



The Show Budgie

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

Published by the Nel Brothers Stud

**Editor:** John Nel, P.O Box 43594, Theresa Park x2, 0155.

**Tel:** (012) 542 3533.

**Email:** NelJA@Telkom.co.za

**Internet:** <http://www.Geocities.com/Petsburgh/5240>

**Annual Subscriptions (12 issues):** R80 non club members

*All articles to be forwarded  
to the editor for publication.*

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### **Editorial**

The National has come and gone with George Sutton taking top honours with a magnificent Grey Green cock. The show was well represented by club members with the JSBS being represented by 7 members. Hopefully all exhibitors have had an excellent show season with them reaching the targets they set for the year. Now we can once again concentrate on breeding or spring cleaning the aviary for the coming breeding season. To the members moving to the next status we say well done and good luck.

by John Nel

Front Cover:  
National Championship Show Best on Show  
George Sutton

## Recipe for Improvement

by Nigel Tonkin

It would be near impossible to put into print the many ways that any given person or persons might believe is the correct way to improve the quality of budgerigars in any given aviary, as there are so many variables that come into play. Some idea that might seem insignificant to a "top" breeder, may be of importance to another. It is worth considering "dissecting" the bird into "parts and features", for improvement purposes. A fancier may prefer to pair birds excelling in visual attributes, with no known genetic relationship, to seek improvements. This system, in my opinion, can be successful but I prefer to have some genetic link where possible, although when purchasing birds in the United Kingdom last year, a number of outcrosses were purchased from different breeders excelling in features that I believed needed further enhancement in my establishment. These birds may take time to "blend" in, or could easily, click straight away saving me years of work. Lets assume that you are an established breeder with some desirable features on just a minimal number of birds, and aim to increase the numbers uniformly, and in quantity, with the thought of the "standard" budgerigar in mind. This is where I believe genetics should start coming into play. Again I refer to the dictionary, this time for the definition of "Genetic", the one I prefer most is: of or relating to the origin.

### **Desire to Improve**

If we are serious in our desire to improve, all of the unwanted non-visual stock should be discarded to remove the temptation to pair "just for numbers". The retained birds should be further graded to assess their strengths and weaknesses.

We will further assume a number of the retained birds are related in varying degrees. We will also assume that the second-best birds are quite strong cocks, brothers, and that a number of "okay" hens are also available. The aim now, is to pair these cocks to 2 or 3 hens each, to produce some numbers of closely related birds with, we trust, some visual improvements. A number of options are now available to further concrete and improve desirable feature. Assuming the sex proportion of cocks to hens is reasonable ie., father to daughter uncle to niece, mother to son, cousin to cousin etc., we are now interbreeding closely related individuals with the aim to preserve and fix desirable features of our choice plus eliminate unwanted features at the same time. After a few seasons of ruthless elimination and continual inbreeding, you should, if pairing correctly, see the features that you are aiming to stamp on what should now be becoming a *stud*, coming in through numbers.

### **A Second Line**

**I**f it is possible, establish a second line of birds excelling in another feature, perhaps even originating from one of the original cocks, to a purchased quality hen or hens. This line can assist in future pairings by crossing one inbred feature to the other, with at least some genetic similarity in each family's background. This should make for a reasonable blend with a probable enhancement of the already established features of both lines.

To be continued

## Colours for Beginners

### Sex-linked

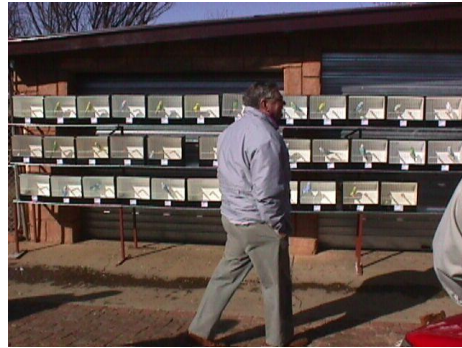
Sex-linked varieties are numerous, and what we mean by sex-linkage is the simple fact that, when a variety is sex-linked, only the cock birds can carry the genes in a split or hidden form. The following list are the varieties that are sex-linked. They all have the similar breeding characteristics, in as much that only the cocks can carry the variety in a split or hidden form. The hens cannot carry the variety in a hidden form, they must be and only can be visual. In the months to come all the sex-linked varieties as follows will be covered:

Opalines  
Opaline Cinnamons  
Opaline Greywings  
Cinnamons  
Lutino  
Albino  
Lacewings  
German Fallows

## Tip of the Month

### Acquiring Hens

If acquiring older hens, always inspect the vent area for any swelling, if any is present it is not a good sign, and the hen should be disregarded.



