



Budgie Bulletin



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2012-2013

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE No.</u>
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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.

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ADDRESSES: -

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EDITORIAL

Hi everyone! Time for me to do my yearly editorial. By now I am sure you are all well into your breeding season. Hopefully there are some chicks for this year's Unbroken Cap Show. I may only have 1 or 2 chicks as I didn't put my pairs down early enough. Talking to some breeders, their young are already breaking their caps, or they haven't even put their birds down to breed yet! However, to everyone who puts young in, good luck to you at the show. A couple of weeks ago, the Club had a social night at the trots. I didn't go due to family commitments. Hopefully everyone who went had a fun night and didn't go home broke! Perhaps we'll hear about it at our October meeting. For our October meeting, the entertainment for the night is a talk by Kelwyn on a topic of his choice. I look forward to hearing his talk. The birds of the night for night points **MUST BE UNBROKEN CAP**, and the varieties this month are cinnamon and pied.

Well Christmas is only around the corner and the Committee are already getting organised for our Dinner and Xmas Raffle. Have finally been given prices for our meal at the Buckingham Arms. See details below. Will sign off now to allow space for the Xmas Dinner details, so I'll see you at the next meeting. Bye.

Vicki Sanford, Treasurer.

Sponsors of the North East Budgerigar Society Raffle Table.....

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▶ Red Panicum	▶ Medications	▶ Garden requirements
▶ Canary seed	▶ Paswell products	▶ Rat traps...and more!



Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday **August 08, 2012**

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.10pm.

APOLOGIES: J Mulley - I Marshall – S Reardon – S Adams – B Stafford – B Fisher

ATTENDED: 25 Members and 3 Visitors – Total 28

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Southern Cage Bird News Letter for July
2. United Bird Society News Letter
3. United Bird Society Public Liability Insurance Account - \$ 107.00
4. United Bird Affiliation Fees \$ 34.00
5. Letter for Fund Raiser For 2013 Nationals (BIG BUDGIE DAY OUT)
6. BCSA – Presidents Report
7. BCSA – Ring Officers Report
8. BCSA – Minutes from AGM
9. Vetafarm news Letter

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:

The Committee will be looking Into a Different Insurance Company for next year

TREASURER'S REPORT: Refer to AGM – Profit \$ 2922.66 Funds Total \$24.685.13

RING STEWARD'S REPORT: No rings left. Green rings Due September 1. Contact Dennis if you need rings before the September meeting.

The new ring price will be \$0.55 ea. – When purchasing rings please check and pay for your Derby & Oaks rings

LIBRARY REPORT: No report for this Month

TRADING TABLE REPORT: Good selection of Items on the table

NEW MEMBERS: Nil.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Show schedules and entry forms for the NEBS/BSSA interclub challenge to be held on Saturday October 27th are also available out the front
2. Show schedules for Clare, Kadina and Gawler available out the front

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Club Christmas Dinner December 12th 33 names so far. Final price will be advised in October
2. Vetafarm awards (\$50 vouchers) for the aggregate show entries
3. BCSA auction report – P Glassenbury – Council made a profit of \$2700.00 which was an improvement on last year
4. BCSA Report – Nationals Held at Grand Chancellor Hotel in 2014, this hotel meets our needs and also the cost is to our advantage
5. Presidents Report from L Edwards -

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THIS POINT –

All committee positions made vacant

Brian Marshall conducted proceedings' for AGM – New committee was elected as –

President – [L Edwards](#)

Vice President - [P Glassenbury](#)

Treasurer - [V Sanford](#)

Secretary - [J Mulley](#)

Assistant Secretary - [G Bell](#)

Show Manager - [Graeme Alchin](#)

Assist Show Manager - [M Stafford](#)

Ring Steward - [Dennis Lomman](#)

Trading Table Officer - [Sue Norris](#)

Committee Person's Elected by Ballot

[Helen Edwards](#), [Polly Heel](#), [Colin Norris](#), [Lea Todd](#)

LUCKY ENVELOPE: Kay Campbell

SHOW CAGE ENVELOPE: Won by L Edwards

ENTERTAINMENT: Presentation of national winning birds by Peter Glassenbury – Slides of the first 3 birds

QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION:

DOOR PRIZE: \$10 Trading Table voucher to ticket No C97 No Badge

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: C33 G Bell Second: C39 L Edwards Third: I10 M Smith Fourth: C30 D Lomman

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Nil

REMINDERS:

1. Anyone who has not signed the attendance record as they came in, please sign – If your name is not on the list please print & sign your name
2. Pick up magazines out the front before you leave
3. Trots Night

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday September 12, 2012. MEETING CLOSED: 9.20pm.

