have good parenting stock where the adults will diligently feed the last tiny baby even when there are so many larger ones in the nest around it. I have had in the past an exceptional pair that would give me 10 babies per clutch and these were all their own babies—none fostered.

**Mating Combinations**

There is a good reason for such good breeding stock. Not only do I hold back the best of the clutch but I also do very little recessive mating.

To illustrate this, for instance, I seldom mate a Whiteface-Heavy Pied to another Whiteface-Heavy Pied. Both the Whiteface and Pied mutations are recessive and this combination does not consistently give me the big birds I want or the large clutches.

Another mating I avoid is placing two red-eyed mutations together as mating an Albino cock with a Lutino hen would be. These red-eyed matings can increase the size of the baldness on the head that is so common, as well as loss of size and genetic soundness.

Even though I have excellent breeding stock, there are always failures. For instance, I have a Whiteface cock that is split to Yellow-face, Cinnamon and Lutino X with a Lutino-Pearl hen split Whiteface that will sometimes chew off the wings and feet of their own babies. I foster their eggs out to another pair, as I want the possible outcome of their offspring as many types of combinations show up. I have had two Cinnamon-Yellowface show up so far out of this pair and this is a beautiful combination of colors.

**Something for Everyone**

My goal is to reproduce a good line of dark buttercup Lutino birds and Yellowface-Olive (Suffused Olive). Through line breeding for color and size, I hope to reproduce an excellent line of these birds. I am also working toward other color combinations and have a very splendid specimen of a Yellowface-Cinnamon-Pied bird.

Any breeder can follow their dreams with Cockatiels, as there are so many color combinations to choose from. Work to reproduce your favorite color and it will give you great enjoyment.

---

30 March/April 1999
August fourth, I was blown away by what I saw when I opened the inspection door – twins. Two babies. The egg was broken directly in half, not pipped at the top as normal. One baby was up and full of seed. The other lay lifeless in the shavings. At least I had one baby alive of the two. When I removed the body of the dead one it twitched. I called Kathy, my handfeeder, and she was over in a flash with syringe, saline solution, and formula.

We removed both babies and warmed them in a brooder until we could weigh them and start their growth charts.

The larger one weighed in at 10 grams while the little one was only six grams. The first three days were touch and go all the way. The smaller one had a slow feeding response and seemed to lack energy. The larger one ate like a horse. By the end of four days, both babies seemed more normal. We thought we were out of the woods. Not so.

While I was on vacation the little one developed a problem. Kathy rose to the occasion and took it to the vet who lanced an abscess over its right eye. After 10 days of medication the baby was fine again.

DNA testing determined the larger baby was a female and the smaller a male. At the time of this writing, both are weaned, happy, and healthy. Both babies from the same egg.

Day one (above): the empty eggshell is the broken home of BOTH babies. The eggmates (below) are shown in the pinfeather stage at 30 days of age.

Day 30

Backstreet Birds

Your New One Stop Source for Hard to Find:

- Handfeeding and Breeder Supplies
- Antibiotics
- Vitamins and Herbs
- Cautery, Syringes, Full Spectrum Bulbs
- Spirulina, Wheat Grass, Barley Grass
- Electrolyte Solutions, Enzyme Preparations, Natural Remedies and Much More

Check out our On-Line Catalog

Complete with interesting links, an informative "what's new" page and an interactive question and answer page at http://www.backstreetbirds.com

Or Call us at 602-547-0946 to get a copy of our new catalog today!