



# FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



## *IN THIS MAGAZINE...*

- ◆ Important Matters,
- ◆ Are There Black Canaries
- ◆ Victorian Gangs Gangs Suffer Hypothermia
- ◆ Scientists Call for Action to Help Sparrows
- ◆ Bush Budgie V English Budgie
- ◆ The Rasmi Canary
- ◆ Little Spotted Kiwi Rediscovery
- ◆ Use Of The Crop Needle
- ◆ Colour Mutations
- ◆ Zebra Finch Mutation Calculator

*...and more*



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# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

## MEETING DATES 2025/6

**General Meetings** 12th November. 4th March

**AGM** 4th March 2026

**Meeting commences at 8:00 pm**

**NOTE: Meetings at Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield**  
**Zoom meetings will be confirmed (or advised) in advance**



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*NOTE: Ensure Club Name, delivery address & phone number of order person is included*

# NOTICE

Owing to unforeseen circumstances the 3rd September General Meeting has been cancelled.

Our next meeting will be Zoom only on the 12th November, the second Wednesday in November.

The AGM and March GM scheduled for the 4th March 2026, will be Zoom and in person at the Ashfield RSL.



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# IMPORTANT MATTERS FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## ***VIC: Domestic Animals Regulations 2025 Review (As advised by ACA)***

The VIC Government is seeking feedback on the Domestic Animals Regulations 2025

Domestic animal industry stakeholders, other interested parties and members of the public are invited to make submissions responding to the proposed Regulations and/or the RIS.

The proposed Regulations and RIS can be accessed via Engage Victoria's website at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/domestic-animals-regulations?>

While the department claims there is only a need for minor amendments, Animal Care Australia strongly suggests you make that determination as to how the amendments affect your ability to keep and maintain your pets. The majority of the amendments are for cats and dogs, however there is mention of Bird Sale Permits and the fees related to those, and of course your members would own more than just birds so any input either directly to Animal Welfare Victoria or to us will be beneficial.

Animal Care Australia will be submitting to this Review so if you would prefer to send us your feed-back please email it to [aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au) by no later than 23rd August 2025 to ensure we have time to include it.

## ***NSW NPWS, ANIMAL KEEPER LICENCES AND IMPORT/EXPORT LICENCES***

Re: Native Animal Keeper Licensee,

All online applications will no longer be processed immediately from 30 JUNE 2025.

Notification of these changes were sent to licensees on 23 JUNE 2025. We have identified that some licensees may not have received this correspondence due to a technical issue. Because of this, we will endeavour to prioritise Import/Export licence applications for the next 7 days.

These changes are in response to legal advice and evidence NPWS has received that licences to keep and import/export native animals in NSW are being used to facilitate the interstate movement of native animals for exploitation in organised illegal wildlife trafficking.

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Applications may still be made online but will be subject to an assessment process prior to a decision.

This means:

1. You will be required to apply for Import/Export licences ahead of any planned transporting of animals to or from NSW.
2. Licences for Animal Keepers and Companion Animals will not be issued immediately after an application is submitted. This will affect licensees attempting to sell or trade to a person who previously would have been able to apply online and receive a licence immediately.
3. Renewal applications for Native Animal Keeper Licences will also not be issued immediately online.

Processing times for applications may take up to 28 days so please plan accordingly.

We will endeavour to minimise impacts of this change to legitimate and lawfully abiding native animal keepers.

For further information and contact details please visit:-

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences>

## **GENERAL CLUB BUSINESS**

1. **2025 Ring Orders**, Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2025, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary. Clubs requiring an order form to be completed, should contact the Secretary.
2. **2026 Ring Orders Clubs** requiring rings for distribution by the 1st January 2026 are requested to submit orders by the 30th September 2025. Canary clubs, although we have not commenced the 2025 breeding season may also consider placing their orders early, with this first consolidation. Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2026, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary. The orders for the 2nd consolidation for 2026 canary rings [if required for distribution at the specialist Annual shows at the end of May] should be finalised by the 1st of March 2026, ETA late April.

