



The NTBS Show Budgie

1

Published by
The Nel Brothers Stud

Progressing with Budgerigars

My plans for next year's breeding start immediately after the youngsters have completed their first full moult. They are placed in stock cages and I ask myself several questions.

- (1) Are there any youngsters that will be better than their parents?
- (2) Are there any of a poor standard?
- (3) Have any of them that all important showmanship that will draw the judge's eye to them?

What I look for are birds with good heads, that all important style, and that stand well on the perch.

I do not expect to see the ideal amongst them. I have yet to see a budgerigar that I could not fault in some way or other. Hopefully, one or two may even come close to the ideal! What I look for are birds with good heads, that all important style, and that stand well on the perch. Birds with a little daylight between their body and the perch. Of course, size is important but not at the expense of balance.

Broad heads, wide faces on wide shoulders with good feathering is what I am seeking.

When I have assessed the young birds, I can decide which of my adult birds to retain. This may vary from year to year depending on how successful the breeding season has been. Generally, you should keep your best birds up to the required number irrespective of whether they be adults or young birds. I personally, see no point in keeping adults which have not bred well unless they are needed for exhibition purposes.

Buy Outcrosses Early

If I wish to correct a fault that has developed in my stud that will require the purchase of an outcross, I always seek to make purchases well in advance of the breeding season. This is in order to let them become accustomed to their new quarters and my feeding methods. Although these new acquisitions will have come from a reputable breeder, I never expect miracles. Give new blood time to work. If improvement is not evident in year one, stick with it for a second or third year.

continued on page 3

March Highlights

On the 14th March we had an aviary visit to Neville Greyling and Hennie van Schalkwyk. There were 9 members and 1 visitor who attended. Although the turnout was somewhat disappointing, all who attended had much fun and many questions were answered. Refreshments were provided to all at Neville's home.

We would just like to take this opportunity to remind all that on the 18th April there will be a mini show as well as a video show.

The B.S.S.A Administrator

As we all know the B.S.S.A administrator is Chris Oberholzer. He does all the ring code issuing, ring orders, etc., etc. etc. It would be appreciated if all members take special note of his working hours, which are 8:00 to 20:00. He will be available during most of this time although he will occasionally be out.

IN
THIS
ISSUE

Progressing with Budgies	1
March Highlights	1
Budgerigar Health	2
April Activity	2
Tip of the Month	2
Breeding Expectations	3
The BSSA Price List	4
Letters to the Editor	4
The Next Issue	4

Budgerigar Health

~Feather Picking~

What happens is that feathers are chewed off at the "roots," and sometimes they are even swallowed. Old birds do it to the young ones or sometimes to one another. Especially the head feathers are targeted. The cause appears to lie in a vitamin deficiency, particularly vitamin F. However, it takes more than a vitamin supplement (including vitamin F) to solve the problem. It may be that breeders tend to give the supplement to the victims rather than the perpetrator of the deed, who after all indicates by his bad habit that he has a need for these vitamins. But then, it obviously takes more than vitamins to cure a bad habit. Basically, feather picking is a sign of boredom, especially so for psittacines. If you give birds something to gnaw on like a fresh willow or birch branch every day, feather picking quickly ceases. Also, you can give them something to climb on for diversion. And by providing rearing food, you can stimulate new feather growth in the birds that lost feathers. If parents pull the feathers of their young, there is an obvious solution: distribute the young among other nests. If that isn't possible, put the young in a separate nest box hung next to the original one. That will generally motivate the female, usually the culprit of the pair, to begin a new brood. Dad, who usually doesn't take part in the picking, will continue caring for the brood. For older birds, try a broth of groats as a substitute for the regular drinking water.

