reserve Champion Fantail - Steve Pithers*
- *Champion Indian Fantail - Jacob Duncan*
- *Champion Chinese Owl - Garry Edwards*
- *Champion Turbiteen - John Veljanovski*
- *Champ Damascene - Zac Garland*
- *Champ English Dragoon - Tim Fairfax*
- *Champion Show Racing Pigeon - Fred Frendo*

- *Reserve Champion Show Racing Pigeon - Jim Mackay*
- *Champion British Show Racer - Tim Fairfax*
- *Reserve Champion British Show Racer - Fred Frendo*
- *Champion Australian Show Pen Homer - Lenzland Lofts*
- *Reserve Champion Australian Show Pen Homer - Lenzland Lofts*
- *Champion Brunner Pouter - Blenhaven Stud*
- *Reserve Champion Australian Performing Tumbler - Mark Wilson*
- *Champion Australian Performing Tumbler - Phillip Dew*
- *Champion Donek - John Veljanovski*
- *Champion Carneau - John Hickman*
- *Reserve Champion King - Jacob Duncan*
- *Champion King - Jacob Duncan*
- *Champion Racing Pigeon Flown - Blenhaven Stud*

YOUNG BIRD REPORT 2014

Gary Edwards

This weekend the young bird show was held at Fairfield pigeon pavilion. The weather has been kind to us. Two beautiful days of sunshine. Plenty of variety of pigeons. Homer breeds especially. A lot of fine specimens shown. I had the pleasure to judge Jacobins, blondinettes, satinettes, Indian Fantails, Donek, Damacenes. Second biggest breed I had to Judge. Indian fantails one of the bigger class to judge. Very nice blks shown. Champion went to a ash Cock. A very good size one. Almonds not quite ready for this show about a month away.

Donek's only 8 shown. Blondinette only 2, Satinette 2 only also I enjoyed walking around talking to exhibitors. The show was well run. Champion bird worthy winner. Reserve went to a nice Blk Fantail. On my last show showing in Australia I managed to win best Chinese owl. Whoopy do. Next time I come to judge at the PFS I will become a international Judge. As I have moved onto New Zealand .Thank you PFS for a enjoyable show and letting me part of a good club. Great members and support.

Kind regards Garry Edwards



Champion Australian Show Pen Homer
Lenzland Lofts and
Grand Champion of Show



Champion Fantail Mal Davis and
Reserve Champion of Show



Walter Hitchell Secretary Graham Bates Judge
and his wife Rachael



Walter Hitchell Secretary Graham Bates presenting
Phil Dew for Champion Performing Tumbler



Walter Hitchell Secretary Graham Bates presenting
Chris England with his Grand Champion Trophy



Walter Hitchell Secretary Graham Bates presenting
Mal Davis with his Reserve Grand Champion Trophy



Walter Hitchell Secretary Garry Edwards presenting Jim Mackay for Champion Tippler



Walter Hitchell Secretary Graham Bates presenting John Hickman for Champion Carneau



Walter Hitchell Secretary Garry Edwards presenting Fred Frendo for Champion Racing Homer Show Type



Walter Hitchell Secretary Graham Bates presenting Mark Wilson for Champion Hollie



Walter Hitchell Secretary Garry Edwards presenting Tim Fairfax for Champion Dragon & British Show Racer



A group of members watching the presentation



Champion Brunner Blenheim Stud.



Champion Holle Cropper Mark Wilson



Champion Norwich Cropper Anne Henderson



Champion Australian Performing Tumbler
Phillip Dew



Champion Nun Trevor Joseph



Champion Lahore Phillip Dew



Champion Helmet Phillip Dew



Champion Saddle Fantail Steve Pithers



Champion English Dragoon Tim Fairfax



Champion Donek John Veljanovski



Champion Lace Fantail Steve Pithers



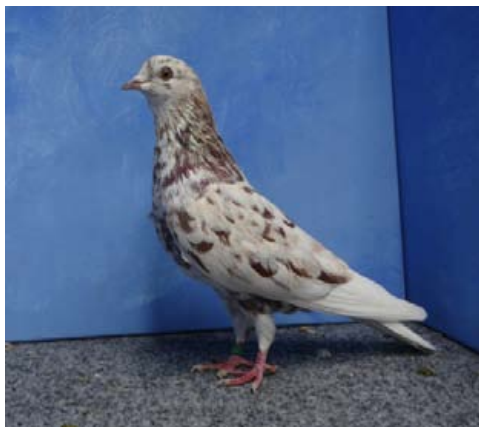
Champion Szegdiner Tumbler
John Veljanovski



