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NOTE : the final date for submission of articles for publication in the January 2004 edition of the Variegated Post is *30th January 2004*
Anything received after this date may not be able to be included in that issue.

The Colour Cover Drawing was provided by Eric Peake from an original drawing which was donated to the VBC in 2000.

**Please Note Subscriptions for 2004
are Due 1st January 2004 – Due to
Doncaster not being held this year –
please send Subscriptions to the
Subscriptions Secretary by Post!**

Ad - Fielding

THE VARIEGATED BUDGERIGAR CLUB
Founded : 1969
Associate Member of the Budgerigar Society
Affiliated to the N.C.A.

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President Elect : Mrs S. Clarke
Chairman : Mr W.Green.
Vice Chairman : Mr G.Capes.

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Trophy Steward : Vacant at Present time

Publicity Officer: Mr I.Fielding
Tel: 01704 548327

Ad - Mathie

Officials of the V.B.C. 2002-2003

Honorary Life Members.

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Area Group Organisers.

Southern Area:

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Glasgow. G62 7AS.
Tel: 0141 956 1579

East Midlands:

Vacant at present time
Anyone interested to contact the
General Secretary as soon as possible

North West Area:

Vacant at present time
Anyone interested to contact the
General Secretary as soon as possible

North East:

Vacant at present time
Anyone interested to contact the
General Secretary as soon as possible

Wales

Vacant at present time
Anyone interested to contact the
General Secretary as soon as possible

TROPHY STEWARD REQUIRED.

Due to changes in his Personal Circumstances our Trophy Steward has been forced to resign from this position. So we need a Volunteer for this position in the Society.

**Main Roles are to allocate the Club's Trophies at the Specialist & Rare Variety Open Show (Coventry), and VBC/BS Club Show (Doncaster),
Notify existing holder of the trophies to return them.
And generally maintain the Trophies in a suitable condition.**

**Anyone interested in this position please contact the
General Secretary
Tel: 01704 548327
Email: i.fielding@blueyonder.co.uk**

Presidential Message – by Dougie Mathie

This has been an unfortunate year for everyone, with all the shows throughout the country being cancelled. There has been much written in the fancy press questioning the decisions made by the Budgerigar Society. Those members, who have written and complained, have had the benefit of hindsight, which we all know is the perfect science, alas the B.S.officials did not have this privilege.

My personal view is that the B.S. were correct in the steps they took and that no matter their decision, they were in a no win situation regarding certain members.

It is unfortunate that this year we have not seen any of the excellent peds which have graced the show bench in recent times, many winning major specials at the top shows. I hope that 2004 will be an excellent show year for all V.B.C.members.

On behalf of all members I would like to take this opportunity to thank our office bearers for all their hard work throughout the past year, for without this enthusiasm the V.B.C. would cease to exist.

I would ask you all to support them by attending the A.G.M in April, details of which are contained within this magazine.

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year. Also may you all have a successful breeding season.

Regards

Douglas Mathie

Advert Yearbook

Editorial

by Ian Fielding.

Well, what an odd Year – we started with an enjoyable AGM in April – with the Pied Show bringing some excellent Birds from around the UK together, probably for the only time in 2003.

As you all know soon after this we found out that the Budgerigar Society had advised that Shows should not be hold and withdrew patronage etc. This is aimed at controlling the spread of the Viral infection in some budgerigars in the UK.

As Secretary I contacted all the relevant Committee Members of the VBC and we decided that we needed to stay in line with the B.S. Guidelines and asked Societies who had affiliated with us to hold back their Patronage until 2004.

So, Breeders re-pairing birds together – family life being somewhat altered to that of a normal Budgerigar Exhibiting household the compound effect will be when the problems have ceased to exist and we come back to organising shows etc. Lets hope the main workers in the fancy will still feel enthusiastic to come back with a vengeance and make them a success – this of course depends on Breeders being prepared to come back out and support these shows.

As you will see from the contents of this magazine we have had little input from you the members in the form of Articles etc – thanks go to Roy Drage from Stoke on Trent – who supplied me an article nearly 12 months ago – and as the February VP was filled, I have used this now – I await an update from him on his birds.

So – as we have not been able to Discuss birds as easily as normally –please let me have some word of wisdom in time for the next VP – and lets hope we have some good news by then regarding the Show Season in 2004.

