



Published by
The Nel Brothers Stud

The NTBS Show Budgie

Why Beginners Leave the Fancy

This is my personal view from observations I have made since 1976 when I joined the fancy. I had discussions with a number of people who decided to leave the fancy and everybody will not be happy with what I have written. So be it.

Many beginners who have left the hobby did so because they had a problem with feather dust.

Since 1652 many people from Europe and elsewhere which were suffering from lung and allergy disorders immigrated to South Africa because of our dry and warm climate and less pollution at that stage. I also suffer from sinusitis and am allergic to house dust as well as feather dust from birds.

Many beginners, who left the hobby, did so because they and members of their family had a problem with feather dust and with it extra medical expenses and health problems. These people have my sympathy.

Another group of beginners stated that they had bad luck buying a lot of "Rubbish" from champion breeders as well as breeders in lower ranks of the fancy. The rubbish included birds of merit which were of the so-called non-breeders.

These are hens which were physically unable to lay eggs. I discovered when handling some of these hens, a hard substance (like an internal lump) which I presumed was the cause why these hens were unable to produce any eggs.

If you give such a hen the opportunity to fly in the aviary for at least six months or so she feels normal when handled but if you put her in a breeding cage again she is the first one to start working in the nest box without further results and the same lump could be felt later. I had one specific hen which when the chick she was rearing was about 20 days old she started showing signs of infection and after application of antibiotics in the drinking water she recovered and finished the job. When she showed the same symptoms the next time, I placed the chick and left her to see what would happen next. She shortly afterwards died and when I opened her I found a lump the size of a pigeon egg inside the abdomen.

Further investigation revealed it was caused by a punctured intestine around which a membrane was formed to seal off the droppings that penetrated through the hole. My guess would be that when the hen was getting fat and heavy the extended pressure caused new droppings to pass through the hole and caused infection. I believe the hole could have been caused by internal parasites.

There are people who sell these non-breeder hens and when the buyer later complains they are told that it is their own fault since they have put the hen in a breeding cage at the end of her breeding cycle which resulted in the situation where the hen got overweight and that the hen was ruined permanently and they cannot expect compensation.

Continued on page 2

The National Moved to East Londen

The 1998 BSSA National, to be held on the 22nd and 23rd May, will no longer be held in Kathu. Due to the club members receiving packages only one member has remained. The National will now be held on the same day's in East Londen.

As a result the Eastern Cape Provincial will possibly be moved to Cradock. This will be confirmed later.

by Chris Oberholzer

*Die 1997 NTBKV Klub Kampioen
Corrie van Staden
Die 1997 NTBS Club Champion*

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Why Beginners Leave the Fancy

To check the theory I took 10 hens which I could identify being near the end of their breeding cycle and put them into breeding cages with active cocks. All the hens started to work and clean out the nest boxes after two days. A week later it appeared that only three of the hens still showed interest in the nest boxes. These hens eventually laid two to three eggs each and about 10 to 14 days later added a few more eggs. The remaining hens were removed and put into flights to get into breeding condition. When these hens came into breeding condition, they went through all the stages and reared a number of chicks each.

A further group of hens which beginners bought produced clutches of clear eggs round after round and even year after year until they died or were discarded. Some of them are infertile and this trend normally runs in the family. Other hens are box bound and only hurry out of the nest box to release themselves, take a sip of water and visit the food hopper and dash back to the breeding cage without giving the cock time to mate with her. When the breeding cage is closed for some time every day, leaving the hen outside with the cock you might get a number of full eggs. I had cocks which were not interested in a hen and when the hen was on eggs he would sit with her in the nest box but would not produce full eggs. I took one of these cocks and put him with a hen. After a week, in which he displayed no interest in the hen, I introduced an old cock to the pair. The hen mated with the old cock and produced one full egg which hatched and was reared while the young cock was in the breeding cage looking on. When the hen became ready for her second round I removed her from the cage with the young cock and put them in the cage next to the old one. The old cock reared the chick and the pair then produced four full eggs from which two hatched. With another hen the cock later produced a total of eight chicks in four rounds.

