

Mutations of the Indian Ring-necked Parakeet

by Jack Bastiaan, Wezep, Holland

[Editor's Note: We are delighted with the contributions (both article and photographs) received from Jack Bastiaan. Since there is considerable confusion about the nomenclature of mutation colors and their combinations, we have included some explanations to some of the color combinations in this article. We are breaking new ground with some of the new color combinations so some may be difficult to understand. The European and American convention often do not match with respect to which color comes first. We are not intending to be the authority but only wish to enhance the understanding of our readers. All italics in the smaller print size are the editor's and not the author's. Bastiaan's book Ringnecked Parakeets and Their Mutations can be ordered from AVIAN PUBLICATIONS phone/fax (USA) 1-800-577-BIRD (2473), (outside USA) 1-612-571-8902. DRT]

I first became a breeder of Indian Ring-necked Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) in 1979 as this was when I became fascinated with this species and its mutations. I started my collection with two pairs of lutino Ring-necks. After reproducing from these two pairs of birds I later exchanged their youngsters for a goldenolive [cinnamon-graygreen] hen. I then decided to breed this hen with a normal green male and with this mating I received two grey-green youngsters. I traded these two grey-green birds for an albino Indian Ringneck.

Trading out your youngsters to upgrade your mutation stock is a sound way to increase your flock without putting out a lot of money, thus lightening the immediate financial burden for the beginning aviculturist.

In 1985 I received my first turquoiseblue [turquoise] cock bird that was split to lutino. When I mated this bird with an albino (from the mating of a turquoiseblue and a creme-ino) I received very good results. From these birds I have received all of the different colors I have produced to this

date—45 different mutations.

At the present time, I have the series: cinnamon (sex-linked), greencinnamon [dominant cinnamon] (recessive), yellow-headed cinnamon, lacewing, yellow-headed (recessive red-eyed), yellowheaded-yellow-tailed, fallow, cobalt, opaline, green-overlaid yellow and 14 turquoise mutations. This year I have reproduced the first turquoisecobalt yellowheaded-yellowtailed bird in my aviaries and I am very proud of it. This bird gives me the possibility to produce the whiteheaded-whitetailed cobalt and the cream-headed-whitetailed turquoisecobalt in the near future.

I am satisfied if I can reproduce one new mutation every year as this gives

me something to look forward to. I also believe this is the most satisfying feeling a mutation breeder can receive.

It is, however, very important to be responsible when breeding mutations. We must be aware of the problems that we can run into if we are not careful and become confused with the genetics of our mutations. It is extremely important to first know what the inheritance is on every single bird we have in our aviaries—whether it is sex-linked, recessive, dominant or intermediate.



WATCHBIRD BINDERS

Hansome, sturdy binder holds a full year's issues of The Watchbird (6 issues). Of rich brown leather-like vinyl embossed in gold.

\$7.00 each

CONTINENTAL U.S.—Add \$4.00 Shipping/Handling for one binder. Add 75¢ for each additional binder.

FOREIGN—Add \$8.00 Shipping/Handling for one binder. Add \$2.50 for each additional binder. Please remit in U.S. funds.

Phone orders accepted using  

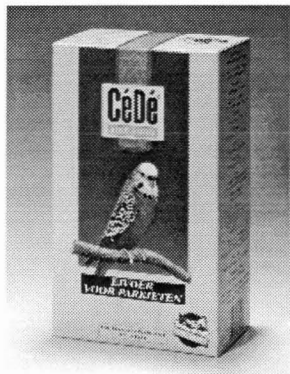
American Federation of Aviculture

P.O. Box 56218

Phoenix, Arizona 85079-6218

(602) 484-0931 • fax (602) 484-0109

Birds Do Not Live By Seed Alone



In their natural habitat, birds select and nourish themselves with a variety of insects and fruits in addition to seeds. However, birds in captivity are fully dependent upon their owners for proper nutrition. That's why **Cédé Eggfood Products** are a necessary part of your bird's diet.