Champion Indian Fantail Jacob Duncan



Champion Konigsberg Moorhead
John Veljanovski



Champion Performing Roller Trevor Joseph



Champion Turkish Tumbler Jason Grech



Champion Racing Homer Show Type
Fred Frendo



Champion British Show Racer Tim Fairfax



Champion Tippler Jim Mackay



Champion Racing Homer Blenhaven Stud.



Champion King Jake Duncan



Champion Carneau John Hickman



Champion Swiss Mondain
Margaret Hickman



Reserve Champion Australian Show Pen
Homer Lenzland Lofts



Pictured: Joe Puglia, Victoria AUS

*Joe Puglia -
"Pigeons are the
Best hobby you
can have!"*

LIFE OF ONE OF OUR MEMBERS - JOE PUGLIA

Hello fellow members of the PFS NSW, this is Joe's story. Joe started as a Junior at 10 years age at the Great Northern Homing Club in 1955. Joe lives in Melbourne Victoria has around 150 pigeons around has eight breeds. A few years ago Joe had around 400 birds, with around 20 breeds .

The Breeds he still keeps are Oriental Rollers, Zamoyski H/F Chinese owls, Astral Sunder H/F, Budapest, Old German Monk, Stargard Shaker, Danzig's.

In 2007 Joe joined DFPS MPS Victoria and the PFS NSW Inc that year. Joe is also delegate at the VSPF for flying clubs also ANPA committee member. Joe has been a Judge at all Victorian events and ANPA shows when he is available. Joe Puglia has been invited to judge in USA a few times by Bob Nolan and John Heppner. He will be making a trip up to Sydney next year to show 2015 and to Judge also.

In Joes words "Pigeons are the Best hobby you can have ". Yours in the fancy Joe Puglia .



Pictured: Joe judging



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A DIFFERENT TYPE OF TRAINING CAGE

by Bob Bollinger

Over the years I have had trouble introducing youngsters into my loft. It seems that babies from small breeds are often picked on when they are first released in the main loft or even the young bird pen. The little ones tend to draw attention to themselves as the squeak and cower in the corners when other birds come close to them. I have even seen other youngsters, that are a few months old, become aggressive to newly introduced babies.

After watching this phenomenon for a while, I noticed that after a few days the new babies were no longer pecked by the others. The babies became used to the new pen and the older birds became familiar with the new babies. As a friend in the South used to say; "the newness wore off".

After trying many ideas, I have found the best way to "wear off the newness" is to put the birds in a large show cage (walking pen) in the middle of the loft. There the birds see their new surroundings and the other birds become used to the newcomers without being able to get close enough to harm them. This separate pen provides the additional advantage of letting the bird become accustomed to the drinker and feeding. Once the birds have been in the loft for about a week, I release them and they just meld in with the others.

This training pen has been a huge help with my brunners and

English short face. Both of these breeds have small and delicate babies. I have not lost a bird or had one scalped since I started using the training pen. I also found that if I locate the feed pot near the side of the pen, the birds on the outside tend to Eastern sample the feed on the other side of the wire. This helps reinforce the feeding process to newly weaned youngsters. A double bonus!