I came to the conclusion that some breeders are putting up their problem birds for sale. Birds in the aforementioned categories as well as egg eaters, baby killers and others, and the beginners find it easier to embark on something else less frustrating and expensive.

On the other hand beginners are making some of the following mistakes and then inadvertently put the blame on the suppliers of these birds.

- * As colony birds budgerigars are not interested to breed when they do not have chattering birds around them and beginners try to get going with a few pairs only.
- * Most hens prefer breeding nests which are dark inside. If not, they do not even bother entering the nest.
- * All hens must be in breeding condition when they are introduced to the breeding cages. As we know they go through cycles of seven weeks and cannot be treated as Canaries.
- * The cocks must also be alert and in good condition.
- * Buff feathered birds have a trend to produce clear eggs because there are too many long feathers in the way to allow fertilization. The cutting away of some feathers or just plucking these feathers normally relieves the problem and produces results.

One of our leading breeders mentioned to me recently that he had bought a number of birds from a well-known breeder and paid a handsome price for these birds which were of exceptional quality. After a few years most of these birds had died and although every precaution in the book and otherwise was taken to breed with them he cannot show one chick for his time and efforts. If he was a beginner, he would have left the fancy. Some beginners buy birds from up to 12 different breeders and then think they can, by mating unrelated birds, produce a good family of winning birds. You may breed exceptional birds from unrelated birds of good quality even if the looks of these birds are misleading. As we know, the majority of show characteristics are carried genetically on recessive genes and when these different birds are crossbred for some generations the show characteristics will totally disappear. You may breed six chicks in a nest which bear no resemblance to each other.

This is my honest opinion and although budgerigar people may differ from me I will stand for what I believe in.

by Jan Joubert

Die NTB Bestuur

Die volgende persone is by die algemene jaar vergadering wat op 15 November gehou is, verkies as die NTB se nuwe bestuur.

Voorsitter - Mike Davies
Onder Voorsitter - Corrie van Staden
Tesourier - Pieter v/d Linde
Sekretaris - John Nel
Skou Sekretaris - Ian Nel
Addisionele Lede - Shelagh Toich
- Jan Joubert
- Neville Greyling
- Andre Erasmus

deur John Nel

Name Change

The NTBS Budgerigar has been renamed the NTBS Show Budgie in order to indicate that this publication is about Show Budgies and not any other budgies. Any queries can be directed to the Editor.

Tip of the month

When you are at a show there is little that can be done to save the situation when the quill of a flight or tail feather is broken. However a bent or curled end of a tail or flight feather is easily remedied. All you need is a container of "near boiling" water. Holding the bird firmly, dip the tail or flight feather into the water for 10-15 seconds, then pass the feather between your finger and thumb until it is straight. Do not immerse too close to the body or feet. A few hours later, after the feathers have dried, the improvement will be dramatic.

by The Nel Brothers Stud

Budgerigar Health - Clagged Vent

Clagged Vent is the condition in which droppings accumulate around and over the vent, these droppings then form a dry hard mass which obstructs the passage of faeces and urine to the outside and these waste products accumulate inside the bird resulting in death within a few days.

Examination of the internal surface of the clag material reveals that it can be divided into three types, namely :

1. Light Yellow to pale brown with a gritty slightly sandy texture, dry and odour free.
2. Dark brown and fairly dry although some moisture is present. They often have a rather sticky feel and are almost odour free.
3. Dark brown to black, relatively soft and foul-smelling.

Considering type 1 in more detail, these are composed principally of abnormal urine. This could arise from a malfunction of either the kidneys and/or the intestine. No infectious bacteria is present and the condition does not spread as if a virus was involved. Talking to fanciers who have had birds affected with this type of clag, it seems probably that in the majority of cases, the birds recover provided the build up of clag is removed regularly so that waste products do not accumulate in the bird's system. This type of clag occurs almost entirely in the autumn and early winter for reasons which are not at all clear at the moment.

