

# Rainbow Budgerigars

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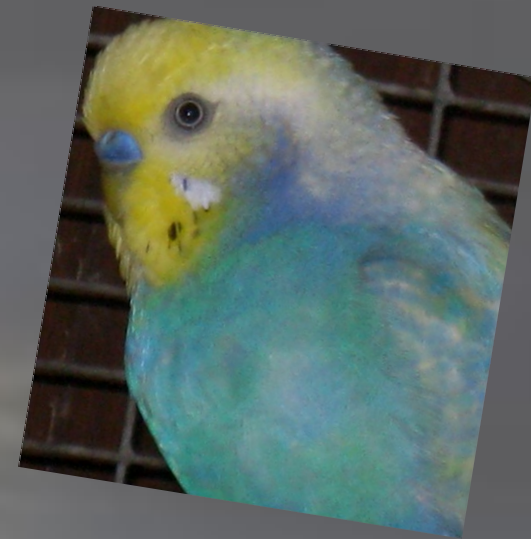
Rainbow budgies are a combination of several mutations in the blue range and therefore not an independent mutation. The name "rainbow" was first used by Keston Foreign Bird Farm who create this wonderful and colourful budgerigar. The Boosey brothers owners of the Keston Foreign Bird Farm create this bird for petshops in England.

Previously such bird have been bred in England and on the Continent, usually by change. No respected breeder at that time was interested in these birds. At the Keston farm they only used yellow-faced and goldenfaced opaline whitewing blue an cobalt. As yellow-face they practiced the Mutant 2 and as golden face they used what we know as Australian yellowface.

Today we see also visual violets and mauves. What we have to avoid are the grey birds.

On the shows they accept also the yellowface Mutant 1 but in my opinion is it better not to use this mutation. The colour of the rainbow is more attractive when we practice the Yellow face Mutant 2 and Australian yellowface birds. The last ones known as the Goldenface rainbow.

The problem with breeding rainbow's is the size of the bird. My experience tells me that finding good whitewings is very difficult because the whitewings on the continent are different from the whitewings in Australia and that are the birds we needed to breed the real rainbow. For that reason the Keston Farm imported Australian whitewings and Australian yellowfaces.



## YELLOWFACE GROUP

### **YELLOWFACE (MUTANT 1)** All varieties in the blue series

The standard will be as for all the different varieties in the blue series including grey and should conform in every respect except in the following details:

<b>General body colour:</b>	as the corresponding white face variety.
<b>Mask:</b>	lemon yellow which should extend over the frontal and crown with no more than minimal intrusion into the undulations at the back of the head. The frontal and crown should be clear and free from all markings.
<b>Markings:</b>	on cheeks, back of head, neck and wings may have a light flush of lemon yellow visible in the otherwise white areas at the edge of the markings.
<b>Tail feathers:</b>	lemon yellow overlay on the white areas of the secondary tail feathers is permissible.

### NOTE

Yellowface Mutant 1 can be bred in single and double factor form, however, the latter is white-faced. A spillage of yellow from the mask into the basic body colour should be penalised, the exception being where the yellowface character is combined with any variety which displays white plumage in the basic body or wing colour where it is permissible for spillage of yellow colour from the mask to run into the areas of white plumage.



Mutant 1



Mutant 2

**YELLOWFACE (MUTANT 2) DOUBLE FACTOR and GOLDENFACE DOUBLE FACTOR**

The standard will be as for all the different varieties in the blue series including grey and should conform in every respect except in the following details:



<b>General body colour:</b>	as the corresponding white face variety.
<b>Mask:</b>	buttercup yellow which should extend over the frontal and crown (a deeper yellow in the case of the Goldenface version) which will continue through the otherwise white areas of the undulations at the back of the head. The frontal and crown must be clear and free from all markings.
<b>Markings:</b>	on cheeks, back of head, neck and wings may have a light flush of yellow visible in the otherwise white areas at the edge of the markings.
<b>Tail feathers:</b>	a deep yellow overlay on the otherwise white areas of the secondary tail feathers.

**NOTE**

Yellowface Mutant 2 and Goldenface can be bred in single factor forms but it is desirable that only the double factor forms are exhibited as unavoidable confusion can be caused with single factor examples due to the heavily increased suffusion of yellow into the body colour which distorts the basic blue to green/blue shade.

Spillage of yellow colour from the mask in Yellowface Mutant 2 double factor and Goldenface double factor is permissible but should be no more than minimal and confined to the area of the body adjacent to the bottom edge of the mask.

