



# The Show Budgie

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The Nel Brothers Stud  
(012) 542 3533

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

## The Elusive Feather by Stephen Mow

And they are. Quite often there is not a lot of difference between the placegetters in terms of the overall budgerigar but we will always notice that the winner has that extra on top.

### What is that extra on top?

What is that extra that places a budgerigar on the top staging or places it first in a class at a Championship Show?

Of course it's that extra feather.

Okay so how do we obtain this extra feather length that the leading exhibitors have on their budgerigars?

Easy. Buy the feature in.

There is only one problem here and that is I am not aware of any breeder who will sell this type of budgerigar as it will required by the breeder to perpetuate this feature in his or her own stud.

So we need to breed it ourselves!!!!

Where do we start?

Let us assume that we have a reasonable overall standard in our stud already.

What we need is to locate within this stud, six (6) specific birds.

Three (3) of the birds will be required to have extra cap feather, {type A} and three (3), will be required to have extra width of face, {type B}.

**Type A** - we require one (1) cock bird and two (2) hens which have the cap feather required, (this is the yellow or white feather which covers the top of the head).

This cap feather must extend back past the eye, the longer the better.

**Type B** - we require one (1) cock and two (2) hens which when viewed from the front the feather is wider between the cere and eyes than at the back of the head.

The shape created should look triangular with the widest end at the beak.

In year one (1), we pair Type A together and Type B together in order to double up on their feature.

E.g. Cock Hen Offspring

Type A x 1a = Ala

Type A x 2a = A2a

Type B x 1b = Blb

Type B x 2b = B2b

Assuming that we have good breeding results, year two (2) will see pairings of 1/2 brother and 1/2 sister.

We will also cross the two (2) types together which creates Type C.

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## Highlights

On 27 May 2000 an inter-club show will be held between the JSBS and the NTBS. All members are requested to exhibit at this show.

This will be the first inter-club show hosted by us and a good turn-out is expected. All club members are requested to make every effort to attend.

Venue: Church Hall Moregloed

Time: 9:00

Entries: R2.00 per exhibit

Any queries can be directed to Ian Nel at (012) 542 3533.

All contributions can be forwarded to  
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## Budgerigar Health

~Pulpitis by Sam Vaughn ~

This is an inflammation of the pulp of the growing feathers, especially the large ones of the wing and tail. Such diseased feathers may break off or be shed prematurely. Once shed the feather may not regrow. A significant proportion of the birds submitted with this disease had been sent in as "tail-less wonders". Pulpitis is believed to be a major cause of this condition. The cause of pulpitis is usually a bacterial infection, predominately Staphylococci or Streptococci although about 15% of cases are probably of viral origin. These germs are thought to live on the bird's skin but only cause problems when they invade the growing feathers. There is a strong correlation between this condition and markedly buff, suggesting there may be something inherent in buff feathers which makes them susceptible to this condition. There is also some evidence of vertical transmission. While in theory, prolonged antibiotic treatment might cure the condition when a bacteria is the cause, this has not been tried. Repeated bathing of the birds in Virkon S seems to cure about 40% of cases. A few appear to recover spontaneously. At the present time there appears no way of predicting which birds will respond to treatment and which will not.

## The Elusive Feather, continued

Personally, I would not pair any of the offspring back to the original parents unless the parents were of exceptional quality.

E.g.Cock Hen

Type A1a x A2a 1/2 brother 1/2 sister

Type B1b x B2b 1/2 brother 1/2 sister

Type A1a x B1b Type C

Type A2a x B2b Type C

As I mentioned earlier, I would resist breeding the offspring back to the parents but would re pair the original pairs again as a safeguard against disasters.

At the completion of year two (2), ruthless culling must take place.

Any offspring from Type A not having cap feather that extends past the eye should be discarded.

Any offspring from Type B not exhibiting the extra width of face required should be discarded and any offspring from the combination pairing Type C not exhibiting both width and cap length should be discarded.

Year three (3) is the year when we hopefully reap the benefits of our feather program.

It should be remembered at this point that the offspring from Type A and Type B should be prepotent for their feature, cap length and width. Pair off- spring as our example shows.

Type A crossed with Type C and Type B crossed with Type C

The results should be birds with that desirable feather length and width.

Any bird worthy of breeding from Type A or B that is not used in Type C should be mated to an out-cross that has another feature your stud may require, and the process starts again.

As you can see, this is maybe a more simplistic explanation compared to many other articles we have seen over the years. Although simply written, it is not simply a matter of pairing two (2) birds together and hoping for the best, rather it is a matter of building pieces' together to create an end result.

## Grit

Grit is part of the required menu of Budgies. It helps them grind up their food and aids in digestion. The main ingredients of grit are calcium and charcoal. The bird uses the calcium not only to help form egg shells during the breeding season but also to build its own bones. There are several types of commercial grit on the market. The formulated products are preferable because in addition to calcium, they contain charcoal iron, iodine, and magnesium. You can also furnish ground oyster shell, boiled, fresh, finely ground egg shell, mineralised lime or cuttlebone which contains valuable minerals. But I recommend the commercially mixed grit. Some breeders also furnish ground sea shells.

