



**Best Colalt on Show  
Thistle Aviaries**



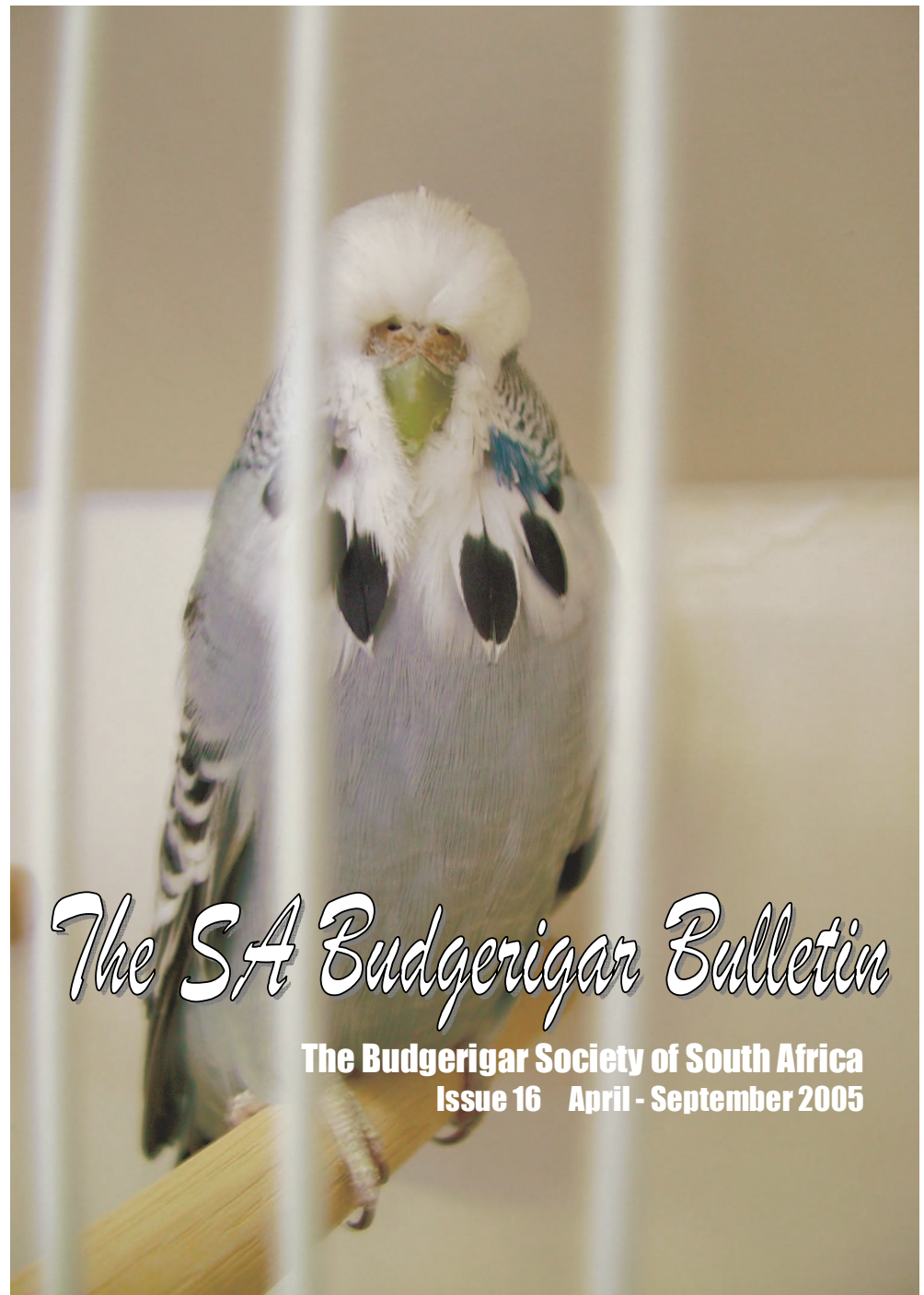
**Best Cinnamon Blue Series  
Sam Rosslee**



**Best Cinnamon Green Series  
on Show - Molkentin Stud**



**Best Yellowface on Show -  
Molkentin Stud**



# *The SA Budgerigar Bulletin*

**The Budgerigar Society of South Africa  
Issue 16 April - September 2005**



**The Budgerigar Society of South Africa**

*Founded 1936*

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Unless specifically stated, any views or opinions expressed herein, do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Society.

## Inside this Issue

*Issue 16 : April - Sept 2005*

- 2 Inside this Issue
- 3 Judging Today
- 3 Crop Needles
- 4 Fallows
- 4 Getting the best from Breeding Pairs
- 6 Breeder Questions
- 7 Test your knowledge of Genetics
- 8 Going Light – Expert Opinions
- 9 Fifty Years not out
- 10 TBC Knockout Competition
- 11 The Easley Cearbody: Easy to Breed
- 13 Where so many Novices go wrong
- 15 Feeding a stud of Budgerigars
- 20 Changing the way we do things
- 22 From the Past – 1999 National
- 24 Not keeping to many birds
- 25 De-Spotting for Exhibiting
- 32 Budgie Fun – Word Search
- 33 World Budgerigar Organisation
- 34 Show dates and BSSA Fees
- 35 Additional Gauteng Show 26 February
- 36 Additional Gauteng Show 26 February

All photo's by John Nel except  
Breeder Questions and Easley Clearbody

### The Quarterly Bulletin Advertising Rates

#### Advertising Options

- A 6 cm x 4 cm advert will cost you R25
- A Quarter page will cost you R50
- A Half-page advert will cost you R100
- A Full-page advert will cost you R200
- Back page will cost you R 300

**Adverts**

[www.Geocities.com/budgiesouthafrica/](http://www.Geocities.com/budgiesouthafrica/)

#### Cover

Additional Gauteng Championship Show 2005, Best Opposite Sex on Show – Molkontin Stud

## Additional Gauteng Championship Show 26 February 2005



Top: Best Bird on Show - Ian Bleasdale



Top: Ian Bleasdale receives the Best Bird on Show award from Corrie van Staden



Top: David Jooste (Jooste en Seun) receives the Best Intermediate and Best Intermediate Any Age on Show awards from Corrie van Staden.