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3. **Show and Sale dates for 2026**— Clubs are requested to email Matt McKenzie the dates for their 2026 shows, sales, and auctions, including phone number of the contact person and venue details. It is understood that confirmation of the venue may be in abeyance / pending, however we request the tentative / projected dates be advised. Email clubs@ccbfa.org.au
4. **INSURANCE.** Requirement for CCBFA and clubs to maintain proof of membership, by maintaining and membership register and individual membership forms. It is also important to note that we have a requirement that all affiliates give advanced notice of cancellation of insurance. Hence affiliates are requested to advise Federation by the 30th of September 2025 should they not require cover for the ensuing year. Failure to do so will necessitate being charged.
5. **INSURANCE – EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT. CGU** underwriter has advised that they have implemented a new requirement, (an EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT) for when events have more than 500 people attending, or the event goes over more than one day.
  - CGU have provided a template to assist if the club does not have a risk assessment template. This template lists a number of risks, which may or may not apply to the insured's events. Using the CGU template, you can delete or write N/A in the corresponding fields.
  - The intention of the risk assessment is to show that the affiliates are considering the risks and mitigating/preventing them. Assessing the risks will mean you will know how to respond, if/when an incident occurs.
  - Regarding the number of people attending events, this information is to understand the size and exposure of each which will better help understand the risk as a whole.
  - The insurance policy cover is not changing only the underwriter's requirement for the information.
  - We presently require notification of the event (name, dates, venue/ address, where known) to be received by the end of October for the following year events.

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- On receipt of club's payment for the renewal of affiliation and insurance, a "General" insurance certificate will be issued (as we currently do) to enable the affiliates to initiate bookings.
- For all shows, sales, auctions, conventions and other events with more than the 500 attendees or are more than a one-day event an "Event Risk Assessment" must be submitted to the CCBFA secretary, for the event / venue (as soon as the venue name / address, dates are known). If using the same venue in subsequent years, you will only be required to advise the date and estimate number of people attending.
- After the affiliate has submitted an "Event Risk Assessment" for the event / venue, an amended insurance certificate will be issued, endorsing the details of the event. Only then will the event be insured.

### **Notice of the Next Zoom only General Meeting**

**Wednesday 12th November 2025**

**Meeting commences at 8:00 pm**



**"Bob, you are not a parrot, you're a bat. That's why you don't have feathers. You do NOT have Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease."**

## IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A BLACK CANARY

The Black Canary is a unique and striking type of canary known for its dark coloration. While most canaries are yellow or orange in color, the Black Canary stands out with its deep black feathers. This rare color variation is a result of a genetic mutation that affects the pigmentation of the bird's feathers.



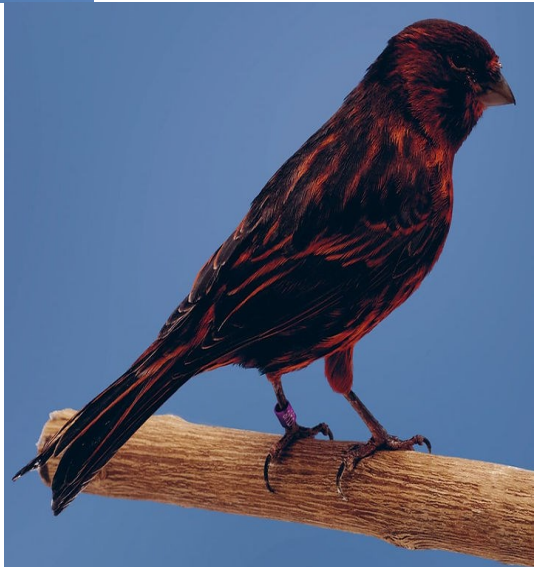
Although the Black Canary is known for its black color, There are actually several different types of Black Canaries, each with its own unique characteristics and color variations. Some Black Canaries may have a reddish or brownish tint to their feathers, while others may have a dark green sheen.

One common type is the Black Yellow Canary, which has black feathers with yellow markings on its wings and tail. Another type is the Black Orange Canary, which

has black feathers with orange markings on its wings and tail.

Other variations include the Black Red Canary, which has black feathers with red markings, and the Black Brown Canary, which has black feathers with brown markings.

These different types of Black Canaries offer a wide range of colors and patterns making them unique and special for bird enthusiasts to appreciate.



## **GANG-GANG COCKATOOS SUFFER HYPOTHERMIA, IN VICTORIAN ALPS**

Skiers and holiday-makers have enjoyed one of the strongest season openings for years as thick snow blankets the Victorian Alps. However Gang-Gang Cockatoos, who usually prefer cool temperatures, were at risk of dying in the freezing conditions.

The endangered birds are being found grounded in the snow, weak and disoriented, suffering from hypothermia.

Deb Howie, who has been rescuing stricken birds at Falls Creek, said the "cold and windy" conditions were taking a toll.

