

BUDGERIGAR JOURNAL



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AL MALDONADO'S YF GREY COCK ~ 2ND BEST IN SHOW
2015 GRAND NATIONAL

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Chairman's Message

Greetings!

Hi everyone, and what a wonderful start to a new year. By now you have seen some exciting changes with a new issue of the BAA Journal being published and a makeover of the BAA Website. Our new "media team" is to be commended for a job well done. If you have ideas or article topics that would be useful and of interest, I would encourage you to contact George Hollingsworth, Sophie Floyd, or myself.

I would like to briefly address the subject of articles. If you have submitted an article and it wasn't used immediately, don't take it personally. There may be several reasons this happened. Often there is a cutoff date well before the issue is published and your article may have been received after this date. Formatting can also be an issue. Just because an article looks really good on the page when it goes to the editor, it doesn't mean that it can be used exactly as it is. The editor generally needs to use a certain font and type size for consistency within the magazine. When the article is converted, it frequently requires some creative positioning, and the editor may decide it would fit better in another issue. Finally, when things are new and fresh, lots of people want to be involved, but as time passes, it becomes more difficult to get input. It is our hope that we can develop a library of articles, so that we always have something to go to when new material is harder to come by.

Show season is rapidly approaching with the first show taking place March 26. For many of us, this is the reason for all of those hours of time and effort. A special thanks to each of you who continually support the shows at the local club level. Many breeders will travel 100's of miles to attend these shows. If your club is hosting the show, please remember to thank these exhibitors personally for the commitment they made to attend. Additionally, appreciation should be shown to those members who were unable to attend but have shown their support with donations of cash, raffle items, and auction birds. Remember, we do this for the BUDGIES, and the fun we have while socializing is just a secondary benefit... well, for some it may be primary! Don't forget, a show is a huge undertaking, and it requires a little 'give and take' from us all to be successful.

I'm looking forward to seeing you this year. With all of the advancements, it will be exciting to see how these exhibitors compete at their new level. I feel that the members of our current Board of Directors are eager and ready to help wherever and whenever they can. They are willing to entertain any thoughts or ideas you may have to better BAA. Just tell any member of the Board of Directors if you have a concern or idea that needs to be presented at the meeting during the Grand National. It is their duty, as Board members, to bring it forward.

Many friendships have developed over the years. Let's embrace them and celebrate our bird family! Again, thanks to each of you for promoting BAA. I look forward to seeing you and hope that everyone has lots of Budgies to bring to shows this year.

Sincerely,

Alan Horton,

BAA Chair



FROM THE EDITORS PEN

Howdy, everyone. I'm trying to get the Journal out in a timely manner, and have enjoyed working on it. But I need the help of the members. I need articles, personal input, photos of BAA birds. Several have been great at providing articles and photos. I would love to see more of you involved in contributing to the journal. Have you recently built an aviary, or updated your aviary? Send me your photos and describe what you have done. How about photos of your bird room and what you like the most about it, and what you would like to change?

How has your breeding season been for you? How do you prepare for shows? What varieties do you work with? What lines do you have in your aviary? What is your feeding program? There are many topics you can choose from. Get involved; let's make the BAA Journal the best in the hobby! But I can't do it without your help. Have you recently, or in the past, read an article you think is exceptional? How have you applied this to your breeding/feeding program? Send it and I will contact the author for permission to reprint it.

The 2016 show season is fast approaching. Arizona has already held our first show. Show officials, get your patronage forms in so your Show can be listed in the show calendar in the Journal and on the website. If you take photos at your show, send me some for the Journal with a little about the photo (who's in it, etc.).

I really appreciate all the help I have received from various members with articles, photos and ideas. Do you have an idea you think will improve the Journal? Let me know. Together we can put out the best Journal in the hobby!

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Ranking and Advancement

Julie Willis

Greetings everyone! This is the first report for the 2016 show season. These standings are current as of March, 29th.

There have been some questions recently about points and advancements. Let me briefly address some of your concerns. First, in order for points and CCs to count towards breeder of the year awards, a club must be affiliated with BAA, and a BAA Show Patronage form must be turned in at least two months prior to the show. Currently, exhibitors may use only BAA and ABS wins towards advancement. An exhibitor may advance as soon as they receive the wins to move up, but they don't have to change divisions until the following show season if they choose not to. Remember, when advancing from Intermediate to Champion, in order for your six CCs to count there must be 3 exhibitors and five birds in your section, and there must be 25 Champion breeders at the show. Even though they have slightly different rules, if you advance in ABS you need to move up in BAA too for consistency between the organizations. Finally, a club has the right to choose not to use the BAA Standardized Schedule of Classes if that's what they want to do. Points from the show will count towards Breeder of the Year awards, but the CCs won't. This was done for the purpose of keeping a level playing field for all exhibitors and has no effect on the number of divisions a club chooses to have. This information can be found on the BAA website under Bylaws - budgerigarassociation.org.

Best of luck to you all!

As always, if you have questions about your points and advancement, contact me at juliebelle57@yahoo.com.

2016 Point and CC Standings

Champion

1	Mick McCown	388
2	Jaguar Aviaries	190
3	Sundance Aviary	182

Intermediate

1	Debbie Cole	60
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Novice

1	April Bird-Stieglitz	322
2	Alecia Joyner	148
3	Bob McBride	79

Rare

1	Mick McCown	34
2	April Bird-Stieglitz	23
3	Jaguar Aviaries	18

CCs

1	Mick McCown	5
2	April Bird-Stieglitz	3
3	Sundance Aviary	2
4	Alec Joyner	1
4	Alecia Joyner	1
4	Bob McBride	1
4	Debbie Cole	1
4	Jaguar Aviaries	1

Congratulations to April Bird-Stieglitz who just got her final win to advance to Intermediate!

