



Yellow turquoise male



Yellow turquoise female

Red fronted turquoisines — male and female



Red fronted turquoise



Yellow king parrot female



Blue and normal princess parrots

Some Australian Parrot Mutations

by Jack Ahjong
West Rude, Australia

We in Australia are very fortunate, indeed, to have so many varieties of birds native to our country. Many of our native birds are considered to be among the most beautiful birds in the world. Many Australian species are also considered quite elite in any avicultural collection.

In addition to the normal beauty and elegance of the Australian birds, many species have developed color mutations. The only apparent disadvantage to these mutations is that they seem to be a little weaker than the normal bird. Their striking appearance, however, more than makes up for their slight weakness.

One of our most colorful little parrots is the turquoise (*Neophema pulchella*) whose Latin name means "beautiful". One of the most impressive color mutations I have ever seen occurred in the turquoise. The normally green back and body is in the mutation a light lime green on the back and a lemon yellow on the body. The striking red wing stripe and the intense blue on the face make the male turquoise a very beautiful bird indeed. The female is quite pleasing also, but, of course, lacks the red wing bar and has less blue on the face. This mutation is recessive in nature and both sexes can be split. The yellow turquoise parrot first appeared in Australia about eighteen years ago and a number of them found their way to Europe. They are still quite rare and command a rather high price.

In the wild some turquoisines have red thighs contrasting nicely with yellow bellies. Many turquoisines, on the other hand, are all yellow across the belly and thighs. Mr. Carew of Sydney has developed a very pretty color variety of turquoise by selective breeding. For six or seven years he has bred the birds with the reddest thighs together. This has resulted in more and more red appearing on the succeeding generations. This, of course, is not a genetic mutation but is an example of controlled line-breeding toward a specific goal — the red fronted turquoise. Mr.

Carew's best birds now are completely red on their thighs, abdomen and chest. Hopefully, in due course, someone will cross this red fronted turquoise with the yellow turquoise. The eventual result should be a yellow bird with red wing stripes and a red chest and abdomen and a bright blue face. Wouldn't that be a gem of a bird?

Another very striking color mutation is the yellow king parrot. The normal Australian king parrot is one of the most beautiful aviary subjects in its own right but in the mutation the red color remains the same and the green is completely replaced by a very bright yellow. The yellow-red contrast is very dashing. This mutation is not plentiful but with a bit of luck the yellow hen pictured will raise a number of babies and a few will be available to breeders who specialize in mutations.

The foregoing mutations are brighter in color or more striking than their normal forms. There are several mutations, however, that are less colorful than their normal counterpart. The blue scarlet (*Neophema splendida*) and the blue Princess of Wales fit this category. In these birds the normal green is replaced by a soft powder blue or a bluish-green. In the scarlet-chested parrot the red on the breast is replaced by a creamy salmon color. Thus you have a bird whose color is pastel blue and white rather than the normal bright green and vivid red. Similarly, in the blue Princess the pink color is replaced by soft white. Both of these color mutations are recessive and they both still command a fairly high price.

Other mutations I have heard of but not seen include the lutino Adelaide rosella, the lutino golden-mantled rosella, the pied golden-mantled, the white rose-breasted cockatoo, and cinnamon grass parakeets. As time permits, I hope to photograph more of the mutations found in our Australian aviaries so our overseas friends can enjoy their beauty too.

