The 46th National Cage Bird Show

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An impressive exhibition of over 2,352 birds, not counting a couple of hundred sale birds, were benched during the 1994 National Cage Bird Show, held November 17 - 19th in Manchester at the Expo Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn. A first for the Granite State, or in fact any state within New England, the National "Show of Shows" came to the Northeastern U.S. hosted by the New Hampshire/Massachusetts affiliate, Birds Of A Feather Avicultural Society.

A staggering 229 exhibitors representing 31 states, plus Canada, England, and Puerto Rico, participated in the event. As expected, the largest entry were the combined Canary divisions, supporting 1,733 entries. The second largest division in the show was the Cockatiel entry with a respectable 174 exhibits, followed by lovebirds with 168 entries, finches and softbills at 157 entries, parrots at 118, and disappointingly, only 2 Budgies turned up for the entire Budgerigar division (currently a renewed effort to contact the Budgerigar exhibitors for the 1995 National is already underway).

Best in Show went to an outstanding Fawn Parsons Finch, owned and exhibited by Pat and Mary Krichter who received the Pat Scannell Trophy, the highest award in the show. Each of the 14 division winners received the coveted Kellogg Trophy, this year incorporating the outline of the Granite State of New Hampshire. The Kellogg trophies are sponsored by Kellogg Inc. Seeds and Supplies, manufacturers of a full line of quality bird foods, who have been the sponsor of the Kellogg and Scannell Awards since the National's inception back in 1947.

A host of twenty national specialty clubs who were the sponsoring organizations of the show included the: North American Border Club; American Border Fancy Canary Club; International Gloster Breeders Association; National Yorkshire Club; Norwich Plainhead Club; American Norwich Society; International Columbus Fancy Association; International Fife Fancy Club of America; Old Varieties Canary Association; Lizard Canary Society; Hartz Club of America; Dragon Chapter 22 - American Singers Club, Inc; National Colorbred Association; National Finch and Softbill Society; Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors; African Love Bird Society; National Cockatiel Society; Stafford Canary Club; National Gloster Club; and the National Norwich Canary Club.

This year, the Cockatiel division boasted 174 entries and tied as the fifth largest show ever for the National Cockatiel Society (174 entries were benched at the San Antonio National in 1985; the largest entry being the First Annual NCS Show at the 1984 Chicago National with 244 entries). Mr. Lloyd Bailey of Upton, Wyoming, the newly elected President of the National Cockatiel Society, judged the division. The Best Cockatiel win and the Kellogg trophy went to Augie Murray-Young for an outstanding Pearl hen. Second best Cockatiel was a superb Normal Grey hen exhibited by Wendy Lomas-Kruger, with third best in division going to a triple mutation, Whiteface-Cinnamon-Pearl, exhibited by Dale and Barbara Theeke.

During the show, the 17-member Board of Directors of the National Cage Bird Show, representing many of the above national affiliates, were most receptive to attending a presentation on "Why Join AFA", followed by a discussion on how restrictive legislation can affect all bird owners, and not just owners and breeders of selected species of parrots, finches and softbills. The point which appeared most crucial to those in attendance was the possibility of restrictive legislation limiting the number of birds kept (e.g., a total of three or four birds per household), which has been appearing in some states. Such future threats, as well as current law, were discussed with interest.

AFA materials, including the AFA Watchbird Fall 1994 CITES Supplement, were distributed to the National board members and a formal invitation was made to all assembled to ask their national specialty affiliates to join AFA and help support the organization which protects our rights to keep birds. It was further emphasized that both individual and group support is vitally needed in order for AFA to remain an effective force for both bird breeders and bird owners who are members of AFA.

The site for the 1995 National Cage Bird Show will be in the heart of the deep South in the fabulous city of New Orleans, at the Radisson Hotel on Canal Street, November 16th through 19th, hosted by the Gulf South Bird Club. Judging will take place on Friday, November 17th. So plan your calendar accordingly and don't miss out on the National, "Your Show of Shows".

Cockatiel Connection Mailbox

Q. I purchased a Whiteface/Fallow cock and have been considering mating him with the following hens:

1) Fallow/Whiteface
2) Whiteface-Fallow
3) Whiteface/Fallow

I have been leaning toward the last pairing for a couple of reasons, and there is a breeder in my area who has a Whiteface/Fallow hen. This is the pair-

ing I am most interested in. I am looking forward to this pairing as I think the Fallow is a beautiful color. Thank you very much for your column.

Sincerely,
M.N.
Chicago, IL

Dear M.N.:

As you know, the use of the diagonal line(/) is read by breeders as "split", meaning the mutation following the diagonal line is hidden as a recessive color. Pairing your Whiteface/Fallow male to a Fallow/Whiteface hen will produce: 25% Normal Grey/Whiteface and Fallow; 25% Whiteface/Fallow; 25% Fallow/Whiteface; and 25% visual Whiteface-Fallow.

