

## My Experience at the 2018 Free State Championship Show



As I sit here and write this article it gives me such pleasure to experience how far the exhibition budgerigar has come.

The great breeders in the past have put in a lot of effort and skill in producing the modern bird we have of today.

Being part of the BSSA has been a privilege and meeting so many good friends are simply breath taking.

Whatever I write in this article is not intended to change anyone thoughts or offend the reader's.

Have you looked around today and noticed that the winning birds not only in South Africa but across the world seems to be cinnamon or come of a cinnamon pairing ?

If yes read on as it does get interesting.

Where did the cinnamon variety originate from?

From my knowledge of reading I believe the cinnamon variety originated near London in 1931. The pairing that produced the variety seems to be a grey wing light green with an olive. The breeding being A.D.Simms. It wasn't until 1933 that more cinnamon's were bred

The famous John Scoble reports seeing a cinnamon in the wild this proves even nature tends to know what the value of a cinnamon can be.

Cinnamon come in light, medium and dark just like other varieties.

Why do breeders value this variety? There are a number of reasons they are as follows.

1= feather structure

The feather is silky and even feels soft to the touch their ability to clean up a rough bird (buff) is invaluable in a paring.

2= fertility

Because of the birds being more vigorous and the feather structure a better fertility rate can be seen.

Ever heard the saying having trouble with fertility put the hen to a cinnamon !!! It could be true.

Many breeders claim that this variety of hens lay a good clutch of eggs and feeds the chicks without problems making them perfect mothers.

The main reason I have used cinnamon is to pair them with normals and retain the hens bred from the pairing as the normal hens will not be split and still have the beautiful feather of the cinnamon. You also manage to retain your spots this way. I strongly believe good round spots add the finishing touch to a bird and makes them look proud

The biggest risk comes in when keeping the split cocks and pairing them to your normal hens without proper records they can and will take over your stud just like the spangle variety.

Don't be blind and keep a careful eye on your stud of birds.

Another risk that comes to mind is losing spot size. Pairing of cinnamon x cinnamon can only make the spot size reduce the feather structure of them allows this to happen faster than usual.

That will mean we will have to dip into opalines which have the ability to shorten the mask whichever your route will be always follow the ideal.

Using cinnamon on lacewings many may not agree but take a careful look and see for yourself it does work. The pairing of lacewing to lutino is frowned upon as well I might be wrong but genetics apart isn't a lacewing just a lutino with cinnamon markings. This is a topic to be discussed in the next article as they is just too much to cover.

The judging of cinnamon should be treated like all varieties and follow the standard.

My advice will be that we all need them to some degree.

Breed the top half normals.  
Keep cinnamon for what they bring to a pairing.  
Few opalines just for back up as spots.  
And a rare variety that you would like to play around with.

Whatever makes you happy do it and always go with your gut instinct.

Never forget to read and always listen as you can learn a lot by just paying attention to breeders who have more experience.

### **In conclusion**

Today's top birds are without a doubt cinnamon and I see a bright future for the variety, but are we really risking our top normals on them and losing the normals in the process ? This is one for you to think about.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to read this article

Hope you all have an excellent breeding season.

Yours in feathers  
Essa