

The Show Budgie

For Show Budgie Breeders and Exhibitors

Issue 63

May 2003



Deon Davie
Best Bird on Show

JSBS Championship Race

By John Nel

After three mini shows there is a tussle to be club champion developing between Pieter van der Linde and Gert Pieters. Heading the points standing this month is Gert Pieters with 72 points followed by last month's leader Pieter van der Linde on 71 points. Pieter van der Linde threw down the gauntlet and Gert Pieters has certainly taken up the challenge. The top five JSBS exhibitors are:

- Gert Pieters 72
- Pieter van der Linde 71
- Deon Davie 51
- Corrie van Staden 37
- Nel Brothers Stud 31



From Left to Right: Pieter vd Linde and Gert Pieters wait for the points to be announced..

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JSBS Mini Show Report

By John Nel

The Jacaranda Show Budgie Society had a very successful third mini show held on 17 May at the Nel Brothers Stud. Members had a braai after the show, which was enjoyed by all. A total of 59 birds were entered. These were made up of 15 Champion, 16 Intermediate, 0 Novice, and 28 Beginner birds. The judge on the day was Reinhard Molkentin.

Mini Show Results

- Best Bird – Deon Davie
- Best Opposite Sex – Gert Pieters

- Best Champion – Deon Davie
- Best Champion Opp Sex – Nel Bros Stud
- Best Intermediate – Pieter van der Linde
- Best Inter. Opposite Sex – Pieter vd Linde
- Best Beginner – Gert Pieters
- Best Beginner Opposite Sex – Gert Pieters

Mini Show Points

Champions

- Deon Davie – 26
- Nel Brothers Stud – 10

Intermediates

- Pieter van der Linde – 23
- Corrie van Staden – 14

Beginners

- Gert Pieters – 35
- Charl Muller – 5
- Wim Vrey - 1

The next mini show is on 21 June at the home of Pieter van der Linde. The monthly club meeting will also be held on the same day. See you there. ♦

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JSBS Mini Show Picture Report



Top: Best Opposite Sex on Show – Gert Pieters



Top: Best Intermediate on Show – Pieter vd Linde



Top: Daan wins the cake raffle for the 4th time in 6 months



Top: Wim takes his first point in competition.

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. More importance is put on their ability to look after themselves than their actual age.

When removed from the breeding cage, they are placed into a large stock cage, usually twenty birds at a time. This is a critical time in their life, as a good rate of growth must be maintained if a chick is ever going to fulfill its potential as an exhibition bird.

During this period it is essential that a varied and nutritious diet be provided. My chicks are fed on a good seed mixture, which includes Trill, and the final mix consists of 75% canary, 25% millet and a small amount of groats. I find this mixture is ideal for use all year round. The rearing-food I prefer to use is EMP, slightly dampened with water. It is made available in finger-drawers for the breeding cages, and small dishes on the floor in the stock cages and flight. Dry brown bread is also fed daily to the young chicks and to the stock housed in the flight. They probably play with just as much as they actually eat. 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 - and normally it will be a good chick this happens to!

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! ♦

Mini Show 4 – 21 June 2003

Seizures

Budgerigars can suffer from sudden seizures. The bird falls from its perch to the bottom of the cage, where it makes twitching movements and usually dies after a short time. In zoos and bird parks the illness sometimes affects birds that have received the most meticulous care. The cause of these seizures is unclear.

Females are afflicted more often than males and it is more common among birds weakened by excessive inbreeding. Some people attribute the problem to a fear of heights that afflict birds suddenly exposed to a big, roomy aviary after having been accustomed to the protection of a dense forest or a small cage. Others believe that summer heat is the cause. More likely, however, a sexual disturbance is involved. It has been found that seizures almost always strike birds deprived of a mate during their normal breeding season. The problem does not occur in colony breeding cages and aviaries. ♦



Top: Wim Very and Pieter vd Linde around the braai

Get the Best from Breeding Pairs

By Clive Wakeman

A subject written about at great lengths these days is the fertility, or the lack of it, within our breeding birds. Without doubt, over last thirty three years of breeding budgerigars, I have seen them change in every direction size, length and weight, head size and proportion with reference to the back skull and top skull above the eye and indeed the position of the eye, the width of face on the bird, the depth of mask, the size and shape of the spot, the size of shoulder, to be able to carry this large head and face, the sweeping back line at the right angle to give the required style and of course enough of the bird below the perch to complete the picture.

If all this were not enough, we have even changed the feathers on the bird, ranging from yellow to super buff and the occasional freak feather duster. We widened the feather, lengthened the feather and changed its texture and in the final analyses we conclude, our bird of today does not reproduce as the bird of yesteryear, or the birds of the wilds of Australia!

Fertility is of course a most important factor that should be at the top of the list, but it does not score points at shows and is quite often overlooked. As we progressed with exhibition budgerigars its reproduction has become harder, so we need to take advantage of anything that will give you an extra edge to reproduce more youngsters. How often have you read that the average clutch of eggs laid by budgerigars is 4-6, but can be increased by taking eggs away, well there is nothing new about that piece of information, but I have never applied it before the way that I have this season. The following is what I did and my breeding records show the result so far.

At the date of writing 11/3/97, twenty-six pairs have laid a total of 229 eggs, in thirty-two clutches, nine of which are second round. So far I have rung thirty chicks with 1996 rings, fifty seven with 1997 rings and another unrung chicks in partly hatched clutches, with others still waiting for the first egg to hatch. Of course proper conclusions can only be drawn at the end of the breeding season, but so far of the full thirty two clutches laid, I believe that I

have been instrumental in increasing the clutch size of eighteen of those clutches.