Lloyd Edwards, President



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**Do you want to sponsor a colour series at the 2014
Nationals?
For \$150.00 you can.**

Contact the B.C.S.A Secretary for more details

Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday September 10, 2012

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.08pm

APOLOGIES: G Bell, I Marshall

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

10. Budgie Digest from BSSA for May-June and July-August
11. BRASEA Spring Bulletin with October 7 auction catalogue (Spare copies please take off table)
12. Southern Cage Bird Newsletter for September
13. United Bird Society notification of AGM
14. Avicultural Society of SA re proposed changes to the UBSSA Constitution
15. Advertising material from AviaryWireMesh Qld
16. Zoo times

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT: Term deposit \$19,000; Cheque account \$6,294.13; Total \$25,294.13

RING OFFICER REPORT: New green 2013 rings are now available. Still appears to be a quality issue with some rings, which has been ongoing for some years. SA has been the only state/zone to complain about this at national level. Don't forget to buy your Derby and Oaks rings

LIBRARY REPORT: Nil

TRADING TABLE REPORT: Donated jars available for 50 cents each

NEW MEMBERS: Nil.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

3. Show schedules and entry forms for the NEBS/BSSA interclub challenge to be held on Saturday October 27th are available on request
4. Breeder selling out of crests. \$75 each or \$50 each for anyone buying the entire stock. See John for contact details

GENERAL BUSINESS:

6. Club Christmas Dinner December 12th at Buckingham Arms; 33 names so far. Final price will be advised in October
7. Vetafarm \$50 vouchers awarded for the aggregate show entries: Marshall Family for green series; Sue Adams for opalines; Dennis Lomman for spangle
8. BCSA Report: Planning is now well advanced for the 2014 national show in Adelaide. BCSA is looking for volunteers to assist with various aspects of running the show. A notable change to The Matrix arose from the Delegates Meeting in Geelong. Yellowfaced blue has moved up to a position just below normal blue. Normals will now be shown in their three colours: Green, blue and yellowfaced blue. That means that all varieties below these colour classes will now be shown in their three colours: green, blue and yellowfaced blue. Previously only the piers and spangles were shown in their three colours, due to the previous incorrect position of yellowfaced blue in The Matrix. The Standard is now being rewritten to reflect the changes created by repositioning yellowfaced blue. Membership cards for 2013 onwards no longer being issued.

LUCKY ENVELOPE: Not sold out

SHOW CAGE ENVELOPE: Not sold out

ENTERTAINMENT: Presentation on piers by John Mulley

NIGHT SHOW: Judged by Sue Adams. Notable were the well-marked spangles benched.

Best Novice: Brad Nunn; Best Open: Dennis Lomman

Best Spangle: Dennis Lomman; Best Albino: Brad Nunn

QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION: Nil

DOOR PRIZE: \$10 Trading Table voucher to Sue Adams

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Kate Davis; Second: Peter Glassenbury; Third: Graeme Alchin

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Nil

REMINDERS:

Trots Night Saturday September 22, \$35 per head at Globe Derby Park

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday October 10. MEETING CLOSED: 9.20pm.

Lloyd Edwards, President

DERBY AND OAKS NIGHT SHOW

The Committee had decided to make several changes to the Derby and Oaks Night Show in order to encourage more entries from members.

As from the issue of 2013 rings, breeders will be able to nominate either their first 10 or first 20 ring numbers for the D&O Night Show.

There will also be a combined section for both Novice and Intermediate breeders.

The cost will be 50 cents per nominated ring number.

Ring numbers must be nominated and entry fee paid at the time of the initial purchase of rings each year.

All moneys collected will be put into prizes for the best three cocks and best three hens.

Non NEBS members and those members who purchase their rings through other clubs will also be able to enter by simply nominating their first ten or twenty rings and paying the entry fee.

