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IVORY = OPAL ?

by

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Here is a photo of "ivory" effects in the ringneck dove, Streptopelia risoria. WFH and I had discussed ivory and I suggested that it resembled opal in pigeons. We collected some tail feathers where it shows especially well and compared them. Pictured are the 3rd or 4th rectrices (ventral= under-side view) with the standard or wild-type (dark) on the left. *right* The three middle feathers show the variation between ivory birds (single mutant) and on the *right* is a blond ivory. Note the bleaching effect in the center of the dark spread pigment of the tail.

Dr. Hollander currently thinks the band of heavy pigment in the ringneck tail feather (dark zone) is possibly homologous with the more distal tail band of the domestic pigeon. I have no reason to disagree with this view, and the opal-like ivory mutant effect tends to support it.

Who will be the first to make the classical test for allelism--recessive opal pigeon x ivory dove?