Lady Gouldian Finches

WHITE-BREASTED
BLUE-BREASTED
NORMAL COLORS



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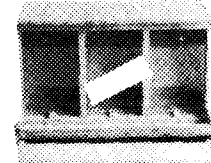
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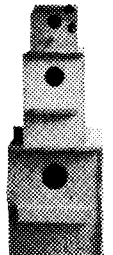
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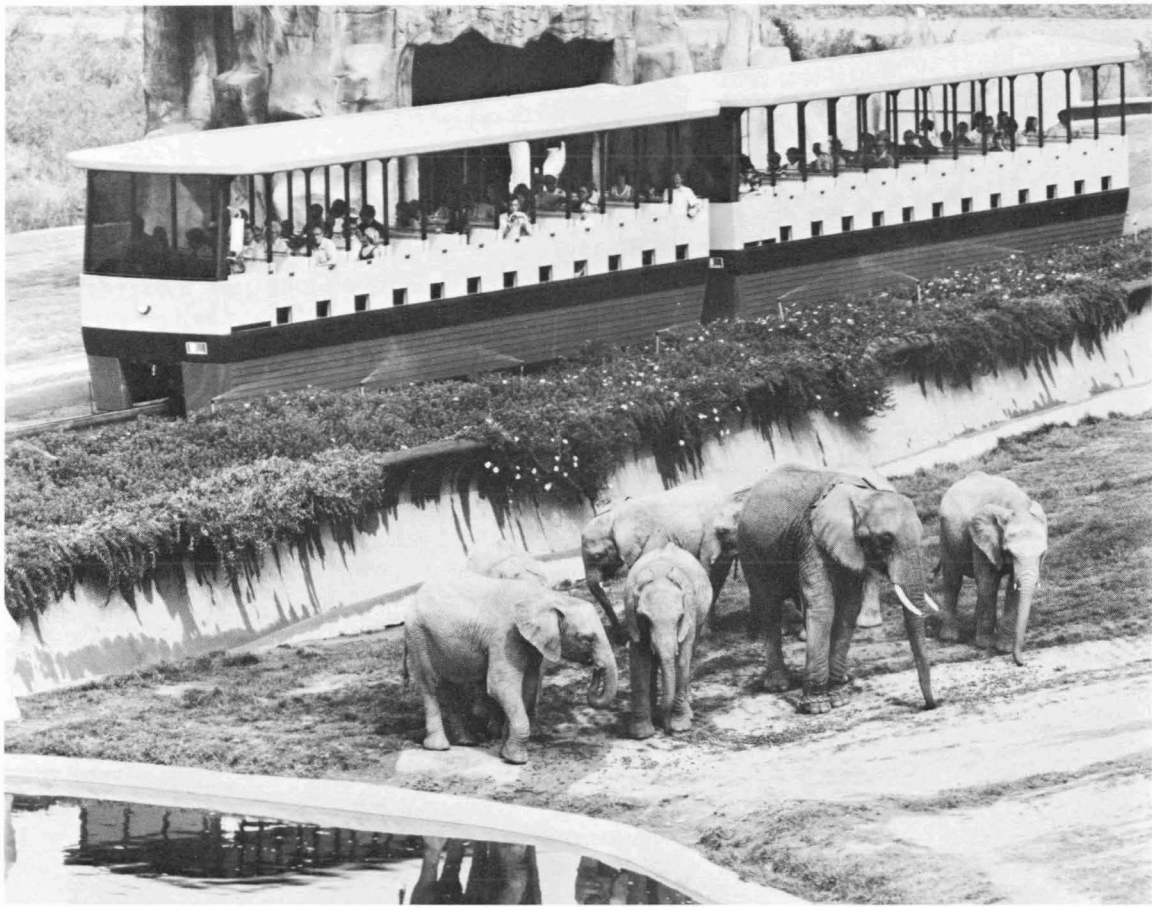


Photo released by San Diego Convention and Visitor Bureau

San Diego Zoological Society's 1800 acre Animal Park about 30 miles northeast of downtown San Diego enables visitors to see animals in a natural environment. The Wild Animal Park's population includes species native to southeastern Asia, India, the Malay Peninsula, Indo China and from the swamplands to deserts in Africa. The Zoological Society also operates the San Diego Zoo, which contains the world's largest collection of wild animals. The 1981 convention will be offering a tour to the Wild Animal Park.

Get ready for the AFA 1981 Convention

Now is the time to make plans to attend the A.F.A.'s 1981 annual convention. It will take place the first week of August. Delegates and officers who will be attending the business meeting may register on Tuesday the 4th. The business meeting will take place on Wednesday the 5th. Also on Wednesday there will be an outstanding all-day tour to Jerry Schulman's fantastic collection of rare birds "Behavioral Studies of Birds and Animals." Five busses will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis at a cost of \$10.00 each. Lunch is provided.

On the 6th, 7th, and 8th the convention proper will take place and you'll have opportunity to see photos, slides, booth displays and to hear the finest bird people in the world speak. The veterinary seminar will take place on Sunday the 9th.

All of these excellent things will take place in beautiful San Diego, California home of the world famous San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Wild Animal Park and thousands of other exciting attractions. And best of all - the convention will be held at the outstanding Town and Country Hotel at rates that have not caught up with inflation yet. Rates for double rooms are \$45.00, \$50.00, and \$60.00 and for single \$40.00, \$45.00, and \$55.00 according to the amount of luxury you require.

For you who want to plan a family vacation around the convention the hotel has agreed to book rooms at the convention rates for three days before and after the convention. The whole San Diego area is a tourists delight that you won't want to miss - especially at the bargain hotel prices negotiated by your hard working convention committee.

See insert sheet in this issue for additional 1981 convention information.

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