December 2000 Issue 39



The Show Budgie

Published by The Nel Brothers Stud (012) 542 3533

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

JSBS results for 2000 by John Nel

JSBS Mini Show 1 results

Best Bird on Show
- Nel Brothers Stud
- Corrie van Staden
- Mike Davies
- Mike Davies
- Corrie van Staden
- Corrie van Staden
- Nel Brothers Stud
- Neil Brothers Stud
- Neil Brothers Stud
- Neil Brothers Stud
- Neille Greyling

JSBS Mini Show 2 results

Best Bird on Show

Best Opposite Sex on Show

Best Champion on Show

Best Intermediate on Show

Best Novice on Show

Best Beginner on Show

- Molkentin Stud

- Nei Brothers Stud

- Nei Brothers Stud

- Neville Greyling

JSBS Mini Show 3 results

Best Bird on Show

Best Opposite Sex on Show

Best Champion on Show

Best Intermediate on Show

Best Novice on Show

Best Beginner on Show

- Molkentin Stud

- Nel Brothers Stud

- Nel Brothers Stud

- Nel Brothers Stud

- No exhibitors

- Kobus Hechter

JSBS Best in Sections for 2000

Champion - Molkentin Stud with 67 points
Intermediate - Corrie van Staden with 35 points
Novice - Nel Brothers Stud with 100 points

No. '11. Co. 1'm. ... '41. 20 m. 'm.t.

Beginner - Neville Greyling with 29 points

Most Points at Championship Shows during 2000

Intermediate - Pieter van der Linde with 47 points
Novice - Nel Brothers Stud with 109 points

Paginner - Pieter van der Linde with 47 points

Paginner - Pieter van der Linde with 47 points

- Molkentin Stud with 299 points

Beginner - Russel Dixon with 13 points

2000 Derby Show

Champion

Best Derby on Show - Molkentin Stud
Best Derby Opposite Sex - Nel Brothers Stud

Club Champions for 2000

Nel Brothers Stud

Christmas wishes

The Show Budgie publishers would like to wish all JSBS members and their families a merry Christmas and happy new year.





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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 width, with 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.

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 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 excess 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 prepotent 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. 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, 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 homogenous 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 inbreeding, 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.

A Prepotent Cock by Terry Tuxford

For a person in their first few years in the hobby the ability to inbreed is limited because most often, the background of the individual birds in question are not fully known. The objective of all fanciers should be to develop a winning family of birds of their own origin. The best starting point for this exercise is a really good cock bird that is highly fertile and is prepotent.

Prepotency simply means that he has the greater capacity in the pairing to transmit his good features into his offspring. Once again, this would appear to be a simple process but one which is unfortunately, more likely to fail than succeed. Prepotent cock birds of outstanding quality are very few and far between and so the better course of action is to proceed slowly and carefully. The first objective would be consistency in your group of birds and then when the quality has a common footing across the stud, which it can now be called, then advancement throughout can commence.

Good birds produced from chance pairings tend to take you back to point one after a couple of years. Also, in general, both parents are equal contributors to the resulting offspring and it is evident that a greater degree of consistency can be achieved by producing chicks from parents with common backgrounds. With surprising regularity, nature arranges that those features which we see as faults in our birds come to the surface. Carefully selection using the skills of the individual to eradicate as many of these faults as possible is the way to produce winning birds.

Top ten breeding season pointers by Terry Tuxford

- **1.** Pair up progressively as the birds approach breeding fitness.
- **2.** If experienced pairs produce clear eggs, this will almost certainly be repeated in the second round.
- **3.** If possible use pairs that produce clear eggs as foster parents. Allowing the successful pair to lay again
- **4.** Try to avoid pairing two first year birds together.
- **5.** Many hens will lay 8 to 10 eggs. Seldom do all of these hatch if left with the hen -foster the remaining full eggs after number 4 has been laid.
- **6.** Balance the size of nests to an average of four youngsters.
- **7.** If there are chicks in the nest box when the second round starts to be laid, foster these eggs.
- **8.** Supplemental feeding is essential but care should be taken to follow the manufacturers recommended quantities.
- **9.** Make sure that the chicks are fully weaned before removing them from their parents and into a nursery cage.
- **10.** Taking just two rounds from a pair is a misnomer, if they are producing successfully in terms of both numbers and quality, and the chicks are healthy then nature will regulate the number of rounds possible.

Colour for Beginners

by Jim Hutton

Clearwings

Yellow wings are the Green series and White wings are the Blue series. They have either a bright green or blue body colouring. The wings should be either Yellow or White, depending on whether they are Green or Blue. Unfortunately, they no longer have clear wings, but tend to have suffused markings on the wings, some lightly-suffused and some so heavily-suffused that they resemble Greywings. The best way to identify them is to examine the cheek patches, Clearwings always have bright violet patches, greywings have pale blue cheek patches.

Tip of the Month

Feather picking, which causes so much grief for Canary breeders, also occurs in Budgerigars. What happens is that feathers are chewed off at the "roots," and sometimes they are even swallowed. The cause appears to lie in a vitamin deficiency, particularly vitamin F. However, it takes more than a vitamin supplement to solve the problem. It may be that breeders tend to give the supplement to the victims rather than the perpetrator of the deed, who after all indicates by his bad habit that he has a need for these vitamins. But then, it obviously takes more than vitamins to cure a bad habit. Basically, feather picking is a sign of boredom. If you give birds something to gnaw on like a fresh willow or birch branch, feather picking quickly ceases. Also, you can give them something to climb on for diversion. By providing rearing food, you can stimulate new feather growth in the birds that lost feathers. If parents pull the feathers of their young, there is an obvious solution: distribute the young among other nests. If that isn't possible, put the young in a separate nest box hung next to the original one. That will generally motivate the female, usually the culprit of the pair, to begin a new brood. Dad, who usually doesn't take part in the picking, will continue caring for the brood. For older birds, try a broth of groats as a substitute for the regular drinking water.

NEL BROTHERS

STUD

XN2

EST. 1996 Most colours bred

1998

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

1999

Best Novice Any Age - Berario Yellow Face and Dark & Olive Green CC's JSBS Derby and Club Champions Yellow Face Grey Champion Bird

<u> 2000</u>

Best Opp. Sex on Show - JSBS Millennium Show

Best Novice - JSBS Millennium Show Best Bird on Show - Inter-Club Show Best Novice Any Age on Show - Gauteng Violet and Dark & Olive Green CC's JSBS Club Champions

Telephone John or Ian at (012) 542 3533

Visitors welcome. Please call first

Pieter van der Linde

V11

Intermediate Breeder and Exhibitor (012) 3356950

Corrie van Staden

V74

Intermediate Breeder and Exhibitor (012) 8038621

Japie Smit

S24

Champion Breeder and Exhibitor (012) 6600965

The Jacaranda Show Budgie Society

Annual Subscriptions

Membership Fees:

Member - R 120.00

Spouse - 50% of Member
Pensioner - 70% of Member
Juniors - 40% of Member
New membership Entry: - R 100.00

(Once off)

Visit us on the Internet at http://www.geocities.com/petsburgh/5240

or

Contact Pieter v/d Linde for more information at

Tel: (012) 335 6950

January Birthday Wishes

Holger Molkentin on 22 January Corrie v Staden on 25 January

> All contributions can be forwarded to John Nel P.O Box 43594 Theresa Park x2 0155