



# The NTBS Show Budgie

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Published by  
The Nel Brothers Stud

## Breeding a successful Stud

The first step to breeding a successful stud of budgerigars is selecting the birds that you will start from. The best way to do this is to join a local club and study the breeders that exhibit birds. You will soon see which breeders are proficient in particular varieties and you can approach this breeder and ask to buy some of their breeding stock. They will obviously not want to part with their best birds, but champion birds will have offspring, parents, brothers and sisters that may be for sale.

*The ideal bird will most likely not be on sale, so you will have to make do with a compromise.*

Form a picture of what you see as the 'ideal' bird. Always try to keep this ideal in mind when buying a bird. Size must be a priority in purchasing birds. The ideal bird will most likely not be on sale, so you will have to make do with a compromise.

When buying birds, try to gather the component parts to make the ideal. If you purchase a cock that has good features except he lacks size, then try to find a hen that will compensate for the size while perhaps not being as good in other areas. As your flock is built up, you will be able to breed your own birds to make up the ideal budgerigar. Each individual bird will be a part of the end product generations down the line: your own champion birds.

When you buy the birds, try to keep other factors in mind. Make sure the bird is in good health, and has no contagious diseases that will affect the rest of your flock. If it is a breeding adult, ask for any breeding records, or if there are any special needs for the bird to survive.

The price of your bird will depend on the local economy, but don't think that cheaper and inferior birds can be a substitute for a more expensive and obviously superior breeder.

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## A New Year

Another year has passed and hopefully you had a successful breeding season coupled with a fruitful exhibition year. For those who did not - keep in mind that winning is not the be all and end all of our fancy. I know it's easy to say that it's not the winning but the taking part that counts. As hobbyists we should not plan for success but plan to improve. There can only be one winner - but for 1998 let's make sure there's two; our hobby and our birds. Happy new year and see you at the shows.

The Editor



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## *Breeding a successful Stud*

It is better to buy just one pair of good quality birds and start from there. A large flock of poor birds will bring you no closer to the ideal, while a good pair will be a start.

A good cock will most likely be more easy to come by, and is a better buy. A cock will not have to rest as much between batches, and is less likely to become sick. If you can't find a good hen to buy, then breed your own with birds that, while inferior, compensate for any bad points the cock has.

### *It is better to buy just one pair of good quality birds*

Once you have purchased a few birds to start your flock, the next step is to select breeding pairs and establish a breeding line, as set out below.

#### **Founding a Line**

Once you have purchased the individuals to make up the ideal bird, you can found a breeding line to work towards this goal. The progenitor (starting bird) will usually be a cock. He should have good colour, well defined markings, good head qualities and an outgoing personality that is important for a show bird.

The hens that will mate with the progenitor should complement his good points and modify any weakness. They should be inclined to bulkiness, with a deep mask and broad head. Any fault in the progenitor can be bred out with successive generations altering the undesirable trait.

This initial stage of the breeding process is called outbreeding, as you are breeding a large number of unrelated birds to give a greater choice of birds next season. Once the line is founded, a form of inbreeding is used to strengthen the desirable characteristics in your flock. Inbreeding involves breeding related birds to establish the good traits of the original birds. The most common form of inbreeding is line-breeding.

#### **Line Breeding**

This is the simplest method for controlling traits in your birds. Line-breeding relies on reducing the number of ancestors a bird has, resulting in a fixing of (hopefully) the desirable traits. Starting with the progenitor, select two mates for him, one that will back up the good traits in the progenitor and introduce bulk into the flock, and the other to compensate for the bad points in the progenitor and produce finer birds. After the first mating, the off-spring from the first crossing should be larger birds with good quality while the second crossing will produce smaller birds that will, with the larger off-spring, be closer to the ideal. The birds produced in from the progenitor are called the F1 generation. By breeding the best of the F1 generation, and removing the other off-spring from the line, the next generation (F2) will contain birds that are based on the progenitor, with necessary modifications from the two original mates. Continuing to breed the best birds in each generation, the off-spring will move closer to the ideal.

## *Die NTB Bestuur*

Die NTB se nuwe bestuur kan by die volgende telefoon nommers gekontak word :

Voorsitter	- Mike Davies	- (012) 333 2667
Onder Voorsitter	- Corrie van Staden	- (012) 803 8621
Tesourier	- Pieter v/d Linde	- (012) 335 6950
Sekretaris	- John Nel	- (012) 542 3533
Skou Sekretaris	- Ian Nel	- (012) 542 3533
Addisionele Lede	- Shelagh Toich	- Jan Joubert
	- Neville Greyling	- Andre Erasmus

## *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*

Preparing budgerigars to be exhibited can take weeks of work and observation to bring the birds to peak condition at the required time. A most important aspect of showing is often carried out in a rush..... The act of placing the bird into their show cages. This is often done last thing before leaving for the show venue..... and in a few moments the work of several weeks can all be undone. Never close a show cage door until you have checked that the bird's tail is clear. It's not uncommon to see a well groomed exhibit minus tail feathers ( which are left protruding from the door), or damaged tail feathers, when that few additional seconds to check after "caging up" could have resulted in a top award..... instead of a "vacation" from the show bench for 6-8 weeks while new feathers grow.

