North East Budgerigar Society Inc.

Budgie Bulletin

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2011-2012

POSITION	***NAME***	***PHONE No.***
PATRON	BILL DAVIS	N/A
PRESIDENT	LLOYD EDWARDS	8522 4317
VICE-PRESIDENT	PETER GLASSENBURY	8288 7102
		Mob 0409288710
SECRETARY	JOHN MULLEY	83310097
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	GRAHAM BELL	8251 0792
TREASURER	VICKI SANFORD	82637369
SHOW MANAGER	GRAEME ALCHIN	8380 5803
ASSISTANT SHOW MANAGER	MARION STAFFORD	8356 0579
RING STEWARD	DENNIS LOMMAN	83448363
TRADING TABLE OFFICER	COLIN NORRIS	85246155
COMMITTEE	LEA TODD	N/A
	SUE NORRIS	85246155
	GRAHAM BELL	83961552
	HELEN EDWARDS	8522 4317
* * * * * *	* * * * * * *	
AUDITOR	BRIAN MARSHALL	82614377
BCSA COUNCILLORS	DENNIS LOMMAN	83448363
	PETER GLASSENBURY	8288 7102
	RAY SLADE	N/A

VOLUME 33 **ISSUE 1** **FEBRUARY 2012**

NORTH EAST B.S. NEWSLETTER

Issued bi-monthly for the members of the
The opinions and ideas expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the North East Budgerigar Society of South Australia Inc.

CLUB OBJECTIVES

TO PROMOTE FEELINGS OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP AND SPORTSMANSHIP AMONG ITS OWN MEMBERS AND ALL OTHER PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE BUDGERIGAR.

TO PROMOTE THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING VARIETIES AND THE PRODUCTION OF NEW ONES.

TO ENDEAVOUR TO PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE AND STIMULATE THE BREEDING OF BUDGERIGARS.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All subscriptions become due 1st January 2013
(Except new members who joined after 1st October 2012)
SINGLE $15.00 **DOUBLE** $22.50
FAMILY Single fee ($15.00), plus 50% single fee for each person over 18 years of age.
Under 18 years – no charge in family situation)
JUNIOR $9.75 (65% normal fee)
PENSIONER Single $12.00 (80% normal fee) **Double** $18.00
PARTNERSHIP $11.25 per person (75% normal fee)
5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP 4 times the applicable membership fee.*
BCSA Membership fee: $15.00 per person.

Members must be financial with North East Budgerigar Society and BCSA to purchase 2012 rings.
Please ensure that your membership card accompanies your order for rings.

Newsletter will be forwarded to financial country or interstate members bi-monthly.
Metropolitan financial members' newsletters will be available at club meetings.
If not collected they will be posted out 3 times per year.

Email Address: nebssa@gmail.com

ADDRESSES: -

Secretary
Mr John Mulley
13 Dunkley Ave
FIRLE 5070
(08) 83310097

Treasurer
Mrs Vicki Sanford
2 Baymor Crt
MODBURY 5092
(08) 8263 7369

Ring Steward
Mr Dennis Lomman
10 Muriel St
PROSPECT 5027
(08) 8344 8363

EDITORIAL

Some (budgie) things just do not change…..

I recently had the opportunity to read some old budgie magazines from the 1970's. I thought there were some excellent articles in them and what struck me the most was that they could have been written yesterday, for, almost without exception, all of the issues discussed in the articles were as relevant today as they were some 40 years ago.

Nests of infertile eggs seem to have been as much an issue for breeders in those days as they are today. This surprised me somewhat as we often blame the importation of the English birds and the large size of our birds today for these problems. Perhaps it is actually more to do with other issues such as the condition of the birds, poor nutrition and seasonal weather conditions.

Several articles discussed adled and dead-in-shell eggs. It was suggested that poor nutrition was the main reason for these problems, particularly when you have many of them occurring across many nests.

Newly hatched chicks not being fed, youngsters being attacked, and in some cases killed, and feather plucking appear to have been as much a frustration back then as they are today.

French Moult has existed in breeding rooms and aviaries for over 40 years. We still have no cure for this disease today, only a better understanding of it.

A couple of articles discussed the size of rings and whether or not they could be the cause of swollen legs and rings having to be cut off. These articles suggested that the size of rings was not the problem but rather nest debris getting under the rings or rings being squeezed on when the chick is too old causing inflammation of the foot and leg.

All of these problems are all too familiar today.

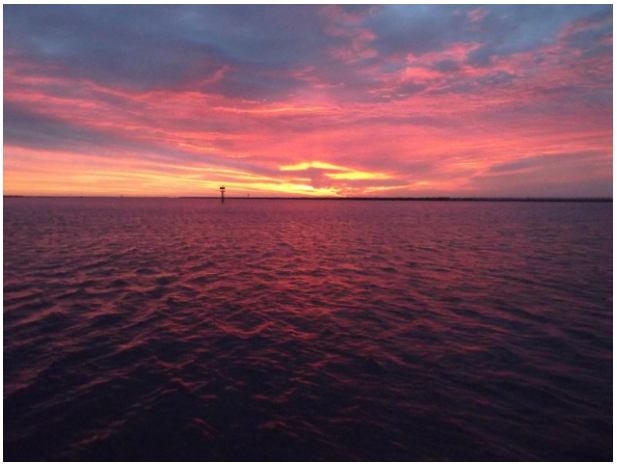
It is at least some consolation to know that you are not the only one experiencing these problems and that they have existed for many, many years - even if it does result in less hair as each breeding season goes by.

So to those breeders new to the hobby, hang in there!! Expect to have problems and to experience many frustrations. Importantly, discuss your problems with an experienced breeder. However, there will also be successes and rewards if you persevere, and remember, it is not you that is the problem but the budgies and it has been for a long time!

Dennis Lomman
Ring Officer

NEBSSA CHRISTMAS CRUISE 2011

Good time was had by all



XMAS RAFFLE WINNERS FOR 2011.

