



The Show Budgie

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

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The Nel Brothers Stud

Special Techniques for Varieties

When breeding budgerigars for showing, there are generally no distinct advantages with breeding any particular variety. Genes that cause variety are not related to the size or other characteristics of the bird. Your main focus should be on the size and type of the bird, irrespective of variety. There are, however, some techniques that can be used for particular varieties to increase the quality of markings or colour.

In no circumstances should you actively try to breed hybrid varieties. Although some hybrids are interesting as pets, they will not be accepted in a show class. Time spent breeding non-pure-bred varieties is wasted if you want to show budgerigars.

Recessive Varieties

The simplest way to breed a line of a recessive variety is to only use birds of the variety. Unfortunately you may want to introduce a bird that does not have the recessive gene. With the result of such a mating, none of the offspring will show the recessive characteristic, but they will all be split for this variety. By breeding them back to the recessive parent or among themselves the next generation will contain birds with the variety, modified by the non-variety bird. Recessive varieties are treated further in the section on genetics.

Pieds

When breeding these birds, the markings are hereditary. When choosing your breeding birds, check the standards as to what is permissible for show purposes.

Clearwings

This variety involves choosing the birds with the clearest wings and breeding them together. However, the larger birds usually have poorer markings and so some compromise should be arrived at between size and wing markings. Try to breed the largest birds you can get without losing clarity in the wings.

Lutinos

The best method employed to have Lutinos with a deep full colour is to breed them on birds with a darker base colour. Light Green birds overlaid with Lutino will appear pale compared to dark green, and olive is better still. If you have light green Lutinos then outcross your line with an olive bird to get a deeper colour.

Albinos

Skyblue birds overlaid with albino can have a pale blue suffusion. To remove this, outcross with a grey bird to produce grey albinos, and the birds should have a better colour.

Highlights

On the 14 November 1998 the guidelines for the JSBS were formulated and are available to all prospective members. They are (summary):

- * Promote the hobby.
- * Be active by attending / partaking in at least 2 shows per year by
 - exhibiting
 - helping with shows
 - providing financial assistance
 - judging at shows
- * Attend at least 4 of the 11 monthly meetings during the year.
- * Attending the AGM.
- * Support and attend club functions like aviary visits, etc.
- * A new member must be in attendance when their application is considered.
- * Help and assist all members, especially Beginners.
- * Membership fees must be paid-up by the end of August.
- * The committee will monitor all members for active participation.

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Budgerigar Health **~French Molt~** **Part 3**

Now that you've read a wide range of theories about French molt, I'll present the one that makes most sense to me. It is put forward by the American Budgie expert, Cessa Feyerabend, who believes that nutritional deficiency in the young Budgie plays a major role in the development of French molt. The theory is supported by the newest research findings, which indicate that nutritional deficiency most certainly is involved. Feyerabend's theory supposes that this trouble starts when the feeding behaviour of parent birds or the so-called "Budgie milk" they provide is not adequate over a period of time. This milk, made up of half-digested food, is rich in fats and proteins. If certain proteins or protein precursors (called amino acids) are missing, then the young are supposed to exhibit French molt symptoms. Even if the deficiency is corrected later on, the symptoms are supposed to remain. For proof, Feyerabend points to the fact that some birds in a brood may have French molt, while others are free of it. She attributes this situation to the large difference in age that sometimes occurs within a brood. Also she postulates that the sick birds were deprived of Budgie milk of a certain composition at a time when they needed it critically. Instead, they received milk of a composition suited to the needs of their brothers and sisters. Budgie milk of the wrong composition could be present as the result of negligence, inbreeding, or excessive breeding. A second cause could be a supply of the wrong kind of seed or too-old seed. Thirdly, vitamin deficiency could be involved. Experiments have shown that vitamins from the B and G groups are essential for feather growth.

Fourth, extremely warm weather during the feeding period could be a possible cause if the parents then do not feed the young properly. To avoid providing the wrong seed, Feyerabend advises



against using red millet and old seed that may have lost some of its critical feeding value. Instead, Feyerabend recommends white millet mixed with cod liver oil and powdered beer yeast. She uses a tablespoon of the yeast in five pounds of millet. I add the following advice:

1. Buy and breed only totally healthy birds.
2. Thoroughly clean and disinfect nest boxes so that parasites don't get a chance to develop.
3. Always furnish a properly constituted diet that provides the proper vitamins.