The Show is held on the night of the July General Meeting.

BIRDS ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS AT CLUB NIGHT SHOWS

Members should note several changes to the rules for night shows.

Young birds rung with the two latest ring colours are to be exhibited together (this includes Mini shows).

Young birds rung with the earlier of the two colours cease to be eligible as Young birds at night shows on September 1 of each year, to coincide with the issue of the next ring colour, which then takes over as one of the two eligible ring colours. For example, **purple rung birds cease to exist as Young birds on September 1, 2012.**

UBCs will be judged separately and for them ring colour is immaterial.

Points will be accrued for both Young (as defined above) and UBCs.

Bird of the night will be chosen from Young birds, except for **October and November** when bird of the night will be chosen from UBCs.

Best bird of each status will be chosen from Young birds, except for **October and November** when best of each status will be chosen from UBCs.

Any birds, Young or UBC, entered for club night shows **must be owner bred.**

Birds older than Young birds as defined above are **not eligible** for night shows.

Certificates will replace trophies for bird of the night.

XMAS DINNER 2012

BUCKINGHAM ARMS HOTEL

WEDNESDAY 12/12/2012

AT 7.00p.m.

Prices:

Adult \$29.90 Pensioner \$27.90

Child (7 to 13) \$15.90

Numbers with deposit, or full

payments, November

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

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

<u>OPEN</u>	Dennis Lomman	23 points
	Mulley and Stafford	10 points
	Graeme Alchin	11 points
	Sue Adams	5 points
	Sue and Colin Norris	8 points
	Lloyd and Helen Edwards	6 points
	Wayne Weidenhofer	4 points
<u>INTERMEDIATE</u>	Vicki Sanford	22 points
	Geoff Murch	13 points
<u>NOVICE</u>	Andrew and Lucy	21 points
	Brad Nunn	11 points
	Tim and Kaye	6 points
	Geoff Hay	12 points

There were only 12 birds exhibited in the night show and

Sue Adams was the judge. Best Albino was won by Brad Nunn and Best Spangle by Dennis Lomman. Congratulations to these 2 members and also the others who participated on the night.

Entry forms for the INTERCLUB CHALLENGE / UNBROKEN CAP SHOW are available at the meeting .Entries have to be in by 19TH October. We hope that all our club members will participate in this show to make it a successful challenge with the B.S.S.A.

Graham Alchin and Marion Stafford
Show Manager Assistant Show Manager.

The Effect of Repositioning the Yellow Faced Blue in The Matrix

The Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC) at its meeting in Geelong in 2012 moved the Yellow Faced Blue from between the Fallow and Spangle up to a position immediately below the Normal Blue Series. The reasoning behind the move, and correctly so, was that Yellow Faced Blue is a colour, like Blue and Green. This corrects a longstanding anomaly in The Matrix which previously only recognized Green and Blue as the colours.

Budgerigar mutations can be grouped into three broad categories. There are the colour mutations away from Green: Blue, English Yellow Faced Blue and Australian Yellow Faced Blue forming an allelic series of four colours in Normals. I prefer not to use place names so from now on will for simplicity refer to these last two mutations as the Cream Faced Blue and Golden Faced Blue. Then superimposed upon the Green and its three colour mutations are the colour modifying mutations. These are Dark Factor, Grey and Violet. They modify all colours in all varieties. Finally there are the variety mutations away from normal. These include Black-eyed Self (or Suffused Yellow/White in its original form), Clearwing and Greywing allelic series, the Red Eyed Self and Texas Clearbody allelic series, Cinnamon wing, Opaline, Fallow, Spangle, Dominant Pied, Recessive Pied and Crested. They can present in any colour and with any modifier visible to a greater or lesser degree.

So what does the relocation within The Matrix of the Yellow Faced Blue colours mean for exhibition classes? Put simply, all varieties can now be exhibited in all of their four colours, not just two of the colours as was previously the case, apart from some exceptions. The exceptions were Spangle, Dominant Pied, Recessive Pied and Crested which previously were the only classes open to all four colours due to the previous position of Yellow Faced Blue in The Matrix. So for these last four classes there will be no change in the distribution of colours to be benched in the future.