The following people are the winners for our raffle –

1st Prize Tina Wilson-Smith ($100 Voucher)
2nd Prize Smith & Duffield (Hamper)
3rd Prize Anne Mulley (Xmas Hamper)
4th Prize Ian Marshall (Wine Pack)

Congratulations to you all. Thank you to everyone who sold and/or bought raffle tickets. Your fundraising efforts for our Club were fantastic.

Vicki and the North East Budgie Committee.

Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St., Kilburn on Wednesday **January 11, 2012**
WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.05pm.
APOLOGIES: Ian Marshall. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read.
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

1. Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. SA National Canary and Cagebirds Exhibition Committee Newsletter for November.
2. Vetafarm December/January Newsletter.
3. Southern Cagebird Society December and January Newsletters.
4. Trailer registration renewal.
5. Invite to participate in the Adelaide Animal Expo April 20-22.
6. Budgie Digest from BSSA.
7. BRASEA Summer Bulletin.
8. Associated Birdkeepers of Australia Newsletter.
9. Continuous paramyxovirus Sitreps from various sources: BCSA, UBSSA.
10. Draft update of the Code of Practice for bird sales from UBSSA.
11. Draft Biosecurity Manual from UBSSA.
12. ANBC provisional show schedule for 2013 and 2014.
13. ANBC Council Chatter
14. Updates to The Standard
15. Notification from UBSSA of stolen parrots from an aviary in Victoria
16. Notification from BSSA of changes to their meeting arrangements

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

1. NEBS show dates up to 2014 to BCSA.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Pigeon paramyxovirus bottom line: Latest information December 20. Pigeons from fifty five properties confirmed as affected. Thirty three have been resolved. Feral pigeons in 12 locations confirmed as affected. Remains confined to various locations in Victoria. The

virus has not crossed over to other species although theoretically it has the capability to mutate in order to do so.

2. Updates to the Standard – copies on the table for anyone without access to the internet, or hasn't printed these out as yet.

3. Regarding the BSSA monthly meetings these are now moving to the Adelaide South West Community Centre at 171 Sturt St, Adelaide, with meetings to be held on the first Tuesday of each month. Their first meeting for 2012 will be held in February and that will be their AGM.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Term deposit $19,000; cheque account $5,304.12; Total $24,304.12.
RING STEWARD'S REPORT: 420 rings left.
LIBRARY REPORT: Nil.
TRADING TABLE REPORT: Few specials for the night. Soluvet vitamins various sizes.
NEW MEMBERS: Nil.
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Winners of the Christmas raffle- First: Tina Wilson-Smith; Second: Smith and Duffield; Third: Ann Mulley; Fourth: Ian Marshall.

2. The social activity for 2012 will be Saturday night trots with dinner at Globe Derby Park on September 22.

3. Re amount of seed in show cages at club shows from now on – no more than a kitchen measuring cup of seed and this will be specified on the show schedules.

4. NEBS will host the UBC interclub with BSSA (October 27) with extra classes for violet, suffused, goldenfaced and spangle AOSV.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Four $50 Vetafarm vouchers are available again this year for use at our shows. These will be awarded for aggregate points over our two shows, with one each for four varieties as determined by random draw. The four varieties drawn at tonight's meeting are: Opaline, spangle, clearwing and normal green. Since normal green comprises classes for both light green and dark factor green, aggregate points will apply across both classes.

2. Night show winners for 2011, each receiving a $30 voucher for the Trading Table, were presented with their vouchers. Novice: Lucy Muggleton and Andrew Stock; Intermediate: Vicki Sanford; Open: Mulley and Stafford.

BCSA UPDATE: Nil. LUCKY ENVELOPE: Nil. SHOW CAGE ENVELOPE: Nil.
ENTERTAINMENT: Mr Mark Moore was introduced with the historical commentary of why medical doctors who practice surgery are addressed as Mr rather than Doctor. Mark is a craniofacial and plastic surgeon and described work by volunteer surgical teams he leads to Timor Leste and Indonesia to treat disadvantaged patients who would not otherwise have access to surgery in order to repair their treatable disfigurements.
QUESTION AND ANSWER SEGMENT: Passed tonight.
JUDGES SUMMARY: There was an excellent display of birds benched for the time of year. Winners: Novice: Muggleton and Andrew Stock; Intermediate: Vicki Sanford: Open: Dennis Lomman. Bird of the night: Opaline – won by Dennis Looman.

Bird of the night: Spangle double factor - no entries.
DOOR PRIZE: $10 Trading Table voucher Susanne Steele
NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Ray Slade; Second: Murray Bray; Third: Sue Adams
ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

1. Nil.

REMINDERS:

1. Anyone who has not signed the attendance record as they came in, please sign
2. EOI forms for making show cages available for the 2014 national are beside the attendance record as you came in
3. Club memberships are due
4. Coded ring orders are due with the ring maker by April 1 (price pending)
5. Updates to The Standard available on the table.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday February 8, 2012.
MEETING CLOSED: 9.30pm. Lloyd Edwards, President

Budgerigar Society Of South Australia – Raffle

A Pair Of Quality and Related Exhibition Budgerigars Bred and Donated To The B.S.S.A – By Stephen Elliott

Raffle drawn at the B.S.S.A Ron Norman Annual Show on 16 June 2012

Tickets $10.00 Each – 100 Tickets Only – Be Quick.

Tickets available from BSSA or from Dennis Lomman ph: (08) 83448363 email: dennisem@chariot.net.au

NOTICE

As an option, this magazine can be emailed to members instead of receiving a paper copy.
You will be sent it as soon as it is sent to the printers.
It will be in colour
You can read it on your computer, smart phone, I pad, and eBook reader or you can print it.
If you can't come to nightly meetings, you don't have to wait up to 4 months for your magazine.

If you would like to take up this option please contact the club secretary John Mulley

. Observation important for sick bird survival

When dealing with sick birds we all know that time is of the essence, however early signs of illness in birds are frequently not recognised by the bird owner. As a survival tactic in the wild, a sick bird will attempt to maintain a normal appearance for as long as possible, so that by the time any signs of illness are apparent, the bird may have been ill for some time. The bird that dies "suddenly" may be the result of the owner's failure to make distinctions in the appearance or behaviour of the bird prior to that time. To help identify a problem before it gets out of hand, there are some key warning signals that we can look out for in our birds.

