

CBSA NEWS

Winter 2011



ANBC Championship Clearwing Winner 2011

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Kritter's Crumble

Bird & Small Animal Bedding



Kritter's Crumble is an innovative pet bedding made from coir (coconut husk), an organic renewable resource.

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100% Organic- contains no chemicals, pesticides, silica dust, fragrances or other additives that could be harmful to birds, owners or the environment.

Kritter's Crumble has unbeatable odour elimination properties. Is mould and mildew resistant. Ideal for birds. It makes for a natural colour and texture nesting material. Can be used in nesting boxes and breeding logs. An exceptional bedding for raising bird chicks. A great time saver as a floor covering in trays for bird cages, reducing cleaning time.

Kritter's Crumble has been trialled through-out Australia by bird experts and bird enthusiasts with great results.

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Kritter's Crumble requires no trees to be cut down and no mining for its production. Plus its recyclable as a soil conditioner or compost additive and comes in light, compact 20 litre SmartBags

Elenbee

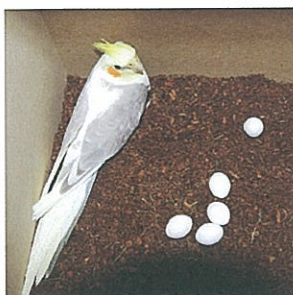
BIRD SUPPLIES

Contact: Barry or Terese Ryan
Ph/Fax: (02) 9624 5129
Factory: 13/38 Powers Rd, Seven Hills, NSW, 2147

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Fine



Coarse

Kritter's Crumble is a trademark of Galuku International Pty Ltd

LATEST “CBSA” NEWS

As part of our **Fund raising initiatives** we sold several lots at the June “BRASEA” auction and whilst they did not earn a great deal \$132.00, every little bit helps – if you would like to assist by donating a bird (it does not have to be a clearwing or blackeye) we can enter the bird in the coming Auctions and we are not charged any commission for the CBSA fund raising – thanks to those who have participated already and we hope you will consider this scheme – if you have any fund raising ideas please let us know and we will try and give them all a go ...

The Annual Sydney Lawn Show is fast approaching, it seems like only yesterday that we were preparing for the last one, time flies... The Pied Society will not be staging their President’s Cup at the event but will keep the award for one of their Meeting nights – there will be a Champion Pied but the Perpetual Trophy Statue will not be available this year. The Schedule will be similar to last year with one addition in that the Goldenface section will have two classes, one for single and one for double factor birds, both special winners will come together for the champion goldenface award.

Malcolm Freemantle’s **“The Art of Breeding Clearwings”** book \$25 AND **Ken Gray’s great book on “Rainbows”** \$20 both including postage, are in stock these prices include a little bit for CBSA. There are few publications on our Varieties so these are a MUST for all serious Clearwing Breeders – ORDER now and send money today.

You can pay any monies to CBSA via the Bank
Clearwing Budgerigar Society account – Commonwealth Bank
BSB 062 – 217 account number 1039 6088

Please put your name in the reference box – please send us an email just to make sure it arrives OK – **you can pay for everything this way**
books, memberships, sale birds, lawn show, donations, etc

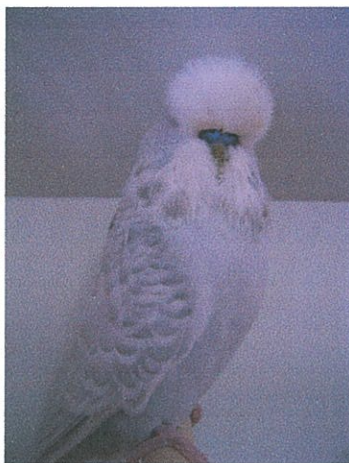
“BRASEA” is now selling birds on the Internet by TENDER
Full details are on the Web site www.brasea.com - CBSA Members selling through the Tender will earn the sales commission for the Clearwing Society, please consider selling birds this way ...

Memberships for 2011/2012 are now due – please assist the Society by paying those fees as soon as you are able, as this is one of our major sources of revenue to finance the Challenge Competition and fund the prizes for Clearwing awards, its getting hard to get sponsors and raise funds these days, introducing new members to the Society is a great help

All the best with your Clearwing Breeding & Showing

SYDNEY LAWN SHOW

**“ALL WELCOME” CASUAL PICNIC DAY
SALES, SHOW, SANTA VISIT & CLEARWING Soc AGM**



9 am Sunday November 27th, 2011

**Lower Ground Floor 44 Clifton Road
MARSDEN PARK, SYDNEY, NSW**

SPECIAL LAWN SHOW for

**Clearwings (allsorts), Blackeyes Yellow & White, Darkwings, Rainbows,
Crests, Pies (6 Varieties) + Dark Eyed Clears, Saddlebacks, Goldenfaces,
Dilutes -Yellows/Whites Suffused, Grey Yellow / White, incl UK Lime..**

Aussie Bush Budgie - Light Green & AOV AOC classes

Birds to be entered & benched between 9 am and 10 am on Show day

Judging to commence at approx. 10 am – entries FREE

Sale Birds all Day - 10% commission

BBQ + Desert + Drink \$ 10 adult \$5 Children or BYO

other activities and events all day

monster gold coin raffle (Christmas flavour) - donations welcome

EVERYONE WELCOME

**RSVP for CATERING numbers by NOV 24th - no RSVP no EAT
CHILDREN UNDER 18 PLEASE ADVISE FOR “SANTA” PRESENT**

Enquiries & Show Schedule (schedule etc can be emailed)

02 9747 6642 or 0418 916 685 or CBSA News or warren@brasea.com

Clearwing Ramblings

Fred Wright (UK)

Well, I have put my toe into the water and used a decent Clearwing cock. Never used a Clearwing in almost 50 years of breeding!!!

I am not exactly sure where the idea came from – other than that I have managed to breed a few really good Whites and Yellows in recent years. These I have always loved and over the years one or two have often cropped up in nests. In the past I have tried to keep them and breed more but usually one of the Clearwing breeders have come along and encouraged me to sell them, something to use with their Clearwings.

