

Chatter

Vol 1 No 8 Spring 2024

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Welcome to the Spring Edition of Chatter!

As the season blossoms, so too has our community of budgerigar enthusiasts. The past three months have been nothing short of extraordinary, with a lineup of events, milestones, and achievements that have kept us buzzing with excitement.

A Season of Success and Growth

Spring 2024 was underpinned by two standout highlights: Budgie Fest 2024 and the BSSA vs NEBS Shield. Both events showcased the dedication, camaraderie, and competitive spirit of our clubs.

We also celebrated a significant milestone as the NEBS Club moved into their new home in Hectorville, ushering in a fresh chapter for the club. Meanwhile, Port Pirie hosted an engaging aviary tour in Port Augusta, led by Brian Reichelt, as well as a successful outing at the Balaclava Agricultural Show, further strengthening their community presence in the region.

Club Achievements Across the Region

The BSSA demonstrated its versatility by hosting a range of events, including a highly successful Quiz Night and a popular Buy-Swap-Sell Night. Both NEBS and the BSSA proudly attended the ASSA Bird Expo, where enthusiasts came together to celebrate their shared passion for aviculture.

Further afield, the 10th World Budgerigar Organisation (WBO) event took place in Austria, spotlighting global developments in the budgerigar community. Back home, NEBS held two highly



informative events: a Meet the Vet session with Dr. Marijke Mellor and a presentation on budget-conscious feeding delivered by BCV President Peter Thurn.

Port Pirie continued its tradition of outstanding events, hosting an aviary tour at Bob Simpson's in Kadina, which coincided with their UBC Show. Highlights included Shiralee Readon's victory with Best UBC, while the Holmes Family's won Best Young Bird.

Budgie Fest 2024: A Spectacular Showcase

October brought the much-anticipated Budgie Fest 2024, which kicked off with a flurry of excitement. Richard Miller, our esteemed guest from the UK, arrived to a media frenzy that set the tone for three unforgettable days of festivities.

The sold-out Hentley Farm intimate lunch was a culinary delight, followed by a thrilling evening of motorsport action at The Bend Motorsport Park. The next day, attendees were treated to an insightful presentation on the success of the R & M Miller partnership at The Maid, before the grand finale on Saturday.

The pinnacle event, Budgie Fest, incorporated the Tri Club Cup and drew an impressive 947 attendees. Enthusiasts from across the country joined us in Adelaide to celebrate. The prestigious Tri Club Cup was claimed by the BSSA, with Wayne

Bandt taking home Best in Show, while the Budgie Fest Best Pet Bird was won by the interstate raider, Banana, owned by Diesel and Levy Connor.

The festival garnered significant media attention, with coverage spanning The Advertiser, 9 News, Sunrise, ABC, FIVEaa, Mix 102.3, Magic FM, Life FM, 2GB Sydney, and more. Esteemed judges Richard Miller, Peter Thurn, and Gary Gazzard were joined by prominent Adelaide icons, including David Penberthy (FIVEaa), Will McDonald (9 News), and Minister Reggie Martin MLC, adding to the prestige of the event.

Post-Budgie Fest Activities

Following the festival, the excitement continued. NEBS hosted a well-received Come & Try Night, aimed at introducing new enthusiasts to the world of budgerigars, while the BSSA delighted members with a virtual aviary tour. Rounding out the year, the Port Pirie Club brought members together for their annual Christmas Party, closing the season on a festive note.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on a season of remarkable achievements, it's clear that the passion for budgerigars continues to grow stronger within our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these events, from organisers to participants and sponsors. Together, we've made Spring 2024 an unforgettable chapter in our shared journey.

Stay tuned for more updates, and we look forward to seeing you all in the upcoming Summer Edition of Chatter!

A Packed Edition to Enjoy!

In addition to the incredible highlights of the season, this edition of Chatter brings you a range of engaging articles and features. Dive into Fancier in Focus, where we spotlight Geoff Edwards and his remarkable journey. Explore the fascinating world of Genetics and Colour Combinations, and enjoy a special overseas contribution by Marcel Buhler, offering insights on the WBO Show. The Pet Corner covers the importance of toys and play in keeping your budgies active and happy, while the Novice Corner provides essential Key Tips for Your First Season to guide those just starting out. For exhibitors, Standard Pictorial Part 2 delves deeper into understanding exhibition standards, and the Around the Clubs section recaps highlights like Budgie Fest, show results from the Interclub and Tri Club, and more. There's something for everyone in this issue!

APOLOGY

The BCSA was supplied 15 photos for a Fancier in Focus article in Chatter Volume 1, No 7 Winter 2024 by Mr Wayne Weidenhofer, under the presumption that the media release extended to using the photographs in Chatter Volume 1, No 7 Winter 2024. Mr Weidenhofer has since clarified that his permission and consent for use of the photographs was only contingent on those being published and used in the feature article on Pages 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, not for the entire magazine. Because 15 photos were provided, and only 8 placeholders were available in the article, the BCSA used 2 of these photographs in a subsequent article on Page 10 and 11 in the same Chatter Volume 1, No 7 Winter 2024, without acknowledging Mr Weidenhofer as the photographer and owner of the photographs. The BCSA would like to acknowledge this misunderstanding, and apologise.

Geoff Edwards: A Life with Budgerigars

From a young age, Geoff Edwards has been captivated by birds, a passion sparked in childhood and carried through a lifetime of dedication. Geoff is an Open Breeder, with the Port Pirie Budgerigar Society (PPBS). His journey with budgerigars is one of commitment, resilience, and an enduring love for these feathered companions.

Geoff's deeper involvement began in 1973, a year after marrying, when he was introduced to renowned breeder Bill Davis. Geoff spent time caring for Bill's birds, a pivotal experience that inspired him to build his first aviary and start his own collection. His early days saw him keeping a mix of parrots and budgerigars, housed in two aviaries, as he gradually immersed himself in the exhibition side of the hobby.

Geoff's journey included a four-year stint in Kalgoorlie, followed by a return to Port Augusta. Despite relocations and life changes, his admiration for Bill Davis—his mentor and lifelong inspiration—remained steadfast. Over the years, Geoff incorporated bloodlines from notable breeders such as Norm Drury and Bill Auty, continually refining his stud.

Like many hobbyists, Geoff's involvement with budgerigars had its ebbs and flows. He stepped away in 1998 but returned in 2002, converting a simple garden shed into a breeding room that he still uses today. His commitment bore fruit on the competitive stage, with a noteworthy achievement at the National Budgerigar Show—a fourth place with a pied hen in a class usually dominated by cocks, an accomplishment he treasures.

Professionally, Geoff's career was as varied as his birdkeeping journey. He started as a diesel fitter before moving into supervisory roles with the railways.



Geoff Edwards



*Geoff's
Breeding
Room Setup*

Later, he took a position at a power station, where he stood out as the sole Australian employee, followed by two years at Golden North. Returning to the power station, he worked there for 14 years, and then in the Railways at Port Augusta in a supervisor role building locomotive engines until health challenges prompted his retirement at 67.



Breeding room set up



Breeding cage set up, babies with their father



Cinnamonwing Grey Green, bred by Geoff Edwards



Geoff's favourite bird now, a Dominant Pied Cinnamon Sky Blue Cock

Budgerigars have remained a constant source of joy for Geoff. While he doesn't favour a specific variety, he takes pride in breeding a stud of quality birds. Among his favourites is a Dominant Pied Cinnamonwing Sky Blue, a standout in his collection.

For newcomers to the hobby, Geoff's advice is simple yet profound: prioritize clean air, clean water, and sunshine, remembering always that budgerigars are seed eaters. His aspirations for the hobby reflect his philosophy—friendship, enjoyment, and the sheer pleasure of keeping these vibrant birds.

Geoff's story is a testament to the enduring appeal of budgerigars and the community they foster. Through his dedication, achievements, and sage advice, he continues to inspire both seasoned breeders and those just starting their journey.

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Budgerigar Colour Combinations derived from Genetic Variation in the Amount and Distribution of Yellow Pigment

John Mulley

We now explore the Green-Golden Faced Blue-Yellow Faced Blue-White Cap-Blue allelic series and their genotype combinations. By allelic series we mean variations determined by different mutations within the same gene, in this case the *MuPKS* gene. This is the gene that encodes the enzyme polyketide synthase that makes the yellow pigment psittacofulvin, so we can refer to the *MuPKS* gene from now on as the colour gene.

For simplicity, we will restrict the discussion to how these colours present in Normals (Normal being the variety designation). Apart from White Cap, all are listed as colours among the Normals at the top of the Matrix in the Australian Standard. These colours can also present on all varieties listed below the Normals in the Matrix. The presentation of colour in some of those varieties will vary depending upon the amount and type of melanin, which is another story, and can vary among varieties by the genetic modifiers dark, violet and grey factors.

Feather colour is determined by the interaction between yellow pigment and melanin embedded within the feather structure. Melanin preferentially absorbs light from the red end of the light spectrum, reflecting light from the blue end of the spectrum, so we see blue feathers. There is no blue pigment. Combine yellow pigment with reflected blue light and we see green.

Knowing the process at the molecular level takes away the mystery. The DNA sequence of the colour gene is transcribed into messenger RNA. This

mRNA is translated via tRNA into the amino acid sequence for the enzyme polyketide synthase.

Natural selection favours green budgerigars. Mutations in the colour gene disrupt the biochemistry that would otherwise make the favoured wildtype green feathers. How the disruption is expressed depends upon where in the DNA sequence of the colour gene the mutation occurs.

The four mutant colour sequences away from Green can only survive within our captive aviary populations, protected from natural selection. All four mutations affect the amount and distribution of yellow pigment in different ways. They are expressed as Golden Faced Blue, Yellow Faced Blue, White Cap, or Blue.

The inheritance of the four colour mutations with each other and with wildtype Green is governed by Mendel's law of segregation, with dominant and recessive relationships among the partners. Inheritance is particulate rather than blending, the latter an obsolete theory from the 19th Century erroneously postulating that progeny inherit characteristics as the average of their parents.

Chromosomes are paired so a budgerigar can only carry two copies of the colour gene from among the five possibilities (the wildtype sequence, and the four mutant sequences). Only two of these sequences have been molecularly characterised to date: these are the wildtype Green sequence and the mutant Blue sequence. The colour gene resides on chromosome 1, a little way along from the dark factor gene.

The molecular mechanisms for colour are now understood for Green and Blue, as described above.

However, plausible mechanisms for the expression of the other colour phenotypes White Cap, Golden Faced Blue and Yellow Faced Blue can only be hypothesised in the absence of DNA sequence data and the investigations that would flow from that knowledge.

ABBREVIATIONS THAT WILL BE USED BELOW ARE:

Green: Gr; Golden Faced Blue: GF; Yellow Faced Blue: YF; White Cap: WC; Blue: B; Single Factor: SF; and Double Factor: DF. Gr is the wildtype DNA sequence whereas GF, YF, WC, and B are mutations of the wildtype reference sequence. Y will be used as shorthand for yellow body suffusion.

