



The Show Budgie

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

Published by the Nel Brothers Stud

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Editorial

All JSBS members are gearing up for the annual Additional Gauteng Championship Show which will be hosted on 2 February 2002. The show has been hosted towards the end of February for the past 2 year and it was found that the birds were in perfect condition. We will have to wait and see whether the date of three weeks earlier has any significant effect on the birds. As the Gauteng Championship show will be hosted six weeks later it is expected that this will cause a drop in entries. If so it is hoped that this will be minimal. Lets hope for a very successful show with points being awarded. Good luck.

by John Nel

Front Cover:
Light Green cock - Second Best Derby on Show 2001
Nel Brothers Stud

The Breeding Season

by G Nicholson

There is a wide difference of opinion, whether to start breeding early, or to wait until the weather is a little warmer. The reason many fanciers start early, is because they wish to have the youngsters ready for the early shows.

Individual fanciers must decide upon this question for themselves. If you are a complete beginner I would advise you to delay your breeding until the days are lengthening.

Personally, I prefer early breeding, as I have always had very good results.

Where my birdroom is situated, it does not receive a lot of natural light, so I have a bulb burning all day long. In winter, the lights are on until 2130 hours each night. This helps to bring my birds into breeding condition. Heat is also provided using tubular heaters, which maintains the birdroom at approximately 45 degrees F (8 degrees C). Also, I keep a 15 watt bulb burning all night, just in case some of the youngsters need feeding and to enable the adult birds to find the seed pots.

PERFECT BREEDING CONDITION

Even though I advocate early breeding, it is absolutely essential that the birds be in perfect breeding condition. They must be alert and full of activity. The cocks tapping on the perches with their beaks, and the hens chewing the woodwork.

Breeding condition does not mean exhibition condition. There can be feathers missing, tails missing, and even quills on heads, but as long as the birds are in perfect health, they should be ready to go to nest. All your pairs will not be in breeding condition simultaneously, so you only use the pairs that are ready. I have room for ten breeding pairs, but and I may only start with five pairs. I will put the remainder to nest as they come into condition.

What are the minimum ages at which birds should be allowed to breed? Different breeders certainly vary in their opinions. I have known breeders who have successfully bred with birds at seven months old, but perhaps I am old fashioned. I never allow my hens to breed until they are at least eleven months old and my cocks ten months. Some birds mature more rapidly than others and it is then up to the experience of the breeders to decide if they are mature enough for breeding.

People sometimes ask me, what is the maximum age for breeding? This is a difficult question to answer as there are so many variations in the fitness of the birds. I generally answer, "that cocks can be used much longer than hens". I put the age for cocks at approximately five years, and hens at approximately three years.

I never advise pairing two old budgerigars together, unless they have been very good breeders in the past. Always try, if possible, to have one mate older than the other.

Obituary

Gideon Taljaard



It was with great sadness that it was learnt that Oom Gideon, as everyone new him, had passed away. I first met Oom Gideon back in 1991 when I originally decided to get into the budgie game. He was always available to offer advice and guidance. He was one of the original founding members of the Northern Transvaal Budgerigar Society and was a member until his passing.

As everyone in Pretoria knows - if someone wanted to get into budgies they would first of all find Oom Gideon and Aunty Marie. Oom Gideon was an avid breeder concentrating on Recessive Pieds the last couple of years. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

Tip of the Month

Beetroot and Tumors

As budgerigars are prone to tumors and cancer, a good mixture to sometimes rid the system of the problem, is a prolonged course of beetroot fluid in the drinker in place of usual water.

You boil the beet in water with no additives and drain off the fluid and bottle it, retaining in fridge for further use. A six week course will sometimes rid the problem.

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Birds Available

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Colours from a different angle 1

by Deon Davie

On Request



Colour expectation tables can easily be used for reference purposes. By looking at colour expectations from a different angle one will really understand the working of colours related to budgies.

Tables usually convey colour expectations of the parent, but what about the make-up of the parents or the colour expectation from the offspring of these parents.

Example

A Grey Green cock and a Light Green hen produce a Grey cock.

What do we know about:

1. The Grey Green cock

He is split for Grey.

As the offspring is Grey, one of the parents must carry the Grey factor and the hen cannot carry the Grey factor, as she is a Light Green.

2. The Light Green hen

She is not a pure Green bird.