The theory being that pairing a Clearwing to a Yellow or White, what we call a Dilute in the UK, produces nearly all Clearwings. That somehow tells me that it must be one of the best ways to improve the size and shape of the Yellow-wings and the Whitewings. Having thought I can always put the same pair together and breed another, I have too frequently let the Dilute go to my Clearwing friends.

Two years ago I bred a few Whites and Yellows – but one of the White hens – a Grey White was fantastic. It was probably one of the best hens I had bred for a long time. It did not perform in the breeding cage so I showed it at two shows early in the season. The bird took best opposite sex at both shows.

Lots of offers came in for the bird, mainly from Clearwing breeders and at the end of the second show, my good friend Malcolm Freemantle jokingly said to me “how much is the best offer up to now”. I had slightly lost interest in the bird as it had not bred. It was one of those super hens that just produced the odd egg and I thought it would never breed. It was for this reason alone that I decided not to sell it, working on the old theory that if it did not breed for me – it was not going to breed for anyone else.

What I did say to Malcolm was that if he let me have a Clearwing cock to use with it – I would give it a go in my birdroom. Clearwings and extra fertility and all that! He let me have a Clearwing Dark Green cock and I gave him a lovely young Light Yellow cock for him to use.

This year I made the pairing – the hen went into the box and nothing happened. All my suspicions were confirmed – she was not going to breed.

I then paired the Clearwing cock to another Dilute – a young, slightly finer feathered Grey Yellow. Not the perfect partner for a Clearwing but I always

like using Grey-factor birds to get that thicker feather on a bird and I cannot see that Clearwings would be any different. However, I knew that Grey Greens would not be ideal showing Clearwings.

Six fertile eggs appeared and I have managed to produce five chicks about to leave the parents. I am not entirely sure what they are. I checked with Malcolm and said that I wondered if a couple might be Yellows. I had not realised that if the Clearwing cock is a Dilute carrier we would produce Yellows. One is very heavy in the wing – almost Greywing in character. The others have a blue cheek patch but they do not look too violet to me at this stage.

I am not saying they are great budgies but they look quite reasonable babies – even if I am not absolutely sure what they are – but they have to be Clearwings, but they are all Grey Greens. If the hen is a double factor Grey Yellow – and she probably is – they will all be Grey Greens. At least I know that these babies will be single factor.

I am going to let the cock go for a second round with the same hen if they are breeding well but I will take the cock away as soon as I see fertile eggs in the box. The hen can rear the chicks alone and I will use the cock with another hen. I might even use him with a White hen this time. I need to try and find a Blue White rather than a Grey White.

Last week I went down to see Malcolm. I wanted to check how he was doing with my Yellow cock – and he has had disappointing results – nothing from him. When I visited he was “chatting up” a small Cinnamon Dominant Pied Light Green hen in the flight so I hope Malcolm does not make that pairing to produce youngsters to pair in to his Clearwings.

I came away with another Clearwing cock this time. I big bird but he is fit and looks keen to breed. I have given him a good spray and I have him inside the birdroom bringing him into top breeding condition before I introduce him to a hen. I will try and find him a Yellow hen but if not I will use a quality Skyblue hen and breed some “splits”.

Why am I messing about with Clearwings?

I would certainly not want to get into building a stud of them. I like them to look at and we all have to judge them from time to time so its well worth understanding them. However, I think the drive for me is to offer Malcolm a helping hand. I have a good stud of birds and Malcolm has had a couple of

really challenging breeding seasons. He seems to have boxed himself into a corner by not having enough breeding hens to use.

If I can use a coupe of his Clearwing cock to produce a few birds, I will be happy to pass him a few youngsters – hopefully a few hens that he can use. Malcolm has been our top Clearwing breeder and judge for as long as I can remember. He just needs a bit of help and encouragement while he is in this serious predicament of lacking hens to use in the breeding cages.

I might keep the odd Clearwing myself but I have my doubts. I would like to play with them for a couple of years but that is as far as I will go – I am sure.

People will probably know I am no great breeder of the “specialist varieties” as I find the main-stream colours challenging enough for me. However, years ago I built up a big stud of Recessive Pieds within my own birdroom. I bred lots of them and showed them successfully. My problem was that I found myself apologising for the lesser quality “splits” that were in the flights. Eventually, I sold the lot – all the visual Recessives and the “splits”.

I do not want to do the same again with Clearwings BUT I do believe that breeders of the main-stream colours should be doing their bit to support breeders of the specialist varieties. On top of that I believe all judges should have a good understanding of most, if not all of the varieties. Certainly, keeping Recessive Pieds did a lot to help with my understanding of the variety and it gave me even greater confidence to judge them at the top shows. I am sure that “playing around with Clearwings” will do a lot to help me understand the variety when I am judging them. *Maybe it's a good idea that all the judges should keep at least one of the specialist varieties.*

Until next time FW ..



MEMBERSHIP RE-NEWALS FOR 2011 NOW OVERDUE

Please send in your 2010 – 2011 membership fees NOW
If you do not have a 06/ 11 on the front of your address label or a date
after June 2011, you are overdue ... still ONLY \$25 a year
\$12.50 for Pensioners and Juniors

SENIORS – JOIN “CBSA” FOR HALF RATES PER YEAR

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at the

“BRASEA”

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TO SELL - ALL YOU NEED IS

- Ring number
- Colour, Sex & Variety
- Bloodline – reasonable length comment
- Reserve price (above \$ 250)
- Picture of the bird – optional but preferred
- Any faults or problems with the bird – e.g. cannot fly, no tail, etc ...
- Owner to agree that the bird is available for sale and will freight bird to the purchaser, anywhere in Australia, at the purchaser's expense, **ONLY** when advised by “BRASEA” that the transaction is complete, “BRASEA” has the sale funds, cleared and it is safe to deliver the bird

TO BUY - ALL YOU NEED IS TO EMAIL US YOUR BID

Price range NOW from \$ 250 upwards

and only show quality to be offered

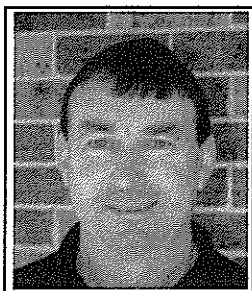
pet shop quality birds need not be submitted for consideration

If you have a suitably qualified bird you would like to submit for sale in the next Tender – please send details to :

warren@brasea.com

or **warren@budgerigarrare.com**

must include contact details of Vendor - full details of the “Tender” system on www.brasea.com



Wayne Cusack

A focus on the Black Eyed Self Colour variety

Interview by Marilyn Harrington and Warren Wilson

In May this year Wayne Cusack of the Mid-State Budgerigar Club was admitted to the Australian National Budgerigar Council's (ANBC's) Hall of Fame following his fourth Nationals win in the same variety—the Black Eyed Self Colour class. His achievement is made more extraordinary by his winning that class four years running.