Top: Marco and Wesley (Wemarc Stud) after receiving their Best Novice, Any Age, and Young Bird on Show awards.

## Show Dates 2005

<b>Show</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Secretary Contact</b>
KwaZulu Natal Championship Show	27-28 May	083 334 9945
Western Cape Championship Show	4 June	072 340 0451
Free State Championship Show	11 June	082 495 9133
Eastern Cape Championship Show	17-18 June	
National Championship Show	30-31 July	011 693 1790

If you have not received your catalogue and entry forms in good time and you wish to exhibit please contact the show secretary on the number listed above.

Articles for publication in both English and Afrikaans are encouraged and should be sent to the Editor, P.O Box 43594, Theresa Park x2, 0155 or emailed to NelJA@Telkomsa.net.

## BSSA Entry and Affiliation Fees for 2005

Entry fee for new member (adult)	R120.00
Entry fee for new member (junior)	R 0.00
Affiliation fee (adult)	R100.00
Affiliation fee (junior)	R 0.00
Affiliation fee (partnership – family at same address)	R135.00
Affiliation fee (all other partnerships – per member)	R100.00
Fee for registration of a partnership	R 20.00
Fee for registration of a personal ring code	R 50.00
Price of Rings (per ring)	R 2.80
Postage	TBA

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## Judging Today By Ian Bleasdale



By implication the title requires a retrospective assessment of what we do now to what we did in the past.

Judging has always and will always be an individuals assessment of how they rate the bird's they are comparing. The bottom line of any show is finding the bird that comes closest to resembling the ideal.

This has over the years seen great differences of opinion amongst judges with some preferring the smaller, typy yellow feathered exhibits while others have preferred big buff untidy birds. This was I believe a problem for many years and the cause of unhappiness amongst exhibitors.

Over the last few years the judges have been involved in many discussion groups and seminars in order not to suppress their individualism but to interpret as a group what the ideal budgerigar looks like and judge accordingly.

I believe we have come a long way in achieving this and I hear very little unhappiness regarding judges picking birds from the two extremes.

Various measures have been introduced over the years to help judges when a decision needs to be made regarding measurable faults such as flecking, missing tail or flight feathers! These measures became necessary because of extreme variations applied by different judges. Again inconsistency and frustration to the exhibitor.

Pictures were introduced to cover flecking and numbers stipulated to cover missing feathers. Not everyone has been in agreement with the new measures but they at least know exactly where they stand. This is a debatable topic for another time and is mentioned here in order to illustrate the measures taken by the judges to allow exhibitors to understand and accept the parameters within which a judge operates.

The measures taken plus the seminars and discussions over the years have I believe, greatly reduced the absolute annoyance and confusion exhibitors used to feel and often expressed when judging was erratic.

The judges panel would like to think that we are on the right path and so if you disagree or want to comment please forward your opinions to either the editor or the judges committee for future discussion.

Ian Bleasdale, Chairman Judges Committee, 011 6791757

## Crop Needles

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

## Fallows by Peter Needham

### Background

Our first fallows came about by chance, in 1973, when we imported two lutinos and a sky blue cock from U.K. breeders, J. and R. Dennis. We bred a red-eyed chick from the sky blue paired to a grey green hen from Dr. Robertson. At first we presumed it was a lutino, but as it feathered up it was obviously a grey green. When it came out of the nest-box it clearly had plum-coloured eyes, without an iris.

The Dennis brothers confirmed that they had no record of ever having had a fallow, but Dr. Robertson told us that his hen was a split fallow. It later transpired that the Robertson fallows had descended from imported birds, which were known as the Scottish variety. We persevered with them for approximately five years, but they suffered from a heredity blood condition, which caused them to haemorrhage internally and die at 5-8 days old. Surviving chicks were never robust and the line died out.

However' we eventually were able to import some English fallows from UK breeder, Dr. Margaret Young in 1994, and have bred with few, if any, problems.

### Colour description:

Fallow budgerigars have a pale body colour with brown wing markings, tail and spots. There are two mutations-English and German. English fallows have plum-coloured eyes, without an iris, while German fallows have red eyes with a white iris, similar to inos. German fallows also appear to have a slightly darker body colour.

In both mutations, the blue series birds have a white body suffused with blue, which is more pronounced on the rump and under parts. Green series fallows are mustard yellow with green suffusion. It was this colouring that attracted us to fallows when we first saw them in Dr. Robertson's flights in Durban during the 1960's.