The colour genotypes, their associated body colour phenotypes, and their dominance relationships, are listed below. Since there are 5 alternative sequences for the gene there are 15 associated genotypes. Since several of the genotypes are expressed identically, there are fewer than 15 associated colour phenotypes:

Genotype	Phenotype	Dominance Relationships
Gr/Gr	Green	
Gr/GF	Green	Gr dominant to GF
Gr/YF	Green	Gr dominant to YF
Gr/WC	Green	Gr dominant to WC
Gr/B	Green	Gr dominant to B
GF/GF	GF Blue DF	
GF/YF	GF Blue	*GF dominant to YF
GF/WC	Y suffused	**GF & WC codominant
GF/B	GF Blue SF	***GF partially dominant to B
YF/YF	Blue	
YF/WC	Y suffused	**YF & WC codominant
YF/B	YF Blue	YF dominant to B
WC/WC	Green	
WC/B	WC Blue	WC dominant to B
B/B	Blue	Recessive to all

*Can also be partially dominant, explained in the text when discussing slight variations from the ideal deep buttercup yellow in the cap when describing the GF/YF phenotype

**Phenotypes that differ from either parent that are based on contributions from both parents

***Phenotypes of the Single Factor and Double Factor differ from each other

Of the 15 possible genotypes there are five homozygous genotypes (Gr/Gr, GF/GF, YF/YF, WC/WC, and B/B) and ten heterozygous genotypes that produce the colour combinations (Gr/GF, Gr/YF, Gr/WC, Gr/B, GF/YF, GF/WC, GF/B, YF/WC, YF/B, and WC/B). Green (Gr) is dominant to all its mutations. Conversely, Blue (B) is recessive to all its allelic variants. Crossing any of the colour phenotypes to blue is known in genetics as the test cross that can determine the exact genotype underlying all the other colour phenotypes crossed to it.

GREEN AND COMBINATIONS WITH ITS ALLELIC MUTATIONS (GR/GR, GR/GF, GR/YF, GR/WC, GR/B):

The five genotype combinations that include the wildtype sequence produce enough yellow pigment to make green feathers, either in double dose (Gr/Gr) or single dose in combination with all its mutant sequences (Gr/GF, Gr/YF, Gr/WC, Gr/B). Wildtype Gr is dominant to all four of its mutations since the combinations are indistinguishable from the wildtype Green homozygote.

Applying the classical test cross to any of the Green phenotypes carrying hidden recessive mutations (Test cross is Green X Blue B/B) reveals the underlying genotype of the Green parent based on the distribution of phenotypes among the progeny.

Genotype	Phenotype	Distribution of Offspring from the Test Cross
Gr/Gr	Green	100% Green; the Green parent must be Gr/Gr
Gr/GF	Green	50% Green, 50% GF/SF; the Green parent must be Gr/GF
Gr/YF	Green	50% Green, 50% YF; the Green parent must be Gr/YF
Gr/WC	Green	50% Green, 50% WC; the Green parent must be Gr/WC
Gr/B	Green	50% Green, 50% Blue; the Green parent must be Gr/B.

The test cross is able to determine the genotype of all possible Green budgerigars based on the observed distribution of phenotypes among the progeny of the test cross.

BLUE (B/B):

This genotype in the absence of yellow pigment is expressed as a blue budgerigar. It is recessive to all the other sequence variants of the colour gene. The Blue sequence has a point mutation (a cytosine to thymine base transition at position 1930 in the MuPKS gene) that changes the amino acid sequence (arginine to tryptophan at residue 6440 in the enzyme polyketide synthase encoded by the gene). That simple change in the gene sequence deactivates the active site of the enzyme, so no yellow pigment is produced. Hence, in the absence of yellow pigment we see structural blue light reflected from the feather after the red part of the spectrum has been absorbed by the melanin. Interestingly, the distribution of variation at genetic markers very close to the location of the colour gene on chromosome 1 prove that all blue budgerigars have arisen from a single mutational event identical by descent from the one common ancestor many generations ago.

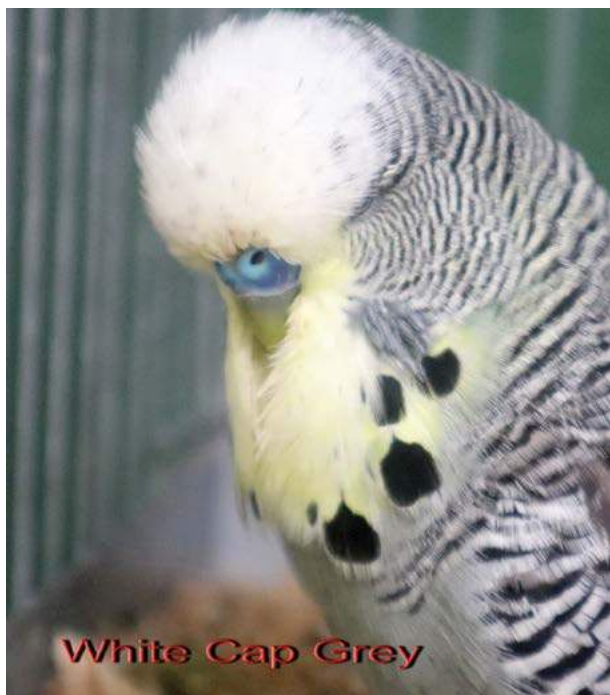
WHITE CAP SINGLE FACTOR. (THIS IS THE WHITE CAP AND BLUE COMBINATION; WC/B):

Test crossing White Cap Single Factor (WC/B) with Blue (B/B) gives 50% White Cap Single Factors (WC/B) and 50% Blues (B/B). White Cap is dominant to Blue.

We observe that the WC/B genotype where White Cap is in combination with Blue has low level yellow wash visible throughout the body when on a sky blue background. The combination of WC/B with the colour modifiers dark factor, grey factor, and violet factor enhances the quality of body colour by concealing much of this yellow body suffusion.

The White Cap Single Factor (WC/B) combination is the show bird. To encourage judges and breeders to focus on whiteness of the cap the White Cap Single Factor was assigned to Group 2 for the allocation of points for colour and markings. Group 2 places emphasis on Markings and/or Varietal Features, which in the case of White Cap is deemed to be "White feathers over a pale underlying cream base extending over the frontal and crown". In practice, there is some variation in the colour of the cap with some White Cap Single Factors having a very pale cream cap rather than the desired pure white cap.

The molecular mechanism for White Cap Single Factor is the easiest to speculate upon from among the Golden Face, Yellow Face, and White Cap mutations. A mutation in the promoter region of the colour gene could significantly reduce transcription to mRNA that would lead to reduction of polyketide synthase thereby reducing the manufacture of yellow pigment. Alternatively, a mutation near or at the DNA sequence that is the sequence encoding the active site of the enzyme could also interfere with the normal production of yellow pigment. Another possibility might be a mutation affecting mRNA stability during translation from the genetic code



to assembly of the enzyme. The answer will only be found by sequencing the colour gene in White Caps. Knowing the actual mechanism has no bearing on how we breed this colour across the varieties since the White Cap colour follows simple particulate single gene Mendelian inheritance.

Some yellow especially seen in the mask has led to speculation that White Cap could be derived as a second hit mutation from either the Golden Faced Blue or Yellow Faced Blue mutant DNA sequence. That's unlikely since none of the possible molecular mechanisms for White Cap align with the likely mechanism for Golden Faced and Yellow Faced as explained below. White Cap most likely is a unique mutation that has arisen direct from the wildtype Green but only DNA sequencing can settle that question.

WHITE CAP DOUBLE FACTOR (THIS IS THE WC/WC HOMOZYGOTE):

No doubt since they can be bred people will want a separate class to exhibit White Cap Double Factors in shows, rather than accepting them as stock birds for the breeding team. Currently they are benched alongside the White Cap Single Factor. Body colour is identical to that of the Green Series, but the cap is paler. Test crossing White Cap Double Factor (WC/WC) with Blue (B/B) gives 100% White Cap Single Factors (WC/B). That rapidly increases the number of White Cap Single Factors in the aviary and may be its primary value to the stud.

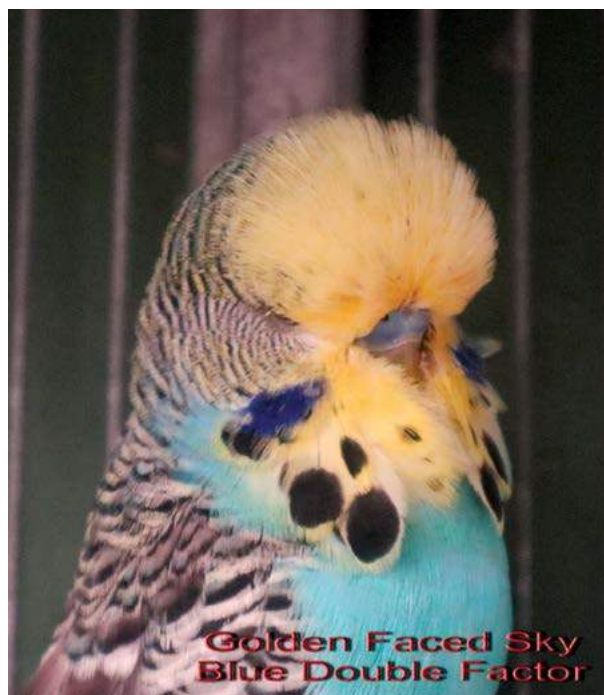
The body colour of the White Cap Single Factor is described in the Standard as having "an even infused wash of yellow over the entire area of body colour including the rump area." Why the green body in the White Cap Double Factor with two bluish White Cap Single Factors as parents? Simply stated, two doses of the mutation probably manufacture enough yellow pigment, compared with the Single Factor, to mimic the green body colour seen in the wildtype Green. Thus, two completely different mechanisms produce enough yellow pigment for green body colour in wildtype Green (Gr/Gr) and White Cap Double Factor (WCWC).

GOLDEN FACED BLUE, DOUBLE FACTOR (THIS IS THE GF/GF HOMOZYGOTE):

Test mating Golden Faced Double Factor (GF/GF) with Blue (B/B) gives 100% Golden Faced Single Factor (GF/B). Since the appearance of double factor (GF/GF) and single factor GF/B forms of the Golden Faced Blue differ, then the Golden Faced Blue mutation is only partially dominant to the Blue mutation.

The Double Factor form of the Golden Faced Blue is the only presentation of Golden Faced Blue that displays the prescribed blue or grey body colour after moulting out from the nest feather. This is therefore the show bird. It is generally considered to be smaller than the Single Factor form combined with Blue possibly because it is more difficult to breed in numbers after outcrossing to Blue Series to bring about improvement. Two generations are required to translate the desirable features of the Blue Series outcross to a Golden Faced Blue Double Factor, rather than only one generation to transmit improved features (other than body colour) to the Golden Faced Single Factor.

Any mechanism explaining Golden Faced Blue Double Factor must account for the change in distribution of yellow pigment, away from the body feathers, while maintaining the deep buttercup yellow in the head feathers. We therefore need to look at what is different between the body and the head of the budgerigar. An obvious difference is that the body of the bird is warmer than the head so it could be that the Golden Faced Blue is a temperature sensitive mutation. The idea is that polyketide synthase enzyme encoded by the mutant Golden Faced allele is unstable at warmer temperatures affecting its ability to synthesise yellow pigment. If that is the mechanism, it would not be unique. It is well established that temperature instability of tyrosine kinase accounts for the distribution of the melanin to the cooler areas of the head and tail of the Siamese cat, for example.