"This winter has been so brutal ... we're finding that there are quite a few gang-gangs that are actually struggling," she said. "They're grounded on the snow, Their wings are frozen and their tails are frozen, so they can't fly away. and they don't really move. They're obviously in distress".



Falls Creek visitors were advised to carry cloth bags or pillowcases while walking, so they can gently capture any grounded birds and keep them warm while waiting for help. Ms Howie said of the 10 gang-gangs she had rescued , most were juveniles. They get picked up, put in a box or wrapped in a towel ...and we get them off the hill.

Wildlife carer Jo Mitlehner has also been involved in the rescue efforts and said it was crucial to reunite separated mates, as Gang-Gangs pair for life. At the start of the snow season, she rescued a mature female Gang-Gang that had been separated from her partner.

"We found her crawling in the snow at Falls Creek," she said.

Ms Mitlehner said as soon as the female was well enough, she was returned to where she had been found because the Gang-Gangs were preparing to leave the area.

"We needed to get her straight back before her mate travelled out of the area," she said. On release, another carer believed he heard a nearby Gang-Gang responding to her call.

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### ***Changing conditions***

Ms Mitlehner said the birds were not usually found at such high altitudes in winter. While not strictly migratory, they often move from mountain forests to lower elevations during colder months.

Ms Mitlehner said she and her team thought a longer summer might have allowed for a second breeding season, leaving more juveniles unprepared for the cold snap.

Sean Dooley from BirdLife Australia said shifting climate patterns could be a factor in why the birds had not moved down the mountains.

"It could be related to the fact that over the past decade or so, we have had much milder winters, and perhaps the gang-gangs have started to adapt to this shift in climate and not been moving as far," he said. "So when we get an old-fashioned winter blast, some birds are being caught out."

### ***Endangered and at risk***

According to the latest data, gang-gang populations have already suffered a sharp decline — a drop of nearly 70 per cent between 1999 and 2019.

The 2019–2020 bushfires caused further devastation. And in 2022, the parrot was officially listed as endangered and added to the threatened list, with an estimated 25,300 mature birds remaining in the wild.

"Experts say the likely reason for the decline in gang-gangs has been the destruction of the big old, hollow-bearing trees that they nest in up in mountainous areas, from native-forest logging," Mr Dooley said.

The gang-gang cockatoo will be added to the threatened species list after climate change and bushfires impact populations.

In 2022, the parrot was officially listed as endangered, with an estimated 25,300 mature birds remaining in the wild.

"Experts say the likely reason for the decline in gang-gangs has been the destruction of the big old, hollow-bearing trees that they nest in up in mountainous areas, from native-forest logging," Mr Dooley said. "With fewer gang-gangs around, events like the recent cold snap will have a greater impact on the overall population."



## ANYONE WITH HOUSE SPARROWS IN GARDEN TOLD 'TAKE ACTION NOW' BY SCIENTIST

A leading expert took to the BBC to sound the alarm due to numbers plunging in the UK - but people can take simple actions to help.

Anyone with sparrows in their garden in the UK is being asked to take immediate action amid a shocking decline in numbers. BBC Radio 4's Inside Science program was yesterday told that numbers in the UK have plunged - by around 70 per cent on average.

Imperial College London's Dr Julia Schroeder has been studying house sparrows for 15 years - and said it's incredibly important that people take urgent, but simple action to help. She explained how noise in UK cities, together with a massive decline in insects were two key problems - as well as lack of places to make their homes.

Imperial College London's Dr Julia Schroeder has been studying house sparrows for 15 years - and said it's incredibly important that people take urgent, but simple action to help. She explained how noise in UK cities, together with a massive decline in insects were two key problems - as well as lack of places to make their homes.

"This is because while adult sparrows may still find food, the chicks really rely on insects to grow. But insects have declined drastically recently, especially in cities. Think about it - when was the last time you were bitten by a mosquito in a city? Another culprit is noise. In loud

urban environments mother sparrows often can't hear their chicks begging for food and if they don't hear them they will feed them less.

"It's a real tragic miscommunication and perhaps the saddest reason is we've made our houses too perfect. We seal off every crack and we've eliminated the very spaced house sparrows once used to nest in."



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"It's a real tragic miscommunication and perhaps the saddest reason is we've made our houses too perfect. We seal off every crack and we've eliminated the very spaces house sparrows once used to nest in."