*Continued on page 7*

## 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 the 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.

*Continued on page 5*

## World Budgerigar Organisation Rosette Winners - 2004 Show Season By G Al Nasser

Country	Best Any Age	Best Young Bird
Australia (ANBC)	Mark Chidel	Watson & Day *
Austria (OWV)	Wilhelm Kohout *	Wilhelm Kohout
Belgium (BGC)	Heylen & Nettekoven *	Cuyten & Heesters
Canada (AACC)	Jeff Coles	Jeff Coles *
Czech Republic	Standfuss & Vasicek *	Standfuss & Vasicek
Denmark (DUK)	Hans Chr. Ostergaard *	Rudolf & Merete Larsen
Eire (EBS)	Michael Baker	Mark & Tony Rogers *
France (AFO)	Günter Hettiger *	Daniel Ponce
France (CDE/CFO)	Ignace Reinhart	Ignace Reinhart *
Germany (DSV)	Schiller&Lautenschlaeger	Schiller&autenschlaeger*
Germany (VZE)	Dieter Heimhalt *	Andreas Stange
Holland (NGC-DBS)	Heylen & Nettekoven	Martin Rasser *
Israel (IBS)	Boaz Tsafiriri	Boaz Tsafiriri *
Italy (CADO)	Cerrato Giuseppe *	Turchi Maurizio
Japan (JSB)	Setsuhiro Asano *	Kenji Shibata
Norway (NUK)	Anders Jørgensen *	Anders Jørgensen
New Zealand	Gamble & Fuller *	F.F. & C. M Hellyer
Philippines BIRDS	Danny Ang *	Danny Ang
Portugal (SPO)	Calos Fernando Ramôa *	Calos Fernando Ramôa
South Africa, BSSA	De Beer Partnership *	Hussein Sydow
Switzerland ,ZEWA	Daniel Lutolf *	Daniel Lutolf
Switzerland (SWV)	Daniel Lutolf *	Daniel Lutolf
Sweden (SUK)	Tom & Helmuth Svensson	Tom & Helmuth Svensson *
United Kingdom,BS	Chris Dew *	Brian Sweeting
United States (ABS)	Harlan Flora	Pete Sanchez Jr. *
United States (BAA)	Crawford Maddux *	Mike Rankin

\* indicates Best in Show

# Budgie Fun ~ Word Search



N	W	Q	P	I	E	D	X	E	L	I	T	R	E	F
A	C	G	S	T	Q	P	E	E	C	R	O	P	Z	T
T	O	R	G	E	E	S	H	O	W	I	B	E	O	I
I	B	O	Z	E	D	X	C	Y	E	N	V	Z	U	B
O	A	T	L	J	U	D	G	I	N	G	U	D	U	I
N	L	C	Q	A	T	I	G	K	T	T	S	D	P	H
A	T	A	H	Y	M	D	O	P	B	E	N	C	H	X
L	Z	F	X	I	U	R	X	O	Y	P	N	W	P	E
D	E	E	R	B	S	E	O	O	K	I	X	E	W	E
V	A	R	I	E	T	Y	E	N	C	Z	A	K	G	W
Z	N	O	V	I	C	E	G	S	I	I	C	S	E	X
S	T	O	P	S	X	N	F	E	H	O	H	Z	S	Q
Z	Z	H	E	V	I	S	S	E	C	E	R	E	E	B
S	E	E	D	W	T	P	Y	R	A	I	V	A	P	P
N	O	M	A	N	N	I	C	Z	X	P	A	I	R	S

Budgie	Pied	Breed	Fertile	Wing
Genetics	Exhibit	Chick	Ring	Spots
Recessive	Cobalt	Egg	Variety	Seed
Crop	Cinnamon	Pairs	Normal	Factor
Judging	Show	BSSA	Cock	Sex
Novice	Bench	National	Hen	Aviary

# Get the Best from Breeding Pairs

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 30 chicks with 1996 rings, 57 with 1997 rings and have other unringed 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 infertile 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 that in 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 Sluis egg food every other day, where as I used to only feed bread and milk and I believe that this 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 hen is sitting properly. If in doubt, wait another day or two.

*Continued on page31*

## Teler Vrae / Breeder Questions

### Val Nagel vra...

Ek wil net vir jou 'n foto stuur en vra of daar al sulke groot eiers deur budgies gelê was wat jy van weet? Of moet ek liever vra hoe groot is die grootste eiers wat julle van weet? Die budgie het eers 'n normale eier gelê toe 'n groot eier. Elke tweede eier was 'n grote en die grootste eier was die sesde eier maar na 'n groot eier het sy eers drie dae later die volgende eier gelê. Sover is daar nou al 5 eiers uit en al sewe eiers is bevrug. Die grootste eier is 26mm. Otto het kom kyk en ook gesê dat hy nog nooit sulke groot eiers gesien het nie.

### Redakteur

As jy 'n soortgelyke ondervinding al gehad het laat my weet!

### Val Nagel asks...

I am sending you a photo and ask whether such large eggs have been laid by budgies that you know of? Or should I ask how big the biggest egg is that you know of?

The budgie first laid a normal egg then a large one. Every second egg was a large egg but the sixth egg was the largest. After laying a large egg she would only lay after 3 days. Thus far 5 have hatched and 7 are fertile.

The largest egg is 26mm. Otto had a look and indicated that he had never seen such large eggs.

### Editor

If you have had a similar experience please let me know!



## Going Light - Expert Opinions, continued

Young birds are vulnerable because their immune system has not been well developed to cope with it.

There are two key ways to tackle this disease. Treating adult birds with appropriate drugs *prior* to the chicks hatching will reduce the level of infection for the chicks and is a very effective way to prevent the disease.

We sell a pigeon product called Coxoid for this purpose or you can get one of the Sulfa drugs from your veterinary surgeon. The Sulfa drugs must be used with care to prevent infertility problems. ♦

## Get the Best from Breeding Pairs

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 than 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. ♦

By Clive Wakeman

## For Sale ~ George Sutton

30 Birds for sale – various colours – cocks and hens  
8 unit breeder for sale  
0721401422 or 044 8710157

## Going Light - Expert Opinions, continued

The longer you wait greatly lessens the chances you have to reverse the problem and if you wait too long, some of the vital organs will be damaged so severely that it will be impossible to reverse the condition and the bird will die. A sharp keel bone is one of the characteristics of the birds that go light and is the result of a bird that has been ill for some time.

