

New colours and the Gloster

I REFER to the debate to which Paul Burnett contributed in his letter of February 21. With any debate, we all should have an informed choice, then let individuals decide.

As a Gloster fancy canary breeder I have always tried to remain a guardian of the breed, to safeguard the purity of the Gloster. I've set out my views and concerns, respectful that I do not know all Gloster breeders and they do not know me, but we all share a dedication and a daily commitment to our birds. That's what unites us all in a common interest. I am full of admiration and respectful at all times towards fellow aviculturists and breed societies.

In his letter, Mr Burnett wrote: "Nobody has the right to tell individual fanciers what they should or should not keep" and provided it is within the law, I absolutely agree.

Earlier in his letter, Mr Burnett wrote: "The Gloster canary did not exist. Thankfully, though, the vision to create it did." To encompass this vision, Mrs

Rogerson, the creator of the Glosters, with the co-operation of Mr AW Smith, compiled the fundamentals of her image of the Gloster fancy canary, in the form of a breed standard of excellence, show classifications and pictorials. Mrs Rogerson's vision for the Gloster did not include any of the proposed new colours because these domestic colour mutations were not present at the time of the conception of the breed.

In response to comments regarding traces of other breeds of birds within the bloodlines of our latter-day Glosters, I would point out that Mrs Rogerson documented that the breed makeup was a blend of canaries (*Serinus canaria*), selected for their various different traits. Therefore, all DNA markers for Glosters today would have a confirmed DNA profile for canary (*Serinus canaria*) only.

However, the new colour varieties, based on the fact that a black-hooded red siskin (*Spinus cucullatus*) crossed with canary



Steven Chennells (left) judging Glosters, with exhibitor Paul Newark (centre) and fellow judge Eddie Wells, at a Kent Gloster Society show

(*Serinus canaria*) mean the DNA marker for the finch would make it a cross-breed pairing, Hybrid H1. All subsequent offspring pairings will be Hybrid H2 crosses and so forth. Therefore to label them new colour Glosters is an inaccurate declaration. "Glosters" is reserved as a known breed identifier. It's incorrect to describe these hybrid crossbreeds as Gloster fancy canaries.

Promoters shouldn't expect Gloster breeders to surrender the creator's image of the breed, genetic purity and history, to accommodate mixed breeds, because of a parental relationship connection to Glosters. No matter how close to type, the DNA marker of the finch will be ever present. This is the main overwhelming reason why the hybrid cross does not fit with the ethos of the Gloster. One of my greatest

concerns is that if this cross breeding is allowed to perpetuate, this will have a corrosive long-term effect on the validity of the Gloster fancy canary.

Mr Burnett's letter of February 21 is titled "New colours are about being free to choose". In my view, not as a Gloster fancy canary, as new colours do not conform to the classifications of the breed.

Steven Chennells.
● Mr Chennells makes further contributions to the debate in a shortly forthcoming letter.

● It's normal practice for C&AB to select a headline for letters and articles, and perhaps I should clarify that the headline "New colours are about being free to choose" was written by ourselves rather than Mr Burnett. Having reread his letter, I feel it's a fair representation of the points made in that letter – Ed.

Editor's Letter

SUMMER 2024 would seem to have concluded: this morning it was a bracing 7°C when I nipped out for an early walk. The national pattern since the spring has featured a lot of rain and fewer hot spells than we've been used to. And that seems to have benefited some breeders, notably softbill enthusiasts – though others, notably in the canary fancy, have had their glum face on.

What it does feel like now is the show season. In recent years, we've all had our fingers crossed in the hope that viruses – avian and human – keep their distance. When they do, we've proved that the show season can be celebrated as whole-heartedly as it has been across many decades. This year, bird flu seems to have stepped back into the shadows; on the other hand, new red tape is adding to the faff when it comes to booking birds in. But I think that this season the fancy will prove to the world yet again that shows are celebrations of birds and that their attraction is enduring.

Before this show season revs up to full speed, I'd like to wish

The fancy will prove yet again that shows are celebrations of birds

all event organisers every success. And remember to share your success via Club News!

■ **A MYNA REQUEST** Can anyone assist reader Nicholas Wilson? He writes: "I'm looking for a myna bird. It must be young and hand-reared. We had one many years ago and found it to be a great pet and a great talker. If you could be any help, could you drop me a line at nicholaswilson1953@yahoo.co.uk. I live in Dublin, Ireland."

■ Great news from COM-UK and the LCA about COM's Lizard canary standard (see page 2). The changes in 2016 treated this wonderful variety as though it was the Lizard Lile. I'm glad that the voice of genuine Lizard fanciers has been heeded.

■ And there's more good news on the way about a most welcome new exotic vet practice run by the fancy's own Kevin Eatwell! Watch this space.



Rob Innes

New colours are about being free to choose

IT LIKES to respond to Steven Chennells' letter "New colour Gloster" (*Cage & Aviary Birds*, January 31). Also like to point out in this debate, maybe we need to recognise how the Gloster canary was created. Around a hundred years ago, the Gloster canary did not exist. Thankfully, though, the vision to create it did. The start of its evolution between the unrelated breeds we see today only happened because different breeds of canary were crossed together to provide



Paul Burnett's letter was in response to one of Steven's in the January 31 C&AB

Continues from page 4

THE BUS WOULD always stop off for chips on the way home and somehow a portion of chips was in my hands (I'm sure I had no money for them).

They helped keep us warm as the frosty conditions returned. Then we'd do the drop-offs in reverse; my role as tea boy wasn't required on the way home, usually because beer

seemed to have become the preferred beverage.