If she was, she would have contributed a Green factor towards the make-up of the offspring, and if this was the case then the Grey offspring would have been a Grey Green.

The hen is therefore split for blue.

3. The Grey offspring

He is not a pure Grey.

As his mother is split for blue, he too will be split for blue, if he received a Green factor he would have been Grey Green.

If he is paired to a blue bird or a bird split for blue he will produce blue offspring.

Hereditary Colour

What it all amounts to is this: A bird of any colour which is so genetically constituted that it can breed youngsters not only of its own colour but also of other colours will possess the ability to produce those other colours and its own colour good or bad in shade and depth according to the shade and depth of the colours of its progenitors. In another example, good Cobalts are frequently the outcome of mating Cobalt x Dark Green/blue, but you must not expect to see good coloured Cobalts among the offspring of this combination if the Cobalt parents or grandparents (we should possibly go even further back in the genealogical tree) of the Dark Green and the Cobalt were bad in colour; in fact, the danger will be present if the Cobalt ancestor of either of the members of the pair failed in colour.

The simple action of crossing the different colour varieties with the object of producing youngsters in accordance with the Mendelian expectations irrespective of the quality of their own colour and the colours of their parents and grandparents, will not alone necessarily give them those good coloured Budgerigars which it will be their desire to breed in order to win prizes. It is obviously an utter impossibility for this article or any other writer in a book of this character to comment on the good or evil of each of the thousands of different colour Matings which can be made.

The fact that there is this multitude of combinations shows the scope which the breeder has available to him, although it is unnecessary to put into actual practice anything but a minority of these crosses in order to achieve success. Therefore, we feel that we can with safety confine our remarks to a number of colour Matings which have proved satisfactory in our aviary and in the aviaries of others who have generously enlightened me as to the manner in which their best colour production results have been achieved. When the breeder is actually deciding upon his Matings before the breeding season commences, much more important than the description of different crosses to give the various colours is the application with common sense of those principles described above relating to individual birds and their pedigrees.

We will stress the virtues of what is termed "dipping into the Green"- that is crossing the other colours with Light Greens in order to fix the type of the latter on other varieties. But today other colour varieties are quite as good -in fact, as a general rule, superior-to the Light Greens, and the slogan of "dipping into the Green" - has consequently outlived its usefulness. There are still some excellent Light Greens in the land, but high-class Opalines, for example, are even more numerous as Greys and Grey Greens. In certain cases mating of a bird of another colour with a Light Green or a Dark Green can still be valuable.

Pedigree and Appearance

When contemplating a mating, what emphasis should I place on these? I regard both as important taken together! That said, I am convinced that, provided I am pairing within compatible bloodlines, I should then give very serious study to what is before me. I must remember that come next show season the judge will not be looking for a pedigree pinned on the show cage. No, he will expect to see pedigree on the perch. Let's take a practical example.

I am standing in the flight mulling over a pair of birds, as I do frequently through the season. Here is a Grey Green cock, twice best champion breeder. A bold masculine bird with thickness through the shoulders on to the skull and with a nice "draw" through the perch. He has come from a mating that produced a high, even quality over nine chicks from two rounds. Very pleasing results!

The young hen I am considering as a mate is bred from a brother of the cock I have just described. This is a feminine hen, pleasing position on the perch, intermediate feather and she has inherited desirable head quality from her sire convincing me, yet again, that I won't breed these nice browy hens from plain-headed cocks.

I think that I should double up on the previous year's high quality by putting this niece back to her uncle, which is a more direct cross than pairing cousins.

What other thoughts do I have? I can see the visual quality before me but what, I wonder, may they be carrying recessively? I look at the parents; I visualise the grandparents.

Again, individually and as a pair, what characteristics do they carry and combine that are typical of the family, and perhaps of the stock from which their forebears were derived? I look too, at feather type, for this feature I regard as most important in determining both visual quality and potential in the breeding pen. This is my pairing, but whether my hopes will be realised only time will tell. Perhaps a mating of less spectacular birds within the same family will be the one that produces the quality young, much better than themselves because the complexity of heredity being what it is, like has not produced like.

Birthday Wishes

go to

Reinhard Molkentin
29 December

Holger Molkentin
22 January

Ian Nel
25 December

Corrie v Staden
25 January

Pieter vd Linde

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