Plano, Texas

A Novice point of view
April Bird- Stieglitz

The 2015 Grand National was not the first Grand National I have attended, but the first time I was an exhibitor.

The Dallas –Fort Worth Club sure knows how to put on a Show!! From the time I arrived at 3am on Friday morning until I left for Terrell, Texas on Sunday after the show concluded, it was the kind of experience that brings an exhibitor back again. Texas still has the old – fashioned “Texas Hospitality and Welcome Mat” out.

The show was at the South Fork hotel in Plano, the staff very accommodating, making sure I had a room close to the exit for ease of unloading birds and one very large dog (Beau). The rooms were really nice.

The entire show was well planned out. The show room was laid out beautifully, items for the raffle and auction out for

viewing during the show. The nice touch for the raffle was you could put your tickets in a container next to the item you were most interested in. The price of the raffle ticket depended on the item .I came home with a beautiful zebra print, and an ice tea maker I really wanted.

On Friday the judges Trevor & Adrian Terheege (TA1 Stud - UK) gave an interesting presentation of their breeding program, complete with the breakdown of how they developed their lines and the feeding program they had. A great presentation with tons of information I found useful.

Friday night we were slated with a BBQ at the famous South Fork Ranch complete with transportation to and from. It was still pouring buckets so we were moved inside to the main ranch house where the filming for Dallas was done. We were offered a complete tour

of the home. The food was incredible and complete with a singing cowboy.

After the BBQ we were taken back to the hotel where everyone adjourned to a great hospitality room, with an open bar. We also picked up our entry cards for our cages. This generated my only complaint of the entire weekend, as I innocently asked “we have to fill in our own cards?” I found out that George Hollingsworth spoils us here in Arizona by putting stickers on our entry cards, anywhere else we have to actually fill them out. I suggested that the show secretaries talk to George because his system is great.

Saturday morning was a blur of activity as everyone was getting ready to show. Last minute touch ups. What was really great is that exhibitors that were ready walked around to see what they could do to help others. I found that true all the way

through the show, everyone worked together to help each other. Special thanks here to Pauline Domenge for coming over and volunteering to help finish spotting my spangles and checking my other birds. She is an amazing person, so helpful and kind, She showed me her method for spotting, I still have not gotten the hang of it, but she is great at it.

Since there were two judges the juniors and novice were judged at the same time as the Champion Birds. I settled in to watch the Novice and Junior Birds with Chad Babin and Joshua Anthony from Kaufman, Texas, but like Joshua I could not sit still very long, and wound up bouncing back and forth between the two benches. Which is a guarantee to miss about everything. The judges were quite fast but thorough. They also gave their reasons for placing as they did, which is great for everyone in the business. Everyone was

very friendly, including the well known's in the business. What was nice is everyone helped everyone, and everyone cheered each other on so to speak.

After the show the raffle drawings were held and then a break until dinner.

Dinner was delicious; having a choice of menu was great. Awards were given out for the show, then the Breeder of the Year Awards and finally some special awards. After that the auction was held with some really great birds going for a good cause.

At the end of the day, I can say it far surpassed any expectations I had. I had traveled a long ways to make new friends, have a great time, and learn more about Budgies.

Note here that the volunteers for the club made it run perfectly; People should note all the work that went into producing this great experience. Special kudos Janice Millican for

her untiring raffle work. and last but not least Julie Willis who never stopped working the entire weekend. I am not sure she even had time to really let her win sink in. Congratulations to all the winners.

Sunday when everyone packed up and headed home, I packed up and followed Julie Willis out to her home in Terrell, where I stayed for a few more days enabling a visit to Stuart Sacks aviary, and Joshua Anthony's new aviary as well as a dinner with Julie, Stuart and Holger Moeller.

The drive was well worth the experience. I have never met a nicer more helpful group of people. Thank you

.....

2015 BAA Grand National

By A. J. and Susan McCord

As new exhibitors, Susan and I are enjoying the experience of showing our birds. Through the years we have bred and raised beautiful English budgies as a hobby, but

After driving through the remnants of Hurricane Patricia, we arrived late in the evening at the Southfork Hotel, in Plano, Texas. Upon arrival we heard laughter and the smell of food coming from the hospitality room. Calvin's strawberry cake and coffee hit the spot while checking in birds with Julie and Marsha. The following day Stu Sacks was stewarding the entries and he let me know real quick "A. J. at least give your birds a chance and remove some more spots". Well with that

Susan and I advanced to Intermediate in less than 60 days. Julie Willis said she believed that is a BAA record.



Our special thanks to Rick Watts, UK; Eileen and John Hall, Ireland; Hermann Buenning and Bob Wilson.