**RAINBOW** (composite Opaline Whitewing Yellowface/Goldenface Blue series)

The standard will be as for the Opaline Whitewing Skyblue, Cobalt, Mauve, Violet or Grey except for the following details:

The expression of yellow coloration will vary dependent upon which of the yellowface mutations is visibly present in each case, ie Yellowface Mutant 1 will be lemon yellow, Yellowface Mutant 2 double factor will be buttercup yellow and Goldenface double factor will be deeper yellow. The otherwise white areas of the mask, frontal, crown and the very faintly discernible undulations at the back of the head will be in the shade of yellow coloration appropriate to the Yellowface mutant form.



<b>Markings:</b>	on cheeks, back of head and neck will have a light flush of the appropriate shade of yellow visible on the otherwise white areas at the edge of the markings.
<b>Wings:</b>	may have a very light flush of the appropriate shade of yellow visible on the otherwise white areas at the edge of minimal body colour markings.
<b>Primary wing flights:</b>	grey/white.
<b>Primary tail feathers:</b>	white.
<b>Secondary tail feathers:</b>	blueish/grey at the tip, an overlay of the appropriate shade of yellow on the otherwise white areas is permissible.

**NOTE**

The notes for the above Yellowface and Goldenface mutations regarding the single factor and double factor should also be applied to the written standard for the Rainbow variety.

The Rainbow is not a proper example of the variety unless it is visibly an Opaline, a Whitewing, a Yellowface or Goldenface.

## Which birds can we use to start the breeding of rainbow's ?

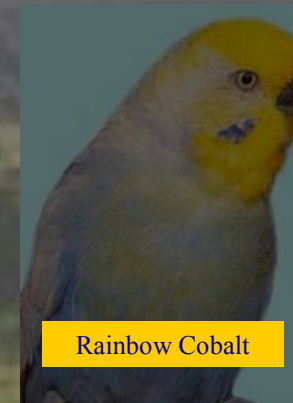
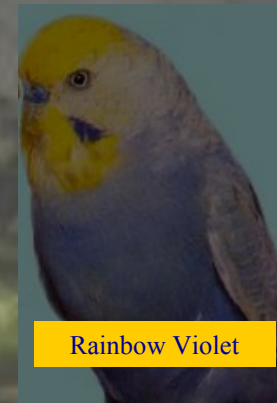
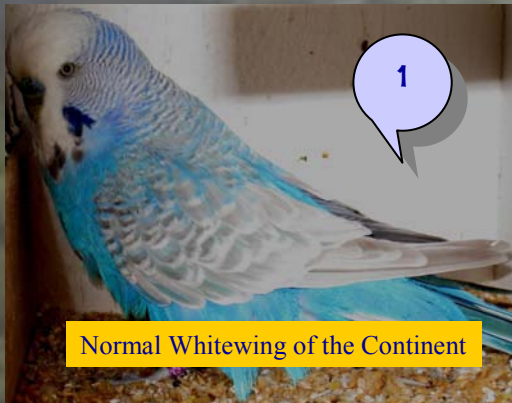
1. We need (opaline) whitewings, here we have the choice between the whitewing of the Continent (1) or the whitewing from Australia (2) (see pictures 1 and 2).
2. We need yellowfaces, we have the choice between Mutant 1, Mutant 2 and Australian yellowface
3. We need (opaline) cobalt or violet or skyblue or mauve

## Summarized

To become rainbow budgerigars we need \*

- \*opaline
- \*whitewing
- \*yellowface
- \*cobalt or one of the other colours

Remember that we have the choice to combine the opaline to the whitewing or to the cobalt and very important which whitewing and yellowface are we going to use. The results are ALL rainbow's but visual with a different colour.  
I prefer the combination of Australian whitewing, opaline cobalt (1 darkfactor) or opaline violet, Australian yellowface.



By breeding rainbow's as a breeder we combine two recessive varieties, one of the (yellowface)blues and one of the Whitewing, an incomplete Dominant (Dark factor + Violet factor) and a sex-linked (the Opaline).

To start breeding them you have two options : 1. you buy a pair of visual rainbow's

2. you buy one rainbow and one split bird with a better format.

In the last case you have to be careful to know what kind of split you are buying. Don't buy a bird who is split for Grey, Cinnamon, Lacewing, Fallow,Ino, Spangle, Rec.Pied or a bird who is already Dominant Pied.

Breeding Rainbow's is facinating you will be surprised of the colours you will find in one nest and at the same time learning a lot about genetics.