OBSERVATION OF DROPPINGS is a simple method of monitoring your bird's health. Paper towels, newspaper or other smooth surfaces can be used to line the cage bottom so that the number, volume, colour and consistence of the droppings can be noted daily.

GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION OF DROPPINGS

Normal pet bird droppings consist of 3 parts:

1. FAECES are food waste material from the digestive tract. Normal faeces can vary somewhat in colour and consistency, depending on the diet. Diets with a high seed content usually produce homogeneous black or dark green faeces. Birds on formulated diets (pellets) normally exhibit softer, brownish faeces.
2. URINE, the liquid portion, is normally clear. A diet high in vegetable and fruit matter may increase the urine component.
3. URATES, or creamy white waste from the kidney, are often suspended in the liquid urine or appear to wrap around the faeces.

SIGNS OF ILLNESS

The following symptoms may indicate a serious health problem and veterinary assistance should be sought at once!

1. Change in character of the droppings.

The sick bird may exhibit:

- decrease in the total number or volume of droppings
- change in the colour of the URATES or URINE
- an increase in the water content of the FAECES (diarrhoea)
- decrease in the FAECES volume with increased URATES
- increase in the URINE portion (polyuria)

2. Decreased or excessive food or water consumption.
3. Change in attitude, personality or behavior - decreased activity, decreased talking and singing, increased sleeping, no response to stimuli.
4. Change in appearance or posture – ruffled feathers, weakness, inability to stand, staying on the bottom of the cage, sitting low on the perch, drooping wings, convulsions.

5. Change in character of respiration – any noticeable breathing movement (e.g. tail bobbing) while resting, heavy breathing after exertion, change in quality of voice, respiratory sounds such as sneezing, wheezing or clicking.
6. Change in weight or general body condition as determined by a gram scale, or by handling; a prominent breast bone due to loss of breast muscle tissue is serious!
7. Enlargement or swelling of the body.
8. Injury or bleeding.
9. Vomiting or regurgitation.
10. Discharge from the eyes nose or mouth

If any of the above symptoms are detected in your birds the safest course of action is to get the bird to your preferred vet - ASAP. If this is not an immediate option, the next step is to hospitalise, monitor and administer first aid if necessary, until you are able to have them seen to. A broad spectrum antibiotic can be used in some situations where vet help is not available, but this can be very hit and miss (administering a tetracycline antibiotic to a bird with a tumour is useless!) – For more info or for our First Aid Guide, email ben@vetafarm.com.au

Correction to the Syllabus 2012

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SALE OF BIRDS BY TENDER IS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 13, NOT MAY 9.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT RARE VARIETY MINISHOW IS TO BE HELD ON MAY 9, NOT JUNE 13.

MONTHLY MEETING - NIGHT SHOW
POINTS AWARD 2012 as at January 30th

OPEN	Dennis Lomman	12 points
	Mulley and Stafford	4 points
	Graeme Alchin	11 points
	Sue Adams	5 points
INTERMEDIATE	Vicki Sanford	16 points
NOVICE	Andrew and Lucy	12 points
	Brad Nunn	8 points
	Tim and Kaye	3 points

There were 32 birds entered and Peter Glassenbury was the judge for the night. Best Opaline bird was won by Dennis Lomman and Best Double Factor spangle bird was won by Andrew Stock and Lucy Muggleton-Mole

Congratulations to these members and all the other members who entered birds on the night.

March will be our mini show and Entry Forms will be available at the February meeting or contact me Marion Stafford.

This show will be for Gold and Purple rung birds only.

Bird of the night for April will be

DANISH RECESSIVE PIED AND SUFFUSED.

Graeme Alchin and Marion Stafford

Show Manager Assistant Show Manager.

The Greywing Budgerigar by Alistair Home

The Greywing continues to be bred quite widely in Australia although it has suffered as a result of the importation of birds from the UK. Very few Greywings were included in the imports that occurred in the early 1990's and many of the successful Greywings shown in recent years have been bi-products rather than the outcome of a breeding program dedicated to breeding the variety. In the UK at some point in the past it became common practice to combine the Greywing and Cinnamon varieties into a single show class. The relative ease of breeding Cinnamons meant that they dominated the classes and breeders lost the incentive to breed Greywings. The advantage Cinnamons enjoy is apparent in Australian Opaline AOV classes where few Opaline Greywings are seen and it is rare indeed for the class to be won by anything other than an Opaline Cinnamon. In recent years good Greywings have appeared in the UK from time to time, but it seems that no one actively sets out to breed the variety. We may be in danger of going down the same track in Australia.

The ANBC Championship show was designed to complement the Inter Branch and Shield Competitions that are run in a number of states. These competitions have been a powerful mechanism for the protection of the full range of varieties and have been a constant encouragement to breeders to devote time, energy and resources to breeding birds of all varieties. Unfortunately it has become apparent that there has been a decline in the standard of some varieties in their representation of the characteristics of the variety. The ANBC Standard clarifies some of the issues relating to a number of varieties, among them Greywings. In this article I will discuss some of the problems that breeders and exhibitors of Greywings face.

There are two fundamental problems that face the Greywing breeder; the variation that can occur in the depth of colour and marking in Greywings and the tendency for Suffused birds to appear in Greywing breeding programs and even sometimes to be confused with Greywings. I will deal with each in turn.

Variation in colour and intensity in the Greywing

The Greywing can have varying depth of markings and colouration. Three forms can be readily discerned, a light form with about 50% of the intensity of the Normal, a second form much darker in colour and brighter in tone with markings sometimes so dark that they seem to approach the Normal in intensity and a third form roughly midway between the two. It has been suggested that the light and intermediate versions are the true Greywings and that the intense version (sometimes called the "Full Bodied Greywing") is a combination of Greywing and Clearwing.