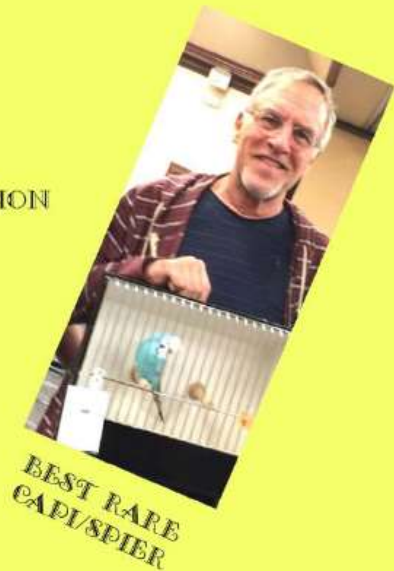
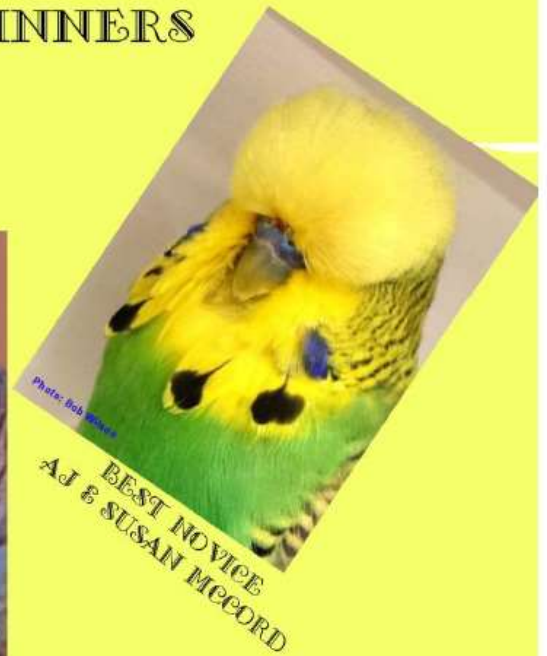
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2015 BAA GRAND NATIONAL WINNING BUDGIES

*CONGRADULATIONS
TO ALL THE WINNERS*



BEST IN SHOW & BEST CHAMPION
JULIE WILLIS



Judges and WBO Delegates at the 2015 Grand National



The Judges: Adrian Terheege (L) & Trevor Terheege (TA1 Stud – UK)



Zita Gyerko, Bob Wilson & Tibor Gyerko



Zita & Tibor Gyerko & Dewayne Weldon

Wing Series Budgies

By Rick Spiers



Left Greywing FBC Sky hen, right Clearwing Violet cock. Bred by George Hollingsworth.
Photos: George Hollingsworth

A much older champion breeder told me recently "There is no such thing as a clearwing." And of course, I disagree, but not completely. I would suggest that there is no such thing as a "true" clearwing in America, and from what I have heard, neither does it exist in Europe. I have seen pictures of beautiful white wings and yellow wings in Australia. Somehow the variety, along with all the wing series birds in the US has drifted into "50 Shades of Grey"(grey wings of course) In Australia, the best clearwings truly have white wings on blue series birds, and yellow wings on green birds. We can see something like this in the US and Europe only when the bird is a spangle as well. But given both the birds available for breeding in the US, and the variety standards we follow, I will address the varieties 1. Whites and Yellows or dilutes 2. Greywings 3. Clearwings and 4. Full Body Color Greywings.



Yellow (dilute green) hen bred by George Hollingsworth.
Photo: George Hollingsworth

Whites and Yellows vs Greywings: Dilutes

The dilutes or whites and yellows, come in many shades. Typically they have lighter body color than their normal counterparts, and light grey wings. Like clearwings, the depth of color on the wing varies widely. The most common mistake exhibitors make is to put them in the Greywing class. It is a tough call, but to be a true greywing, the wing and the body color should be at least 50% of Normal. If you look at a Greywing from across the room, the wings are about the same shade as a Cinnamon. They also have a cornflower blue cheek patch, not the deep violet. All the Whites and Yellows and Greywings are thus Dilutes, as their wing and body color is lighter than normal.

Clearwings and Full Body Color Greywings

When I first started breeding and showing Clearwings, there was no class in the US to show Full Body Color Greywings. Back then we were showing them as poorly marked clearwings. Keep in mind that the goal for a clearwing is full body color and white or

yellow wings. We are careful to avoid cinnamon, as it lightens not only wings, but body color as well. In all of these birds, we are looking for Violet cheek patches and full body color (or at least 90%) Like the greywings and dilutes, Full body color greywings have darker grey wings which resemble a Cinnamon from a distance. Just to avoid confusion, remember a Cinnamon differs as it has a brownish hue to its wings, pink feet and a diluted body color.

The lines seemed to have gotten muddled when breeders crossed Clearwings to Dilutes. A clearwing is dominant to a dilute, so clearwing breeders crossed the two. If you had a clearwing/clearwing and crossed with a dilute, you got visual clearwings split dilute. It seemed a quick way for outcross without losing clearwing numbers. Unfortunately, along with the splits, the wings got darker as well, and seldom can one find a clearwing with the desired white or nearly white wings anymore.

But don't shy away from the varieties, just keep a few things in mind. In summary:

1. Clearwings and Full Bodycolor Greywings breed dominant to dilutes and greywings
2. Clearwings and Full Bodycolor Greywings are often split to dilutes, so you will often get dilutes offspring from a pair of Clearwings or Full Bodycolor Greywings
3. Clearwings and Full Bodycolor Greywings seem to carry the gene for one another, so you will often get

Clearwings from Full Bodycolor Greywings and vice versa.

4. Clearwings and Full Bodycolor Greywings all have violet cheek patches and full or 90% body color.

5. BOTH Greywings and Dilutes which are not Clearwings and Full Bodycolor Greywings, have cornflower blue cheek patches

6. Greywings and Full Bodycolor Greywings should have 50% of normal wing color or a definite grey.



*Two Australian Clearwings
Left: Cobalt Clearwing, Right Light Green Clearwing*

7. IF ANYONE CAN GET SOME FERTILE AUSTRALIAN CLEARWING EGGS TO THE USA, CALL ME!

8. All of the above is my opinion only, and a result of years of breeding these varieties. I don't pretend to know as much as the experts on genetics, but offer some easy guidelines for those interested in getting some basics.

