



The Show Budgie

1

Published by
The Nel Brothers Stud

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

Breeding Condition

The breeding pair must be in condition to breed before they are placed in a breeding situation. With cocks, the cere should be bright, the bird should have no illness, and the bird will be more active and pay attention to other birds. Cocks should be 10 months old before breeding, and no more than 6 years old. With the hen, the cere should be a rich chocolate brown and there should be no illness. Hens should be a year old before breeding, and no more than 4 years old.

Normally, Show Budgies get into breeding condition in November or December, the females somewhat earlier than the males. Naturally, both sexes should be in breeding condition at the same time, or else they won't mate. Note that the mating urge slowly wanes between the end of December and the end of January. Continue to keep the sexes separated during this first phase of the mating urge. Give all your birds a varied, balanced menu, including animal fats. Again, give the birds uncontaminated twigs from fruit trees, willow, or the like for diversion. You can practically depend on the first breeding phase to end by late February, and in early to mid-March the second breeding phase will commence. By the end of March both sexes are usually in top breeding form.

These dates, of course, are approximations, and experience will teach you when your own birds pass through the first breeding phase. We have bred budgies from September until April or May of the next year.

Summer is usually their rest period. (May to end of August.) The determining factor for the onset of the mating urge is day length, the number of hours of daylight per day. This is equally true for wild and domesticated birds. Wild birds are also influenced by the presence of ripening grass, weeds, and grain and the availability of water. But these supplies don't materially influence the mating urge in captive birds, because the breeder constantly furnishes these necessities.

Continued on page 3

A New Club

A new club has been created in the Pretoria area. The club will be known as **The Jacaranda Show Budgie Society (JSBS)**. The club has been created by some of the NTBS management committee. This means that those committee members will have to resign from the NTBS. The NTBS has therefore called a special general meeting to elect another management committee. The current committee will assist with this task.

The JSBS will be based on active participation and all members will have to actively participate in activities; failing this, membership will not be renewed.

IN
THIS
ISSUE

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Breeding Condition	1
The New Club JSBS	1
Budgerigar Health	2
The Club Show	2
Tip of the Month	2
Assessing	2
Colours	3
Adverts	4

Budgerigar Health

~French Molt~ Part 3

Moths deposit their eggs in the droppings found in the nest and in the seams and walls of the nest box. The resulting larvae feed on the horn of the feathers and thereby interfere with their growth. This moth can in fact be found in some nest boxes. It looks like the ordinary clothes moth, but the wings have brownish spots instead of being silver-grey. Van Dijk also was well-regarded in the Budgie fancy. He had been breeding for 50 years, had bought, sold, bred and traded tens of thousands of them, and was the founder of a bird park. He claims never to have had a problem with French molt in his aviaries. His theory rejects the inbreeding hypothesis totally without implying that inbreeding isn't a problem. Van Dijk saw inbreeding as a problem that has nothing to do with French molt. Still, his theory does not do away with the notion that a bird which is weak by nurture or by nature would show the effects of French molt to a greater degree than a completely healthy bird. Van Dijk's theory is supported by the fact that birds with the illness can develop into normal birds after the pin feathers of the tail and wings have grown back. The theory also implies that the continuous molt that occurs in older birds is caused by breeding or housing them in infected nest boxes. The upshot of this theory is that absolute cleanliness in the nest boxes can completely prevent the occurrence of French molt. Nest boxes would have to be serviced daily and cleaned after each brood by boiling them in water and disinfecting them with insecticides. Dr. M.D.S. Armour, an English Budgie expert, doesn't recognize French molt as a true illness or disease. In his book, *Exhibition Budgerigars*, he rejects inbreeding as a cause, but expresses the belief that the problem is caused by a type of mite. This mite is said to resemble the grain mite.

Continued next month

The Club Show

The NTBS club show was held on 17 October 1998 and 200 plus birds were benched. This was most disappointing as the club has 74 members and if each benched only 10 birds we would have had over 700 benched, and would have qualified for points. Of the 74 ONLY 6 benched birds. This is most disappointing. We breed show birds and the name indicates that we show them but what has to be done for this to happen. Maybe some of our members breed for the pet market. The Jacaranda Show Budgie Society will be based on **active** participation and all members will be required to actively participate and exhibit birds.

The club show winners were:

Best Bird on Show - Fred Sherman
Best Opp. Sex - Fred Sherman
Best Young Bird - Fred Sherman
Best Any Age - Mol Kentin Stud
Best Champion - Fred Sherman
Best Intermediate - WAC du Randt
Best Novice - Nel Brothers Stud
Best Beginner - SWJ Brummer

by John Nel

~Tip of the Month~ Unfed Chicks

With newly hatched chicks, watch them for the first day or so. If the crop area at the junction of the neck and body is full of a milky white fluid then the chick has been fed. If there is no sign of feeding, place an older chick in the nest as well and the louder chick should induce the hen to feed the nest. Alternatively, using a dropper, feed the chick a mixture of warm milk and cereal for the first two days, twice or three times a day. The chick will visibly fill up and this should be enough to get the hen to feed once the chick grows in size.

