

Resource Pack

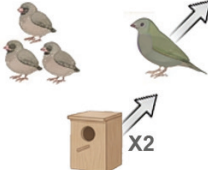
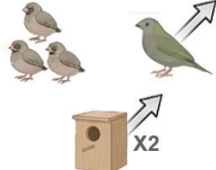


<https://www.gouldiancare.com/>

Annual Activity Plan for Gouldian Finches

Southern Hemisphere

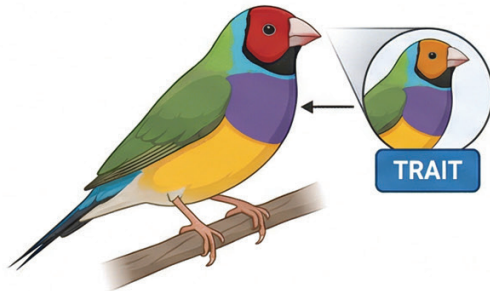
Northern Hemisphere

JAN JUL	FEB AUG	MAR SEP	APR OCT
 • Pairs already in place for bonding • Nests installed	 • Introduce breeding triggers (seeding grasses, milk seed and Greens & Grains)	 • Continue seeding grasses, milk seed, G&G • Introduce soaked seed • First fledglings expected	 • Continue seeding grasses, milk seed, G&G, soaked seed • More fledglings • Start removing independent juveniles
MAY NOV	JUN DEC	JUL JAN	AUG FEB
 • Continue seeding grasses, milk seed, G&G, soaked seed • More fledglings • Continue removing independent juveniles	 • Continue milk seed & soaked seed • More fledglings • Continue removing independent juveniles	 • More fledglings • Continue removing independent juveniles • Start removing nests when hens have had 2 clutches	 • More fledglings • Continue removing independent juveniles • Continue removing nests when hens have had 2 clutches
SEP MAR	OCT APR	NOV MAY	DEC JUN
 • Separate cocks & hens • Remove any remaining nests	 • Moulting begins • Continue premium mixed seed & supplements	 • Moulting continues • Continue premium mixed seed • Separate juveniles as they are sexed as cocks or hens	  • Moulting has completed • Change feed to basic austerity seed • Plan pairings • Place pairs to start pair bonding for the next season



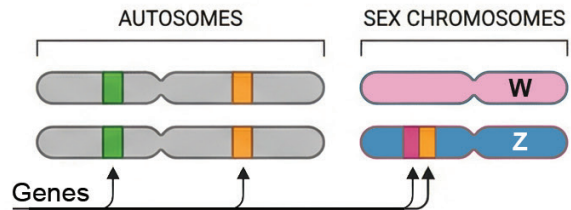
Basic Genetics for Breeders of Gouldian Finches

TRAIT DEFINITION



Each part of a bird's appearance is called a **TRAIT**

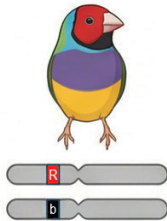
CHROMOSOMES AND GENES



Genes are paired - one copy comes from each parent

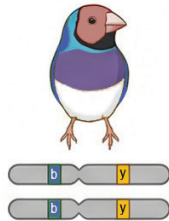
DOMINANT VS. RECESSIVE TRAITS

Dominant



Dominant traits can appear with just one gene

Recessive

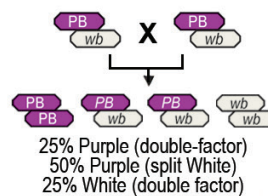


Recessive traits require two genes to be seen

TYPES OF CHROMOSOMES

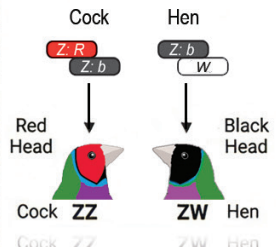
AUTOSOMES

Both parents Purple breasted (split White)



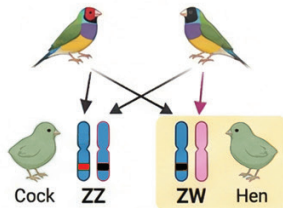
Autosomal: Both parents must pass recessive gene for trait to appear

SEX CHROMOSOMES



Sex-Linked: Recessive traits show in hens with only one copy

SEX-LINKED TRAIT APPEARANCE



LEGEND / KEY



APPEARANCE VS. GENETICS

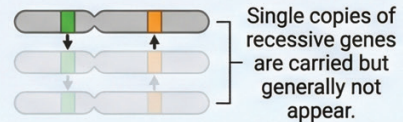
Appearance

Phenotype



Genetic Information

Genotype



CONVENTIONS USED

- UPPER CASE - Dominant . . . eg: RH, PB, YB
- LOWER CASE - Recessive . . . eg: bh, yh, wb, ay, bk
- ROUNDED CORNERS - Sex-Linked Gene
- ANGLED CORNERS - Autosome