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO
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SOCIETY**

Feeding Program at Well-Done Aviary

By: Dewayne Weldon

One of the most frequent requests I receive from people starting out with exhibition budgies is for advice on proper nutrition for our birds. I am always reminded of a profound statement made by my original mentor, Mr. C. A. Keith of Fort Worth, TX. He said, "Dewayne I firmly believe that at least one half of a birds pedigree goes in through the mouth!" His meaning, of course, was that no matter how good the bloodline one can purchase, proper feeding is equally important. He admonished me to always buy the highest quality seed available. His basic seed mix was 50% Canary Grass Seed and 50% White Proso Millet. He was also a believer in feeding soaked seed and his preference was whole racehorse oats. To these, he added brewer's yeast and milk replacement powder for baby claves. This was back in the mid 1960s. I tried to follow his advice back then and it worked well for me. In the ensuing years, however I have developed my own preferences and am constantly adding to and modifying my own feeding program in keeping with currently available products.

My preferred seed mix, after all these years, is still a 50/50 mix of canary and white millet. I buy them separately then mix a 3 lb. coffee can of each together in a large plastic pail. I then take the mixed seed outside on mild day with a slight breeze and pour it back and forth from shoulder height into another similar pail until all the fine dust and loose husks are removed. I then add a large serving spoon of wheat germ oil to the

mix and allow it to set for a couple of days before feeding.

The soft food mix I use normally consists of 12 hard-boiled eggs and 6 to 8 large carrots. These are grated and mixed together in a large stainless steel pan. Next, I add three cups of Brooks brand "Birds Choice" along with the egg shells which have been dried in a microwave or toaster oven and crushed with a rolling pin to form a crumbly mix.

When I have fresh green veggies in my garden (collards, green pepper, etc.), I grate and add them to the mix. When summer squash is available, I substitute it for some of the carrots. When fresh vegetables are not available, I add a heaping tablespoon of "All Day Energy Greens" powder which, according to the manufacturer equals five human sized servings of vegetables and fruits. In a separate stainless steel mixing pan I combine four cups of Purina Game Bird Startena, a heaping table spoon of minced garlic and a tablespoon of Red Cell, a vitamin-iron-mineral supplement for horses. These ingredients are blended to form a moist crumbly mix which is then added to the original pan and all blended together. Additionally, I feed soaked oats, either in a separate dish or mixed with the soft food. I use regular whole oats (about a quart of dry oats each day) and soak them for 24 hours then wash them thoroughly and drain well for an additional 24 hours before feeding. They usually have started to sprout by then. This amount of soft food feeds 200+ birds. I like to feed it daily, but have to miss, occasionally when I am traveling, etc. I think that the hard-boiled egg is the key ingredient for

healthy birds, especially during the breeding season and for the fledged youngsters. The birds seem to go for the egg first. Once the birds become accustomed to this mix, they will consume almost all of it. About the only thing left in the feeding dish is some of the game bird starter. They don't seem to take to it at first, but youngsters raised on it seem to eat most it.



Well-Done Aviary soft food ready to serve.

Photo" Dewayne Weldon

Source of various ingredients:

Brooks Brand Birds Choice
Jones Seed Company, Lawton , Oklahoma
www.jones-seed.com

Purina Game Bird Startena
Purina Animal Nutrition LLC, Shoreview, MN
www.purinamills.com/game-feed/products/game-bird

Energy Greens
Institute For Vibrant Living, Camp Verde, AZ
www.IVLPProducts.com

Red Cell
Farnam Companies, Inc.
www.farnamhorse.com/products

Helpful Hint

By: Marcia Halbert

It is always appreciated when an exhibitor brings multiple show cages of birds to a show. The support to a club is wonderful in many ways: revenue generated through entry fees, meets exhibitors eligibility requirements for wins and challenge certificates to count toward points and advancement, increases competition, makes for an interesting and lively show, etc. However, it is not wise for an exhibitor to bring more than one or two birds per class - or more than two birds per section when exhibiting. Don't set yourself up to be your own competition and knock your own birds out of play. Remember that in the majority of settings, a judge will select only the best three birds from each section's class to compete for just the best three to six spots per section, and then to go on to the best ten (possibly up to thirteen) in division. At a very large show in a strong section, it is possible that a judge might keep up to six in a class (i.e. old light green or old sky cocks) and up to nine in a section (perhaps up to six old cocks, a young cock, an old hen, and a young hen).

Your multiple entries would have a far better chance of making it to the division bench if you spread them out by bringing birds covering multiple classes in several different sections. A good bird with a first or second place win in section has better odds of remaining on the bench than a bird that was ranked fifth in class and third or beyond in section when it comes down to the final selection of division winners. So the next time you want to bring four old light green cocks, consider replacing at least two with perhaps a good dominant pied and a grey or a spangle and a dilute. It all depends on what else you breed and quality and condition on show day. This is a great reason to involve yourself in a couple of new varieties if you are not already doing so. Even if you don't have a lot of room or cages and just want to breed normals, you can still add dark factors, the color blue, the color grey, and yellow face to your breeding program if you are currently just working with perhaps just light greens and sky blues. This will greatly add to the number of classes and sections you will be able to enter your birds in. Your chances of winning at shows will greatly increase and your sale birds will sell faster.