But she said there were simply things people could do to help: "There are lots of cheap and very cheerful actions we can take as individuals and as a society. Flowers and trees that support insect life. We can provide nest boxes. Let's bear house sparrows in mind when building and developing.

We can avoid plastic grass, gravel and too much asphalt, ditch insecticides and yes, put up with the occasional mosquito bite. But most of all let's talk about this issue and spread the word where you know you can make a meaningful impact in schools and work and community groups.

Let's make this a conversation that grows and in doing so help sparrow numbers to grow too."

What to do to help sparrows:

- Plant flowers and trees which are good habitats for insects
- Put nest boxes on trees and houses
- Don't have astroturf instead of grass
- Avoid too much paving, gravel and asphalt
- Don't use insecticides.



Dr Shroeder explained: "Today, house sparrows have perfectly adapted to cohabiting with humans nesting in their roofs, crevices, farms and towns. They like living around people and they don;t just nest in out buildings they also thrive on our mess; spilled grain, chicken feed and left over chips outside a kebab shop make for reliable meals.

For house sparrow chicks the insects found near our lives are all the protein they need to grow. Most people today enjoy the presence of house sparrows but it hasn't always been the case. In Mao Zedong's China, they were accused of stealing too much grain. In a campaign to boost harvests, Mao ordered the extermination of all sparrows; however, the result horribly backfired.

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Without sparrows to control them, locusts surged and ate the crops, even leading to starvation - a powerful lesson about the importance of ecological balance.”

### **EDITORS NOTE:**

I have recently returned from a trip from Helsinki to Istanbul via Baltic States, Ukraine and Black Sea coast and was struck by the ubiquity of sparrows. They were everywhere around me at restaurants and I concluded that this was because of the abundance of bushes and hedges that were in the many small squares and parks as well as ‘fencing’ around restaurants and cafes which is not apparent in the UK or here in Australia.

In Riga, Latvia restaurant fencing with bushes and colourful flowers makes for a very attractive ambience in the old city and as can be seen in a photo I took in this article above was joined for meals by very tame sparrows. The other photo was taken outside Macdonalds in Kiev, Ukraine where sparrows popped out from the small *Macrocarpa* firs in plant boxes surrounding the eating area. This was in the main Independence Square in Kiev.

When I first arrived on the Gold Coast some 12 years ago I could not understand why they were not in my area near Burleigh Heads but were quite common at the tourist area of Harbour Town. Regrettably on a recent visit I noticed that they have almost disappeared. This saddens me as I have a thing about these small birds. I have photographed them



**Sparrows, Ascuncion, Par-**

in many places around the world on my travels. I think they bring something to the concrete urban environment and to lose them would be disastrous.



## BUSH BUDGIE V ENGLISH BUDGIE

English budgies are selectively bred for size and exhibition traits, resulting in larger, "fluffier" birds with fuller feathering compared to the smaller, more streamlined Australian bush budgies. While both are the same species, English budgies are often bred to meet specific show standards.

### **Key Differences:**

- **Size and Appearance:**

English budgies are larger, with a more rounded body shape, fuller feathering, and a larger head compared to the smaller, more slender bush budgie.

- **Selective Breeding:**

English budgies are bred for exhibition, while bush budgies are closer to the wild type found in Australia.

- **Temperament:**

English budgies are generally described as calmer and more docile, while bush budgies are known for their active and playful personalities.

- **Health:**

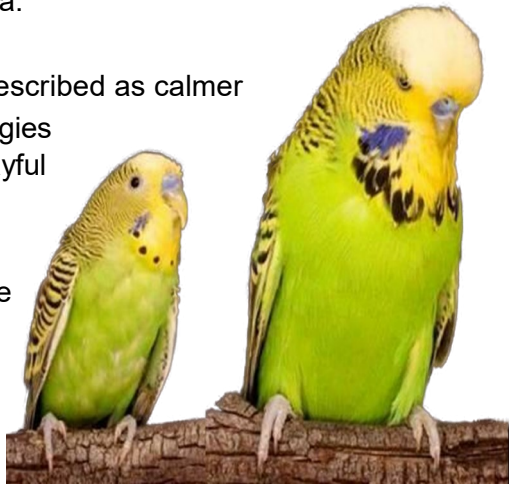
English budgies, due to selective breeding, may have shorter lifespans and be more prone to certain health issues compared to the bush budgie.

- **Vocalization:**

English budgies tend to be less vocal than bush budgies.

- **Colors and Patterns:**

Bush budgies typically come in green and yellow, while English budgies can be found in a wider array of colors and patterns due to selective breeding.



