



# The NTBS Show Budgie

1

Published by  
The Nel Brothers Stud

## Show Preparation

You should start selecting your show team about three months before your first show. Start looking in your flights for the good show prospects. If you see one you think you might want to show, catch it up and put it into one of your smaller stock cages or in an empty breeding cage.

This will help the birds get used to a smaller cage so they won't be so wild when you put them into a show cage. I put several birds into each cage. Make sure you don't crowd them, though.

*Start selecting your show team about three months before your first show.*

After the birds have been in your smaller cages for a few days, you can start putting them into the show cages for an hour or so at a time. Each time you put a bird into the show cage, leave it a little longer each time. This will let the bird gradually get used to staying in the show cage so they will feel comfortable being in a show cage when you go to your first show.

About the last week or two before the show, I will leave

the bird in the show cage for about 24 hours. I put them in the cage one evening and take them out the next evening. Make sure you always have plenty of food and water in the show cage when you do this.

After the birds have been in the show cage a few times and have settled down, start training them with a stick. Most judges use chop sticks so that is what I use. I usually start training the birds by racking the stick across the bars occasionally until the birds get used to this and will stay steady when you do it. To train them to stay on the perch, gently push the stick against their legs. They will usually step onto the stick, and you can lift them up onto the perch. After a while they usually will jump up onto the perch when you put the stick through the bars or just barely touch their legs.

If you have a bird that leans over the perch, or won't stand up, you can try tapping on the front rail. Many times this will make them straighten up and stand up.

continued on page 3

## May Highlights

An aviary visit to Japie Smit took place on the 16th May and was well supported with 17 members and 1 visitor. Japie Smit discussed breeding season preparation and Reinhardt Molkentin discussed rare varieties and colours. The following came out during the discussions: Jik is used as a disinfectant for cages and nest boxes. It was stated that budgies do not get worms if they do not come in contact with other birds and therefore it is not necessary for treatment. It was stated that Ivomac can be used for the treatment of mites. Greens (spinach/chickweed) are used to bring hens into breeding condition.

Reinhard brought along the following rare varieties; Saddle back, Dominant Pied and Recessive Pied. These were discussed in depth.

**IN  
THIS  
ISSUE**

Show Preparation	1
May Highlights	1
Budgerigar Health	2
NTBS Activity	2
Tip of the Month	2
Pests	2
Assessing	2
Breeding Expectations	3
The Next Issue	4

## **Budgerigar Health**

### **~Clinical signs of Salmonella~**

In an outbreak, the initial picture may depend on the source of infection and the age groups first affected. The severity may also depend to some degree on the type of Salmonella responsible. The severest and most acute outbreaks are usually seen in young chicks, for example, when infected egg food is fed to parents and later to offspring. The parents at this stage may show little evidence of disease. However, low hatchability rates, dead-in-shell or weak newly-hatched chicks, and chicks "fading" during the first few days of life are strongly suggestive of the infection. The blood, other tissues and droppings of such chicks as well as the parents excreta, are rich sources of the organisms. As little as 10 per cent of all eggs incubated may hatch, and all of these chicks may die before leaving the nest. Signs range from sudden death to gradual onset of depression over one to three days, accompanied by huddling of the birds, fluffed up feathers, unsteadiness, shivering, loss of appetite, markedly increased or absence of thirst, rapid loss of weight, accelerated respiration, and watery yellow, green, or occasionally blood-tinged droppings. The vent feathers become matted with excreta, the eyes begin to close, and immediately before death some birds show apparent blindness, inco-Ordination, staggering, tremors, or other nervous signs including convulsions.

Next month the diagnosis of Salmonella.

## **Getting rid of Pests safely**

We have discovered a product called Biokill which is completely safe for all birds, pets and children but kills about 20 different types of insects including ants and mites. Biokill can be sprayed (1) directly onto birds for lice or mites, (2) onto perches and on aviary floors, (3) in nest boxes and breeders, (4) around your aviary to keep insects out for up to four weeks. Biokill can be eaten by birds with no side effects. Biokill is available at Lion Bridge at R34 a bottle.

by Nel Brothers Stud

B.S.S.A

## **~Tip of the Month~ Tight Bands**

Frequently I am called on to try and remove year bands from the legs of budgerigars which in some cases necessitated badly mutilating the bird's foot. In most cases this could have been avoided by a little forethought. It is my opinion that most of these tight bands stem from early banding of the baby when it is a little older than it should be, so immediately one goes to the Vaseline or oil bottle to grease the band and/or foot. Then the struggle begins to get the band on. It is usually successful, but the tender foot muscles and bones are injured in the process. Then, how many take the trouble of washing the oil off and drying the leg before placing the chick back in the nest box, where grit and dirt tend to inflame the already sore leg, something that in later life can cause the leg to swell, become abnormally large and seize the band. Once the swelling has started it will not go down until the band is removed..... Watch your birds carefully to detect swollen legs. An un-rung stock bird is more valuable than a dead or one-legged one.

## **NTBS activity**



On the 27 June we will be holding our third mini show for 1998. Venue: the church hall in Moregloed. This show begins at 9:00. Please support this event as it is held especially for YOU.

For more information

For more information: John Nel at (012) 5423533.

## **Nuwe Lede**

Die NTBV verwelkom die volgende nuwe lede.