Feeling the birds keel bone is a good place to start the physical examination. The keel bone should feel rounded with muscle on both sides. Feel another bird to get familiar with the feel of the keel bone. Also, you must crop feed the sick bird after recovery from shock, otherwise he will not recover. The whole digestive system has shut down for one reason or another. The bird is unable to break down the seed or food into protein to sustain him. Sometimes you see whole seed in his droppings; we call this the popcorn effect. Unable to break down the seed and food, it will try to eat and eat but retaining nothing from it, quite possibly the gizzard is damaged. The following are the steps I have followed and have had very good success in saving most of the birds. First, if you do not know how to crop feed a bird, you better learn or do not waste your time. I guarantee the bird will die, it is impossible to keep the bird alive without crop feeding, especially with this kind of problem of going light. Use about ten (10) to fifteen (15) cc's of water, six (6) drops of vitamin B-12 complex, one (1) drop of vitamin A, one (1) drop of vitamin E (wheat germ oil), add a pinch of lactobacillus, a pinch of pancreatic enzymes, add the antibiotic, like Emtryl, Bayatril, tetracycline, oxytetracycline (or any other you feel will do the job for your

particular problem).

Mix well and add the hand feeding formula (Exact or Pretty Bird). Make sure it is not too thick or hot and crop feed the bird.

If possible, twice a day, if not, then once a day for sure, for two to three weeks. What I normally do is, feed the sick bird twice a day for a week, then once a day for a week, then every other day for one more week. This makes it a three week process. If you skip one day a week it is okay but it is best to stay on schedule. Also, I take about forty (40) CC'S of water with ten (10) drops of vitamin B-12 complex for the drinking water for three (3) months. It will take about three (3) to six (6) months to gain the weight back. You can forget about breeding the bird for one (1) year. Just remember, the longer you wait to treat the bird, the longer the period of recuperation. Then again, if you wait to long - it will never recuperate.

### Dr David Alderton

Most sick birds lose weight simply because they have to burn up their own body tissue to keep warm. So, going light is really just a symptom - not a disease. In Budgerigars it is most likely to be caused by megabacteria. In finches and canaries it is mostly caused by a parasite called coccidia.

Coccidia is a very common gut parasite. It occurs in many species including poultry and pigeons. It is not common in parrots. Most adult birds can easily tolerate coccidia as their immune system has learned to cope with it.

*Continued on page 31*

## Fallows, continued

### Breeding information

For those with little knowledge of fallows, it should be emphasised that because they are recessive mutations, it is difficult to improve their size. To achieve this end it is necessary to continually outcross them to big normals and then pair split fallows together.

Unfortunately, the theoretical expectation for split X split pairings is only 25 percent visual fallows. And there is another drawback. There is a large amount of wastage because non-fallow progeny from normal/fallow X normal/fallow pairings all look alike. One cannot tell split fallows from those that do not carry the fallow factor. As a result, we feel, non-visual fallows from this type of pairing should be discarded, unless there is space to do numerous test matings.

In selecting outcrosses for our fallows, we restrict ourselves to good normal hens because they cannot, of course, be split for Cinnamon, which should be kept out of fallow families at all costs. In addition, we do not recommend the use of greywing or clearwings as outcrosses in a fallow-breeding program. The aim is to increase size without detracting from the brown wing markings or further diluting body colour which will surely happen if these varieties are used as out crosses.

In order to improve the size and colour of our fallows, we have used dark-factor hens, including violets. This is working, albeit slowly. And there is a spin-off. Unwanted progeny - the non-visual fallow youngsters - are easily sold to the pet trade because of their attractive colour.

### Contact Details:

Anybody interested in discussing more about this fascinating colour can contact Peter Needham at [pqn@eject.co.za](mailto:pqn@eject.co.za)

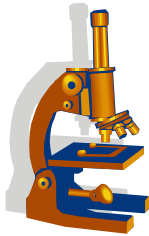
## Test Your Knowledge of Genetics

Can a recessive pied be bred from a pair of dominant peds?

### Test Answers

Yes, a recessive pied can be bred from a pair of dominant peds. Both birds would have to be split for recessive pied. If that recessive gene is passed from each of the parents to the chick, a visible recessive pied would appear. In most cases, the crossing of these two types of peds is not recommended as the two forms of pied would begin to appear on the same bird visually at the same time. This would make them very difficult to show in either class because the markings and standards are very different. The clearflighted dominant pied is crossed with recessive pied to eventually create the beautiful dark eye clear variety.

## Going Light - Expert Opinions



DR JR Baker

Many diseases of cage birds make them lose weight and 'go light' and it was initially thought that the investigation would just reveal a mixture of all sorts of diseases. While this was partly true, one condition in particular stood out as being very common. In this disease there is degeneration of the lining of the intestine, where the bulk of the food is absorbed; the lining goes on degenerating, less and less food is absorbed and eventually the bird dies of starvation.

The question then arose as to why the intestine degenerated. The nature of the changes suggested the possibility that this was a type of allergic reaction and this was shown to be the case; it was initially hoped that only one food type would be involved but it eventually transpired that almost any food could induce the condition. So why did the birds show this 'allergy'? Some fanciers suggested that the condition ran in families and to see if this was the case birds going light were collected and received a treatment which is both expensive and impractical for fanciers to use. A number of these birds were thus brought into breeding condition and their chicks suffered from the condition where those from normal birds did not. To

summarise the findings, 'going light' is an inherited pre-disposition to a sensitivity to food components and lines of birds where the condition has been proved to be present should not be used for breeding.

