

JUMP ON THE TRAIN, OR STOP THE TRAIN,

By Peter van Amelsvoort



This is not an article about the Dutch Railways or to get advice on the quickest way to Hapert, Karlsruhe or Doncaster. However, to realize your ambitions on the shortest route, not through the many roads to Rome, put your compass to the south if you live in the Netherlands. On my literature reading list in high school was a relatively short book, a novella by Joseph Eichendorff titled "Aus dem Leben eines Taugenichts". A youthful romantic who enjoys going to the south and on his way he tells about what he encounters and what he dreams about he might encounter. No great literature but an inspiration for the youthful mind, maybe it was just adolescent or the natural human urge to discover what there is to see in the world. Daydreaming is nothing strange to budgie breeders but to really see the greener grass in the other field, you will have to go there and walk through the grass. This means you will have to travel to see and feel what's there. This is the same in the budgie fancy, you will have to go and visit the breeder to see his show-and stockbirds and to see and hear what way he is reaching his goal. Budgerigar breeders in the budgies fancy are now at a crossroad and wonder what direction to take. Leaving the crossroads on your chosen path the journey might be further than your bicycle can bring you in a day. Do we have to go to the cradle of budgie world the United Kingdom? On facebook certain breeders manifest with birds with beautiful heads. To our eastern neighbors who have a tendency to eradicate extreme birds of the showbench. Were they limit the length of the birds. Even the opposite trend is coming our way, the small colour budgie. Lovers of the so called "monsterbird" sometimes show them, but over all the negative comments, just keep them at home to breed their own ideal. Daydreaming is forty years later still a pleasant pastime. Conclusion as in the book; Standing at the crossroads you will have to choose your path only to find out later you took the wrong one. Still this is better than standing still not being able to choose. Standing at these crossroads to make our journey to see and feel the greener grass, we chose to go south. We found the field in Wurenloss Switzerland at Daniel Luetolfs. It was a few years ago since we visited Daniel last, so it was time to see the changes he was after and what direction he picked. He wasn't the only breeder we visited in april 2015, but the right example for this article.



Visiting Wurenlos together with my friends Henk Fidder, Appie van Gelder and Jos Reijnders.

BRIEF IMPRESSION FROM HENK FIDDER

April 2015 I had the possibility to accompany some Dutch colleague breeders for a visit to Daniel Luetolf. Just returned from his visit to Australia the stud of Daniel is full swing up and running. We were able to admire the breeding couples 2015 and the offspring from the first breeding round. The visit to Daniel was the high light of several visits I had recently. I have been out of the hobby for more than thirty years now and my ideal was still that form the birds in the late seventies. In my opinion the modern birds seems to be to extreme. I had some catching up to do and change my vision of the ideal bird seeing Daniel's big birds with their big fluffy feathered heads. His name was mentioned during several visits we had before visiting Daniel. Big "monster birds" were mentioned and I could visualize them vividly. What I saw was completely different, lovely shapes birds with great type and stance and an enormous blow with dence feathering. A real power bird, after seeing them I again have to change my vision of a modern ideal.

THE CHANGE

Daniel Luetolf is known as a man who seeks the border with his birds in the budgies sport. Ten to fifteen years ago the depth of the masks on his birds impressed the budgie fancy. Along with this he developed long feathers and more volume to the feathers. These features mixed developed a special feathertype which we also see in other species such as pigeons and chickens. A hairy feathering and a degeneration of the barbs. Extreme birds were also described as viable feather dusters. Another stage in the

development was the direction of the feathering, this was more down from the cere, but also sideways on the neck shape /backskul. Emphasis was at the time on the top-end of the birds, historical it is the basis of the English birds. In history breeders like Alf Ormerod, Andre Vermeir, Jo Mannes for example managed to distinguish in this area. Seeing minimal differences, buy these birds and their future development on these small differences is the strength of breeders with foresight and vision. Progress is one of the elements that makes budgerigars sport attractive. The gene pool of the budgerigar gives you many possibilities. Every advance also causes debate among breeders and sometimes division. This division has not only disadvantages, the positive side of this is that there are trends set. Sometimes features develop into extremes and go too far, remedial action should then be taken. Daniel Luetolf his phase of the "monster birds" is already behind him and he took preventive and corrective measures by modeling the prototype to create a new ideal.

BACKSKULL AND NECK



This grey cinnamon cock shows us the direction Daniel went to improve his birds. The modern bird with the actual blow and the bouncing headfeathers often misses the backskull and neck. In this bird we see both features prevailing, and it has the right wedged shape combined with a natural blow and expression. Looking closely you can also see the corrective measures that were taken on the length of the main wingfeathers.

THE SHOWBIRD IS COMMING BACK.



We see a big improvement in the bodyfeathers aswell its more close to the body so the bird can show its bodyshape again. This tight body feather is a big improvement compared to the all buff bird. To keep the head feathers the right lenght is an art on its own. In this grey hen you can see all the above features combined , its an art like I said before to breed a bird like that. The picture was made while the hen was already in the breedingcage for a while, hence the wingcarriage.

DENCE FEATHERS



This darkgreen spangle cock shows us its possible to combine the natural blow with the dence feather, it also shows an improvement on the hairy feather.

EXPRESSION



This grey cinnamon cock is showing a great blow and expression while in the breedingcage. This picture got a lot of possitive reactions on facebook, like" nice body feather", "what a blow"and "finally type is back"

Breeders see we are going the right direction with improvement in a lot off ereas. So jump on the train and join the party