To add to this impressive achievement, Wayne has had ten NSW Nationals representatives in four varieties in the last six years: one Recessive Pied 2003; one Black Eyed and one Spangle (Hen Class) 2005; one Black Eyed 2006; two Black Eyed and one AOSV (demo) 2007; and three Black Eyed 2008.

Wayne has a long history with Budgerigars. As with many others, following a brief flirtation with pigeons he started breeding Budgerigars as a child. He bred them for a few years and then was drawn back to Budgerigars in his late twenties.

For Wayne, the highlights of his 'budgie life' have been his entry into the ANBC's Hall of Fame, and having four Nationals winners, ten

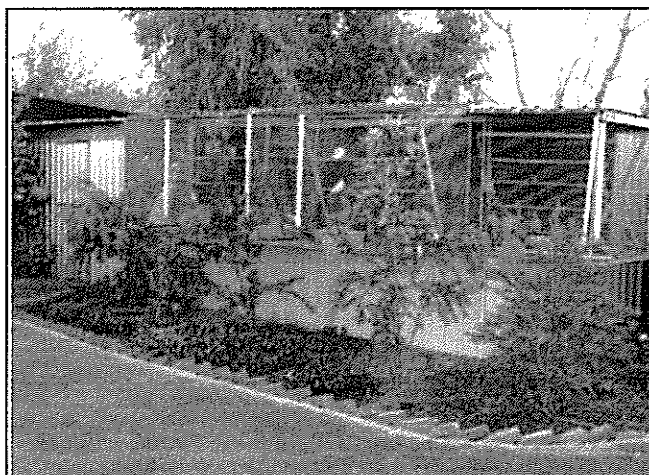
NSW Nationals representatives in four varieties in the last six years and a few local Grand Champions.

In replying to the question about breeding rare varieties, Wayne advises newcomers to start with the main varieties—the Normals, Opalines, Cinnamons, Spangles, Dominant Pieds and Yellow Faces—to learn first about breeding Budgerigars, before getting involved with the finer points of breeding the rare varieties.

Wayne says that the best advice he ever received about breeding Budgerigars was not to breed in cages that are too small (John Scoble) and pair up after 21 June, the shortest day of the year (Neville Seage). Wayne admits he does breed in the first half of the year but he saves his best birds for pairing after 21 June.

Another tip from Wayne is to use all-wire cages, which are easier to clean and better allow fresh air to circulate—Wayne has 30 breeding cages and an aviary consisting of two flights, each 12 ft long by 6.5 ft high.

The Cusack Aviary



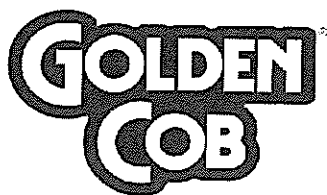
Wayne has been breeding Black Eyes for ten years and started breeding them simply because, as he explains, 'The Mid-State Club needed someone to breed them for the Interbranch, [so] I put my hand up.' The background of Wayne's Black Eyes are birds from the studs of Peter Dodd and Garry Hyslop—Garry gave him 6 or 7 birds, which were bred from Peter's in 1999 and which included Garry's 1999 Nationals winning bird. Most of Wayne's Black Eyes are yellow but he does have some whites—the father of his 2007 Nationals winner is white.

According to Warren Wilson, President of the BSNSW and keen advocate of the rarer budgerigar varieties, the Black Eyed variety is virtually only found in Australia and 'the rest of the world has lost this wonderful and most beautiful variety.' In seeking to ensure how we can retain the Black Eyes and never lose them in their true form, Warren put the following questions about breeding Black Eyes to Wayne.

What are your typical Black Eyed pairings in a season? I breed 15 to 18 pairs a year. Most pairs are Black Eyed x Black Eyed, two or three are Black Eyed to Grey Yellow and two or three are Black Eyed to suffused birds.

Do you ever mate Grey Yellow/Whites together, which may or may not be split Black Eyed, and do you find the Grey Yellows/Whites give you a better quality bird than other matings? No, I never mate Grey Yellow to Grey Yellow—I don't want to double up the Grey factor. And, no, the Greys don't breed better quality birds at my place—the 2007 Nationals winner was bred from a White Suffused cock to a Black Eyed Yellow hen.

How many Black Eyes do you put to other varieties to create splits and what varieties do you use? I put two to three Black Eyes to Normals each year. I use Light and Dark Green Normals, Light and Dark Green Cinnamons and Cinnamon Skys. The second best split I have is Cinnamon Sky.



How many Black Eyes would you breed per season? Other breeders have reported over 85 per cent wastage—is your experience similar? I breed about 50 to 60 Black Eyes a year. The wastage is smaller than 85 per cent because I never use Spangles, Opalines, Pieds, etc. However, if you are talking about wastage in quality birds, it's probably 90 per cent (only about 10 per cent are quality birds).

How do you maintain the semi-buff feathering you seem to have on the better quality birds and even the AOSV birds you exhibit? The semi-buff feather on my Black Eyes and AOSV birds has come about with good feathered Normals and Cinnamons and some nice feathered Black Eyes I got from Peter Dodd in the early 2000s.

In responding to general questions from Warren about breeding, feeding and exhibiting Black Eyes, Wayne advised that he basically treats them much the same as his other varieties. He breeds them all year round, when they are ready to breed. All his birds are 'equal' when it comes to feeding—they all get plain Canary and white millet seed, Jap, oats, carrot, celery, hard boiled eggs and soaked seeds. Regarding show preparation, Black Eyes actually require less preparation because there are no spots to pluck.