Please e-mail with your comments! i.fielding@blueyonder.co.uk

Yours

Ian Fielding.

Dates for Your Diary

Committee Meetings in 2003/2004

Sunday April 4th 2003 – 13th Coventry Scout Hall, Parkville Highway, Coventry.

10.00am until 12.30pm

(Prior to A.G.M at 1.00pm)

V.B.C. - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

Sunday April 4th 2004

Starts 1.00pm (usually 1-1½ hours)

13th Coventry Scout Hall, Parkville Highway, Coventry

Lunch will be available from 12.30pm

Also Pied Show of Great Britain

(depending on Health Situation and Guidelines from the B.S.)

The be held on the morning of the AGM – Judge D. Mathie

Schedules and details in February 2004 Varigated Post

Will non-committee members requiring lunch please let the

General Secretary know 1 week prior to the AGM to allow for extra refreshments.

**Please try to attend – This is the only time when members can voice their feelings about society issues;
whether good or bad.**

Ad - Fancier Trade Stand

PATRONAGE 2003.

As a result of the Budgerigar virus all patronage for 2003 was suspended. All the societies have been instructed to keep their patronage packs for use in 2004. A list of all 2004 show dates will be published in the yearbook.

Pat Fielding.

Ad - Stiling

The plight of a pied budgie

*I'm a young pied budgie from the Northwest
Ready for showing and looking my best
My master came in looking all sad
Looking at his face it's something quite bad.*

*My master he's thrown me back in the flight
I tried to resist him with all of my might
I'm not leaving this cage if it is in my power
I'll certainly miss my twice daily shower*

*I don't know what I have done to deserve this plight
All I know I don't want to be in the flight
I'm all confused by his change of mind
I always believed my master was kind*

*I want to go out to shows every week
A simple rosette is all I seek
I was looking forward to strutting my stuff
Even though I know competing is tough.*

*I heard the master and mistress talking last night
I now know the reason I'm back in the flight
A new budgie virus is sweeping the land
They've cancelled all shows and visitors are banned.*

*Instead of out showing I'm here in this flight
I'm already starting to look quite a sight
I've broken some feathers down there on my tail
It doesn't matter though as I'm not for sale.*

*I know I will find a mate the older I get
That split recessive hen I'd like to bet
It's something to look forward to in a year that seems bleak*

You think I am moaning – oh what a cheek!

*My tale of woe is almost been told
I'm usually quite timid never this bold
Things will get better I don't have to worry
I only wish they would jolly well hurry.*

Ring No. IF1 012/2003

This is a modification of a poem written by LF534 002/2003 in June 2003 and published on the LCNWBS website. It has been reproduced and modified for the Variegated Post September 2003.

Ad – Al Nasser

Odd Pies

By Roy Drage of Stoke on Trent

I have always bred Dominant Pies in the blue and green series, some with yellow face.

This last year (2002) I paired a Mauve Yellow face Dominant Pied cock to an Opaline Greygreen/blue hen, both these birds I had bred. This pairing I expected to breed a few violets as I have done many times before, but instead of Violets I bred dilutes. I have never had a visual dilute in my aviary, I am told that I must have purchased a cock bird which had



been split or carrying the dilute factor, and over the years of Pairing Grandfather to Granddaughter, I must have paired two birds which were split or carrying dilute. I have checked my records but found nothing to tell



me how these dilutes came to be in my stud in the first place, and I have no way of telling how many or which birds are carrying the dilute factor.

I have asked a lot of fanciers about the NORMAL brothers and sisters of these dilutes, some say they are all split, others say only some are carrying dilute factor and the only way of finding out is by test pairing.

My budgie friends Alison and Emma Smith in Tenambit, Australia are guessing what colours I will produce, I have paired a Dilute Yellow face Mauve Dominant Pied hen to a Light Green/blue cock, the dilute being white in colour, I have no idea what colours I will produce - perhaps any fanciers reading this article will write to myself or Ian with your comments? I must say I took these two sisters to four Open Shows, just to gain interest and knowledge as they were a NEW challenge to me, and two judges at the Potteries Open Show wrong classed them - one saying it was a Yellow Face Spangle and Spangle I have never had in my shed, so you see I would like some HELP.

IMPORTANT

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE V.B.C SHOULD BE SENT TO THE CORRECT OFFICIAL CONCERNED.

