



The Show Budgie

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

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Published by
The Nel Brothers Stud

Breeding for Exhibition

Breeding in captivity is not very difficult but it can be testing at times. This I believe is because we have changed the domesticated bird dramatically from that found in the wild. In our endeavour to breed the champion bird for exhibition we have changed the structure of the bird. The birds are now much larger in size (225 mm for exhibition birds compared to 192 mm in the wild).

Their feathering has been lengthened and encouraged to grow in what is called directional feathering, this means the feathers do not follow the contour of the body as they do in the wild. This gives the appearance of a much bigger bird especially around the head area. This is not usually a problem with the cock budgerigar but in large hens it can be a major problem. (The changes to the domesticated bird are discussed in the next article.)

The structure of the bird has changed dramatically over the last fifty years since fanciers around the world have been breeding this fantastic little bird.

We have seen an increase in length by 33mm as well as the body structure, which has increased to the extent that the modern exhibition Budgerigar is now, twice the width of the wild specimen. The changes don't stop there because the length of feather has also increased and the amount of underdown has thickened substantially.

This is all well and good for exhibiting of birds, as these changes are very pleasing to the eye and with the overall standard around the world getting closer together. But with these changes we have seen problems developing in breeding, not so much with the big bold cock birds, but with the beautiful big hen birds, we have found that the best way to use these hens for breedings is when they are at about 6 months of age. If you can get more than one season out of them [count it as a bonus] as after 6 months you may have trouble getting any chicks from her.

Other problems have surfaced because of these structural changes. These being feathers growing on the legs and feet, more weepy eye problems and the birds flight pattern is changing because of the amount of head feathering. Some birds have difficulty in seeing straight ahead without tilting their head from side to side, which in turn causes their flight pattern to alter.

Although I am sure that none of us would go back in time, our challenge remains to try and get all varieties up to the one standard and of course to breed the elusive black or red budgerigar.

Highlights

The Jacaranda Show Budgie Society staging has been built by Pieter van der Linde.



The staging can be put up very quickly due to the approach used. The two outer supports are pulled apart and two bolts are used to ensure stability. The plates are then put in place and the birds can be benched. The staging also has 3 levels for birds thus providing more benching place per stand. The JSBS members would like to express their appreciation for all the hard work that went into the design and making of the staging. Thank you Pieter.

The Editor

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JSBS on the internet. Address on page 4

Budgerigar Health

~Parasite / Mite Control~
Part 5

The mites usually attack the birds at night, then retire to cracks and crevasses during the day. Mites keep the birds restless at night, running about the skin and feathers and sucking blood. Some hens are known to abandon their nests and babies because of the mites. Warm and humid weather speed up the reproduction of mites. This is one of the reasons why some breeders only breed during cooler months such as March to September. The quill mite is among the largest of the mites making it easily visible to the human eye. The birds bite off their feathers or pull them out. Tumors and/or cysts can then form. Quill mites travel from bird to bird making it contagious. It attacks young and old. It was first found in chickens and pigeons. Experienced breeders can tell if he has mites or other diseases by the way in which the bird moves. If he moves his head in a jerking or thrusting way he may be scratching for mites instead of just preening. A cure for a severe mite problem is IVERTMECTIN available at most vets or some pet supply stores.

A number of parasites can infest nest boxes. Fly larvae are most common in summer, when they develop easily in the wet droppings in nest boxes, where the flies lay their eggs. The larvae do not seem to bother the birds directly, but it doesn't require much imagination to realize that they don't do the birds any good. An infested box soon gets to be a messy place. So, in summer, take special care to see that the wet droppings are removed as speedily as possible. Spread a fresh, thin layer of sawdust before replacing the eggs or young in the nest. The so-called "red louse (mite)" or "bird louse" is harder to eliminate. It is really a type of mite that some believe to be related to the supposed causative agent of French molt. It isn't really red either---more nearly grey.

But once it has sucked its fill of blood, its body swells and the ingested blood shines red through the thin skin. During the day, the louse remains in the cracks of nest boxes. At night, it stages raids on the young and even the older birds sleeping on their perches. These raids are most damaging, largely from loss of blood. Affected birds lose their zest for life and look so depressed that you can tell at a glance their is trouble. This parasite, also can be fought by cleaning and disinfecting nest boxes and using antiseptics and insecticides. Nest boxes should be cleaned in boiling water, disinfected, and whitewashed with natural chalk. Prevention is better than cure. Taking preventive measures keeps the louse or mite from gaining a foothold. The feather or quill mite is similar to the red mite although it can lay its eggs on the bird making it easier to control. Treatments of the birds alone is useless. The mites can live away from the hosts for weeks or months. Boiling of the nest boxes in water is recommended for Breeders and then washing with a disinfectant. Some mites are barley visible but can become more visible to the eye by placing a white cloth over the cage or nest box at night. In the morning the mites will be attached to the underside of the cloth making them more visible to the human eye. This may be a good choice if you are unsure if you have mites or not. We clean our nest boxes in hot water and pinesol disinfectant about once every 2 months. We let them soak in this in a laundry size tub for a few hours and then scrub them with a brush while rinsing them off. A good rinsing is essential if you are using a cleaning fluid. The cleaning frequency just depends on whether the parents have eggs or babies. We have extra nest boxes, so as we remove one to be cleaned we place a clean one in its place so their is not a long period for the parents to be without their nest box. Most bird owners today say to use IVERTMECTIN for severe mite problems.