An Interview with Maarten Heylen

By: Bob Wilson

Photos: Bob Wilson



Whenever there is a discussion on top breeders of exhibition budgerigars in Europe today one name that is always mentioned is Maarten Heylen from Belgium. One look at the partnership's birds and it is easy to see why.

I first met Maarten Heylen at the WBO Meetings in Stoke-On-Trent in England during the Budgerigar Society Convention. Maarten and Dirk Meskens were the delegates representing Belgium.

Recently I asked Maarten a few questions.....



Maarten receives his WBO Judges Certificate during the BS Convention... with Ghalib Al-Nasser and WBO Chairman Gerd Bleicher



It was great to spend time with Maarten, Dirk, and our friend Daniel Lutolf talking birds and visiting breeders in the Stoke area including Harry Hockaday.... a meeting of some of the top budgie breeders of our day.

What started your interest in budgerigars?

My father has been breeding birds all his life, so I think it's in the genes. First we were breeding Australian parrots in big flights, afterwards we had to move and didn't have enough space for this kind of flights. So we started looking for alternatives, and ended up with some pairs of budgerigars...

How long have you been in the hobby?

18 years

Tell us a little about the hobby in your country:

Belgium is well known for his bird breeders (race pigeons, Canaries, Lovebirds,...) but the budgerigar hobby is not really wide spread. The Belgian Budgerigar Society (BGC) counts around 200 members, but there are more breeders that not only specialized in exhibition budgerigars, but also breed the color budgerigar. This is why we decided also to admit the color budgie on our National since 2013.

Where did your first budgies come from?

The very first budgies were coming from the pet shop. Later my friends William Dierickx and Bert Sempels provided me some pairs. In 2003 we went for the first time to Daniel Luetolf.

Which breeders have influenced and helped you the most? And why?

In my years as a beginner, Bert Sempels and William Dierickx guided me around and provided me the right info in order to start in the hobby. Later Daniel became more or less my role model. In recent years Mike Ball has also influenced my view on the modern budgie.



Daniel Lutolf & Maarten inspect a youngster.

What bloodlines are in the background of your stud today?

Vermeir, Cuyten, Lutolf

What Club & level do you show at?

We are showing in champion class at the BGC (Belgian Budgerigar Society)

How many birds do you keep going into breeding season?

We try to keep around 180 hens and 100 cocks for the whole breeding season.

How many breeding cages do you use?

As we are a partnership we have 3 different locations. At Mario Waerzeggers place we have 36 cages, at my father's another 36 and at my place 57. So this would make a total of 129 cages. But in our partnership the birds rotate. This means that there is always one shed where there are no birds, and maximum two sheds where the birds are breeding.



The Birdroom



What varieties do you keep?

We keep all normal varieties, lutinos and during the past 2 years recessive peds.

What has been your best ever bird and for what reason?

A cobalt cock we bred 4 years ago. He was ahead of his time but unfortunately died before we could pair him up...

What is your best memory in the hobby?

BIS of the Belgian BS and BIS on the Dutch BS in one year (2014)

Name your 3 top budgerigar breeders

In random order....

Mike Ball, Daniel Lutolf, Jac Cuyten and partners (JJC buddies)

If you could only show at one show, which would it be?

The BS Club Show in Doncaster.

What there the things you like most about our hobby?

Breeding is the most fun part of the hobby for me. It's fun because it isn't an exact science and it always remains a challenge to breed the bird that combines the right features together. Also important for me are the friendships made through the hobby and the social aspect.

Is there anything in budgies that really irritates you?

Sometimes the jealousy and backbiting between the breeders...

Do you have any other hobbies?

Too many... I like to travel and work with my 2 dogs.

.. Your Occupation? What do you do other than breed budgies?

I have been working for more than 14 years in Logistics as a manager and the last 5 years as an operational director, but unfortunately the company I worked for went bankrupt and at this moment I'm looking for new career opportunities.

*Maarten is now on the World Budgerigar Organisation International Judges Panel and is very much in demand. He judged the Baby & Young Bird Show in Lahore Pakistan 2015 and this year will judge the Baby Show for BCG Flanders on 28th May, the VGC show in August, Münchener Derby 14-15 May... And another show in Germany August 4th... .. If you are looking for a top line judge for your show **Email Maarten***

[illegible]

2016 SHOW CALENDER

March 26, 2016	Ariz Budgerigar Society Futurity Show	Mesa, AZ
April 23, 2016	Ariz Budgerigar Society Chandler Shows	Chandler, AZ
April 24, 2016	Ariz Budgerigar Society Chandler Shows	Chandler, AZ
May 7, 2016	Georgia Southern Budgie Club Shows	Monroe, GA
May 8, 2016	Georgia Southern Budgie Club Shows	Monroe, GA
May 14, 2016	Houston Budgerigar Society Early Bird Show	Houston, TX
June 4, 2016	Maryland Budgerigar Society	Alexandria, VA
June 25, 2016	Ariz Budgerigar Society Mesa Show	Mesa, AZ
June 25, 2016	DFW Exhibition Club Show	Terrell, TX
July 9, 2016	New Orleans Budgerigar Society	Pearl River, LA
July 10, 2016	New Orleans Budgerigar Society	Pearl River, LA
August 6, 2016	Southwest Budgie Club Southwest Honorary Memorial Club Show	Terrell, TX
September 3, 2016	Houston Budgerigar Society Labor Day Shows	Houston, TX
September 4, 2016	Houston Budgerigar Society Labor Day Shows	Houston, TX
To Be Announced	Grand National	Houston, TX
October 15, 2016	Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society	Grandvie, MO
November 12, 2016	Texas Bird Breeders & Fanciers Association Show	Temple, TX

Arizona Budgerigar Society
Futurity Show - March 26, 2016
Best In Show and Division Winners

Complete show report will be posted on the BAA web site.