A supplement that includes a protein rich in Vitamin A is also strongly recommended.

~Tip of the Month~

Dead Chicks

Sometimes chicks that appeared to be healthy will be found dead in the nest box. So long as they have been fed, they might have died if they rolled away from the warmth of the nest at night, or their neck could have been broken at feeding time. Make sure there are no signs of injury to the chick or no blood on the parents, otherwise there is not much that can be done other than making sure the nest hollow is deep enough and that the chicks are being fed.

The Show Budgie

12 Issues for R 60

Contact John at (012) 542 3533

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thank-you**

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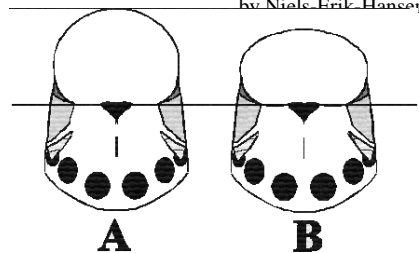
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Assessing Budgerigars

Length of Mask above Cere

- A - Ideal**
- B - Too Short**

by Niels Erik Hansen



Line Breeding

I have a super cock. Dark Green and he is a registered Champion show bird with many best of varieties and many top bench placings. This bird would have been a best in show winner except that his spots are too small. This bird is linebred from a very carefully nurtured family. The result is that he is dominant for those small spots. Even when mated to big spotted Opaline hens, the spots are never as big as the hens. Surprisingly, they are sometimes bigger than his and smaller than hers.

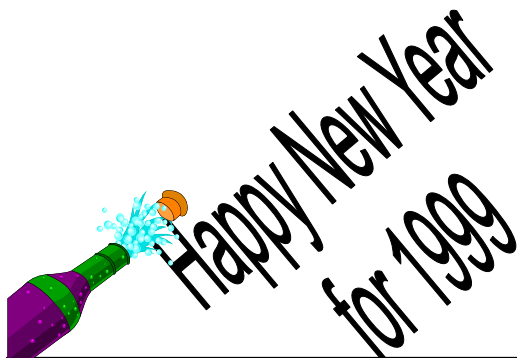
You often find discussions on this subject of what is most influence by the hen and what by the cock. Other than Flecking, which I do believe is clearly sex linked, I am just not sure about the other. I told you that they say that size is carried by the hen and style by the cock. I am not really sure that is true.

Show animals of every kind are produced by linebreeding and inbreeding. The purpose of this is to attempt to "fix" through genetic purity, certain characteristics. Therefore, in budgies, if one wanted to increase size and have it as a fixed quality in an aviary, the process would be to linebreed to a very large bird and always sell the smaller ones, never retaining them for breeding. After a time, all of the birds in the aviary would be from generations of large birds and could be expected to be large themselves. Now when one of these large birds was mated to a small bird, it would still probably produce large birds because of it's genetic purity. Even after generations, the large line could produce a small bird because the small genes could be lurking in the background.

But, that small bird, when mated to a large bird from the same bloodline (and she would be carrying the large size in her background) could still produce very large young. This is how novices without a lot of money to buy top stock, should look for birds. The lesser quality birds from a successful linebreeding stud can produce great young and can be bought for far less money. But you have to know where to go from there. The large young from the small bird and the large bird, will still have that small gene so you will have to guard against using another small bird in that family for a long time. Otherwise, you begin to fix that small gene. It is very easy for a fault to get a hold on a line and it can take forever (literally) to eliminate it. Therefore, to breed show birds, in my opinion, one needs to line breed and be sure to study carefully for flaws that may be showing up in more than an occasional bird. Then do all breedings to compensate for that flaw or sell all the birds showing it. It is an endless balancing act. Some years you feel like you are progressing, some times you feel like you are going backwards. I have been doing a lot of thinking about this sort of thing lately as I am practically starting from scratch with my birds. However all of the birds that I have are linebred and 90% are from the same line. It does give me a lot to work with. For now my attention is on producing the wide, straight to the top of the head, neck that I want and I have noticed a tendency to some short masks here and there so I need to watch the mask length on what I put up. If it was as easy as saying the hen carries one feature, spots, and the cock carries another, size, then all it would take to breed a show bird would be to combine the two and start collecting the trophies.