Quick Reference Table - Head Colours in Gouldian Mutations

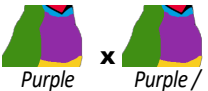
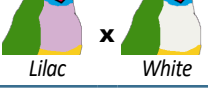
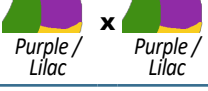
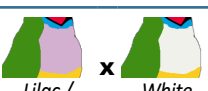
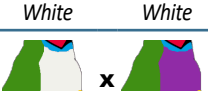
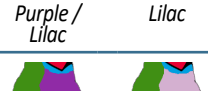
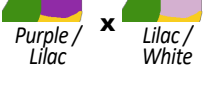
Natural or Mutation	Purple-Breasted			White-Breasted		
	Red-Head	Black-Head	Yellow-Head	Red-Head	Black-Head	Yellow-Head
Natural Wild-type	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Black</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Black</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>
Yellow Back <i>(YB DF)</i>	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Lt Grey</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Lt Grey</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>
Dilute or SF Yellow Back <i>(YB SF)</i>	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Grey</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Lt Grey</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>
Aust. Yellow <i>(ay DF)</i>	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Very Lt Grey</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>
Blue <i>(bk DF)</i>	 <i>Salmon</i>	 <i>Black</i>	 <i>Salmon</i>	 <i>Lt Salmon</i>	 <i>Black</i>	 <i>Lt Salmon</i>
Pastel Blue <i>(bk DF & YB SF)</i>	 <i>Lt Salmon</i>	 <i>Grey</i>	 <i>Lt Salmon</i>	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Silver <i>(bk DF & YB DF -or- bk DF, YB SF & WB)</i>	 <i>Lt Salmon</i>	 <i>Very Lt Grey</i>	 <i>Lt Salmon</i>	 <i>Lt Salmon</i>	 <i>Very Lt Grey</i>	 <i>Lt Salmon</i>
Australian Recessive Dilute <i>(ad DF)</i>	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Lt Grey</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Lt Grey</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>
Cinnamon <i>(cn DF)</i>	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Grey</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>	 <i>Red</i>	 <i>Grey</i>	 <i>Yellow</i>
Seagreen <i>(sg DF)</i>	 <i>Lt Red</i>	 <i>Black</i>	 <i>Lt Yellow</i>	 <i>Lt Red</i>	 <i>Black</i>	 <i>Lt Yellow</i>
Aust. Variegated Blue (AVB) <i>(ay DF & bk DF)</i>	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	 <i>Lt Salmon</i>	 <i>Grey</i>	 <i>Lt salmon</i>

Quick Reference Table - Gouldian Finch Progeny

BREAST COLOUR INHERITANCE

Breast colour inheritance is autosomal, so independent of the sex chromosomes. Three different breast colours are possible in most of the mutations. The particular exception is Australian Yellow (AY) where breast colour is determined by the AY mutation itself.

Purple is dominant to Lilac and White; while Lilac is dominant to White.

	100% Purple PB		25% Purple /Lilac PB (/LB) 25% Purple /Wht PB (/WB) 25% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB) 25% White WB
	50% Purple PB 50% Purple /Lilac PB (/LB)		50% Purple /Wht PB (/WB) 50% White WB
	50% Purple PB 50% Purple /Wht PB (/WB)		100% Lilac LB
	100% Purple /Lilac PB (/LB)		50% Lilac LB 50% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB)
	50% Purple /Lilac PB (/LB) 50% Purple /Wht PB (/WB)		100% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB)
	100% Purple /Wht PB (/WB)		25% Lilac LB 25% White WB 50% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB)
	25% Purple PB 25% Lilac LB 50% Purple /Lilac PB (/LB)		50% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB) 50% White WB
	25% Purple PB 25% Purple /Lilac PB (/LB) 25% Purple /Wht PB (/WB) 25% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB)		100% White WB
	50% Purple /Lilac PB (/LB) 50% Lilac LB		100% Purple /Wht PB (/WB)
	25% Purple /Lilac PB (/LB) 25% Purple /Wht PB (/WB) 25% Lilac LB 25% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB)		50% Purple /Wht PB (/WB) 50% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB)
	50% Purple /Wht PB (/WB) 50% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB)		50% Purple /Wht PB (/WB) 50% White WB
	25% Purple PB 25% White WB 50% Purple /Wht PB (/WB)		100% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB)
	25% Purple /Lilac PB (/LB) 25% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB)		50% Lilac /Wht LB (/WB) 50% White WB

(Author's file ref: Breast_Colours.xlsx)