In essence: English budgies are essentially selectively bred for size and show qualities, resulting in larger, "fluffier" birds with a more docile temperament. Bush budgies, on the other hand, retain the size and characteristics of the wild budgerigar and are known for their livelier personalities.

## THE RASMI: A RADICAL BREED

*Something a bit different – and the rest! Old and rare canary specialist **ANDY EARLY** introduces an extraordinary type canary which is now finding favour with UK breeders*

THE **Persian Rasmi** is one of the newly recognised breeds of canary. Persia is the old name for Iran, where the breed was developed. According to the breed standard, Rasmis were first kept as song canaries, and then with the addition of some frill canary blood the smooth-feathered and larger-headed birds were kept and selectively bred during the late 1970s.

After the revolution in Iran during 1978, it became possible to import canaries, and the Yorkshire, Lancashire and Spanish Giboso canaries were added to the mix to develop the Rasmi further.

The formation of clubs and breeders' collectives led to standardisation and eventually to the development of a breed standard. Finally came recognition by COM, at the World Show in Turkey in 2021.

I had seen images of the Rasmi on the internet, but was able to study my first ones in the flesh at the National at Stafford last October.

I talked very briefly to their breeder, Maj Mira, and wished that we had talked for longer. I also saw Rasmis at the World Show and they again piqued my interest. Wanting to learn more about the breed, when I got home I contacted Maj.



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The Rasmi is a long slender canary, standing at 50 degrees to the horizontal. Its minimum size is 21cm or 8¼in, and many birds are a lot longer. I have seen birds that were easily 24cm long – almost 9½in. The other feature that sets this breed apart from other canaries is the tail, which in the best examples is longer than the body, thus accounting – in the very best birds – for more than half the length. In shape it is “fish-tailed”, meaning that it fans out at the end, although the total width should not be greater than that of the shoulders. The body is long and smooth, and the wing carriage is in alignment with the body and covers part of the tail – so it’s a bird with long wings as well as a long tail. In shape the body is elongated and the chest not prominent. The head is round, with no eye-brows, and the neck is distinct, with only a small rise to the shoulders. The thighs are strong to support the bird and they should be visible. When being shown, the bird should be active.

Being such a large breed, Rasmis are shown in the same wire show cage as a Parisian frill. A fault that I have seen on a lot of birds is a tendency to have some curly feather, normally at the top of the chest and neck area, which is probably due to the Giboso genes. Hinged tails are also a fault. All colour types are permitted except for the red factor, although I have only seen them in the standard canary colours.



Maj Mira tells me that Rasmis are no different to any other canary in terms of their general management, and that they breed fairly freely. They require regular baths to try and keep the ends of their tails clean, and when the birds are breeding these are often trimmed. Sometimes the tails of the youngsters are pulled as they are a little bit longer when they regrow.

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There are a handful of breeders keeping the Rasmi in the UK and they are shown in the old and rare breeds section. I am sure that once more are bred there will be fanciers who will want to keep them as a secondary breed.

My grateful thanks to Kevin McCallum and Maj Mira for their assistance with this article.

## **POINTS ALLOCATION**

**Position:** 20

**Size:** 20

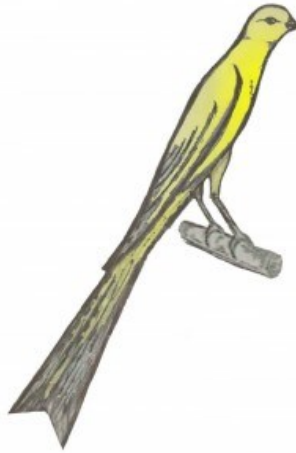
**Tail:** 20

**Body, wings & plumage:** 15

**Head & neck:** 10

**Legs:** 10

**Condition:** 5



- *Note that the standard states that “the goal is to enlarge the size”, so that the standard itself will need to be updated.*

- ***To learn more about the Rasmi, see the Facebook Persian Canary page.***



**"OKAY, LADY...ABOUT THE FOOD IN THE BASKET. WE CAN DO THIS THE EASY WAY, OR THE HITCHCOCK WAY."**



## NATURAL SUPPLEMENT FOR **FINCHES**



**PRIMA**  
1 KG NET



## INCREDIBLE PHONE FOOTAGE LEADS TO REDISCOVERY OF LOST SPECIES AFTER 46 YEARS

The rare species of Kiwi... hadn't been seen on the mainland since the year Grease the musical was released, and the Bee Gees were topping the music charts.