But each bird is a conglomerate of all of his ancestors. So, I do not believe that sex is really an important factor in determining characteristics other than color and flecking. One may have a hen that consistently passes on huge spots but it is more likely, in my humble judgement, that she is dominant for those spots because that trait has been fixed in her genetically. She has no small spot gene to pass on. When one is breeding from pet birds or birds without a known background, you really have no way of knowing what a bird will consistently produce until you take a careful look at the babies. In my opinion, the most important factor in breeding show stock is to use linebred or good inbred birds from a successful aviary. I would rather work with a poor quality bird from an outstanding linebred stud, than work with a great bird from a randomly bred family. In fact that is how I started out, as I could not afford the big money birds.

by Rose Lee Bedley



The Show Budgie would like to wish all breeders and exhibitors a prosperous new year and a very successful breeding and exhibition season in 1999.

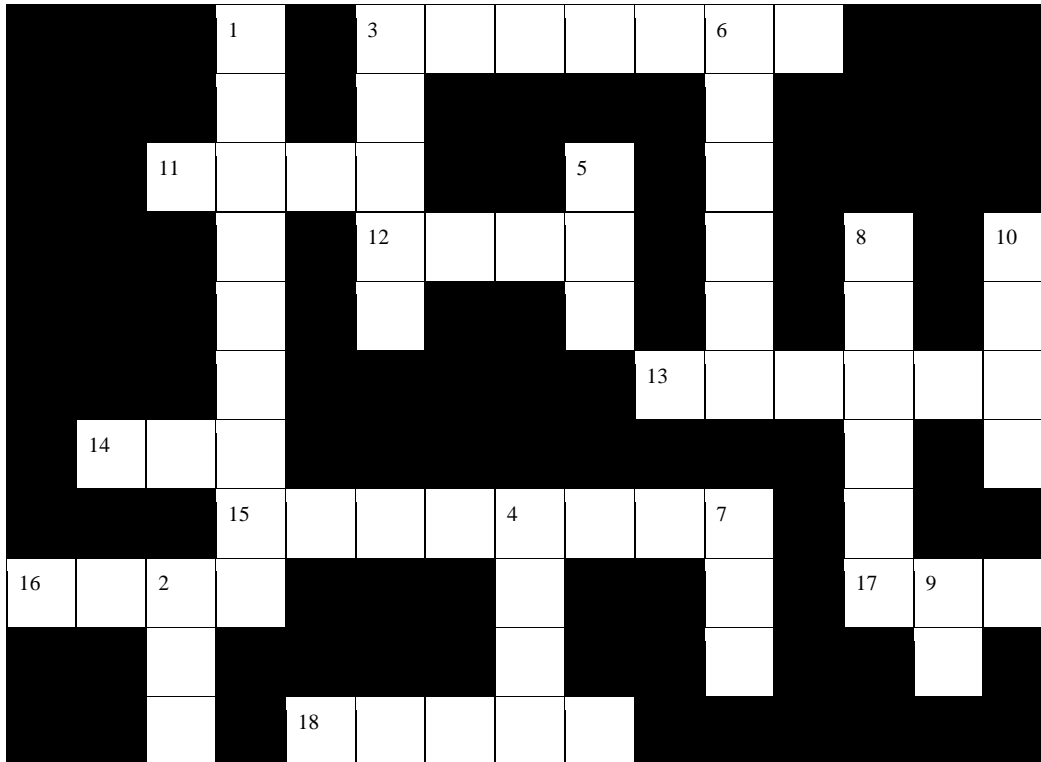


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Colours from a different angle

by Deon Davie



Down

1. Name the colour variety that has a dominant and sex-linked variety?
2. What bodypart do you look at to distinguish between a doublefactor spangle hen and a lutino hen?
3. What is the abbreviation of the only and newly formed specialized budgie association in South Africa?
4. How many darkfactors does a light green and a sky blue have in their make-up?
5. Can two visual whitefaces produce yellowfaces?
6. A lacewing cock is mated to a lutino hen - What will the colour be of the cocks they produce?
7. How many dark factors must be present to produce an olive or a mauve?
8. A doublefactor spangle hen is mated to a lutino cock - What will the colour be of the hens they produce?
9. Can any visually dominant colour be bred without it being present?
10. Name a colour variety that has a dominant and recessive form?

Across

3. What will the colour be of the cocks produced in question number 8?
11. What will the sex be of cinnamons bred from two normals?
12. What is the tail colour of a darkgreen?
13. Name one of the latest colour mutations?
14. In order to produce a doublefactor spangle - How many spangle factors must combine?
15. Is the Easley clearbody dominant or recessive?
16. What is the colour of the cheekpatches of all Easley clearbodies?
17. How many dark factors does a darkgreen have?
18. How many established sex-linked colours are there?

