



The Show Budgie

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

Published by the Nel Brothers Stud

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Editorial

The show season is upon us with most of the additional shows behind us. Now we all have to make the decision regarding which birds to pair up and which to hold back in order to take them to the shows. The planning now becomes crucial because we have to get our plans in place if we are going to have a successful shows season. The main question is "Do I breed with this bird or show it". What some breeders do is concentrate on the show season one year and breed the next. This enables the breeder to collect the required points and at the same time breed with birds not being planned for the show. Once the show season is over the show team members are bred with. The following year all birds are used for breeding with those not being bred with being used for the shows. How is your planning going?

by John Nel

Front Cover:
Dark Green Cock
2001 bred Cock
Bred by Nel Brothers Stud

Budgie Beautiful by Mick Freakley

You may not have bred the best Budgerigar this year, but you do have a chance of beating the best if you can present your birds to perfection on the day of the show. So how do you go about it? First, select the birds that you consider are good enough - eight weeks before a show for young birds, and six weeks for adults. Leave the chosen birds in stock cages to settle for the first week, then look carefully at each individual, checking for broken flights and tail feathers as these will need to be removed. Many breeders do not like to pull tail feathers because in some instances they do not grow back again. However, if you wait for tails to drop and regrow naturally it can mean that your best show bird could be out of action for the whole of the show season. I tend to pull one tail feather and when a replacement feather has started to grow, I feel confident enough to pull another. If the second feather does not grow the bird will at least have one, and many a major winner has got by with one tail feather. Flight and tail feathers take about six weeks to regrow, spot feathers around 3-4 weeks. The birds need to be sprayed next, to get them clean and encourage them to preen, which will put the natural oils in the feathers and bring them into show condition. An old show cage can be used for spraying, although I do not like this method because you can only spray one side of the bird and it will associate the show cage with getting a good soaking, therefore playing up when put in a show cage for showing purposes. I prefer to use an all-wire cage where 6-8 birds can be easily sprayed from all angles. Hot water can be used for the initial few sprays.

This will not harm the birds, because by the time it reaches them in a fine mist it will have cooled. A couple of drops of baby shampoo or Plume-Spray can be added. Spray every other day using cold water and as early as possible in the day to allow them to dry properly before roosting. As they come into show condition some birds will require less water and the amount can be adjusted, but it is important to continue spraying. When they are in condition the water runs off the feathers in globules. Stop spraying about three days before the show. Heads will require washing. Using a soft toothbrush and baby shampoo, hold the bird as you would for de-spotting and wet the head with the brush. Add a small amount of shampoo and brush the head from front to back, avoiding the eyes. If the bird becomes stressed, do not persist. Pin feathers will open during the head washing. All you need do is roll the feather between your thumb and first finger to remove the wax coating. De-spotting should take place about four days before the show, giving the mask time to settle. Most exhibition Budgerigars have a lot more spot feathers than required. Using a good pair of eyebrow tweezers start by pulling away some of the flecks. Once the flecks and the shadow spots have been removed it will soon become evident which are the main spots. If you are not sure which are the real spots, put the bird back into the stock cage and re-assess it later. The final task, the day before the show, is to straighten any bent or frayed tail feathers. Using a beaker of hot water, dip the tail into the water and then run the feathers through your finger and thumb. You will find that when dry the tail will be as good as new.

Colours for Beginners by

Jim Hutton

Dominant Pies

Dominant Pies are also a variety, coming in all the colours previously mentioned. They are neither sex-linked nor non sex-linked. They are what is known as a Dominant variety. What that means is, that when paired to a non-Pied, they will produce approximately 50% Dominant Pies and 50% Normals. None of the young can be split for Dominant Pied. The markings should be in the green coloration, and the body should be solid green, with irregular patches of yellow, they should have a patch of yellow at the back of the head but this is now optional. The wings should have patches of yellow, with the flights being grizzled, the feet are a mottled pink and the eyes are black with a white iris. In the Blue series substitute white for yellow.

Tip of the Month

Records a must

Be sure to maintain up to date accurate and comprehensive records. Do not put this chore off until later, when you think you will have more time. It is far easier to record what is happening (how the chicks grow, their variety and sex, the parents habits) at this time while it is fresh in your memory, than later when you have started to forget many of those small but all too important details. A good time to work on your records is when you are ringing your chicks.

Vocalisation by Terry A Tuxford

From trials it has become apparent that for the female, hearing the call of the male is more important than the effects that light may have on her breeding condition.

Researcher Brockway in 1969 demonstrated that *"male courtship vocalisations can induce ovarian development in female Budgerigars under short daylight conditions, without access to a nest box."*

Earlier, in around 1960, another investigator by the name of Ficken, concluded that pairs of Budgerigars isolated from other pairs rarely showed interest in a nest box but as soon as the sounds of other pairs were exposed to them, the nest box became the focus of attention.

Finally, in 1960, Brockway further demonstrated that males that were played the sounds of other males producing a loud warbling call also made similar calls, there was testicular development and sperm was produced.

This same sound produces nesting behaviour in hens but it was the soft warble of the cock bird that was necessary for the stimulation of egg production.

So we can conclude that the sounds that the Budgerigar makes play a very important roll in their breeding results but this is not the end of it. There are other essential stimulants.