### RON CASTANER

Veterinarians do not even know the answer to the question of going light, but I will share some of what I have learned with you so you can possibly save a few birds.

One sick bird looks just like any other to the casual observer but to a true aviculturist, they can determine a great deal about why a bird is sick by carefully observing it in its' own environment, then very carefully catching it and examining it close up.

I have found through the years that it does not matter how much you pamper your birds, the best food, best conditioning, the best of everything, eventually, birds will become ill and it is inevitable. But for a bird in good condition, with a good nutritional background, a clean environment, the effects of the disease can be minimized and the recovery time will be much shorter. If you catch it right away and do not wait until tomorrow to tend the bird. The longer you wait the worse it gets and the harder to correct with a very small survival rate. As an owner becomes more familiar with the normal appearance and behaviour of the bird, the signs will be easier to detect.

*Continued on page 29*

## Going Light - Expert Opinions, continued

To be able to diagnose and treat digestive tract disease, it helps to know something of how a bird's digestive tract works. I will try to keep it simple. Beak and tongue are used to grasp. After swallowing, the food passes through the esophagus and into the crop, which is a temporary storage tank. Food may be regurgitated from the crop; regurgitation is part of normal mating or feeding the young. Also, a secreted substance called crop milk from the lining of their crop. Crop milk is very rich in fat and protein which provides an excellent source of nutrition for the nestlings; this is why nestlings seem to grow faster and healthier when fed by their parents. From the crop, food travels by way of the lower esophagus to the proventriculus or glandular stomach. Digestive chemicals are secreted to begin the active digestive process. After mixing with the digestive juices, the food enters the second part of the stomach -the gizzard- where it grinds the food. Digestion continues into the small intestines with aid of more enzymes from the pancreas and bile from the liver. Most nutrients from the food are absorbed from the small intestines. The large intestines absorb fluid from the digested food passing through it and leads directly to the cloaca where feces from the digestive tract and urine from the urinary tract mix together before being voided through the vent. Now you have some idea how it works. Almost any problem can interrupt the kidneys, gizzard, and other vital organs from working, causing the bird to go light, unable to break the food down into protein and nutrients.

To continue, going light is not a disease in itself, but a sign of a single or multiple

cause. This is what you have to decide, what needs to be done to try and save the bird? You must become familiar with the bird, look at his eyes, this is usually a good indicator of any illness. In a healthy bird they look normal in size and are clear. In a sick bird the eyes look much smaller and it will sit most of the time with both eyes closed. Now I will list some of the things that can trigger going light:

Gastrointestinal disorders (enteritis), chronic infections; such as, kidney, liver, or respiratory disease, vitamin E deficiency, gizzard worms, inflammation, cancer, parasites, malnutrition, poison, young birds that are introduced to hard seed to early or any birds diet that is changed too abruptly, and bullying birds in the aviary. Just to name a few.

The list goes on and on. Including bad water, bad seed, just about anything can upset the birds system and bring on the going light condition. Another sign to look for is a bird that is always eating, and I do mean constantly. If sick occurs, I guarantee you the bird is sick.

Sometimes you see a bird losing weight from diarrhea, from eye problems, caused by sinuses, but the one that is the "killer" is the one where you see the bird eating all the time. That is why it is vital to be aware of your birds habits and behavior, so you can catch any change before it goes unnoticed for too long and it becomes impossible to reverse the symptoms.

Also, remember when you want to make a change in their diet or their seed, do it gradually. Doing it all at once could have disastrous results. You must catch the bird in the early stages, this is very critical.

*Continued on page 30*



## DE-SPOTTING FOR EXHIBITING by Deon Davie

Photo 6 a happy exhibitor with a winning chance.



Photo 6

Photo 7 the end product. A perfectly de-spotted bird.



Photo 7

## Fifty years not out by John Dunlop

**Arthur Windell** recently celebrated 50 years in the Budgerigar Fancy and at an interclub gathering of the Western Cape Clubs on 2 April, he received awards from his club TBC and CPBS as a token of appreciation for all the dedication and hard work he has done for the Fancy during that time.

Arthur first became involved in Budgies in 1954 while living in Cape Town. His first experience was with Cinnamons. He soon learned that he needed to improve the quality of his stock and so turned to Frank Otto and Jimmy Benjamin who were stalwarts of that time for guidance. Arthur spent some time as a novice and intermediate before becoming a champion exhibitor. Shortly after that, in 1986, he qualified as a BSSA Panel Judge, a position he still holds though he now seldom officiates outside of the Western Cape.

In the early days Arthur was a junior member of Western Province Budgerigar Society which was the only club active in Cape Town at that time. He recalls attending meetings on Sunday morning at the Temple Hall in Seapoint. Later he was a founder member of Boland Budgerigar Society and remained a member until both clubs amalgamated as WP&BBS. In 1975 he became a founder member of Tygerberg Budgerigar Club and 1 year later he was transferred to Pretoria where he joined Johannesburg Budgerigar Club. After 4 years with JBC, he moved across to Northern Transvaal Budgerigar Society which meant less travelling to attend meetings. While with NTBS he served as Chairman for 4 years and was elected as a HLM in 1986. After spending 18 years in Pretoria, he

returned to Cape Town in 1993 and joined up with WP&BBS where he served as Chairman for 5 years. In 1998 he rejoined his former club, TBC, where he is presently the club Chairman and Treasurer. He has previously acted as Chairman of TBC but had a 2 year break when he filled the position of Secretary. In 2003 he was elected as a HLM of TBC in recognition of the work he had done for the club. Arthur served on the Management Committee of BSSA as Ring Secretary for 12 years and was honoured in 1988 by being elected as HLM of BSSA.