~Tip of the Month~

Chick Diseases

Chrysanthemums - This condition is comparable with mongolism in humans and usually occurs when a breeding pair have raised too many clutches in a season. Try not to let a pair raise more than 3 clutches per season, and space them out to prevent exhaustion. Chicks with chrysanthemums will generally only live to about 3 months old.

French Molt is a disease that affects all parrots, resulting in feather damage and loss. Symptoms in budgerigars occur at about 5 weeks, and range from the bending and loss of a few flight or tail feathers to the loss of all the major flight feathers. Chicks usually recover in due time and the disease will not be noticeable in later life.

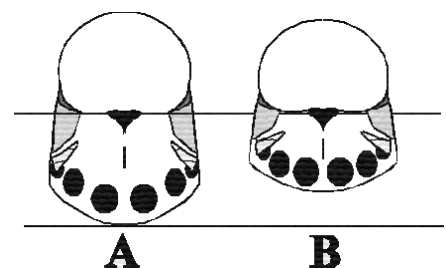
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Assessing Budgerigars Length of Mask under Cere

- A - Ideal
- B - Far too Short (no space for spots)

by Niels-Erik-Hansen



Sexing the Budgerigar

Cock (Male)

Cere is bold and dark blue in colour

Hen (Female)

Cere is flat and dark brown in colour

Young Cock (under 12 weeks)

Cere is bold and light pink in colour

Young Hen (under 12 weeks)

Cere is flat and has white around the nostrils

The cock budgerigar of the following varieties have a bold cere which is light pink in colour: Lutino, Albino, Lacewings, Recessive Pieds.

It is often difficult to decide the sex of a young budgerigar under the age of 12 weeks.



Jacaranda Show Budgie Society Highlights

On the 16th January 1999 we held our first Mini Show. The Mini Show was run according to the guidelines laid down in 1998. The Mini Show had 10 colour classes in which entries were made. The judge on the day was Japie Smit and the results were as follows:

Best Bird on Show - Corrie van Staden
Best Opp. Sex - Neville Greyling
Best Champion - No Entries
Best Intermediate - Corrie van Staden
Best Novice - Nel Brothers Stud
Best Beginner - Neville Greyling

The next meeting will be on the 16th February 1999 at the home of Neville Greyling. Contact Neville at (012) 6514274 for directions.

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



Colours from a different angle

by Deon Davie

In this the 6th article, I would like to take one of my own 1999 breeding results as an example.

A dark green opaline spangle texas clearbody cock which is split for lutino was paired to a lutino hen in order to produce lutino's and texas clearbodies of which some will be spangle clearbodies.

Three chicks hatched: a light green opaline spangle texas clearbody, a yellowface albino and a yellow double factor spangle.

Light green opaline spangle texas clearbody

1. Can be a hen or a cock.
2. The fact that it is an opaline bred from an opaline cock does not mean it is a hen, as the lutino mother can also be an opaline.

3. If it is a cock it will be split ino.

Yellow-face albino

1. As both parents are green series birds, any one or both parents can carry the yellow-face factor.
2. Both parents must be split for blue.
3. This chick can be either a cock or a hen.

4. As texas clearbodies are sex-linked dominant over redeyes (lutino, albino and lacewing), no redeye cock can be split for texas clearbody, but a texas clearbody cock can be split for any of the abovementioned redeyes.

Double factor spangle

1. To produce a double factor spangle the parents must each carry the spangle factor either in a single or double form. This implies that the lutino mother is a spangle lutino.
2. If this offspring is a cock:
 - 2.1 It will be split ino as it's mother is a lutino.
 - 2.2 It will also be a split texas clearbody, because if this double factor spangle chick also inherited another lutino factor from his father's side, it would have been a visual lutino.
3. If this offspring is a hen:
 - 3.1 It will be a clearbody as, if she had inherited the lutino factor from the father and not the clearbody, it would be a lutino.

Footnote: The Texas clearbody is sex-linked but dominant over red-eyes while the easley clearbody is dominant like a spangle.

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

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~Secretary~
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Budgie Society**

Annual Subscriptions

Membership :

- * Normal - R 100.00
- * Juniors - R 40.00

New membership Entry :-R 30.00 (Once
off)

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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  
information at Tel : (012) 335 6950**

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