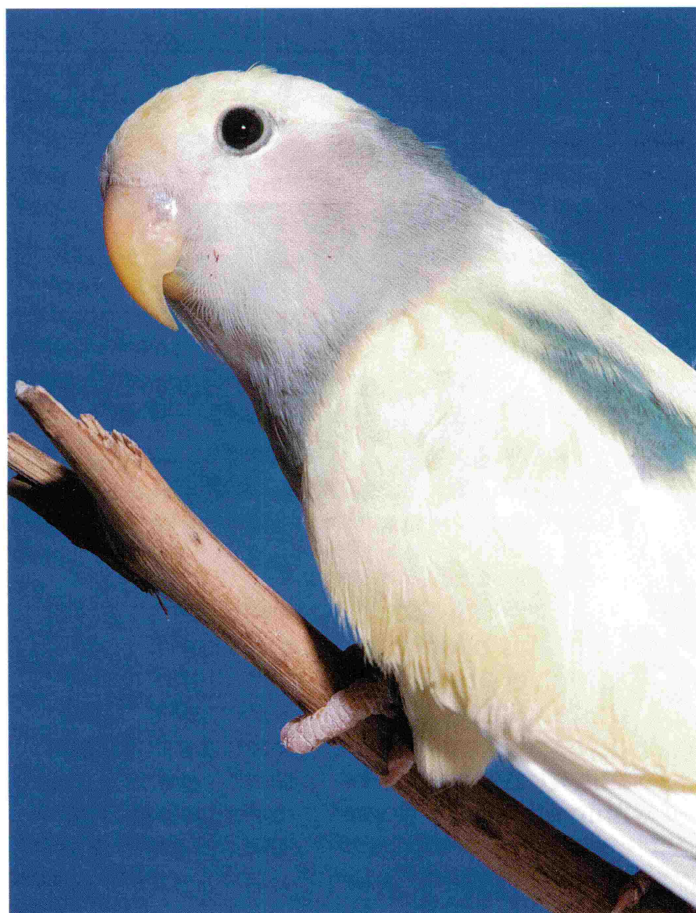
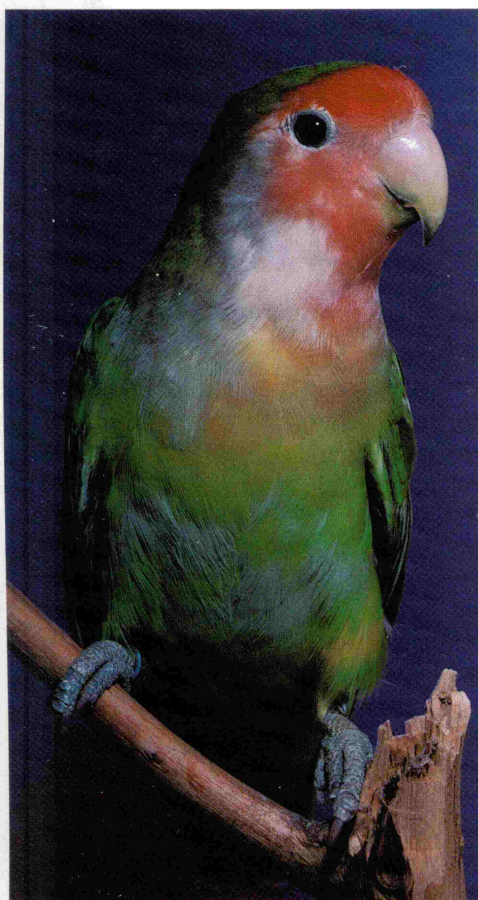


This young "harlequin" manifests the patchwork combination of green, blue and grey seen on the adult but the pattern is different.



A "primrose" mutation of the peach-faced lovebird. This unusual color results from the combination of pastel blue crossed with Australian yellow.



An adult lovebird of the new mutation called "harlequin." Note the green and blue on the bird's belly and the grey patch on the throat.

A New Wonder Down Under

by Ken Moore
Melbourne, Australia

I live in Melbourne, Australia, and I have been breeding lovebirds for about twelve years. Recently I have bred several peachfaced lovebirds which I think may be a new mutation. I have named them harlequins.

The first one I bred is a normal green coloured bird with a blue patch on the front. The blue is pastel blue, the same colour as a blue peachface. The next one bred from the same parents is green with blue on the front and a greyish white patch on the face. These two harlequins are a cock and hen and have been paired together. Their parents are a lutino Australian yellow split blue hen mated to a blue cock. So the harlequin cock is split blue, split lutino and split Australian yellow. The harlequin hen is split blue and split Australian yellow, so from this pair I can breed blue, green, lutino, Australian yellow, creamino, primrose and lutino yellow, hopefully all in harlequin.

I have bred another green harlequin which has blue on the front and on one wing, the other wing is green. This bird is from a different pair of birds but which are closely related to the pair that produced the first two harlequins.

I have also bred a primrose, which is what we in Australia call the combination of pastel blue and Australian yellow. I believe this primrose also carries the harlequin mutation as it has grey patches on it including the face where the other harlequins are greyish white. This primrose is not from pied birds and it does not have a dark factor. The parents of the primrose are a green cock split blue and split Australian yellow. The hen is blue split Australian yellow. They are related to the original pair that produced the first harlequins.

I do not know of any other peachfaced lovebirds that have blue and green body colouring in Australia and I wondered if there are any in the U.S. ●

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