Arthur has always been a regular exhibitor and worker at shows and one of his highlights was when he won back to back Best on Show awards at the then Transvaal Provincial Show in 1985/6. During this time he was in demand as a judge and officiated at a show in Zimbabwe as well as several BSSA National Shows. Arthur is a Blue Ribbon Champion and is one of the longest serving BSSA members who is still active and holds several unique records; he has been chairman of 3 different clubs (NTBS, WP&BBS and TBC), he is a HLM of 3 different clubs (NTBS, BSSA and TBC) and in 1992 was awarded a Certificate of Merit from BSSA as well as a 50 year Service Certificate from TBC

Arthur received a boost in 2004 when his son Mark joined him and they now show under the name of Windell Partnership. So, we can look forward to seeing the Windell name around the Budgerigar scene for a long time to come.

Chris Smit on behalf of all the Western Cape Fanciers thanked Arthur for his 50 years of service and dedication to the Fancy and wished him well for the future.

## TBC Knockout Competition by John Dunlop

**TBC** hosted a very successful Knock Out Competition at the Bellville Sports Complex on 2 April. This was well supported by 19 exhibitors and drew entries from all 4 Western Cape Clubs

Judging was in the hands of Arthur Windell (green series) and Albert Olivier (blue series) Arthur Windell selected a Spangle Green Cock belonging to A Olivier as the best bird on show.

### Full list of award winners are as follows

Best Bird on Show	Spangle Green Cock	A Olivier
Best Green on Show	Spangle Green Cock	A Olivier
Runner up	Grey Green Cock	J Dunlop
Best Champion Green	Spangle Green Cock	A Olivier
Best Intermediate Green	Pied Green Cock	P Wassink
Best Novice Green	Spangle Green Cock	E Baker
Best Blue on Show	Grey Cock	E Baker
Runner up	Sky Blue Cock	I Kahn
Best Champion Blue	Spangle D/F Y/F Cock	C Smit
Best Intermediate Blue	Sky Blue Cock	I Kahn
Best Novice Blue	Grey Cock	E Baker

This was a fun day enjoyed by all and made a change from the usual judging format. While judging was progressing exhibitors were entertained with a selection of budgie videos. On completion of judging, refreshments were served and awards were handed out. The day ended with 30 members and friends attending a surprise presentation to Arthur Windell to mark his 50 years in the Budgerigar Fancy.



**Top Left:** Eugene Phillips from Cape Town.  
**Top Right:** Other members at the AGM.



## DE-SPOTTING FOR EXHIBITING by Deon Davie

Always start by removing the smaller spots highest up on the mask. See photo 4 G3, H3 Area. Thereafter pulling the spots from top to bottom. This will open up the area so that you can get a better picture of the spots left on the bird. Also remove the smaller spots in the area just under the cheek patch. Many birds on our benches are seen with a few smaller spots still present in this area, which detracts attention to the cleanness of the rest of the mask area.



Left: Photo 4

Below: Photo 5



Also lift the main spots up to remove the shadow spots underneath. They are usually also big spots but lighter in colour. See photo 5 Ensure that you have the same size of spots on both sides. Whenever in doubt as to which spot to pull, compare it with the other side of the bird or put the bird back into the stock cage and allow it to ruffle its feathers. Study the spots and proceed to remove the spots that need to be removed.

Shadow spots can be left as replacements if any of the main spots are missing, if not they need to be removed as they tend to move out underneath the main spots when the bird ruffles its feathers. The extra space available on the mask allows the shadow spots to now move out next to the main spots. This might sometimes only happen on the day of the show.

Ensure to leave the biggest, darkest and furthest left or right spots as the two outer spots on the bird. (Spots 1 and 6)

*Continued on page 28*

## DE-SPOTTING FOR EXHIBITING by Deon Davie

First of all identify the spots one wishes to retain. These will be the biggest and also the darkest in colour. See photo 2.



Photo 2

Main Spots

This can be done by carefully moving and lifting the spots with your finger. A firm grip of the bird will prevent any spots being pulled by the bird itself when it moves its head while you have a spot between your fingers. If it is found that one or more of the correct spots are missing then possible substitutes must be found in the same area.

When removing a spot make sure that you have a firm grip of only one feather at a time. See photo 3.



Photo 3

*Continued on page 27*

## THE EASLEY CLEARBODY: EASY TO BREED

by Pierre and Maja Swart

Mr Tom Easley bred the first Easley Clearbody in January 1954 in San Diego. This was an Opaline Greywing Dark Green Hen with yellow body colour. The parents of the bird were an Opaline Dark Green cock and a Cobalt hen. When this hen was paired the following year to a Normal Dark Green Cock, two more of this new mutation appeared, both cocks, a normal and an Opaline. They fitted the description of the Easley Clearbody but with pale violet cheek patches.

Mr Easley also established that the variety is dominant in its breeding pattern and can be produced in both sexes from any mating of which one partner must be visual. Because of the dominant gene, the variety can be established in both a single and double factor. The double factor version tends to have a much-diluted body colour.

We obtained our first Easley Clearbody during 1996 from Reinhardt Molkenin during a visit to his aviary. This was a Spangle Grey Green Opaline Easley Clearbody Cock. In 1996 the Texas Clearbody became very popular in South Africa.

The Easley Clearbody is not very attractive in colour so many breeders are not interested in breeding them. At this stage the Easley Clearbody was mostly small and flecked.

We started to breed with our Spangle Easley Clearbody, but luck was not with us at first. All Easley Clearbodies that were produced were Spangle Easley Clearbodies. At one stage we believed that the Easley Clearbody gene was

linked to the Spangle gene.