Please note there is a difference between writing a hyphen (-) e.g., Whiteface-Fallow, or the word "and", e.g., Whiteface and Fallow, as to how these genes effect the colors of future offspring. The hyphenated Whiteface-Fallow implies double quantities of their respective recessive autosomes and therefore the affected individual is visual for both mutations.

On the other hand, the term "and" in Normal Grey/Whiteface and Fallow, implies single quantities and in this case denotes a Normal Grey bird which carries a hidden single quantity of Whiteface on one autosome, and a hidden single quantity of Fallow on another autosome. Although the bird will only appear visually as a Normal Grey, it can still contribute both recessive colors to its offspring.

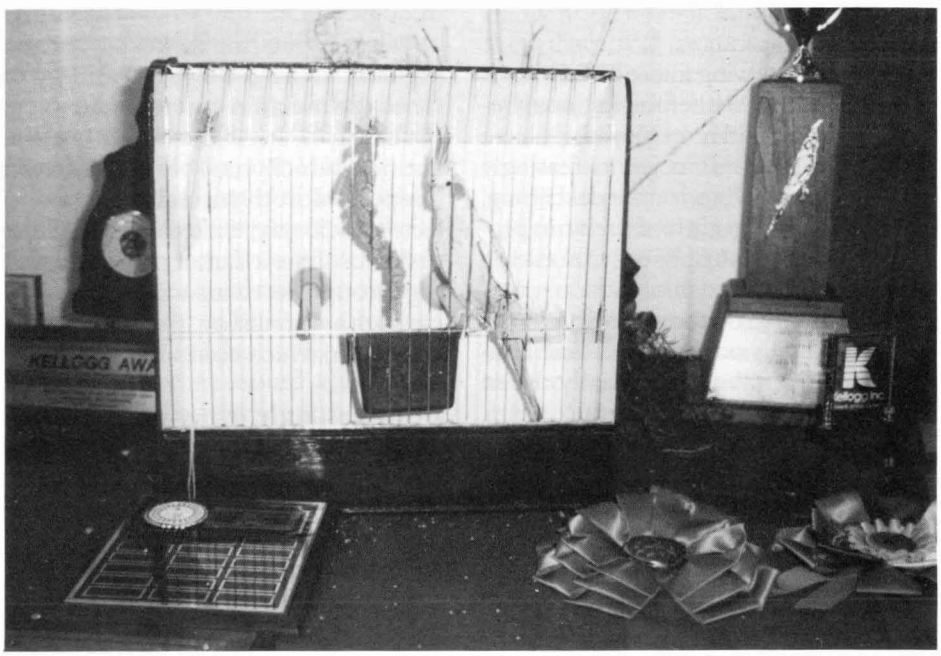
Next, pairing your Whiteface/Fallow cock to the second hen, a visual Whiteface-Fallow, will produce 50% Whiteface/Fallow and 50% visual Whiteface-Fallows. This pairing will yield the highest percentage and double your production of visual Whiteface-Fallow cross mutations, and of course any Whiteface in the nest will be guaranteed split recessive Fallow.

Pairing your Whiteface/Fallow cock to the third hen, a Whiteface/Fallow, will produce a 1•2•1 ratio of 25% Whiteface; 50% Whiteface/Fallow; and 25% visual Whiteface-Fallow cross mutations. Note that the 1•2•1 ratio is 25% homozygous (pure) "normal"; 50% heterozygous (split) mutant; and 25% homozygous (pure) mutant, when considering the outcome of Fallow in this cross.

You will note that I corrected the nomenclature used in your letter for hen #3, from Whiteface/Whiteface-Fallow, to simply, Whiteface/Fallow. A bird is either visually Whiteface, or split to Whiteface, but cannot be both visual and split at the same time. We denote the double quantity (ww) as dominant, or visual, by writing "Whiteface" first. If the individual carries only a single quantity of the Whiteface gene and is therefore split (/) carrying the gene in hidden form, we write: Normal/Whiteface (i.e., "Normal split Whiteface"). In other words, a bird cannot be both visual (ww) and split (w), but must be either one or the other.

Q. I have a beautiful Albino (Whiteface-Lutino) hen. I kept one of the Albino daughters and have run into something strange. I had thought her flight and tail feathers were dirty so I bathed her. A friend who also raises Whiteface had bought some Albinos from me from previous clutches, and noticed his hens also had the cream coloring on the flight and tail feathers.

I checked my young hen and sure



Photos by Linda S. Rubin

Best Cockatiel in Show removed to the best in show judging area for further consideration.

National Cockatiel Society President and NCS Panel Judge Lloyd Bailey (left), with John Ulrich of Kellogg Inc. Seeds & Supplies (right), present the Kellogg trophy to Augie Murray-Young (center), winner of Best Cockatiel.

enough, this wasn't dirt, it was a light beige color on those feathers. I checked the sire and he has no coloring on his flights. Is my male split to something? My friend read about a color called Cafe-au-lait. I guess the color would resemble fawn. I have not seen a Fallow so I don't know if that color may be it.

