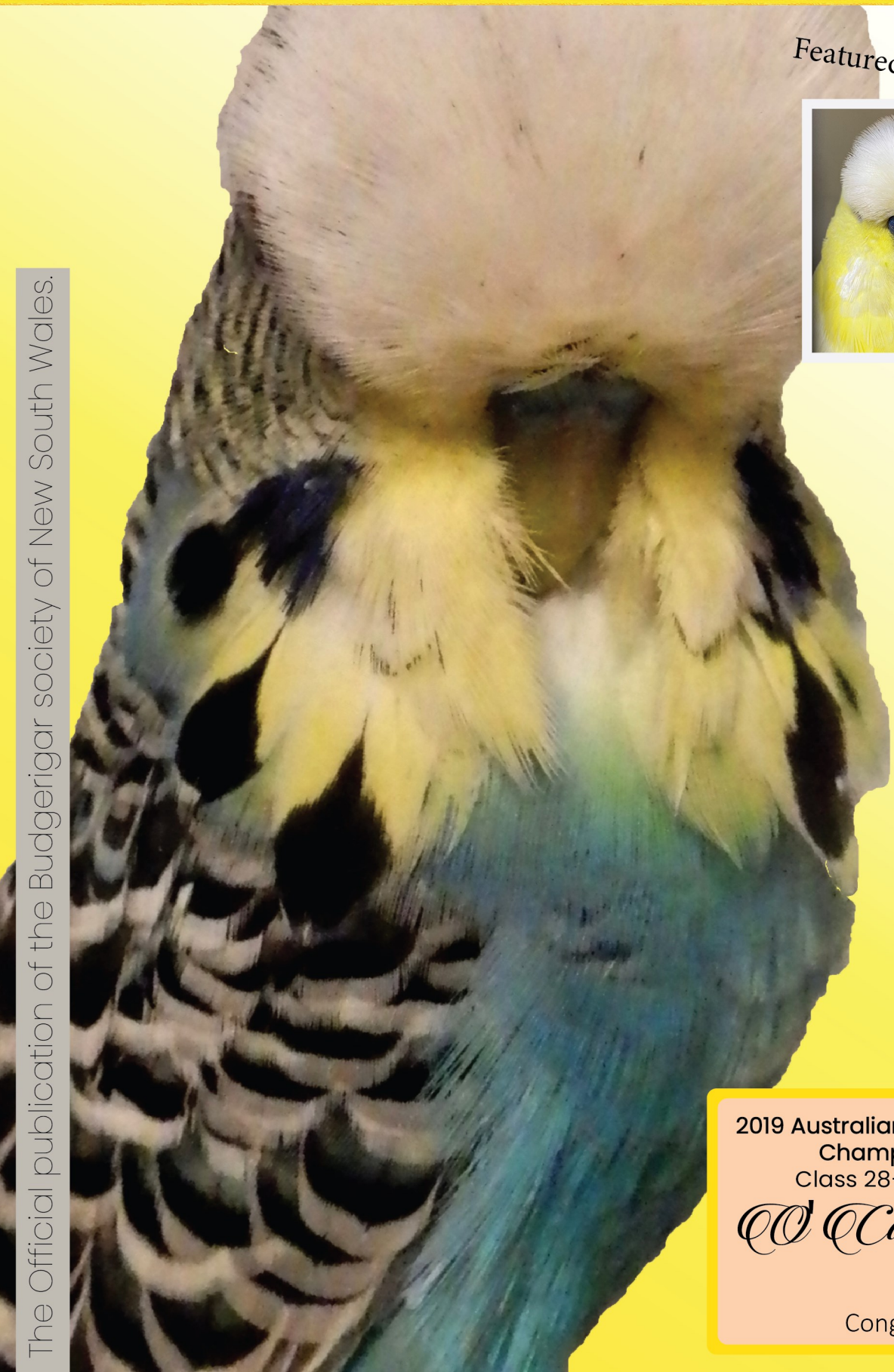
September / October 2020

THE BUDGERIGAR

Australia's National Bird



Featured in this issue:

Australian Whitecap

The Official publication of the Budgerigar society of New South Wales.

2019 Australian National Budgerigar Championship Show Winner
Class 28- Australian Whitecap

O'Callaghan Family

Congratulations!

September / October 2020

THE BUDGERIGAR

The Official Publication of the Budgerigar Society of New South Wales Inc.

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Arrange to receive your copy today! by emailing editor@budgerigar.com.au

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Words from the editor.

Hello members,

I have been very busy collating and evaluating all of your feedback that has been given to me either via email, the survey I put out or in person at the meetings I have attended and other venues.

I encourage everybody if you find you have not received the magazine in between magazine releases please let me know ASAP so I can get your copy out to you, please also ensure that you update your membership details with the membership registrar Myles Henke as we cannot keep consistent records if you do not update your details.

I have been very busy the last few months preparing the magazine and finding various articles for your enjoyment. I have thoroughly enjoyed making the magazine during the time I have been creating the publication, I will continue to do my best for the publication an to represent the very bird for which we all represent.

If you have any information, articles, or any recommendations for which you would like to see in the article please ensure I have these in a timely manner. I would also like to remind everybody, if you require any information updated in the magazine or added, that this information be sent to myself at least one week prior to the end of the first month in the title for example for September / October edition I must have had all information to me before the last week of the month.

This allows us to proof read the magazine, update any information or add any articles or information to the magazine to ensure everybody sees this information. I would also like to remind everybody that I will not reply to any emails before I have either updated the information or addressed the reason for which you have written, Thus ensuring I have seen your email and acted upon it. If it is urgent please indicate this in your subject title for the email as this allows me to address the email accordingly.

Happy breeding and let's keep enjoying our great hobby together during this difficult time.

Thank you
Justin Magnee
BSNSW Editor

The Budgerigar Society of New South Wales Inc is proud to be affiliated with the Australian National Budgerigar Council

Contents

Page	Content
3	Management committee
4	Editors report & Contents
5	Presidents' report
6	Secretarys' report
7	Article: Quarantine
8-10	Featured Article: Exciting new mutation—The Australian Whitecap
12-13	Variety spotlight: The Whitecap both single and double factor.
14	BSNSW Inc, 2020 nominations for office.
16– 23	Article: The facts about violet budgerigars.
24	BSNSW Inc. Branches
25	BSNSW Inc Associates
26-27	Article: The problem with tailless wonders
28	The budgerigar puzzler
30-31	A trip back in time: Dead in shell
31	Breeders' directory
32	Avian veterinarians in NSW and Surrounds
33	Colour me in
34	Judges Panel
35	Vales and BSNSW Whats' on.

A Few Words from Our president.

Thank you to those of the membership who returned the recent survey the collation of which will be presented by the Returning Officer to the next on line BSNSW Management meeting for discussion on ways to move forward.

Whilst still in restrictions for Covid-19 it is good to hear some Branches & Associates are holding meetings and are abiding with those current restrictions with members enjoying the fellowship with each other and maintaining safe distancing whilst discussing their breeding season together.

Please support the coming events being planned eg Illawarra & St George Branch's Young Bird Show on 25th October in the Bulli PCYC with the schedule on the society website. BRASEA is holding its next auction at Boxley School of Arts on 18th October. Social distancing will be practiced at each of these halls so please see that you respect these protocols .

All Branches & Societies will be planning their Annual Shows for 2021 and I hope that all members will be able to attend their local and nearby events when the time comes and hopefully some restrictions will be eased in time for these happenings.
Keep safe in these times.

Keep safe & happy Budgie breeding.

Steve Wackwitz

Introducing

Steve Wackwitz

BSNSW President

Get to know your standard!

https://anbc.iinet.net.au/

Words from our Secretary.

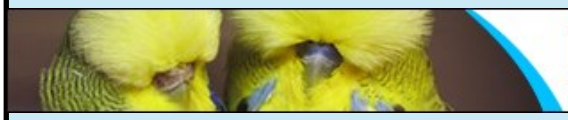
During these trying times I hope that everyone is keeping well and is not adversely affected by the current pandemic. The previous two months have seen alot of correspondence coming through. This has been in regards to the ANBC in regards to the sub committee formulating a new operational management structure. This should come through in the next week and the executive committee will look at it, and if the time frame they have set for submissions is sufficient I will forward to all clubs for further feedback before we respond.

We recently forwarded to all members a survey asking for your feedback, the BSNSW Returning Officer has been flooded with your responses. I would like to thank everyone for taking the time to respond to the survey and will let everyone know in due course of the results. A management meeting has been called for Thursday 15th October at 7pm in which we will discuss these results. All members of the society can log into the meeting and listen by sending a request for the link to the webmaster before the event.

Keep well and stay safe

Mark Finnimore

Secretary BSNSW



Are you in need of vitamins and minerals for your birds, maybe your even after some new nest boxes or bird related supplies.

Why not jump onto the bsnsw website www.budgerigar.com.au and purchase all of your needs, all sales are provided from the seller and not the society.

If you would like to advertise on this site please contact Robert Mead @ webmaster@budgerigar.com.au

QUARANTINE

David N. Phalen, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ABVP
Director of the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre
Avian, Reptile, and Exotic Pet Hospital

Over the many years that I have worked with birds, the issue of quarantine and bio-security has come up over and over again. As a result I have lectured on this topic to many people who keep birds for many reasons. During these lectures I feel like a minister preaching to a congregation that needs to be inspired to mend their ways. After all isn't the most important thing to keep our birds healthy by keeping disease out? Like a minister, after the preaching is over, there are some converts, some who heard some of the message and others that come up to me rolling their eyes and either saying or are thinking, 'Yeah. Right. In what world are you living?'

Is there a place for a bio-security program that includes quarantine in your aviary? To answer this question, let's examine the value of quarantine and what a quarantine program requires? Quarantine is a period of time that all new birds and any bird that has left the aviary but then returns are kept in isolation before they are allowed to mix with the other birds in the aviary. The reason for quarantining birds is that infectious diseases are most likely to develop in the weeks immediately following disease exposure. Therefore, in theory, an exposed bird would develop signs of illness before exposing the resident birds in the collection.

Principles of quarantine include location, duration, isolation and the all in and all out concept. No two quarantine plans will be exactly the same, as each bird owner will need to create a quarantine protocol that fits their needs and their circumstances. The quarantine room can be anything from a bathroom to a separate building. The main features of the quarantine room should be that it is as far away from your other birds as possible; it should have limited traffic in and out; and it should not be your hospital area. The duration of the quarantine period is also going to vary. Thirty days is probably the minimum effective quarantine period. However, the longer the quarantine, the better. It is possible for you to carry disease agents from quarantined birds to the birds in your aviary. Therefore, you should always take care of the birds in quarantine last and keep their food sources and food and water bowls separate from the food and bowls used for the main aviary. The all in and all out concept means that if a group of birds is put in quarantine, that new birds are not added to that group during the quarantine process. If new birds are added to the quarantine room and birds are already in there, then the clock starts again so that all the birds, new and old, leave quarantine at the same time.

