



The NTBS Show Budgie

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The Nel Brothers Stud

Mating New Birds

With many birds, large parrots, for example, matching a male and female is something of a gamble because of individual antipathies. Luckily this is not true of parakeets: Generally a pair will get along well after a certain period of adjustment. If it should happen that two birds fail to make friends, either because the female refuses to accept the male or because the male shows no interest in the intended mate, replace one of the partners with a new bird assuming you have more than just one pair. You can also introduce a second male that may get along better with the female. But not vice versa! Adding another female is usually disastrous, because females tend to fight each other. Conflicts between two males, on the other hand are rare. The female simply chooses one of them as a mate, which the other accepts without grudge. Difficulties can also arise if a bird was exposed exclusively to humans during a specific phase of development in which sexual imprinting takes place.

Imprinting happens only during a very limited sensitive period in an animal's life, the timing of which differs for each species. We do not know yet exactly when sexual imprinting occurs in parakeets. The days immediately after the eyes open, i.e., about after the tenth day, seem to be of importance in imprinting. This is what Professor Roger Stamm and the biologist U. Blum concluded in a study they published. They observed that a blue male that had lived with green parents until it was seventeen days old and then moved in with blue stepparents and blue siblings later chose green birds as mates. The famous writer on animal behaviour, Konrad Lorenz first wrote about this special form of learning, imprinting. In this process animals can "learn" the most absurd things: Male turkeys have been sexually imprinted to cardboard boxes and females to humans, and later the animals would address their courtship displays to these inappropriate "partners" and try to mate with them.

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June Highlights

On the 27th June I had a Mini Show for club members. There were 14 members and 5 visitor who attended. There were 51 birds entered for the show with 23 Beginner birds, 9 Novice birds, 10 Intermediates and 9 Champion birds. Ernie Hobbs was the judge on the day and the results were as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Best Bird on Show | - Taljaard P/ship |
| Best Opp. Sex on Show | - Deon Davie |
| Best Champion | - Taljaard P/ship |
| Best Intermediate | - Mike Davies |
| Best Novice | - Pieter vd Linde |
| Best Beginner | - Sarel Brummer |

The morning was enjoyed by all who attended. The next activity will be on the 18 July. All members are requested to make a note of this day.

by John Nel

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Budgerigar Health

~Diagnosis of Salmonella~

Diagnosis cannot be made on clinical signs alone. Confirmation depends on isolating the bacteria from the heart blood or lesions of dead birds and the droppings of live, recovered carriers, but this can only be done in a properly equipped laboratory. This is called a NECROPSY or a form of autopsy for birds. In an establishment where occasional losses have been experienced in several age groups, examination of droppings from birds which have been in close contact with the dead birds should be made because salmonellosis can be well established before it is even suspected. When an infection is well distributed throughout the stock and established, but not causing heavy losses, it is said to be endemic or enzootic. When an infection suddenly wreaks havoc in an aviary, causing a high incidence of clinical disease and deaths, it is referred to as an epidemic or epizootic. Blood testing methods for antibodies is a useful means of identifying carrier birds harbouring a particular strain of organism.



Area 1 Championship Show

The Area 1 Championship show was held at Kempton Park and there where 1029 birds benched. Although the show was a Grade B show due to 1200 birds not being benched the show was a great success.

Congratulations to all who took part in this show especially the Molkentin Stud who took Best Bird and Best Opposite Sex on Show.

The NTBS has 67 members and a disappointing 8 members entered birds at this show. It must be remembered that the only way to see what the level of your birds are is to Show them. We therefore encourage more of our members to Show.

by Nel Brothers Stud

NTBS activity



On the 18 July we will be holding our fourth mini show for 1998.

Venue: the church hall in Moregloed. This show begins at 9:00.

Please support this event as it is held especially for YOU. Bring the family or invite a few friends to come and enjoy the morning with us.

For more information: John Nel at (012) 5423533.

New Members

No new members joined us this month. Please refer any queries to Pieter van der Linde or John Nel.

~Tip of the Month~ Egg Bound

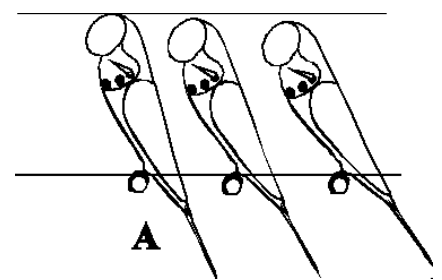
This problem requires immediate treatment, otherwise the hen is sure to die. It can occur in over young hens or hens late in their breeding life, or in cold weather. The egg becomes lodged before it is laid, and must be moved. With older hens, they will stay in the nest box with a swollen abdomen, which progressively gets larger. To remedy this problem, release the hen into the flight aviary and the exercise should allow the egg to be passed. With young hens, especially their first clutch, they will be found on the breeding cabinet or nest box floor with a swollen abdomen, dilated pupils and distended feathers. With these hens, or with older hens if exercise does not dislodge the egg, they should be put into a heated cage and a few drops of oil placed on the beak and vent areas. If this fails to dislodge the egg after a few hours, then massage the abdomen until some of the egg is visible, then puncture the egg with a pin, allowing the fluid to drain out. The collapsed egg should then pass out of the hen.