Incredible video taken by a hunter has overturned 46 years of thinking about the extinction of a flightless bird on mainland New Zealand.

It had been thought Little Spotted Kiwi. (also known as Kiwi. Pukupuku) only survived on small islands and protected areas where it was translocated following significant declines.



Luke Hill had been part of a crew tasked with controlling tahr, an invasive species of fast-moving alpine sheep that has adapted to the rugged 46,500-hectare Adams Wilderness Area in the Southern Alps, and if numbers go unchecked, they can destroy plants that provide food and shelter for native species.

Like Australia, New Zealand is overrun with feral animals, and it was the attacks from stoats, cats, and ferrets, and dogs, combined with habitat destruction, that led to the decline of the Little Spotted Kiwi..

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It was close to midnight, and Hill was making his way down to camp through “tough bush” when he spotted the rare bird. Thinking quickly, Hill whipped out his mobile phone and began to film. The video he took that night is grainy, and it’s only just possible to make out the small bird behind a fallen log.

There are five species of Kiwi., and because Hill has a background in conservation, he immediately knew he wasn’t looking at one of the common ones. But he was yet to understand the “magnitude” of his sighting.

### ***Mission to track down rare Kiwi. in NZ wilderness***

Hill's footage contained enough information to excite the Department of Conservation, and it choppered out a ranger and his sniffer dog to the remote location. Ranger Iain Graham's mission was to catch one of the birds and extract some of its tiny feathers for DNA testing.

Out in the sodden wilderness, he could hear the Kiwi.s “duetting”, distinct calls between a male and female. But the birds proved too fast to catch. “We were in rough terrain, in typical west coast weather, and I was running out of dry clothes,” he said.

With time running out, they captured the female on their final night. He then returned with a colleague and tracked down the male, and both have been fitted with transmitters.

### ***Rediscovery of rare Kiwi. is like 'finding a needle in a haystack'***

The last time a Little Spotted Kiwi. was seen on the mainland in the wild was 1978. That year, Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta became a global sensation after the release of the movie Grease, disco songs by the Bee Gees were topping the charts, and the total population of New Zealand was just over 3.1 million people.

Emily King, the leader of the Kiwi. Recovery Group, said the rediscovery this year was “thrilling” for the conservation world.

“Despite years of targeted searching, we hadn’t found them until now,” she said.

“We’re grateful to the hunter for reporting this and capturing evidence. It was like finding a needle in a haystack, but he pointed us to the right patch to start searching.”

*Source au.news.yahoo.com*

## THE USE OF THE CROP NEEDLE

Some birds require to be given a variety of medicines by mouth and this is not as straight forward as it sounds. Medicines can be added to the drinking water and while this is satisfactory for some diseases and some medicines it does not always work. The problems with water medication are firstly that the amount of medicine the birds take is very variable as their water intake can range between 1/2 and 5ml per day and even more in the breeding season; secondly some medicines have a bitter flavour so that the birds will not drink medicated water, thirdly - some medicines will not dissolve in water.

The mixing of medicines with seed is a waste of time as it will be discarded with the husks. Putting drugs into the bird's mouth is also difficult. The alternative is to dose the bird directly into the crop, something which some fanciers do with no difficulty, while others are very reluctant even to think of doing it.

It is quick and easy to do, can be done repeatedly without the birds becoming more resistant to it and ensures exactly measured doses of medicine. Crop needles come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The preferred variety is the stainless steel needle. This is about 3 inches long; ( 75mm )the business end is smooth and rounded, with a small hole a short distance from the tip



through which the medicine is passed. the other end has a mount for a syringe. To dose a bird the needle should be lubricated with water or liquid paraffin and the tip placed firmly on one side of the beak towards the back, close to where the upper and lower beaks join. In nearly every case this makes the bird open its beak, if it does not, moving the tip of the needle down and then up will open the mouth.

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Once the mouth is opened the tip of the "needle" should be passed backwards along the roof of the mouth towards the throat for a short distance and then down the neck towards the bird's body. Slightly twisting the needle as it goes down often helps. Under no circumstances should any force be applied as it is being put in, it will slip down very easily.

One way to avoid applying any force is to hold the bird vertically with the beak up, and once the needle is in the mouth let go of it so that the needle can slip down into the crop under its own weight and that of the syringe. When the needle is in the crop the average budgerigar will have taken 1 3/4 to 2 inches ( 40 - 50mm) of it.