Best In Show – Sundance Aviary



Best Intermediate – Debbie Cole



Best Novice – Bob McBride



Best Rare – Mick McCown



Violets

by Mike Rankin

One day, some years ago, Crawford Maddux said to me, " Stop by I have some birds for you."

That was the start of my love affair with violets. And, by the way that was the most expensive free Budgie I ever received. The Budgie Crawford gave me was a yellowface cobalt. Unknown to me that bird was really a yellowface violet sky. I mated that bird to a cobalt hen and that was the start of my love affair with violets.

I have bred violets for over twenty years now. Along the way, I've learned many interesting things about violets. Much of the initial information I received does not stand the test of time. But let me start with some historical information on the violet.

The violet mutation occurred in several countries about the same time. As more dark greens and blues were bred, the violet appeared. 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 in Australia by a Mr. Harold Pier. References to purple or violet colored budgerigars in Germany and Britain go back to the mid 1920s. Interestingly, most books state that violets first appeared in the 1930s.

Cobalts 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 new mutation or were imported in consignments of wild budgerigars. There were reports from importers in Europe that dark greens were found among the consignments of wild greens. As you may have noted violet greens look very much like dark greens. It takes a trained eye to tell the difference. In the same vein violet skies look very much like cobalts. It has been suggested that the violet factor was not a new mutation but rather arose from wild caught birds imported from Australia. Peter Bergman of Sydney, Australia suggests this is the reason we saw the mutation in several countries at about the same time.

The first record of violets in Great Britain was in the mid-thirties. Mrs. Brown of Morecombe imported whitewing violets from Australia. Soon after the distinguished Mr. Wathough purchased several birds from Mrs. Brown. In 1939 there were several references to violets culminating with a pair of violet Budgerigars shown at the Crystal Palace Show.

It is not my intent to hold a genetics class, however a little genetic information is needed to understand the violet factor. The violet factor is a dominant factor. As a dominant factor, violet cannot be masked. The violet factor always has an affect on the color of a bird regardless of the base color.

The depth of the base color will regulate the intensity of the violet affect. The violet factor can be both single and double factor. In the double factor violets, the color is more intense and even. A violet trait on the same gene as a dark factor produces a more intense color than a violet factor on a normal gene.

It is in the blue series that we recognize as the show violet. In the blue series we have the Sky, Cobalt and Mauve. With the addition of the Violet factor, the colors get a little more difficult to identify. The violet sky blues color ranges from a very well colored sky to a normal cobalt. The telling factor is the main tail feathers. The violets tend to have a turquoise edging on the tail feathers. Birds with a violet factor tend to have a glossier turquoise iridescence when viewed under florescent lighting.

Just when you feel you have the violet sky-cobalt issue resolved, let me introduce the double factor violet sky. Double factor violet skies are similar in color to single factor violet cobalt. At this point let me add the term visual violet. This visual violet is the color that we call a show violet. This bird usually consists of a single dark factor and a single violet factor. However the double factor sky violet is very similar in depth of color to the cobalt violet. In many cases the color is the same to an untrained eye.

This realization explained my initial experience with violets. From my first sky violet I bred double factor sky violets. These birds appeared to be normal visual violets. But I never produce true cobalt or mauve from this

gene pool. This led me to understand that I did not possess a dark factor in my violet gene pool.

Another factor I did not understand was the linkage of the violet factor and the dark factor.

When I would show my early violets against Crawford's, I would always note a shade difference. This difference was very notable as a shade darker. Later I acquired the second line of violets from Crawford and learned the secret. In the new line, the dark factor was located on the same chromosome as the violet factor. This made the violet cobalt a substantially darker bird than the double factor sky violet.

This new violet line that I acquired from Crawford was named the "Mikie" line. Crawford and I selected this bird in the nest. Mikie was not my first choice of the chicks in the nest. The best was actually a violet white cock. This bird would make Crawford's eyes light up, a real stormer. I was well pleased with Mikie. Mikie was a true violet cobalt, visual violet with the violet and dark factor on the same gene. This was the foundation of my second line of violets. I paired Mikie to a cobalt hen that was not part of the original violet line. This produced several nice violets and two cobalt hens. And so the Mikie line was born.

At this point I could compare cobalts, sky violets, double factor sky violets and violet cobalts.

In four show cages I had the four birds in one place under the same light. The cobalt was the lesser shade of color than the violet sky. The difference being

a luster in the color of the violet sky. Both of these bird would be classified as cobalts based on initial review. The double factor violet sky was a violet in the true sense. When the double factor sky was compared to the violet cobalt the difference was clear. The violet cobalt was a shade deeper in color. I then compared a cobalt violet with the violet factor and dark factor on the same gene. This cobalt violet same gene Budgie was again a shade deeper.

So we now have five shades of color. Now I understood what Taylor and Warner were discussing in chapter ten of their book Genetics for Budgerigar Breeders. They detailed the same experiments that I spent years duplicating. I actually read the book several years before, but lacked the understanding of their words. But they stopped their experiments with violet cobalts and double factor sky violets.

Peter Bergman conducted extensive research on the violet factor. Much of what Bergman offers for your consideration is substantiated by my breeding results.

At this point you are probably thinking, "what more could be said about violets?"

Well, there are several more issues to consider. We should discuss the double factor cobalt violet. Then we have the mauve, violet mauve and double factor violet mauve. Then the anti-violet factor must be discussed.