Regarding all of the varieties, including the ones now open to benching in all of their four colours for the first time, how can we predict the outcome? Perhaps the simplest way is to recall how in the past Blue has affected the benching of all varieties in The Matrix. Blue is a recessive mutation away from Green. The Yellow faces are also recessive mutations away from Green. Hence, their presence in classes benched in future can perhaps be anticipated as often as we have seen Blue Series budgerigars in these classes in the past. There is now consistency in the benching of colours right across The Matrix, from top to bottom.

Since Yellow Faced Blue is an attractive colour it remains to be seen if its expansion across all varieties will create more interest in a declining hobby, or at least slow down its decline. The same reasoning was behind broadening the participation base by inclusion of Violet and Double Factor Golden Faced Blue in the 2013 and 2014 trial. These are two of the classic presentations in budgerigars which because their breeding presents a greater degree of difficulty had vanished from the show bench at ANBC

level. The Double Factor Golden Faced Blue was in fact the Yellow Faced Blue widely exhibited prior to importation of the Cream Faced Blue.

John Mulley

BREEDING AUSTRALIAN DARKWINGS

The Australian Dark wing was the world's first Clearbody mutation, turning up in Sydney Australia around 1930. It is the only Variety (mutation) that cannot be seen by itself. It has no effect on normals nor opalines, spangles, cinnamon wings, albinos, lutinos, and most varieties. BUT: it does interact with dilutes (including Black-eyed Yellows and Whites and Suffused Yellows and Whites) and also blue and green clearwings and greywings. With the dilutes, clearwings and greywings, the darkwing gene RE-DARKENS the wing colour but does not affect body colour. So with dilutes it creates either a Cinnamonwing Yellow or a Blackwing Yellow. These birds look much like the Texas Clearbodies in cinnamon wing or normal, except that the primary flight feathers are much darker. If a Clearwing carries the Darkwing mutation, the resulting bird looks much like a Greywing (assuming that the bird is not also a cinnamon wing). If a grey wing carries the dark wing mutation, the bird looks much like a normal with a lighter body colour.

This all sounds very complex, but it isn't. While Darkwings appeared around 1930, breeders had no trouble breeding these birds for 74 years without the slightest idea of the genetic makeup of the variety! Breeders just crossed Darkwings to dilute and produced around 50% of each variety in the nest. To be more accurate, they crossed Dark wings to Black-eyed Yellows (very clear yellow dilutes) and usually got 50% of each type in the babies.

It wasn't until 2004 that Ken Yorke worked out what is happening genetically. Prior to that, everything was totally awful and confused; these varieties were called "Greywing Yellows" and "Cinnamonwing Yellows" in the standard. Both names are impossible! A budgie can either be a grey wing OR a yellow- it can't be both (since they are multiple alleles). So a grey wing yellow can't exist. Equally, a cinnamon wing yellow would be a really clear yellow since cinnamon wing further dilutes both the wing and body colours of a yellow. So, no cinnamon colour would be seen on the wings at all.

Ken's theory elegantly explains what is going on. The Darkwing gene is a semi dominant gene that has no effect on body colour but it does darken wing colour on yellows, whites, clearwings and grey wings. Because Australian breeders had developed genetic volume controls which turned down the intensity of all melanin

pigment in yellows and whites (i.e. cleared up the suffusion), the wing colours on dark wings were, as a result, a bit washed out. There were two types of yellows in existence at the time: diluted normals and diluted cinnamon wings. The yellows that were diluted normals were turned into blackwing yellows BUT, due to the washing out of the wing colours, they LOOKED LIKE grey wings- hence the incorrect name in the standard (and they were required to be shown in the grey wing classes). The cinnamon wing yellows looked like very washed out cinnamon wings with clear yellow body colour.

The good bit of news is that when you get a double factor (homozygous) Darkwing, its wing colour is quite a bit darker. So, once you get the exhibition quality of your Darkwings up to par by crossing them to yellows or whites, then you cross Darkwing to Darkwing to improve wing colour even further.

