



The Show Budgie

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

Published by the Nel Brothers Stud

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Editorial

Now that the Free State Championship Show is behind us we look forward to the Gauteng Championship Show with great anticipation. The Free State Show was a great success with everything running smoothly. The JSBS was well represented with a number of members taking some of the major prizes.

There has been talk regarding how much light is required in an aviary. Although this is a personal decision that each fancier has to make, I feel that the lights should be timed exactly the same all year round. The lights also need to be bright enough and stay on long enough to ensure that the birds think it is the breeding season. The best is experiment until you find what works for you and the birds.

by John Nel

Front Cover:
Skyblue Cock
Skyblue Challenge Certificate - Free State Championship Show May 2001
Bred by Fred Sherman

Security of Birds and Aviary

by Scott

The notes are of a generalised nature and any bird owner with an aviary or setting up a new one would be well advised to consult the Police Crime Prevention Officer at a local police station.

GENERAL POINTS TO CONSIDER

The following general points are given for bird owners to consider:

Before acquiring or building an aviary, consider the security aspect. Older aviaries, and many proprietary models, are basically flimsy structures and experience has shown it is often cheaper to build in security at the start, rather than have to rectify faults later.

Consider the siting of the aviary very carefully and as far as possible ensure it is out of sight of the public, but with an unobstructed view from your home. It should at least be visible from bedroom windows. Doors and windows of the aviary should if possible be fitted to be seen from your house.

Many thefts of birds occur at night, therefore consider having the strongest protection in the nesting and sleeping areas of the aviary.

Consider some form of lighting in the garden area surrounding the aviary. Suspicious noises after dark can then be investigated in comparative safety and the sudden lighting of an area will deter many a thief.

Wire netting has been used in the keeping of birds for many years. It is cheap and serves its purpose, but with the increase in bird thefts, the use of a much stronger mesh is desirable, and Weldmesh would be preferable, to cover glass and ventilators.

Locks, security bars, hinges and bolts on windows, doors and ventilators should all be maintained at a comparable standard bearing in mind the structure of walls and roof. It certainly would not be cost effective to buy and fit an expensive sophisticated lock if entry can be gained easily through the walls or roof. All items of physical security are inter-related and must be balanced accordingly.

ALARM PROTECTION

With the increase in the theft of stock and the high value of particular birds, some consideration should be given to a burglar alarm. The need for this must be balanced against the type of area in which the aviary is situated, the proximity of other residents, the level of physical security and general crime risk. Alarm protection can be achieved in many ways, such as pressure mats, door and window contacts, trip wires and electronic devices. They may activate security lighting, audible alarms, or signals, to the police, the owner, or any other designated person. Use of alarms must be discussed in detail with an expert, as they can give trouble with false alarms and cause inconvenience to neighbours, police and the owner.

Colours for Beginners

Spangles

Spangles are another Dominant variety. They appear in all colours and varieties, and they have the same breeding pattern as the Dominant Pied ie., they produce 50% Spangles when paired to a non-Spangle partner and again they cannot be split for Spangle. In the Green series they have a bright green body colour, however, the wing markings differ from Normals in that the black and yellow wing markings of the Normals are reversed in the Spangle, they are yellow and black instead. The other peculiar feature of the Spangle is the fact that when two Spangles are paired together you get some of the young devoid of the normal Spangle markings. In the case of the Greens they are yellow all over, including the wings, whereas Blue series are all white. The correct definition for such a bird is a Double Factor Spangle.