Once the needle is in the crop the medicine in the syringe can be given. the whole procedure takes only 2 or 3 seconds. Fanciers are concerned on two points, one is that they will damage the internal organs of the bird. Provided no force is applied and you don't try to drill the tube down the neck no harm will be done. The other point of concern is that they will put the needle and the medicine down the bird's windpipe.

This is almost impossible to do, for two reasons. First, the tube is bigger than the wind- pipe; second, when the tip of the needle is in the mouth the bird will close the epiglottis at the top of the windpipe so that there will be no hole for the needle to go down unless it is forced. All fanciers should have a crop needle in the first aid box and also be able to use it so that when needed it can be used with no difficulty. I am sure that being able to do it will save the life of some birds and make the treatment of disease easier and less stressful.

*Source: Budgerigar Council of Victoria*



## COLOR MUTATIONS

**Q:** *I really enjoy owning and breeding the *Pyrrhura conures*, but I am concerned about the mutation varieties and how one should go about breeding them. It gets very confusing, with terms like “split to” and “visuals” and the like. Will a visual to a normal produce visuals? Will a split to a normal produce visuals? Does the reasoning behind breeding mutations apply to all exotic birds, and if so, why are there so many mutations of say, ringnecks and cockatiels, and not other types of birds such as conures? Help!*

**A:** Explaining the inheritance possibilities for the different types of mutations could fill a book. There are some simple rules, however, that, if followed, will eliminate most of the confusion. The first thing to remember is that most color mutations can be classified into one of two categories: recessive or sex linked.

The inheritance rules for one are completely different than those for the other. In order to begin thinking about what to do, you must first determine which set of rules the mutation in question falls under. When a new mutation occurs, it must be determined through test breeding which of the two categories it is in. In most cases, this ground-breaking work has already been done with similar-colored birds that have mutated in similar ways.

When trying to determine what rules to follow concerning color mutations in birds that are naturally green, we need to look no further than the work that has been done with ringnecked parakeets (*Psittacula*). So far, this has proven to be correct. The three most familiar mutations that have shown up in green birds are the blue, yellow (lutino) and cinnamon.



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So far, all blue mutations of green birds have proven to follow the recessive rules. These rules say that either parent can pass on their blue genes to any of their offspring but only those that inherit it from both parents will be visually blue. Those that are blue are said to be “visuals.” Those that have inherited the blue trait from only one parent will have normal green plumage but will be able to pass on the gene to some of their offspring. These are called “splits.” When a visual is bred to a normal nonsplit, all the offspring will be normal green in appearance but be carrying the blue gene. When two normal appearing green birds that are both split for the blue gene are bred to each other, there are three possible outcomes: Long-term statistics show that 25 percent of the babies will be blue (visuals), 50 percent of the babies will be colored green but carry the blue gene (splits), and 25 percent will be green without carrying any blue gene (normals).

The only way to identify those green birds that are carrying the blue gene from those that are not is to test breed. If you put a visual blue with a green bird that is split to blue, all offspring will be either blue or green split to blue. Two blues will throw 100-percent blue babies.

The yellow color mutation (lutino) so far has proven to always be “sex linked.” That is to say that the sex of the bird will be a determining factor as to whether or not it has the ability to inherit or pass on the gene that causes yellow. When you put a visual male with a normal hen, all females will be visual, and all males will be green split to yellow. If you put a visual female with a normal male, all male offspring will be split to yellow, and all females will be normal green (split to nothing). If you put a split male with a yellow female, the babies will be one of the following four possibilities: green males that are split for yellow (splits), yellow males (visuals), yellow females (visuals) and normal green females (split to nothing). With sex-linked inheritance, there cannot be any females that are split. They are either normal green or yellow. If you breed a split male with a normal hen, you will have split males, normal males, yellow females and normal females. In sex-linked mutations, a split male can produce visual daughters with any female. The only similarity that these rules have with those that govern recessive mutations are that when you put two visuals together you will get 100-percent visual (yellow) offspring.

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The third most familiar mutation is the cinnamon. This is really a tan or brown mutation, but in normally green birds it shows up as varying shades of yellow that are masked by varying shades of green. Any areas that are normally black will show up as brown, tan or horn colored. This includes the toenails, beak and the tips of the flight feathers. Their eyes can be brown, ruby, pink, red or normal. Some variations of the cinnamon are given different names like "fallow" or "Isabelle." To make things even more complicated, the cinnamon mutation can be either sex linked or recessive. Only breeding experiments can determine which is the case.