Subscriptions, Orders for VBC Badges, etc. should be sent to the Subscriptions Secretary : Mr A.W.Taylor. 3 Green Park Drive, Maghull, Liverpool. L31 8EN. Tel: 0151 526 0866

Note ; Replies and receipts will only be sent directly when an S.A.E. is enclosed - otherwise you will receive them with your next VP.

Patronage Enquiries, should be sent to Mrs P.Fielding, 16 Pilkington Road. Southport. Merseyside. PR8 6PD. Tel:01704 548327.

Items for the Agenda at the A.G.M. and queries about Society issues : should be sent to Mr Ian Fielding, 16 Pilkington Road. Southport. Merseyside. PR8 6PD. Tel:01704 548327.

Items for inclusion in the V.P. should be sent to the Editor, Ian Fielding, Address and Tel. No. as above.

Strange Breedings, by I & P Fielding.

This year we have bred a good number of birds - Pat herself has bought some separate stock in to be able to Breed more normal colours and gain some interest in these for future breeding and showing, instead of the stud being mainly devoted to the Recessive Pies.

This being said she has purchased a number of Normals, Opalines, a Couple of Spangle Cocks and a Spangle Hen which she won at the

Specialist & Rare Variety Open Show in 2002.

The Pairing of two of the Spangles together to produce a number of double factors etc. turned out to produce a very strange pair of young birds, they appeared at Barheads as Dominant Pies,

but have not since developed an Iris in the eye which would confirm this - the only colour we presume these could be have been recessive - but in a dilute form.



The breeders of both the parents are known to have bred dilutes - but to our knowledge these birds have not come from any Recessive Pied lines. Again maybe a case of underlying Genes from



pairings some years ago.

We have kept one of the young as it is a good quality bird - mainly out of curiosity, this will next year be test paired to both recessive Pied and Split recessive Pied birds - to see what comes out - we will keep you informed.

THE VARIEGATED POST & YEAR BOOK

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	All 3 issues	2 issues	1 issue
FULL PAGE -	£25.00	£17.50	£10.00
HALF PAGE -	£15.00	£10.00	£ 7.50

For your advertisement to appear in the next issue, please send a clear copy of your advertisement together with appropriate fees to the EDITOR as soon as possible.

THE PAST REVISITED.

The First article was first published in the July 1976 Variegated Post and the second in January 1977. Both give an insight into how fanciers thought 20 years ago as well as a little bit of history on the Australian Dominant Pied and Recessive Pied.

THE AUSTRALIAN DOMINANT PIED.

By the Experimental Officer (A Fullilove)

This is undoubtedly the most popular variety of Pied kept by V.B.C. members, and little wonder; it is straight forward in inheritance, being a simple Dominant so that paired to a Normal, one can expect a 50% chance of producing Dominant Pied offspring. It also carries over size and type well to progeny from good stock so that it is no surprise that they win the majority of awards for PIEDS at the shows. Most Australian Dominant PIEDS have good colour contrast between the Green (or Blue) body colour and the Yellow (or White) wing and tail flights so that they always prove an arresting sight in any aviary and visitors who have never seen them before nearly always pick them out for comment, from amongst their Normal brothers and sisters. All in all it is an ideal variety for the beginner with Budgies, especially if used with the Normal type birds, The first Dominant PIEDS, as C.H. Rogers tells us, appeared in Australia in 1956 and there is little doubt that all Australian PIEDS in the world came from this original mutant. It took a long time to develop in numbers in that country and it was not until after the end of World War II that it began to attract notice and a specialist society was formed for them," down under" By that time there was an embargo on the import of birds from Australia so that Australian Dominant PIEDS were more or less confined to their own land.

However, as we all know to our cost, rules are made to be broken at some time or other, and as the smuggling of birds in and out of Australia had 'gone on for years, some Australian PIEDS were bound to turn up sometime in this country,

and so it proved. In the early fifties a budgie breeder from South Wales was visiting a pet store at Bristol when he saw a pair of what looked like poorly coloured Recessive Pieds for sale, and as he wanted some, he bought them. One of them died, but the other which was a light yellow masking the pied character went on to produce the first Australian Dominant Pieds in this country. However, they were not recognised by their owner as such who considered them merely mismarked Recessive Pieds. But more Knowledgeable fanciers who visited him bought them from him at low prices and then capitalised on them so that they were often sold at £50 a pair or more by 1960, However, they bred so well that a few years later they were often £5 or less each and most are still around this price in spite of inflation.