THOUGHTS ON AOC

by Bob Bollinger

Jim Clinton sent me an email and asked me to share my thoughts on AOCs in brunners. As many of you know, this has been an ongoing discussion for quite a while. So, I will simply share my "opinions" on the subject;

In brunners we are truly blessed to have a pretty bird, with a great character, who feeds their own babies, AND has a wonderful pallet of striking colours for us to enjoy. Our breed has both a depth and breadth of colours. I particularly enjoy the intensity and brilliance of our selves; the blacks, reds, and yellows are phenomenal. The contrast of our tigers, pided, and white bars is striking. We also have the opportunity to enjoy the unique markings of the gansel and stork marked birds. We even have the uncommon colours like isabell and silvers.

I think a key realization for me is that nearly all of our current colours were at one time an AOC. The brunner has been cultivated and refined for over a hundred years. During this time the features and colour pallets of our breed developed into the brunner we know today. Accordingly, as we continue to cultivate the breed, it is reasonable for enterprising folks to introduce various new colours that they enjoy. Refining a new or rare colour is truly a passion that requires time, patience, and loft space. I suggest that we should embrace these hearty endeavors as they only serve to make our breed more attractive.

There has also been a discussion about whether an AOC could win a major event. I would say that they certainly could. However, we must be mindful

to ensure that the bird exhibited shows a truly fabulous representation of that particular colour. In some breeds AOCs are a catch all category. I am a firm believer that AOC is not a substitute for bad colour. For most of the AOC colours, there are references in other breeds that we can use as a metric to gauge our colour points. To win an event a bird must be near the top in all areas of the standard, including colour! So, while I think an AOC could win, I would expect that to be a rarity. It has taken decades for our power house colours to reach the level of refinement shown today. To introduce a new colour, refine that colour, and preserve all the other features; is a non-trivial task that I would expect to take a long time to achieve.

On a personal bias note; I would like to suggest that those of us who are interested in the unusual, also consider cultivating some of the rare traditional colours along with the AOCs. Some of the more striking colours in our breed are at risk of going away due to lack of breeders and interest. My passion is white bars and I have been working on them for nearly 20 years. It was hard work, but at the last national in OKC, I was able to show about 10 quality specimens. While they didn't win the show, I was very proud to actually show a bunch of bird that were a good representation of the breed and colour. That satisfaction was worth the years of effort. I would encourage everyone to consider their passion. Perhaps isabell, stork, gansel, silver ... there are many

beautiful colours that are rare or non-existent in North America. I would personally love to see our brunner aisles blossom with new and unique traditional colours. They can all be a wonderful complement to our great exhibitions!

AOC - The following is offered only as a beginning point for conversation concerning the AOC category in our Brunners. None of this is based on any extensive research, simply a few statements of fact and the rest just opinions and thoughts of one person, Gerald Butler. I have labeled my opinions as such as with "GB Opinion."

In reviewing the standards of all the pouter breeds listed in the NPA Standards Book, I found the following:

1. Many breeds make no mention of AOC under their colour descriptions including the Brunner.
2. Some breeds under colour say "all colours permitted."
3. The Pigmy standard was the only one I found that actually placed a definition to AOC. It defines AOC as a class for any other colours not included in the colour classification.

GB Opinion: I think the Pigmy definition leaves the description of AOC wide open for lots of interpretations concerning colour. In this definition anything could be included. Many of the breed standards allow for "splashes" which my opinion is randomly mixing of colours with no apparent pattern. To me a "real colour" should be one that can be reproduced by mating it to other birds of the same colour pattern or to complimentary colours such as is found in combinations like blue to silver or red to yellow, etc. I think that the term "splash" is another issue here to be dealt with as to its place in the colour issue.

GB Opinion: If an AOC bird is to be recognized as a standard colour, then some method for determining that should be developed and the colour be removed from the AOC class and included with the other recognized colours and patterns.