The reason that there are so many mutations in cockatiels, ringnecks and lovebirds is because of constant inbreeding that knowingly or unknowingly happens when bloodlines are limited. Mutations in all birds are extremely rare in the wild. This is because of the highly varied gene pool that is available under wild conditions. As soon as you decrease genetic diversity, you increase the possibility of mutants popping up. Now that importation of new bloodlines is over, you will, over the years, start to see more mutations in birds like the conures. This will be due to the inevitable inbreeding that will take place.

*Source: © Howard Voren.*

*Howard Voren is a Psittacultural Scientist specializing in the maintenance and reproduction of Central & South American Psittacine birds. Information about Howard Voren can be found on his website*



## ZEBRA FINCH MUTATION CALCULATOR

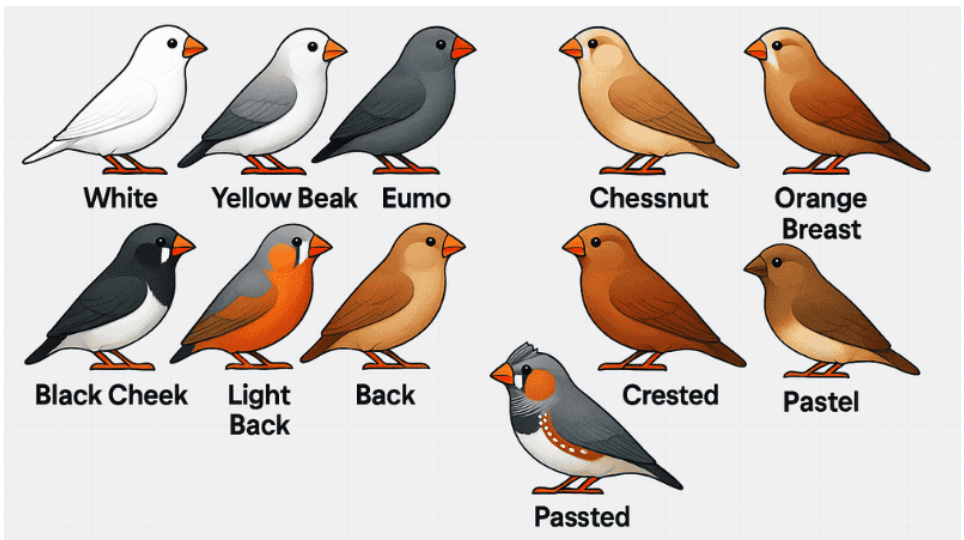
Many birds have now been bred with many colour forms and varieties, known as mutations, making them a popular choice for breeders. Understanding how these mutations are passed down can seem complicated, but they follow basic rules of genetics, similar to how traits are passed down in other animals (including humans!).

For many bird enthusiasts gaining knowledge of genetics may be daunting and therefore they may only have a basic understanding of the them. However there are now a number of “mutation calculators” available online which can make it much easier.

The following is a link to a calculator for Zebra Finch mutations together with a complete guide that provides the basics you need to know. To understand mutations.

### ***Zebra Finch Mutation Calculator Link***

<https://finchguy.com/zebra-finch-mutation-calculator/>



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# IMPORTANT NOTICES!

## NOTICE TO ALL AFFILIATES

For legal and insurance requirements, affiliates are requested to notify the Federation Secretary of changes in office bearers, public officer and delegates, also changes of the club's meeting location, email and postal address.

Notifications should be on club's letterhead or if required a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Office Bearers' Information and Privacy Provision Consent Form* is available from the Secretary.

Ron Robertson, Secretary, The Canary & cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. PO Box 230, Frenchs Forest, NSW 1640; Phone 0402 888 291: Email: [federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au](mailto:federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au)

## 2025 RING ORDERS

Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2025, but delivery time frame and cost for transshipment however, will vary.

Clubs requiring an order form to be completed, should contact the Secretary

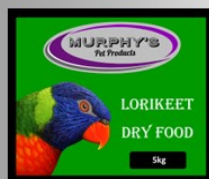
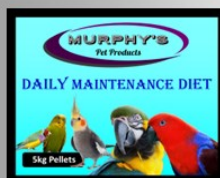
*Send in reports on your club's activities and news.*

*Feathered World is your magazine, so contributions are welcome.*

*Have you updated your club details?*

*Please send in any club detail changes, including changes of position to the secretary asap. Thank you.*

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