YELLOW FACED BLUE DOUBLE FACTOR (THIS THE YF/YF HOMOZYGOTE WITH A WHITE FACE):

This bird is phenotypically identical to white faced Blue Series, with no sign of yellow pigment despite carrying two doses of the Yellow Faced Blue mutation. The mechanism is not difficult to explain by invoking more extreme temperature sensitivity for the Yellow Faced Blue mutation. The challenge is for someone to propose a better explanation. The way to prove temperature sensitivity would be to clone and express the wildtype, Golden Faced and Yellow Faced MuPKS gene sequences into a yeast host and assess pigment levels at different temperatures. These are feasible experiments but not by us!

The Yellow Faced Blue Double Factor (YF/YF) can be accidentally purchased thinking it to be B/B until mating to a Blue (B/B) when 100% of the offspring hatch out as Yellow Faced Blue (YF/B). That is effectively the test cross, which can be utilised in distinguishing between Blue YF/YF and Blue B/B offspring from Yellow Faced Blue (YF/B) paired with another Yellow Faced Blue (YF/B). Since Yellow Faced Blue Double Factor (YF/YF) is

indistinguishable in appearance from Blue (B/B), for the purposes of exhibition known or unknown Yellow Faced Blue Double Factors are benched alongside Blues.

GOLDEN FACED BLUE AND YELLOW FACED BLUE COMBINATION (GF/YF):

The combination of Golden Faced Blue with Yellow Faced Blue (GF/YF) can closely mimic the Golden Faced Double Factor (GF/GF) in its deep buttercup yellow over the frontal, crown, and mask. The subtle distinction between it and the Golden Faced Double Factor is easier to make in young birds before the ground colour between the melanin markings in the wing changes from white to yellow as the bird ages. Judges may find the distinction on the show bench challenging.

Sometimes the preferred deep buttercup yellow in the cap of this combination (GF/YF) can vary, being paler. Regarding the allocation of available points for colour and markings, the Golden Faced Blue and Yellow Faced Blue are currently grouped together under Normal Yellow Faced Blue Series in Group 3, where "Equal weight is given to Colour & Markings or absence of markings". That being the case, ideally Golden Faced Blue could be separated from the generic Yellow Faced Blue Series descriptor currently sitting in Group 3. Moving the Golden Faced Blue to Group 2 with "Emphasis on Markings and/or Varietal Features" could be helpful for maintaining the deep buttercup yellow varietal feature characteristic of Golden Faced Double Factor (GF/GF) given the variation from deep buttercup yellow sometimes seen in the cap of the GF/YF combination when benched in the Golden Faced Blue class. That would place Golden Faced in the same group as White Cap, placing emphasis on the cap as a primary varietal feature for both Golden Faced and White Cap.

Why do breeders mix the two colours of GF and YF? It is thought that since Yellow Faced Blues are usually stronger birds than Golden Faced

Blue Double Factors, and the cap usually remains deep buttercup yellow in the GF/YF combination (ie GF can mostly be fully dominant to YF), the combination may have a competitive advantage on the show bench.

Mixing the two colours does have its downside. When purchasing a putative Golden Faced Double Factor there is no guarantee that it is a pure Golden Faced GF/GF since it may be GF/YF. The differences can be subtle and can be difficult to pick in a mature bird, especially if unfamiliar with the appearance of the combination. The resulting offspring can be confusing to newcomers to the hobby when both Yellow Faced Blue and Golden Faced Blue appear in the same nest. Judges and breeders cannot confidently with 100% certainty pick the differences between GF/GF and GF/YF, so it's not practical to ban them from the show bench. Anyone mixing Golden Faced Blue and Yellow Faced Blue in their breeding programs have a responsibility to inform buyers of the risk that any putative Golden Faced Double Factors they are selling may not be as they seem. The risk can be mitigated by buying only Golden Faced Blue Single Factors (GF/B) with their characteristic wash of yellow body suffusion.

To distinguish with certainty if the bird is GF/GF or GF/YF we again resort to the test cross. GF/GF crossed to Blue (BB) gives all Golden Faced Single Factor. GF/YF crossed to Blue gives 50% Golden Faced Single Factor and 50% Yellow Faced Blue. The two phenotypes in the progeny are easily distinguished after the first moult when yellow suffusion throughout the body affects the quality of body colour in the Golden Faced Single Factor, but not the Yellow Faced Blue.



YELLOW FACED BLUE AND BLUE COMBINATION (YF/B):

This is the Yellow Faced Blue seen on the show bench and the combination that the beginner breeder needs to go to first, when departing from greens and blues. There can be variation in intensity of yellow for this mutation as well. Sometimes the cream or lemon colouration of the cap can be darker than normal, especially in dark and violet factor combinations. Test crossing Yellow Faced Blue (YF/B) with Blue (B/B) gives an expectation of 50% Yellow Faced Blue (YF/B) and 50% Blue (B/B). Retaining it within Group 3 as Yellow Faced Blue rather than grouped with Golden Faced under Normal Yellow Faced Blue Series seems appropriate if Golden Faced Blue was to be moved into Group 2 as suggested above. Yellow Faced Blues are easier than Double Factor Golden Faced Blues to breed to exhibition Standard because YF is fully dominant to Blue and can be upgraded in a single generation by crossing to quality Blue Series. The absence of yellow suffusion throughout the body can be explained by the same temperature sensitive hypothesis as outlined for the Golden Faced Double Factor.

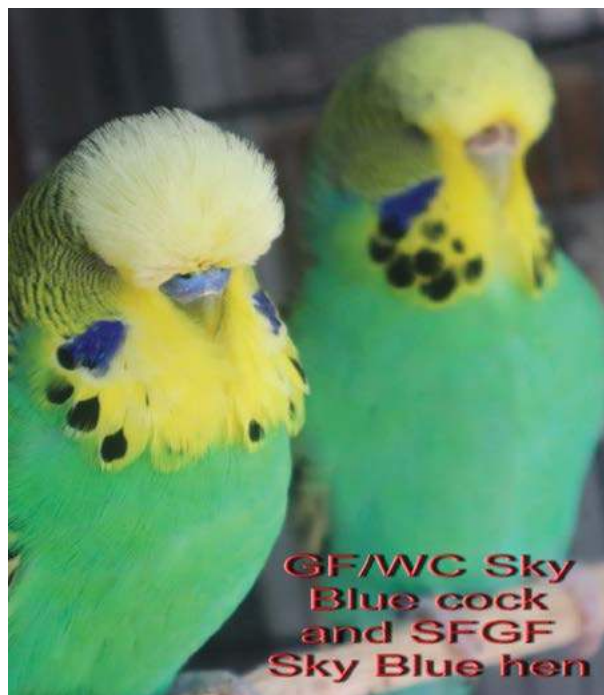


BODY COLOUR OF THE COMBINATIONS OF GOLDEN FACED BLUE/BLUE, GOLDEN FACED BLUE/ WHITE CAP, AND THE YELLOW FACED BLUE/ WHITE CAP

The body colour of these combinations is affected by yellow suffusion and the greenish tinge looks similar no matter the combination. That is despite the hypothesised temperature sensitivity of the Golden Faced Blue and Yellow Faced Blue mutations. There is a mechanism to explain these observations but it's complicated and requires some understanding of biochemistry associated with dimeric enzymes. Therefore, that is beyond the scope of this discussion.

GOLDEN FACED SINGLE FACTOR (GOLDEN FACED BLUE AND BLUE COMBINATION; GF/B):

The quality of body colour of the Golden Face Single Factor deteriorates when moulting out of nest feather due to suffusion of yellow pigment throughout the body. In the absence of dark factor, the body changes from blue to a sea green colour. The grey form changes to somewhat mimic grey green. These birds are disqualified when entered in the Golden Faced Blue class because



they are not blue or grey. They are non-Standard so can only be entered into a show with a Non-Standard Variety Class in the show schedule; although strictly speaking, they are a non-standard colour rather than a non-standard variety.

Since dark factor can proportionally mask the intrusion of yellow suffusion then some semblance of blue body colour remains in the presence of dark factor. These birds are penalised (perhaps not enough) for poor colour rather than disqualified when they are entered into the Golden Faced Blue class. Ideally the Golden Faced Blue should only be exhibited in its Double Factor form with all the Single Factor forms relegated to the breeding team, and to the Non-Standard Variety class if they must be exhibited.

The Single Factor expression of the Golden Faced Blue devalues the beauty of this mutation compared with its Double Factor form. The Single Factor Golden Faced Blue is the byproduct of outcrossing Double Factor Golden Faced Blue (GF/GF) to a stronger Blue (B/B) to bring about improvement to the Golden Faced family. That can be achieved by crossing the improved Single Factor progeny back to a Double Factor, or by crossing two Single Factors together for a lower yield of Double Factors.

Test mating Golden Faced Single Factor (GF/B) with Blue (B/B) gives 50% Golden Faced Single Factor (GF/B) and 50% Blue (B/B).

GOLDEN FACED BLUE AND WHITE CAP COMBINATION (GF/WC):

The obvious question is why breed them? The only reason as a breeder is to satisfy one's curiosity to see what they look like, and likewise as a judge to see what they look like in case they appear on the show bench. They can't be bred accidentally as is the case for the Yellow Faced Blue/White Cap (YF/WC) combination as we will see in the next section. These GF/WC birds look very similar to both the Golden Faced Single Factor combination (GF/B) and the Yellow Faced Blue/White cap combination (YF/WC). Perhaps the greenish body colour is slightly stronger in the Golden Face/White Cap (GF/WC) combination compared with the YF/WC and GF/B combinations.

There is a subtle difference in the cap of the GF/WC combination compared with the Golden Face Single Factor (GF/B). The cap of the Golden Faced Blue/White Cap combination (GF/WC) is slightly paler than the cap of the Golden Faced Single Factor with the similar body colour, but not to the extent that it

can be classified as a White Cap. The difference in intensity of the cap compared with the mask in the Golden Faced/White Cap combination can be seen when alongside a Golden Faced Single Factor which has uniformity of yellow pigmentation between the cap and mask.

Golden Faced and White Cap can be regarded as codominant since their combination does not resemble either parent but is comprised of input from both parents.

YELLOW FACED BLUE AND WHITE CAP COMBINATION (YF/WC):

Body colour appears like that seen in the Golden Faced Single Factor and the Golden Faced White Cap combination. However, where the intensity of the yellow cap in the Golden Faced Single Factor is similar in intensity to its mask, the yellow cap in the Yellow Faced Blue/White Cap combination is noticeably paler than its mask. The degree of dilution of the yellow pigment in the cap of the combination is not sufficient for it to be classified as a White Cap. The bird neither resembles Yellow Faced Blues or White Caps, so the relationship between the two mutations can best be described as codominant.