Two realistic questions to ask at this point are: 1. Does a quarantine program make sense for you? and 2. Is a quarantine program alone sufficient to keep disease out? Quarantine takes time and effort. According to quarantine basics all new birds entering the aviary and all birds returning from shows should be quarantined before they return to the flock. Ideally, birds going to one show would be quarantined in a separate quarantine set up. For most budgerigar breeders this is highly impractical or at least highly inconvenient during the show season.

Not only is quarantine sometimes not practical, sometimes it is not effective. An unfortunate fact of life is that some infectious agents can infect birds and these birds may never show signs of illness and as result these infections will not be detected in quarantine. However, they may still be able to pass their infection onto another bird and that bird may become ill. A good example of this is avian polyomavirus. This virus does not cause disease in young adult birds, but is shed for several months after infection and when it gets into chicks it can be fatal. To keep out these types of infectious agents, birds need to be quarantined, but they also need to be tested. In many cases testing requires that birds be taken to a veterinarian and the cost of testing may be more than you are willing to pay. Additionally, not all tests are available in all places and not every test is 100 per cent accurate.

Quarantine is not going to do you any good if the diseases that you are trying to keep out are already in your collection. There are several infectious diseases that are widespread in budgerigars. Many, like *Macrorhabdus ornithogaster,* formally megabacteria, are present in nearly every aviary. Quarantine is not the solution to this type of infectious agent.

So is there any point is quarantine at all? I think there is and while it will not provide you with a guarantee that you will keep your birds free of disease, it may keep out the really bad infectious agents that could be devastating.

What I currently recommend is that budgerigar breeders keep at least two distinct populations of birds during the show season. The first are the breeding birds and the birds you are preparing for the show or are intending to sell. These are your clean birds—you care for them first. The second group contains the birds that have been to shows or are birds that you have just acquired. Keeping your show birds and newly acquired birds separate or at least in different cages would be best, but will depend on your circumstances. These birds you care for last. They should remain as isolated as possible until you are ready to set them up for breeding. This gives you a buffer, so if they bring back a very hot virus or a bacterial infection, hopefully it will show up soon after they enter your aviary and it will not get into your most valuable birds, your breeding stock.

Exciting new Mutation - The Australian Whitecap

For over 50 years, budgie breeders all over the world have dreamed of the possibility of producing a "White-Faced Green": a green budgie with a white Face*.

Well the prototype has finally arrived in Australia (above). A new mutation has appeared, a green budgie with a white forehead – the White Cap (WC) Green. There is often a touch of cream colour in the cap, but some birds are almost pure white on their foreheads, and **all** WC greens have some white areas in their masks as well. While the feather tips on the cap are whitish, the feather bases are yellow. The bird above is 7 months old, note the white areas near his cheek patches. The odd white-tipped feathers on his wing are baby feathers yet to moult out.

Selective breeding might be able to produce the White Faced green with a completely white face quite soon. In any case these are very pretty birds as they currently are. Breeders in Australia are very excited indeed about this new mutation.

My genetic research has revealed that the White Cap mutation is semi-dominant to blue. White Caps split for blue are WC Seafoams: exquisite sea-green body colour, a light yellow mask, a white forehead and white ground colour on the wings. Double factor WCs, IE White Cap Greens, are indistinguishable at maturity from true greens **except** that they have the creamy-white forehead and some white areas on the mask. **Surprisingly, White Cap Greens carry no green genes at all**

Image Left;
This is a White Cap Seafoam Sky. Note the glorious sea-green body colour. While the mask is yellow, there are areas of white too on the mask – this bird is getting close to a White Faced Seafoam. Note also the white (not yellow) tips to the wing feathers. Currently the author is crossing White Caps to clearwings: Below are some of the results - clearwings with pure white wings, the white cap, plus the seafoam body colour and the yellow mask!

It is clear from my genetic testing that White Cap Greens have no green genes in them at all. They do not carry any blue genes either. That is, they are neither greens nor blues – they are just double factor White Caps. In other words, green, blue, Australian goldenface, English yelowface and White Caps all appear to be multiple alleles. I am still researching the multiple allele situation, however.

The best news of all is that the White Cap mutation turned up in top quality exhibition budgies, so from the word go the quality of the birds was very good. The original mutation turned up in Ernie Wise's aviaries in Tamworth, northern New South Wales and was sold at auction (as an opaline English yellowface) to Queensland breeder Graeme Kerle. In 2003, Graeme's friend Kevin O'Callaghan recognised the new mutation in this bird's babies and together they set about developing the breed.

Budgies carry two different types of yellow pigment: Ordinary parrot yellow pigment which is the main visible yellow pigment in budgies; and Ultraviolet creamy yellow pigment which is much less visible in wild green budgies. The UV component of budgerigar's creamy yellow pigment is invisible to human eyes, but we can see the cream colour and we can see the UV pigment as a glow under black UV fluorescent lighting (IE Disco lights).

From experiments that I set up under black ultraviolet (UV) lights, it is clear that the WC split blue has only the UV creamy yellow pigment much as English yellowfaces do. The WC green (IE the double factor WC) has both the UV creamy yellow pigment **plus** the rich parrot yellow pigment seen in greens and Australian yellowfaces.

Exciting new Mutation - The Australian Whitecap

In Australia, the two types of White Cap budgerigars are to be shown in separate classes: IE White Cap Seafoams and White Cap Greens. This makes great sense, as would separate classes for single and double factor Australian Goldenfaces. In both cases the greenish-blue single factor birds are very beautiful in their own ways. The classes for single factor birds would encourage more people to breed these varieties.

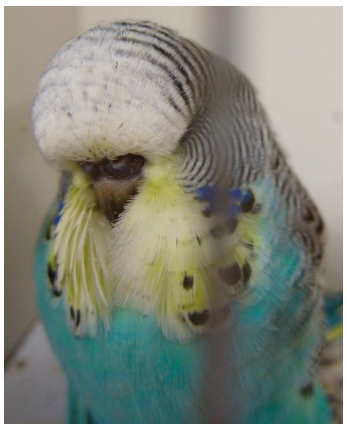


Image right

This is a spangle White Cap Seafoam baby under Black UV light. Note the flashes of iridescence all over the bird as the new UV-laden feathers emerge. The dark purple areas are non-UV re-

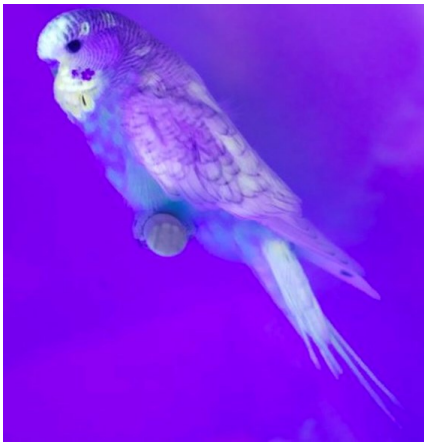


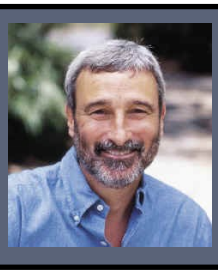
Image left

How's this for a little baby of a new mutation? For once a new mutation has turned up in a decent line of budgies. This is a baby White Cap Seafoam.

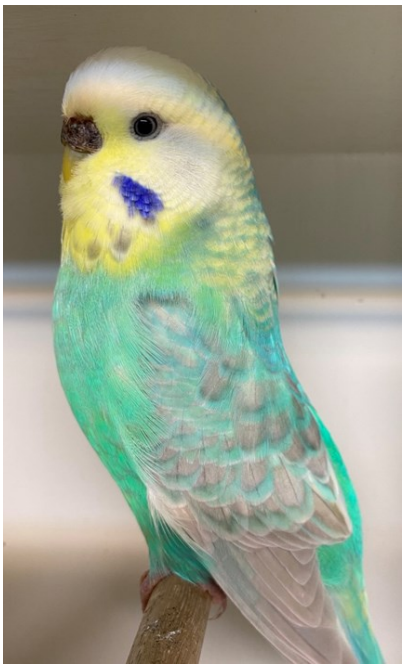
These are White Cap Seafoam Clearwings. In my opinion, the White Cap Seafoam Clearwing is the most attractive of all White Cap varieties.

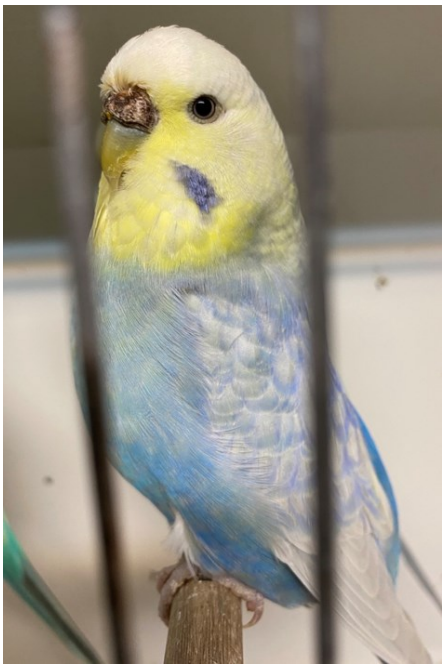
Left is a White Cap Double factor Spangle. These photos show very clearly the extent and areas of yellow in a

Thank you to Don Bourke for this informative article on Whitecaps.



Exciting new Mutation - The Australian Whitecap





On the left are two Rainbow White Caps. The **right hand** bird is a double factor violet-sky WC Rainbow. The bird on the left is a Bronze Rainbow Seafoam White Cap. In the Australian Heritage Budgerigar Association's Rainbow Standard of perfection, both clear wings and bronze wings are accepted. Grey wing markings however, are a fault.

All birds pictured in this article form part of the ongoing work on this new variety. My genuine hope is that this variety can be shared with our fellow budgie fanciers in the UK and Europe soon. To protect our wild budgies, our current laws forbid export of budgerigars from Australia. However, exhibition budgerigars do not resemble wild budgies at all, and curiously, our wild budgies are so common in the wild that they are not even a protected species according to NSW's National Parks & Wildlife service anyway. Go figure.

*Many authors of books and articles on budgie varieties have dreamed of and predicted the white-faced green. This turned out to be a very smart prediction. But sometimes these fantasy varieties already existed. In his book Exhibition Budgerigars in1951 Dr Armour featured an R A Vowles painting of "a laced Yellow, (which, he said) is a possible bird of the future". This was a Blackwing Yellow which had existed in Australia since the early 1930s. These were the world's first Clearbodies and they were so good that, in 1962 or 1963 a Blackwing Yellow won Champion of Show at the New South Wales State show. This remains perhaps the greatest ever win by an obscure budgie variety in Australia….by Frank Amos…and yes I was there - well done Frank!