We'll leave these matters for another day and let you go out to the aviary and look at your cobalts and violets. With this new knowledge you will probably

view your cobalts and violets with a keener eye.

This is the chart of the different genetic variations. This chart only considers the violet and dark factors for our discussions.

dv/dv Sky

dv/dV Sky Violet Single Factor

dV/dV Sky Violet Double Factor

Dv/dv Cobalt

Dv/dV Cobalt Violet Single Factor

DV/dv Cobalt Violet Single Factor Same Chromosome

.....

Violets Part 2

By Mike Rankin

We had just finished talking about single factor cobalt violets in our last segment. But I did give you fair warning that we had not covered all that is the violet Budgie.

Let's start out considering the dark factor. If you will remember, there were studies of the dark factor links with a color gene. To explain this linkage of the dark factor, Taylor and Warner in Genetics for Budgerigar Breeders investigated the question of dark greens split blue. In the TYPE I, dark green split blue, the dark gene is linked to the green gene which will produce mostly, if not all, dark greens and sky blues when mated to a sky. In the Type II, dark greens split blue, where the dark gene is linked to the blue gene it will produce light greens and cobalts when paired to a sky. The difference in the results was the linkage of the dark factor to the color

gene in the bird. Basically the dark factor and the color factor traveled as a unit. This accounts for the difference in results when breeding dark green Type I and Type II birds.

Now we add the violet factor in much the same way. The violet factor travels with the gene to which it is linked. So now we can say we have violet cobalt Type I and violet cobalt Type II, the difference being linkage of the violet trait to the dark or light gene in a cobalt. If you breed a violet Type I to a sky you will get all cobalts and violet skies. If you breed a violet Type II to a sky you will get violet cobalts and skies. When you place violet cobalt Type I along side violet cobalt Type II you can see the difference in coloring. The Type II is a shade darker with more life to the color. For years I exhibited my violets against Crawford Maddux's.

Each time I noted the shade difference in my violets. My violets were just not as rich a color as Crawford's.

Crawford's violets were the Type II with the violet factor tied to the dark factor.

In order to produce the violet of my dreams I needed both the violet factor linked to the light gene and the violet factor linked to the dark gene. I wanted a cobalt double factor violet. We are in new territory now. No one except Peter Bergman had ever ventured this far with violets. I set up my pairs and waited. In the first round I had two cocks that looked like they could be my dream birds. They are, in nest feather, as dark or darker than their father. Time will tell if they are the true cobalt double factor violet.

Somewhere along the way, I made a mistake and paired violet cobalt to cobalt. I mistook the cobalt to be a violet sky. In the chicks that I produced I had a violet mauve. What a difference the violet factor makes in mauve. In the normal mauve the dull color is replaced with a deep blackish purple. The bird is no longer a blackish slate. By now you know where we are headed with this. It's on to double factor violet mauve. My guess at this point is a bird that is a vibrant violet black. This would be a truly lovely bird.

In the past, the dark factor was always associated with small stature and fine feather. In the past several years this problem of feather and size has been resolved. There are many dark greens that hold their own with light greens and gray greens. Not only do we see good dark greens and cobalts, but we see them in good numbers. With good dark factor stock available, the show violet became possible. The Mikie line violets have both size and feather. We traced the dark factor in the Mikie line dark factor back to the Moss stud in Britian.

So far we have discussed the dark factor and the violet factor in the production of violets. In my breedings I encountered other factors that will modify the color of a Budgie. You need to be aware of these factors in order to produce the style of violets that you can show. These are not officially recognized factors with a set standard for their effect. Rather, these factors are very subtle but never the less affect the final coloring of Budgies.

The first is the pastel factor. This character is not recognized as a genetic mutation as the change in coloring is so subtle. If this factor is present, a sky's body coloring would look something like a shade between a cinnamon sky and a normal sky. This factor modifies all shades of color in both the green and blue series.

Old time breeders would refer to this as a poorly colored sky and suggest you dip back into the green to get the richer sky color back. As this pastel factor is recessive to normal coloring, the resulting chicks would all be of a richer color. However each chick carried the pastel factor, which would reemerge later when paired to another Budgie split to pastel. This is a factor you do not want to get into your violets. I made the mistake and it took me a while to back out the trait.

The second factor is the wash. This is often referred to as the opaline wash. This genetic factor is also not recognized as a distinct mutation. This is another undesirable recessive trait. Many have reasoned that this is a result of a Budgie split for opaline. We have found this not to be the case. In this mutation the shading around the neck and head is modified. You may even see some body color in the wings. This causes the color in those areas to be diluted with the ground color. In cobalts you may see some violet effects around the neck and back of the head. The end result is an uneven coloring on the bird. In show competition you may lose to an evenly colored bird.

The third is the blotch. Blotchy color does not show much in a sky or light green. If you add a dark factor then you start to see the mismatch in color on the body. In good light, these areas appear to have a tint of gray added to blotchy segments of the chest and stomach. I believe this is also a recessive mutation. If you breed a blotchy bird to a good normal the even color returns. Again this is a minor issue, but something you do not want to get into your violet stock.

The last is the sparkle factor. I believe this to also be a recessive gene. You may have noted in your travels a really fine colored bird. The bird just stood out. The color just glowed. There is an extra shine and life to the color. This is a factor you should really cultivate. This is a difficult trait to acquire as you do not see this sparkle very often. However this sparkle trait is well worth your consideration.

So now we have covered all the information on violets to date. That is not to say we, the violet breeders of the world, are not working on a better violet right now. A deeper color and darker shade is just one nest away.