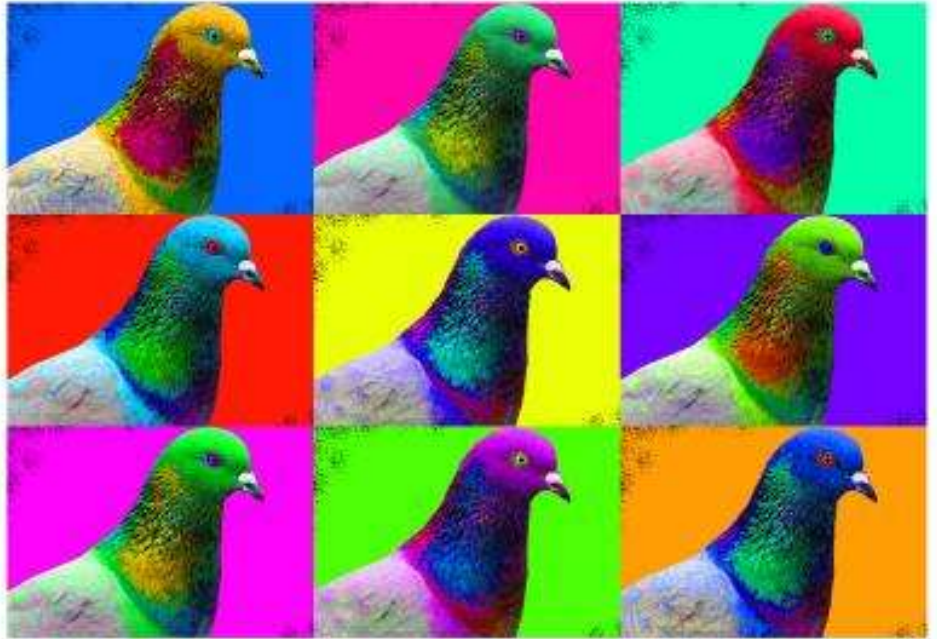
GB Opinion: If AOC is not allowed, then new colours will not be developed. Some are fairly easily produced and are very attractive and deserve to be shown and if of high quality deserve to compete for top honors.

Jim, Perhaps you and other breeders can use this as a beginning point and add, delete, change up or simply trash it. I'll be glad to help with this further if I can. After our show last Saturday, I can see some need for this topic discussion. We had some birds that were crosses that were entered as a colour because people just don't know because of inexperience. This sort of thing is going to always be around as people come into the breed as beginners. We do need a way for them to enter their birds or we will run off new breeders. Somehow we will have to educate them and that won't be easy when they enter their birds and spend their time at the show somewhere else other than around the pouters. We just accepted everything and explained to those who were around when we had a chance. Gerald.

NEW RESEARCH ON GENE MUTATIONS IN PIGEON COLOUR VARIATION

As genetic researchers continue to better understand the mode of operation in gene combinations, it becomes increasingly obvious that only slight genetic variations can bear significantly different results in the natural world. The most recent finding in this regard comes from a team of researchers at the University of Texas at Arlington, who in studying pigeons as part of further exploring vertebrate evolution, managed to discover that mutations and interactions that take place between just three genes spin out a broad variety of colour variations in the birds. As a result, the researchers have discovered that one of these genes is a kind of “slippery gene” that may give rise to significant evolutionary changes.

UT Arlington biology professor Dr. John W. “Trey” Fondon is co-author of this new study, which has begun to shed light on the colour palette of domestic pigeons at the molecular level. These domestic pigeons, also known as “fancy pigeons,” present in many colour variations, mostly due to highly organized breeding in Europe and Asia.



Pigeons aren't quite this colourful, but there are a wide variety of appearances. Geneticists looking at the genes that underlie colour combinations have published their work in [Current Biology](#).

The result has been spin-offs of the traditional blue/black colour model, including shades of gray, red, and brown. The genes that have been discovered in determining all of these variations are not abstract; they directly impact our understanding of human genetics, as the genes in pigeons have previously been linked to skin and hair colour variation among people — important considerations in the study of understanding and treating some malignancies in humans, such as melanoma.

Dr. Fondon explained that, “The pigeon really has been neglected as a model system, and we are changing that,” and adding that this new pigeon study can help in an overall understanding of vertebrate systems, which in turn will impact human health. “The things that shape diversity also shape disease.”