Sunflower, canary, rape and other seeds alone do not provide a well balanced nutritional diet that is essential to the bird's health and growth. **Cédé Eggfood** supplements your birds with essential vitamins, minerals, amino acids and animal proteins. **Cédé Eggfood** is perfect for your bird's nutritional needs during resting, breeding, and molting.

Cédé Eggfood has proven to be an essential contribution to successful breeding both in Europe and in the United States. **Cédé Eggfood Products** are available for all types of birds. If you aren't feeding **Cédé Eggfood Products** to your birds, your birds are not breeding to their potential!

NEW! Aluminum nitrogen flushed packaging for guaranteed freshness.

Distributed By Sunshine Bird Supplies, P.O. Box 830366, Miami, Florida 33283
Distributor inquiries welcomed at 1-800-878-2666 or fax (305) 591-9567

Sex-linked

- 1) No split hens.
- 2) A mutation cock will give mutation hens and split cocks directly.

Example: Lutino x green gives 50% green cocks split lutino and 50% lutino hens.

Recessive

- 1) Split cocks and hens are possible.

Example: Blue x normal gives 100% green/blue (cocks and hens).

Dominant

- 1) No split birds.

Example: Grey-green x normal gives 50% grey-green and 50% normal green (cocks and hens) green/grey-green do not exist.

Intermediate

1) Will give a color between both parents [by Mr. Bastiaan's definition this refers to incomplete dominance. Although olive is not clearly defined, it would have to be a double dark factor in order to produce 100% darkgreens (single dark factor, not to be confused with heterozygous or homozygous) when mated to a normal green. When incomplete dominance mutation birds are paired correctly, incomplete dominance (color) can be cumulative, in increments of 2, 4, 6, 8, etc., and also reverses in the same incremental amounts. Because this is one of the dominant inheritance modes, there are no splits.]

Example: An olive x normal will give 100% darkgreens—no split birds possible, green/darkgreen do not exist.

The above is not so difficult. It is when we get combinations of different primary mutations that we can get into

trouble. Each inheritance must also be fit into the combination. This is where ignorance can give us a lot of problems. If your hen is lutino, be sure that your cock bird is split blue and lutino so you can attain visual mutations and certain split birds. Also with blue-cinnamon mutation, make sure that your cocks are split blue and cinnamon. This information is also written in my book, *Ringnecked Parakeets and Their Mutations*.

The most beautiful mutations, in my opinion, are the yellowheaded-yellow-tailed series and the yellowheaded (red-eyed recessive). Other favorite mutations are the turquoiseblue, the grey lacewing and of course the opalines and cobalt.

We shall see even more new mutations appear in the future such as: the cobalt series in the yellowheaded-yellow-tailed, in the recessive red-eyed yellowheaded and in the opaline series. In my opinion, we should have approximately 100 mutations of the Indian Ring-necked Parakeet by the year 2000.

It is also very important to breed only good mutations. For example, do not breed the sex-linked cinnamon into the yellowheaded series because the yellowhead will become lighter and this mutation should be kept as dark a yellow as possible.

I can tell you that the breeding of Ringneck mutations is one of the most satisfying and beautiful things a mutation breeder can do, as we have so many possibilities of obtaining beautiful colors in the future. At the moment, everyone wants Indian Ringneck mutations and it is often very difficult to acquire the good mutations.

In 1994, I began to reproduce the other Asiatics (*Psittacula*) as well, because, in the future, these species will also have some very spectacular color mutations. The blue Mustached Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*) is in Europe and I have also heard of the lutino, pied, cinnamon, (yellow) and grey-green.

The Plum-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) also comes in cinnamon, lutino, yellow, pied, and grey-green [turquoise].

The Slaty-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula himalayana*) can also be found in lutino, [and pied, and grey-green].

The Alexander's Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) has the lutino, blue, cinnamon and grey-green mutations. The Alexander's Parakeet mutations that I speak of are not birds that were mated with the Indian Ring-necked Parakeet, but are true mutations of their own species.