Lastly I would ask of you, if you see a bird whose color just stands out, take a second look. This may be the trait we are searching for to build a better violet.

To those light green breeders: look over your shoulder - we're coming.

Happy Breeding from the Hi Hopes gang

Editors note: The foregoing article by the late Mike Rankin is being reprinted in its entirety by request.



FOUNDED 1994

World Budgerigar Organisation

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To the Officials and Delegates
of all WBO member organisations

31st March 2016

End of my term as your chairman

Dear officials, dear friends of the budgerigar fancy,

Today ends, according to the WBO constitution, my time as your chairman. I have held this post for ten years.

This gives me the chance to look back to this decade. We have achieved a lot together and in my feeling it is the greatest that I could be part to develop the pictorial ideal. We have worked on most of the standards as colours, rings, show cages etc. And finally we could publish a standard for the colour budgerigar.

These all are results from all of us together. It has always been my philosophy to see my work as a team leader, as we only can bring WBO forward as a team.

I want to thank all who supported and helped my work and who made it easy for me to be your chairman.

I want to thank specially Roger Carr as the Immediate Past Chairman who helped me especially at my start. It is now up to me to play his role in our organisation.

I am happy that at the end of my term the German AZ is back as a member in WBO.

From 1st April 2016 Carlos Ramoa from Portugal will be our new chairman. I wish Carlos the very best for this and that he has all the energy to bring the WBO another step forward.

I ask all officials and delegates to support Carlos and make it easy for him, to be our chairman.

I wish you all the very best and look forward to see you all again in good health at our next meeting in December in Lisbon/Portugal.

Very best regards
Gerd Bleicher

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World Budgerigar Organisation

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Póvoa de Varzim, April 7 2016

Dear WBO Delegates and Affiliated Societies' Officials
Dear friends

As you have been already informed by our WBO Secretary Ghalib Al-Nasser, I have begun my term in the WBO Executive Committee as your Chairman on the first of April, according to the WBO statutes.

In this first message to you, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all the WBO affiliated societies and their officials, that have given me the honour of becoming the WBO Chairman for the next two years.

Being a Budgerigar breeder since the age of 7 (1978) and affiliated to my local Cage bird club since 1984, I struggled along with some budgie-friends to keep the budgerigar hobby alive in my country due to the dominance of the canary fancy and still managed to found the special Budgerigar Club in 2004, who immediately became affiliated to the WBO thanks to great advice of the late Jacques Barré (France) and the support of our close friend Ghalib Al-Nasser (UK) already WBO Secretary at that time.

I have been breeding and showing Budgerigars in Portugal and abroad for the last 30 years, but I must say that my interest and commitment to this wonderful hobby is still intact!

From 2004 (Oelegem, Belgium), I have been present in all the WBO annual meetings held in Las Vegas, USA (2005), Southport, United Kingdom (2006), Karlsruhe, Germany (2007), Monchengladbach, Germany (2008), Iesolo, Italy (2009), Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal (2010), Camberra, Australia (2011), Avignon, France (2012), Forli, Italy (2013), Istanbul, Turkey (2014) and Stoke-on-Trent, United Kingdom (2015).

In all these years as Portugal's delegate, and especially since 2010, when I was elected as your Vice-Chairman I have followed all the important subjects that our Organisation has been dealing with, and I have learned to value its existence and the importance of its objectives.

Along the years I have been a close witness of the numerous reached objectives and the immense work done in favour of the fancy worldwide.

Above all, I have learned to respect a highly democratic and free-thinking Organisation that has been catering for the Budgerigar hobby, respecting different views, ways of thinking and working, but not losing perspective regarding the main rules and procedures that must guide us.

Together.

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Secretary/Treasurer: Ghalib Al-Nasser +44 (0) 1787 282332

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Perhaps slowly, but surely in an informed and precise way, the WBO has continuously and consistently achieved goals and is now considered in the decision making procedures of any credible Budgerigar Society worldwide in their own internal decisions.

Already since 2014, our Immediate Past Chairman Gerd Bleicher and other important personalities in the Budgerigar fancy world had been expressing to me their wish that I should become the WBO Chairman, and after the nomination proposal presented during the Stoke-on-Trent 2015 meeting, by the BS delegate Grant Findlay, voted almost unanimously, and the overwhelming support received thereafter, I felt I had to accept, even considering my other numerous and demanding positions in the bird-fancy.

I wish to thank especially the nine societies from nine different countries that were willing to send my nomination, allowing me to succeed in this post such relevant personalities in the Budgerigar fancy like Mr. Roger Carr and Herr Gerd Bleicher.

I will count with the proven competence and commitment of the other members of the WBO Executive Committee Ghalib Al-Nasser and Gerd Bleicher and I am sure we will be always available to all the members.

I just hope to be worthy of the trust you have granted me, and I can assure you that I will do everything I can to drive our Organisation to fulfil its most important objectives.

I count on you all and all your Societies to achieve them!

I also want to send a warm salute to Roger Carr, past Chairman of the WBO, in recognition for his permanent and knowledgeable work in our organisation over the years. I want to continue to count on his expertise and experience during my term as Chairman and I am sure it will be so.

A last reference to a great personality in the hobby, the last recipient of the prestigious WBO Gould Award: Mr. Gren Norris (United Kingdom).

It will be a great pleasure to deliver him the Official diploma and medal, at the 2016 WBO meeting in December.

With warmest regards, see you all in Lisboa 2016

Carlos Fernando Ramôa, W.B.O. Chairman