Tip of the Month

Low Numbers

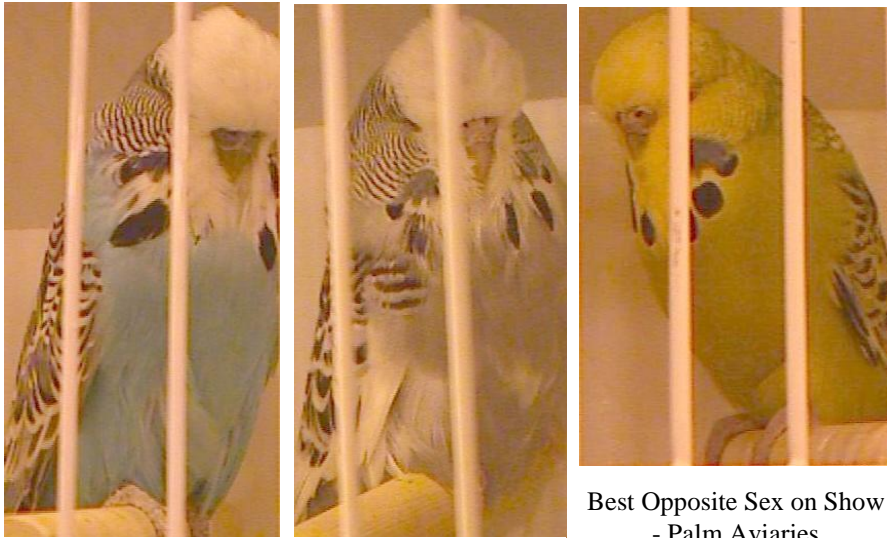
A disastrous breeding season with hardly any fertile eggs, leading to very few chicks or even a barren year. Check before the breeding season that adults are firstly, not too old to be able to reproduce and secondly, that pairs are in breeding condition. Breeding pairs should be sited in their breeding cages in a position enabling them to see one another and hear spare birds in the flights. Being gregarious, budgerigars need this stimulation from others, to breed successfully. Ample light of sufficient length, will also stimulate selected pairs into breeding. I always have a subdued night-light burning when the main lights are off at night, so that any unsettled individuals can find their way back to a nest box or perch. Without this, other pairs may be caused to panic due to one frightened bird. It does not take much disturbance to throw the entire aviary into panic and this night fright can cause severe damage to the breeding season in just one evening.

Hens left to rear on their own if the cock dies by Richardson

Some say foster out the young, others say leave them with the hen, but limit her to two chicks. All I can say, is that this year most of my hens were left to rear on their own, because as I said earlier, I run one cock with three hens. Most of the hens had to rear four chicks as my first round results were very good. When you think about it the seed dishes are not far away from the nest boxes, so the hens do not have to expend energy foraging for food. I also feel the exercise is good for them. In the two cases where I have left the cock with the hen, they have only carried seed to the nest box entrance. In fact when the young left the box I had to remove the cock as he was attacking the young. So once again it is up to you.

I could go on forever, but please remember that although I have used my methods to illustrate certain points, do not assume that it is the right or only way. All I will say is, listen to all, then make a decision for yourself. After all that is the very essence of the Fancy. Have you made the right pairing to produce that Club Show winner? Do not be put off by failures, we all have these at some time or other but the true fanciers survive these setbacks to fight another day. "Best of luck with your decisions".

Free State Show Picture Report by John Nel



Left: Best Skyblue on Show - Fred Sherman. **Right:** Best Dominant Pied on Show - Jaap & Koos Telers.

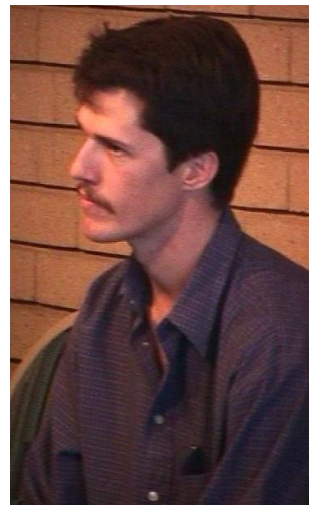
Best Opposite Sex on Show
- Palm Aviaries



Members at the prize giving



Left - The Dixon family



Right - Dion Davie one of the
main organisers

Security of Birds and Aviary, *continued*

In particular various types of electronic devices may be triggered by excessive heat, noise, air currents or other movement. This necessitates careful choice to ensure the most suitable device is used in a particular location.

DOCUMENTS

Many breeders spend a lot of time and effort documenting their birds and breeding results. These papers can be invaluable with registers, card indexes and veterinary records, being well worth taking care of. Ideally they should be kept in the safety of your home, although this may not be desirable for practical purposes.

Please be cautious when dealing with unknown visitors to your aviary and cultivate the habit of noting their personal descriptions and vehicle registration numbers.