From the first there had always been controversy about the ideal markings of the Australian Dominant Pied. In Australia there had been a great emphasis on the clear band that goes around the chest area and birds showing this trait have been the ones that mattered. In this country we are rather less struck with this feature due to the impossibility of keeping this band neat and constant in appearance. Broken colour above or below this band nearly always appears in Pied Progeny even from well banded parents and some times no band at all so that many of our leading 17 Pied exhibitors feel rather more than frustrated with this aspect of things !

Most aim for a reasonable clear area around the chest that is not necessarily continuous and for a clean even wing blaze and limited head spot. I say, limited because it often happens that if the clear area around the head gets too large, it has the unfortunate effect of masking out the throat spots and hereby cutting considerably the bird's exhibition potential. Some breeders consider that this trouble arose because some one crossed Australian Pieds with Recessive Pieds too early in its history with the result that we now have throat-spotless birds, but this is not the only cause or even the main one. This is more likely due to the fact that like the body-band, the pied character by its very nature must always vary in its position in the genetical chain and where it falls, it must

mask out. It is very much a "hit and miss" affair and no amount of selective breeding can overcome it completely, although some strains do appear to be better than others in keeping most of the bird's throat spots intact. If one avoids acquiring birds with most spots missing, one has done ones best with regard to this feature,

With regard to other things like colour of beak, feet and cheek flashes, these also vary but fortunately these are not vital for exhibition purposes. Some birds have horn-coloured beaks while most have orange ones and others have pink feet but some have a grey-pink mix due to the operation of the same variegated character. Most breeders would like to see their birds sporting the usual violet cheek flashes as with normals but many have to be content with a violet-white mix or white only.

Pied are undoubtedly at their best when paired with Normal-type birds in the straight colours. All three shades of birds in the blue and green series are acceptable together with the grey, violet and yellowface character as required. All have some contribution to make towards producing birds that show vivid colour contrast between body-colour and clear areas with the right proportion of both. Opaline Pieds are also about in good numbers and these also make attractive birds but produce problems of their own if one has too many of them compared with Normal-type Pieds. All other varieties, should be ignored by the serious exhibitor as they are nearly always at a disadvantage on the show bench, although these can be fun for the experimental colour breeder who knows what he or she is doing, but this is something else again

This, then, is the Australian Dominant Pied, One of the most beautiful varieties of Budgerigar ever to delight the eyes of fanciers everywhere and one that will remain a firm favourite within the V.B.C. for years to come.

A.P.

RECESSIVE PIEDS

By the Experimental Officer (A Fullilove)

After the Australian Dominant Pied, the Danish Recessive pied is the next most popular variety of Pied kept by VBC members and here again we need not wonder why this variety is so popular with us. There is little doubt that Recessive Pies are the most colourful of all budgerigars, putting all other varieties in the shade by the intensive hue of their body colour contrasting with the clear area and the black markings making an excellent foil for both. This creates an immediate effect on the eye when we see them flying about amongst normal type birds in the aviary. Many an established fancier know the “draw” they provide for lay visitors who would have otherwise had ordinary (to them) Greens and Blues to look at.

The first Recessive Pies appeared in Finland in 1934 but were handed to the well known zoologist C. Af. Enehjem of Helsinki zoo who studied them and developed their numbers in Denmark where he was resident. It was he who discovered the recessive mode of inheritance and established them as a variety. Unfortunately war came before very much was known about them outside Denmark. After the war, interest in them was reactivated and the first birds were imported here in 1948.

These first birds were received by C H Rogers who, as an authority on budgies, was able to exercise strict control when breeding with them. He was able to study their varied appearance in detail over several generations. The fancy owe him a great debt in this respect as this meant that breeders with Danish Pies were provided with the essential information needed to develop them properly at an early stage and thus these birds are just as colourful and distinctive as when they first appeared in this country.

There is little doubt they would have been even more popular in the fancy if it had proved possible to get them of good size and substance comparable to the best Normals in quick time but this has proved impossible (Don't forget this was written in 1977. I wonder what the Author would make of the type of birds bred today). When they first appeared they were of the spindly weedy type with

small heads and jutting beaks, with only their bright colours to commend them. However, some breeders persevered with them over the years and by 1960 the Recessive Pied was changed, if not quite beyond recognition, at least for the better. It had certainly improved in type and substance albeit it still falls short of the best normals as they too, had further improved, over the years.