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https://www.budgerigar.com.au/bsnsw-store/

If you need something and its not listed please contact the webmaster and we will source the product for you

MEMBERS OF THE BSNSW CAN SELL EXCESS ITEMS AND THEIR BIRDS EITHER FOR A FIXED PRICE OR BY AUCTION

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FEES AND CHARGES

Buy It Now Single Listing	**$3.00 per item**
Auction Listing	**$3.00 per item**
Final Sale / Auction fees	**12%**

The Whitecap Budgerigar

National Winning Goldenface 2019

Paul Bayliss NSW

Breeding expectations

	Cock	Hen
1.	Whitecap seafoam	Normal Blue
	50% Whitecap seafoam 50% Normal Blue	
2.	Whitecap seafoam	Whitecap seafoam
	50% Whitecap seafoam 25% Whitecap green 25% Normal blues	
3.	Whitecap seafoam	Whitecap Green
	50% Whitecap seafoam 50% Whitecap Green	
4.	Whitecap Green	Whitecap Green
	100% Whitecap Green	
5.	Whitecap Green	Normal Blue
	100% Whitecap seafoam	

The Standard (Single Factor)

MASK AND SPOTS: The mask is to be clear, wide and deep, (not cleft) light yellow in colour and extending beyond two large cheek patches ornamented by six evenly spaced, large, round black throat spots, the outer two being partially covered by the base of the cheek patches. Adjacent to the cheek patches are several white tipped mask feathers. Spots can also usually carry a white tip in the barbs that emanate from the base of the spot feather.

GENERAL BODY COLOUR:
As for the underlying variety or colour with an even infused wash of yellow over the entire area of body colour including the rump area. Back, rump, breast, flanks and under parts to be a solid and even shade throughout. Colour will vary for each shade of blue and grey, but evenness of body colour is paramount. On cheeks and ear coverts, a slight tinge of yellow is visible in place of the white areas of the Normal.

CAP:
White feathers over a pale cream base.

MARKINGS:
Back of head, nape of neck and wings – black, clearly defined and symmetrical on white ground colour and free of any intrusion of body colour or 'bloom'.

EYES:
Black with a white iris ring.

TAIL:
Secondary and Tertiary tail feathers carry light yellow pigmentation.

FEET & LEGS:
Blue / Grey

Whitecap UBC

A young whitecap bred by:
Donna McIntyre

AUSTRALIAN WHITE CAP This mutation was formally recognized by the ANBC in June 2013 as a new mutation and the name Australian White Cap was adopted. The mutation was first identified in the aviary of Graeme Kerle of Townsville (Qld) in 2003 by Kevin O'Callaghan who obtained birds and in turn gifted a pair to Nigel Tonkin and Jennie Liebich (SA) to ensure distance between stock in case of disaster and to better understand breeding habits and genetic data, which at this point is still a work in progress. This history will be updated when solid genetic facts are to hand and a presentation can be made to the ANBC to adopt the mutation and incorporate within the Standard.

The Whitecap Budgerigar

The Standard (Double Factor)

MASK AND SPOTS:
The mask is to be clear, wide and deep, (not cleft) yellow in colour and extending beyond two large cheek patches ornamented by six evenly spaced, large, round black throat spots, the outer two being partially covered by the base of the cheek patches. Adjacent to the cheek patches are several white tipped mask feathers. Spots can also usually carry a white tip in the barbs that emanate from the base of the spot feather.
GENERAL BODY COLOUR:
Green as for the normal series. Back, rump, breast, flanks and underparts to be a solid and even shade throughout.
MARKINGS:
On cheeks, back of head, neck and wings - black, clearly defined and symmetrical on the appropriate ground colour and free from any intrusion of body colour or 'bloom'.
CAP:
White feathers over an underlying yellow base however as the bird matures the cap may turn pale yellow. A small half circle of yellow feathers will be evident at the front of the cap adjacent to top of the cere.
BODY COLOUR:
Full intensity and identical to the normal Green Series
EYES:
Black with a white iris ring.
TAIL:
Secondary and Tertiary tail feathers carry light yellow pigmentation.
FEET & LEGS:
Blue / Grey
NOTE – Australian White Cap group includes all varieties. The Standard for each is as for the Australian White Cap modified by the requirements of the variety and colour with which they are combined.

Credit: South Western NSW Branch BSNSW (Facebook)

Credit: Dawn Gwynne (Facebook)

A Family of Whitecaps

Sire

Dam

Bred and Owned by
Maree & Paul McCusker

Young / Siblings

Budgerigar Society of New South Wales 2020 Nominations for Office Bearers.

Position	Nominated	Number of Nominations	Accept or De-cline
President	Steve Wackwitz	3	Accepted
President	Stuart Williams	1	Declined
President	Mark Finnimore	5	Declined
Vice President	Stuart Williams	1	
Vice President	Mark Finnimore	3	Declined
Second Vice President	-	Nil	Nil
Secretary	Mark Finnimore	8	Accepted
Minute Secretary	Aaron Beman	2	Accepted
Treasurer	David Butters	3	Accepted
Membership Registrar	Robert Mead	1	Accepted
Membership Registrar	Michael Heffernon	1	Invalid No Proposer
Ring Registrar	Robert Mead	1	Accepted
Ring Registrar	Michael Heffernon	1	Invalid No Proposer
Editor	Justin Magnee	2	Accepted
Colour & Standards	Andrew Ozoux	1	Accepted
Show Manager	Jim Baker	1	Accepted
Publicity Officer	-	Nil	Nil
Services Section	-	Nil	Nil
Webmaster	Robert Mead	2	Accepted

Your Feedback is valued, please take this quick survey to let us know what you'd like to see added, removed or changed in "The Budgerigar".

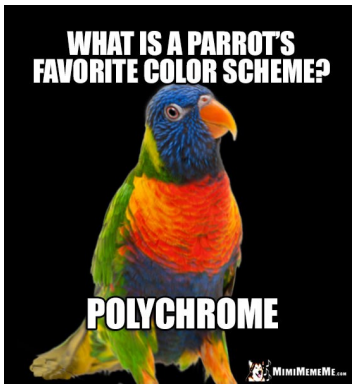
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FZSLRHV

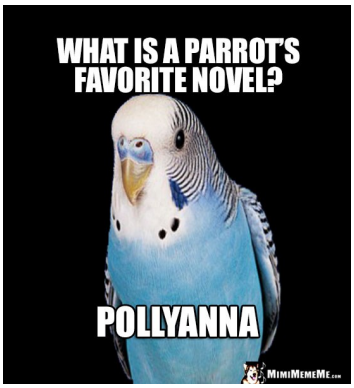
Join us at the Bi—Monthly Management meetings.

Have your say and be heard!

Clubs, Please encourage at least your delegates to attend the meetings.

Riddle me this, Riddle me that!





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The Facts About Violet Budgerigars.

An original article by Peter Bergman of Sydney, Australia

Violet is the most eye-catching of all the budgerigar colours and it is one of the more challenging to breed. Mainstream thinking on Violets is that it requires the presence of the Dark factor plus the Violet factor in a blue series bird to produce a Visual Violet. While this is generally true, and serves to give beginners an introduction to Violets, it is not the whole story. After breeding Violets for ten years, which included a number of experimental pairings, it has become evident to me that there is more to Violet budgerigars than is generally known.

Origins

Violet budgerigars surfaced in several countries at about the same time not long after the introduction of the Dark factor and as blue budgerigars became increasingly common. According to Australian records Violets were developed in the early 1930s. A Mr. Burton of Sydney bred Violets prior to 1934 and Violets were exhibited that year by a Mr. Harold Pier. References to purple or violet coloured budgerigars in Germany and Britain go back to the mid 1920s. Interestingly most books state that Violets first appeared in the 1930s. Cobalt's appeared for the first time in 1920 having been bred from Dark Greens.

Dark Greens were first established at Blanchard's Aviaries in France in 1915 but it is unclear whether they arose from a fresh mutation or were imported in consignments of wild budgerigars. English importers had claimed that Dark Greens were to be found among batches of wild Greens estimated at about one in 10,000 to 20,000. A problem with this scenario is that Violet Light Greens look very much like Dark Greens and Violet Sky blues look very much like Cobalt's and are easily confused. Judging from the broad distribution of the Violet factor early in its history it seems likely that Violet Light Greens had been bred alongside Dark Greens for some years in the 1920s, and perhaps earlier, but were not recognized as being genetically different to Dark Greens at the time.

Sky Blue Budgerigar

Cobalt Budgerigar

The Violet Skyblue

The addition of the Violet factor (V) to the Sky-blue (vvdd) produces our most basic Violet factor bird in the blue series, the Violet Sky-blue (Vvdd). The term "Violet Sky-blue" really only refers to the genetic make up of the bird rather than its colour. If I had to put a name to the actual shade of blue "cyan" is about as close as I could come. Violet Sky blues vary in their depth of colour a fair bit. At the pale extreme their body colour is nearly as pale as the deepest shades of Sky-blue.

Very pale Violet Sky blues tend to be patchier than richly coloured Sky blues and have a cyan rather than turquoise tint to their feathers. At the dark extreme the body colour is very much like a medium shade of Cobalt. Most Violet Sky blues fall somewhere in between the two extremes and resemble pale Cobalts. A point that should not be lost here is that dark Violet Skyblues are darker in body colour than the paler shades of Cobalt. The best guide to distinguishing Violet Skyblues from Cobalts are the tail and flight feathers. Cobalt tails are a solid navy blue. The darker the Cobalt body colour, the deeper the blue of the tail but even the palest Normal Cobalts have navy blue tails. In Violet Skyblues the tail feathers are turquoise at the quill end darkening to blue toward the tip. The depth of turquoise in the tail varies with the depth of body colour. The difference we see in the tails can also be seen in the flight feathers.

The colour in the flight feathers of Cobalts is dark blue. In Violet Skyblues there is a glossier turquoise iridescence like that seen in Skyblues but slightly darker that the Skyblue. In general Violet Skyblues have a brighter appearance than Cobalts. When

learning how to distinguish between Violet Skyblues and Cobalts, bright natural light is best. Direct sunlight is to be avoided. Artificial light can distort the colour of the bird making identification more difficult. Violet Skyblues appear darker under artificial light, particularly under fluorescent light. The turquoise iridescence can be more difficult to see under fluorescent light. The tail and flight feather method is most useful when dealing with Normals and Opalines but has its limitations when dealing with other varieties. One feature Cobalts usually have is ribbing. In Cobalts the breast and abdominal feathers have faint lateral striations resembling faint versions of the kind of markings found on the heads of Normals. The presence of ribbing can be useful in identifying Cobalts in certain varieties. In Dominant Pieds for example where the tail and flight feathers are white, ribbing on the breast feathers indicates the bird is a Cobalt and not a Violet Skyblue. The ability to identify Violet Skyblues and separate them from the Cobalts is the key to the proper understanding of Violet breeding. The failure to correctly distinguish between the two colours has led to all sorts of myth, rumor, and general misinformation about the Violet factor.

The double factor Violet

Skyblue and the question of Dominance The Dark factor is said to be semi-dominant or incompletely dominant because double factor birds, Olives and Mauves, look different to single factor birds, Dark Greens and Cobalts. The Grey factor is said to be Dominant because Greys and Greygreens with two Grey factors do not look substantially different to Greys and Greygreens with only a single Grey factor.

The Violet factor is said to be Dominant like the Grey factor. We know that if two Cobalts are paired together we can expect a percentage of Mauves. What colours do we get when two Violet Skyblues are paired together?

