

OCHRE MARKED BREAST COLOUR IN 'LARK' COLOURED BREEDS

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Photo: Nürnberg Lark.

This article is to try and demonstrate the Ochre Chest Colour found in Lark Marked Breeds and as a Golden Crescent-Collar in the Swiss Lucerne (a very old Breed). Compare these Breeds with Pictures of the Nuremberg Lark in Lark Marked, Bar and Barless, the Nuremberger is in the same Colour series as these Breeds but with the Ochre colour taken to its extreme and the Black/White Markings of the Lark marked taken to its finest expression.

'Lark Marked' can occur in many other Breeds, e.g. German Beauty Homers, Franconian Trumpeters, Altenburger Trumpeters, even Bokhara Trumpeters.

Right:

Coburg Lark, lark marked, a Large Breed still often used as a meat breed, the Lark Mark has an appreciably darker Ground Colour, so is rarely 'crossed' with the Bar and Barless in this Breed.

As with the Nürnberg, Complimentary Matings are the Rule, not 'cross' marking matings.

This Bird is showing really good 'Lark' Marking, which in this Breed have been taken to a very distinct form of the Marking. In Breeds like the German Beauty Homer, The Altenburger Trumpeter, Franconian Trumpeter etc. the actual 'Larking' is nowhere near as distinct and is not of such a priority.



Right:

Coburger Lark, Barless. Notice the much paler Ground Colour required.



Left: The Swiss Berner Lark, this only comes in 'Lark Marked', so no confusion with Ground Colour!

Right: Swiss Lucerne Gold Colour, just about the palest expression in Ground colour in this Colour series, again, Chequer rarely if ever 'crossed' into the Bar and Barless as the Cheq' has an appreciably darker tone Ground colour (more Pigment) and it could take generations of heavy selection to achieve the required Ground colour in the Bar and barless again. (These



are not a 'Lark' Breed but do exhibit the same Golden Ochre Chest/Breast colour)



Left:

The Barless takes the Ground colour to its highpoint for Paleness of Colour.

If the Collar colour becomes paler and no Barless with a darker Collar to mate to is available (Complimentary matings) then a Bar bird could be used, but this is only done when absolutely needed and no suitable Barless birds to be had.

Also for the same reason, as with the Coburg Lark and the Ground colour, Chequer are not 'crossed' with the Bar and Barless, although in the Lucerne Gold Collar few Cheq' are kept.

Also it handles not on a 'Lark Marked' Breed, so the Wing markings have not been developed to the degree as in the Nuremberg and Coburg Larks.



Left:

It is hard to believe that these Nuremberg Larks (all different birds, pictures taken with my old Kodak 3.1MB with extra light source) are in the same colour Series as the previous 'Lark' Breeds and the Gold Collar, but they are.

This Birds depicts wing markings and colour about as good as it gets, the Red Eye Cere, Pale Flights and distinct Tail Bar and wing 'Bar' (for want of a better description 'Saw edged') are also a must. The Ground colour is allowed to pale towards the vent but clarity of colour is more important than depth of colour, although good when you can get both together. Hen birds can tend to be slightly paler (this is a Hen) and often finer in the white Wing Markings. (Personal Observations)

Right:

This is a Cock Bird - the slight disturbance on the Wing Bar, is my fault when handling - but from this picture you can see how the Hen excelled in Wing Markings, they would actually make a good 'Pair' as this bird has good broad Wing bars.



Left:

With the Bar and Barless, you can obtain deeper colour (although this is also illusionary due to the extra 'Contrast' but the ground colour tends to fade more rapidly towards the Belly. When you 'Cross' the Bar & Barless with the Lark Marked the offspring are indescribable!, as stated earlier a 'cross' only of use to maintain the correct 'Type' in the Bar/Barless birds.





Even in this excellent Bird please note* the slightly different 'Head' type to that of the Lark Marked, this cannot be helped and is simply a part of the 'Breed', but yet another reason Why the two Varieties are not generally crossed.

Left:
Nuremberg Lark, barless.

You can see here why 'Mealy Lark' is not an appropriate Word to use for the Nuremberger Lark.

The word 'Mealy' with its connotations in other Breeds of Pigeon i.e. Mealy with Red Bar or Chequer, being a World away in colour and Genetics to this Breed.

Far easier to use the German Word, *Mehllicht* = 'Pale Meal Colour' (*Mehl* = Meal/Flour - *Licht* = Light/Pale).



Below:

I have just thrown in this 'Lark' Breed, the 'South German Coal Lark' (Coal as in Charcoal) to confuse everyone and to show the other 'Dark' Extreme of the Lark Breeds.

The left photo was taken without flash, in full natural sunlight, natural light refraction causing the amazing purple sheen on the breast, but that is how the Bird looked, and despite one fancier

saying: "That is not showing the correct colour", I could not care two Hoots! as to me it depicts a real living Jewel!

The right picture is taken with flash, which I do not like as it 'bleaches' Dark/Black colours but it does show the Ochre Breast marking well.



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