



# The Show Budgie

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For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

## Yellowface Varieties by Dan Scholtes

### Introduction

The term yellowface is given to blue budgies with yellow faces. Sounds simple? Well it is a bit more complicated than that. While it may be true that the most common thought of yellowface is a blue bird with a yellow face, there are at least three distinct varieties of yellowface being bred today; the Yellowface Type I, the Yellowface Type II, and the Australian Goldenface.

### Descriptions

The Yellowface Type I, the most commonly referred variety, is an otherwise normal blue budgie with a pale yellow face, short yellow tail feathers, and may have some yellow ground colour in the wings. The Yellowface Type II can better be described as a blue budgie with a yellow wash over the entire body transforming the body colour from normal blue to a turquoise blue. The Australian Goldenface is similar in appearance to the Yellowface Type II only a deeper shade of yellow transforming the body colour to a turquoise green. So much so that in a flight of normal blues the Australian Goldenface looks more green than blue.

### Basic Genetics

All three varieties of yellow face are multiple factors of the blue mutation. Although there are some that would say otherwise. There are those that feel the Australian Goldenface, and maybe even the Yellowface Type II are separate and distinct mutations from the blue factor. To explain the reasons for believing all three varieties to be multiple factors of blue requires a short explanation of basic colour patterns of budgies in general. All budgies have two basic colours: (1) A yellow underlying ground colour, and (2) overlaid with a blue pigmentation. The two colours blend together to produce the wild-type normal green budgie. All other colours are formed by either the presence or absence of these two basic colours. The normal blue mutation results from the total absence of the yellow ground colour. The normal wild-type light green is dominant over the recessive blue factor. When pure green is mated to blue the results are green split blue (green/blue). Genetically, when speaking of a single factor only one pair of genes is involved - representative of the factor or mutation. In this case the dominant wild-type light green is represented by a capital B, while the recessive blue factor is represented by a small letter b. The capital letter always represents the dominant character; the small letter always represents the recessive character. Therefore pure green would be represented by BB, green/blue by Bb, and blue by bb.

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## Jacaranda Show Budgie Society Highlights

Another year has come and gone and we now look forward to this new year and millennium. A new breeding season is in full swing and hopefully everyone is having a successful one.

The JSBS held the first mini show on 29 January and the results were as follows:

Best Bird: Nel Brothers Stud  
Best Opp Sex: C van Staden  
Most Points: Nel Brothers Stud

Best Champion: Mike Davies  
Best Intermediate: C van Staden  
Best Novice: Nel Brothers Stud  
Best Beginner: Neville Greyling

The judge on the day was Japie Smit.



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## Budgerigar Health

~Avian Bacterial Decease by Sam Vaughn ~

Avian veterinarians stress preventative health maintenance to insure the wellness and longevity of our birds. Many times owners are reluctant to spend money on their birds with the premise that their bird is not exposed to other birds, i.e., they do not take their bird to fairs or shows or even to bird club meetings, and they assume their bird is not in any danger of becoming ill because of this relatively isolated lifestyle. When we do find a sick bird that bacterial disease has made ill, the most common question is, "How in the world did my bird ever get exposed to these nasty bacteria?" The answer is having a knowledge of bacteria and what they are and where they are. Bacteria are single-celled organisms so tiny that thousands of bacteria can fit into a space the size of a pin head. Bacteria are basically of two types: beneficial and harmful. Most people do not realize that bacteria are everywhere. They inhabit our mouths, skin, intestinal tracts, food, refrigerators, kitchen tables, silverware and dishwashers. Just about everything exposed to air has bacteria present. "Normal flora" is a term used in microbiology to describe those bacteria that are a normal, healthy, necessary part of the microbe population within a given animal's particular organ system. Without these normal flora, the animal would not be healthy.

The normal flora in a human's mouth contain many bacteria that are harmful and potentially disease causing to our pet birds. Food that is perishable such as fruits and vegetables are very likely to grow large numbers of disease causing bacteria if left in the cage at room temperature for long periods of time. Refrigeration slows bacterial growth, it does not stop it! Mice and other vermin can carry bacteria to your food sources.

Water sources are an enigma of their own. Pseudomonas bacteria is a potential threat to all of our birds on a constant basis. The bacteria loves to grow in your water faucet, particularly if your water lines are PVC pipe instead of copper. Chlorination does not eliminate all bacteria; it is designed to keep bacterial counts in a low enough range to be fit for consumption by humans, not by birds!

I have cultured several aviaries with a Pseudomonas problem strictly due to filthy food and water sources. Water bowls should be above perch level to prevent contamination by faecal material which increases recontamination to your bird as the faeces provide organic material in the water bowl for bacteria to grow.