The results of the study, which were published online on February 6th in the journal *Current Biology*, features Eric T. Domyan, a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of University of Utah professor Michael D. Shapiro, as the study’s lead author. Shapiro’s team at University of Utah began the project last year, when they published in the journal *Science* results from the first large-scale sequencing of the pigeon genome, which yielded valuable genetic data from 40 pigeons.

The research team determined that three genes — *Tyrp1*, *Sox10* and *Slc45a2* — control multiple colour phenotypes, or appearances, in pigeons, according to a [recent press release](#). For example, “researchers found that the ash-red mutation in *Tyrp1*, a gene that plays a large role in colour determination, arose just once and was spread throughout the species by selective breeding.” This is also where the “slippery gene” was discovered, which may hold a key to understanding vertebrate evolution.

“Fondon’s team found two independent deletions of regulatory sequences near the Sox10 gene produce “recessive red” pigmentation. These mutations happened at different points in evolution, and researchers believe it is no coincidence they hit the same spot, as this same region is also deleted in colour mutants of chickens and mice, Fondon said. There are indications of yet more independent mutations of this ‘hotspot.’”

This is not the first time that geneticists like Fondon have used animal species to study vertebrate evolution and create a knowledge bridge that ultimately benefits human health. Dr. Fondon in the past has studied dog breeds to better understand phenotype changes at the molecular level, given the diverse variations in dog breeds. Fondon now believes that domestic pigeons can yield even greater statistical power for researchers.

“These traits are falling like dominoes in terms of our understanding their genetic origins. It took hundreds of years to set them up and now they are just falling,” Fondon said.

PIGEON SHOW MAY HAVE BEEN A RECORD BREAKER



Pigeon fanciers are hoping to make it into the Guinness World Records after this year’s annual show in Blackpool. The British Homing World Show of the Year saw thousands of visitors go through the doors of the Winter Gardens over the weekend to see some of the world’s finest racing and show pigeons. This year’s show featured a unique history exhibition in the Empress Ballroom, charting pigeons’ involvement in the war efforts, on the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Show chairman David Trippitt said: “We’ve had the largest collection of Dicken’s Medals, the equivalent of the animals Victoria Cross, they were awarded to 32 racing pigeons after the wars and we had 12. “We hope to get in the Guinness Book of Records. It really has been a first class event.” General manager Stewart Wardrop said: “The show has been very, very good. Pigeon racing is viewed as quite a quaint and niche sport but it’s got some great people with great stories.” Attendance to the three-day event was up on last year’s, after snow prevented fanciers from making the journey. Organisers estimate as many as 15,000 visitors made it to the events in the Winter Gardens and the gala ball in the Blackpool Tower Ballroom, with visitors travelling in from across the globe. Jim Jenner, 64, has flown in from Montana, USA, every year since the early 90s. He said: “Blackpool is really an important place to come to for pigeon fanciers. “It’s been a great weekend, Blackpool can be very proud.



A colorful advertisement for 'Pet Food & Wire Sales'. The text includes the address 'Unit 15/19-21 Seton Rd, Moorebank', the specialization 'Pigeon, Parrot & Poultry Feed Seed & Accessories', and the phone number 'Ph: (02) 9822 8840'. The ad features illustrations of a dog, a cat, a rabbit, and a bird, along with a circular logo containing a dog, a cat, and a bird.

On Pigeons

By Chloe Cahill and Ho Hai Tran

Photographer Ho Hai Tran and writer Chloe Cahill tell the stories of the members of The Pigeon Fanciers Society of New South Wales in the book *On Pigeons*.

This art quality, coffee-table book documents the lead up to the 2011 Autumn Show and a selection of the amazing birds at the fancy.

Order now to receive your copy of On Pigeons – the story of the club, the members, and their remarkable birds told through fine art photography.



"The men and women of the Pigeon Fanciers Society of New South Wales live in the tradition of all great hobbyists. Those who pursue their pastimes before and after work, on weekends and in the wee hours, gather to share knowledge, indulge their insatiable curiosity and remarkable creativity through their interest."

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Pictured: Richard Greenwood UK

Full Eastern Classic Annual Show Results, Judges Reports and Pictures next issue....

