

have good parenting stock where the adults will diligently feed the last tiny baby even when there are so many larger ones in the nest around it. I have had in the past an exceptional pair that would give me 10 babies per clutch and these were all their own babies – none fostered.

Mating Combinations

There is a good reason for such good breeding stock. Not only do I hold back the best of the clutch but I also do very little recessive mating.

To illustrate this, for instance, I seldom mate a Whiteface-Heavy Pied to another Whiteface-Heavy Pied. Both the Whiteface and Pied mutations are recessive and this combination does not consistently give me the big birds I want or the large clutches.

Another mating I avoid is placing two red-eyed mutations together as mating an Albino cock with a Lutino hen would be. These red-eyed matings can increase the size of the baldness on the head that is so common, as well as loss of size and genetic soundness.

Even though I have excellent breeding stock, there are always failures. For instance, I have a Whiteface cock that is split to Yellow-face, Cinnamon and Lutino X with a Lutino-Pearl hen split Whiteface that will sometimes chew off the wings and feet of their own babies. I foster their eggs out to another pair, as I want the possible outcome of their offspring as many types of combinations show up. I have had two Cinnamon-Yellowface show up so far out of this pair and this is a beautiful combination of colors.

Something for Everyone

My goal is to reproduce a good line of dark buttercup Lutino birds and Yellowface-Olive (Suffused Olive). Through line breeding for color and size, I hope to reproduce an excellent line of these birds. I am also working toward other color combinations and have a very splendid specimen of a Yellowface-Cinnamon-Pied bird.

Any breeder can follow their dreams with Cockatiels, as there are so many color combinations to choose from. Work to reproduce your favorite color and it will give you great enjoyment. 🐦



Brother and sister – twins from the same egg.

Would You Believe Twins?

by Elizabeth Clark, Oroville, CA

On 4 August 1998 a set of twin Sun Conures was born to Elizabeth Clark – not really. The parents were Sunny and Sara Sun Conure

This pair of conures lives in a cage three feet square by four feet high. their nest box is a small metal bootbox filled part way with a mix of pine and cedar shavings. They eat a seed diet with added vegetables including cabbage, carrots, celery, and broccoli. They also receive hardboiled eggs, Honey Nut Cheerios, apples, and oranges. Corn and assorted melons are added in season. All is sprinkled with spirulina and wheat grass.

Neighboring birds include Amazon parrots, Alexandrine Parakeets, Half

Moon conures and an occasional walk-by, look-in by an emu.

Because this pair disfigured their first baby while feeding it, I decided to be more careful with the following clutches and do all I could to safeguard their next offspring.

On July 1, 1998 their first egg was laid, followed two days later by a second egg. By July 15 both eggs were determined to be fertile and no additional eggs had been laid.

The first egg hatched on August second and the parents slightly disfigure the chick as they had done to the previous one. It now seemed more important than ever to safeguard the remaining egg.

When I checked the last egg on


August fourth, I was blown away by what I saw when I opened the inspection door – twins. Two babies. The egg was broken directly in half, not pipped at the top as normal. One baby was up and full of seed. The other lay lifeless in the shavings. At least I had one baby alive of the two. When I removed the body of the dead one it *twitched*. I called Kathy, my handfeeder, and she was over in a flash with syringe, saline solution, and formula.

We removed both babies and warmed them in a brooder until we could weigh them and start their growth charts.

The larger one weighed in at 10 grams while the little one was only six grams. The first three days were touch and go all the way. The smaller one had a slow feeding response and seemed to lack energy. The larger one ate like a horse. By the end of four days, both babies seemed more normal. We thought we were out of the

woods. *Not so.*

While I was on vacation the little one developed a problem. Kathy rose to the occasion and took it to the vet who lanced an abscess over its right eye. After 10 days of medication the baby was fine again.

DNA testing determined the larger baby was a female and the smaller a male. At the time of this writing, both are weaned, happy, and healthy. Both babies from the *same egg*. 

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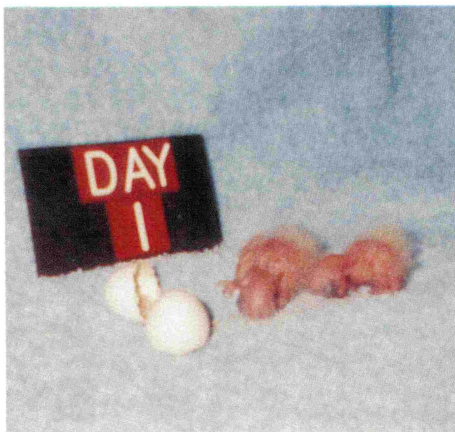


BABY BIRDS

(602) 872-1697

Kevin and Diane Goodman

Photos courtesy of the author



Day one (above): the empty eggshell is the broken home of BOTH babies. The eggmates (below) are shown in the pinfeather stage at 30 days of age.



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