Why is it that the Black Eyed variety is so hard to breed and to maintain its variety features? Maybe it is because the Black Eyed is bred to so many other varieties and, being a weak variety, it is easy to lose the variety's features. To keep the variety true, pair good Black Eyed to Black Eyed.

Do you feel there is a place for Opaline Black Eyes to be exhibited in the Black Eyed class and not in the AOSV Opaline class where they have little chance of winning? Yes, Opaline Black Eyes are still a Black Eyed—Opaline Lacewings, Spangles, Yellow Faces and Pieds, etc., are allowed in their respective variety classes.

Would you like to see the AOSV class have Nationals status? Yes, it may help the judges if people can show AOSVs at the Nationals—everything may then not be put into the Black Eyed class.

Wayne Cusack's Nationals Black Eyed Line



Winner
2008 National Black Eyed Self
Colour

Judges' comments: Lovely width of face,
good feather and strength through the body.
It was a clear selection



Winner 2006 National
Black Eyed Self Colour

Judges comments: First place getter is a very
good Hen- up to size with the depth of mask and
good width in skull.
Very good variety content and colour.



Split Black Eyed Cock
Father of the
2008 National Black Eyed winner

According to Warren Wilson, the Black Eyed variety is one of the most beautiful varieties of Budgerigar that we have and, if we are not careful, this variety could meet the fate of other rare varieties that have disappeared. He makes a plea for the variety:

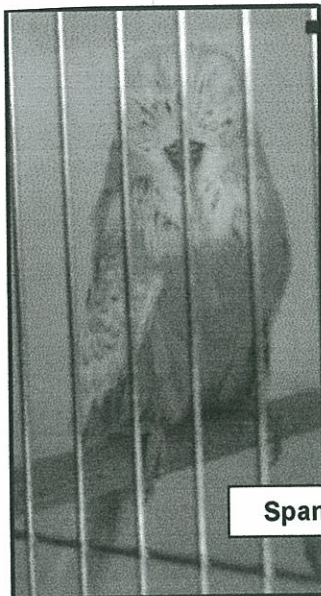
The Black Eyed variety is one of the most beautiful varieties and one which we, as a country, need to foster and support. No one else has them anymore and many people in several countries would like to have them again.

The breeders of this variety should be applauded every day for the effort they put in. We as a Society should work harder to ensure the variety survives and in fact moves forward for all to enjoy. Forget about the 'Great Dane' Normals and help breed the Black Eyed Yellow and White for what it is—a beautiful and most appealing variety of Budgerigar.

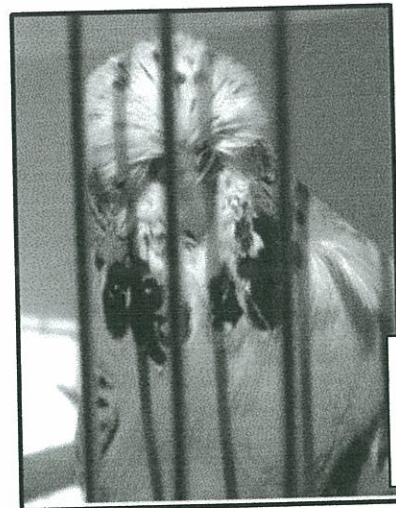
**More birds
from the Cusack aviary**



**Cinnamon
Grey Hen
9 weeks old**



Spangle Grey Cock



**Opaline
Yellow Face
Grey Cock
2007 bred**



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Large hopper 28cm wide x 28cm high x 28cm deep holds 3kg of seed

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10 Saurine Street Bankstown NSW 2200

MOBILE 0425270927 OR 02 97964641 LEAVE TEXT OR EMAIL gcharet@iinet.net.au

Dilutes – Fred Wright UK

Dilutes are an old variety – at one time the most popular variety on the show bench in the UK. People still talk of those Buttercups, but with 50 years in the hobby – I do not remember them. Their place was taken by those Light Greens and probably here in the UK, it's the Lutinos that are now the most popular budgerigar on the show bench.

It's important to understand exactly what Dilutes may be. They are the groups covered by all Yellows and Whites. There are Light Yellows, Suffused Yellows and Grey Yellows. There are Grey Whites and Suffused Whites that we usually call White Blues or even Blue Whites. Whatever we know about all Dilutes is that they are recessive birds so to produce them – we need the Dilute factor (Yellow or White) from both parents.

All too frequently, the best Dilutes appear in a birdroom by accident - from two non-Dilutes. The factor can be carried for many, many generations – and then suddenly two splits (or carriers) get paired and 25 per cent Dilutes appear in the nest. At first we really wonder what we have bred in the nest, as they are totally unexpected.

Dilutes are an interesting variety – they may be recessive in genetic character but nothing in their make-up is there to make them small – its just as easy to produce power birds in the Dilute form as it is in all those normal varieties.

There is nothing wrong with the addition of the Opaline factor although Normals are probably more attractive and appealing. It's just as easy to produced flecked Yellows, so it's worth at least controlling the Opaline factor and keeping it to a minimum of possible.

For some unknown reason, many fanciers are frightened of using Cinnamons and combining with Yellows and Whites are no different. They never usually know why they are reluctant to use Cinnamons but I believe it's something of a carry-over from those canary breeders who really do hate Cinnamons. There is no doubt in my mind that Cinnamon combined with Yellows to lighten the wing markings – which is what we need works well. When it comes to judging the variety – I am not sure too many judges know much about Dilutes. Most will talk very profoundly about Cinnamon Yellows and Greywings but I am not sure too many fanciers understand the variety. There are plenty of “experts” and that will include judges, when it comes to Dilutes but how much those “experts” really know is debatable. Many years ago I judged in Germany with another UK judge and he wrong-classed all of the Dilutes, saying they were Greywings. They were very unhappy with him- understandably!

To my knowledge there are no super-studs with lots of Whites and Yellows. They seem to crop up by accident and the fancier keeps them going for a year or two but then they get lost into the stud. Most fanciers love them, they get plenty of attention at shows, people want to buy them – but they seem to disappear just as quickly as they appeared in a birdroom.