A New Club, continued

Due to the editor of the **Show Budgie**, the NTBS secretary, moving over to the **JSBS**, members of the NTBS are requested to **subscribe** to this monthly newsletter. The cost will be R60 per year. This only covers the costs to put this publication together as well as postage. An alternative will be that the NTBS subscribe on behalf of the members.

by John Nel

The NTBS has its own home page on the internet. The address is as follows:
<http://www.Geocities.com/Petsburgh/5240>

by John Nel

**Remember the club show rolls
- thank-you**

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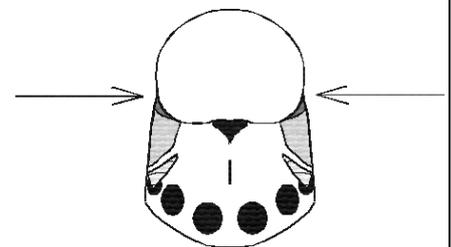
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Assessing Budgerigars

The head skull defines the width

by Niels-Erik-Hansen

by Niels-Erik-Hansen



Breeding Condition, *continued*

Artificial light affects the birds in the same way as natural light, and this factor causes grief for breeders who aren't careful with their lighting. If you want to trigger the mating urge, expose the birds to 13 hours of light and 11 hours of darkness. (We keep our lights on from 6:45 am to 9:45 p.m. all year round. This is 15 hours of light and 9 hours of darkness using an electronic timer for the on/off times.) Breeders run into problems with day length when they get careless with their lighting schedule and leave lights on an hour or so longer one night and shorter the next. This much irregularity is enough to upset the triggering mechanism in the birds. The message in all this is that you have to be consistent in timing the lights. You can find timers that do the job automatically, some with dimmers some with fancy electronics that allow you to make timing variations from three seconds to 30 minutes. I prefer exposing the birds to as much natural light as possible.



Some breeders leave the lights off in the morning so the birds can get used to the natural morning light which increases as the days progress. I do switch on two night lights in case they get disturbed at night and lose their perching.

A male in good breeding condition has a beautiful blue cere. He is in constant motion and takes in everything in his surroundings. He reacts to everything that interests him by pulling his feathers together tightly and carrying his wings high. And just about everything interests him! The female ready to breed has a deep brown cere. She also is highly active and especially in the morning, she constantly calls to her mate. Budgies are in top breeding condition during their second and third years. Outwardly and internally, they are completely developed at that age. Avoid mating two young birds or two old birds together. Instead, give an older male or female a young mate.

Beginning breeders must be aware that Budgies mature gradually. They often worry when they note that the young they raised are lighter in color than their parents and that they are less developed. The worry is unnecessary. As the birds mature further, new breeders discover that the colours darken and become stronger. This, however, is not necessarily true for light coloured birds, where wavy markings on the back and wings are not desirable. One may find that these become more pronounced as the birds grow older. And yellow Budgies may gradually develop a green haze over their feathering.



Colours from a different angle

by Deon Davie

In this issue we will be looking at an example by presuming we don't know the parents of the

following three offspring:

1. Sky Blue Dominant Pied Hen.
2. Opaline Grey Green Hen.
3. Cinnamon Grey Cock.

By looking at these offspring we know the following of their parents:

1. At least one parent **MUST** carry the Dominant Pied factor. (Both parents **CAN** carry the Dominant Pied factor as they then can still produce non Pieds.)
2. Both parents **MUST** carry a Blue factor. (Green and Grey are both dominant over Blue.)
3. One parent **MUST** carry a Grey factor. (Both parents **CAN** carry the Grey factor - Grey is dominant over Blue but recessive to Green.)
4. One parent **MUST** carry the Green factor. (Both parents **CAN** carry the Green factor.)
5. The mother of the offspring **MUST** be a Cinnamon.
6. The father **MUST** be a non-Cinnamon, but split for Cinnamon. (If the father was a Cinnamon all the hens would have been Cinnamons.)
7. The father **MUST** be a normal split Opaline. (If the father was an Opaline then the Pied hen would also be an Opaline.)

The actual colour of the parents were a Cinnamon Opaline Grey Green hen mated to a normal Grey Dominant Pied cock.

We now know the following:

1. **Parents**
 - 1.1 The hen is split for Blue. (See chick 1)
 - 1.2 The hen can be split for Grey. (See chick 3)
 - 1.3 The cock is split for Blue, Opaline and Cinnamon. (See chicks 1, 2 and 3)
2. **Offspring**
 - 2.1 The Cinnamon Grey cock **CAN** be split for Blue. (If he is split for Blue his mother **MUST** be split for Grey.)
 - 2.2 The Cinnamon Grey cock **MUST** be split for Opaline.
 - 2.3 The Opaline Grey Green hen **MUST** be split for Grey or Blue.

We can now compare points 1 - 7 with the actual colours of the parents

**South African Spangle
Budgie Association**
for the furthering of the Spangle
Established 4 October 1998

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~Sylvia & Ken~

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Members who have paid fees for 1999 at  
their current club and would like to join  
the JSBS will only be required to pay **R  
60.00** to join. If you are interested in  
active participation then

**Contact Pieter v/d Linde for more  
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