



# The NTBS Show Budgie

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## Test your Birds at Shows

Exhibiting is the only true way in which we can test the merits of our stock. Shows are a very important part of our hobby, for without them where would we compare our birds with those of other exhibitors. This is essential in order to discover the strengths and weaknesses of our stud. In fact, I believe that it is the shows which create that desire among many fanciers to reach greater heights. Seeing what can be achieved by others, encourages us to, by careful study and breeding, produce budgerigars of a higher standard. Personally, I have little faith in the fancier who "has better birds at home." If they had such birds then they would show them. I suspect they don't like to be beaten. One must also accept that no matter how good your birds are, you will not always win. I often hear exhibitors state that they are not sending birds to a particular show because they do not like the judge, do not like the show hall, the specials list is not big enough, or the entry fee is too high. This is simply human nature, but, in my view, is a misguided attitude, especially for beginners and novices. At these levels, the more experience gained at shows the better. Experience which will tell you if you are progressing or standing still, or worse, going backwards.

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## July Highlights

On the 18th July we had a Mini Show for club members. There were 16 members who attended. There were 49 birds entered for the show with 16 Beginner birds, 15 Novice birds, 14 Intermediates and 4 Champion birds.



Deon Davie (5th from left) was the judge on the day and the results were as follows:

From left to right  
Best Intermediate - Mike Davies

Best Bird on Show, Best Beginner and Most points - Nel Brothers Stud. Ian Nel 2nd from left - John Nel behind camera.

Best Opposite Sex and Best Novice - Pieter van der Linde.

Best Champion - Taljaard Partnership.

The morning was enjoyed by all who attended.

by John Nel

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## ***Budgerigar Health***

### **~Treatment and Prevention of Salmonella~**

It must be stressed that, short of destroying all infected birds, carriers and those in contact, it is unlikely that an establishment can be entirely cleared of the infection. If rodents or wild birds can gain access, they will soon be acting as a reservoir of the organism. Because of the individual financial, and sentimental value of cage birds, treatment is more generally attempted than in the case of poultry. This reduces mortality and greatly slows the onset of new cases of clinical illness but masks infected birds by turning them into symptomless carriers.

Treatment must be prolonged, and repeated at intervals in all valuable birds. Breeding should also be discontinued for the current year. Some would say that once birds are infected they should never be used for breeding again. Minor or major fresh outbreaks are to be expected in following seasons, especially if sudden change of food occurs, also during a cold spell or breeding, or indeed during any conditions of stress.

The greatest success in treatment has occurred with the drugs furazolidone and spectinomycin. Sulphonamides, particularly sulphadimidine and sulphadiazine are also quite effective in reducing losses and checking clinical signs. It is advisable therefore to combine or alternate two or more of these drugs. Where drug-sensitivity tests are available, which indicate the particular efficiency of either one or more drugs, these drugs should of course be used. The most important factors for prevention are cleanliness, care in the choice and origin of foodstuffs, vermin-proof premises, isolation of new stock and all stock after visits to shows.

## ***Area 5 Championship Show***

The Area 5 Championship show was held in Durban on 9 and 10 July 1998. There were 595 birds benched on the day. The NTBS was very poorly represented on the day with only 2 members benching birds.

The results were as follows:

Best Birdn Show - Molkentin Stud  
Best Opp. Sex - Molkentin Stud  
Best Young Bird - Molkentin Stud  
Best Any Age - Molkentin Stud

Best Champion - Molkentin Stud  
Best Intermediate - Jenny Huber  
Best Novice - Craig Kenton  
Best Beginner - Nel Brother Stud

Congratulations to the winners.

## ***NTBS activity***



On the 15 August we will be holding an aviary visit to Fred Sherman. He will be discussing Breeding of quality birds, feather quality and feeding.

Departure: the church hall in Moregloed 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.

## ***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~ Clear Eggs***

Clear or infertile eggs can be caused by the cock or the hen. With hens, particularly their first clutch, they will be too eager to lay eggs and will not allow the cock to mate. If this is occurring then close off the nest box, or try the pair in a colony breeding situation. Make sure the plumage around the vent is not too long and trim it if necessary. Check that the perches in the cabinet do not move or roll, as this will make it harder for mating to take place. With the cock, they may be large and need extra room to exercise and remain in breeding condition.

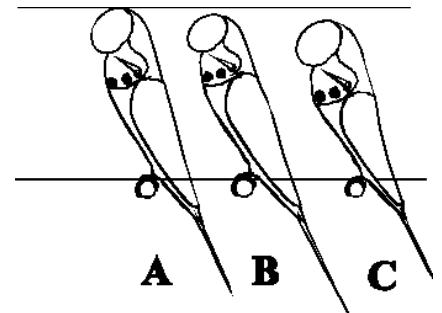
If a pair is good at incubating and raising chicks, but cannot produce fertile eggs, remove the infertile eggs and replace them with fertile eggs from another nest that may not have as good a record for raising chicks.

## ***Assessing Budgerigars***

### **Balance (Proportion)**

A: Correct Balance.  
B: Small Head, Thin Body and Long Tail.  
C: The body is too short in proportion to the head.

by Niels-Erik-Hansen



## Test your Birds at Shows

As an established champion, I learnt by exhibiting at around 100 championship shows over a ten-year period. I now believe this qualifies me to be a bit more choosy about the shows I enter. Nowadays, I am not prepared to spend weeks preparing budgerigars for a show, when the judges, in my opinion, are not up to a good standard. I would rather travel a hundred miles to a show, than exhibit locally, if I thought the birds would be better assessed. Mind you I would rather show locally than not at all.



You can get a great deal of satisfaction from exhibiting your birds. It is worth remembering, that no matter the variety you keep, to reach the top of the tree you must exhibit. The one sure way to not win is not to show. No matter how good your budgerigars are, they will not win if left at home.

When I visit a show I am amazed at the number of exhibitors, especially newcomers, but also experienced fanciers, who turn up at the hall at 4:00pm. in order to take their show team home at 5. The hour in between is barely enough time to check on how their own birds have done, and see major special winners. Others arrive at 2:00pm, but after walk around retire to the tea room never to be seen again until lifting time.

I believe that time in the show hall should be spent wisely, studying the exhibits. Not only your own, but also those that have beaten you, to see where you need to make improvements. During the period when I was progressing through the sections, I spent hours looking at virtually every budgerigar at each show I attended. The ones I paid most attention to were those better than mine. During that ten-year apprenticeship, I competed in approximately six hundred classes, winning around four hundred and fifty of them. The time and effort I put in was worth it and played a most significant part in my progression in the hobby. It could do the same for you too.

by Ray Steele

## Breeding Expectations



Deon Davie making final choices.



From Left to Right  
Deon Davie, Corrie van Staden, Ian Nel, Neville Greyling, Mike Davies, Sam Rosslee, Sarel Brummer and Pieter van der Linde with his back to us.

## 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**

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**Best Beginner - Barario 1998**

### **BIRDS AVAILABLE**

**Telephone John or Ian at  
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Visitors welcome by appointment.

**Have you got any birds,  
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sale?**

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and place your advertisement  
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~Fees~  
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## MOLKENTIN STUD

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**Visitors are always welcome.**

## 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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published every month and  
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