Despite many warnings, a lot of people still tend to be too kind to casual visitors selling property or stock. Do not release stock on credit to casual visitors, and do not despatch stock before you receive cash.

SECURITY AT SHOWS

Remember the security of your vehicle and your personal property. In addition to dealing with security at the show where you are exhibiting, do not forget the security of your home, and stock left in your aviary, whilst at the show. Thieves do read trade and hobby magazines and can guess very shrewdly which shows a breeder is likely to attend.

In conclusion, do have a really critical look at the aviary to see if you can improve that security.

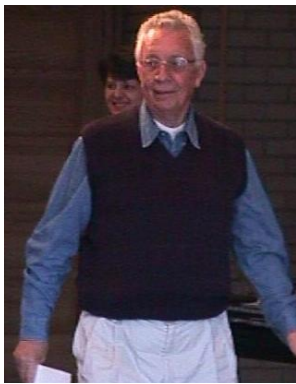
Do Bad Spangles Beat Good Ones?

Are we really seeing Spangles of superb head quality and size, with good Spangle markings and spots, being beaten by Spangles of similar quality and poor Spangle markings? I seriously doubt it, just as I have yet to be convinced that when a Dominant Pied without a full set of spots wins, that the second in the class is a magnificent bird with all its spots. The error made by "the critics", is looking at the winner and judging it against a bird which only exists in their head. What they are really thinking is "a bird with such a fault should not win." I'm sure the judge would often agree, or at least sympathise with this view. The judge though, cannot afford the luxury of such abstract thinking. The judge "lives in the real world", and as such, must choose the bird which overall is best, despite any faults it has.

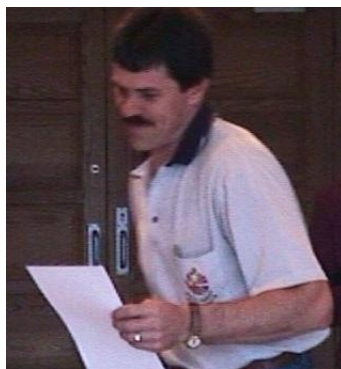
Do exhibitors actually go and look at every other Blue in the show to see if the best Blue really was a bad decision. Even on the rare occasion this may take place, they are at a double disadvantage. Firstly, some hours have passed, and we all know birds change. Secondly, only the judge and his stewards have the benefit of comparing birds side by side. If it is so easy to carry an accurate picture of a bird in one's mind, why, when advising people on buying birds do we often say "take one of your best birds with you"? We do so because of the many times people have taken their purchase home, only to realize that it does not measure up to their existing stock as well as they imagined .



Top - Palm Aviaries (Pierre Swart) Best Bird, Best Opp Sex and Best Champion



Top - Vermaas Stoet Best Intermediate, Spangle Green CC



Left - Andre Erasmus Best Novice Any Age, Double Factor Spangle CC

Free State Show Results

by John Nel

The Free State Championship show was held on 12 and 13 May 2001. The Show was well presented with everything running smoothly. The prize giving was excellently presented. The results were as follows:

Best Bird on Show - Palm Aviaries
Best Opp on Show - Palm Aviaries

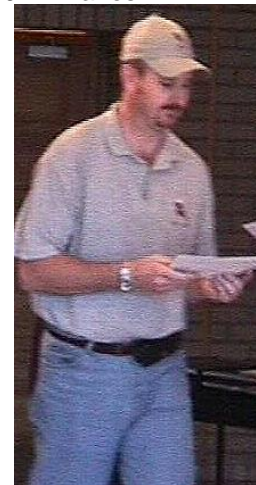
Best Champion - Palm Aviaries
Champion YB - Palm Aviaries
Champion AA - Palm Aviaries

Best Intermediate - Vermaas Stoet
Intermediate YB - Nel Brothers Stud
Intermediate AA - Vermaas Stoet

Best Novice - Adriaan Aviaries
Novice YB - Adriaan Aviaries
Novice AA - Andre Erasmus

Best Beginner - Smaryn Telers
Beginner YB - Smaryn Telers
Beginner AA - JP Aviaries

Right - Ian Nel, Nel Brothers Stud Best Intermediate Young Bird, Grey and Dark Green CC's



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