The evidence does not support the "full bodied" theory. If these darker birds are a combination of the Greywing and Clearwing the result of mating two dark Greywings together should be to produce offspring in the ratio 1:2:1 (Light Greywing:Dark Greywing:Clearwing). In fact, mated together they do not produce any Clearwings among their progeny. They may appear to produce examples of two forms of Greywing, but I know of no cases where a Clearwing has been produced from such

a mating. Of course, this may be because no one has bothered to report such a result or it may be that the Clearwings produced from such a mating have such heavy markings in the wing that they look like Greywings. I would suggest that birds that look like Greywings probably are Greywings. If there are recorded breeding results showing that Clearwings can be bred from dark Greywing to dark Greywing matings I would be most interested in the details.

Further, the Clearwing mutation had not been identified by 1933, yet the varying levels of intensity in the Greywing had already been well established. This is illustrated clearly in the books of the time and was included in the NSW Standard of 1936. It seems more likely that modifying genes were already present in the Normal budgerigars and when the Greywing mutation appeared these modifiers were expressed in the breeding of the new variety. The variation in the intensity of the colour of the wild budgerigar is well noted, to the extent that some authorities have suggested that in the wild there are three races of budgerigars – a dark form, an intermediate form and a pallid form. (Neville Cayley, *Budgerigar in Bush and Aviary* 1933). Certainly the breeding patterns of Greywings are consistent with this idea.

I think it is likely that we observe these intensification genes at work in many varieties of the modern bird. The existence of such genes is suggested by the variability in the intensity of the colour of most other varieties. Often judges remark on the intensity of colour some Normal birds shown and breeders of varieties such as Fallows or Lutinos know that strongly coloured birds pass on this characteristic to their young. I am sure this intensity is driven by genetic factors and I suspect that there may be two genes at work. When the two genes are present the full effect on the body colour and the markings is visible.

The Standard for Greywing in Australia calls for greater intensity of colour with mid grey markings, and judges penalise the lighter coloured and more lightly marked birds. In a Greywing breeding program breeders should select for darkness and intensity. The best mating is to mate two strongly coloured and marked birds together. In the second part of this article I discuss the genetics involved in some detail.

In practice most Greywing breeders are not in a position to discard light coloured Greywings and must use them in some way. How should they set out to improve them? Many people advise using dark factor birds such as Dark Green and Cobalts. This will go some way towards addressing the challenge, but is not the whole answer. After all we do want to breed Greywing Light Greens and Skyblues. I would recommend seeking Normals that show intensity and brightness of colour as outcrosses. Another worthwhile outcross would be a strongly coloured Lutino. Many years ago breeders commonly interbred Greywings and Lutinos and I believe the reason they did so was that each variety requires the same colour intensifying gene and its presence is very visible in a Lutino. Perhaps it might be worthwhile experimenting with Lutinos that show markings – it is a fault in the Lutino variety, but may well have a positive effect on Greywings. If I can find a good enough Lutino carrying this fault I will carry out the experiment.

Good record keeping is essential, too. As well as recording the variety of the birds in our Greywing matings we should record their depth of markings and the strength of their body colour. We should record the same aspects in their offspring. In a short time it is possible to distinguish how the genes are operating and we would be able to make decisions about whether or not to retain particular birds on the basis of more complete knowledge.

The Yellow mutation

The existence of the yellow mutation causes the picture to become confused. The "buttercup" Yellow was well established in Australia before the importation of birds from England occurred in the 1990's. Among the offspring of the imported birds Suffused birds appeared that were not pure Yellow, nor were they true Greywings. Breeders who bred excellent examples of these Suffused birds looked for classes in which they could be exhibited. The result was that some were shown as Black Eyed Self Colours and others were shown as Greywings. Their strength in type and size made them quite successful in spite of their poor varietal features.

The Australian Standard includes recognition of two forms of Yellow and White- the Black Eyed Self Colour and the Suffused Yellow or White (which includes Grey Yellow and Grey White). This is recognition that many excellent Suffused birds are being bred and provides some protection for the breeders of the other varieties. The Suffused bird does not meet the Standard for either Black Eyed Self or Greywing and poses a threat to their integrity. We do not want to see the loss of the pure Yellow bird, nor do we wish to see dilution of the intensity of the colour and markings of Greywings.

The Suffused bird may show suffusion up to about 30% of full intensity and it can carry light grey markings. The distinction between the light Greywing and the Suffused Yellow or White is quite clear. A 50% minimum body shade required of the Greywing is distinctly darker than the Suffused and there is no tinge of yellow or white in the colouration. Similarly, the ideal for Black Eyed Yellow or White does not allow suffusion and only allows faint wing markings. Suffused birds are required to show colouration and markings. Of course there may be doubts about the classification of some individual cases, but if a bird's variety is doubtful it is certainly a poor representative whichever class it is entered in.

It is good that some states provide classes for the Suffused birds and a class is to be provided for them in the National Championship show in 2013 and 2014. It may be that there will be some uncertainty about whether certain birds are correctly entered, but I am sure judges will apply the Standard and penalise any bird that departs from the requirements for each variety.

In the past my partner and I have tried to avoid using Suffused birds in our Greywing program because their Suffused offspring had to be discarded because they could not be shown. Now that there are classes for them in shows we have incorporated them cautiously to see whether the more intensely Suffused birds may give greater intensity to the colour of the Greywings produced. This has proved to be the case.

The converse point is that I doubt whether there is a place for the Suffused in a Black Eyed Yellow breeding program. I think Cinnamons showing some lightness of markings (a common fault in the variety) may be the best outcross for the Black Eyed Self, provided attention is given to the need for brightness in the colour. I think it may be impossible to breed a White that is not suffused.

Other problems for Greywing breeders

Combinations

Unfortunately the random appearance of Greywings in breeding programs aimed at breeding other varieties has meant that they have been combined with most other varieties. In most cases this does not matter very much – Greywing Dominant Pieds or Yellow Faces, for example, are very attractive birds and can be shown in their respective classes. In some cases the combination is quite pointless. Interbreeding Greywings with Spangles, Lacewings, Fallows or Recessive Pieds may produce some good individuals but the presence of Greywing will not enhance the appearance of the other variety. Combination with Cinnamon is best avoided because, in Australia, the combination is excluded from the show bench and will be disqualified. Personally I find this regrettable because some of the most beautiful birds I have ever bred were Opaline Cinnamon Greywing Skyblues and I would have loved to show them. They were always picked out by visitors and admired, because the visual effect was of a pure blue bird (body and wings) with a complete white helmet with very faint markings on the back of the head.