IMPROVING DARKWINGS

Overall improving Darkwings is fairly easy if you can get good quality whites or yellows. I strongly suggest that you use dilute yellows or whites to do the upgrading, NOT Black-eyed yellows or whites for the following reasons:

1. Dilutes turn up in many top strains of show birds. These are often superb budgies and you can buy them.
2. Black-eyed yellows and whites are nowhere near as good as these dilutes.
3. When you cross Darkwings to Black eyes, the Darkwing babies have good body colour but washed-out wing colour.
4. When crossed to dilutes the wing colour is FAR darker (even if the body colour is suffused).

When I first started to produce these new types of Darkwings, with really dark wings, almost everyone said that the colour “needed adjusting”. In other words, I had mucked things up. But I take the view that, as much as a Clearwing must have CLEAR wings, A Darkwing must have DARK wings. These are, after all, the bits that define the two varieties. It is reasonably easy to clear up the body colour after you have built a great budgie with Dark wings.

So, I take the view that their thinking is what needs adjusting, not my birds’ colour.

To prove my point, my Darkwings have both darker wing colour and clearer body colour than Texas Clearbodies.

If you choose to try to improve your darkwings with the fairly ordinary quality blackeyed yellows or whites that can be bought, you will soon break your heart. Put simply, your Darkwings will never even remotely approach the quality of the readily available Texas Clearbodies. Put brutally, crossing blackeyes to Darkwings will guarantee the extinction of the breed in my view.

Given the fact that the genetics has probably given you a brain-bleed, below is a chart of breeding expectations. I am sorry if I have made it seem even more complex that it already is.

Darkwing(sf) dilute x dilute = 50% Darkwing(sf) dilute + 50% dilute

Darkwing(df) dilute x dilute = 100% Darkwing(sf) dilute

Darkwing(sf) dilute x Darkwing(sf) dilute = 25% Darkwing(df) dilute + 50% Darkwing(sf) dilute + 25% dilute

The blackwing (normal) Vs cinnamonwing issue is totally separate from the above Darkwing issues, so:

(df) blackwing male x cinnamonwing female = 50% blackwing (split cinnamonwing) males + 50% blackwing females

blackwing split cinnamonwing male x cinnamonwing female = 25% blackwing split cinnamonwing males 25% (df) cinnamonwing males 25% blackwing females 25% cinnamonwing females

(df)blackwing male x blackwing female = 100% blackwings

cinnamonwing male x cinnamonwing female = 100% cinnamonwings

The really tricky bit in all of this is that DILUTES CAN BE EITHER NORMALS (BLACKWINGS) OR CINNAMONWINGS. Check their feet to see if they are pink, which MAY be a sign of the cinnamonwing gene. Cinnamonwing dilutes are also usually quite a bit less suffused than normal dilutes. It is essential to record the presence of plum-coloured eyes for the first few days after birth in any babies. This is your best way of identifying cinnamonwings.

There are some truly wonderful results from some types of mating's. For instance, if you have only cinnamonwing yellows (or whites), you can produce blackwing yellows or whites if you mate them to a normal dilute- that is a non-cinnamonwing dilute:

Darkwing (sf) cinnamon dilute male x normal dilute female = 25% Darkwing(sf) blackwing/cinnamon dilute males 25% normal/cinnamon dilutes 25% Darkwing

cinnamon dilute females 25% cinnamon dilutes : that is, one in four of the babies is a blackwing yellow or white male!

This mating is even better.

Dilute normal(df) male x Darkwing(df) cinnamonwing female = 50% Darkwing(sf) blackwing/cinnamonwing males 50% darkwing(sf) blackwing females: that is, mating a dilute normal male to a cinnamon darkwing female can produce 100% visual blackwings!!

ODDS & SODS

There are a few more issues. You can get Opaline Darkwings. They look OK but are not ideal for showing. The really good news is that the Darkwing standard allows for grey-yellow or grey-white body colour which is not permitted in black-eyed yellows or whites. This means that you might be able to get a quality black-eyed white or yellow from a breeder because they don't want a grey series bird.

There are very few Darkwings in existence. Other than a brand new mutation that has just turned up, these are the **WORLDS RAREST VARIETY OF BUDGERIGAR**. I send them off free to any advanced breeder who is prepared to put in some hard work to save a rare and endangered variety. We need more people helping to save this rare budgie.