Violet Skyblue (Vvdd) X Violet Skyblue (Vvdd) produce 25% Skyblue (vvdd) 50% Single factor Violet Skyblue (Vvdd) 25% Double factor Violet Skyblue (VVdd) Skyblues are familiar to everyone. Single factor (SF) Violet Skyblues have already been described. If the Violet factor is dominant like the Grey factor then Double factor (DF) Violet Skyblues should not look very different to SF Violet Skyblues.

However they are different. Very different. We have now come to the crux of why Violet budgerigars are shrouded by so much mystery. In appearance DF Violet Skyblues (VVdd) are every bit as much Visual Violets as are Violet Cobalts (VvDd).

There are several pieces of information the Violet Skyblue X Violet Skyblue pairing gives us: 1. The Violet factor is not a simple dominant gene like the Grey factor. It is semi- dominant like the Dark factor. DF Violet Skyblues are Visual Violets in appearance and therefore look quite different to SF Violet Skyblues.

2. It is possible to breed Visual Violets without using the Dark factor. Conventional wisdom tells us that Visual Violets are Cobalts plus an additional Violet factor. This has led to the false conclusion that all Visual Violets contain the Dark factor in their genetic make up. Visual Violets that are DF Violet Skyblues genetically give us the possibility of developing an aviary full of nothing but Visual Violets which in turn breed nothing but Visual Violets. DF Violet Skyblue (VVdd) X DF Violet Skyblue (VVdd) produce 100% DF Violet Skyblue (VVdd) Since there is little hope of maintaining exhibition quality by using this pairing generation after generation it would be mainly of interest to colour breeders.

3. Double factor Violets do exist. Some fanciers say they have never come across a double factored Violet and have come to the conclusion that a double dose of the Violet factor is lethal. Lethality might occur in some Violet factor lines but I have bred with Violets from different sources and have never had trouble breeding double factor Violets. If a lethal trait can be demonstrated in certain Violet factor lines then the lethal trait is not due to the Violet factor itself but a separate recessive lethal gene closely linked to the Violet factor in those particular lines.

Quite frankly, I think the whole question of a lethal factor can be traced to the fact that fanciers have been labouring under the false premises discussed in points 1 and 2. Namely that the Violet factor is a simple dominant gene, and that all Visual Violets have the Dark factor in their genetic make up. The fact that most people have trouble sorting out Violet Skyblues from Cobalts only adds to the problem.

Heresy?

I realise that much of what I have written goes against accepted budgerigar dogma. No one has to rely on my words alone. The same information has been under the noses of budgerigar breeders for nearly 40 years. Genetics for Budgerigar Breeders was first published in 1961. In preparation for their book Taylor and Warner investigated the question of the existence of double factor Violets and set about deliberately breeding DF Violet Skyblues. When DF Violet Skyblues were produced they were described as:

"... indistinguishable from Visual Violets apart from the fact that their long tail feathers were edged with pale blue at the quill end." (p. 77)

These birds were subsequently test mated. Although the number of young produced was relatively small, the results were

For all the time and effort Taylor and Warner put into procuring birds, breeding with them, and test mating the youngsters, their words have gone unheeded. It is surprising that Taylor and Warners' findings have not been given more attention when one considers the status

Genetics for Budgerigar Breeders has in the hobby. No doubt much of the blame has to be laid on the similarity in appearance between Violet Skyblues and Cobalts and the chronic problem fanciers have in sorting the two out. The fluorescent lighting usually installed in birdrooms probably exacerbates the problem.

Another possible contributing factor to the confusion between Violet Skyblues and Cobalts comes from unexpected quarters. Over the last decade scientists have found differences in the ability of people to detect subtleties in shades of colour among individuals who are regarded as having clinically normal colour vision. These differences in ability are programmed into our DNA. The implication for some people is that the difficulty is sorting Violet Skyblues from Cobalts probably has more to do with their own genetic make up than it does with the genetic make up of the birds.

An unexpected result

The first time I bred a DF Violet Skyblue was by accident back in 1988. I bought a pair of birds which looked as though they were an especially good coloured Opaline Skyblue hen and a rather poorly coloured Normal Cobalt cock. They produced a total of ten young:

1 Normal Skyblue (poorly coloured)

1 Lacewing

7 Normal 'Cobalts' of varying depth of colour

1 Normal Visual Violet

The Lacewing was not a surprise since I had been told the cock was split. The Visual Violet was a surprise however. To produce a Visual Violet the Opaline hen could not have been an ordinary Skyblue but a Violet Skyblue.

At the same time I also had Normal Visual Violets paired to ordinary Normal Skyblues. They produced Skyblues, good coloured Cobalts, Visual Violets, and birds which resembled the poorly coloured 'Cobalt' cock in the pair above. I began to realise the poorly coloured 'Cobalts' with the turquoise sheen in their Skyblue-like tails were most probably Violet Skyblues. I also had a pair of Cobalts (navy-blue-tailed dark blues) breeding which produced Mauves. Mauves in the nest confirmed that navy-tails were indeed genuine Cobalts.

However I was still puzzled. If the Opaline hen in question was a Violet Skyblue then the cock bird should in theory be a Cobalt. Yet he looked like the Violet Skyblues which were being produced by the Skyblue X Visual Violet pairings. Back to the books! I re-read the chapter on Violets in Genetics for Budgerigar Breeders and there I found the explanation for the mystery Visual Violet youngster. It was almost certainly a DF Violet Skyblue. My mystery Visual Violet even had the paler blue (turquoise) colour in the tail feathers described by Taylor and Warner. I had in fact read the chapter on Violets some months earlier. At the time I found Taylor and Warner's comments interesting but I put the chore of sorting out Violet Skyblues from Cobalts in the 'too hard' basket and promptly forgot all they had written about DF Violet Skyblues.

The suspect DF Violet Skyblue was a Normal Visual Violet hen but not a particularly good coloured Violet. In side by side comparisons with very good coloured Cobalts the Violet colouring was quite obvious. She made even the darkest coloured Cobalts look bland. Yet in side by side comparisons with average coloured Violet Cobalts the DF Violet Skyblue lacked the same intensity of Violet. I would have to describe this bird as a bluey sort of a Violet. (For future reference I will nickname this bird 'Indigo' after the colour of light between blue and violet in the colour spectrum). The turquoise iridescent sheen was quite noticeable in the flight and tail feathers as Indigo flew from perch to perch. Many of Indigo's nest mates were at the paler end of the scale for their respective colours. I know now that Indigo herself was a rather poorly coloured example of a DF Violet Skyblue.

Experimentation

Indigo was paired to a Normal Skyblue cock. She produced seven young in two rounds. All were Normal Violet Skyblues identifiable by the turquoise iridescence in their tails and flight feathers, and their paler brighter Cobalt-like body colour. On the whole the young looked very much like Indigo's Violet Skyblue siblings.

Over the next couple of years I made several Violet Skyblue to Violet Skyblue pairings using birds from various sources. Violet Skyblues were not difficult to get. Thirty to forty percent of birds offered to me as 'Cobalts' turned out to be Violet Skyblues upon closer examination. When asked for Violet Skyblues nobody seemed to have any! Most people just don't know what they

Among the pairs to breed were three pairs of SF Violet Skyblues with a medium depth of colour and two darker pairs of SF Violet Skyblues with very good colour. The two darker pairs were deeper in body colour than many Cobalts. I did not consider breeding with poorly coloured pairs to be a worthwhile exercise. The cock and hen in each pair were matched for colour as closely as possible. One of the medium coloured pairs was Opaline, the rest were Normals. I wanted to see Skyblues, SF Violet Skyblues, and DF Violet Skyblues bred from each pair so I let them raise a third round where necessary to achieve this. Other pairs produced only clear eggs.

All told the five pairs produced 53 young, 11 Skyblues, 28 SF Violet Skyblues, and 14 Visual Violets (DF Violet Skyblues genetically). No Cobalts (navy-blue-tailed dark blues) or Mauves were produced. In general the darker coloured pairs bred the better-coloured young.

This question of good colour and poor colour is one that initially caused problems and one that I shall return to later.

DF Violet Skyblues vs. Violet Cobalts

The same principle used to separate Violet Skyblues from Cobalts can be used to separate DF Violet Skyblues from Violet Cobalts. Violet Cobalt tails range from a deep bluey-violet to violet shade depending on the intensity of the body colour. DF Violet Skyblue tails are dark blue with residual pale blue or turquoise at the quill end. In the flight feathers turquoise iridescence can be seen in the DF Violet Skyblue but it is replaced with a darker bluey-violet colour in the Violet Cobalt.

DF Violet Cobalts (VVDd) on average are a deeper richer violet colour than SF Violet Cobalts (VvDd) but are otherwise similar. This may seem to support the traditional view that the Violet factor is a simple dominant gene. However we have to assess the action of the Violet factor in the correct context.

In single and double factor Violet Skyblues we see the effect of the Violet factor free of the influence of other colour factors. In the Violet Cobalt we see the effect of the Violet factor interacting with the Dark factor. Each colour factor should really be assessed by the way it performs by itself in basic blue and green birds, Skyblues and Light Greens, not in combination with other colour factors. We wouldn't assess the action of the Dark factor by using light, medium, and dark Greys as the standard for comparison. By the same token the Violet factor should not be assessed by using single and double factor Violet Cobalts as the standard for comparison.

DF Violet Skyblue body colour can vary from a bluey-violet as in the bird nicknamed Indigo to an intense Violet on par with DF Violet Cobalts. DF Violet Skyblues tend to have a more satiny appearance than Violet Cobalts because they have the same feather structure as the Skyblue. The dark factor has a slight dulling effect.

The Violet factor exerts its darkening effect by increasing the amount of melanin in the body colour feathers whereas the Dark factor modifies the structure of the feather barbs. For more information see Chapter 1 in Genetics for Budgerigar Breeders where the work of Dr. L. Auber has been reproduced.

Dr. Auber noted an interesting anomaly in the feather barb of the Visual Violet fig. 7 page 12. The cloudy zone has the same depth as in a bird of light shade (Skyblue) not medium (Cobalt) as would normally be expected for a Violet Cobalt. He could offer no explanation for the anomaly at the time. The most likely explanation is that Dr. Auber's Visual Violet feather came from a DF Violet Skyblue not a Violet Cobalt. It effectively corroborates the idea that DF Violet Skyblues are Visual Violets.

The Anti-Violet Factor

The 'Anti-Violet Factor' is a nickname I have given to what may be more accurately thought of as the Body Colour Intensity Reducing Factor BCIRF which I encountered during my breeding experiments. Actually I cannot be sure whether it is a single gene or several minor modifiers which have a combined effect. All I can say is it appeared to be inherited in a dominant manner as though it were a single gene. When a BCIRF bird is bred with you can expect half the young to be BCIRF birds. I have seen it affect Skyblues, SF Violet Skyblues, DF Violet Skyblues, Cobalts, and Violet Cobalts, but it is in the Violet factor birds that it has its most damaging effect.