Outcrossing

Many Greywings are split for Suffused. When these birds are outcrossed to a Normal – the most desirable outcross - the resulting offspring will all be visual Normals, half split for Greywing and half split for Suffused. The only way to tell them apart is to test mate them to Suffused birds. It may not be possible to do so and you may find that you have to trust to luck and it can be very disappointing to find that the best Normal is split for Suffused, not Greywing. If you don't keep many pairs for Greywing matings it would be possible to completely lose the Greywing variety and only breed Suffuseds. The answer is to do your best to keep a number of visual Greywings in your breeding program. The saving grace is that the Standard has a place for Suffuseds, so it may be best to just accept that your breeding program is going to produce some Greywings and some Suffuseds and you can't really do much about it.

The Weegie Bird

A man buy's a Budgie.

It keeps repeating, "Am a Glesga Budgie an am as hard as Bricks."

After a week the man gets so fed up he buys a Kestrel. He puts it in the cage beside Budgie and says "Let's see how hard you are now".

Next morning the Kestrel is dead, Budgie says "Am a Glesga Budgie an am as hard as Bricks

So the man buys a Buzzard puts it in the cage.

Next morning the Buzzards dead and the Budgie says, "Am a Glesga Budgie an am as hard as Bricks.

"Right, then" says the man, goes and buys a Golden Eagle and puts it in the cage.

Next morning the Eagle's dead and the Budgie has no feathers left ....

Scroll down

Budgie says, "Hud tae take ma jaikit aff fur that Big Bugger"

AUSTRALIAN YELLOWFACE (GOLDENFACE)
An Australian Perspective

By Ken Yorke (2011 revised)

Given recent renewed interest in the Australian Yellowface variety in Australia, I have been asked to write an article to help those people who are new to this variety. The great problem with this variety and indeed all the various yellowface mutations is that there has been many facts, pseudo-facts, theories and straight out untruths written about these birds. The reality is that there is still much to learn from a scientific/genetic viewpoint about yellowface birds.

This article shall concentrate on the Australian Yellowface but by necessity will make some mention of the other yellowface mutations in order to clarify some misconceptions with all yellowfaces.

NAMING

There are three recognised yellowface mutations around the world.

1) Australian Yellowface (also called Goldenface, a name created overseas). I will the leave decision as to what the final standardised name should be up to the hobby participants. For the purposes of this article I will abbreviate it to AYF.
2) English Yellowface Mutant 1 (abbreviated to EYF1). In very early literature this used to be called Yellowface Type 1.
3) English Yellowface Mutant 2 (abbreviated to EYF2). In very early literature this used to be called Yellowface Type 2.

Note:- There is no such thing as an AYF Type 1 nor an AYF Type 2, such terminology crept into the Australian hobby as a misinterpretation and a confused corruption of the old EYF1 and EYF2 terms which should never be applied to AYF.

VISUAL DESCRIPTION

All yellowfaces can be double factor, or combined with blue to become single factor. In each case the double factor has less yellow in both body and wings than the single factor.

1a) AYF double factor has a bright yellow (golden?) face (approaching the face colour of a normal green) The body ideally should be approaching the colour of a normal blue, but spillage of yellow from the mask into the upper chest is common giving shades of turquoise in this area. Wing markings should ideally be white but some yellow spillage is common.

1b) AYF single factor has a bright yellow (golden?) face (approaching the face colour of a normal green). Wing markings usually heavily suffused with yellow. It has a body colour that is turquoise. In many exhibition standards this turquoise colouring is heavily penalised, but the reality is that this IS the true colour the bird should be according to nature. Should exhibition standards be modified to account for this or does this bird become penalised out of existence or made non-standard, either of which will severely reduce the quantity of the so-called “desirable” AYF double factors being bred as well.

2a) EYF1 double factor has a white face and in most cases cannot be visually distinguished from traditional normal blues. (I suspect that some double factors do indeed have a very small retention of very pale yellow on some feathers.)

2b) EYF1 single factor has a pale yellow face. These have been nicknamed as creamface or lemonface. The body colour is very close to normal blue. Wing markings close to white.

3a) EYF2 double factor has a pale to mid yellow face. The body colour is suffused with yellow giving a slight turquoise. Wing markings suffused with pale yellow

3b) EYF2 single factor is similar to EYF2 double factor but slightly more yellow..

It should be remembered that all birds no matter what variety (yellowfaces included) are subject to natural variation in colour and markings. These variations are a part of the toolkit that skilled breeders use to “push” the variety characteristics of their exhibition birds in a particular direction.

All yellowfaces can be thought of as green birds with the yellow pigment partially removed. A green bird with ALL its yellow pigment removed appears blue. Remove some of the yellow pigment and you get turquoise colours. The science behind how this works is still not fully understood as the chemical composition of yellow pigment is still being studied. Likewise there may be several different forms of yellow pigment. Studies on parrots has shown there is both UV and non-UV yellow pigments. Recent studies by Don Burke has also shown similar results in budgerigars and noted differences in the pigments present in AYF and EYF1. Irrespective of the science, the easiest analogy is to think of all yellowfaces as greens with yellow partially removed.

In general, this yellow pigment does not get removed evenly across the whole body. It is removed less from the top of the bird and more from the bottom of the bird. The AYF shows this trait more conspicuously than the EYF1 and EYF2 because the AYF has more (brighter) yellow to start with. It is common therefore for AYF to have a bright yellow face which then spills into the upper chest creating a deep turquoise and then that turquoise becomes progressively bluer becoming near normal blue around the vent. The only difference between AYF double factor and AYF single factor in this respect is that the double factor progresses to blue much quicker (higher up the body) than the single factor. Current exhibition standards do not cover (and in fact discourage) this natural uneven colouring, instead fighting nature to insist on an even shade throughout with a clear line of demarcation at the base of the mask from bright yellow to normal blue. This aspect represents a challenge for the exhibition breeder (OR you change the standard!). The EYF1 achieves the current standard more easily than the AYF.