Mini Show exhibits - 21 July 2001

## Growing up - My method of bringing up chicks by Steve

Robertson

The right time to remove chicks from their parents is always a tricky decision to make. They are watched carefully when they first leave the comforts of the nest box, and only when I see that they are feeding themselves properly do I take them away. When removed from the breeding cage, they are placed into a large stock cage. This is a critical time in their life, as a good rate of growth must be maintained. During this period it is essential that a varied and nutritious diet is provided. Corn-on-the-cob and carrots are fed weekly but not on the same day. Fresh tap water is always available, with no vitamins added. Once the chicks have been housed on their own for two to three weeks, they are transferred to my large inside flight. I would not be happy to see unmoulted birds in an outside flight at the time of year most of us do our pairing and breeding, I feel it would be far too stressful for them. It is my opinion that they develop much better if housed in a large inside flight rather than if kept in stock cages for long periods. Once these young birds go into the inside flight they need to be checked regularly. Any that are looking off-colour and fluffed-up should be returned to stock cages to strengthen themselves. Never leave your youngsters with minimal attention during this period as they may become ill and weak very rapidly. People who can devote more time to their birds at this and at other times of the year have a much better chance of success on the show bench - this is a seven day a week hobby!

## National Picture Report by John Nel



**Left:** Best Bird on Show - George Sutton. **Right:** 2001 National Champion George Sutton



**Top :** Best Bird on Show - George Sutton



**Top:** Best Intermediate, Craig Kenton



**Top:** Best Novice, Hey Aviaries



**Top :** Best Beginner, JJ Erwee



## Mini Show Picture Report by Russell Dixon



Members (L-R) Kobus Hechter, Kevin Weinmann, Giel Calitz, Mike Davies



**Top:** Best Bird Corrie van Staden



Members (L-R) Pieter vd Linde, Ian Nel, Kobus Hechter



**Top:** Kevin Weinmann, Best Opposite sex



**Left:** Japie Smit, Judge, with club members looking on.

**21 July 2001**

## Dova Vitamiene en Minerale

Die seisoene van die jaar plaas verskillende eise aan voedsel wat hul voedselbehoefte aan betref. Omdat budgies nie hul kos vryelik kan kies soos ander diere in die natuur nie, kan dit gebeur dat sekere tekorte aan vitamiene en minerale kan ontwikkel.

Die DOVA vitamien/mineral/elektroliet byvoedings help om hierdie tekorte aan te vul. 'n Verskeidenheid voedingselemente is nodig vir elke aspek van 'n budgie se groei en ontwikkeling. Hier is 'n kort oorsig van die belangrikse vitamienes en minerale teenwoordig in Dova byvoedings en die hoof funksies van elkeen:

**Yster** is noodsaaklik vir rooibloedsel vorming

**Koper** is noodsaaklik vir rooibloedsel vorming

**Mangaan** bevorder groei, veervorming en spiertonus

**Kalsium** is noodsaaklik vir spiertonus

**Magnesium** vir groei, veervorming en groei

**Kalium** is nodig vir veervorming en groei

**Biotien** bevorder veervorming en uitbroeibaarheid

**Vit B1** (tiamien) vir eetlus, senu ontwikkeling, vertering, groei

**Vit B2** (riboflavien) voorkom misvormde voete, is nodig vir groei

**Vit B6** (piridoksien) is nodig vir bloedvorming en help met groei, effektiewe voedselopname en uitbroeibaarheid

**Vit B15** is noodsaaklik vir topfiksheid

**Vit A** is nodig vir normale ontwikkeling en herstel van die vel en beenvorming, sig en hormoonvorming

**Vit D** vir beenvorming en metabolisme van kalsium en fosfor

**Vit E** antioksidant, vrugbaarheid en viriliteit in voels

**Cholien** is nodig vir eierproduksie en uitbroeibaarheid

**Niasien** is nodig vir groei, sterk bene, selgesondheid

**Pantoteensuur** vir metabolisme, hormone en senuwerking

Vir enige DOVA produkte en of inligting kontak John Nel by (012) 542 3533.

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## National Show Results

by John Nel

**T**he National Championship show was held on 28 and 29 July 2001. A total of 1488 birds were benched. The results were as follows:

Best Bird - George Sutton

Best Opp on Show - De Beer P/S

Best Champion - George Sutton

Champion YB - George Sutton

Champion AA - De Beer P/S

Best Intermediate - Craig Kenton

Intermediate YB - Vermaas Stoet

Intermediate AA - Craig Sutton

Best Novice - Hey Aviaries

Novice YB - Hey Aviaries

Novice AA - Hey Aviaries

Best Beginner - JJ Erwee

Beginner YB - JJ Erwee

Beginner AA - Nagel Aviaries

## Mini Show Results

by John Nel

**T**he mini show held on 21 July had a total of 51 birds benched. The show was held by Leon and Lood. Japie Smit judged and the results were as follows:

Best Bird on Show - C v Staden

Best Opp on Show - K Weinmann

Best Champion - Mike Davies

Best Intermediate - C v Staden

Best Novice - None in Club

Best Beginner - Kobus Hechter

## **Molkentin Stud**

**XM7**  
Champion Breeder and Exhibitor  
(012) 811 0281

## **Pieter vd Linde**

**V111**  
Intermediate Breeder and Exhibitor  
(012) 335 6950

## **Japie Smit**

**S24**  
Champion Breeder and Exhibitor  
(012) 660 0965

## **Corrie van Staden**

**V111**  
Intermediate Breeder and Exhibitor  
(012) 803 8621

## **Mike Davies**

**D33**  
Champion Breeder and Exhibitor  
(012) 333 2667

## **Nel Brothers Stud**

**XN2**  
Intermediate Breeder and Exhibitor  
(012) 542 3533

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