

National 2023 show report by judge David Allen

This was the 1st time I have judged the National and I was really looking forward to it and I was not disappointed. Although many say it is too early, there was still a good number of quality Lizards on display for me to cast my eye over.

Best Lizard and Best Champion Lizard went to a Broken Cap Gold hen of Rob and Ian Wright this bird stood out, it had a really nice depth of colour which displayed its lovely straight dark spangle really well. The 2nd best champion was a Clear Cap Gold hen which was also from the same partnership displayed the same quality as the best but had a few white edges to some of its flights otherwise it would have pushed for best. 3rd best Champion was Andy Beesley's Broken Cap Silver hen and one of only a few Silvers to make top table, had really good spangles but they never really lined up, this might improve as the show season goes on, this silver also displays a good amount of breast work which most silver do. 4th best champion was a non-Cap Silver hen from the Rob and Ian Wright partnership with good breast work and nice back but never quite lined up again this may improve as the show season goes on.

In the Novice section the first bird to come up to me on the judging stand took my eye straight away it had something about it when it was put in front of me. It was a clear cap gold cock with really good ground colour and a nice back with dark spangle the line up well at times. This bird was from Ray Anthony and was who had a good day in the Novice section with 2nd best a clear cap gold hen and 3rd best as well with a Broken Cap Gold cock. 4th best went to Nick Rayson with a really nice non cap gold hen this was a nice bird but as with many non-caps it lacked a bit in size. Overall, the colour fed section was dominated by golds, I have always felt that the golds perform better at the early shows as they seem to moult out and harden off quicker due I think to the tighter feather type of the gold being the yellow feather type.

Now moving to the Natural Lizards. Before judging these I always like to take a break to allow me to refocus.

The best Natural was a clear cap gold cock of Lloyd le page. This bird had really good spangles which in Naturals really stand out specially when they are really dark as these birds were. 2nd best in this section went to Lloyd as well with another lovely gold. 3rd best went to Ray Anthony and 4th to Paul Hutchinson all were golds in fact. There were very few silver naturals on display. I do think, and this is my own personnel opinion, a really good natural gold looks great with good ground colour and really dark black spangles it shows off the true beauty of the Lizard.

I think later in the year some of these birds will do better, as many were a little bit nervous in the show cage and didn't really display themselves to their full potential. Thanks to my Steward Chris Jordan and Andy Beesley's brother Nick who, although not a canary man these days, did a great job.

David Allen

LCA Panel Judge