Many AYF single factors have so much yellow pigment in the body that the turquoise colour approaches normal green. It is this trait that has led to many misidentifications between normal green and AYF single factor. A helpful hint here is that generally (but not necessarily always) the AYF single factor has blue (not turquoise) feathers under the wing whereas a green has green feathers under the wing.

An interesting trait of the AYF is that much of the yellow pigment in the body does not fully appear until after the first moult. That means the body colour of the unbroken cap chicks will be more blue, but after the first moult this changes to turquoise.

BREEDING

The breeding rules of all yellowfaces is still not confirmed completely. Early literature classed all yellowface mutations as completely separate and unrelated and thus tended to call them all genetically dominant over blue and could be "masked" by green. Further research in both budgerigars and other parrots has shown that instead, most (probably all) these mutations as well as blue and green are in fact all genetically related. In other parrot species the equivalent yellowface mutations are called "par-blue" (an abbreviation of "partial blue") as a group. (Individual mutation names have been called, Turquoise, Aqua, Emerald, Sea Green etc).

Assumption: *All yellowface genes and the green gene and the blue gene are multiples alleles of the same gene.*

This is the current genetic thinking with substantial but not total proof. Based on this assumption, ALL yellowfaces are recessive to green and partially dominant over blue. Furthermore there is probably a dominance hierarchy as follows:-

Green is dominant over AYF which is partially dominant over EYF2 which is partially dominant over EYF1 which is partially dominant over blue.

The crude analogy here is that the more yellow pigment the mutation has, the more dominant.

Any bird can have any two of these genes simultaneously. The implications for AYF breeding are as follows:-

2 green genes	= Green
2 blue genes	= Blue

1 green gene 1 AYF gene = Green / AYF
2 AYF genes = AYF (double factor)
1 AYF gene 1 Blue gene = AYF (single factor)
1 AYF gene 1 EYF1 gene = AYFEYF1 (a combination bird)
1AYF gene 1 EYF2 gene = AYFEYF2 (a combination bird)

Due to space restrictions, I will not cover every possible genetic combination of all the alleles nor every possible mating as there are dozens. Likewise there is gene linkage with the dark factor because the green, blue and yellowface genes are on the same chromosome as the dark gene. (These are covered in more detail in my "Budgerigar Variety Bible and Avian Genetic Calculator for those who wish to explore the total genetic story in more detail)

You will notice that a green bird cannot be split for both blue and AYF at the same time as that requires three different alleles and a bird can only have a maximum of two alleles. You will also notice the AYFEYF1 bird which is a combination of both AYF and EYF1(with the AYF features being slightly more dominant). I suspect that many of the birds on the exhibition bench today in Australia are this combination and this represents a significant issue of identification by both judges and breeders.

Another interesting feature is that an AYF double factor has NO blue genes. It is technically not a blue series bird. This is a concept that exhibition breeders find hard to grasp as they are brainwashed that all birds are either green series or blue series. In fact the yellowfaces are separate series of their own and not really blue birds at all. This is another reason why it is harder for exhibition yellowfaces to have a true blue colour which is identical to traditional blues. Similarly because they are not true blues then technically speaking the terms Sky Blue, Cobalt and Mauve should not apply to yellowfaces but the use of these terms is historical and is unlikely to change as these colours are deemed to be the ideal body colours to be achieved for yellowfaces. (The technically correct names should be Light AYF, Dark AYF and Double Dark AYF)

The most common matings involving AYF are tabulated below.

X	Green	AYF(df)	AYF(sf)	Green/AYF
AYF(df)	100% Green/AYF	100% AYF(df)		
AYF(sf)	50% Green/Blue 50% Green/AYF	50% AYF(df) 50% AYF)sf)	25% AYF(df) 50% AYF(sf) 25% Blue	
Green/AYF	50% Green/AYF 50% Green	50% Green/AYF 50% AYF(df)	25% Green/AYF 25% AYF(df) 25% Green/Blue 25% AYF(sf)	25% AYF(df) 50% Green/AYF 25% Green
Blue	100% Green/Blue	100% AYF(sf)	50% AYF(sf) 50% Blue	50% Green/Blue 50% AYF(sf)

The crossing of AYF with EYF1 is not covered in any detail here and in theory may have some potential benefit in achieving a desired "generic" yellowface exhibition bird. By creating such a combination bird you no longer have a true AYF nor a true EYF1 and that raises issues about eligibility for AYF and/or EYF1 variety trophies. Not to mention, can such birds be reliably identified, with the potential added need for yellowfaces to come with accredited certificates of authenticity at major shows to avoid misidentification and wrong classing of suspect birds.

Ken Yorke
http://users.tpg.com.au/users/kyorke

A New Mutation - Seafoam Yellow Face or Kerle Faced Blue

On a visit to the aviaries of Kevin O'Callaghan in Rockhampton Queensland AUSTRALIA in 2010 a couple of birds that did not appear to be the norm stood out. These birds had a Yellow Face with no yellow in the cap. The cap was white in fact almost whiter than white if this could be so.

On asking Kevin where these birds originated, he advised Graeme Kerle of Townsville in Queensland.

Graham produced from a Yellow Faced Opaline Cobalt hen (purchased at auction from Ernie Wise of New South Wales) and a Spangle Grey cock – non yellow faced (purchased from Robert Manvel also of New South Wales in one of his sale lots) 2 x Spangle Yellow Faced Sky cocks, 1 x Spangle Yellow Faced Sky hen, 1 x Spangle Sky cock. This occurred in 2003.

The Yellow Faced progeny were all visual 'Seafoam' and were quite obviously different when viewed in the nest. The mask being yellow, the cap white and the body colour 'Seafoam'.

Neither parent had any visual variations to what would be described as 'normal' for their respective variety.