Normal Skyblues and Cobalts with the BCIRF simply look like very pale Normal Skyblues and Cobalts. In the Skyblue the body colour falls into the range of what one might expect to see in a Skyblue Cinnamon. Except for the navy-blue tail and flight feathers BCIRF Cobalts look very much like medium SF Violet Skyblues in body colour. BCIRF SF Violet Skyblues have a body colour no deeper than good coloured ordinary Skyblues but are somewhat patchy and have a cyan tint. The tails are slightly washed out as well. Indigo was a BCIRF DF Violet Skyblue and had a bluey-violet body colour. The double dose of the Violet factor held the intensity of the body colour up better than a single dose of the Dark factor in the BCIRF Cobalt.

In the SF Violet Cobalt is where the BCIRF really earns the nickname "Anti-Violet Factor" because SF Violet Cobalts with the BCIRF modifier look like good coloured ordinary Cobalts. It seems as though the BCIRF cancels out the effect of the Violet factor. There are traces of violet on various parts of the bird but no more so than is typically found in very good coloured ordinary Cobalts.

The traces of Violet common in ordinary Cobalts are thought by some to indicate the presence of the Violet factor. However when paired to Skyblues these Cobalts only produce Skyblues and Cobalts. It is quite normal and natural for Cobalts to have traces of Violet in their feathers. All it tells us is that the distribution of melanin is slightly uneven in the bird.

I first learned that a genetic Violet Cobalt (VvDd) could look like a good coloured ordinary Cobalt when I paired what appeared on the surface to be a Normal Cobalt cock to a Normal Skyblue hen. Typical Visual Violets and Violet Skyblues appeared in the nest along with the expected Skyblues and Cobalts, all birds were Normals. There was nothing unusual about the Skyblue hen, she wasn't even particularly good coloured. The "Cobalt" cock however had been bred from a good coloured Normal Cobalt cock of known background to a very poorly coloured Normal Violet Skyblue hen (Indigo's sister). The same pairing had also produced a Visual Violet in the nest confirming Indigo's sister really was a Violet Skyblue.

Evidently one of the essential ingredients necessary to produce a Visual Violet is reasonably good overall colour. A Violet Cobalt (VvDd) bred from poorly coloured stock might not necessarily be good enough to qualify as a Visual Violet even though it is carrying the Violet factor in its genetic make up.

This was further corroborated in the next generation. One of the young produced by the pairing was a bird which looked like a good coloured Normal Cobalt hen, a near perfect colour match to her father. She was paired to a Normal Skyblue cock and likewise produced typical Violet Skyblues and Visual Violets among her young.

The views held by those fanciers who maintain that double factor Violets do not exist are understandable. Pairings which should in theory produce 100% Visual Violets do not always do so. Fanciers have been labouring under yet another false premise, namely that all Violet Cobalts are automatically Visual Violets. That idea should be amended to:

Violet Cobalts are **usually** Visual Violets with the emphasis on usually.

A DF Violet Mauve (VVDD) paired to a Skyblue (vvdd) for example will produce 100% Violet Cobalts (VvDd). However if the parents happen to be carrying genes for poor colour then not all of the young will necessarily be Visual Violets. Some of the young could come out looking like nothing more than good coloured ordinary Cobalts. If these non-Visual Violet Violet Cobalts are bred on with and paired to reasonably good coloured Skyblues we can expect Visual Violets to reappear in the next generation thereby revealing their true genetic identity.

The BCIRF doesn't actually cancel out the effect of the Violet factor specifically. If it were possible to remove the Violet factor from a BCIRF Violet Cobalt (VvDd) we would be left with a poorly coloured Cobalt (vvDd). Alternately if we removed the Dark factor from a BCIRF Violet Cobalt (VvDd) we would be left with a poorly coloured Violet Skyblue (Vvdd). If we remove both colour factors we would be left with a poorly coloured Skyblue (vvdd). The common denominator is poor colour.

In the BCIRF Violet Cobalt the Violet factor was able to raise the melanin levels in the feathers enough to convert a poorly coloured BCIRF Cobalt into a bird which looked like a very good coloured Cobalt. A single Violet factor was not enough to convert a poorly coloured BCIRF Cobalt into a Visual Violet. Evidently Violet factor Cobalts that are not Visual Violets crop up often enough to lead astray a substantial proportion of Violet breeders and cause them to conclude that double factor Violets do not exist.

The Linkage Theory

For several decades Violet breeders have noticed that not all Visual Violets produce the same percentage of Visual Violet youngsters when bred with. (Why shouldn't we be surprised by that?) In order to account for that fact some breeders have proposed that the Violet factor and the Dark factor are located on the same chromosome. It means that we could expect to find two kinds of SF Violet Cobalts, Type I and Type II. In Type I the two colour factors would both be located on the very same chromosome (VD/vd).

In Type II the two colour factors would be located on opposing chromosomes of the same chromosome pair (Vd/vD). I haven't taken a poll on this question but I would lay odds that the linkage theory is more popular with those breeders who maintain that double factor Violets do not exist. They more than anyone else need a way to account for the fact that not all Visual Violets breed as though they are SF Violet Cobalts (VvDd). Before anyone embarks on a breeding program to determine whether or not linkage exists between the Dark and the Violet factors my advice would be to first learn how to sort out Violet Skyblues from Cobalts. Then perhaps they would have a chance at learning how to sort out DF Violet Skyblues from Violet Cobalts. Only then would they be qualified to investigate the question of linkage.

In the following few paragraphs I shall assume that linkage is present and use the appropriate notation, e.g. VD/vd rather than the normal VvDd.

In order to investigate the linkage question properly it is necessary to discriminate between Type I and Type II Violet Cobalts. The surest way to know whether a bird is Type I or Type II is to know how it was bred. When the Dark factor and the Violet factor are inherited from the same parent the bird is Type I. Commonly used pairings in which the Violet Cobalts produced would be Type I (VD/vd) include:

Pairing 1 Violet Cobalt (VvDd) X Skyblue (vd/vd)

Pairing 2 Violet Mauve (VD/vD) X Skyblue (vd/vd)

It doesn't matter whether the Violet Cobalt parent in Pairing 1 is itself Type I (VD/vd) or Type II (Vd/vD) since only the youngters are of interest.

When the Dark factor is inherited from one parent and the Violet factor from the other parent the bird is Type II. Commonly used pairings in which the Violet Cobalts would be Type II (Vd/vD) include:

Pairing 3 Violet Skyblue (Vd/vd) X Cobalt (vD/vd)

Pairing 4 Violet Skyblue (Vd/vd) X Mauve (vD/vD)

Violet mauves are not easy to distinguish from ordinary Mauves so breeders really have to know their birds when using Mauves. Once the putative Type I and Type II Violet Cobalts have been identified they should be paired to Skyblues.

Pairing 5 Type I Violet Cobalt (VD/vd) X Skyblue (vd/vd) should produce

greater than 25% Skyblues (vd/vd)

less than 25% Violet Skyblues (Vd/vd)

less than 25% Cobalts (vD/vd)

greater than 25% Violet Cobalts (VD/vd)

Pairing 6 Type II Violet Cobalt (Vd/vD) X Skyblue (vd/vd) should produce:

less than 25% Skyblues (vd/vd)

greater than 25% Violet Skyblues (Vd/vd)

greater than 25% Cobalts (vD/vd)

less than 25% Violet Cobalts (VD/vd)

If there is linkage between the Violet and the Dark factors Pairings 5 and 6 illustrate the kind of results that are to be expected over a large number of matings. I usually pair Violet Cobalts to Skyblues and sometimes Violet Skyblues to Cobalts. In my experience Violet Cobalt youngsters which are supposedly Type II don't breed any differently to those which are supposedly Type I. In each case the Dark and Violet factors segregate out randomly in the next generation giving roughly equal numbers of each of the four colours. If linkage between the Violet and Dark factors can ever be demonstrated then the genes will be found to be so widely spaced that it has little if any practical impact on the percentage of Violet Cobalt youngsters bred in a given nest.

One pairing where people would notice an odd result is when they unwittingly pair a DF Violet Skyblue (VVdd) to a Skyblue (vvdd). They naturally assume the Visual Violet to be a Violet Cobalt. Ordinarily a Violet Cobalt to Skyblue pairing should yield 25% Visual Violets if the bird is single factor, and 50% Visual Violets if the bird is double factor for Violet. Instead, all the young will be SF Violet Skyblues (Vvdd). To the untrained eye the palest ones might be mistaken for Skyblues and the darkest ones mistaken for Cobalts. Some might even be correctly identified as Violet Skyblues. The fancier will be left scratching his or her head wondering where all the Visual Violets have gone.

Linkage would be an elegant way to account for the lack of Visual Violet young. DF Violet Skyblues appear to mimic the hypothetical Type II SF Violet Cobalts in this pairing adding fuel to the linkage theory. Suspect Visual Violets can always be paired to Mauves (vvDD). Violet Cobalts paired to Mauves will produce a percentage of Mauves in the nest. DF Violet Skyblues never produce Mauves.

Linkage between the Dark factor and the Green/Blue gene has been widely accepted. If there is any linkage between the Dark and the Violet factors then it should be possible to demonstrate linkage between the Violet and the Green/Blue genes as well. This back door approach would avoid the hassle of sorting the Violet Skyblues from the Cobalts provided proper Violet Skyblues and Violet Light Greens were used at the start of the project.

My own view is that linkage proponents are proposing yet another false premise in order to compensate for all the other false premises Violet breeders have been labouring under.

Violet factor Albinos

Violet factor Albinos are usually described as having a rosy pink suffusion. To describe the suffusion as "rosy" is an overstatement. Several years ago a breeder I know paired an Albino cockbird to a Violet Skyblue hen. Among the young Albino hens bred were two with rumps which could be called pinkish. To my eyes the pink wasn't "rosy". It was a brownish shade, not unlike a paler version of the light brown colour seen on the rumps of Lacewings. True pink is diluted red. The rumps of the two Albino hens looked like a diluted reddish brown.

Albinos are not totally melanin free as often stated. Their feathers contain small amounts of abnormal melanin. The Violet factor increases the amount of melanin produced in the body feathers. It appears that in Violet factor Albinos the Violet factor increases whatever trace amounts of abnormal melanin the Albino is capable of producing giving Albinos a slight pinkish or brownish-pink suffusion.

Green series Violets

Violet factor birds in the Green series have generally been regarded as an annoying byproduct of Violet breeding rather than as potentially valuable stock birds for future pairings. It has only been in the last few years that I have taken an interest in Green series Violet factor birds myself.

The Violet Light Green is the Green series counterpart to the Violet Skyblue. If picking out Violet Skyblues is tricky then picking out the Violet Light Greens is even trickier. The variation in yellow ground colour from bird to bird is an additional variable that needs to be considered as one learns to recognise Violet Light Greens.

The darker better coloured Violet Light Greens generally look like Dark Greens but, as with Violet Skyblues, lack ribbing in the body feathers. They have tail feathers which resemble those of Light Greens. Dark Greens have navy-blue coloured tails like Cobalts. Violet Light Greens lack the dark blue colour in their flight feathers evident in flight feathers of Dark Greens.

Violet Light Greens also have a more satiny finish to their feathers than Dark Greens. One of the early names for the Dark Green was Satin Green. Could Satin Greens have been early Violet Light Greens? We will probably never know. If you are not sure whether a bird is a very good coloured Light Green or a poorly coloured Dark Green it is probably a Violet Light Green.