I fluked a couple of super Whites a couple of years ago and the Clearwing breeders were desperate to get their hands on them. They are perfect birds for breeding Clearwings as the Clearwing is dominant to the Dilute so it's a quick way to add quality to those Yellow-wings and Whitewings. I made the mistake of letting Clearwing people have the odd Dilute decades ago and I have no intention of making the same mistake again. I will admit to letting my good friend Malcolm Freemantle have a Yellow Cock to use with his Clearwings and I have taken a Yellow-wing cock to use with one of my huge White hens.

This time I have a lovely group of Dilutes and I am going to try and expand the number of visual birds and splits to see exactly where I can go with them in a year or two.

From my limited experience with them they are not a challenging variety. They are no more difficult to produce than decent Normals. The challenge is keeping track of the splits and making sure top quality Normals are used to produce those new splits.

I really prefer the Grey Yellows of the Yellow group. They seem to carry that extra bit of feather which is what I like. I am not so sure it's the same for the Whites but I am sure it's just the same – limited experience with Whites stops me from taking a view. The Yellows and Whites without the Grey factor will be of far more use to the Clearwing breeders as they are reluctant to use grey birds because they want the greens and the blues for the body colour contrast with the wings.

I sometimes wonder if those Clearwing breeders would do well to use the Grey-factor Dilutes with their thicker feather to improve the Clearwings – and then work towards breeding out the Grey factor. Grey factor birds are so important in improving varieties that I am not so sure the Clearwing breeders can really make big improvements without them!

These non-Grey factor Yellows are referred to as Light Yellows and Suffused Yellows, while the non-Grey factor Whites are referred to as Suffused Whites or even Blue Whites.

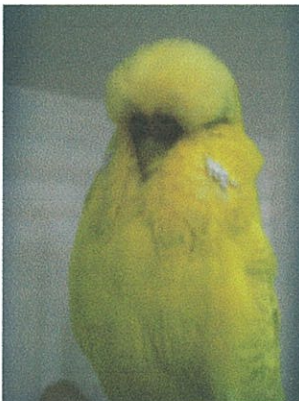
Why do I like Dilutes?

Generally I am not especially fond of the so called specialist varieties because most of these varieties are less strong than those powerful Normals, Opalines and Cinnamons I love so much. There is absolutely nothing less strong about Yellows and Whites which really makes me wonder if they are a specialist variety and should not be included in the group with Recessive Pies, Lutinos and Albinos, Clearwings, Lacewings, Fallows, Crests and Slates.

Dilutes are just different – they do not pull down a quality stud of Normals and they add a bit of variety and a different interest. Those of us who are well-known for our Normal studs still like a bit of variety – but we do not want to use any birds that are going to have a detrimental effect on our Normals, Dilutes fit that requirement perfectly and can be used with almost any variety..

ANBC NATIONAL WINNERS – CANBERRA 2011

Blackeyed Self Colour ASC



1st Sheppard & Flanagan
VIC



2nd A & J Howes
VIC



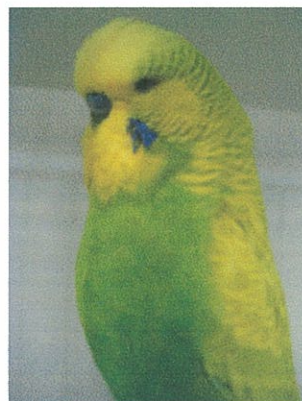
3rd Mulley & Stafford
SA

Clearwing ASC

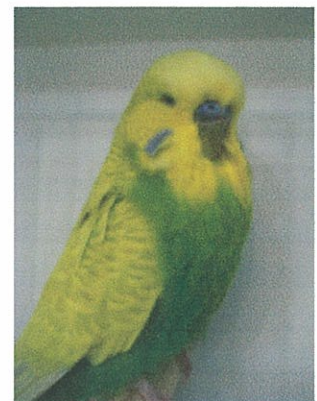
Photos thanks Rod Turnbull Vic



1st K Hatherall
VIC



2nd Mulley & Stafford
SA



3rd Peter Simic
SA



CLEARWING CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE COMPETITION

THE RESULTS OF THE CHALLENGE AWARDS FOR 2011

2004 Winner	Bob Levy	from Western Australia
2005 Winners	Barbara & Ted Wallis	from NSW
2006 Winners	Wilson & Hoadley	from Victoria
2007 Winners	Wilson & Hoadley	from Victoria
2008 Winners	The Wilson Family	from NSW
2009 Winners	L & J Renn	from NSW
2010 Winner	Cedric D'Costa	from NSW

2011 Winner ???? \$250 1st Prize Cash + 6 State Awards

RESULTS RETURNED FOR 2011 as at June 30th, 2011..

If you have any query with your points total please contact us or your State Rep...
clearwing@budgerigarrare.com

WA:	C & B Gearing		Sth QLD:	Peter Schellbach	
	Betty Rea	5		Henry George	1
	Mike Gearing	1		Eileen & Ken Henricks	
	Wilma Bunter	1		K & C Gough	
	R Hugo	1		Peter Brown	6
	G & G House	1		Bill Kirstenfeldt	1
VIC:	Wilson & Hoadley	2	Nth Qld	Bruce Schuster	
	K Hatherall	2		Scott Eriksen	
	Sheppard & Flanagan	1		Antonio Pisano	1
	B Carter			A Turnbull	1
	P Belcher			B Luhrman	1
	De Rango & Skoric	2	NSW:	I & K Manton	5
	K & L Johnson	1		Wilson Family	1
	L & C Gordon			Barbara & Ted Wallis	2
	Murray & Spinks			Cedric D'Costa	16
	K Alsop			G & M Lynch	1
	L Rodd			Geoff O'Connor	2
SA:	Kelwyn Kakoschke			C & M Morgan	
	Peter Simic	1		D & N Hancock	
	Mulley & Stafford	2		T & S Corliss	
	Robert Worrall			M Pangalos	2
TAS:	Blair & Poole	1		Bob Pitt	
	Kenn & Betty Fulton	2		Jane Adam	1
				Brian Walters	1
				Wackwitz Family	
				A Sutherland	

PUTTING A FACE ON CLEARWINGS

By Don Burke

The hardest part of breeding clearwings is to put a decent face (forehead “blow”, directional feather, plus a long, wide mask) on a bird with good clear wings and decent body colour.

