



The Show Budgie

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

Published by the Nel Brothers Stud

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Inside this Issue

Recipe for Improvement	Page 3
Tip of the Month	Page 4
Colours for Beginners	Page 4
Line Breeding with Dominant Pies	Page 4
Administrators Show report	Page 5
Line Breeding with Dominant Pies, continued	Page 6
Recognition in the Nest	Page 7
Segregate Cocks and Hens	Page 7
Free adds	Page 8

Editorial

The 2001 budgie year is drawing to a close with only 2 months remaining. Most breeders I have spoken to have had an excellent breeding season with some reporting above expected results. Thoughts are however starting to focus on the 2002 breeding season with plans being made for the first pairings, thus enabling breeders to ring the first 2002 chicks on 1 November. On this point I must report that the ring quality still leaves a lot to be desired. The 2001 rings are still losing the white colouring in the lettering. The BSSA are however looking seriously at the problem.

by John Nel

Front Cover:
Spangle
Molkentin Stud

Recipe for Improvement

by Nigel Tonkin

Individual Style

The style of bird each individual produces if similar in feature throughout can quite easily be recognisable as the "so and so" strain or style of bird. eg., the Kakoschke, the Scoble strain/style in Australia, (and there are more), the Mannes strain/style in Europe and the United Kingdom, and I guess in the not too distant future in Australia. A credit to the individuals ability, assuming that the style is of quality.

Directional Feather



In my own aviary I have tried to concrete a "Directional feather" family, a "deep masked, large spotted" family with shoulder and a combination of both, trying not to overlook the many other desirable features along the way. I pair with the future in mind, thus I experiment with varying features hoping that perhaps that little bit extra might "crop up" to further enhance the visual beauty of the exhibition budgerigar.

German View

Interestingly, whilst visiting a number of German aviaries I was advised that one should pair a bird that excels in directional (sideways) feather, to a bird that excels in cap (up and over) feather, to improve the "top end" for exhibition purposes. I have tended to double up by going directional to

directional. It is important to ensure that the other exhibition features are not neglected for the sake of one feature, thus the need to keep the "standard" embedded in your mind whilst pairing, is important. It is also important to remember that not all birds are produced for exhibition, but are produced for the improvement of future generations of birds (stock birds).

The Mannes Birds



On the Mannes birds, Jo seems to have been able to "dissect" the budgerigar feather-wise, to achieve his unique style. Breeders that I have visited in Germany, England, Denmark and Switzerland that have Jo Mannes stock, are certainly making some changes within their establishments by using his birds.

In Conclusion

Whatever is discussed or written on the pairing of budgerigars is only a guide as such, and we as individuals, will usually be guided by our own feelings at the end of the day. A big thank you to the Budgerigar Council of Tasmania Inc. for the invitation to be involved with the 1995 Golden Cob Australian National Championship Show.

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Colours for Beginners

Non Sex-linked varieties

The following list is the varieties that are non sex-linked:

Greywings

Clearwings

Yellows

Whites

Recessive Pies

Dark-eyed Clears

English Fallows

Crests

When we say that a variety is non sex-linked, we mean that the difference between them and the sex-linked, is where the sex-linked can only carry the gene on the male side. The non sex-linked carries the gene on both the male and female side. So where you had only split cocks, you now have both split cocks and hens, and you now require both birds to be split before you can produce visible offsprings, whereas with the sex-linked you only require the male to be split.

Tip of the Month

Acquiring Cocks

If acquiring older cock birds it is a good idea to inspect the bird carefully, his cere should be a nice blue, if it has gone whitish or brown, disregard. Sometimes an older cock bird might not have been used for a period and if you could see his last rung young it might help in your decision. If he has not been used for some time, check his beak and toenails for length, his general condition his feet and legs for any signs of swelling and if everything is ok he might be worth a risk if you can acquire him at a good price.



Line breeding with Dominant Pies

by Hector Segui and Norman Schofield

When one is building a stud, line breeding is important. We always try to follow one of the following options:

Year 1: Pair best Dominant Pied cock to the best suitable normal hen in the stud.

Year 2: Pair best hen from above pairing back to the sire.

Year 3: Pair third generation hens back to original sire.

By doing this the youngsters produced will have an increasing dose of the original sire.

Year 1: Pair best Dominant Pied cock to two good quality normal hens.

Year 2: Pair half-brothers and sisters from the two pairings together.

Year 3: Pair third generation hens back to original sire.

This again produces youngsters with an increasing dose of the original sire. We have experienced some very good results using this method We also try to breed each of our best cocks with two hens in each season. This again produces half brothers and sisters, doubling up on the original bloodline.