The genotype of a suspected YF/WC combination is easily confirmed by the test cross. Crossed to Blue (B/B) the offspring will be a mixture of YF/B (Yellow Faced Blue) and WC/B (White Caps) in roughly equal numbers. My result from one pairing was 14 chicks over two rounds consisting of eight Yellow Faced Blues and six White Caps. This is consistent with 50:50 Mendelian expectations. All chicks, irrespective of YF or WC, are combinations split for Blue. Note that it's impossible to get Blue chicks from this pairing despite there being a Blue parent.

The obvious question is why breed them. They can easily be bred by accident when unknowingly crossing a White Cap with a White Faced Blue that unbeknown to the breeder is in fact Yellow Faced Blue Double Factor (YF/YF). Rather than getting

the expected 50% White Cap and 50% Blue among the offspring as expected from what is actually the test cross, what is seen is 50% Yellow Faced Blue and 50% of offspring that look very like Golden Faced Blue Single Factor with yellow suffusion throughout the body. The latter are in fact YF/WC combinations, with no involvement of GF. Rather than automatically discarding them, depending on quality, they can be useful in the breeding program for increasing the number of Yellow Faced Blues and White Caps in the aviary by crossing them to Blues.

They can be bred intentionally for two reasons. Firstly, judges need to know what they look like since they may appear on the show bench in the Any Other Variety Class, even if mistaken by the breeder for Golden Faced Single Factors. Secondly, they can be used to rapidly increase the number of Yellow Faced Blues and White Caps in the aviary, if that is a goal. Placing the YF and WC mutations onto the same bird does not affect the DNA sequence of either mutation, so the integrity of the Yellow Faced Blue and White Cap Blue mutant DNA sequences remains intact. Inheritance is particulate with no such thing as blending inheritance in the offspring.





THE WHITE CAP CONUNDRUM: THE NOMENCLATURE ISSUE AND YELLOW BODY SUFFUSION

The colour variations of Green, Golden Faced Blue, Yellow Faced Blue, and Blue are listed in the Normals at the top of the Matrix within the Australian National Budgerigar Standard; however, the most recently recognised colour variation referred to as White Cap is located near the bottom of the Matrix among the variety mutations. All the colour variations including White Cap can be seen across all varieties from the Normals down to the Cresteds.

Consider, for example a budgerigar with a White Cap, Cinnamonwing, and Cobalt content. Using the naming convention of variety first followed by colour then for the purposes of listing in an auction catalogue this bird is described as Cinnamonwing White Cap Cobalt, but that is at variance with the position of this bird in the Matrix. Using the naming convention of bottom up from the Matrix, for the purposes of listing in an auction catalogue this bird could also be described as White Cap Cinnamonwing Cobalt. The colour is **White Cap Cobalt** but writing the descriptor according to

position in the Matrix the colour descriptor **“White Cap [Cinnamonwing] Cobalt”** is split by naming the variety Cinnamonwing in the middle, splitting the colour descriptor **White Cap Cobalt**, thus making no sense. Hence the conundrum.

Had the White Cap been placed into the Matrix among the Normals with the rest of the colours the yellow body suffusion in White Caps without dark factor or grey factor would also have been problematic since their “infused wash of yellow” over the body at least on the sky blue background may need to be penalised to some extent for yellow body suffusion.

None of that affects the way we breed White Caps, nor does it affect their popularity.

Addendum: Note the more economical terminology White Cap rather than Australian White Cap, and Golden Faced Blue rather than Australian Golden Faced Blue, used throughout the above article. Inclusion of the country in the descriptor does not relate in any way to the appearance of the bird. It just makes these descriptors clumsy when used in show schedules and auction catalogues. Previously the Australian Standard removed “Danish” from the Recessive Pied descriptor and removed “English” from the Yellow Faced Blue descriptor. “Dutch” could be removed from the Dutch Dominant Pied descriptor by renaming it as Clear Flighted Dominant Pied, the way it is described in Europe. Another misnomer is “Cinnamonwing” as used above since that is how it is portrayed in the Standard. The brown melanin defines the markings throughout the body, not just the wings, so “Cinnamon” as the descriptor would have greater utility.



*Main Group winner: Teams 4,0 Cinnamon Grey
Exhibitor: PS Heylen/Waerzeggers*

64th DSV (Germany) National Show and 2nd Open Colour Budgerigar Show - 11 th /12th October 2024

Ali Bouresli - Kuwait

I have visited many shows in Europe over a time, but questioned why I had not visited a DSV Show in the past and because my friend Marcel Bühler was the Show Manager of this show, I decided to visit this year – given his professionalism, I know he will do a great job.

11th October – I fly to Frankfurt Airport with my friend Hamad Helal (Bahrain). We arrived in the afternoon and travelled to Brüggen. Brüggen is a municipality in the district of Viersen, in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. It is situated near the border with the Netherlands, on the river Schwalm, approx. 15 km south of Venlo, 11 km eastern of Swalmen (Roermond) and 20 km north-west of Mönchengladbach.

We meet up with the organisers and Judges for the show. The show has 1528 entries (1289 show budgerigars and 239 colour budgerigars) and 98 exhibitors (81 for show budgerigars and 18 for colour), 8 judges and 60 volunteers, without whom such an event would not be possible.

I believe Marcel will have a reasonable amount of stress over this weekend. Hamad and I now know what team we will join on the 12th and schedule as such. We take time out for a meal with Ali Allami and retire for the night.

12th October – We arrive at the show hall for an organisers meeting. Judging commenced at 7.20 a.m. The team I am with is: Judge – John Lees, Writer – Michael Schulte, Stewards – Marcellus Burkle, Hubert Jansen, Bogda Tripunescu and myself.

The striking thing about the show is that everybody worked like a beehive, everything was on time. At 2 p.m., the show was finished. As I thought, Marcel and the organisers did a perfect job.

I have gained a lot of experience and knowledge from this show, you can imagine the numbers of people and team members that I really enjoyed meeting and was able to chat with about the hobby. Surely, I cannot mention them all as there are too many.

I really liked the quality of birds and especially the main winners. Best in Show – a Lacewing White Cock bird was an exceptional bird exhibited by the Partnerships Heylen-Waerzeggers. The Best



Best In Show



Best Opposite Sex

Opposite Sex in show was a Yellow Faced Dilute hen, a very stylish bird exhibited by Ralph Jenne.

I would like to congratulate all the winners.

7.00 p.m. we go to the Züchterabend (breeders' evening) for a dinner with the breeders and organisers. This was a most enjoyable night.

13th October – We wake up and go to the show hall to meet new breeders / fanciers. After that we were ready to commence a small budgerigar trip.

I would like to thank Marcel and the membership for their hospitality and professionalism.

Judges for the Show Budgerigars: Geoff Bowley-WBO-GB, John Lees-WBO-GB, Armin Giger-AZ-DWV, Jens Pollmann-AZ-DWV, Angelika Zastrow-DSV, Frank Nietgen-DSV

For the Colour Budgerigar: Niko Hermans-B, Jean Pellman-F



Team "John Lees"



*Main Group winner: Pairs 1,1
Cinnamon Grey green
Exhibitor: Christian Winkhofer*

The Bundesschau 2005

The Bundesschau invitation came, thanks to Marcel Buhler of Switzerland who advised the AZ-DWV (Avicultural & Conservation Society - German Budgerigar Association) President, Heinz Kueppers that I would be visiting Europe and was judging the Swiss National event in 2005. I was later invited to lecture at the Budgerigar Society Show in the United Kingdom, but sadly the dates clashed with the German appointment.

Some history of the Bundesschau leading up to the judging:

On the 17th of November, a Thursday, Jennie (my partner) and I drove with Marcel Buhler's car from Switzerland (Hagendorn, Cham near Zug) to Karlsruhe in Germany to Leo & Hilde Endres residence to travel to Kassel with Leo, Leo desired to leave at 11 a.m. We left Hagendorn at 7 a.m. and arrived on the dot of 11 a.m. at Leo's and departed for Kassel within 10 minutes after saying a quick hello to Hilde and loading our luggage into the vehicle, I think Leo got a bit of a shock to see the amount we were carrying. The idea of driving on the 'wrong' side of the road is a little daunting, but Jennie's ability to advise me that I was getting too close to the gutter or a post was most welcome.

The 420 km trip to Kassel took a little over 3 hours; Leo informed us that he could not go over 190km/hr because he had his winter tyres on. Oh and we stopped for a toilet and food break and a stretch along the way.

We deposited our luggage at the hotel; Jennie remained there whilst I was whisked off to the show venue for introductions and the signing of all place cards from 1st to 7th plus cards for the colour groups from 1st to 16th. I am told the total number of budgerigars entered is 3961, I have 347 of these. I am allocated the following classes to judge; Cinnamon Light Greens, Cinnamon Opaline Light Greens,

Cinnamon Greys, Cinnamon Opaline Greys, Yellow Faced Cinnamon Blues, Yellow Faced Cinnamon Greys, Yellow Faced Cinnamon Opaline Blues, Yellow Faced Opaline Blues, Yellow Faced Opaline Greys, Yellow Faced Spangle Double Factor (The Australian and Europe Yellow Faced are shown in the same class). As a comment, the Cinnamonwing (in Australia) is classified as Cinnamon and the Opaline Cinnamonwing is classified as Cinnamon Opaline in Europe.

In 2001, Marcel judged this show and there were 9900 budgerigars entered.

The benching of the birds takes place on the Thursday; none of the officiating judges are permitted in the show venue proper. There are many other species of birds at this show. Overall entries are around 11,500.

Total entries I am advised are down this year because of the media coverage of the Bird Flu scare, in fact both the Swiss and the German shows appointed one specific spokesperson for the media to prevent misinformation getting to the media. There are 72 exhibitors missing from the budgerigar section alone. The record entry for budgerigars is the 9,900 mentioned previously.

There are 10 budgerigar judges, 7 from Germany, one from Holland and one from Denmark plus yours truly; all can speak fluent German except me. I guess I can speak enough to cover the varieties and placing of the birds plus enough to get me out of trouble (or in it) when getting around to places via train or in restaurants.

Thursday evening there is a meal with the officials of the show and I am presented with an English translation of the AZ-DWV Guidelines for Judging. This will turn out to be invaluable. I read through it and found difficulties in some areas thus the Judge from Holland, Han Schrijver who spoke excellent English, Heinz Kueppers, Winfried Beger (one of two vice presidents of the DWV) and I sat down and worked through the document. From this meeting, I have rewritten and reformatted the document for future English speaking judges.

I am required to be ready to head to the show venue

by 7.15 a.m. the next morning (Friday) being advised that it could be a long day.

Friday the 18th of November I am up at around 6 a.m., showered and ready for breakfast by 6.45 a.m., we hit the road for the show venue at 7.20 a.m.

Judge and Steward Introductions take place; each judge is allotted 3 stewards, my chief steward being Gunter Will, and a wonderful gentleman though like his two assistants, he could not speak English.