Champions of Sections 1997

Champion of Champions

- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| 1 - Molкетин Stud | (NTBS) |
| 2 - de Beer P/S | (CTBC) |
| 3 - Frikson Stoet | (VBK) |
| 12 - JGC Smit | (NTBS) |

Champion of Intermediates

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1 - JA Nel | (WP&B) |
| 2 - Jochandi Telery | (NFBS) |
| 3 - PJ van Wyk | (NFBS) |
| 8 - MJ Davies | (NTBS) |
| 9 - RO Barnard | (NTBS) |
| 17 - JG v/d Merwe | (NTBS) |

Champion of Novices

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1 - JL Huber | (CTBC) |
| 2 - B Allers | (KBK) |
| 3 - PJ v/d Linde | (NTBS) |
| 13 - CSJ van Staden | (NTBS) |

Champion of Beginners

- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| 1 - AH Olivier | (KBK) |
| 2 - CM Kenton | (DBC) |
| 3 - J Nell | (NTBS) |
- by John Nel

NTBS Aviary Visit



On the 18 April we will be holding our second mini show for 1998. Venue : the church hall in Moregloed.

The video 'Budgie Breeding for Beginners' will be shown. Please support this event. For more information: John Nel at (012) 5423533.

Nuwe Lede

Die NTBV verwelkom die volgende nuwe lede.



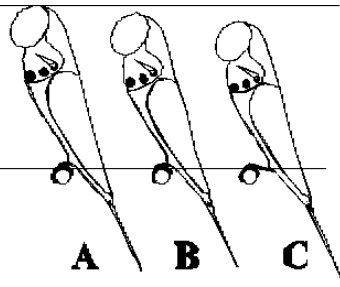
Deon Davie	(D39)
Theuns Henning	(H28)

Assessing Budgerigars

In the coming months the main points to look at when assessing budgerigars will be covered.

Body - Length above the perch

A: Correct stance and length above perch.



B: Correct stance but short in length above perch.

C: Bad stance but same length as "A" .

by Niels-Erik-Hansen

~Tip of the Month~ Sprouted Seed

Many fanciers like to feed their birds, particularly those that are breeding and the youngsters as they leave the nest and are weaned, on sprouted seeds. Wheat and oats are perhaps the most popular but other seeds can also be sprouted. Sprouting is a good way to encourage birds to eat seeds such as sunflower to which they may not be accustomed. Sprouted seed is nutritious, readily digested, and quickly consumed. The seed is soaked in water for 12 hours, then kept damp (but not wet) for a further 24 hours or more, until it sprouts a shoot. Use an open dish with hessian or other fabric to provide dampness, or use an upturned jar with drainage holes in the top or covered with insect screen. The seed should be rinsed in clean water prior to feeding.

Progressing with Budgerigars

During the period of June through September, I make notes of pairs that I anticipate will be in my plans for the ensuing breeding season. This way I give myself ample time to check pedigrees before making important pairing decisions. With some of my lines I can trace the family back to 1970, though I find this serves no useful purpose. It is the details of the most recent ancestry which is crucial. Parents and grandparents, and often these are still in the birdroom, are the birds which need to be assessed when considering particular pairs.

Test your birds at Shows

Exhibiting is the only true way in which we can test the merits of our stock. Shows are a very important part of our hobby, for without them where would we compare our birds with those of other exhibitors. This is essential in order to discover the strengths and weaknesses of our stud. In fact, I believe that it is the shows which create that desire among many fanciers to reach greater heights. Seeing what can be achieved by others, encourages us to, by careful study and breeding, produce budgerigars of a higher standard. Personally, I have little faith in the fancier who "has better birds at home." If they had such birds then they would show them. I suspect they don't like to be beaten. One must also accept that no matter how good your birds are, you will not always win.

I often hear exhibitors state that they are not sending birds to a particular show because they do not like the judge, do not like the show hall, the specials list is not big enough, or the entry fee is too high. This is simply human nature, but, in my view, is a misguided attitude, especially for beginners and novices. At these levels, the more experience gained at shows the better. Experience which will tell you if you are progressing or standing still, or worse, going backwards. As an established champion, I learnt by exhibiting at around 100 championship shows over a ten-year period. I now believe this qualifies me to be a bit more choosy about the shows I enter. Nowadays, I am not prepared to spend weeks preparing budgerigars for a show, when the judges, in my opinion, are not up to a good standard. I would rather travel a hundred miles to a show, than exhibit locally, if I thought the birds would be better assessed. Mind you I would rather show locally than not at all.