At last we produced an Opaline Grey Green Easley Clearbody Cock in 1998. This was bred from the Molkenin Spangle Opaline Grey Green Easley Clearbody Cock and an Opaline Grey Green Hen from my "Simply line". From this cock all our Easley Clearbodies of today originate. We only paired up one pair of Clearbodies because we still concentrated mostly on the mainstream varieties. With the Clearbodies we firstly worked on cleaning up the heads and with great success. Presently all our efforts are to improve quality and we have made good progress. This year we paired up Easley to Easley to produce the double factor form and hopefully obtain a much more diluted form and which will be more colourful.

The present Easley Clearbody generally has jet-black wing markings, flight feathers, tail feathers and mask spots because of the excess black melanin. Their cheek patches are a shade of pale violet. The body colour also tends to have less suffusion as found with the Texas mutation.

The Easley Clearbody is dominant in breeding, apart from all the contradictions described above. It also has a very different feathering - it appears to be very velvety like and sometimes the spots on closer inspection, tends not to open. When pulling the spots, more effort than normal has to be applied; they sit very tightly in the body and are more difficult to pull.

The last two years we were very successful with Easley Clearbodies on the show bench.

*Continued on page 12*

## THE EASLEY CLEARBODY: EASY TO BREED

We achieved the following successes with our Easley Clearbodies on the show bench:

<b>2004</b>	Best Opposite Sex on Show	Rare Variety Show
<b>2005</b>	Best Any Age on Show	Rare Variety Show
	Best Opposite Sex on Show	Rare Variety Show
	Best Bird on Show	Rare Variety Show

It took us at least 8 - 9 years to achieve success with the Easley Clearbodies. Never ever give up. Success does not come easy. We are and will always breed mainstream varieties, but it is always exciting to spice up breeding budgerigars with a rare variety.



WE OWE IT TO OUR  
BUDGERIGARS!

### PAIRINGS & EXPECTATIONS

Easley Clearbody(sf) x Easley Clearbody(sf)	25% Normal 50% Easley Clearbody (sf) 25% Easley Clearbody (df)
Easley Clearbody(sf) x Easley Clearbody (df)	50% Easley Clearbody (sf) 50% Easley Clearbody (df)
Easley Clearbody (df) x Easley Clearbody (df)	100% Easley Clearbody (df)
Easley Clearbody(sf) x Normal	50% Easley Clearbody (sf) 50% Normal
Easley Clearbody (df) x Normal	100% Easley Clearbody (sf)

## DE-SPOTTING FOR EXHIBITING by Deon Davie

Before attempting to handle any bird ensure that your hands are clean and as warm as possible. It is advisable to wash your hands with ordinary hand soap and luke warm water. Ensure that your hands are dry before de-spotting proceeds, as with damp fingers you might just pull two spots at a time.

Hold the bird in your hand that feels the most comfortable and with the other hand being the hand that will do the actual de-spotting. Your thumb should be in the ear area at the side of the head and your index finger must be firmly on top of the head of the bird, with the middle finger supporting the other side of the bird's body. Your remaining two fingers must be used to steady the bird and to keep the feet from interfering with the process. See photo 1.



Photo 1

A tweezer with a decent grip can be used to pull spots or alternatively your thumb and index finger. A tweezer without a firm grip or using your nails might tear the spots. I prefer to use my fingers for de-spotting as I feel I have more control.

*Continued on page 26*

## Making a case for not keeping too many Budgerigars by George Jenkins

Every serious Budgerigar breeder will tell you it is quality that is important and not quantity, however, ask a breeder how they are doing during the breeding season and they will tell you how many they have bred - and not how good the youngsters might be.

Budgerigar fanciers have been indoctrinated that breeding Budgerigars is about breeding numbers of youngsters and not quality of those youngsters.

For the keen exhibitor it is far more important to produce 30 quality youngsters than 200 inferior young birds. It is easy to say but it only takes one top quality young bird to take the top award at the show.

### **Quality is the prime factor**

Quality is the prime factor but breeding numbers of these quality birds indicates the depth of quality in the stud. It takes a lot of time to breed good Budgerigars. If a working fancier has 24 breeding pairs and produces 100 youngsters a year they have plenty of work to undertake to care for those birds properly. If they start to become ambitious and increase the number of breeding cages, they either have to find more time to spend with the birds or they begin to do everything less well. The care and attention given to each pair is reduced, and consequently,

perform less well themselves.

A keen exhibition breeder needs to be looking for quality all the time. It is not a numbers game. Unless a novice has an exceptional amount of time, they would do well to restrict the number of breeding pairs. Most novices will find it difficult to find more than a limited number of pairs of the required quality to breed youngsters for the show bench. It is difficult for most champions to find more than a dozen top quality pairs.

There are always exceptions but most novices have a restricted number of quality birds and in nearly every case it is the better quality birds that produce the best youngsters. Budgerigars should be pleasure and not a full time "hobby", cleaning and working to keep the bird room clean. Time for relaxation and pleasure need to be found. Some fanciers will tell you that they are far too busy working with their birds to enjoy them. The conclusion is that they are keeping too many birds for the time they are able to commit to their Budgerigars.

It is nice to pair up, have a few spare birds in the flights if something should go wrong, but the flights need to be almost empty to take the breeding season's youngsters. Only breed with quality birds and never pair up birds on the chance they might produce something good. Top breeder's have proven that breeding quality youngsters every year is about breeding with quality-stock - and not about the number of pairs.