By Don Burke



Blackeyed Yellows and Whites

Australian Blackeyed Yellows and Whites are amongst the most magnificent of all budgerigar varieties. They are more or less pure yellow or pure white in colour with black eyes (with the normal white sclera). They were developed in Australia in the 1920s and 30s from dilutes imported into Australia from Europe and possibly Japan.

The original dilutes were suffused with green in the yellows, and the whites were suffused with blue. In the 1930s and 40s, the world's best colour breeders worked together in Australia to produce the spectacular Clearwings plus the whites and yellows. Never, before or since, has such amazing work been done with colour in the budgerigar. But these varieties are barely surviving today. Only a handful of Australian breeders persist in breeding these very difficult birds. It is quite likely that these three pure varieties could all be extinct within ten years or so unless something is done about it.

So what exactly is a blackeyed Yellow or White? The base mutation is dilute and early breeders discovered that the cinnamonwing mutation diluted the colour even more: it created a double dilute. I first bred these varieties in the 1950s and 100% of the babies had plum-coloured eyes at birth, plus pink feet for life. All of the blackeyed Yellows turned out to be double factor yellows (ie two green series genes- never split for white). Without knowing it, the breeders had selected for pure yellows because double green factor birds are a brighter shade of yellow than yellows split for white.

Breeders in Sydney appear to have chanced upon a modifier mutation for a lighter-looking wing marking as well. This is exactly the same mutation that was used to produce the really clear wing colour in clearwings (developed at the same time in the same place: Sydney, Australia). In this golden era of superb colour breeding this sort of mutation was noticed and perpetuated. Elsewhere in the world, colour was of a far lower priority and it is quite possible that in Europe and the USA this sort of modifier gene was never noticed and hence faded away.

This modifier mutation creates the type B wing pattern as against the type A wing pattern in unmodified Yellows, Whites and Clearwings (see clearwing photos or feather diagrams).

Now, armed with double dilutes (cinnamonwing-dilutes) and a modifier gene to lighten wing colour, these specialist colour breeders set out to produce the

world's first Yellow or White birds that didn't have red eyes.....And they succeeded!

They succeeded in producing the most difficult to breed budgerigars that had ever existed. Perhaps you can see now why these birds are so rare. Breeding them will break your heart, time and time again. As soon as you try to increase their overall size or to improve their heads, their colour collapses. The few people who breed them are dedicated, tenacious and very disciplined.

Peter Dodd of Sydney has bred blackeyed yellows since the 1950s and has won major awards with them at shows continuously right up to today. In many ways, he is the cornerstone and curator of this variety. The Noah of blackeyed yellows. Great breeders like Peter are pivotal to the history and development of most breeds of domesticated animals. Needless to say he is still trying to breed ever better Yellows.

I breed the Whites (and so does Peter). Whites are painful to breed. The yellow pigment in Blackeyed Yellows will hide some markings. Some of your mistakes are hidden from view. BUT, with the Blackeyed Whites, everything is there for the world to see! Even Peter Dodd says that he doesn't like this variety as much because the colour is never as good. Ain't it the truth.

Rare varieties that rely on modifier genes and messy gene volume controls collapse when you outcross them to catch up with the ever-changing standards of perfection. This applies to Banded Pies, Clearwings and Blackeyed Yellows and Whites in particular.

Recently, however, I am starting to improve my Whites. With judicious outcrossing to normals, and whites from fellow breeders Peter Glassenbury, Wayne Cusack and, of course Peter Dodd, I am finally getting somewhere. I'm now 65. All of us who breed these birds are crazy! Any novice breeder can breed a double factor Spangle White or Yellow that is a far better budgerigar and PURE white or yellow. So we Blackeyed Yellow and White breeders are to be pitied.

.....But we sure have had some fun along the way!

Can I suggest a possible solution for this problem? Breathtakingly beautiful varieties of chickens and pigeons exist because each variety has its own different shape and size as a part of its standard. Since Leghorn chickens are a different shape and size to Hamburgs, there is no need to constantly outcross one variety to the other to improve it as the standard changes over

the years. If you did this, the beautiful spots of the Hamburg would be lost. The same applies to Dalmatian dogs.