I commenced judging at 8.15 a.m. and soon found a good rhythm. Judge 1st to 7th in the four show classifications, from Beginner to Champion, young birds and old birds, cocks and hens, put all first placed birds together and if a full compliment = there should be 16 birds in the colour class line up, judge these from 1st to 16th. Sounds easy? Whilst judging your own classes, you are called upon to assist two other judges to judge a best in colour variety group; I assisted with the Dominant Pieds, The AOSV's (Continental Pied, Clearbody, Crest, Fallow and Dark Eyed Clear) plus the Cinnamons, Opaline Cinnamons and Yellow Faced varieties – the other two judges that I teamed up with had judged the remainder of these varieties or had been called, as I had for the Dominant and AOSV classes, from another area of judging.

The Light Greens the Sky Blues, the Greys and Grey Greens are in their own Group Class and dark factor normal green and blue series are combined.

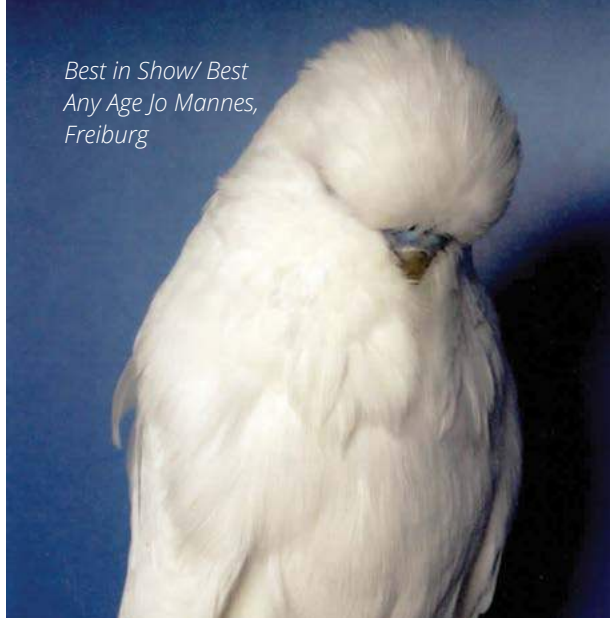
Given this the Judge who had completed judging the line up of Normal Greys from 1st to 16th, as an example, was then subject to 2 other judges (one being me) coming along and reassessing the group with his input. This would be nothing but daunting as we did make some changes 1st to 2nd, 2nd to 1st and some other changes further down the list.

At the time I was judging the Greys my thoughts were that we were assessing the work of a trainee judge and had written a note to discuss this with one of the Vice Presidents, Winfried Beger, at days end, as it was, he approached me later in the day re this very subject to ask what I thought of this system. I stated as per above that it would be daunting and almost undermining.

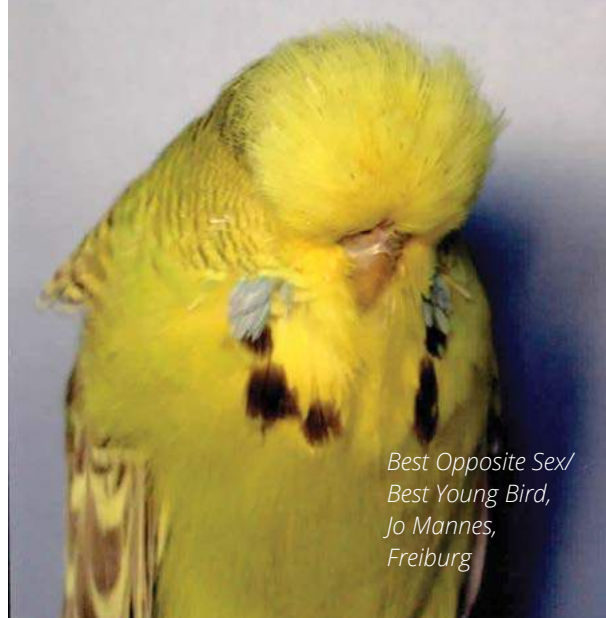
I completed my class judging at 12.35 p.m., there were some condition problems and a number of birds were scratched. The best bird that I judged in these classes was a Cinnamon Light Green Hen, an awesome bird that I placed second; her primary tail feathers were just touching the primary tail coverts, sadly not in contention for any of the major awards. The next best bird that I judged was a Yellow Faced Cinnamon Sky hen that I placed first even though she had a twisted toenail plus the end of another toe nail missing. The second bird in this class would not perform; she was a big powerful bird.

The judging of the final birds commenced around 1.15 p.m., the best of each colour group was put before the judges who were all seated nearby. 2 x 3 judges and 1 x 4 were asked to judge the birds and place their nomination on a piece of paper that had been supplied. Not being familiar with the way things were to work, I followed the two judges with me and looked over the birds, no birds were moved at all, these two judges wrote on their piece of paper and handed in their vote, I walked back and forward checking over a couple of birds at either end of the stage and thought "should I move these or not". I chose not to, the bird I went for as did 5 other judges was a superb Spangle Double Factor white adult cock bird that won the show last year, an exceptional effort given the number of birds entered at both shows. The final vote went 6, 2, & 2.

From here the Best Opposite Sex in show was chosen, there were 7 or 8 top quality hens on display, again the judges were in groups but this time I was with two different judges. The secret ballot process came into play again. A Cinnamon Grey Green young hen that I assisted two other judges with to put best in the Cinnamons overall won, with the voting going 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 & 1. I went for the Yellow Faced Cinnamon Sky hen as she was really blossoming even though I recognised she had toenail problems. The Cinnamon was not performing and had two 'shadow' spots. She showed better in her class when I judged her and certainly turned it on afterwards. Again, no birds were moved to



*Best in Show/ Best
Any Age Jo Mannes,
Freiburg*



*Best Opposite Sex/
Best Young Bird,
Jo Mannes,
Freiburg*

compare side by side, thus I asked the judges from Denmark, who spoke good English if this was forbidden, he said no it was up to the individual judge to make that decision.

Three judges were selected to make the decision on Best Novice in show; they chose an Australian Dominant Pied Grey Green cock.

Next was the judging of the Best Adult hen in show, again we are broken up into groups with the same secret ballot process taking place. There were 3 very strong hens in this group and I was in the last group to judge and thought a Grey Green hen might be the one to challenge for this spot, big shouldered bird in proportion, and then I got to the other end of the bench and saw a wonderful Clearbody Grey hen and a Spangle Grey Green hen, I became bold and moved the Grey Green beside these two birds and eventually voted for her. The Grey Green won 4 votes to the Clearbody 3, the Spangle Grey Green 2 and a strong Light Green hen 1.

Best young cock went to a Cinnamon Grey that I had judged earlier in the day, a bird that I did not rate that highly, I went for a Spangle Cinnamon Grey that I believed stood out over the other cocks, 3 others agreed with me, but we were outvoted as the Cinnamon Grey obtained 5 votes and a nice Grey Cock 1. The young hens were certainly superior to the young cocks. The best young bird in show went to the Cinnamon Grey

Green hen that had already won best of colour. Jennie my partner had painted a Dominant Pied in acrylic paints for the Best Young Bird thus the breeder; Jo Mannes has this hanging in his lounge. Interestingly it was revealed that Jo had won the Best in Show at this event 12 times and had judged on other occasions.

I was selected in the group of three judges to judge Best Novice bird, this went to an Opaline Greywing Grey cock that was in great condition but lacked the head quality that I like, and I went for a Cinnamon Light Green cock.

The remaining four judges assessed the Intermediate class and gave this to a Grey Green Cock.

Best Champion had already been won by the Spangle Double Factor White cock bird.

After the show, I was advised that the Yellow Face that I regarded so highly (and others did too I am told) should have been disqualified because of the twisted toe nail – I could not find anything within the disqualification clauses on this one.

Judging was completed by 3.15 p.m.

Judges: Nigel Tonkin (Australia) 347 entries , Han Schrijver (Holland) 409 entries, Lars Voss (Denmark) 367 entries, Rudolf Huntemann 425 entries, Sven Friedrichs 383 entries, Rolf Hentzler 409 entries, Detlef Hinrichs 413 entries, Werner Kuhn 395 entries, Richard Kuhr 425 entries, Manfred Schnurr 388 entries (Germany)

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The Role of Play and Toys in a Budgie's Life

Budgies are intelligent and social creatures that thrive on mental and physical stimulation. In the wild, their days are filled with exploring, foraging, and interacting with their flock. In captivity, toys play a vital role in replicating these natural behaviours, ensuring your budgie remains happy, healthy, and entertained. Let's delve into why play is essential, the types of toys to consider, and how to select safe, engaging options for your feathered friend.

Why Play Matters for Budgies

Play is not just about fun—it's crucial for a budgie's overall well-being. Toys and playtime provide:

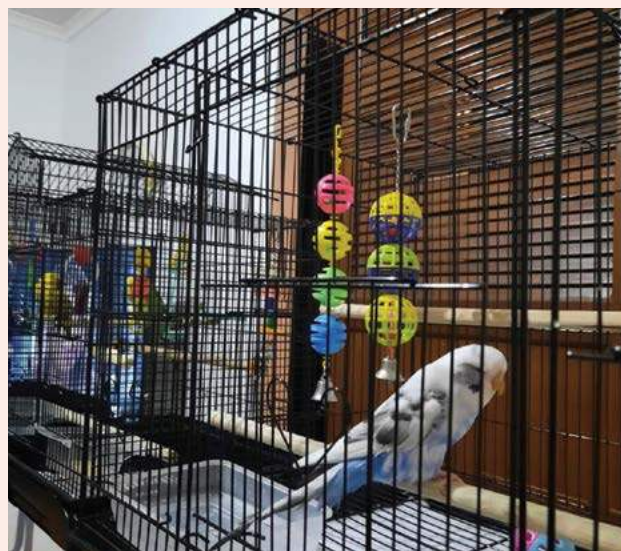
- **Mental Stimulation:** Budgies are curious by nature and need challenges to keep their minds active. Boredom can lead to stress, destructive behaviours, and even health problems.
- **Physical Exercise:** Climbing, swinging, and chewing toys encourage movement, helping to keep your budgie fit and prevent obesity.
- **Emotional Fulfillment:** Playtime mimics the activities budgies would engage in with their flock, reducing feelings of loneliness and promoting emotional well-being.
- **Beak and Nail Maintenance:** Many toys are designed to be chewed or scratched, helping to naturally file down overgrown beaks and nails.



Types of Toys for Budgies

The market offers a wide variety of toys, each designed to cater to specific needs. Here are some popular options:

1. **Chew Toys:** Made from natural materials like wood, cuttlefish bone, or coconut shells, chew toys satisfy a budgie's instinct to gnaw and help keep their beak healthy.
2. **Foraging Toys:** These encourage budgies to work for their treats, providing mental stimulation and mimicking natural foraging behaviour.
3. **Swings and Perches:** Budgies love to perch, swing, and climb. Providing a variety of these not only keeps them entertained but also strengthens their legs and feet.
4. **Mirrors:** While mirrors can be fascinating for a lone budgie, it's important to monitor their use. Excessive interaction with mirrors might make your bird overly attached or frustrated.
5. **Interactive Toys:** Bells, small balls, and puzzle toys are great for encouraging curiosity and active engagement.
6. **Rope Ladders and Climbing Toys:** These promote exercise and exploration, keeping your budgie agile.