I have started some work on faces, but I don’t have sufficient statistics yet to be certain of what is going on. However, Warren wants an article so here goes on some half-baked ideas.

The Directional Feather Gene

There are two aspects here: having the gene for directional feather and having the length of directional feather.

My preliminary observations are that the gene for directional feather is a sex-linked recessive. So it is much the same as cinnamonwing or opaline. So if you cross a male modern showbird homozygous for the directional feather gene to a female pure primitive bird (e.g. a clearwing), all of the young females should have some directional feather, no matter how subtle it is and all of the young males should have none.

But all of the males are split for directional feather. If you cross a modern female showbird to a pure primitive-headed clearwing, expect 100% primitive heads on the babies. All of the females from this cross are more or less useless, since they won’t carry the directional feather gene, but all of the males will be split for directional feather.

Length of Directional Feathers

I am not at all sure of which gene is working here. Nonetheless, this is a genetic volume control issue* That is, some gene controls the length of directional feathers (perhaps it also controls the length of all head feathers). Volume controls on this gene control the length of the directional feathers. Since volume controls are at play, blending inheritance is the result. So matings of long directional feathers to short directional feathers should more or less give medium length ones.

That is, what you see is what you get, genetically speaking. This is the sort of thing that we used to refer to as modifier genes – except that modifier genes, in general, don’t exist. If they did you would get segregation of feather lengths in babies, but you don’t. Modifier genes are a furphy that needs to be put to rest once and for all.

CLEARWING SOCIETY

COMING EVENTS AND AWARDS 2011/2012



**The following events are being held
for Clearwing Society Members
to take advantage of – please
try and support these events...**

Aug 7th **Rare Budgerigar Society / “BRASEA” Show** - Western Australia – best Clearwing award – contact Rob Hugo or Betty Rea – plenty of awards and prizes supported by the Rare Budgerigar Society of WA

Nov 27th **Sydney Lawn Show**, Sale Day, AGM, Santa visit, picnic day – BIG EVENT
All varieties of Clearwings, Rainbows, Blackeyed Selfs, Darkwings, Dilutes, Pies, Aussie Goldenface, Saddlebacks and Crests etc ALL Welcome, Marsden Park Sale Day for ALL Varieties Combined Initiative from The Clearwing Society, Pied Society and Crest Club Great day out ..

2012
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www.brasea.com**

So, select by eye for better length directional feathers and ignore the genetics as there is none at play that affect the outcome.

How to Pick the Presence of the Directional feather Gene Itself

This took me a while to work out. In clearwings, the effect was so subtle that, for years, I missed it. Now, what I do is to hold the bird in my hand and look at it from above and behind the head. As you look, you should notice that the front of the head should be wider than the middle or the rear. This is a certain sign that the gene is present. You will mostly see it in females due to the sex linkage.

In the crude drawing that I have done, I have greatly exaggerated the difference to show what to look for.

Blow

This appears to be largely a sex-limited gene. That is, it is visible mostly in males. Sex limiting genes create primary and secondary effects in sexual dimorphism: they create the peacock's tail, body and facial hair in male humans, penises in most male animals, breasts in human females etc.

If I am correct, extreme forehead blow in females may indicate a masculinised female. That is, her hormones may be out of whack and she may not breed well. In other words, don't expect too many females that can erect their forehead feathers like a male can. Technically speaking, these birds with blow are the first truly crested budgies. What we call cresteds merely have a facial feather whorl which is common in horses, cattle and some species of uncrested birds (especially parrots).

A truly crested bird has long, erectile feathers that are erected to indicate mood swings or for general communication. As with cockatoos, you can eventually produce females with a true crest, but I suspect that it won't be easy.

Blow appears to be another volume control gene in this case affecting the existing erectile blow behaviour in male budgies. A feather length gene is also involved and this, too, is a volume control issue.

So:

1. Don't expect too much blow in hens
2. But do expect that hens may produce it in their sons
3. Select really hard for it in all males. In males it is never hidden.
4. Expect blending inheritance. Non blow lines crossed with full blown lines should produce partial blow in the males only.

WANTED & FOR SALE

The Following Members and friends are either looking for or have for sale the following Clearwings, Blackeyed Self Colours, Darkwings or Dilutes (Yellows or Whites – Suffused, Grey Yellows or Grey Whites, Lime Green UK Dilutes) plus splits as available ..

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Whitewing hens (also Crests) or Pairs for Breeding, Denis at Wyong NSW

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

A thank you to Don Bourke for his opinions on tail colour in Clearwings. Looking over my clearwing stock there is no doubt the clear tails enhance the “eye candy”. Guess it would be wise to use light tailed visuals when outcrossing for size to normals. Dilutes if available would give one the option of using dark tails. Clearwings are certainly addictive. I find they are taking over more and more of my breeding cabinets each year since raising a nest of small violet and blue clearwings in 2008. Most of my clearwings now are greens but better quality birds. Still working up the blues. Have recently acquired some fair quality green/blue/clearwing, so may be able to hurry the blues along over the next year or two. Cheers Wilma Bunter.

Mask

I really don't know much about this at all. Obviously length and width of feathers are involved. It could be a volume control gene – i.e. blending inheritance issue. The strong ability for reversion worries me. Masks tend to fall back to very short in so many babies. Makes you wonder if something else is going on.

Anyway, long to short mask tends to produce medium masks, so clearly volume controls are at work somehow.

*New discoveries about gene actions have shown that the normal set up for most, if not all, genes is that the gene itself has volume control sections. That is a gene for say brown colour in bears can have its volume turned down and this produces the white polar bear. The gene for dilute in budgies can have its diluting effect turned up so that you get a blackeyed yellow. The pied gene can be turned up to get a reverse pied. Skin colour in humans is probably the result of volume controls too. Where volume controls are involved, you get blending inheritance rather than the segregation of genes that Mendel discovered. This explains why a white person married to a black person produces kids half way between the two in colour.

These gene controls produce banded peds, winged peds, and of course blue macaws. Blue macaws still possess the yellow gene, it is just re-shaped in area expression and turned down. That is, we can produce a white-faced green budgie. But not by finding a mutation, but rather by selecting for insipid yellow colour amongst greens.

