

Keeping scarlets and there mutations

I've been keeping scarlet chested parrots now for over 20 years. As much as the normal bird is striking and beautiful, there is something about keeping mutations and working with new colours that is very exciting.

My first mutations in scarlets was the red fronted birds. These are very similar to the normal bird but instead of the yellow belly of the normal this is replaced by red, as strong as the chest in the right birds, this mutation is a colour modification meaning you cannot have any splits and there is no guarantee that the mutation will pass on. The first major mutations in scarlets were the parblue, seagreen and whitefronted birds, which are all recessive inherited. As development of the whitefronted involved both the seagreen and parblue combinations, you were never sure of what you were going to get in the way of colours. Which is one of the main attractions of keeping mutations. It's the thrill of trying to develop a colour and trying to pre-empt what that colour will look like before you actually get the bird on the perch. As the name suggests the blue birds lack green pigmentation as well as reds and yellow. Giving you a bird in the males with a beautiful white chest and blue back. In the Par blue this mutation basically only takes out half of those colours giving it a washed blue green colour on the back. In the seagreen the bird is almost a step before the par blue, still giving you a dull yellow belly and washed out salmon chest. (One of my favourites).

Khaki was one of the next mutations to pop up. This mutation makes the bird a darker colour. It took a long time to develop as people weren't sure exactly what they had. This mutation is dominant in inheritance and you can get single and double factor birds. Single factor birds only look a little darker than normal and can prove very hard to tell the difference. Double factor birds are almost an olive colour, changing the green to a dark khaki olive colour. When combined with the blue birds you get a grey looking bird. During this time what was once called Isabel or latter to be renamed ashen fallow was beginning to be breed in good numbers and crossed with the blue series birds. This mutation is red eyed and recessive in inheritance. It gives the bird an overall duller colour. This mutation was overshadowed by the development of the pastel which is a more striking bird and stronger genes when first breed.

Pastel was an exciting time for scarlets as this is a recessive mutations that no one else in the world has but us in Australia. This made the overall colour lighter in the bird. So the dark green body becomes a bright light green, or in blue becomes a bright light silver looking blue. Pastel seagreen would have to be one of my favourites with the light salmon chest and bright light green body.

Then a few years ago we had another mutation which is domain in inheritance come on the scene. This was marketed as a violet. But with proper breeding results with double factor birds this turned out to be an olive. So as is seen in the turquises you have "jade" which is on dark factor or as it should be called dark green. When in a single factor like this the blue in the birds looks like a violet colour (bright). But when in double factor Olive the blue turns a silver grey colour and the overall body colures goes a deep olive to brown. If this was a true violet then in double factor the green would of become darker and brighter and the blue in the face and wings deeper and brighter. When this mutation was combined with the white fronted blue. The single factor birds looked for every part a violet colour, but we now know its cobalt, and the double factor birds went a grey colour or mauve.

Over the years a fallow mutation being referred to as the lewizua fallow has been breed. This mutation is red eyed and recessive but breeding results have never been strong . Making it hard to

develop. It makes the overall colour lighter but with a silver wash over the whole body. A very striking bird especially when seen in full sun light. There are also some other mutations being developed in this country like cinnamon and pied. With rumours of opaline and lutino also about mutation breeding in scarlets is looking very exciting. The development of a new mutation or the multiply combinations which can be created is exciting for the keeping of this aussie gem.

Red fronted scarlet cock k



Pair of White Fronted blue scarlets, cock on the left



Khaki seagreen cock, olive cock, Pastel seagreen hen



Pastel Seagreen Cock



Pastel White Fronted Cock