The initial resultant offspring from this pairing suggest that the Spangle was not a Double Factor Yellow face.

The term 'Seafoam' was nominated by Jennie Liebich as soon as she sighted them; the body colour in each resembled the colour of the sea just below the foam of a breaking wave.

'Seafoam' does not reflect the mask and cap colouration, but the body colour only. Realistically they could be called 'Kerle Faced Blue' to reflect the origins or 'Seafoam Yellow Face' to embrace Jennie's initial artistic interpretation.

The pairings at Graeme's resulted in nests averaging 70% visual 'Seafoam' with the non-visual still carrying the trait as 'Seafoams' were bred from these non-visual pairings.

Visual 'Seafoams' to Normal Green series birds resulted in visual Blue series (non Seafoam), and Opaline Green hens, these paired back to Blue series (Non visual Seafoam) then gave a very high visual result in 'Seafoam' of about 60%, this being Graeme's assessment.

When the first of these 'Seafoam' birds were produced, Graeme, as I understand it, gave a couple to a backyard breeder not knowing what he had produced.

Kevin noticed some on a visit to Grahams and was fortunate enough to obtain some to breed with and Kevin then was kind enough to gift a couple to Jennie for her to work with.

The pair that arrived with Jennie back to Mount Gambier were both visual 'Seafoams', one being Normal and the other a Spangle, these produced chicks and we were overjoyed to see that a couple were 'Seafoams'. The resultant chicks did not seem to have a long life

expectancy thus a number of outcrosses occurred quickly to try and ensure that the strain remained. Note that at Grahams he did not have the same issue; it may have been that the birds that arrived at Mount Gambier were a ‘little’ close.

On pairing non visual to visual, there are now a couple of ‘out crossed’ visual birds to work with. There are others that have been paired to non-visuals with no resultant visuals as yet thus more ‘proofing’ will be required to fully ascertain breeding possibilities.

Graham and Kevin have sent down some further birds that are non-visual that have produced this new variety for them and to these two gentlemen Jennie and I cannot thank them enough for giving us the opportunity to work with these and the previous pair of birds.

One interesting occurrence is that we now have a Green with a Yellow Mask and White cap – and produced from two blues???

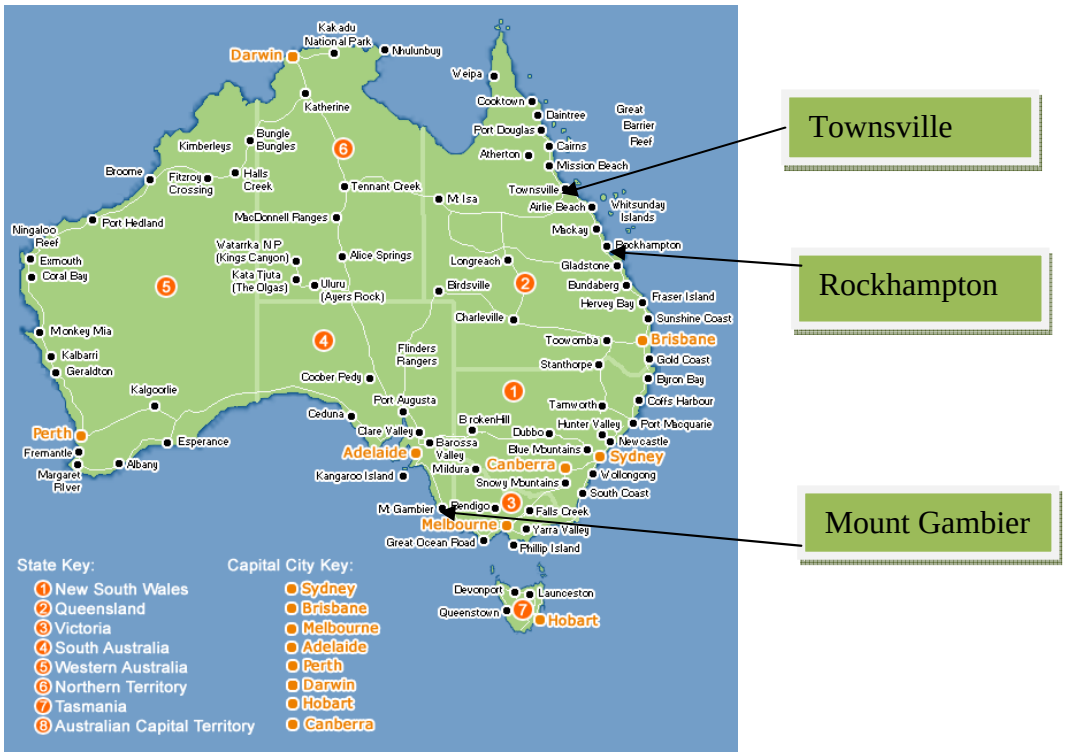
This information is being released to share with others this new mutation and to also see if changes are occurring elsewhere in the world of a similar nature.

It is a bit premature to determine the breeding habits of this variety, noting that it is Dominant but other surprises might present.

I believe the Spangle has something to do with this mutation and other aviaries that I have visited recently have changes occurring and all of these go back to the Spangle parentage.