Violet Dark Greens are the Green series counterpart to the Violet Cobalt. They stand out from Dark Greens and are nearly halfway between Dark Greens and Olives in colour. I have not got around to breeding a DF Violet Light Green yet but based on the appearance of blue series birds they should look very much like Violet Dark Greens. I expect their feathers to have a more satiny finish.

Opaline Violet Light Greens are a bit paler than the Normals. Nest feather Opaline Violet Light Greens are sometimes hard to pick from Light Greens. Sometimes it is best to just wait until they go through their moult and darken up a bit before deciding what you have got. The darker Opaline Violet Light Greens have a sparkle in their feathers which make Opaline Dark Greens look quite dull by comparison. I would describe their colour as a bright emerald green. The higher melanin levels of the Violet factor birds makes the reflective qualities of the feathers more obvious to the eye. This effect should be even more conspicuous on Opaline DF Violet Light Greens.

Breeding a family of SF and DF Violet Light Greens and SF and DF Violet Skyblues in the same way some people breed Dark Greens, Olives, Cobalts, and Mauves has possibilities. I have never heard of anyone breeding Violet factor birds in quite this way. It is territory largely unexplored. The beauty of it is that the birds would still belong in the realm of Normals in Opalines and not unusual composities of several varieties.

The hobby has been caught up in the Light Green, Dark Green, Olive, Skyblue, Cobalt, Mauve, six colour mindset since the early days. The Violet factor produces a parallel series of six colours, Light Green, SF Violet Light Green, DF Violet Light Green, Skyblue, SF Violet Skyblue, DF Violet Skyblue. All we lack is convenient terminology to use when talking about these birds.

Summary

SF Violet Skyblues and Cobalts can both be loosely regarded as Dark Blues, the exception is badly coloured SF Violet Skyblues which might be mistaken for good coloured Skyblues. Cobalts have navy blue tails and navy blue in their flight feathers. Violet Skyblues have turquoise iridescence in their flight feathers and varying amounts of turquoise in their tails.

These observations are confirmed by the way the birds breed:

Cobalt X Cobalt

25% Skyblues

50% Cobalts (navy-tailed dark blues)

25% Mauves (no turquoise-tailed dark blues appear)

Thank you to Peter Bergman (Sydney, Australia) for this informative and indepth article on Violet budgerigars.

Cobalt X SF Violet Skyblue

25% Skyblues

25% SF Violet Skyblues (turquoise-tailed dark blues)

25% Cobalts (navy-tailed dark blues)

25% Visual Violets (violet-tailed visual violets)

SF Violet Skyblue X SF Violet Skyblue

25% Skyblues

50% SF Violet Skyblues (turquoise-tailed dark blues)

25% DF Violet Skyblues (Visual Violets. Dark blue tail with pale blue or turquoise detectable at quill end)

(no navy-tailed dark blues appear)

Violet breeders have been labouring under several false premises:

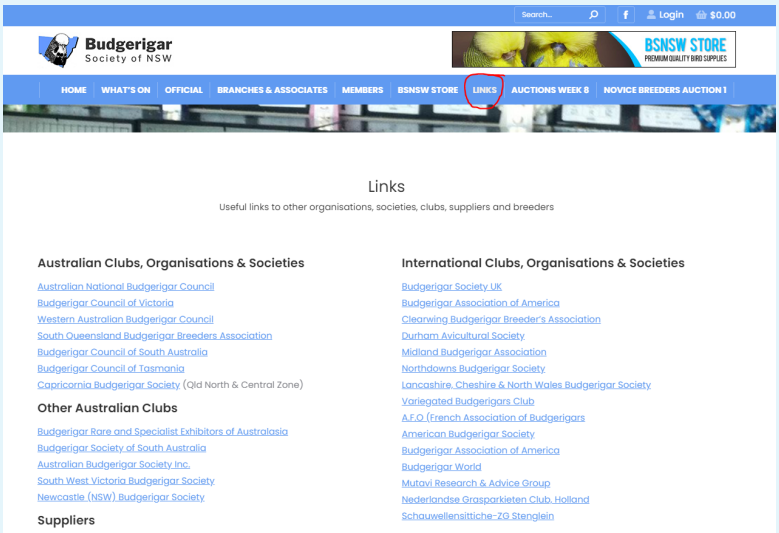
1. The Violet factor is a simple dominant gene.
2. Only Violet Cobalts are Visual Violets.
3. Violet Cobalts are all Visual Violets.
4. Some Violet breeders believe double factor Violets do not exist.
5. Some believe there is linkage between the Dark and the Violet factors.

The corrected information on Violets is as follows:

1. The Violet factor is a semi-dominant gene, not dominant.
2. DF Violet Skyblues are Visual Violets in addition to SF and DF Violet Cobalts.
3. Violet Cobalts are not always Visual Violets. Badly coloured Violet Cobalts can look like nothing more than good coloured Cobalts.
4. DF Violets do exist. It is all in knowing what to look for.
5. When points 1 and 2 are taken into account evidence for linkage tends to evaporate.

There are several aspects of Violet breeding I have not addressed. I have never bothered breeding more than a few Violet Mauves so I cannot discuss them in detail. I have also never bothered pairing Violets to Greys so I cannot supply detailed first hand information on Violet factor Greys. These are projects for the future.

Do you want to learn more, or visit some of the popular budgerigar website around.



Simply visit:

https://www.budgerigar.com.au/links/ or go to the BSNSW website and click the tab named “Links”.

BSNSW INC. BRANCHES

CANBERRA

For Further information regarding meetings please contact the secretary of this branch.
Chairperson Stuart Foster
Ph: 0439898472
Email: stuart.foster@optusnet.com.au
Secretary Rita Corbett
Ph: 0417 044 023
Email: rita.stuart@optusnet.com.au

CENTRAL COAST

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm
Tuggerah Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah
Chairperson Col Taylor
Ph: 0414 327 085
E: colt.2012@hotmail.com
Secretary David Frame
Ph: 0466 267 573
E: davidframe42@gmail.com

HILLS DISTRICT

4th Friday of each month at 8:00pm (except December) Don Moore Community Centre, Nth Rocks Rd, North Rocks
Chairperson Daniel Child
Ph: 0410 628 691
E: fordano@hotmail.com
Secretary Cliff Spare
Ph: 0421 070 118
E: clicky.bill@bigpond.com

HUNTER

1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm Thomas Morgan Pavilion, Maitland Show Ground (entry Anzac St)
Chairperson Tony Mills
Ph: (02) 4932 8826
Secretary Angus Cameron
Ph: (02) 49 323180
E: hunterbudgies@hotmail.com

ILLAWARRA

Meeting is 3rd Monday of the Month at Balgownie Community Hall. 113 Balgownie Road Balgownie at 7.30pm.
Chairperson Walter Bell
Ph: 0490 021 883
E: Illabsbudgies@tpg.com.au
Secretary Darren Burgess
Ph: 0475 186 635
dbbudgies@gmail.com

SHOALHAVEN

3rd Thursday of each month at
7:30pm (except June, July & December) Shoalhaven Library Meeting Room, Berry St, Nowra
Chairperson Dennis Tipping
Ph: (02)4446 0289
E: dennistipping@iprimus.com.au
Secretary Terry Evans
Ph: (02) 4421 0117
E: rollyevans@bigpond.com

WEST SYDNEY

1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm
Dining Hall Blacktown Showground enter off Kent Road
Chairperson Bruce MacCarthy
E: maccabruce@outlook.com
Secretary Robyn Wilson
E: robyn5918@outlook.com

MACARTHUR

1st Friday of each month at 8:00pm Beverley Park SSP School, 100 Beverley Rd, Campbelltown
Chairperson David Butters
Ph: (02) 6241 3585
E: davecbutters@yahoo.com.au
Secretary Ian Cocks
Ph: (02) 4628 4237
E: ian.cocks@gmail.com

MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION AREA BREEDERS

Time, Date and Venue of meetings to be advised by Newsletter. Please enquire via club email.
Chairperson Estelle French
Ph: (02) 6947 3391
E: horatiofrench@bigpond.com
Secretary Horatio French
Ph: (02) 6947 3391
E: horatiofrench@bigpond.com

NEW ENGLAND

Meeting Date and Venue of meetings to be advised by Newsletter
Chairperson Terry Smith
Ph: 0459116443
Secretary Yvette Smith
Ph: 0400 246 000
E: shredder2@bigpond.com

NORTHSIDE

1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm Senior Citizen Hall, 259 Pacific Highway, Lindfield
Chairperson Dennis Beckett
Ph: 0412 211 183
E: the_becketts@hotmail.com
Secretary Kathleen Sharp
Phone (02) 9626 0300
E: ksharp7@live.com.au

PENRITH VALLEY

1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm Community Hall Opp. Llandilo P/School, Seventh Ave, Llandilo
Chairperson Stuart Williams
Ph: 0422 956 248
E: penrithvalleybudgerigar@gmail.com
Secretary Robert Mead
Ph: 0420 906 552
E: penrithvalleybudgerigar@gmail.com

ST. GEORGE

3rd Friday of each month at 8:00pm Bexley School of Arts, Forest Rd, Bexley
Chairperson Steve Wackwitz
Ph: 0417 024 875
E: sdwackwitz@bigpond.com
Secretary Vacant

BSNSW INC. ASSOCIATES.

BUDGERIGAR IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

President Wayne Altman
Ph: 0428 423 369
All enquiries to be directed to the secretary.
Secretary Heather Dunn
Ph: 0419 259 550
E: budgerigar.improvement.society@gmail.com

BUDGERIGAR RARE & SPECIALIST EXHIBITORS OF AUSTRALASIA "BRASEA"

President: Warren Wilson
Ph: 02 9747 6642
FAX: 02 9715 7165
E: warren@brasea.com www.brasea.com

MID-STATE BUDGERIGAR CLUB

1st Wednesday of the month, Contact branch for details.
President Rob Peffer
Ph: 0447 669 234
E: rjpeffer@hotmail.com
Secretary Garry Pymont
Ph: 0427 401 267
E: midstatebudgerigarclub@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN NSW BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY INC.

Bi-monthly 4th Sunday of the month, 10.30am at Belling Hall Junee S/Ground
President Tony Butt
Ph: 0418 577 400
E: tony@tline.com.au
Secretary Wendy Glynn
E: wmcglynn@aussiebb.com.au

NEWCASTLE BUDGERIGAR CLUB INC.

4th Friday of the month Maryland Community Centre, Maryland
President Darren Peters
Ph: 0410 412 006
dkazza5@outlook.com
Secretary Tony Keogh
E: tonykeogh@bigpond.com

TAMWORTH BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY INC.

.
President Tom Davis
Ph: 0412 336 063
E: thomasandberyl.davis@gmail.com
Secretary Paul Hull
Ph: 0427 400 271
E: paul.hull@bigpond.com

ORANA AVICULTURAL SOCIETY INC.

