



The NTBS Show Budgie

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Published by
The Nel Brothers Stud

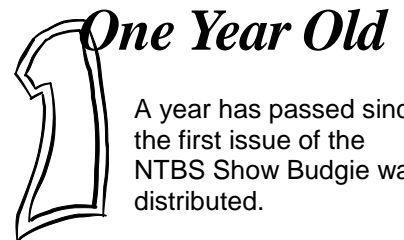
Breeding back to one parent

In actual practice it often occurs that one in-breeds back to one parent and not to the other. Here is an example. A cock with an extraordinarily good head and with, so far as can be ascertained, ancestors and brothers and sisters also very good in head, is mated to an unrelated hen only fair in head and not coming from a particularly good headed family. Both the cock and the hen are shapely and pleasing in other points. The youngsters from this mating are satisfactory in all their qualities except head, in which they are deficient. It can be decided that they have inherited the weakness of head from the dam. Therefore, it would obviously be a mistake to mate one of the young cocks back to its mother, as we should only be fixing weakness in head. On the other hand, it would be wise to pair one of the young hens back to her sire in order to fix his good properties, plus the other good properties which we have secured from the dam (apart from head); and at the same time we should be improving head in the next generation.

For Foundation Birds select high class mates

However skilful the in-breeder may be, however great the care he may exercise in the avoidance of fixing in his strain any faults of structure, color or markings, any weakness in constitution, or any tendency towards sterility wards sterility or other inheritable characteristic, sometimes after a number of seasons of in-breeding with a particular family, failings unexpectedly begin to appear. Suddenly, almost without warning, some of the youngsters bred may fail somewhat in a particular point. As soon as such a sign becomes apparent, the breeder must realise that the time has arrived when an out-cross has to be made. For the purpose of example let us imagine that the birds are declining somewhat in size. We must bring in at least one unrelated specimen excelling in size and not deficient in any of the points which we have already established in excelsis in out stock. If possible we must convince ourselves that the relatives of the out-cross do not fail in those properties and are also big birds. If the out-cross also comes from a strain in which correct in-breeding has been employed, it is all the more valuable because it is more likely to be potent for its own good properties. Having purchased the out-cross (which, for the sake of explanation, we will presume to be a cock), what now has to be done is to graft his good qualities into our own in-bred family. We take the best of the young hens bred from him and mate her back to her father.

continued on page 3



A year has passed since the first issue of the NTBS Show Budgie was distributed.

A lot of information has been made available to members with the hope that it would help them grow and appreciate our hobby. Numerous letters were received from members concerning various issues.

I would like to thank everyone for the positive feedback I received during the past year.

The Editor

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Budgerigar Health

~French Molt~ Part 1

This discussion of French molt is one of the most detailed. French molt is, undoubtedly, the worst illness that a Budgie breeder can experience among his birds. It can ruin the joy of an entire season or even destroy the incentive to keep Budgies forever. Even a beginning breeder can recognise a victim of French molt. Early signs of trouble are dropped pin feathers. Then you will notice birds that cannot fly at the time they ought to be ready to leave the nest, even though there seems to be no reason why they aren't able to fly. Tail and wing pin feathers are partially missing at that time and pin feathers continue to drop. Dropped pin feathers look weak and curled. If you take one in your hand you notice that it lacks resilience and feels weak. The last centimetre of the quill is filled with a red liquid. This appearance of "bloody pins" in young birds is a sure sign that French molt is a problem. Birds with French molt move by climbing around the cage. It takes months before the birds have enough pin feathers to fly. Those born late in the season have poor prospects because they don't have a chance to recover before the onset of winter. Beginners, especially, should never buy birds that have had French molt. There always is a good chance that they will produce more birds with the same problem. Your best protection is to always buy from a reliable dealer or breeder. Watch to see that you get birds that look strong and well developed, have good feathering, and are a normal weight. Birds with French molt almost always weigh less than completely healthy birds. There are a number of theories attempting to explain the cause of French molt. Most of the explanations agree that it isn't really a true "illness."

Continued next month

Mini Shows

Whats the hipe about? What does the Mini Shows offer?

Well as you can see these trophy's are up for grabs at each Mini Show. The small trophy's are awarded in each class and are kept by the exhibitor as a memento. The large trophy's are awarded at each Mini Show. For more information contact John Nel at (012) 542 3533.



~Tip of the Month~ Discarded Eggs

If a hen pushes the eggs out of the nest box, remove the eggs and replace them with a few white marbles. The shape of the marbles will make it harder for the hen to pick them up and throw them away. Once the hen is used to the incubation of the marbles, try her again with real eggs. Otherwise, use the pair to raise chicks from another nest.