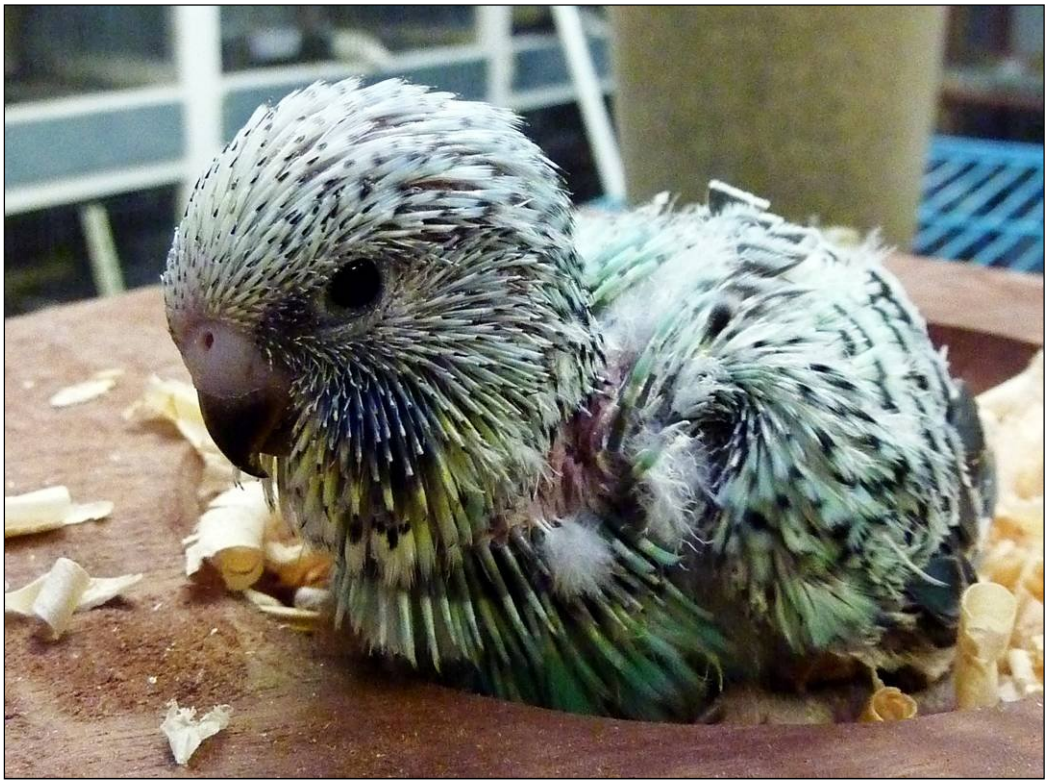
It is interesting as Roy Aplin of the United Kingdom painted birds similar to these some years ago predicting such a change might occur.

Nigel Tonkin



Dam

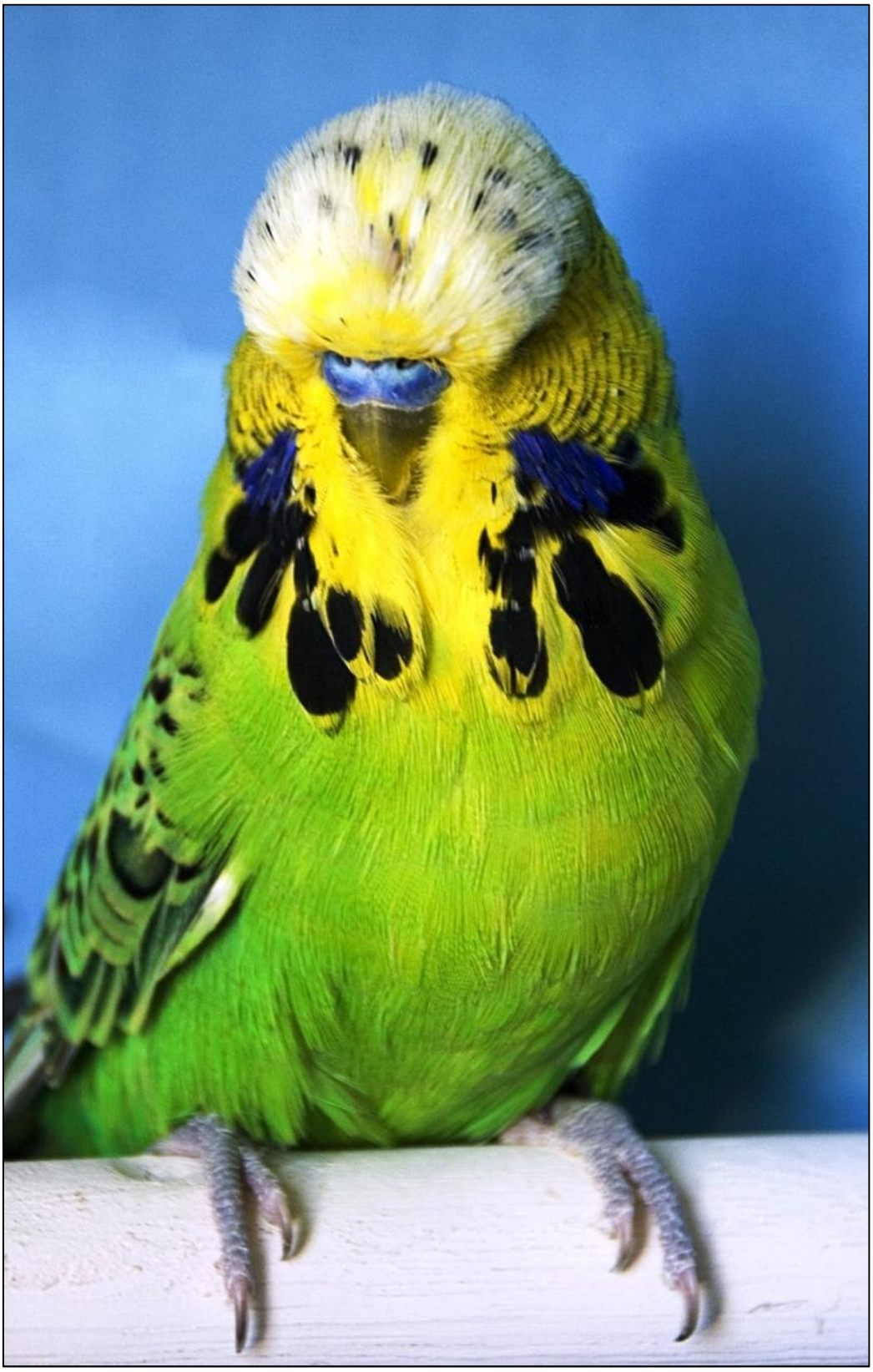
Opaline baby at various stages



Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Tail Feathers and Upper Tail Coverts

Spangle Opaline Sky from the same pairing – is this a double factor ‘Seafoam?

Seafoam ‘Opaline Light Green’
Front View



Seafoam ‘Opaline Light Green’
Back View