## Clear Eggs



There are a number of different cause for infertile eggs. The cock may be sterile or the hen may have laid too early, before fertilisation took place. A very common cause is a loose perch. A perch which rotates or is unsteady will interfere with the mating act. Sometimes the first clutch of eggs is sterile but the second clutch is fertile. If both clutches are infertile, the pair should be separated, rested, and then given different mates. It will then become clear which bird is at fault. If eggs in many different nests are found sterile, the fault does not lie with the individual birds, but with the feeding. This deficiency may either be a temporary one or may have caused permanent damage to the reproductive organs. Birds raised on a poor diet are worthless as breeders. An unfortunately frequent occurrence is that all nests have fertile eggs at the beginning of the breeding season, but toward the end almost all nests show clear eggs. The fault here, in most cases, lies in the diet. The natural reserves of the breeding bird are exhausted. The seeds should immediately be given attention. Other causes for sterility are unfavourable conditions causing ill health, such as colds, infectious diseases, overbreeding, injudicious treatment with sulfa drugs, too long hours of artificial light, wrong management, etc. Breeding operations should be stopped for the season. In budgies it is not necessary to pluck the feathers near the vent. The feeding of wheat germ oil is not as effective in birds as it is in mammals. When seeds are beginning to become stale, vitamin E may be diminished and a part of the seeds may be treated with wheat germ oil, allowed to stand overnight, then mixed with twice the quantity of cod-liver oil treated seeds. Wheat germ oil and cod-liver oil should not be mixed. Lack of vitamin A, protein, fatty acids, riboflavin, biotin, and the amino acid tryptophane have been found to be factors in producing sterility. Many breeders feeding an all-around good diet, never add wheat germ oil and do not complain about sterility in their birds. During incubation of a clutch of eggs, one egg is often pushed aside. This egg, in most cases, is an empty or clear one. Guesses have been made as to why the hen pushes an empty egg to the side, even if the clutch is small and she could easily cover it along with the good eggs. One suggestion is that an empty egg cools its surroundings. Eggs containing growing embryos give off some heat, while an empty egg does not.

## Colour for Beginners by Jim Hutton

It is sometimes difficult for the beginner to identify the various colours and varieties that are in the makeup of our budgerigars. The original budgerigars that are in the wild, were all what is commonly known as Light Greens. Then along came the Yellows then Skyblues then Opalines then Greys then Spangles, and finally, the latest to rear its head is the Saddleback.

In the coming months we shall concentrate on three points,

1. the basic colours
2. the different varieties
3. sex linkage

### Greens

Greens come in three different colours, you get Light Green, Dark Green and Olive Green. In each colour variation there is a darker shade than the previous one. Purely in the colour, you will have the genes which can breed Greens but also can breed Blues.

Next month we will look at Blues.

## Tip of the Month

~Disinfectants by Nancy Carr~

While chlorine bleach is a fine disinfectant for perches, cages, toys, nest boxes, etc., one must be very careful to rinse all the bleach off before putting the equipment back into use.

**Chlorine bleach is toxic to birds.** How can one be sure all the bleach is gone? And what does one do when the bleach smell won't go away?

In the aquarium section of pet shops, one can buy dechlorinators, products that take the chlorine out of water to make the water safe for fish. Dechlorinator, when used to rinse bleached items, will remove the chlorine smell and excess chlorine left over from the bleach. When you add dechlorinator to your rinse water, be sure to add more than is recommended on the bottle: you want enough to dechlorinate the rinse water plus some dechlorinator left over to work on the bleached equipment. I'd recommend tripling the dosage.

This trick works for bleached aquarium equipment, and for taking the smell out of bleached clothing, too.

## **NEL BROTHERS STUD**

**XN2**

EST. 1996

**Most colours bred**

### **1998**

Best Beginner - Berario  
Best Beginner - Area 5  
Best Novice - NTBS Club Show  
Yellow Face CC's x 2  
NTBS Club Champions

### **1999**

Best Novice Any Age - Berario  
Yellow Face CC x 1  
Dark & Olive Green CC x 1  
JSBS Derby winners  
JSBS Club Champions  
Yellow Face Grey Champion Bird

### **2000**

Best Opp. Sex on Show - JSBS  
Millennium Show  
Best Novice - JSBS Millennium  
Show

**Telephone John or Ian at  
(012) 542 3533**

Visitors welcome. Please call first

## **Scott-Scott Aviaries SSA**

~Sylvia & Ken~

1997 Best Beginner on Show Durban  
1998 Best Beginner Young Bird Area 5  
Albino CC  
D.B.C Club Champion  
**B.S.S A Champion Beginner**  
1999 Cinnamon Green CC  
Cobolt CC x 2  
Double Factor Spangle CC

**JSBS members**

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**FREE of charge**

Contact John at  
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### **Annual Subscriptions**

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Member - R 120.00  
Spouse - 50% of Member  
Pensioner - 70% of Member  
Juniors - 40% of Member

New membership Entry : - R 100.00 (Once  
off)

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or

**Contact Pieter v/d Linde for more  
information at**

**Tel : (012) 335 6950**

**Birthday wishes go to**

**Kevin Weinmann - 24 May**