

United Budgerigar Society Inc.



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The following information is extracted from an article written by English breeder and International Judge **Ghalib Al-Nasser**.

What are They?

Dark-Eyed Clears, from their name, are budgerigars of clear yellow or white, free from any markings and colour pigmentation. This purity of colour covers the entire body and wings. They resemble the Lutinos and Albinos except in the eye. They share a common ground with Recessive Pieds, insofar as they have the solid black eye without the white iris ring; hence at times they are referred to as a "Black-Eyed Clears". Like the Lutino and Albino the DEC can mask any colour. For instance, a Yellow DEC could be in fact, an Olive Green DEC or a Light Green DEC. The shade of yellow in this case will be deeper and richer in the Olive than in that of the Light Green.

Records of their origin are rather scarce. They seem to have originated in Belgium about 1948, and a couple of years later in Denmark too. A breeder found these colours appearing in his aviary. He had at the time, the dominant Continental Clearflights and Danish Recessive Pieds breeding on the colony system.

The appearance of those DEC's caused some confusion, in the genetical sense, as to why two different type of pided, one dominant and one recessive, should produce a bird free from any colour pigmentation as are the Redeyes, Lutinos and Albinos. Therefore, it is in order to describe them as a synthetic colour or man-made colour resulting from the mixing of two different forms of Pieds.



Genetics

It took a while to understand the gene that controlled their production and by the fifties they were popular, as were the Continental Clearflights. It was found that when pairing a Clearflight with a recessive Pied, half of the young would be Clearflights and the other half Normals, with all the young split for Recessive Pied. It was also found that by mating a Clearflight split for Recessive Pied back to a Recessive Pied, a certain percentage of the young will be DEC. These Clears are not really Pies in appearance but are the Recessive Pied form of the Continental Clearflight, or more concisely "Clearflighted Recessive Pied".

It took me a while to understand their genetical breeding behaviour as written material on them was rather scarce. Those DEC's are in fact, birds that carry in their genetical make-up, one dominant gene (gene for Clearflight) and two recessive genes (genes for the Recessive Pied). Depending on which partner they are paired with, one type of gene will predominate and various varieties will be produced.

For example, if a DEC is paired to a Recessive Pied, then the recessive genes will act and the pairing will be as pairing two birds of recessive genes or two Recessive Pies together. This type of pairing will produce DEC's and Recessive Pies of equal numbers, theoretically.

The confusion arises when pairing a DEC with a normal (non-pied or split for Recessive Pied); we then produce the Clearflights. In this pairing we will not produce DEC's even though we started with one. In fact, the pairing will produce Clearflights and normals all split for Recessive Pied. What happens in this type of pairing is that the dominant Clearflight gene will act and the pairing is just like a Dominant Pied to a normal. Because the DEC had two recessive genes in hidden form, then these genes will continue to be present in the progeny in a hidden form as well, hence all the progeny will be split for Recessive Pied.

Yet, when pairing a DEC with a Clearflight split Recessive Pied, the dominant gene on both sides will act and the pairing is similar to Dominant Pied × Dominant Pied. This pairing will produce DEC, Clearflight and normal; both of the latter being split for Recessive Pied because of the recessive genes of the DEC, and because of the presence of the recessive gene on both sides, Recessive Pies will appear as well.

It is interesting to see how the dominant and recessive genes of the DEC act depending on the partner. Because of the presence of a dominant gene in the DEC make-up, this gene can be present in a single or double dosage, visually both alike. The Pied genes act by eliminating the pigment melanin from the Pied patches. It seems that neither the recessive nor the dominant Pied genes can on their own, eliminate all the pigment, but two recessive and one dominant are sufficient to give complete elimination.

If you are not already confused with the genetics then perhaps the table of expectations below will assist in understanding the intermingling of the three varieties with each other.

The table below shows the various types of pairings that can be used to produce the DEC.

In 1988 I paired the best of the two DEC cocks that I had acquired, with one of my best Recessive

Pied hens. That pair produced three White DEC hens and some Recessive Pieds. Again, using the best of those hens back to one of my best Recessive Pied cocks the following year, produced three Yellow DEC cocks, one of which I mentioned above. Now the quality of those DEC's are such that I use them with Recessive Pieds instead of splits as partners. In this way there is no production of inferior quality splits and therefore, no wastage.

There is great scope for the Recessive Pied breeder in taking up breeding DEC's, as there is no wastage with them. They are exhibited in the same class as the Recessive. Pied. With understanding and appreciation by the judges, they did win CC's allocated to them in conjunction with the Recessive Pied, in the early- and mid-90s.

Expectation Table

Pairing	Expectation
Clearflighted (sf) × Recessive Pied	50% Clearflighted/Recessive Pied 50% Normal/Recessive Pied
Clearflighted (sf)/Recessive Pied × Recessive Pied	25% Recessive Pied 25% Normal/Recessive Pied 25% Clearflighted (sf)/Recessive Pied 25% Dark-eyed Clears
Clearflighted(df) × Recessive pied	100% Clearflighted (sf)/Recessive Pied
Dark-eyed Clear × Recessive Pied	50% Dark-eyed Clear 50% Recessive Pied
Dark-eyed Clear (sf) × Dark-eyed Clear (sf)	50% Dark-eyed Clear (sf) 25% Recessive Pied 25% Dark-eyed Clear (df)
Dark-eyed Clear (sf) × Clearflighted (df)	50% Dark-eyed Clear (sf) 50% Dark-eyed Clear (df)
Dark-eyed Clear (sf) × dec (df)/Recessive Pied	25% Dark-eyed Clear (sf) 25% Dark-eyed Clear (df)
	25% Clearflighted (sf)/Recessive Pied 25% Clearflighted (df)/Recessive Pied
Dark-eyed Clear (sf) × Clearflighted (df)/Recessive Pied	12.5% Dark-eyed Clear (df) 25% Dark-eyed Clear (sf) 12.5% Recessive Pied 12.5% Clearflighted (df)/Recessive Pied 25% Clearflighted (sf)/Recessive Pied 12.5% Normal/Recessive Pied

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