Bird Log for Gouldian Finches

Ref Number			Leg Ring		Season Yr		
Description				Sex ☐ Ck ☐ Hn	Date Born	☐ Estimate	
Phenotype:	Head ☐ Red ☐ Grey ☐ Black ☐ Lt Grey ☐ Yellow ☐ Lt Salmon ☐ Salmon ☐ White Tip of Beak ☐ Red ☐ White ☐ Yellow Belly ☐ Yellow ☐ White ☐ Lt Yellow		Date Died				
		Breast ☐ Purple ☐ Lilac ☐ White		Back ☐ Green ☐ Pastel Blue ☐ Yellow ☐ White Silv ☐ Yellow Mrks ☐ Seagreen ☐ Dilute Grn ☐ AVB ☐ Blue ☐		Purchased Date From Amount \$ Sold Date To Amount \$	
Genotype:	Sex Linked						
	Z	Z	W	Z	Z	Z	Z
	☐ R ☐ b	☐ R ☐ b	☐ Hen	☐ YB	☐ YB	☐ cn ☐ sg	☐ cn ☐ sg
	Autosomes				Genetics Note		
	☐ yh ☐ wh	☐ wb ☐ wb	☐ bk ☐ bk	☐ ay ☐ ay			
Date	General Notes, Pairings, Health, Medications, etc						



Breeding Log for Gouldian Finches

[illegible]

CHAPTER HEADINGS

Introduction

Getting Started

Housing & Protection

Nutrition & Feeding

Health & Wellness

Breeding Gouldian Finches

Genetic Considerations



Common Challenges & Solutions

Questions & Answers

Conclusions

Forms Library

Photo Gallery

Mutation Guide

Glossary of Terms

Appendices

Index of Key Words

Gouldian Finches— Care, Breeding & Genetics

By Tony Hanks

REVIEWED BY **SAM DAVIS**

THE GOULDIAN Finch will be well known to readers of *BirdKeeper*. It is, after all, one of the world's most popularly kept finches, alongside the ubiquitous Zebra Finch (and, arguably, the canary if you include them alongside finches).

I've been keeping and breeding Gouldian Finches for most of my life—about 50 years, give or take. In earlier decades, they were considered a very fragile species to keep alive, let alone breed. I recall trading about a kilogram of Zebra Finches, Diamond Doves and the like for a single pair from my local bird dealer, a Mr Wardrop at Gladesville, a suburb of Sydney. Sadly, the hen from that first pair succumbed just as she began exploring the breeding box.

CHANGING FORTUNES OF GOULDIANS

In the early 1980s, I bred a few Gouldians and lost about the same. By the 1990s, things began to change, and they became much easier to breed—and that has remained the case ever since.

Mutations appeared, many offered at what seemed outrageous prices at the time. I recall the first white-breasted Gouldians I acquired being a major investment. Then came the blue Gouldians—some sad tales from me there, as I eventually gave up on them. I believe they have now been 'cracked' and, based on current prices, that certainly appears to be the case.

Normal birds and the more common mutations now breed readily and are considered well-suited to new aviculturists—provided they follow the rules.

THE RULES TO SUCCESS WITH GOULDIANS

This is where Tony Hanks' book really comes into its own. It sets out the rules in a no-nonsense, commonsense way that will resonate with both beginners and experienced keepers alike. If you follow Tony's management advice, I'm confident your Gouldian Finches will be both healthy and prolific.

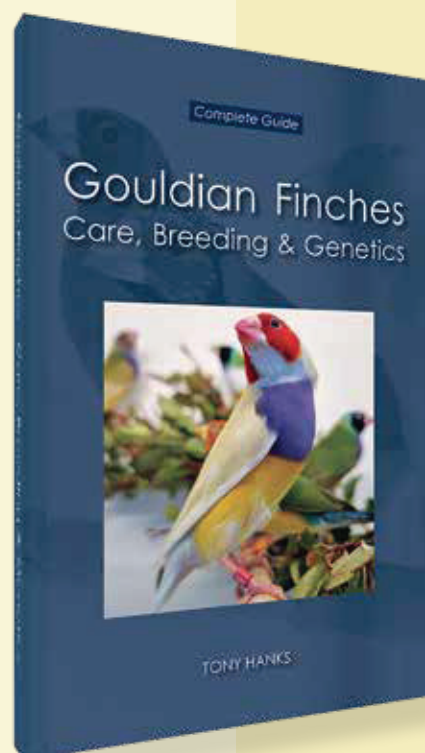
Gouldian Finches—Care, Breeding & Genetics is a very readable guide that moves progressively from the basics of Gouldian management in the 'Getting Started' section, building logically through housing and then nutrition. The section on health addresses common ailments and treatments, including a particularly useful flowchart and a table summarising diseases, symptoms, causes and recommended treatments.