Assessing Budgerigars

Carriage

A: Correct.

by Niels-Erik-Hansen



Mating New Birds

As soon as you have a good idea how the young birds are developing, you can start thinking about how you want to mate them. Making up breeding pairs from young stock is an important matter and it must not be done thoughtlessly. If you had a good season, you must decide first of all which birds you want to sell and which you want to keep. It would be foolish not to keep your best birds for further breeding. Look for the best ones among the first broods hatched. These were raised at a time that the parents still were in top condition, and they had the longest and most favourable time to develop. During the winter, look over your birds carefully to find a partner for each male. In selecting mates, consider the preference of the birds, if you can. You will notice that young birds form couples spontaneously meaning that every male will select his own mate. If possible, leave these spontaneously formed couples together, as they will give you the best breeding results. Often you can't just let nature take its course because you have special goals in your breeding program. An albino bird may select a green partner, and you may want to mate two albinos. You then, of course, have no choice but to separate the couple and to more or less force a new combination on each. Be sure, however, that you keep the laws of genetics in mind. If you rematch couples, give them extra time to get used to each other before putting them into the breeding cage. You want to foster the greatest harmony possible before your birds start reproducing.

Make sure you establish a good reputation based on the birds you sell. You can sell birds with minor deviations as pets if they are otherwise healthy but you shouldn't sell them to anyone who has any thoughts about breeding Budgies. Don't slide into deceptions, especially not if any of your birds have serious defects or are in poor health. To avoid temptation, humanely destroy young birds that you wouldn't buy for your own use under any circumstance. You not only save your own reputation, you also encourage newcomers to the hobby who don't have enough experience to know faulty birds from quality. One day, they will be wiser and will remember who cheated and who helped them. Good birds that remain after you have made selections for your own future breeding can be sold to other breeders or to dealers. Fortunately there are always breeders looking for quality and not color and will pay a good price for the quality bird first.

Breeding Expectations

Pairings involving Inos and Non-Inos.

| Pairing | Expectation |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Ino (Cock) x Ino (Hen) | Ino Cocks and Hens |
| Ino(Cock) x Normal (Hen) | Normal / Ino Cocks Ino Hens |
| Normal (Cock) x Ino (Hen) | Normal / Ino Cocks Normal Hens |
| Normal /Ino Cock x Ino (Hen) | Ino Cocks Normal / Ino Cocks Ino Hens Normal Hens |
| Normal / Ino Cock x Normal Hen | Normal / Ino Cocks Normal Cocks Ino Hens Normal Hens |
| Normal Cock x Normal Hen | Normal Cocks and Hens |

/ denotes split.

This is the end of the colour expectations. Next month a new exciting series by Deon Davie will start. He will be covering colours from a different perspective.

by The Nel Brothers Stud



Request for Information

I would like to do a series on the history of the Northern Transvaal Budgerigar Society. I would like any members who have any inputs to contact me and provide any information regarding any of the following:

- First club meeting.
- Founding members
- Special stories about members.
- Highlights during the clubs history.
- Low points in the clubs history.
- South African champions in our club.
- any information members feel will add value to the series.

Contact John Nel at (012) 542 3533 or post information to P.O Box 43594, Theresa Park x2, 0155.

The BSSA Price List

- Show Cage perches - R 1.50 per set.
- Show Cage drinkers - R 1.50 each.
- Cuttlefish holders - R 1.50 each.
- Ties - R 35.00 each.
- The 'All About' series - R 60.00 each.



Chris Oberholzer
Tel : (011) 693 1790

Northern Transvaal Budgerigar Society

Annual Subscriptions

Membership :

- * Normal - R 110.00
- * Pensioners - R 60.00
- * Honorary - R 30.00
- * Spouse - R 80.00
- * Juniors - R 40.00

New membership Entry :-R 30.00 (Once off)

**Contact Pieter v/d Linde for more
information at Tel : (012) 335 6950**

**Have you got any birds,
show cages, etc. for
sale?**

Why not contact the editor
and place your advertisement
here.

~Fees~
Donation to the club

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Best Beginner - Barario 1998

BIRDS AVAILABLE

**Telephone John or Ian at
(012) 542 3533**

Visitors welcome by appointment.

The Next Issue

The next issue will contain the following
items :

- (1) Continuation of Breeding expectations.
- (2) Continuation of Budgerigar health.
- (3) Your items.

Please contact me if you have any
inputs. You must remember that your
inputs are vital.

John Nel (012) 542 3533

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distributed free of charge.*

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