Nevertheless, there has been some recessive Pieds bred that have proved outstanding and on some occasions they have beaten the Dominant Pieds for the best pied award.

In appearance they are the reverse of the Australian dominant pied having their clear areas around the head, chest and back with the body colour usually confined to the lower half and rump area. In many cases it is the extent and arrangement of the black melamine markings that make all the difference to their appearance. Heavily or lightly marked birds are not so striking as those who have just the right amount in the right places around the head or on the wings. In general cock birds are better marked than hens which tend to be less suitable for exhibition, but on the other hand many cocks are too lightly marked, some showing a polka dot pattern. However this makes no difference to their ability to produce ideally marked birds as well as birds like themselves. As we try further to improve in size, we tend to get a higher proportion of heavily marked birds with less clear areas as to almost get near to normal in appearance so that we then realise we are approaching the limit beyond which it would be pointless to go. The same could be said of their head qualities as few can measure up to the exaggerated fullness demanded by the B.S, ideal portrait and probably just as well as this would be sadly out of proportion to their build and colouring.

Many Recessive Pieds do not have throat spots and allowance is made for this has been made in the BS standard, but most breeders like to see all six of them visible, even if they are only of pinhead size, which most are. It is certainly worth trying to get such birds to start off with if one can.

As with the Australian variety, Recessives are best in the straight colours, and other varieties such as Opaline, Cinnamon etc., are best eschewed. Green and blue series in their respective three shades are best with the violet and yellowface characters added as required all make for a colourful collection of outstanding beauty and contrast. The Grey (and Grey green) character, unlike its effect on dominants, do not show to advantage with Recessives.

The chief identifying mark of the recessive pied are its solid looking eye with no white iris ring as all other budgies have. This is important as one can have a bird practically alike to a recessive pied in appearance and colouring and yet have normal eyes. These are usually mismarked Continental Clearflights with recessive backgrounds, but some Australian Pies also take on a Recessive pied character, confound them!

It is usual and best to buy Recessive Pies as matched pairs consisting of pied cock and Normal hen carrying the pied character in hidden form, the latter having been bred from one pied parent. Pied X Pied matings are always best avoided and often one has to pair Pied to Normal to produce good quality 'split' Pies to pair back to unrelated Pies the following season. Otherwise the regular use of the Pied and normal 'split' for pied from ones own stock is advocated. Done this way, one can be assured of producing Recessive Pies of consistent colour and quantity that should be a credit to you for both show bench and aviary.

New VBC merchandise!

As you will have read earlier - we now have VBC Mugs!



These are in full colour, with the Club Colour Logo - drawn by Eric Peake - These are available from the General Secretary at a cost of £4.50 incl P&P in the UK, and £5.50 (10 euros) incl P&P rest of world. ***NOTE: - these are not Dishwasher Proof!***

See a colour picture of these on the VBC Website -

www.variegatedbc.co.uk

We also now have our own VBC Pied Breeding registers, these will take up to 26 Pairs and are colour coded to the UK Colour of Rings for the particular year. These are £1.50 incl P&P.

See these at the VBC Stand at the Specialist & Rare Variety Show and the VBC/BS Club Show.

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Ad - Ward

Variegated Budgerigar Club.

- a progressive Society to cater for the real needs of all Breeders and Exhibitors of Pied Budgerigars.

Membership Fees:	Single	£7.00
	Partnerships	£10.00
	Husband & Wife	£9.00
	Senior Citizen	£5.00
	Disabled Members	£5.00
	Juniors	Free – <i>but Juniors must register their intention to be a member with the Subscriptions Secretary each year.</i>

Life Membership 20 times ordinary fee.

Handbooks £3.00 plus postage

Club Badge £1.25 Plus Postage

Please enclose an S.A.E. at all times, except for Handbooks. Please make cheque/P.O./Drafts payable to:

VARIEGATED BUDGERIGAR CLUB.

Fees must accompany application to the Subscriptions Secretary:

Mr A.W. Taylor. 3 Green Park Drive, Maghull, Liverpool. L31 8EN. Tel 0151 526 0866

=====

APPLICATION FORM

Please enrol/renew me as a Member of the V.B.C.

for which I enclose £ . p in Sterling only.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

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Notes