Feather Type

Buff

-this is a wide feather, the bird appears fluffy, especially under the tail and on the head. Because of the wide feathers, spots are often large and round but mask can be short. Buff feathers often seem less intense for color as the feather softness lessens the reflection of light.

Double Buff

- These birds can look positively sloppy. Lots of wide long feathers. They are very hard to condition for show and hard to breed. Color often appears very light or even faded due to the diffusion on light hitting the soft feathers. They are also prone to feather cysts. Breeders will pay a fortune for them if they are good. They appear very large due to all the feathers. If a feather is plucked out, it has a heavy down at the base of the feather. Many of these birds never grow tails (tailless wonders).

Yellow

-has nothing to do with color. It is a canary term for hard feather birds. Somehow budgies picked it up. This is the feather texture usually seen in pet (American) birds. Color is shiny and brilliant. Feathers are narrow and short. Due to small feathers, spots are also small. Show breeders often overlook these birds in the exhibition type, then wish they had them when fertility and condition disappear from their stock.

Ideally all aviaries use all three feather types, carefully combining feather types to produce the ideal "intermediate" feather bird. The perfect budgie would be double buff on head, neck and shoulders, buff on back and wings and chest and spot area and yellow on rump, tail, flights and under tail. RIGHT!!!! OK, so I've never even seen one like that.

Anyway, I've read theories on what is dominant etc. but I think that so many features are present that it is very hard to have any real genetic control of the feather type unless one was aiming strictly for yellow feather birds. If you go buff to buff for long you end up in big trouble. So you have to mix them up and then you lose genetic purity. It's a balancing act.

Canary breeders have studied feather types and texture for 400 years and they still go by the breed a buff to a yellow every time and you won't go far wrong, theory. They never breed buff to buff and they will occasionally breed yellow to yellow if there is buff background. Apparently the buff is recessive. Probably is in budgies too.

by Rose Lee Begley



Colours from a different angle

by Deon Davie

Answers to crossword.

Down

1. Clearbody
2. Eye
3. SASBA
4. None
5. Yes
6. Lutino
7. Two
8. Lutino
9. No
10. Pied

Across

3. Spangle
11. Hens
12. Blue
13. Mottle
14. Two
15. Dominant
16. Grey
17. One
18. Seven



Jacaranda Show Budgie Society Highlights

On the 16th January 1999 we will be kicking off the year with a Mini Show. Please note that the Mini Show will be run according to the guidelines laid down in 1998. The Mini Show will therefore have 10 colour classes in which entries can be made. For copies of these guidelines contact our Show Secretary, Ian Nel, at (012) 5423533. Bring the family or invite a few friends to come and enjoy the morning with us.

On the 19th January 1999 we will be holding our first meeting of the year. It will be held at the home of Pieter van der Linde. Contact Pieter at (012) 335 6950 for directions.

For more information contact John Nel at (012) 5423533.

**South African Spangle
Budgie Association**
for the furthering of the Spangle
Established 4 October 1998

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**The Jacaranda Show
Budgie Society**

Annual Subscriptions

Membership :

* Normal - R 100.00

* Juniors - R 40.00

New membership Entry :-R 30.00 (Once
off)

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Members who have paid fees for 1999 at  
their current club and would like to join  
the JSBS will only be required to pay **R  
60.00** to join. If you are interested in  
active participation then

**Contact Pieter v/d Linde for more  
information at Tel : (012) 335 6950**

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~Sylvia & Ken~

extends a warm welcome to any NTBS members who come to  
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**BIRDS AVAILABLE**

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Visitors welcome by appointment.

*~ Corrections ~*

In "Colour from a Different Angle" last  
month the following errors/typo's crept in.  
Please change the line indicated to read as  
follows:

The 1st line under the Green hen -

- 25% yellow Lacewing and 25% green hens

The 1st line under White Lacewing hen -

- 12,5% yellow Lacewing/blue and 12,5%  
white Lacewing hens

**Please note** that in the article when a line is  
followed by information in brackets, the  
information in the brackets is applicable to all  
percentage (%) outcomes. **For example:**  
- 25% green and 25% blue cocks (12,5% split  
Lacewings)

This means that 12,5% of the 25% green and  
12,5% of the 25% blue cocks would be split for  
Lacewing.

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Nel Brothers Stud

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