How to Choose Safe Toys

Not all toys are suitable for budgies, and safety should always be a top priority. Here are some guidelines:

- **Material:** Avoid toys with toxic paints, sharp edges, or parts small enough to be swallowed. Natural, untreated wood and stainless steel are ideal.
- **Size:** Ensure the toy is appropriately sized for your budgie. Toys designed for larger birds may have components that could trap a small budgie's foot or beak.
- **Durability:** While budgies love to chew, flimsy toys can quickly break apart, posing a choking hazard.
- **Inspect Regularly:** Check toys frequently for wear and tear. Replace any damaged items to prevent injuries.

Tips for Enriching Your Budgie's Life with Toys

1. **Rotate Toys Regularly:** To keep things fresh and exciting, rotate your budgie's toys every couple of weeks. This prevents boredom and encourages exploration.
2. **Encourage Interaction:** Spend time playing with your budgie using their toys. This strengthens your bond and helps them feel more comfortable.
3. **Observe Preferences:** Each budgie has unique likes and dislikes. Pay attention to which toys they gravitate towards and provide more of what they enjoy.
4. **DIY Toys:** If you're feeling creative, make your own toys using bird-safe materials like cardboard, paper, and untreated wood.

Conclusion

Toys and play are fundamental to a budgie's happiness and health. By providing a variety of safe, engaging options, you can ensure your feathered friend leads a stimulating and fulfilling life. Remember, a happy budgie is an active budgie, so invest in quality toys and spend time exploring the joys of playing together. Your budgie will thank you with chirps, tricks, and endless affection!

Building a Strong Foundation: Key Tips for Your First Breeding Season

Embarking on your first breeding season as a budgerigar enthusiast is an exciting and rewarding journey. Success in breeding starts with a solid foundation of knowledge and preparation, ensuring the well-being of your birds and their offspring. Not all will have this prerequisite, but they will learn as experience progresses. Here's a guide to help you navigate the key aspects of a successful first breeding season.

1. Selecting the Right Breeding Pairs

The first and most critical step in your breeding journey is choosing compatible and healthy pairs. Here's what to consider:

- **Genetics:** Look for birds with strong genetic lines, if able, to ensure healthy chicks. Avoid pairing birds with known hereditary issues or weak traits. Weak or hereditary traits might be incomplete tails or long flights as two examples.
- **Health:** Both birds should be in peak health—clear eyes, vibrant plumage, and active behaviour are good indicators. In particular, place something in the aviary to chew – like cuttle bone or gum branches – hens will often begin to increase their chewing and foraging as they're entering the breeding cycle. Avoid birds that are underweight, lethargic, or showing signs of illness – breeding will be too stressful for them.
- **Age and Maturity:** Ideal breeding age is between 12 months and 4 years. Younger or older birds may face challenges with fertility or parenting. Hens can become egg bound due to the calcium demands of breeding.

- **Compatibility:** Observe your chosen pair beforehand to ensure they interact well. Some budgies may not bond, even if they're physically healthy and mature. If they're not compatible, they're unlikely to have fertile eggs. Australian National Budgerigar Council Hall of Fame breeders like Gary Gazzard from New South Wales will strategically pair-bond their birds together, before a nest box is made available, to avoid the hen going to nest before the pair has appropriately bonded.

TIP: For your first breeding attempt, select pairs with a calm disposition to make the process easier.

2. Setting Up Breeding Cages and Choosing Nesting Boxes

The right environment is crucial for successful breeding. Follow these tips for setting up your breeding space:

- **Cage Size:** Provide a spacious cage to allow room for the pair to move comfortably. A minimum size of 24"x16"x16" is recommended for a single breeding pair.
- **Privacy:** Position breeding cages in a quiet, low-traffic area to minimize stress.
- **Nesting Boxes:** Choose wooden nesting boxes designed for budgerigars. Ensure they have a concave bottom to prevent eggs from rolling and a small entrance hole to keep the pair secure, or put about 1/3 of the bottom of the nest boxing with nesting materials, such as saw dust, or coconut husk.
- **Perches and Accessories:** Include sturdy perches at varying heights but avoid overcrowding the cage. Remove mirrors and toys to reduce distractions. Breeding cages should have access to a grit for the breaking down of food in the gizzard for ease of digestion, and cuttle bone -for the hen to chew on, as well as seed and water.

PRO TIP: Whenever you are inspecting the nest boxes, try to do it at the same time each day, so that you and the birds become accustomed to one another's habits.

3. Preparing for the Breeding Process

Preparation is key to ensuring your budgies are ready for the demands of breeding and raising chicks. Focus on the following:

- **Diet:** Offer a nutritionally balanced diet rich in seeds and fresh vegetables. Add protein-rich foods like boiled eggs and sprouted seeds to support egg production, beware of the latter in warm weather as sprouted seed and the like can go rancid and cause sickness.
- **Conditioning:** Introduce conditioning foods, such as soaked millet, a few weeks before pairing. Conditioning helps both birds prepare for the physical demands of breeding.
- **Environment:** Maintain a stable, warm temperature (around 18-24°C) and ensure the cage is well-lit with natural or full-spectrum light for 10-12 hours daily.
- **Health Checks:** Examine your birds before putting them down for breeding. Check for parasites, nutritional deficiencies, or other health concerns.
- **Hydration:** Always provide fresh, clean water. Consider adding calcium supplements to support egg-laying hens, but be mindful that sometimes, water additives can reduce water consumption, so watch, and know your birds.

PRO TIP: Observe your birds closely during conditioning. Watch for mutual preening and feeding, as these are signs they have bonded.

4. Understanding Chick Care and Common Challenges

Once eggs are laid and chicks hatch, your role as a breeder shifts to monitoring and supporting their growth. Here's what to expect:

- **Egg-Laying and Incubation:** Hens usually lay 4-8 eggs, one every other day. Incubation lasts about 18 days noting that the hen doesn't always begin incubating immediately, this might occur at the laying of the second egg. Avoid disturbing the nest unnecessarily, as this can stress the hen.

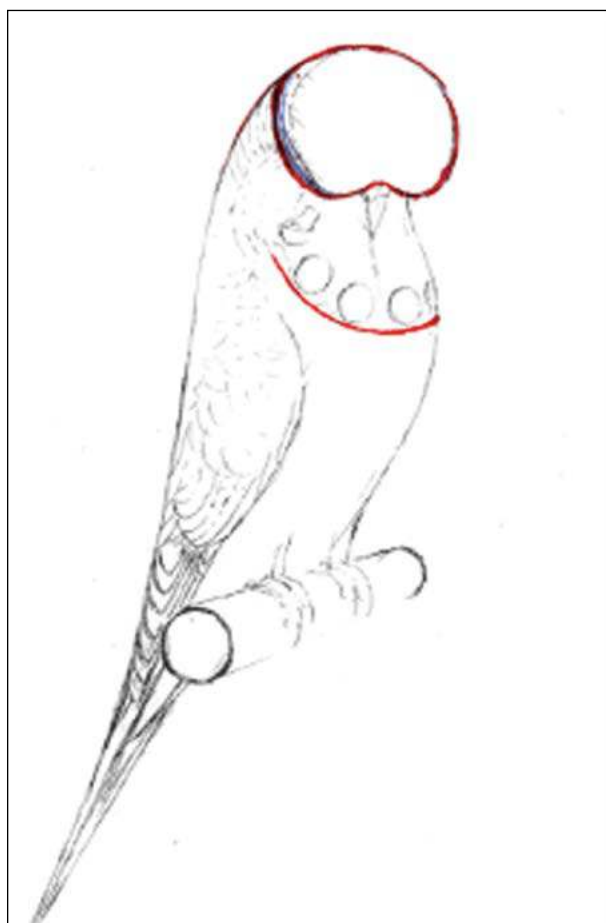
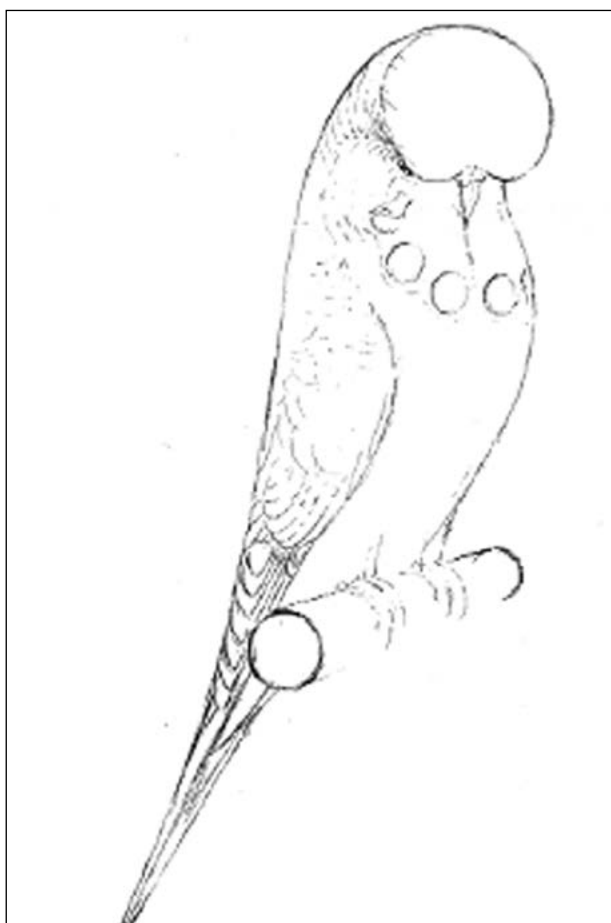
- **Feeding Chicks:** Parent budgies will feed their chicks a regurgitated mixture. Ensure the parents have access to soft, nutrient-rich food during this time that is easy to digest and regurgitate. As they do this, water consumption will sky rocket, so be conscious of this.
- **Chick Monitoring:** Check the chicks daily for signs of healthy growth, such as full crops and active movements. If you notice any underfed or weak chicks, reach out to one of your Club's more experienced breeders for advice or consult an avian vet if necessary.
- **Common Challenges:** Be prepared for issues such as:
 - **Egg-Binding:** Hens may struggle to lay eggs, which requires immediate intervention.
 - **Abandonment:** Some parents may abandon their chicks. Have hand-rearing supplies ready in case intervention is needed.
 - **Sibling Rivalry:** Older chicks may outcompete younger ones for food. Monitor feeding to ensure all chicks thrive. Once you've placed rings on the babies legs at around 10 days, you can safely balance out nests with chicks of the same age, using good record keeping.

PRO TIP: Keep a detailed log of your breeding season, including dates of egg-laying, hatching, and chick development milestones. Notes of chicks in the nest should be used when making decisions about culling.

Final Thoughts

Breeding budgerigars is both an art and a science, requiring patience, dedication, and attention to detail. By carefully selecting your pairs, creating a safe and supportive environment, and preparing for potential challenges, you're laying the groundwork for a successful and fulfilling breeding season. Remember, each season is a learning experience, and the joy of raising healthy chicks makes all the effort worthwhile. Good luck on your journey!

The Pictorial Standard Production 2001



What does the word Standard mean? A level of quality or attainment.