Meets Bo-Monthly, 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Railway Bowling Club, Dubbo
President Steve Draper
Ph: 02 6882 9098
Secretary Ian Todhunter
Ph: 02 6884 2896
E: toddy.3@hotmail.com

CANBERRA BUDGERIGAR CLUB

President Dennis Harrington
E: shares29@hotmail. com
Secretary Ann Hand
Ph: 0487 801 217

PIED BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY

2nd Friday of the month at Canley Vale Public School (Canley Vale RD, Canley Vale)
President Matt Holyoak
Ph: 02 9150 5875
m.holyoak@bigpond.com
Secretary Ken Denmeade
E: kmdenmeade@outlook.com

EBAG

Chairperson James Matthews
Ph: 0411 050 849
E: jamesmatthews@mppl.net.au
Secretary Matthew Troy
Ph: 0422 447 752
E: matt28u@icloud.com

WASSEC

Chairperson John Walker
Ph: 0417 044 654
Email: whiskeyjc@optusnet.com.au
Secretary Brad Kerr
Ph: 02 4256 0005
E: wassec@outlook.com

PLEASE BE SURE TO UPDATE INFORMATION AND SHOW DATES WITH THE BSNSW SECRETARY, JUDGES, SHOW MANAGER, AND EDITOR. SO THAT THE MEMBERS CAN BE KEPT UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE BUDGIE WORLD.

ALSO DON'T FORGET TO SEND THE EDITOR YOUR SHOW ADS, THESE CAN JUST BE THE FRONT PAGE OF YOUR SHOW SCHEDULE IF YOU WISH

The Problem with Tailless Wonders

By: Dr Hamish Baron BVSc (Hons) FANZCVS (Avian Medicine and Surgery bird vet)

At this time of year, there seems to be a discussion surrounding polyomavirus, beak and feather disease and the use of "Tailless Wonders" or budgies that have cracking heads and remarkable feather, but are missing a tail or flight feathers from the wings.

Each year I hear the same stories from breeders and in this article I'd like to dispel some of the myths.

Myth One

The feathers are missing because of a mite:

It is true that one of the causes of feather loss in birds can be a mite called quill mite belonging to the Syringophilopsis family, but these mostly occur in Passeriformes (those birds with three toes pointing forward and one backwards) and most of these mites live on the host and show no signs at all for their entire lifecycle.

Myth Two

If you pair one bird without flights and one bird with flights, the chicks will not have disease:

The two viruses that cause feather loss in budgerigars (polyomavirus and circovirus (beak and feather disease virus)) are transmitted in droppings, oral secretions, feather and skin dander, via dirt or dust in the nest box, burrowing mites and possibly via the egg – although this is not confirmed. So, if one parent has clinical disease (is missing flight feathers or a tail) and is shedding the virus, it is possible (and likely) that the chicks will become infected and will drop their flights and tail feathers at some stage during the breeding cycle.

Myth Three

The loss of flight feathers is not a big deal because often they grow back:

This is partially true; if these chicks are infected with polyomavirus they will often grow their flight feathers back when they moult. However, polyomavirus causes much more than just loss of flight feathers. In a budgie aviary experiencing a disease outbreak, we expect to see a rise in the number of dead in shell (DIS) chicks that grow to full term and fail to hatch, an increase in the number of addled eggs (chicks that die mid-incubation), increased infant mortality at 6-10 days of age

Myth Four

Dipping affected birds in Virkon S or F10 SC will fix polyomavirus:

As discussed, the virus is transmitted in a number of different ways, and whilst dipping birds in a viricidal disinfectant will decrease the amount of virus on the birds' feathers, it will not do anything to treat the virus, nor will it decrease shedding of the virus once the chick dries out. At present, the only effective "treatment" of polyomavirus is to stop breeding and allow all chicks to grow for six months, when they are no longer so susceptible. This effectively breaks the lifecycle of the virus and prevents young birds becoming a source of infection.

In order to prevent adult birds from shedding the virus it is important to provide low stress environments with low stocking densities, clean aviaries with high standards of hygiene. Bringing in new birds that have previously not been exposed to your aviary birds may facilitate infection (either transmission from the new birds or from your birds to the new bird) and so if you introduce a new bird to your flights, not breeding with them for six months will help to prevent outbreaks.

Breaking the polyomavirus cycle is frustrating and difficult. Frustrating because it means stopping breeding when you want to be producing chicks, and difficult because it requires a massive effort to clean and disinfect the aviary to prevent re-infection. In order to do this, you must remove all the organic material (dust, feathers, faeces) from the aviary, nesting boxes and breeding cages – this can then be followed by a viricidal disinfectant sprayed on and washed off with a cloth, before being sprayed on and allowed to dry on all surfaces. Allow all the chicks to mature to greater than 6 months old; any chicks that do not grow their flights back should be taken to a veterinarian for euthanasia to prevent ongoing disease transmission.

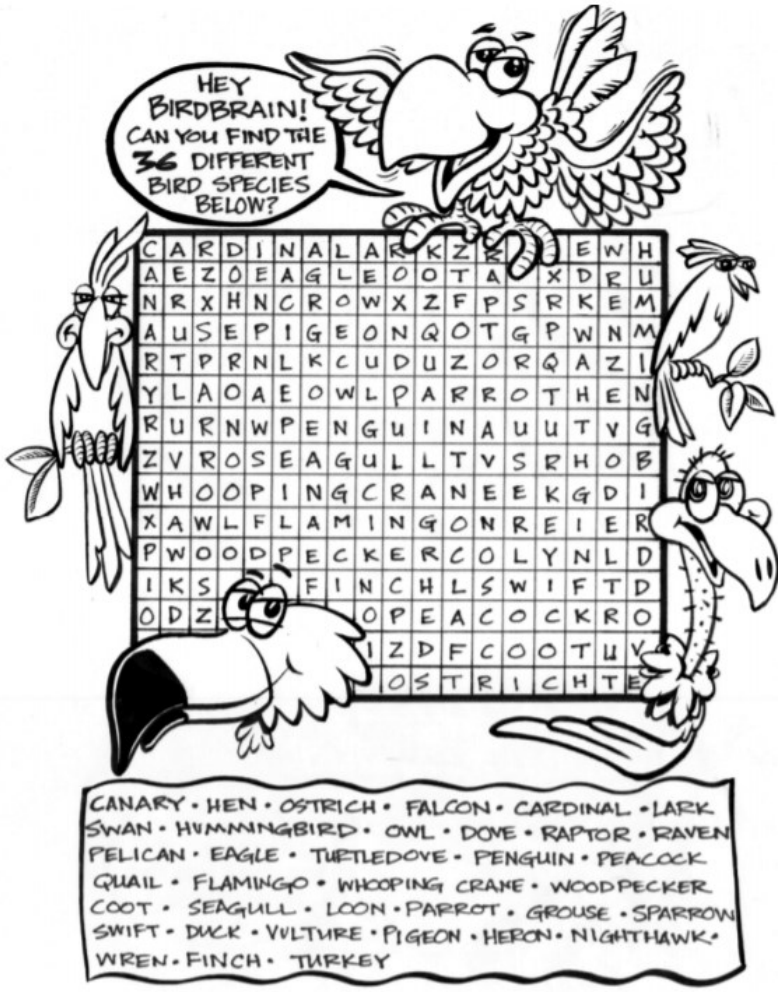
Missing both flight and tail feathers.

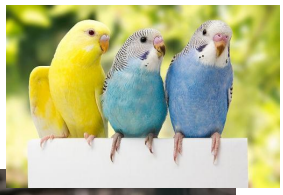
Lastly, it is time that we as a hobby stop selling, gifting or otherwise using these birds with no primary feathers in the breeding room. If we eliminated this practice, those birds that are infected will not pass on the infection and we will work to reduce the infection rate and hopefully in the future we will not need to have the annual discussion about the cracking bird at home with no tail!

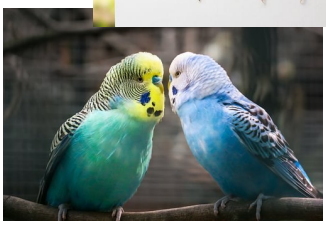
Acknowledgement

This article by Dr. Hamish Baron is supplied by the World Budgerigar Organisation (www.world-budgerigar.org), as part of their encouraged exchange of research information, and supplied to the WBO with kind permission by the Budgerigar magazine of The Budgerigar Society, U.K.

The Budgerigar Puzzler!







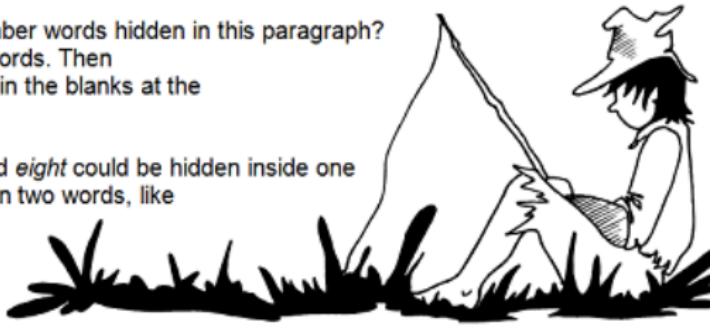
Submit your entries and one lucky entrant with the whole crossword complete will get a mention in the next "Budgerigar Puzzler".

Happy Puzzling :)

Budgerigar SOCIETY OF NSW

Can you find seven number words hidden in this paragraph? Underline the number words. Then write the number words in the blanks at the bottom.

As an example, the word *eight* could be hidden inside one word, ***height***, or between two words, like this: We will ride in a **sleigh** tonight.



Where has the fat worm gone? He was wriggling away from my reel even before I had the hook on it! If I've lost him, I'll be sorry. This evening I came prepared with reel, line and bait hoping to catch plenty of fish. It's not often that a worm of ours gets away!

A TRIP BACK IN TIME
DEAD IN SHELL

By R.H, Owen, MRCVS. Published: April 1984 in Budgie news, Victoria.

Since an egg takes approximately 24 hours to pass down the oviduct of the female budgerigar, it follows that a considerable amount of development of the embryo chick will have occurred by the time the egg is laid. Indeed, since the ovum entered the oviduct and became fertilized, great changed have taken place in the germinal disc. The single microscopic cell, which resulted from the union of the male and female elements, has now been transformed into hundreds of small units y multiplication, sub-division, into a three-germ layer. The yolk, the white, the shell membranes and the shell play no part in the construction of the chick, excepting of course, nutrition and protection. This cell proliferation is so rapid the embryo has been laid down and considerable progress made in the construction of the brain and eye rudimental.

By the thirtieth hours the simple tubular heart ca be seen to contract at intervals; by the fortieth hour the heart has become more developed and it now has a constant beat. By this time, too, the system of arteries and veins has spread over the yolk sac. Yolk, as such, never passes direct to the embryo, but is broken down, first into its elements of carbohydrate, protein, and fat as I ordinary alimentary digestion. These elements are sufficiently small to enter into the minute blood vessel and be carried by the blood and used by the developing embryo. This network of vessels on the germinal disc is the small dark spot one sees floating about in the middle of a fertile egg, when it is held up to light, after a few days of incubation.

The things most essential for the successful development of the embryonic chick are moisture, oxygen, and an even temperature. Any irregularity in these three factors will cause serious effect in the future chick. The commonest single factor producing death in the shell is the wrong position into which the chick has developed, or grown, in the shell.

