BREEDING VIOLETS
A reprint of an old article, a lecture by Henry George at our club in September 2006.

Cobalt violet is the only visual violet.
Other colours can carry the violet factor – eg. Violet sky and violet mauve

Colour is represented by two factors, light and dark.
- A light factor bird (sky blue or light green) is represented by two light factors (LL)
- A dark factor bird (cobalt or darkgreen) is represented by one light factor and one dark factor (LD or DL, no difference between these two)
- Birds commonly referred to as double dark factor (mauve in the blue series and olive in the green series) are represented by two dark factors (DD)

The violet factor (represented by “v” in the following examples) can be carried on either the light factor (Lv) or the dark factor (Dv).

**Example 1**
Cross a cobalt DL with a visual violet DvL (visual violet with the violet carried on the dark factor)

To see what offspring you can produce, look at the 4 possible combinations you can get from these.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offspring</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DDv</td>
<td>Violet mauve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DL</td>
<td>Cobalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDv</td>
<td>Violet cobalt = visual violet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LL</td>
<td>Sky blue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alternatively, if the violet factor is carried on the light factor in the same example

Cross a cobalt DL with a visual violet DLv (visual violet with the violet carried on the light factor)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offspring</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DD</td>
<td>Mauve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLv</td>
<td>Violet cobalt = visual violet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LD</td>
<td>Cobalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLv</td>
<td>Violet sky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example 2**
Cross a cobalt DL with a violet mauve DDv

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offspring</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DD</td>
<td>Mauve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDv</td>
<td>Violet mauve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LD</td>
<td>Cobalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDv</td>
<td>Violet cobalt = visual violet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example 3
Cross a violet mauve DDv with a sky LL

Offspring can be  DL  Cobalt
                   DvL  Violet cobalt = visual violet
This is the best mating for producing violets in quantities.

Example 4
Cross a visual violet DvL or DLv with a sky LL

If the violet factor is carried on the dark factor
Offspring can be  DvL  Violet cobalt = visual violet
                   LL  Sky

If the violet is carried on the light factor
Offspring can be  DL  Cobalt
                   LvL  Violet sky

The offspring you produce can tell you where the violet gene is carried.

You can do similar calculations using green series birds to produce violet greens.

Example 5
Cross a violet dark green DvL or DLv with a light green LL

Offspring can be  DvL  Violet dark green
                   LL  Light green

Or  DL  Dark green
Lvl  Violet light green

If one or both of the green birds is split blue, you could get some green birds and some blue birds.
In this example you could get
      DvL  Violet dark green and/or violet cobalt (visual violet)
      LL  Light green and/or sky blue

Or  DL  Dark green and/or cobalt
Lvl  Violet light green and/or violet sky

It is possible to get double factor violet where two violet factors are carried, one on the dark factor and one on the light factor.

Example 6
Cross a double factor violet DvLv with a cobalt DL.

Offspring can be  DvD  Violet mauve
                   DvL  Violet cobalt = visual violet
                   LvD  Violet cobalt = visual violet
                   LvL  Violet sky
You can only find out if a bird is a double factor violet by test mating and watching the results – it doesn’t appear to alter the intensity of the colour.

Other comments
Henry has not mated violet to violet as he is trying to maintain the size. There is a good chance that violet to violet would pull the size down.

Violet grey is a deeper grey, like a charcoal grey. It is hard to tell the difference between a violet sky and a cobalt. Violet sky is shown in the same class as a cobalt.

You can put violet into lutinos to intensify the colour but then in the future your lutinos may start producing albinos with a violet sheen.

Violet is a good colour for the yellow face variety as it hides the suffusion.