

# VOICE IN BLACK-EYE WHITE RINGNECK DOVES

by

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Of the various ways one may describe scientific method, one of the shortest is "Observe, Hypothesize, Test". Well, one of my observations is that all of my black-eye white birds (combination of pied and white) have a hoarse or raspy voice as a coo and as the laugh or challenge note as well. Since I derived these doves from multiple sources of outcrosses and re-extraction of the combination, I found such a "voice" unexpected.

It is especially unexpected for this to occur without exception in each of several pairs. I would expect genetic segregation to yield exceptions. It must just be that I really noticed it on a conspicuous level too recently (last 3 years), and by chance it was that way in these particular pairs (about 6). When a friend in Lawton, Oklahoma mentioned it, I decided it was time to take it to the ADA.

Now this hoarse voice may not be a bad thing. It certainly does not carry in distance as well as the normal voice. Thus, unfriendly neighbors would not readily notice it and complain. And the black-eye white type is quite attractive.

I know that whites and pied separately have "normal" voices. How could pigment mutants (ectodermal biochemical structure) affect the voice (behavior-structure?) when combined? Elaborate research might disclose a reasonable mechanism. Meanwhile, a somewhat similar action is known in the pigeon. Dr. Hollander and I found that the sideburns mutant (Sb+) in pigeons' not only reversed the feathers on the lower jaw and sometimes made twirls on the head and ears (ectodermal structure), but in double dose (SbSb), that is, homozygous, gave a constant head tremor (behavior effect). The nerves derive from ectoderm, so there is some basis for common undisclosed gene action. But that is as close as I can get.

If now some black-eye white fanciers will write in about how they have such birds with a normal voice, I can forget the whole thing, by attributing it to chance association. Or can I forget it? Then I have to question: Well is this hoarse voice inherited simply, and is it a dominant or a recessive? More tests!

How about it dove fanciers? What are your observations? Hypotheses? Tests?!