Type 2 represents abnormal faeces and here the malfunction will almost certainly lie in the lower part of the intestine. There is excess mucus production in the lower intestine and this leads to stickiness of the droppings so that they adhere to the feathers around the vent. The causes of this type of condition are many and varied but a significant proportion of cases are associated with an infection of the lower bowel by a bacteria called Staphylococcus. In these cases it will be possible to get rid of this with antibiotics together with frequent removal of the clag, having softened it in water. It was thought at one time that it's trigger might be diet related but the condition has now been seen in birds on a wide variety of foods. In a number of other cases of this type of clag the intestines were found to be displaced and therefore malfunctioning; examples of this have included umbilical hernias, cancer of the testicles and a retained decomposing egg. Other conditions that have been seen causing this type of clag have been inflammation of the gizzard so that poorly ground up food was being passed into the intestines and psittacosis in which a number of bodily functions, including those of the intestines, are disturbed.

What ever the cause in an individual bird, the most important aspect is that the clag is spotted and removed. The skin under the clag is often inflamed and sore and a bland cream spread on this area will make the bird feel more comfortable and in some cases appears to prevent more clag sticking to the bird. The only other option that can currently be recommended is antibiotics for a proportion of birds affected by type 2 clag.

by John R. Baker

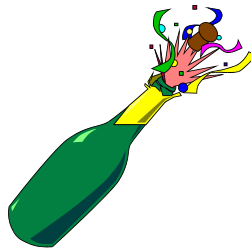
Breeding Expectations

Pairings involving Light, Dark and Olive Greens.

Pairing	Expectation	
Light Green x Light Green	100 %	Light Green
Light Green x Dark Green	50% 50%	Light Green Dark Green
Light Green x Olive	100%	Dark Green
Dark Green x Dark Green	25% 50% 25%	Light Green Dark Green Olive
Dark Green x Olive	50% 50%	Dark Green Olive
Olive x Olive	100%	Olive

The Cock or Hen in the pairing column can be any colour.

by The Nel Brothers Stud



Budgerigar Joke

I would like to include budgerigar jokes on a regular basis and therefor need your assistance. Please contact me or write to me with your budgerigar joke.

Question

What do you get when you cross a tiger with a budgerigar ?

Answer

I don't know but when it talks, you better listen.

The 1997 NTBS Club Champions

The following NTBS club champions for 1997 were crowned at the annual general meeting held at the home of Shelagh Toich on the 15 November.

The Beginner class went to Johan Nell.

The Novice class went to Corrie van Staden who also became the club champion.

The Intermediate class went to Mike Davies.

The Champion class went to the Molkenntin Stud.

Congratulation to all.

by John Nel

The BSSA Price List 1997

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 80.00
* Pensioners	- R 30.00
* Women	- R 50.00
* 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

Letters to the Editor

Letters are printed in good faith and the Editor cannot be held responsible for opinions expressed by writers in any letter published.

Request

The editor is pleased to receive contributions in the form of letters and photographs. Items accepted will only be returned if they are accompanied by a stamped, self addressed envelope, otherwise they will be filed for possible future use.

All letters or articles must be forwarded to John Nel, P.O Box 43594, Theresa Park x2, 0155. I can be contacted at telephone (012) 542 3533.

The Editor

The Premier Budgerigar Club

presents

The Young Bird Show

Date

21 February 1998

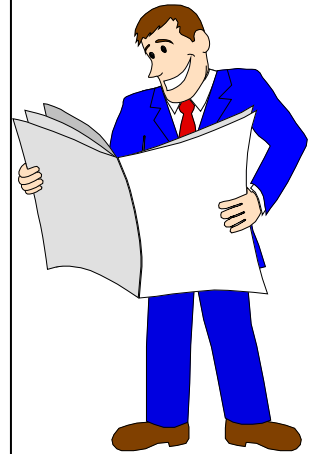
Venue

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Inquiries

Chris Oberholzer
(011) 693 1790

Place your add here
and support the club.



Plaas jou advertensie hier
en ondersteun die klub

Articles

Any members who would like to do an article or have articles that they have written for other magazines are requested to contact the editor so that the inclusion of these articles can be discussed.

Enige lede wat 'n artikel wil skryf of artikels het wat ons kan insluit word versoek om met my in verbinding te tree.

John Nel at Telephone (012) 542 3533

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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