Taking the above into account, the National Body set about updating the pictorial (and the written word where required) to relate to or in effect go beyond what was on the show bench at that time. The previous Standard pictorial had been achieved / surpassed by many thus the next move was required. The Pictorial should be achievable but, in all respects, not readily so. Once reached or surpassed by numerous fanciers then logically another update is required but not to extremities.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ view of the Pictorial commenced in August of 2001 – with the intent to complete a bust of the Cock and of the Hen with along with a front on view of the full bird as well. The idea of the front on view was agreed to be aborted early in the piece.

On receipt of any art work from Ropy Aplin – the well-recognised artist from the United Kingdom – an assessment was made to see what changes might be recommended. The following will show part of the process that took place from the beginning to the end-product.

It would be reasonable to say that some fanciers wanted to go further than with what we ended up with and others thought we may have been going too far.

The process seemed slow to many, but it was always going to take time with the fine tuning and distance coming into play.

11 HONEYEATERS
WAREHAM
DORSET
BH20 4HL
ENGLAND
28.11.01

hello Nigel
 Sorry I haven't got back to you by phone but things are pretty busy here - no more excuses.
 Anyway I'm now sending you the 2 photos of the bird. I've considered the 3/4 view may still require alterations but it is similar to the one on the plate. Once I know the final details I can then come on with it now that the American Paintings are out of the way.
 The front view you sent which is a little bit better than the Frank Silver bird, in my opinion it is a slightly different style to the ideal of yours. I have actually finished Frank's painting. He collected it from my stand at the Club Show - he seemed very pleased with it. Will send you a photo next time, also of the American ideal. Our trip to Luton went very well, saw some very good birds but I will write again to you & Terry about the trip.
 All for now
 Best wishes
 Roy



Many a photo of birds were perused over the journey to ensure we were getting feathers, mask, spots, wing placement and more as it should appear. We did not want to distort reality.

Roy was receptive to our critiquing and responded accordingly with any requested changes.

Small or large changes were not an issue for Roy, he was so easy to work with that the task was a pleasure to be involved with.

The 3/4 view art work became very serious around November 2001 after the side view was deemed to be in order.

The view below shows the change to the mask, this was to be rounded, the Pictorial shows what is targeted, in effect perfection. Later in the process we suggested the mask needs to be a little more realistic.

Were all of these requests achievable?

Potentially not, but the challenge was to get as close as is possible.

Dear Roy,
 re Standards via 3 Rules
 HERE WE GO AGAIN.

① THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED EXTRA POINTS BE MADE TO YOURSELF ON CELEBRATION OF THE STANDARD GIVEN THE AMOUNT OF CHANGE.

② THE REQUIREMENT OF WING PLACEMENT IS BLACK OR YELLOW (NO GREEN TINTING)

③ EYE RING TO BE VISIBLE.

④ TAIL NEEDS LENGTHENING.

⑤ SUGGESTION OF A PINK OR RED WING BUT NOT AT THE POINT WHERE THE FEATHERS MEET THE BODY.

⑥ MORE FEED THROUGH UNDER WINGS.

⑦ WING COULD BE AS FAR OVERHEAD.

⑧ REDUCTION OF RIB CREST POINT.

⑨ WE ARE TO NOW HAVE HAVE (1) SIDE VIEW (2) 3/4 VIEW (3) FRONT VIEW (4) BACK VIEW

⑩ WE ARE TO NOW HAVE THE SAME BIRD AS OF (3)

⑩ Now I see you can be near round - but in round shape.

⑪ Feet in position.

⑫ All things to be checked to end of show at Standard Point to be finished by show.

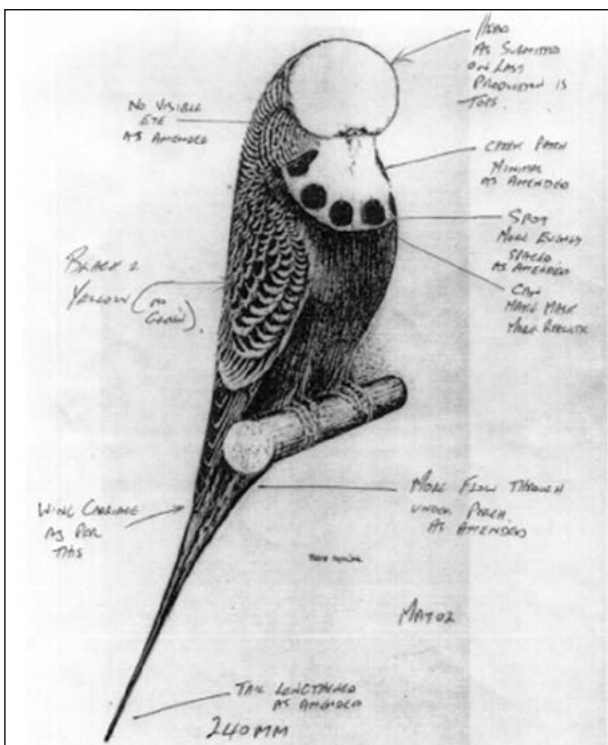
Note: The standard instructions point out changes only.

Cheers
 Nigel
 Nigel Tenny

APR 02

As can be seen from the above, a lot of critiquing took place and as previously mentioned taken kindly by Roy.

Many pictures and overlays showing the various changes were dispatched to Roy – refer to the scan of the overlay below. There were often millimetres needed to be added or subtracted here and there to get proportions in place. Many hours of work checking birds in aviaries, having pictures delivered from fanciers from across the globe of back, side, front views from the top and more to ensure nothing as best as possible was missed.

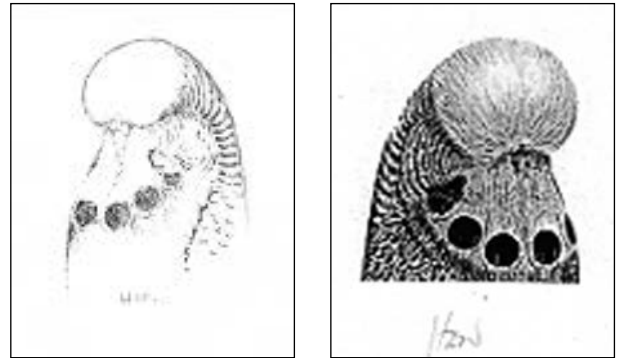


The intent from the outset was to get secondary and secondary coverts in their rightful place and identified as such, this was achieved by Roy. We wanted width of face, depth of mask an appropriate backline. Nothing was ignored.

When we got to the bust of the birds, the initial submission on the left was presented for the bust of the Hen.

As soon as this was sighted, and I should have taken this onboard earlier, I grabbed the artwork of the bust of the Cock, photocopied this, modified

the copy to embrace what I believed would represent the hen, then photocopied again onto overlays to show the differential and then posted to Roy for him to come up with the end product. Roy agreed and completed the project.

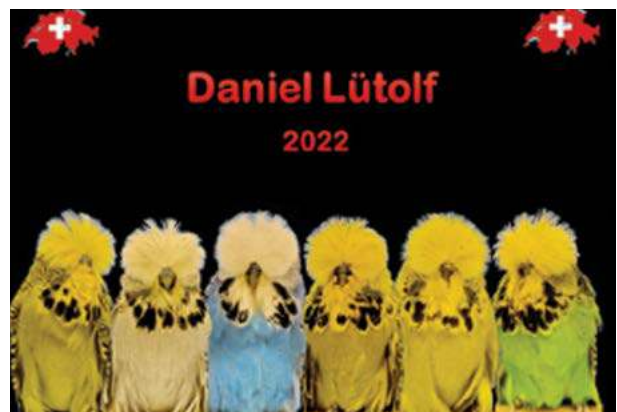


The process was a great experience and I learnt more about the budgerigar in this exercise than I might have if I had not been involved.

I have recorded this information, as often history disappears without the knowledge of how a process occurred.

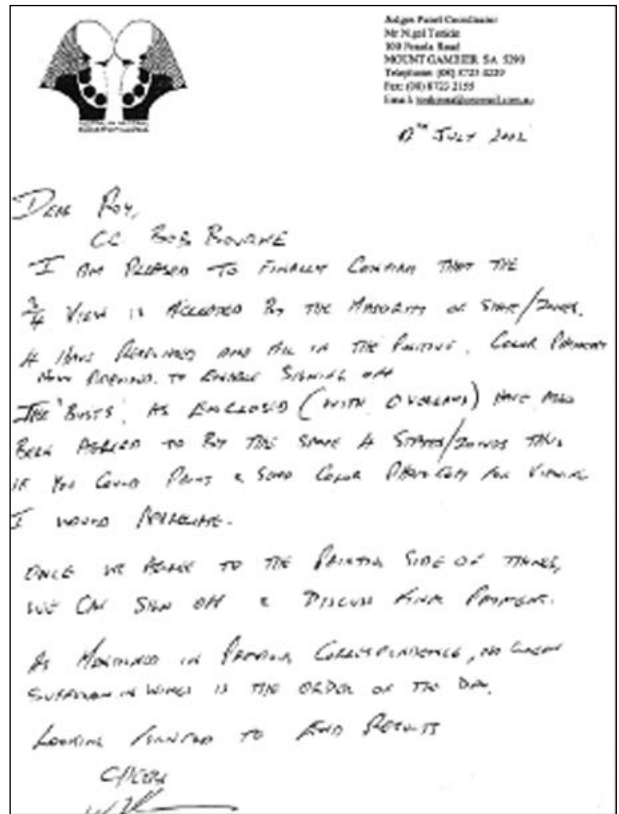
Many a bird that one sees today via photos and physically suggests that our National Pictorial might need upgrading to reflect the many changes that are occurring at the moment as long as we do not overstep the mark.

Below are a photo collection of the 'modern' budgerigar from overseas. We need to decide if these are desirable exhibition birds for Australia and modify The Standard pictorial to reflect whatever the intent might end up being.





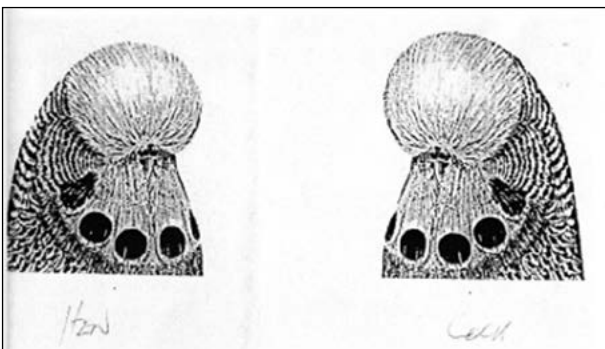
Dilute - Ali Bouresli - Kuwait



Nothing like the final result of the present pictorial could have been achieved without a team effort. All partaking in this exercise should be proud of their input.

Roy's attention to detail was second to none – a great result.

The below is the letter advising Roy that all was in order to paint in readiness for the sign off.





North East Budgerigar Society

North East Budgerigar Society

Initiatives from the new Committee saw Peter Thurn zooming in from Victoria in September to outline his new feeding regime, Dr Marijke Mellor from Unusual Pet Vets in October entertaining us with a thoughtful presentation on budgerigar health and the program was rounded off in November with a Come and Try Night.

The year ended on a high note with the BCSA hosted Tri-Club Interclub Challenge as part of the Budgie Fest and the BSSA hosted Interclub 24 "Best on the Perch" Show. Based on Young birds with current year rings these shows were an interesting departure from the Unbroken Cap/ Nest Feather Shows of the past.