So, for SOME varieties of budgies, perhaps it would be best if we allowed them to develop their own shape, size and look. Clearwings could have smaller heads and smaller overall size to other varieties of budgies- as part of their standard of perfection. This may sound radical, but it isn't. In most breeds of domestic animals, each variety has a different shape and size. Consider dog breeds, cat breeds, horse breeds, canary breeds, chicken breeds, duck breeds, pigeon breeds, cow breeds, sheep breeds, goat breeds, goldfish breeds, etc : Every one of these species of animals has a totally different size and shape standard for their various breeds or varieties.

It is exactly this freedom that permitted and facilitated the development of the magnificent range of colours and patterns in these animals. If all varieties within each animal species were forced to adopt the same constantly changing* size and shape, most of the really spectacular colours could never have been developed.

If we called these colourful varieties HERITAGE VARIETIES, then we could easily accommodate their different looks in special standards of perfection. Thus each heritage variety would be kept entirely separate from the mainstream varieties, guaranteeing its survival. In Australia, we have incorporated these HERITAGE VARIETIES into our Miniature Budgerigar Society for both exhibiting and preservation.

* The key factor here is that the standard of perfection for the Exhibition Budgerigar changes from year to year. It constantly drifts towards larger head size, longer mask length, longer directional feathers, larger spots etc etc. Constantly trying to catch up with these changes destroys complex colour varieties.

By Don Burke

Budgerigar.co.uk

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Producing Fertile Eggs – Gerald Binks UK



Let us consider what happens when we put the chosen pair in the breeding cage with the nest box open, and leave the rest to nature. The cocks, being usually very sure of themselves, are not unduly disturbed by their sudden new quarters. They see a hen (which perhaps they have only heard at a distance) for the first time, so they go immediately into the displaying routine, cavorting up and down the perches, generally making an already excited and nervous hen, who is disturbed by her surroundings, even worse. More to the point, she may be a maiden hen, perhaps only ten months old. The “whatever is this mad idiot trying to do” look, comes over them very quickly. In short, she’s upset, doesn’t want to know about mating and he gets a definite “Not now George, I’ve got a headache”. Result – an infertile clutch of eggs.

Many years ago, I noticed the behaviour of birds in the wild, in nature programmes on T.V. in a number of cases the females prepared their nesting areas, before the males were allowed to approach and mate. I thought about this, and realised at the same time, that all birds possessed territorial areas which eventually the males defended. Our robins are a typical example in the U.K. Applying this to budgerigars, I realised the breeding cage has to become the territorial area. Also, as the hens are more highly strung than the cocks, I felt they should be introduced first to the territorial area, from what I’d learnt on T.V. This was done, and by quiet observation I noticed the hens still behaved badly in these new areas for several days – the question was now, why?



All the food was there and the water, nest boxes were in position, but still they were wild, when one walked into the aviary. Obviously one or two birds were different to the general pattern, so what was different about them? The answer came, in that they had devoted their attention to trying to get into the closed off boxes which they had experienced before. Was it right for these boxes to be closed before the cocks were put in, or not? It seemed not – so I opened them. The next evening, all traces of nerves with all the hens, had gone, without exception. They each had something to think about – nesting.

Three Day Process

So to re-cap. The hens are introduced to the territorial area alone, with the nest boxes open for three days, before the cocks are introduced. Eventually, I realised what was happening with this technique, spread over those three days. The hens are able in their own time, and without any pressure, to explore the full area and make it their own. The sight of the inviting opening to the nest box calms them very quickly, and within 48 hours they have everything to hand with the exception of the cock. By the third day, all the hens are at a pitch of sexual arousal and by this time perfectly content with their individual territories. This is the time to introduce all the males, which I do first thing in the morning, before going to work – they are not watched at all, just left alone. Result – a very high fertility rate.

Years ago, one used to read articles and books saying “if you do not see mating occur in five minutes, split up the pair again”. I do not accept this at all. Many pairs, perhaps as much as 60% of the stud, I never see mate at all. Very often, mating takes place at dawn – long before I’m awake myself – so pairs are only split up, if the hen refuses to lay for any reason, or a full clutch of infertile eggs have been laid.



One matter I must touch on and this is square perches. With the modern large exhibition bird, it is essential that square perches are used in the breeding cage and that applies to all the perches, not just one of them. When mating takes place, the hens have to grip firmly on to the perch and tip forward while taking the weight of the treading male. If round perches are in use, and incidentally they become shiny and slippery very quickly, then the hen is unable to hold on and infertile eggs are the result.

