

SLATES : Information page

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The first documented budgerigar literature about Slate mutation appears in 1935 by T.S. Bowman who bred a Skyblue and a Cobalt Slate from a Cobalt cock and a Skyblue hen. Those first Slates were both hens.

Now a days we know that Slate mutation is a sex-linked recessive. So the Bowman's cock must be split Slate.

Mr.Bowman also paired a Cobalt/slate cock to a Light Yellow hen and produced Light Green Slates and a Dark Green Slate.

In 1958 he paired a Slate to Cinnamon but no report was given.

However in 1939 Mr. Rodewicki and Mr.Trevallion produced a Cinnamon Slate Cobalt/dilute hen.

It was in 1950 Slates were reported in Opaline and Normal Slate seems to be vanished. Until 1962 Mr.Fullilove reported Non-Opaline Slates again. The rest of the story is well-known and a lot of credit must be given to Mr.Cyril Rogers.

Now a days a lot of people are thinking to produce a Black budgerigar but so far without success. Breeders combine Slates with Violets and other mutations such as Darkfactor birds. Personally I think that this is a possibility to create a nearley Black budgie (not only the body) .What we needed is the Blackface budgerigar to create a black budgie, mask included. Problem is that this bird is lost for the fancy. Perhaps one day, and I hope in my life time, someone will breed a black budgerigar.

Genetics

Slate can be bred in three depths of shade in both blue and green series.

For myself I bred Slates in Blue and Green series, Dominant pied and Recessive pied. A friend of mine in Yellowface.





The Slate mutation is sex-linked, the locus of its gene being carried on the x-chromosome. It is recessive to the wild-type. The gene locus has the symbol sl . Notice that hens cannot be split for slate.





Slate Dominant Pied



Slate left / Anthracite right