Eventually, we would get home and, after unloading any bits, my neighbour and George would walk me back home and I'd arrive to tell my parents all about it – though that would wait until the next day as I was practically sleepwalking by this point.

It was an absolutely fantastic day, with many great memories and I couldn't wait until the next

one. Luckily, that was the first of many great trips that were all similar in terms of protocol, right up until the last one at the NEC.

Of course, the modern National certainly provides a great day, but for me, it's not quite the NEC – just as the old boys would say the same about the Ally Pally. This year, I will be going up and back in a day, taking my daughter once again to see what we can find. Readers may recall that we came back

last time with zebra finches and lineolated, and already she's asking if we can get some more... it's a tough life.

Finally, I'd like to dedicate this column to George, a hardworking stalwart of our little club and organiser of the national coach trip who sadly passed away earlier this year. Without him and the team, I would never have experienced the NEC exhibition. Thank you.
David Lugo.

Send letters to: Rob Innes, *Cage & Aviary Birds*, Kelsey Publishing, Yalding Hill, Maidstone ME18 6AL or email them to us at: birds.general@kelsey.co.uk

For letters sent by email, please do include your full address and a daytime phone number. Note that letters may be edited and shortened. We reserve the right to reuse submissions to *Cage & Aviary Birds* Letters in any medium or format. Views expressed in Letters do not necessarily reflect those of the editor.

Your birds are safe with Haith's

Our philosophy since 1937:
Healthy bird food, healthy birds

FREE DELIVERY on all orders over £35

Haith's | The Bird Food Centre | Bolingbroke Rd | Fairfield Ind. Est. | Louth | Lincolnshire | LN11 0WA

01472 357515

www.haiths.com

Birds

www.cageandaviarybirds.co.uk

CAGE & AVIARY BIRDS

Kelsey Media, The Granary, Dovers Court, Yalding Hill, Yalding, Kent ME18 6AL

Editor: Rob Innes. Tel: 01959 543 544

Email: birds.ad@kelsey.co.uk

Deputy Editor: Laura Welch. Tel: 01959 543 544

News Editor: Georgina Probert.

Email: birds.news@kelsey.co.uk

Design: Focused On Design Ltd

Email: design@focusedondesign.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENT SALES

Russell Bedford

Sales Director – 01732 445325

russell@talk-media.uk

Wendy King

Investment Manager

Direct Line: 01732 448748

Wendy@talk-media.uk

Production: Nick Bond Tel: 01732 447 281

Email: Nick@talk-media.uk

MANAGEMENT

Chief Operating Officer: Phil Weedon

Managing Director: Kevin McCormick

Retail Director: Steve Brown

Audience Development Manager: Andy Cotton

Events Manager: Kat Chappell

Print Production Manager: Georgina Harris

Production Controller: Kelly O'Brien

Subscription Marketing Director: Gill Lambert

Subscription Marketing Manager: Kate Chamberlain

SUBSCRIPTIONS

51 issues of *Cage & Aviary Birds* are published per annum

UK annual subscription price: £267.75

Europe annual subscription price: £369.75

Rest of World annual subscription price: £420.75

CONTACT US

UK subscription and back issue orderline:

01959 543 747

Overseas subscription orderline: 0044 (0) 1959 543 747

Toll free USA subscription orderline: 1-888-777-0275

UK customer service team: 01959 543 747

Customer service email address: cs@kelsey.co.uk

Customer service and subscription postal address:

Cage & Aviary Birds Customer Service Team, Kelsey Publishing

Ltd, The Granary, Dovers Court, Yalding Hill, Yalding, Kent, ME18 6AL

WEBSITE
First current subscription offers and buy back issues at shop.
kelsey.co.uk/cagb

ALREADY A SUBSCRIBER?
Manage your subscription online at shop.kelsey.co.uk/myaccount

CLASSIFIEDS
Tel: 0906 502 0279 (premium rate line, operated by Kelsey Media. Calls cost 65p per minute from a BT landline; other networks and mobiles may vary. Lines open Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm).

Email: ads@kelseyclassifieds.co.uk

Postal address: *Cage & Aviary Classifieds*, The Granary, Dovers Court, Yalding Hill, Yalding, Kent, ME18 6AL

Distribution in Great Britain
Seymour Distribution Limited
2 East Poultry Avenue
London
EC1A 9PT

Tel: 020 7429 4000
www.seymour.co.uk

Distribution in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland
Newspress – Tel: +353 23 886 3850

Copyright
© Kelsey Publishing 2024 © All rights reserved. Kelsey Media is a trading name of Kelsey Publishing Ltd. Reproduction in whole or in part is forbidden except with permission in writing from the publishers. Note to contributors: articles submitted for consideration by the editor must be the original work of the author and not previously published. Where photographs are included, which are not the property of the contributor, permission to reproduce them must have been obtained from the owner of the copyright.

The editor cannot guarantee a personal response to all letters and emails received. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Publisher. Kelsey Publishing Ltd accepts no liability for products and services offered by third parties.

Kelsey Media uses a multi-layered privacy policy, giving you brief details about how we would like to use your personal information. For full details, visit www.kelsey.co.uk or call 01959 543524.

If you have any questions, please ask us submitting your details indicates your consent, until you choose otherwise, that we and our partners may contact you about products and services that will be of relevance to you via direct mail, phone, email or SMS. You can opt out at any time via email: data.controller@kelsey.co.uk or 01959 543524.

KELSEY media
www.kelsey.co.uk