I have also heard of the lutino Malabar Parakeet (*Psittacula columboides*). Is this true? [Many top breeders of *Psittacula* species are not aware of this mutation, but if any of our readers do know of one, please let editors know.]

Realize that all of the above birds and their mutations are susceptible to diseases such as Beak and Feather Disease and Polyoma Virus. In Europe, we have the possibility of checking for Beak and Feather and to vaccinate for Polyoma virus.

We must do everything possible to make sure that our birds are healthy and that any new birds that are entering into a facility are isolated in quarantine for at least six months. This way your breeding stock will not come in contact with any possibly sick birds. There are many examples of stable breeding flocks of exotic birds becoming sick or dying from diseases gotten from new incoming birds that were not quarantined and checked for diseases.

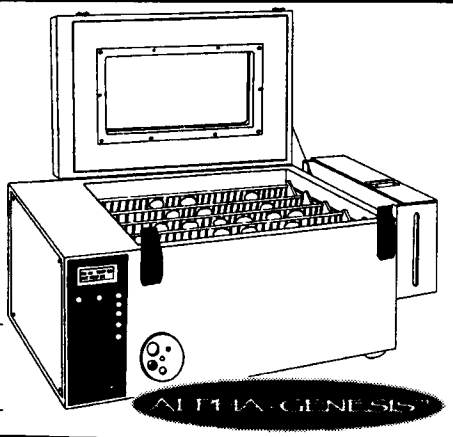
We Europeans are very lucky that veterinarians in the U.S.A. have been and are continuing to investigate these diseases and viruses and we wish them much success as they work to understand and combat other (often more difficult) diseases that will affect our birds in the future. ➔

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFECTION INCUBATION FOR THE PROFESSIONAL

- Vibration & Noise Free
- Temperature accurate within .10F
- Temperature uniform within .20F
- Humidity control within .20% RH
- Oxygen monitored in %
- Displays in F° or C°
- Immune to power failures
- Positions each egg the same
- Made in USA with prompt service



China Prairie Company
ETTERSBURG STAR ROUTE • GARBERVILLE, CA 95542
TELEPHONE OR FAX: 707-980-7261
ORDER TOLL FREE: 888-FRESH01 (888-373-7401)



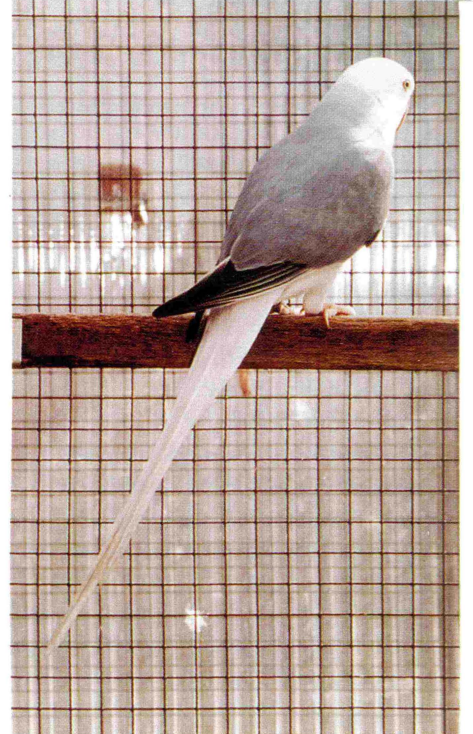


Turquoise-Blue-Creambeaded-White Ringneck (male).