BREEDING AND HUSBANDRY ESSENTIALS

The section on breeding emphasises the importance of genetics alongside the critical husbandry practices required to prepare birds for what is, after all, a demanding and stressful period.

Selecting suitable pairs to ensure the best progeny, while at the same time maintaining genetic diversity within your flock, is strongly encouraged—an area that, in my view, is not always given sufficient attention in other texts.

Creating the optimal breeding environment is discussed throughout, with numerous practical tips drawn from Tony's extensive experience. Aviary or cabinet design, nest box selection, introduction of pairs, breeding nutrition and its role as a trigger, recognising birds in breeding condition—all of these key elements are covered in detail.



RECORD KEEPING

Record keeping is a consistent theme throughout the book, with a range of templates included and additional resources available via the author's website. Tony is very thorough in this regard.

He explains the advantages of recording not only the phenotype, but also the genotype of each bird in your collection. This allows you to predict offspring outcomes and identify whether birds are split for particular mutations. Careful pair selection, supported by good records, is very much the hallmark of an experienced aviculturist.

The pages covering line breeding and the differing breeding success of head colours and mutations are particularly interesting and will no doubt generate some lively discussion among Gouldian breeders. For example, whether red-headed birds dominate, and whether pairs with the same head colour produce more offspring. Studies—including the author's own—suggest that both assertions hold true.

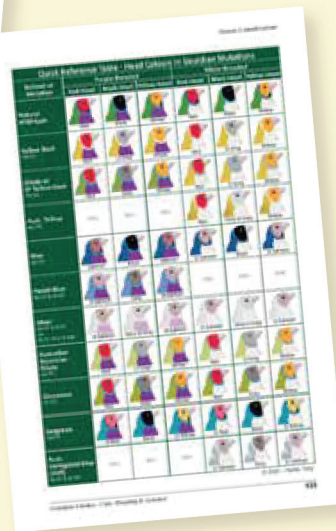
THE GENETICS SECTION

The genetics section is very thorough. It begins with an explanation of basic Mendelian inheritance and how it applies to birds, before moving into detailed descriptions of each mutation.

This is followed by extensive colour-coded tables showing breeding expectations for a wide range of mutation combinations—almost every scenario imaginable.

For those less scientifically inclined, this section may require some effort, but it is well worth the time, particularly if breeding mutation Gouldians is your focus.

The tables, illustrations and photographs throughout the book really highlight just how wide the range of colour variations has become. It is, quite literally, an enormous palette for breeders to work with. That said, on a personal level, I still find it hard to go past nature's originals. I hesitate to call them 'normals', as the term hardly does justice to these truly stunning birds.



CONCLUDING CHAPTERS

The guide concludes with a chapter on 'Challenges and Solutions'. As I worked through this section, I found myself thinking, 'I've experienced that' on more than one occasion. Issues such as chick tossing,

baldness, twirling and predation are all covered, with practical and effective solutions provided.

The book finishes with a series of commonly asked questions, along with a summary of essential care and breeding tips. Together, these provide

an excellent quick-reference guide.

I also strongly agree with Tony's recommendation to join a finch club—there is simply no substitute for learning from, and sharing with, other like-minded aviculturists.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I have no hesitation in recommending *Gouldian Finches—Care, Breeding & Genetics* to anyone with an interest in breeding this remarkable species. There is a great deal to be learned from Tony's knowledge, whether you are just starting or have been keeping birds for many years.

Copies are available directly through **BirdKeeper**. [abk](https://www.birdkeeper.abk.com.au/)



Want More?



Gouldian Finches - Care, Breeding & Genetics

This valuable book is available online from Amazon, or ordered from a physical bookstore.

Various formats are also available - paperback hardcover. E-book and Audiobook (condensed version).

<https://www.amazon.com/>



Education on YouTube

Free educational videos from Gouldian Care for anyone who enjoys caring for these beautiful birds.

Topics include mutation colours, genetics, nestboxes, how to sex Gouldians, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/@gouldiancare>



Merchandise on RedBubble

After requests from owners of the book, selected resources are now available for purchase. These include reference posters, notebooks, greeting cards and many other items.

[TonyAustralia.redbubble.com](https://www.tonyaustralia.redbubble.com)



Connections on Facebook

Join the Gouldian Care discussions and share information with others who share your interest in Gouldian Finches.

<https://www.facebook.com/gouldiancare/>

<https://www.gouldiancare.com/>

Enjoyed Our Resources? .. loved the Book?



Please help others to learn about
“Gouldian Finches - Care, Breeding & Genetics”
by giving the book a 5 Star review on Amazon



<https://www.amazon.com/>