JC Pretorius

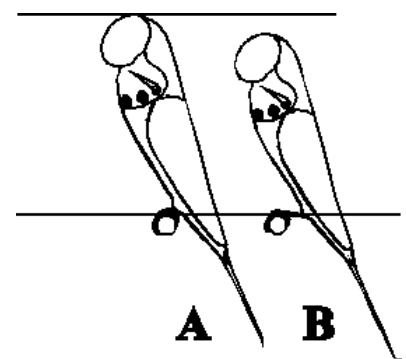
## **Assessing Budgerigars**

### **Body - Length under perch**

A: Correct stance and length.

B: Bad stance but correct length.

by Niels-Erik-Hansen



## Show Preparation

After a while they will get the idea. If tapping doesn't work, you can try gently nudging them on the chest, many times this will work. Remember always be gentle and patient. If you feel yourself losing patience, put the birds away and try another time.

Two months before the first show, I pull the two main long tail feathers on each bird. At the same time check the primary wing flight feathers. If any are broken or frayed, pull them also. The best way to pull feathers is to firmly grasp each one and pull steadily until they come out.

Two months before the show I also start spraying my birds three times a week. If the weather is warm enough, I take the birds outside and spray them with the garden hose. I soak the birds thoroughly and let them dry sitting outside before taking them inside.

One month before the show I increase the spraying to a daily basis. After the show season starts, I spray three days a week until two weeks before the next show. I then spray daily. I stop spraying three days before the show starts.

One of the hardest things for some people to learn is how to remove the excess spots from the mask. The way I learned was to look at pictures of show birds to see how the spots were supposed to look. I then practised on the birds that I wasn't going to show. I made a lot of mistakes, but I finally learned to spot my birds.

Another good idea during the training is to put the birds into the show cage, load them into the car, and take them for a ride. This will get them used to driving and they will stay calmer on the way to the shows.

The second most important thing next to your birds is your show cages. During the winter or during the time you are selecting your show team, give your show cages some attention. If they need repair, then do it now. Give them a good cleaning. After you get them clean, check to see if they need repainting. Remember a budgie will look much better in a clean bright show cage.

After you have your cage good and clean, put two cups of your normal seed mix in the bottom of the cage. Put a small treat cup between the bars for water. I also put a piece of spray millet in each cage too.

When you go to the show, take a well conditioned and prepared budgie in a clean bright show cage. Then if your bird is a good bird, and shows well, your bird will have the best chance of taking an award. If your bird doesn't do well don't let it be your fault!

by Dick Wyatt

## Breeding Expectations

Pairings involving Violets, Mauves, Cobalts and Skyblues.

Pairing	Expectation
Violet (sf) Skyblue x Mauve	50% Violet (sf) 50% Cobalt
Violet (df) Skyblue x Mauve	100% Violet (sf) Cobalt
Violet (sf) Skyblue x Cobalt	25% Violet (sf) Cobalt 25% Violet (sf) Skyblue 25% Cobalt 25% Skyblue
Violet (df) Skyblue x Cobalt	50% Violet (sf) Cobalt 50% Violet (sf) Skyblue
Violet (sf) Skyblue x Skyblue	50% Violet (sf) Skyblue 50% Skyblue
Violet (df) Cobalt x Skyblue	100% Violet (sf) Skyblue
Violet (sf) Cobalt x Skyblue	25% Violet (sf) Cobalt 25% Violet (sf) Skyblue 25% Cobalt 25% Skyblue
Violet (df) Cobalt x Skyblue	50% Violet (sf) Cobalt 50% Violet (sf) Skyblue
Violet (sf) Cobalt x Cobalt	12.5% Violet (sf) Skyblue 25% Violet (sf) Cobalt 12.5% Violet (sf) Mauve 12.5% Skyblue 12.5% Mauve
Violet (df) Cobalt x Cobalt	25% Violet (sf) Skyblue 50% Violet (sf) Cobalt 25% Violet (sf) Mauve
Violet (sf) Mauve x Skyblue	50% Violet (sf) Cobalt 50% Cobalt
Violet (df) Mauve x Skyblue	100% Violet (sf) Cobalt
Violet (sf) Mauve x Cobalt	25% Violet (sf) Cobalt 25% Violet (sf) Mauve 25% Mauve 25% Cobalt
Violet (df) Mauve x Cobalt	50% Violet (sf) Cobalt 50% Violet (sf) Mauve
Violet (sf) Mauve x Mauve	50% Violet (sf) Mauve 50% Mauve
Violet (df) Mauve x Mauve	100% Violet (sf) Mauve

"sf" denotes Single Factor. "df" denotes Double Factor.

by The Nel Brothers Stud

### **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**

**Have you got any birds,  
show cages, etc. for  
sale?**

Why not contact the editor  
and place your advertisement  
here.

~Fees~  
Donation to the club

## **MOLKENTIN STUD XM7**

**Champion Breeder of Show Budgies.**  
Best Blood Lines of the World  
with 40 years of experience.

Champion of Champions 1996 and 1997.

We always sell excellent birds in a big variety of colours.  
**Telephone Reinhart at (012) 811 0281**

**Visitors are always welcome.**

## **NEL BROTHERS STUD XN2 EST. 1996**

Breeders of  
Normal-, Cinnamon- and Opaline-  
Light Green, Dark Green, Grey  
Green, Grey, Skyblue, Cobolt,  
Mauve, Violet, Albino, Lutino, Pies  
and Spangles.

Best Beginner - Barario 1998

#### **BIRDS AVAILABLE**

**Telephone John or Ian at  
(012) 542 3533**  
Visitors welcome by appointment.

### **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