I am really out on a limb with this article. As I said, my research is not extensive, so I need your thoughts and feedback on this. No-one else seems to be researching the inheritance of exhibition qualities. Please help me. Even strong disagreement would help me enormously.

OK Warren, that's another article done. And I'm ready for the flack!!

Why not let Don know what you think

Bobbie Budgie

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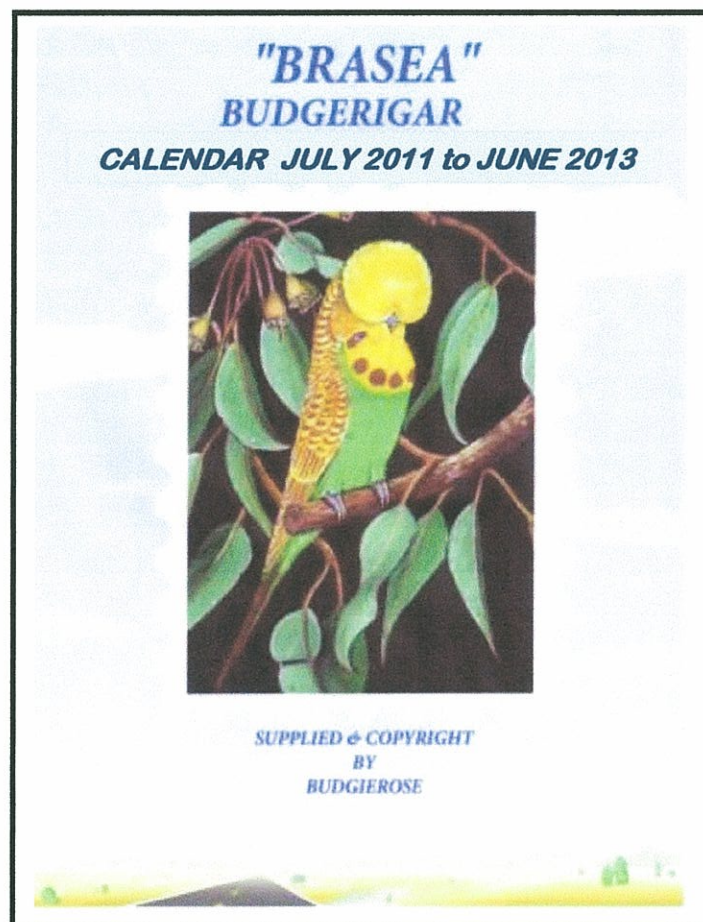
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DIRECTIONAL FEATHER

by Don Burke

To win on the show bench today, you simply must have directional feather. But how do you develop it in your birds? I have spent some years trying to sort it all out, and I am starting to make some headway. There are two issues to look at: What is Directional Feather and how is it passed on from parents to chicks?

What is emerging is rather strange, so please bear with me. The way it seems to work is quite simple, but it may rattle your cage a bit. Please willingly suspend your disbelief until you have finished reading this attempt to sort it all out.

What is Directional Feather?

Try as I might I can't find any significant change in the direction of feather growth in birds with Superb Directional Feather. It mostly seems to be longer feathers at either side of the cere rather than a major change in the angle of growth.

As I have tried to work out crested budgies, it emerged that they aren't crested at all, but rather have feather whorls. Feather and hair whorls are very common in normal birds and mammals. You have one on the back of your head. Whorls act to change the direction of feather or hair growth to aid in streamlining, to avoid hair or feather snags as the animal brushes against hard objects and also to shed water efficiently.

Some wild species of parrots (e.g. Quaker parrots) have a feather whorl just above the cere. In this position, a few feathers overhang the cere, some go to the left and others to the right, but most go straight back over the skull. In this way the whorl is very useful. If the centre of the whorl moves a few millimeters back towards the middle of the skull, you would call this a full circular crest. But in the wild Quaker parrots it is virtually invisible due to the central dot being right in the cleft at the middle of the cere.

I am now almost certain that all birds and definitely all parrots are crested. That is, they have a whorl on the front of their head. Please just read on....

The centre of the whorl is covered by either the cere or the beak itself. That little dot that marks the centre of the whorl on the heads of all wild birds is overgrown by the beak and cere as the embryo develops in the egg. All that remains is feathers growing back over the skull and to the left and right of the cere: that is, the whorl moulds the feathers over the head in a superbly streamlined way. The central dot disappears under cere etc.

So, directional feather is the end result of a facial feather whorl which is identical to what we call a crest in budgerigars.

So what has changed?

If my theory is correct, all that has changed is that the feathers on either side of the cere are longer than they used to be. The length of these "directional feathers" pushes them out in front of the eyes. It is also remotely possible that something has changed the angles of the whorl as well.

How is it passed on?

Mercifully, it seems to be passed on really simply as a sex-linked recessive gene: that is, it is identical to cinnamonwing or opaline in its mode of transmission. So, let's do some numbers:

1. A cock with superb directional feather mated to a hen with none (and no history of it) will produce:
50% cocks with no directional feather (but split for it) and
50% hens with directional feather.

.....cocks can be split for directional feather, but hens can't.

However

2. A hen with superb directional feather mated to a cock with none (and with NO family members with directional feather) will produce:
50% cocks with no directional feather (but split for it)
50% hens with no directional feather and not split for it.

...that is, hens with superb directional feather, when mated to cocks with no directional feather will never produce any babies with directional feather unless the cock is split for it.

3. If you mate a split cock from Mating #1 above, to a non-directional feathered hen you get:
25% cocks split for directional feather
25% cocks not split for directional feather
25% hens with directional feather
25% hens not carrying the directional feather at all.

...so only one hen out of four babies (on average) will have directional feather.

To go beyond these matings, just look up charts for either cinnamonwing or for opaline and substitute the words directional feather for either opaline or cinnamonwing and you will get the expectations.

In my matings, it is looking like the gene for directional feather could be linked to cinnamonwing or opaline, but I am not convinced. What I am getting is lots of hens that are opaline cinnamonwing birds with lovely directional feather. I suspect that other matings will see this as coincidence. Nonetheless, it proves the genetic basis of directional feather: sex-linked.

What about extra wide Directional Feather?

This is emerging as a gene volume control issue: that is, blending inheritance. Long directional feather to shortish directional feather gives mostly mediumish directional feathers. Much as black human married to a white human produces 100% mid brown children.