Both shows attracted an excellent array of entries despite birds bred earlier in the year moulting about now and show preparation needing to compete for space in the bird room with the hordes of newly emerged nest feather birds occupying their nursery cages. Thanks to those NEBS members for supporting the club with your entries. Its always a great opportunity to catch up and mix socially with members from the other clubs.

NEBS shared a promotion at the Budgie Fest with our BSSA friends. Lots of product was given away as many of the 947 attendees came by for a chat. It was amazing to talk with so many people out there with pet budgies and to talk budgies with families happily breeding little budgies in their backyards. The trick is to convert some of them to the exhibition style of budgies, like what happened with us.



Port Pirie Budgerigar Club

The Port Pirie Budgerigar Society has enjoyed a vibrant and eventful spring, packed with activities and events.

Members embarked on aviary visits to Tony and Angela's in Clare, Bob Simpson's in Kadina, and Brian Reichelt's in Port Augusta, fostering connections and sharing knowledge along the way. Alongside these visits, the Society showcased its talent and enthusiasm by participating in the Balaklava Show, competing in the Budgie Fest Tri-Club Cup, and hosting their own UBC/Young Bird Show in Kadina. It's been a season full of camaraderie and achievement for the club!







The Budgerigar Society of South Australia



BSSA Show Managers Report for 2024

As they say in the classics, "another one bites the dust". It seems like only a year ago I was writing a Show Managers' report for 2023 (well, guess what, it was a year ago).

While the BSSA has hosted four main shows this year, there have been plenty of associated shows and judging commitments on the budgie calendar. With all of these shows and events, plans need to be in place and birds need to be prepared, not to mention issues with breeding and moulting that make for a busy budgie year.

The organisation of showing our birds is one of the features of being involved in our club - it is one of the underlying reasons for our club's existence. Obviously, breeding healthy, top-quality birds is the major reward for a budgie breeder, but what good is that if you can't show or be recognised for what you've achieved?

Our Intermediate and Novice breeders get the chance to compete against each other in the Murphy Classic, which was our first show for the year held in April at the Westbourne Park Memorial Hall. There were 214 birds entered for this show representing 4 Intermediate and 12 Novice breeders. The Champion Novice Young Bird was won by Andrew Swift with a Black Eyed Self over Danny Brill's Spangle AOSV while Kevin Back took out the Champion Novice Old Bird with a Cinnamonwing over Trevor Goodenough's Normal Blue. Ian and Gina Wise picked up the Champion & Reserve Champion Intermediate Old Bird and also collected the Champion Intermediate Young Bird with Michael Smith bagging the Reserve

Champion Young Bird.

Our second show, The Stan Watson, which is held in the lead up to the Nationals and is for birds that were rung in the previous year, was held on the 5th of May with our guest Major Award Judge from Newcastle, Gary Gazzard officiating. With 358 entries it was our biggest show for the year. Andrew Swift got his Blackeye Self to back up its win from the Murphy Classic and grabbed Grand Champion, which was quite unique given that the Blackeye Self is a lesser variety bird and was bred by a Novice breeder which meant that he also won Champion Novice. A great example for any Intermediate or Novice breeder who doesn't think that their birds are good to compete with or win on the top bench. The Champion Intermediate belonged to Ian & Gina Wise with a Cinnamonwing Green Hen which gave them enough points to advance into the Open status. It was also great to see Darcie and Everly exhibiting in the Junior status. Well done to all.

July 7 saw the 75th staging of the Ron Norman Show. The Ron Norman is a show for any aged bird and is contested by Cocks and Hens. There were 233 entries from 5 Open breeders, 2 Intermediates, and 9 Novices. The Grand Champion was from Ken and Janet Harris with a Normal Grey Cock bird, the Champion Intermediate was a Spangle Hen from Jane Kelb, and Danny Brill snagged Champion Novice with Normal Grey Cock bird.

This brings us to last week's show, our final show for the year, the annual Interclub Challenge. As it was the BSSA's turn to host, we decided to try something different and stage a show for birds that are rung in the current year. This was brought about primarily by the difficulties associated with showing unbroken caps and clashes with the breeding season.



We badged the show as the Adelaide 1000 Interclub Challenge. We had 234 entries and although the number of entries were significantly biased in favour of the BSSA it was great to catch up with a few of our friends from across town. This show was also hosted at a new venue, the Ascott Park Scout Hall, which seemed to meet with everyone's approval. We also arranged the judging quite differently with the Major Awards judged in tandem, as per the Nationals format, with John Mulley representing the NEBS and myself, the BSSA. We also took advantage of our Floor Judges and used a few more than normal which seemed to work extremely well. As for the winners, the BSSA won the day, with Sue Adams securing the Best In Show and Best Open Bird with her really nice Spangle AOSV. Best Intermediate Bird was grabbed by another Spangle from Jane Kelb and our Best Novice Bird was snaffled by Paul Wilton.

I would like to thank you all for your efforts in assisting on show day especially our President, Chris Murphy, who is responsible for pretty much everything. Our Stewards and Judges on the

day and all exhibitors. A big thank you to Marie Murphy for keeping us all fed and watered.

Good luck in the off season and I look forward to a bigger and better show season next year.

George England
BSSA Show Manager

Budgie Fest



Join us for
Budgie Fest 2024

FREE ENTRY

An afternoon of feathered fun for all the family!

- Face painting
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- Budgie Displays
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12pm to 3pm,
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WINE TASTING

Adelaide's Best Pet Budgie Competition

Bring along your budgie, and tell us why it's the best pet budgie in Adelaide.

Event Date: 26th October

Budgerigar Council South Australia

To find out more visit www.bcsa.com.au/budgiefest2024





The Bend

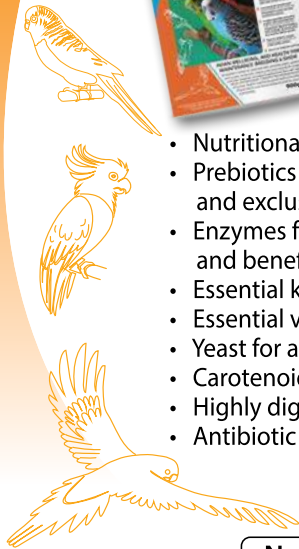




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RETIRED MAJOR AWARD JUDGES

Roy Deslandes (Deceased)
George Duffield (Deceased)
John Fisher (Deceased)
Gordon Lowe (Deceased)
Stan Watson (Deceased)
Trevor Weckert
Bruce Stafford
Glenn Stearnes
John Rice
Peter Glassenbury

JUDGES REPRESENTATIVE & SECRETARY



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MAJOR AWARD JUDGES



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Kelwyn Kakoschke
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Wayne Bandt
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Ken Harris
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ANY CORRESPONDENCE FOR JUDGES & STANDARDS CAN BE DIRECTED TO:

Judges Representative & Secretary - John Mulley 0488 224 446 | jmulley@bigpond.net.au

BCSA Hall of Fame - ANBC Class Winners

Since the inception of the BCSA in 1996, the following BCSA members have won classes at the ANBC National Titles

Kakoschke & Rice - 12 Wins
Normal Green - 2005
Clearwing - 2005, 2010, 2015, 2016
Opaline - 2011, 2019
Opaline AOSV - 2010, 2015
Crested - 2003, 2005
Grey Green - 2016
J & W Weidenhofer - 5 Wins
Clearbody - 2015, 2018
Dilute - 2022, 2023
Greywing - 2024
Holmes Family - 4 Wins
Grey Green - 2018
Normal Blue - 2022
White Cap - 2023
Crested - 2024
John Mulley - 2 Wins
Opaline AOSV - 2000
Blackeyed Self - 2003
Marshall Family - 2 Wins
Albino - 2007
Recessive Pied - 2014
Doug & Ruth Lange - 2 Wins
Normal Green - 2009
Crested - 2014
Ray Slade - 2 Wins
Blackeyed Self - 2016, 2017

Dennis Lomman - 2 Wins
Violet - 2014
Normal Green, 2024
Helen Brooks - 1 Win
Fallow - 1996
Ron Norman - 1 Win
Hens Class - 1996
Rob McKie - 1 Win
Opaline - 1997
M & R Rafferty - 1 Win
Opaline AOSV - 2001
Michael Crossley - 1 Win
Yellowfaced Blue - 2002
Sue & Colin Norris - 1 Win
Dominant Pied - 2002
Peter Glassenbury - 1 Win
Blackeyed Self - 2009
Peter Simic - 1 Win
Recessive Pied - 2010
Ken & Janet Harris - 1 Win
Dominant Pied - 2023
Kelwyn Kakoschke - 1 Win
Clearwing - 2023

OBJECTS & PURPOSE

The specific aims and objectives of the BCSA are:

- To promote, encourage and stimulate the breeding and exhibiting of budgerigars, including the improvement of existing varieties, and the development of new.
- To serve as the State Council for Budgerigars in South Australia (including Broken Hill).
- To cooperate with other governing bodies interested in budgerigars, here in Australia, and abroad.
- To affiliate with and act as the South Australian member body of the Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC).
- To invite and encourage membership of Affiliate and Associate Organisations interested in the breeding and exhibiting of budgerigars.
- To use the Standard of Perfection for the exhibition budgerigar as set by the ANBC.
- To establish, maintain and recommend uniform rules for all shows and exhibitions held by the Council and its Affiliate and Associate Organisations.
- To establish a panel of judges who are able to judge these shows.
- To accept a code of ethics for judges.
- To ratify recommendations received from the panel of judges.
- To recommend and / or co-ordinate on any matter deemed to be of common interest to Affiliate and Associate Organisations.
- To obtain direction and/or instruction from Affiliate and Associate Organisations on ANBC matters through their BCSA delegates.
- To hold an annual pre-selection show to select a team to represent South Australia at the ANBC Championship Show.
- To host the ANBC Championship Show when required.
- To compile annually a register of show and meeting dates of all participating Affiliate and Associate Organisations.
- To establish and maintain an exhibitor status register for all financial individual members or partnerships.
- To do all such other things as may be incidental to the attainment of such objects.

LIFE MEMBERS

- 2016 – Mr Graham Bell
- 2016 – Mrs Doreece Brunton
- 2016 – Mr Peter Glassenbury
- 2016 – Mr John Mulley
- 2016 – Mr Nigel Tonkin
- 2023 – Mr Kelwyn Kakoschke
- 2023 – Mr Dennis Lomman
- 2024 – Mr Doug Lange
- 2024 – Mrs Ruth Lange



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The Budgerigar Council of South Australia (BCSA) is committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all members and visitors to budgerigar shows and events. Specific forms of misconduct to our Policies, including victimisation, gossiping, discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment are strictly prohibited and may result in expulsion from the BCSA. All members are required to treat others with dignity, courtesy and respect. The BCSA is committed to equality, ensuring all fanciers enjoy a supportive and welcoming environment.

**For further information
regarding the Council,
Affiliated Societies,
membership or events
please contact**

**BCSA President, Troy Holmes
on president@bcsa.com.au**



www.bcsa.com.au