By systematically removing unfertile eggs I believe that the hens were encouraged to lay extra eggs, the following was the result. One round seven eggs, eight rounds eight eggs, three rounds nine eggs, one round ten eggs, two rounds eleven eggs, three rounds twelve eggs. One of the hens that laid twelve eggs did not produce a fertile egg until the sixth egg was laid, with the next three fertile and the last two clear. Now if she had only laid five eggs she would not be brooding any young, as she is now. Also quite a few pairs, first three or four eggs were infertile and if they had averaged four or five eggs, they would have only produced the odd youngster. As a rule I only like four or five chicks to a nest, but the situation is my bird room at the moment is only one nest with three young, all the nests have four, with the exception of three that are successfully raising five youngsters. Mind you for the first time I am using Slais egg food every other day, where as I used to only feed bread and milk and I believe that is making a substantial contribution towards healthy, strong youngsters.

Back to the removal of clear eggs and the system that I use! I always wait until the day after the third egg is laid before removing the first egg if it is clear. However, a warning, only if the hen sits properly from the first day of laying! I have had the first three chicks all hatch on the 22nd day, because the hen did not sit until the third egg was laid. This is an exception to the rule, but serves as a good illustration to show how careful we should be about discarding clear eggs. When the fourth egg is laid, I will wait a day, and then if the second egg is clear I will throw it out. Five days is enough to tell if an egg is fertilized, providing of course, that the hens sitting properly. If in doubt wait another day or two. The method described leaves the hen sitting on a maximum of three eggs, until the first fertile egg is laid. Not always, but on most occasions I believe the hen will try to make up the short fall and lay extra eggs, even up to doubling the number of the clutch she would have originally laid.

This method can of course be used to encourage those special pairs to lay extra eggs for fostering, to increase the amount of youngsters sired by, but not raised by, those birds carry our highest hopes for the next show season. As for the safety and health of our hens laying large clutches of eggs, I don't think it is possible to fool, coax or bribe a hen to lay more eggs then she can comfortably cope with, providing you only let her two or perhaps sometimes three rounds. It is often all the raising of a brood of chicks that depletes the resources of our birds and it is that function that we need to keep tighter control on.

I hope that this may prove to be of benefit to other breeders and produce a few more eggs, which in turn will put a few more youngsters on the perch. ♦

Crop Needles

When storing crop needles it will prolong longevity if you place some light oil, eg: vegetable, olive, sunflower etc on the tip of needle to stop any corrosion. ♦

JSBS Mini Show Points

Champion

Deon Davie – 51

Molkentin Stud - 19

Nel Brothers Stud – 31

Sam Rosslee – 21

Intermediate

Corrie van Staden - 37

Pieter van der Linde– 71

Beginner

Charl Muller - 9

Kobus Hechter - 10

Neville Greyling – 22

Gert Pieters – 72

Wim Vrey – 1

Birthday Wishes

Deon Davie – 28 June



Top (L to R): Deon Davie, Corrie van Staden and Reinhard Molken (Judge) during the presentation.

Breeders Directory

The last page of the Show Budgie will be dedicated to subscribers adverts. Currently these are basic adds but these can be enhanced by emailing me detail you would like to include. This means that this will be your area to advertise anything you would like. To do this just contact me and I will update your information. Any additional adverts will be charged as follows:

- ✚ A4 (full page) – R200 for 12 issues
- ✚ A5 (half page) – R150 for 12 issues
- ✚ Additional area – R100 for 12 issues

Contact John Nel at (012) 542 3533 or 082 789 9861 or email me at NelJA@TelkomSA.net. ♦

The Jacaranda Show Budgie Society

Annual Subscription

Membership Fees:

Member – R150.00

Spouse – Free

Pensioner – 70% of Member

Junior – 40% of Member

New membership Entry Fee (Once off)

Adult – R100.00

Junior – R50.00

Visit us on the Internet at

<http://www.geocities.com/petsburgh/5240>

Contact Pieter van der Linde for more information at Tel: (012) 335 6950

Breeders Directory

Subscribers are requested to contact John Nel when they have birds or equipment for sale. This will be added below.

Pretoria Noord

Nel Brothers Stud Est. 1996
Ian – 082 371 3961
John – 082 789 9861
NelJA@TelkomSA.net
www.Geocities.com/Petsburgh/5240

Johwer Stud
Boordfontein
(012) 546 9172
082 5850794

Silverton

Corrie van Staden
Meyerspark
(012) 803 8621
082 3742623
vstaden@freemail.absa.co

Mike Fourie
Silverton
083 4582833

Wonderboom

Gert Pieters
Wonderboom Suid
(012) 335 7932
082 6259781
gece@mweb.co.za

Ernie Hobbs
Wonderboom
(012) 567 4670

Areas outside Pretoria

Deon Davie
Roodepoort
(011) 763 3465
082 3777686
geminidavie@mweb.co.za

Wemarc
Roodepoort
0116727749
marcod@dgb.co.za

Centurion

Japie Smit
Eldoraigne
(012) 660 0965

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(012) 377 2528
ronaz@absamail.co.za

Bill Sykes
Pretoria Tuine
(012) 379 6962

Brooklyn

Scotty Blom
Brooklyn
(012) 460 4534

Moregloed

Mike Davies
Moregloed
(012) 333 2667
083 4558051

Roseville

Pieter van der Linde
Roseville
(012) 335 6950
083 5645521
pieterv14@absa.co.za

Garsfontein

Sam Rosslee
Garsfontein x8
(012) 361 6316
083 6017889

Tierpoort

Molkentin Stud
Tierpoort
(012) 811 0281

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Subscribers are requested to contact John Nel when they have birds or equipment for sale.

Please check and ensure your details are correct at all times.

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