Running your tap water for 3-5 minutes before filling water bowls helps to flush these bacteria from the faucet instead of filling your bird's water bowl with them. Water bottles for birds are an excellent way to prevent contamination with food and faecal material. Changing, washing and disinfecting water bowls often, even twice a day for those birds that choose to make "tea" in their water bowls on a daily basis will help keep down the load of bacteria. Vitamins in the water are a sore spot with me.

They provide necessary nutrients in the water bowl for bacterial growth to occur. If you have to use vitamins in the water, change and disinfect the water bowl every day. So you see, you feed your bird bacteria every day. It is impossible to do otherwise! Those sweet kisses Cecil (my Amazon) gives me at night are laced with my normal flora which can be disease producing to my precious pet, so Cecil gets a gram stain every 3-4 months. Gram stains differentiate between gram positive and gram negative bacteria.

Gram positives are the good guys and gram negatives are the bad guys where our birds are concerned. If the gram negative ratio is above 20% then a culture and sensitivity are done. This tells me what bacteria are present and the exact best antibiotics with which to treat this bacteria. While laboratory work does not always identify the sick bird, it does much more and comes much closer than a physical examination. So, when you see your veterinarian, have the extras done that screen for subclinical bacterial infections that, if addressed early, can be cleared, instead of waiting for your bird to look sick when it may be too late for anyone to save his or her life.

## Tip of the Month

~Pairing by Jim Hutton~

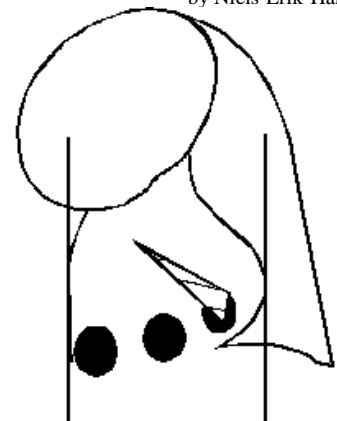
When you are a Beginner you tend to think you must pair as many pairs as you can. The old saying was, you only get about one good chick in every ten, this quite frankly is not true, it all depends on the quality of the original stock, simply pair your best birds, after all there is no point in breeding stock you are unable to sell.



Best Bird on Show 29 January 2000  
Nel Brothers Stud

## Assessing Budgerigars Depth of mask under eye

by Niels-Erik-Hansen



## Yellowface Varieties, continued

### Multiple Factors

Multiple factors in budgies are common place. Multiple factors are variations of the same character. Besides multiple factors associated with the blue character there are multiple factors of the wing series (i.e. clearbody, ino, and red-eyed lacewing). Multiple factors still operate from only one pair of genes for a given character. Since yellow faces are multiple factors of the blue character they must by definition be variations of the gene represented by the letter b. The Yellowface Type I would be identified as byfI, the Yellowface Type II as byfII, and the Goldenface as bgf. Keeping in mind that any given budgie can only possess one pair of genes for any variation of the same character the following combinations would be possible:

BB	= Normal Green
B bgf	= Green/Goldenface
B byfII	= Green/Yellowface Type II
B byfI	= Green/Yellowface Type I
B b	= Green/blue
bgf bgf	= Double factor Goldenface
bgf b	= Single factor Goldenface
byfII byfII	= Double factor Yellowface Type II
byfII b	= Single factor Yellowface Type I
byfI byfI	= Double factor Yellowface Type I
byfI b	= Single factor Yellowface Type I
b b	= Normal Blue

### Breeding Yellow Faces

It should be noted from the previous chart that yellow faces could be bred in both a single and double factor form. Single factor meaning that only one gene of a given pair is representative of the same variety of yellow face whereas in the double factor form both genes are representative of the same variety of yellow face. This is significant in both the breeding patterns of these varieties and in the bird's actual appearance. Particularly in regards to both the Goldenface and the Yellowface Type I. In its double factor form the Goldenface changes from a turquoise green colour to a normal blue bird with an extremely bright yellow face. The Yellowface Type I in its double factor form appears as a normal white face blue. In other words the double factor Yellowface Type I is virtual indistinguishable from the normal blue budgie. The mixing of yellow face varieties in general is not recommended. From the standpoint of colour the best mating for yellow face is with the normal Skyblue. Skyblues generally being of better quality than Cobalts or Mauves. This is especially true of the Goldenface. The Goldenface transforms Cobalts or Mauves into a rather unattractive washed out Grey Green. The same could be said of the Yellowface Type II where the colour washes over the entire body. On the other hand, the Yellowface Type I bred to Cobalt or Mauve, from a colour standpoint, produces a very attractive bird. Especially the Yellowface Type I Violet. When breeding yellow faces to green, once again keep in mind that only one pair of genes is affected. A green budgie by definition already has one gene representative of the dominant green character. A green bird can only be split for one other factor. It cannot be split for Goldenface and for Yellowface Type I at the same time.