If the eggs are simply rolling away from the hen in the night, then the egg hollow may need to be made deeper. If the hen does not sit on the egg hollow properly, turn the false bottom upside down and provide some sand for the hen to make her own hollow in.

NTBS activity



On the 12 September we will be holding our Anual General Meeting.

A new committee will be appointed and delegates to the BSSA AGM will be nominated

Venue: the church hall in Moregloed at 9:00.

Please support this event.

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

New Members

Beharrie JCO B18

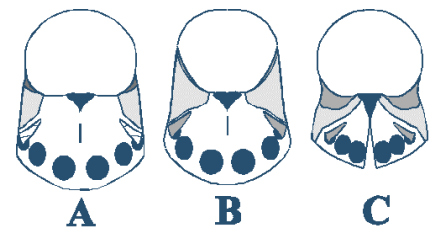
Please refer any queries to Pieter van der Linde or John Nel.

Assessing Budgerigars

Shape of head viewed from the front

- A: Correct
- B: Narrow frontal
- C: The neck is visible, the mask is split and the width between shoulders is too little.

by Niels-Erik-Hansen



Breeding back to one parent, continued

Thus we secure a dose of the father on both sides. Some people, having introduced an out-cross, go so far as to mate brothers and sisters from the pair of which the out-cross is one member, but I do not advise this unless both birds are of exceptionally high quality. I have known brother X sister produce splendid youngsters, but as a method of very close in-breeding, I prefer father X daughter or son X mother. Actually when pairing brother to sister you are only re-assembling the properties of the two parents, which theoretically may not seem to be progressive, though where two birds of outstanding merit and breeding are concerned, there are occasions, as above indicated, when this pairing be made with gratifying results. It is an excellent plan to mate the out-cross to two birds in the first season in order to breed a number of half-brothers and sisters.

By pairing these half-brothers and sisters you get the blood of the out-cross on both sides, which is what you aimed to do. From the progeny of the out-cross in the first generation you can by systematic in-breeding and selection impress the good qualities of the out-cross upon the family with which you have originally merged it. It must be agreed that you always stand a better chance of fixing a property if you have the factors for that property on both sides of a mating. Now if you buy a bird for the purpose of improving a particular property, how can you ever have a dose of that property on both sides of a mating if you do not mate relatives? Without blood relationship you would always have that bird's influence on one side only. A moment's thought will prove to you that this statement is correct. I have referred to the mating of half-brothers and sisters. I consider this to be one of the best forms of in-breeding at any time. It is particularly when utilising one of those "foundation" sires or dams to which was referred previously. These "foundation" birds are usually the outcome of skilful in-breeding.

They are prepotent for their properties; they are homozygous for all that is best in a good exhibition specimen. I have known such valuable breeding forces in pigeons and other livestock which would stamp their pleasing characteristics on all their progeny no matter to what they were mated, although naturally for "foundation" birds one selects high-class mates.

Having proved you are the owner of a bird of this character, halfbrothers and sisters bred from it are invaluable for carrying on the line. You want to spread through your stud all those qualities in which a "foundation" bird excels. Therefore, you breed back again and again to that bird or its progeny. Call this system line-breeding or in-breeding, it is undoubtedly the method which has brought into existence some of the most successful birds and animals of all kinds that have ever been seen.

It is only by in-breeding or line-breeding, whichever you term it, that you can consolidate and improve upon the properties of a "foundation" bird.



Colours from a different angle

by Deon Davie

Colour expectation tables can easily be used for reference purposes. By looking at colour expectations from a different angle one will really understand the working of colours related to budgies.

Tables usually convey colour expectations of the parent, but what about the make-up of the parents or the colour expectation from the offspring of these parents.

Example

A Grey Green cock and a Light Green hen produce a Grey cock.

What do we know about:

1. The Grey Green cock

He is split for Grey.

As the offspring is Grey, one of the parents must carry the Grey factor and the hen cannot carry the Grey factor, as she is a Light Green.

2. The Light Green hen

She is not a pure Green bird.

If she was, she would have contributed a Green factor towards the make-up of the offspring, and if this was the case then the Grey offspring would have been a Grey Green.

The hen is therefore split for blue.

3. The Grey offspring

He is not a pure Grey.

As his mother is split for blue, he too will be split for blue, if he received a Green factor he would have been Grey Green.

If he is paired to a blue bird or a bird split for blue he will produce blue offspring.

The BSSA Price List

Show cage perches - R 1.50 per set.
Show Cage drinkers - R 1.50 each.
Cuttlefish holders - R 2.00 each.
Ties - R 35.00 each.
The 'All About' series - R 60.00 each.
Show Cage Fronts - R 20.00 each.
(Prices subject to change without notice.)

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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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

*The NTBS Show Budgie is
published every month and
distributed free of charge.*

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