Continued on page 5

Administrators 2001 Show Report

Promotions with effect from 1 October 2001

Beginner to Novice

- Russell Dixon
- Jacobs & Uys
- SW Smit

Champion of Champions

1	Molkentin Stud	360	(JSBS)
2	de Beer Partnership	213	(CTBC)
3	Fred Sherman	157	(PBC)
4	Palm Aviaries	156	(KABV)
6	Thistle Aviaries	131	(PBC)
17	Deon Davie	22	(JSBS)

Champion of Intermediates

1	Bauermeister	195	(TBC)
2	Vermaas Stoet	184	(KBK)
3	Nel Brothers Stud	176	(JSBS)
4	Scott-Scott Aviaries	159	(DBC)
5	Craig Kenton	126	(DBC)
12	Pieter vd Linde	42	(JSBS)
17	Corrie v Staden	22	(JSBS)

Champion of Novices

1	RDM Aviaries	135	(PBC)
2	J Bezuidenhout	133	(KBK)
3	Andre Erasmus	125	(NTBS)
4	A Kruger	91	(ELBS)
5	Larry & Zeldia Linford	88	(KBC)

Champion of Beginners

1	Smarny Telery	128	(NTBS)
2	P Mulder	92	(WBK)
3	A Macduff	72	(PBC)
4	Russel Dixon	67	(JSBS)
5	A Erasmus	63	(TBC)
10	SW Smit	38	(JSBS)
16	Jacobs & Uys	27	(JSBS)
18	Kobus Hechter	26	(JSBS)

Line breeding with

Dominant Pieds, *continued*

During the years we have been specialising in breeding Dominant Pieds we have experienced highs and lows and from these experiences we have reached the following conclusions.

Lack of Spots

To avoid this fault, we are very selective in our pairings, and although it is tempting to breed from a fair sized pied, if such a bird comes out of a line with an inherent fault of permanent spots missing or no spots at all, it is not advisable to use such a bird in establishing a Dominant Pied line, as the fault will manifest itself throughout your Pied stud. Being of a dominant inheritance, it is quite easy to breed the Dominant Pieds by simply pairing one to a non-pied mate. It is always best to pair Dominant Pieds to first class normals so as to improve the general quality of the birds and maintain the colouring (if Opalines are used markings sometimes suffer). When two Dominant Pieds are paired together there is always a strong tendency for the birds produced to have only very small dark areas which is not desirable and we have experienced instances where these matings in later generations produce Dominant Pieds that showed the Recessive Pied colour pattern, i.e., broken cheek patches and incomplete sets of spots together with colour failings. It is therefore, essential in producing good-coloured Dominant Pieds to use Normal × Dominant Pied matings.

Continued on page 6

Line breeding with Dominant Pies, continued

By keeping records of our pairings and the breeding results, we have also come to the conclusion that when pairing a non-pied hen which has been bred from a pied nest to a pied cock, we produce 75% of Pies instead of the 50% expectation.

If you persist in your efforts to breed a good-sized, well-spotted and well-marked Pied you will find that your hard work is much appreciated by other fanciers.

Dominant Pied Standard

Mask

Buttercup yellow, ornamented by up to six evenly spaced large round black throat spots, the two outer spots to be partially covered by the cheek patches. The buttercup yellow of the mask extending over the frontal and crown, to merge with the black undulations at the back of the head. The frontal and crown should be clear and free from all markings.

Cheek Patches

Violet

General Body Colour

Rump, breast, flanks and underparts; bright grass green of a solid and even shade throughout but broken with no more than a maximum of 50% of total body colour area by irregular patches of buttercup yellow or with a clear buttercup yellow band around its middle, just above the thighs.

Markings on cheeks, back of head, neck and wings

Black with a well-defined yellow edge but having irregular patches of clear buttercup yellow or with part of the leading edge of the wing up to the shoulder clear buttercup yellow on an otherwise normally marked wing. Wing markings may be grizzled in appearance, all markings should be free from any intrusion of body colour.

Primary Wing Flights

Buttercup yellow but odd dark feathers are not faults.



Primary Tail Feathers

Clear buttercup yellow, dark blue or a mixture of both.

Cere

Blue, fleshy-pink or a mixture of both in cocks, brown in hens.

Feet and Legs

Blue/grey mottled, fleshy-pink or a mixture of both.

Eyes

Black with a white iris.

Recognition in the nest

Recognition of young sex linked chicks at the early stages of development can be made as follows:

Cinnamon

Up to 5 days old they have plum coloured eyes; after this they can be identified by the fawn coloured down as distinct from the darker normal coloured down.

Opaline

The down on these chicks is much lighter, being white in colour.

Albino/Lutino

Other than having white down they also have red eyes.



Top: The Russell Dixon Aviaries



Top: The Russell Dixon breeding room

Segregate Cocks and Hens

by G Nicholson

All my cocks and hens have access to the same flight, and I only separate them about two weeks before I commence breeding. The birds are put into eight feet (2.4 meter) stock cages, so that I can check the ring numbers with my record book. I decide at the same time, which are in breeding condition and which birds will be going together to make a pair. The selected pairs are then placed in show cages, so that I can assess the good and bad qualities and to see if they are compatible with one another. I always keep twice as many hens as cocks, because when you are selecting your pairs it is only when you see them together in the show cages that you realize both birds may have the same fault. All my boxes are fitted to the fronts of the cages with the entrance hole facing away from the light. Access to the nest box is made through the side, so I have no need to enter the cage to inspect. Over the years, I have found this the best method, as you do not disturb the birds and it is easier to ring the chicks. Sawdust is not used the eggs being laid straight on to the concave. Before each clutch is laid I dust the underside of the concave with an antimite powder. There are different theories on how the pairs should be introduced to the breeding cage. Some breeders prefer to put the hen in first and leave it there for at least three days, before introducing the cock; others do it in reverse. I have found through experience, that it makes very little difference. My pairs enter the breeding cage at the same time, from the show cage in which they have been for about an hour. By keeping them in the show cage it gives you an indication if they are going to take to one another. All my breeding cages have been prepared beforehand with seed, grit, iodine blocks and water, and the nest boxes are all in position. Consequently when the pairs enter the cages, there is no need to disturb them.

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