Let us now consider the normal hatching position - as only knowing the normal can we understand the abnormal. The head is in the large end of the egg, with the beak close to the air space. The right wing must be over the head and the les are in the trussed position, so that the flat of the feet can get in contact with the shell to assist rotation when chipping. The yolk sac should be between the legs, and free from anything which will prevent it being pressed into the abdomen prior to hatching. The commonest malposition's are;

Head buried between the thighs; this is always fatal.

Head in the small end of the egg; birds can hatch from this position after a great deal of struggling, though no air space is within reach of the head.

A trip back in time
Dead in Shell

By R.H, Owen, MRCVS. Published: April 1984 in Budgie news, Victoria.

To assist the bird to hatch, the shell should be broken, to allow air to the young chick.

Head turned to the left, instead of to the right; the chick can also hatch from this position with a struggle, if it is initially very strong. Here again the shell should be broken, to allow air to the chick if possible.

Boy rotated; the chick is normally presented, but the head is rotated away from the air sac. The treatment is the same as the two preceding cases.

Legs, or feet crossed over the head; there are too many variations of this to enumerate.

Head over the wing, instead of under; it is strange that this minor deviation should be fatal, but it would appear that the wing plays a vital part in the escape of the chick from the shell. The wing makes the beak strike the shell at a critical angle, otherwise it slips and fails to chip the shell.

Body across, instead of up and down the egg; this is always fatal; chicks are usually half grown.

In short, any position other than the normal one, greatly reduces the change of a successful birth, or, if the chick down manage to overcome the abnormal position and get out of its shell, it has so used up its reserves of food and energy that it is weakly, and soon died.

Avian Veterinarians In NSW and Surrounds.

Avian Reptile and Exotic Pet Hospital	
Address	415 Werombi Rd, Camden NSW 2570
Phone	(02) 4655 0798
Email	vetscience.areph@sydney.edu.au
Website	https://www.avianreptileandexoticpethospital.com.au/

Railway Row Veterinary Clinic	
Address	1 Station St, Emu Plains NSW 2750
Phone	(02) 4735 3268
Email	INFO@RAILWAYROWVETS.COM.AU
Website	https://railwayrowvets.com.au/

Bird & Exotics Vet Sydney	
Address	995 Bourke St, Waterloo, NSW, 2017
Phone	(02) 9319 6111
Email	clinic@birdvet.com.au
Website	https://www.birdexoticsvet.com.au/

Avian and Exotics Service	
Address	335 Mona Vale Rd, Terrey Hills NSW 2084
Phone	(02) 9452 2933
Email	info@northsidevetspecialists.com.au
Website	https://avesvet.com.au/

Canley Heights Veterinary Clinic	
Address	Canley Heights Veterinary Clinic, Shop 6, Harden Street & Avoca Rd, Canley Heights, NSW
Phone	02 9604 9792
Website	https://www.localvet.com.au/canleyheights/

Cannon & Ball Veterinary Surgeons	
Address	461 Crown St, West Wollongong NSW 2500
Phone	(02) 4229 8888
Email	N/A
Website	https://www.cbvets.com.au/

Carlingford Animal Hospital	
Address	772 Pennant Hills Rd, Carlingford NSW 2118
Phone	(02) 9871 6036
Email	robmarshall@birdhealth.com.au
Website	https://www.birdhealth.com.au/

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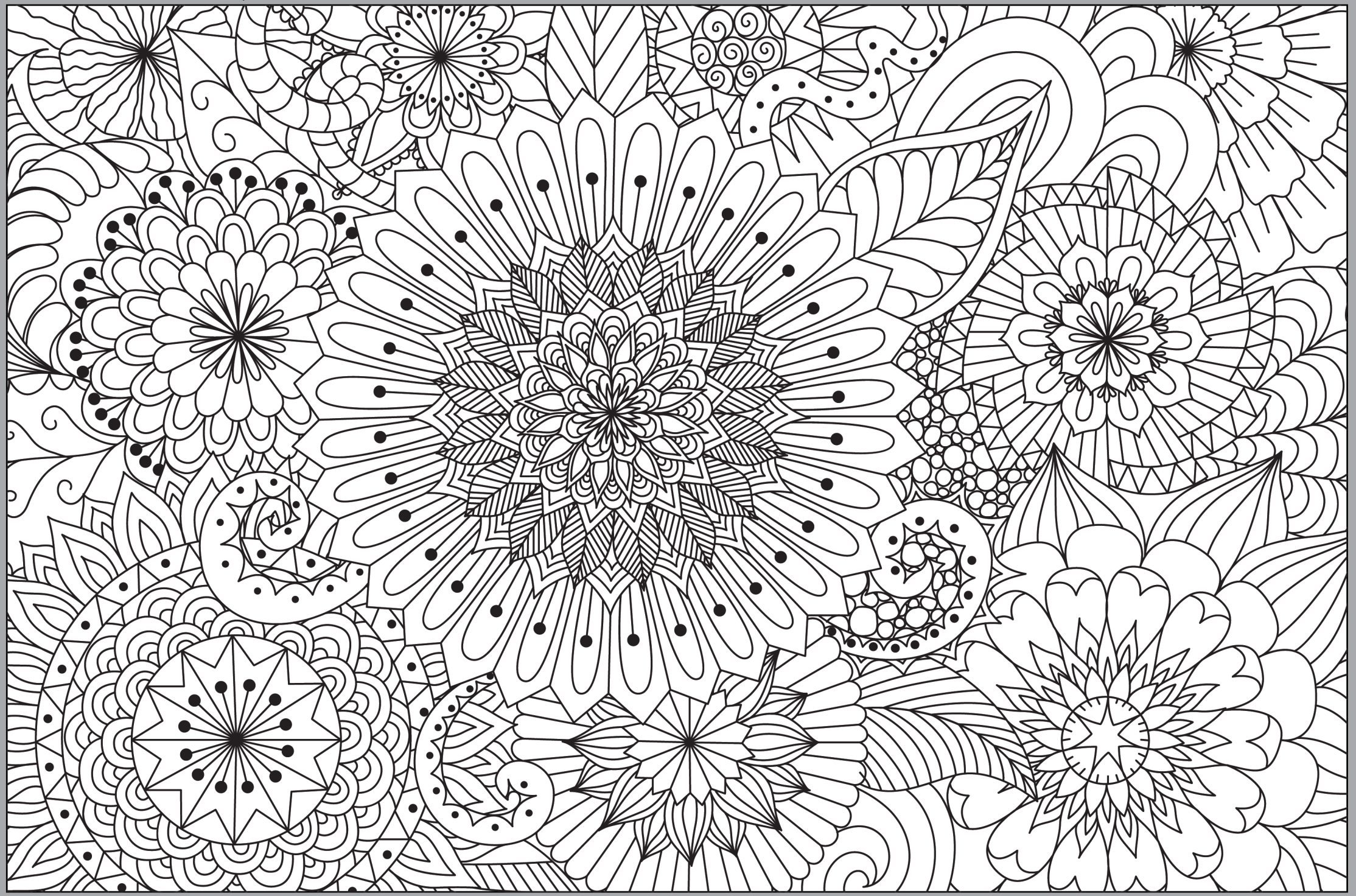
COLOUR ME IN

Use this colouring page to relax and enjoy some serenity



BSNSW JUDGES PANEL

Senior Panel

Baker	Jim		Moorebank.	2170	0413980334	jimandbrendabaker@gmail.com
Bevan	Terry		Orange	2800	0263651131	heatherbdunn@bigpond.com
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Buckingham	Craig		Carlingford.	2118	0408602381	ultexp@bigpond.net.au
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Gazzard	Gary	***	Louth Park	2320	0411 834690	garry.gazzard@bigpond.com.au
Manton	Kathy		O'Connell NSW	2795	0411 835 757	iankathymanton@bigpond.com
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Painter	Jean	***	Colo Vale.	2575	024889 4926	jean.painter@bigpond.com
Reid	Allan	***	Pennant Hills.	2120	029449 4563	allanfreid@bigpond.com
Wilson	Warren		Croydon.	2132	029747 6642	warren@brasea.com
Wood	Geoff		Manila	2346	0437546800	
		***	**Indicates ANBC Judge**			

Panel

Butt	Tony	Junee	2663	0418 577 400	tony@tline.com.au
Matthews	James	Collector	2581	0411 050 849	jamesmatthews@mppl.net.au
Peffer	Rob	Molong	2866	044 766 9234	rjpeffer@hotmail.com
Wise	Barry	Bellbird Heights	2325	0458271504	bmwise@westnet.com.au

Probationary

Wilton	Mark	Kings Langley	2147	0438 567 820	mark@wilton-partners.com

Cadet

Trainee Judges

Starcevic	Anthony	Berkeley	2506	0404698783	anthony_dana@bigpond.com
Wilson	Steven	Oran Park	2570	0414907415	steven@hotmail.com

Retired Senior Panel

Carter	John		Revesby	2212	0415050841	johncarterbnb@gmail.com
Hunt	Ron	***	Glenfield	2167	0296055473	
Nicholls	Keith		Nabiac	2312	026554 1688	knico2@bigpond.com

To book a judge for your show, please contact:

Mark Wilton
0438 567 820
mark@wilton-partners.com

A tip from our judges!

A WELL PRESENTED BIRD, MAKES YOUR BIRD STAND OUT ON THE SHOW BENCH.

It is with the greatest sadness that we announce the passing of

C & C Gearing

Devoted Member of Hills Branch

Michael Al Auckett

Devoted member of Hunter Branch

Our thoughts are with their families during this difficult time. They will be dearly missed by all.

BSNSW What's On

ILLAWARRA & ST GEORGE BRANCHES
of THE BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF NSW Inc.

COMBINED BRANCHES 44th YOUNG BIRD SHOW

SUNDAY, 25th OCTOBER, 2020

VENUE: Bulli PCYC
253 Princess Highway, Bulli

A variety show with young birds (2019) & Juvenile (2020)

JUDGES: Wayne Doull & to be advised!
ENTRY FEE: $1.00 per bird

ENTRIES BY PHONE: 0490 021 883

Thursday, 22nd October, 2020 between 6.00 pm and 9.00 pm
Entries by E-mail: illawarra@budgerigar.com.au
Entries by E-mail anytime before 9.00pm Thursday 22nd October 2020

BENCHING FROM 7.30 AM TO 8.30 AM SUNDAY
Judging to commence at 9.00AM

Presentation of awards will be approximately 2.00 pm

INQUIRIES: Walter bell 0490 021 883 or Steve Wackwitz 0417 024 875
Breakfast, Morning Tea and Lunch will be available at the Venue

Show Managers: Walter Bell 0490 021 883 & Jim Baker 0413 980 334
Show Secretary: Darren Burgess 0478 186 635

BSNSW Inc Members - Best of Variety & Status Award Points

Cash Prizes
Bird sale on Day

"BRASEA"
BUDGERIGAR OCTOBER AUCTION CATALOGUE & ASBS SPRING BULLETIN

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Association of Specialist Budgerigar Societies
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