Some of the early problems will now begin to manifest themselves, the first of these concerns the cock. Sometimes you will find a male budgerigar dead in the cage, with no evidence at all of intestinal problems and no signs of attacking by the hen. However, if the crop is felt, it will be found to be empty. The cock has fed the hen continuously and has not allowed his crop to absorb goodness via the proventriculus into his own body. In short he’s starved himself. This problem can be overcome, if the fancier feeds soft food, which also contains added glucose. It has the capability of sustaining energy and providing energy quickly and it is rarely this problem that appears if you have this mixture available.

Prolapse Of The Oviduct

The next problem which sends us on our merry way to work is a total prolapse in a hen. More specifically the problem is called, “the prolapse of the oviduct”. This occurs when hens are unable to pass the eggs, sometimes the first egg but not always the case. The hen may be found in the nest box looking very ill with a swollen vent. The egg may be outside the pelvic area enclosed in the stretched cloaca and oviduct. For the inexperienced, this is very often a distressing condition, and one doesn’t know what course of action to take. Normally veterinary action is the safest route, but if time is against you this is what you should attempt to do. If no action is taken, the swollen area, protruding from the cloaca, is often covered in blood, becomes coagulated, and gangrene sets in with fatal results.

The egg has to be removed without it breaking, and it is certainly a delicate process, but at the same time a firm process initially one should make up a warm one percent salt solution and very slowly lower the patient into this up to her mid-line for a period of five minutes. Give her the full five minutes because she is shocked. The muscles around the egg are under contraction and these have to be relaxed before any attempt is made to remove the egg. Heat is a wonderful relaxant – we all know this, but it takes time. If you can get some extra help, now is the time for a second pair of hands. While one is holding the hen on her back, after she has been in the warm water/saline, the other can thoroughly scrub up his hands, at the same time warming them and drying them. Your finger tips need to be dry.

Oil is no use in this operation, because the cloacal wall has to be stretched to expose the egg. The dry fingertips can achieve this slow stretching process around the egg and in nine out of ten cases you'll be successful. Like anything else, the first time you try it is the worst time, but success gives you a marvellous feeling of achievement, apart from the fact the hen will survive. Do remember – sterilise the working area after this operation, with a very mild antiseptic; ease back the prolapse, and administer heat to the bird. A dose of glucose/water direct to the beak, every two hours, will greatly assist recovery. Such a hen should be rested for a minimum of three months.

Tips Of Fingers Possess Bacteria



Now a few words on the eggs themselves. In general, it is advisable these are not touched in the nest. The tips of your fingers possess bacteria upon them. Every time eggs are lifted, you add to the chances of introducing these bacteria into the egg itself, via the shell. If this happens, an addled egg is the result. This means the content of the egg has decomposed. There are other reasons for addled eggs occurring, but fanciers should be aware of this cause which they themselves can introduce.

Eggs are sometimes eaten by the odd hen, as they are laid. This can be very annoying and often the problem is not discovered for a while. The cause, can be disturbance, but usually it is another example of a nervous debility and a general over anxious attitude by the hen. It can of course be the cock bird who takes exception to the eggs, and lastly one must consider that some cocks try to mate

within the confines of the nest box, with disastrous results to the eggs.



What is the solution? One suggestion is to substitute a dummy china egg, such as the canary fanciers use. This will defeat the hen that chews her eggs, after which she will sometimes leave them alone. I prefer however, to transfer all newly laid eggs if possible – if I'm quick enough. Alternatively, some fanciers construct a catching receptacle under the nest box, drill a hole through the concave sufficiently big enough for the egg to pass through, and hope all goes well. Sometimes it works well but not always.



About the Author: Gerald Binks began breeding budgerigars when he was 12 years old and is now arguably the most knowledgeable budgerigar fancier in the world. He has bred his fair share of Best in Show birds, judged in no less than 20 countries, founded the World Budgerigar Association, and has published two of the three classic books on the hobby. His stud in the UK attracts fanciers from near and far and is always high on the list for those wishing to purchase BA23 quality budgerigar