### Yellowface Type I

Again, the colour of choice for breeding yellow faces is usually Skyblue. Although Yellowface Type I can be a very attractive bird in almost any colour of the blue series. Since the Yellowface Type I displays a lighter shade of yellow the use of cinnamon or any other factor that might further reduce the shade of colour will be less striking. Besides Skyblue, Yellowface Type I Grey makes for a very attractive bird. The grey factor also tends to be of

better exhibition quality. Other than colour considerations breeding the Yellowface Type I is no different than breeding up any other variety to standard. When breeding Yellowface Type I to Skyblue the results will be 50/50 yellowfaces to normals. This assumes all yellow faces are single factor yellow faces. Should you want to breed the Yellowface Type I to normal green you will not be able to distinguish which greens are split for yellow face or which are split for normal blue. It is recommended that you first breed the best available normal blue to green and then take your best green/blues to the yellow face. 25% of the birds produced should be Yellowface Type I. Even then half of the normal greens will be split for blue and half for yellow face, and the two will still be indistinguishable. Note the double factor Yellowface Type I and the normal blue are also indistinguishable.

Skyblue (b b) x Yellowface Type I (byfI b)

= 50% Yellowface Type I (byfI b)

= 50% Skyblue (b b)

Green (B B) x Yellowface Type I (byfI b)

= 50% Green/Yellowface Type I (B byfI)

= 50% Green/blue (B b)

Green/Blue (B b) x Yellowface Type I (byfI b)

= 25% Green/Yellowface Type I (B byfI)

= 25% Green/Blue (B b)

= 25% Yellowface Type I (byfI b)

= 25% Blue (b b)

Yellowface Type I, sf (byfI b) x Yellowface, sf (byfI b)

= 25% Yellowface Type I, df (byfI

byfI)[White Face]

= 50% Yellowface Type I, sf (byfI b)

= 25% Blue (b b)

### Yellowface Type II and the Goldenface

The Yellowface Type II and the Goldenface are both identified by a yellow wash over the entire body. The breeding of these two varieties is similar in that dark factor birds should be avoided. The Goldenface, as its name suggests, has a deeper shade of yellow giving it a more green appearance; thus the Goldenface is described as a turquoise green and the Yellowface Type II as a turquoise blue. In their single factor forms their breeding patterns are similar. However, in their double factor forms they are quite different. The double factor Yellowface Type II is simply a deeper shade of colour, especially around the facial areas. This was the golden face of old, prior to the Australian Goldenface. The double factor Australian Goldenface actually reverts back to a normal blue bird with an intense goldenface. Other than avoiding the dark factors and greys, the breeding of these birds to exhibition standard is similar to that of any other bird. One particularly striking colour of Goldenface is the Goldenface Albino. While Albinos can be bred in any form of yellow face, the Goldenface produces a nice even shade of pastel yellow over the entire body. On the show bench these birds are often mistaken for poor coloured Lutinos. The previous genetic chart referring to the Yellowface Type I can also be used for Yellowface Type II and Goldenface by substituting the appropriate genetic symbols with the exception of the double factor Goldenface.

Goldenface, sf (bgf b) x Goldenface, sf (bgf b)

= 50% Single factor Goldenface (bgf b)

= 50% Double factor Goldenface (bgf bgf)

Blue (b b) x Goldenface, df (bgf bgf) = 100%

Goldenface. sf (bgf b).

## **NEL BROTHERS STUD**

**XN2**

EST. 1996

**Most colours bred**

### **1998**

Best Beginner - Berario  
Best Beginner - Area 5  
Best Novice -NTBS Club Show  
Yellow Face CC's x 2  
NTBS Club Champions

### **1999**

Best Novice Any Age - Berario  
Yellow Face CC x 1  
Dark & Olive Green CC x 1  
JSBS Derby winners  
JSBS Club Champions  
Yellow Face Grey Champion Bird

**Telephone John or Ian at  
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Visitors welcome. To avoid  
disappointment please call first

## **Scott-Scott Aviaries SSA**

~Sylvia & Ken~

1997 Best Beginner on Show Durban  
1998 Best Beginner Young Bird Area 5  
Albino CC  
D.B.C Club Champion  
**B.S.S A Champion Beginner**  
1999 Cinnamon Green CC  
Cobolt CC x 2  
Double Factor Spangle CC

## **JSBS Millennium Show**

# 26 February 2000

Contact the Show Manager  
Neville Greyling at  
(012) 651 4274  
for more information

### ***The Jacaranda Show Budgie Society***

#### **Annual Subscriptions**

##### **Membership Fees:**

Member - R 120.00  
Spouse - 50% of Member  
Pensioner - 70% of Member  
Juniors - 40% of Member  
New membership Entry : - R 100.00 (Once  
off)

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or

Contact Pieter v/d Linde for more  
information at

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## **Birthday Wishes Go To**

**Corrie van Staden  
25 January**