Although Mendel's work indicates that blending inheritance can't happen, in fact it does and it's very common.

So, once you have directional feather in all of your birds, as you select gradually for longer and longer buffalo horns (feathers) so your birds will get more of it.

So much of exhibition qualities are controlled by gene volume controls. These are long sections of DNA that are not genes, but they do control the extent of influence of one or more genes. So nature (or breeders) can ramp up the effect of almost any gene. Or ramp it down for that matter:

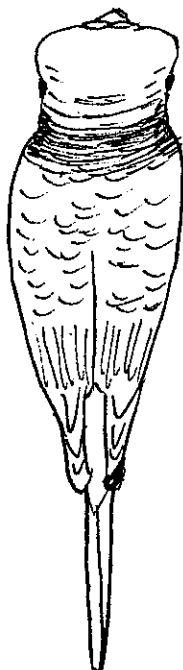
- You can get clearer wings on clearwings
- You can get less yellow pigment on the bodies of yellowfaced blues
- You can get coarser or finer feathers
- You can get bigger or smaller birds
- You can get bigger or smaller spots
- Etc etc

Some of you must still be grumbling about the crest bit of all this. If all budgies are crested, what on earth are true crested budgies???

I suspect that what we call crested budgies either:

- A) have the centre of the whorl (crest) genetically moved further back on the head or
- B) have a second whorl just behind the normal one. This is not so silly since you do get budgies with multiple crests on their backs, wings and even chests.

- By now I suppose that you all think that I am mad. Maybe you're right. Let me know your experiences and thoughts.



Directional
feather



non-directional
feather

An investigation into a correlation between components of Eucalypt leaf oil and fertility in domestic Budgerigars.

an abstract by Tony Croft.

Observation of nesting colonies of wild budgerigars and their destruction of eucalypt leaves led to an experiment to ascertain if domesticated budgerigars derived a benefit from eucalypt leaf oil or components thereof.

Budgerigars, in the wild, nest in colonies with reasonable access to water. The most widespread eucalypt species, in fact the only one which grows in all mainland states, is the River Red Gum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, which occurs along or near almost all of the seasonal watercourses in the arid and semi-arid areas. Other eucalypts which have a wide geographical range are Coolabah, *E.microtheca* and Black Box, *E.largiflorens* which both favour seasonally inundated flood plains. These three species are likely to provide the majority of nesting sites, together with other riverine species, giving budgerigars access to oil contained in their leaves.

Eucalyptus oil has three major uses, medicinal, industrial and perfumery. The principal constituent of medicinal oils is 1,8-cineole which, in turn, is used in 66 biological activities. It is the major component of the leaf oil from *E.camaldulensis*, *E.microtheca* and *E.largiflorens*. For example, the oil from *E.camaldulensis* contains 32 components of which 1,8-cineole contributes >83%. The proportions of the components of the oil may vary according to seasonal influences and the provenance from where a sample is taken.

The first step was to segregate the sexes one month prior to mating and supply each group with branches from thirteen different eucalypt species, including the previously mentioned species, over a period of four weeks. The samples were divided into two groups, one group where the common denominator was a high proportion of 1,8-cineole and the major constituent of the leaf oil, and a second group with leaf oil devoid, or containing a minimal amount, of 1,8-cineole. Examples of the second group are the Lemon scented Gum (*E.citriodora* or *Corymbia citriodora*) which has a major oil component of >65% citronellal and the Broad leaved Peppermint (*E dives*) with a major oil component of >56% piperitone. Citronellal is used in the manufacture of perfume and flavouring and piperitone is used in the manufacture of perfume, flavouring and in particular menthol.

The next step required many hours of observation to determine which eucalypt leaves were preferred by both cocks and hens, which leaves were merely detached from the stems and which were chewed, which birds dominated the branches, and which birds were denied the opportunity by the aggressive nature of some birds, particularly hens.

The birds were then divided into two groups, A for those observed chewing leaves and B, those who showed little interest or were kept away by the more aggressive birds.

Both cocks and hens showed a distinct preference for the first group of eucalypt leaves and limited interest, or ignored, eucalypt leaves from the second group.

After one month of observation birds from group A were mated together and, likewise, birds from group B were mated together. Fertility of both groups was then recorded, based on fertile eggs, not on chicks hatched or reared.

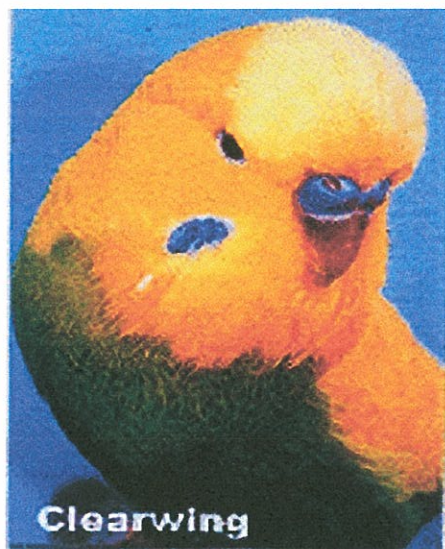
The results were quite significant. Group A, over two rounds, recorded a fertility of 55 – 70% while group B recorded a fertility of 0 – 45%. The observation and recording took place over a period of three years and the fertility averages were consistent throughout.

There were many variables to consider, are the birds obtaining a benefit from the leaf oil or are they just being destructive, are the cocks, who showed less inclination to chew the leaves, receiving the same benefit as the hens, the compatibility of the mated pairs, the brooding ability of the hens, the ages of the birds and so on.

However, the experiment and observations demonstrated that certain eucalyptus species, all with a significant proportion of 1,8-cineole contained in their leaf oil, were attractive to budgerigars in breeding condition, and, may in some way have influenced the fertility of the breeding pairs.

The second phase of the experiment, to be conducted over a three year period commencing in April 2011, will be a controlled supplementary feeding of 1,8-cineole, in a purified form, to breeding pairs from group A, B and a control group. An optional fourth year may be necessary as it has to be established which is the most efficient feeding method, the most palatable method acceptable to the birds, the amount required and the span of the supplementary feeding period.

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