

Star budgies in Bavaria

Holland's **WIM HATTINK** offers a rundown of how this year's young birds performed during the AZ Ortsgruppe München's Bayern Cup show. Show photos by Thomas Lautneschlager

BUDGERIGARS

ON JULY 7, the AZ Ortsgruppe München held its Bayern Cup young bird show in Germany. After a nice Friday evening with people, young and old, what did 88-year-old George Helm, who won in Karlsruhe and Kassel, think?

He says: "Of course, I had to see the wonderful 'Gartnerei' of Herbert Rafalzik, the big man behind the event. Herbert has not been in the hobby long, but with 150 breeding cages, he is successfully building a strong group of birds. On Saturday morning, the birds were delivered from 7.30-8.30am, with a total of almost 200 young birds of high quality benched."

Thoughts from the judges: Richard Kuhr (Germany AZ) and Wim Hattink (NGC-DBS): The very good atmosphere and nice contacts made were two of the reasons to hold this show. This was combined with good drinks, coffee, home-made cake and some excellent grilled food in the afternoon.

One thing you cannot control is the weather. Clouds were expected, but it became warm and soon hot. We moved the birds after the judging, but in hindsight, we should have done it earlier, however, because it had a big influence

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on the show.

Of course, good birds went for the prizes, but there was a group of quality birds that didn't show themselves off, owing to the temperature and sunlight. In the afternoon, in the shade, the birds started to feel happy and showed.

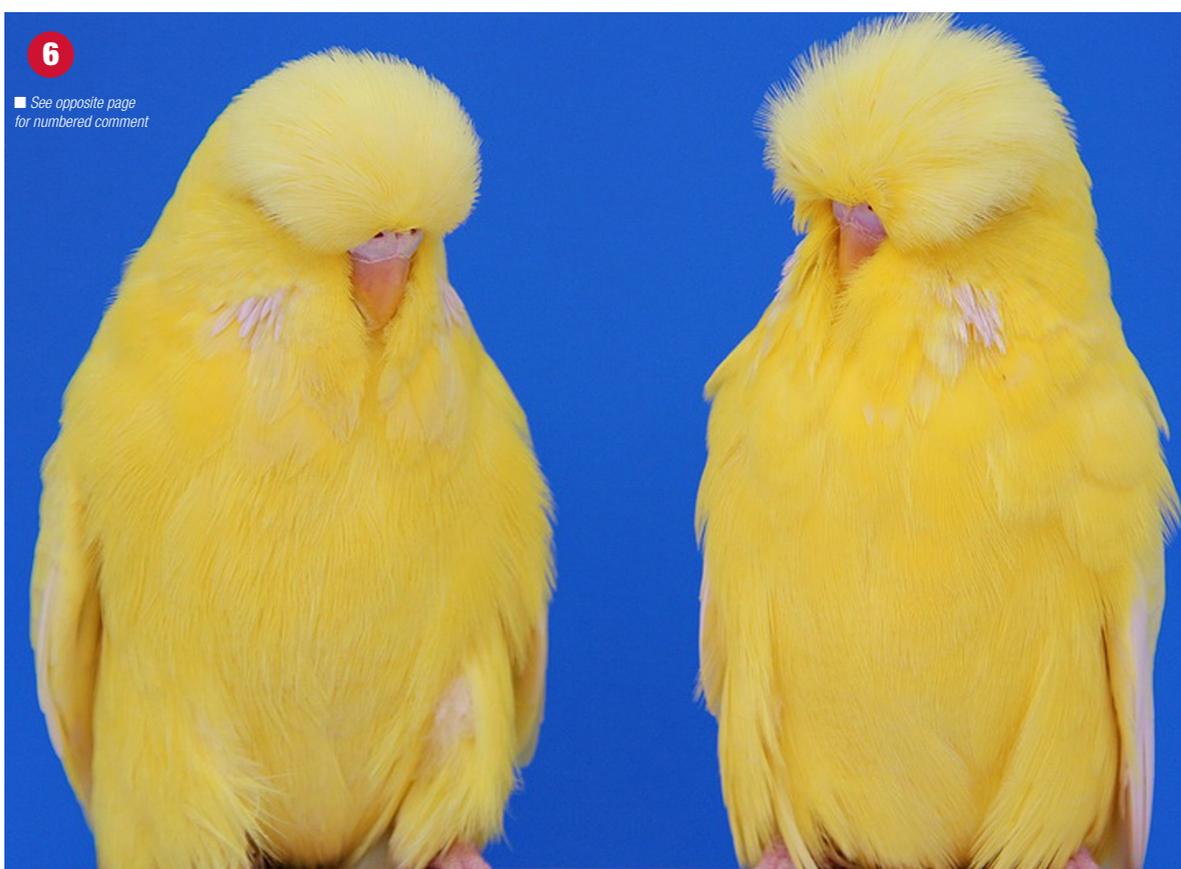
Results

Best in show was awarded to a cinnamon opaline blue series hen from Daniel Lütolf, while best opposite sex went to

a yellowface benched by Hans Schmidmeister. The best overall result went to Daniel Lütolf, who gained 22 points. Other very good results came from Cumali Ünsal and Christian Winklhofer.

As judges, we want to go for birds "in good harmony", which stand nice and high on the perch. The winners need to have wide shoulders and blow, but also long and dense feathers. We want to see birds that have a blow that is going in two directions at the same time: frontal raise, but also with a good width.

If the birds have the desired "looking-down" style, you will have budgies that don't show the eyes in front, but instead from the side. I call this the "peacock face"; for me, the next generation after the buffalo effect. There were nice examples of this feature presented at this show.



Christian Winklhofer's pair of double factor spangle yellow budgerigars were the group winners. See page 13 for more on this pair Photo: Wim Hattink
Below (l-r): judge Richard Kuhr, president of AZ Ortsgruppe München, Michael Desing and judge Wim Hattink on the day of the show

A few improvements

In some cases, birds had poor feet. Some had three toes in front instead of two in front and two behind, while others had feet far too wide from each other. A group of birds missed an area of feathers above the cere. This is a genetic issue and is passed on to the offspring, which is why I am vigilant on this fault. In time, cysts can develop in this area. ■



Daniel Lütolf (left) and his friend Hans Schmidmeister
Photo: Daniel Lütolf



From left: the AZ Ortsgruppe München had hand-painted trophies at its Bayern Cup young bird show; one of the winning birds; judges inspecting the entries, of which 200 were benched



A notable entry from Herbert Rafalzik
Photo: Wim Hattink



Best of colour winner from Daniel Lütolf Photo: Wim Hattink



Christian Winklhofer had good results with his birds on the day These three photos: Wim Hattink



Brilliant blue: an entry from Cumali Ünsal



This cinnamon opaline blue series hen won the award for best in show for Daniel Lütolf



Another excellent specimen: the best spangle from Daniel Lütolf Photo: Daniel Lütolf