## Budgerigar Health - Parasites

Due to the rapid metabolism of birds, it is essential that illness is treated as soon as possible. Birds should be checked daily for signs of sickness. Sick birds will usually be huddled, withdrawn, drooping on the perch and disinterested in it's surroundings.

**Worms:** Birds should be dewormed 3 or 4 times a year. Budgerigars generally suffer from Ascaris and Capillaris worms, which can be treated with deworming agents such as Piperazine or Levimasole.

**Coccidiosis:** Symptoms include a soiled vent and a huddled look, and maybe blood in the droppings. Proper diagnosis is available through microscopic examination, but a preparation such as Bioserine can be used if you suspect a bird has the condition.

**Ornithosis - Psittacosis:** This disease is also contagious to humans, and the symptoms include runny eyes and blinking. The disease can be treated with Aureomycin or Tylon.

**Feather Lice:** These lice live on the feathers off the birds and can cause feather damage and discomfort. Birds should be dipped in the warmer weather to prevent lice.

**Red Mite:** These are small insects that live in any cracks in your aviary or breeding cabinets. They feed on the birds at night, causing birds to look anaemic or lethargic. Treatment is via commercially available sprays for your aviary. Before the breeding season the cabinets and nest boxes should be dusted with a poultry powder or sprayed with a household insecticide.

**Scaly Face - Knemidocoptes:** The symptoms of this disease are an obvious scaling or powder around the beak and eyes of the bird. Treatment is with commercially available solutions, or with a household disinfectant such as Dettol. Apply the solution to the inflected area and let the bird fly in the aviary for a few days, then repeat the application. If needed, a third application should cure the condition.

Author Unknown

## Breeding Expectations

Pairings involving Greens and Blues.

Pairing	Expectation
Green x Green	100 % Green
Green x Blue	100% Green / Blue
Green x Green / Blue	50% Green 50% Green / Blue
Green / Blue x Green / Blue	25% Green 50% Green / Blue 25% Blue
Green / Blue x Blue	50% Green / Blue 50% Blue
Blue x Blue	100% Blue

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

The ' / ' indicates ' SPLIT ' which means that a ' Green / Blue ' (Green Split Blue) bird, although the bird is visually ' green ', is capable of producing ' blue ' off-spring if correctly paired.

by The Nel Brothers Stud

## Budgerigar Joke

There's this fellow with a budgie and this budgie swears like a sailor. He can swear for five minutes straight without repeating himself. Trouble is, the guy who owns him is a quiet, conservative type, and this foul mouth is driving him crazy. One day it gets to be too much, so the guy grabs the bird by the throat, shakes him realy hard, and yells, "QUIT IT" but this makes the bird mad and he swears more than ever. At this point the guy is so mad he throws the bird into the freezer. For the first few seconds there is a terrible din. Then it gets very quiet. The guy then thinks the bird may be hurt. After a couple of minutes he opens the freezer door. The bird calmly climbs onto the man's arm and says, "Awfully sorry about the trouble I gave you. I'll do my best to improve from now on." The man is astounded. He can't understand the transformation then the budgie says, "By the way, what did the chicken do".

## Young Bird Show

The Young Bird Show to be held at Borario on the 21st February 1998 and presented by the Premier Budgerigar Club will provide possible points to all who exhibit.

Chris Oberholzer has informed me that the Premier Budgerigar Club has applied for points to be allocated at this show.

This will become a reality if the new points system is accepted.

by John Nel

### ***The BSSA Price List***

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**

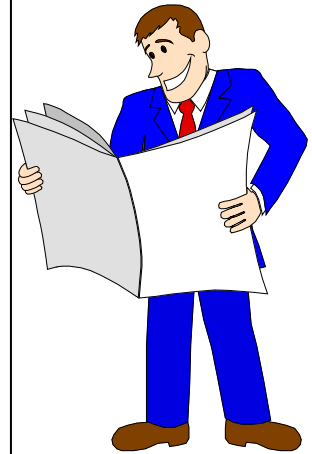
### **The Premier Budgerigar Club**

presents

### **The Young Bird Show**

**Date**  
21 February 1998  
**Venue**  
Borario  
**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 will 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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