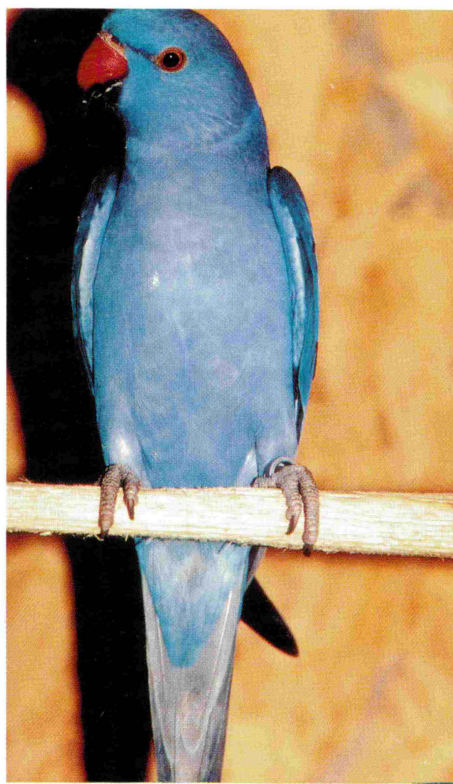
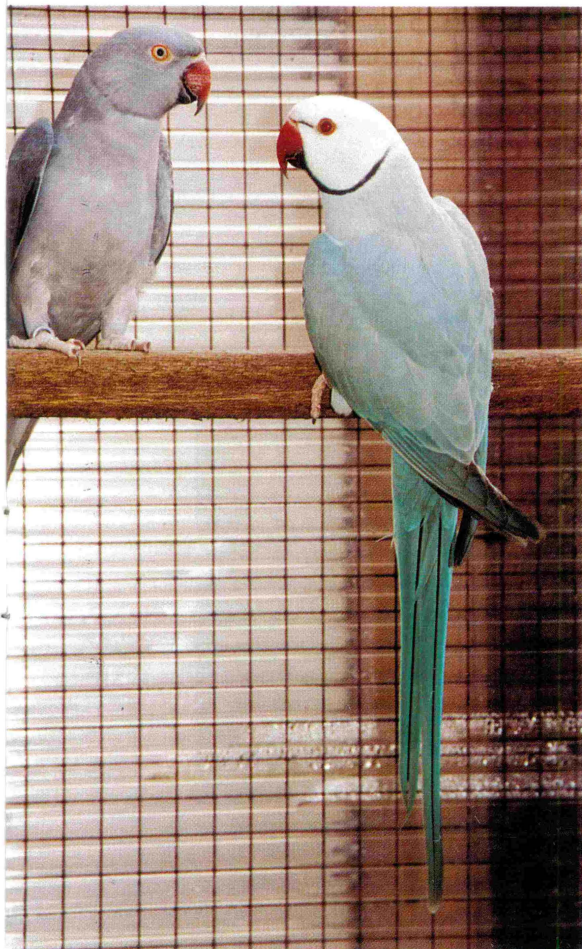


American sex-linked Cinnamon

Photos courtesy of Jack Bastiaan

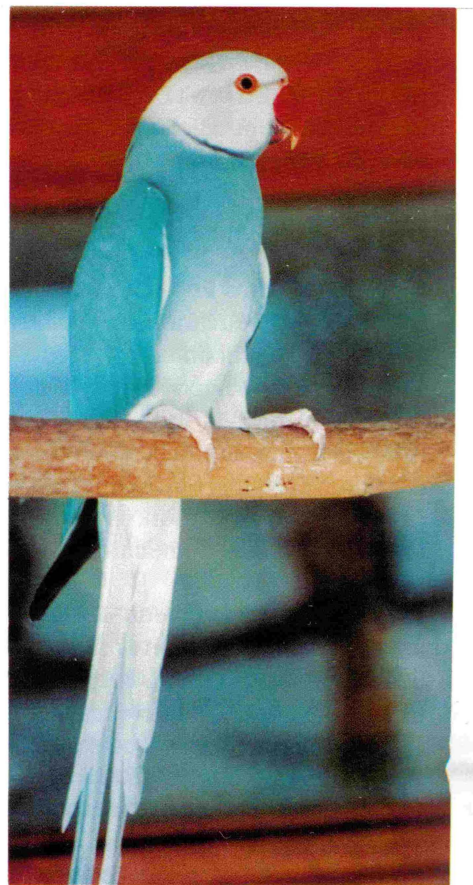


Grey-Whitebeaded-Whitetailed male.



Cobalt Ringneck.

Blue-Whitebeaded Ringneck (recessive red-eyed male). A Grey mutation is on the right.



Blue-Whitebeaded-Whitetailed color mutation.