One other question. If I have a Whiteface-Pied/Pearl/Silver, does that mean it's the Recessive Silver, not the Dominant Silver?

Sincerely,
T.L.D.
Eatonville, WA

Dear T.L.D.:

With the growing interest and breeding of Albinos (Whiteface-Lutinos) becoming more and more popular, I have begun to hear from fanciers increasingly on this subject. What you are describing, the breaking through of melanin pigment onto the (supposedly) masking white or yellow wash of the ino mutation, appears to be the same phenomenon which has occurred in some Lutinos which have unofficially been dubbed "Lavender-wings".

To the best of my knowledge, Lavender-wings occur when either a faulty mechanism prevents the ino (Lutino) wash from successfully masking any grey pigment in the Lutino variety. Or, conversely, the possibility also exists that the melanin pigment might be able to override the masking ino (e.g., Lutino) wash, producing the same effect. Such birds show a mild to moderate cast of grey or "lavender" through the flight and tail feathers, and possibly other areas including the rump, wings, undersides, and back.

Similarly, it is my belief that the Albino, or Whiteface-Lutino variety is undergoing the same variation. Either the ino (Albino) white wash is unable to fully mask the melanin pigment it is hiding, or the pigment, itself is able to override the ino (Albino) wash and break through.

I also suspect, the darker the melanin pigment in the genotype, the more intense the melanin cast to the feathers. For example, an Albino (i.e., Whiteface-Lutino) which has been bred from deeper colored Normal Grey or dark factor stock may, if affected, be inclined to demonstrate a darker pigment breaking through, as compared to other colors such as Cinnamon, Fallow, or Recessive Silver, which could conceivably act as dilutes.

Interestingly, it has been found in some species utilizing dark factor stock, that such dark factors can produce the clearest colored inos. For example, consider the use of dark factor greys, and olive greens, used respectively to produce the cleanest albino and lutino Budgerigars, lacking any hint of a melaninistic grey or green cast. In time, and when viewing greater numbers of ino Cockatiels, we shall discover if the same principles apply, and if the darker shades or dark factor stock contributes to better colored Albinos (i.e., Whiteface-Lutinos). By better colored Albinos, I am again referring to individuals who maintain a deep, stark white color, without any evidence of melanin breakthrough as more easily seen when viewing such birds under full-spectrum vitalights.

I would suggest that you aim to avoid such pigment signatures by selectively breeding to birds which lack any breakthrough in coloration. Knowing the background of family members might also be helpful in identifying the source of pigment breakthrough. Since you did not state the color of your Albino's sire, or the colors of other siblings, I cannot answer whether the sire was split to other colors, although I suspect you were inquiring to see if it was the sire who was contributing to the problem of the melanin cast in his offspring.

Café-au-lait is a color which is not a new mutation rather it has been called a dilute form of Cinnamon stock which was developed in Europe. Having only a photograph and being unable to view such a bird directly has me at a disadvantage. However, it appears from the photograph the color is very similar to a Lutino "Lavender-wing" bred from Cinnamon stock, thereby producing Lutino-Cinnamons with the cinnamon color breaking through the ino wash, instead of the "Lavender" hues as seen when utilizing birds from Normal Grey backgrounds. Such birds lack the yellow carotenoid pigment concentrated on the face-mask of both sexes (and hen's breast) which are the hallmark of the red-eyed Fallow.

Dominant Silvers are a distinct and separate mutation from Recessive Silvers and each reproduces using a different mode of inheritance. As their names imply, Recessive Silvers are recessive in reproduction, while Dominant Silvers are dominant, and as such, are the first and currently only dominant mutation to occur in Cockatiels to date. Not only do these mutations differ in their modes of inheritance, but they differ significantly in their outward phenotypic appearance.

While both varieties exhibit a silver ground color, single factor Dominant Silvers are darker, and have black eyes, legs, feet, and a darker colored skull cap. Double factor Dominant Silvers are lighter, appearing as a Lutino Cockatiel with a wash of grey throughout, while retaining the black eyes, legs, feet, and darker skull cap. Recessive Silvers, however, carry a red eye, a lighter beak and legs, and bear no evidence of the Dominant Silver's telltale skullcap.

Your Whiteface-Pied split Silver-Pearl is of the Recessive Silver variety. As Dominant Silvers are dominant, and therefore must be visible, we know your bird is not a Dominant Silver, as a Cockatiel cannot be split or heterozygous to Dominant Silver. Birds cannot carry a dominant mutation in hidden (i.e., recessive) form, and therefore either a Cockatiel is a Dominant Silver, or it is not. However, Recessive Silver cockatiels may be either visual, or split, and so could carry the gene for this color variety in a heterozygous state.

Questions on Cockatiels may be sent to: Linda S. Rubin, A.F.A. contributing editor on Cockatiels, c/o the A.F.A. Business Office. letters will be answered in future columns.