Mini Show Picture Report

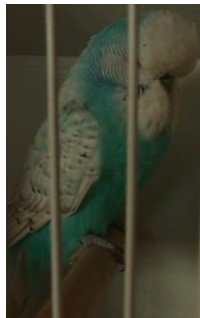
by John Nel

JSBS Mini Show

The second JSBS mini show was held on the 28th April at the Molkentin Stud. Fred Sherman was the judge on the day. 4 champion, 24 Intermediate, and 33 Beginner birds were entered on the day.



Fred Sherman discussing show cage standards with JSBS members from left to right Neville Greyling, Ian Nel, Corrie van Staden, Mariette Uys, Giel Calitz, and Kobus Hechter.



Left: Best Intermediate and Best Bird on Show - Corrie van Staden. **Right:** Best Beginner on Show - Kobus Hechter.



Left: Best Intermediate Opposite Sex - Corrie van Staden

Mini Show Results by John Nel

The results were as follows:

Champion

Best - Molkentin Stud

Best Opposite Sex - Molkentin Stud

Intermediate

Best - Corrie van Staden

Best Opposite Sex - Corrie van Staden

Beginner

Best - Kobus Hechter

Best Opposite Sex - Jacobs and Uys

Best on Show

Best - Corrie van Staden

Best Opposite Sex - Jacobs & Uys

Top 30% Champions

1 - Molkentin Stud

Top 30% Intermediates

- 1 - Corrie van Staden
- 2 - Nel Brothers Stud
- 3 - Nel Brothers Stud
- 4 - Nel Brothers Stud
- 5 - Pieter van der Linde
- 6 - Nel Brothers Stud
- 7 - Pieter van der Linde
- 8 - Corrie van Staden

Top 30% Beginners

- 1 - Kobus Hechter
- 2 - Jacobs & Uys
- 3 - Jacobs & Uys
- 4 - Kobus Hechter
- 5 - Kobus Hechter
- 6 - Kobus Hechter
- 7 - Gert Pieters
- 8 - Jacobs & Uys
- 9 - Kobus Hechter
- 10 - Jacobs & Uys
- 11 - Kobus Hechter

Exhibition Bird Features

Many Beginners hear the jargon used to describe the good and bad points of birds on show.

Some of these phrases are:

"Width between the eyes" This relates to the skull width and is nothing to do with feather - difficult for most beginners to recognise as a difference of one to two millimetres can be a lot.

"Directional Feathering" Feather structure which makes the feathers hang over the eyes making the eyes appear elongated and small.

"Cap length" (desirable feature)" Distance the buff or yellow (i.e. coarse or fine) feathers of the cap extend beyond the eye.

"Long flight" The true long flight has more than 7 exposed primary flights and can have up to as many as 10. It also has a very long tail which often hangs down. Usually a deep masked and big headed bird, but often not appreciated because of its bigger body size.

"Trousers on" The bird doesn't have the strength to stand up on its legs, tends to drop down and because it is usually a buff feathered bird, the feathers hide the birds' feet from view.

"Pulling" The bird is unsettled and feathers are drawn down tight on the head, often masking its good features which normally rise due to the feather structure.

"Substance" The framework of the bird, it needs to be substantial. A lot of buff birds seem to have this feature, but when they 'pull' you can see that it is all feather.

"Shoulder or Neck" This is the area from the top of the head to the top of the wing butts. When viewed from the front, this area should be filled in, giving no indication of a shoulder outline. Very full at the back.

"Flecking" Dark markings on the surface feathers of the cap. Sometimes also called Grizzle.

"Smokey" Dark marking on the underlying feathers of the cap, giving it a distinct smokey appearance.

"Opalescence in Normals" Body colouring spilling over into the normal yellow or white markings at the side of the neck. This is an undesirable feature and arises because of the excessive use of Opalines.

"Thumb print" This is the term used to explain a feature that is undesirable in the wings of Opalines. It is a reduction of the black markings in the butt of the wing, covering an area the size of a thumb print. This area is the same as the body colour.

"Grizzle (Opalines)" This applies to the black striations at the back of the neck. In the opaline varieties these striations are broken and of a paler colour than in the normals, giving the bird a grizzled appearance.

- Announcement -



17 Budgerigar European-Championship 11 / 12 August 2001 in Karlsruhe Budgerigar Tombola

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Each Exhibitor at the European-Championship 2001 as well all assistants who don't show birds receive a free ticket.

The proceeds will help to enlarge the European-Championship.

1. An adjustable judge-shelf from aluminium.
2. BBQ on Friday evening for exhibitors and assistants, drinks are not included.
3. Cordons for the show-birds.
4. Equipment to storage the show-facilities.

Ticket sale starts on 1 June 2001, Price 5.-DM each. Limit of 20 tickets per breeder. Shipping of the tickets depending on order date.

Orders can be forwarded to Mr. Bernd Waible Tanustrasse 5 76275 Ettlingen-Spessart/Germany
Please use cheques or cash and an envelope including your address and stamps.

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Juniors - 40% of Member

New membership Entry : - R 100.00 (Once off)

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

Contact Pieter v/d Linde for more information at Tel : (012) 335 6950