Breeding Expectations

Pairings involving Spangles.

Pairing	Expectation
Spangle (DF) x Spangle (DF)	100% Spangle (DF)
Spangle (DF) x Spangle (SF)	50% Spangle (DF) 50% Spangle (SF)
Spangle (DF) x Non-Spangle	100% Spangle (SF)
Spangle (SF) x Spangle (SF)	25% Spangle (DF) 50% Spangle (SF) 25% Non-Spangle
Spangle (SF) x Non-Spangle	50% Spangle (SF) 50% Non-Spangle
Non-Spangle x Non-Spangle	100% Non-Spangle

"DF" denotes Double Factor.
"SF" denotes Single Factor.

by The Nel Brothers Stud

To reach the Top you must Exhibit

You can get a great deal of satisfaction from exhibiting your birds. It is worth remembering, that no matter the variety you keep, to reach the top of the tree you must exhibit. The one sure way to not win is not to show. No matter how good your budgerigars are, they will not win if left at home. When I visit a show I am amazed at the number of exhibitors, especially newcomers, but also experienced fanciers, who turn up at hall at 4:00pm. in order to take their show team home at 5. The hour in between is barely enough time to check on how their own birds have done, and see major special winners. Others arrive at 2:00pm, but after walking around retire to the tea room never to be seen again until lifting time. I believe that time in the show hall should be spent wisely, studying the exhibits. Not only your own, but also those that have beaten you, to see where you need to make improvements. During the period when I was progressing through the sections, I spent hours looking at virtually every budgerigar at each show I attended. The ones I paid most attention to were those better than mine. During that ten-year apprenticeship, I competed in approximately six hundred classes, winning around four hundred and fifty of them. The time and effort I put in was worth it and played a most significant part in my progression in the hobby. It could do the same for you too.

by Ray Steele

The BSSA Price List

Show Cage perches	- R 1.50 per set.
Show Cage drinkers	- R 1.50 each.
Cuttlefish holders	- R 1.50 each.
Ties	- R 35.00 each.
The 'All About' series	- R 60.00 each.



Chris Oberholzer
Tel : (011) 693 1790

Northern Transvaal Budgerigar Society

Annual Subscriptions

Membership :

* Normal	- R 80.00
* Pensioners	- R 30.00
* Women	- R 50.00
* Juniors	- R 40.00

New membership Entry :-R 30.00 (Once off)

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

Articles



Any members who would like to do an article or have articles that they have written for other magazines are requested to contact the editor so that the inclusion of these articles can be discussed.

Enige lede wat 'n artikel will skryf of artikels het wat ons kan insluit word versoek om met my in verbinding te tree.

John Nel at Telephone (012) 542 3533

Letters to the Editor

Letters are printed in good faith and the Editor cannot be held responsible for opinions expressed by writers in any letter published.

Response from Reinhard

I noticed in the last issue that the main article was in Afrikaans and that Arthur mentioned that a certain percentage of the club was Afrikaans and that we need to include Afrikaans articles in this publication. I know that people like to speak their own language but I feel that our publication should be in English because everyone in the club can read and understand English. I do not mind people speaking Afrikaans when we get together but our club magazine should be in English because then we all benefit from what is written.

Editor's Response

I would like to hear from all who have an opinion about this. Please note that only letters will be accepted.

All letters or articles must be forwarded to John Nel, P.O. Box 43594, Theresa Park x2, 0155. I can be contacted at telephone (012) 542 3533.

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Visitors are always welcome.

The Next Issue

The next issue will contain the following items :

- (1) Continuation of Breeding expectations.
- (2) Continuation of Budgerigar health.
- (3) Your items.

Please contact me if you have any inputs. You must remember that your inputs are vital.

John Nel (012) 542 3533

The NTBS Show Budgie is published every month and distributed free of charge.

Editor: **Nel Brothers Stud**

Telephone

(012) 542 3533

Address

P.O. Box 43594

Theresa Park x2