[www.Geocities.com/budgiesouthafrica/](http://www.Geocities.com/budgiesouthafrica/)

## Where so many Novices go wrong with Budgerigars

by Fred Wright

Some novices or even fanciers who feel they might not be making the right progress with Budgerigars are likely to get upset when they read this article. Perhaps they would be best to carry on in their own sweet way and continue to endeavour to fight their way through that thick fog to make progress. For those who feel they are making little progress and want to breed better Budgerigars - read on!

During the course of a year I visit many Budgerigar birdrooms. Many are those of champions but plenty are those of the novice. Unfortunately, there is a theme running through many rooms when progress is slow and the fanciers are rapidly becoming frustrated through lack of success.

### **You will never breed rats from mice!**

One of the most common mistakes or perhaps lack of any positive actions is where the number of birds increase year after year and the birdroom is expanded to accommodate the stock. This ever-increasing number of birds is the result of the fancier not having the confidence to cull the stock and only to use the better quality birds in the breeding cages.

In most of these novice birdrooms there are far too many birds, or at least too many birds for the fancier to manage properly. They seem to "collect" birds rather than looking at the stock at the end of a season and selling off all the birds they believe are

not going to help them to make progress. There is absolutely no point in starting a breeding season with flights full of poor quality birds - even if they are related to the better birds. My original mentor told me, "You will never breed rats from mice," and that was 40 years ago. To my knowledge, he has never been proven to be wrong. If you lack the confidence to dispose of the lesser quality birds at the end of the year, do not be afraid to seek the assistance of a successful champion. Do not seek the advice of a champion who knows little more than you! It seems to me that many champions have had one years experience over and over again - the same experience. It's up to you to decide which fancier to ask but a successful exhibitor and judge might be a reasonable place to start.

Sell the unwanted birds through an advert in *Cage & Aviary Birds* or something similar, but if needs be, sell them to one of the bird farms and make room for the new season's youngsters. It will save seed, create less work and dust, and any money raised will go well towards a decent pair of imports.

Deciding which to keep and which to sell is never easy. However, it's worth remembering that fine-feathered, short-faced birds are unlikely to produce the modern type of birds with directional feathering over the eye required for the show bench. Never forget that during a breeding season, far more hens are required than cocks.

*Continued on page 14*

## Where so many Novices go wrong with Budgerigars by Fred Wright

It might be worth keeping a few small, but young hens, that can be used as "feeders" during the breeding season as the best hens will be better producing quality youngsters than rearing them.

Breeding quality Budgerigars can be a ruthless business. Once a bird has been unwell, its breeding qualities will need to be questioned. Never keep sick birds – and more important, do not try to sell them to other fanciers. If a bird will not breed for you, its unlikely to breed for someone else. It's a fact that megabacteria is a serious problem for Budgerigar breeders throughout the world. It's almost impossible to cure and control. If a bird is unwell, it is likely that it has a problem that might well be transferred to other birds. The sooner it is removed from the birdroom or aviary the better. Never pass on birds that are sick to other fanciers or dealers.

It will come as no great surprise but the best youngsters tend to come from the best pairs. Selecting the pairings is difficult but you need to focus on what you want to produce. Never double-up on faults, and in fact, try not to use birds with serious faults. Try and select the pairs so that all the qualities of a good exhibition Budgerigar can be seen in at least one of the partners.

It's greatly unfortunate that many of these novice birdrooms I visit, have the best birds in the flights and the lesser quality birds in the breeding cages. Sometimes I ask if one of these better cocks in the flight would not be put to better use in the breeding cage. Usually an answer comes back like, "I want to use him later in the season." Many of these novices make their pairings at the beginning of the season and are

reluctant to change the pairs after the first or second rounds. If a pair produces disappointing youngsters in the first round and there is better quality potential breeding stock in the flights, it makes wonderful sense to change the pairs.

A room I visited recently contained some top quality cocks, one especially, the fancier had bred and won well with on the show bench the previous year. He realised the bird was of exceptional quality and had retained everything that was related – and that totalled around 50 or more birds. Some were of reasonable quality and some were really poor. However, the fancier in question had not fully understood the theory of pedigree breeding. He believed that if he continued to pair related birds together, he would automatically produce quality youngsters. He had unfortunately not understood that he needed to retain the best quality birds related to this exceptional cock to breed with – and not everything, including the poor, fine-feathered relations.

It always seems that many novices seem to acquire many old birds. As a general rule, hens need to be no more than a couple of years old. Cocks might still produce fertile eggs when they are much older, but cocks that are more than three years old must be considered as doubtful breeders. There is always room for the odd "old friend" but it's no way to make progress with a birdroom full of old stagers.

Flecked Opalines and Opaline Cinnamons can present huge problems. As a general rule, only use flecked hens that are really quality birds in all other respects. For a flecked Opaline cock to be retained and used, it needs to be of exceptional quality.

*Continued on page 15*

## Available Items

*Items can be obtained from the Administrator. Tel (011) 693 1790*

### Sales Items

Show cage drinkers @ R3.00 each + Postage & handling fee.  
Colour prints (A4) of the painting of the Ideal Budgerigar of the BSSA :

- Unlaminated @ R5.00 per print & Laminated @ R10.00 per print
- Unlaminated, signed by Roy Aplin (artist) @ R15.00 per print

### Videos

The following videos can be hired @ R50.00 deposit:

- Show Budgerigars by Gerald Binks
- Budgerigar Breeding for Beginners by John Scull
- Jeff Atwood on Budgerigars
- New video by Frank Silva entitled "I did it my way"

### Lapel Badges

Badges (with new BSSA logo) can be ordered by club secretaries as follows (6/8 weeks delay for delivery):

- With club's initials on scroll R30 each
- Badge only without scroll R20 each

### Personalised Ring Codes

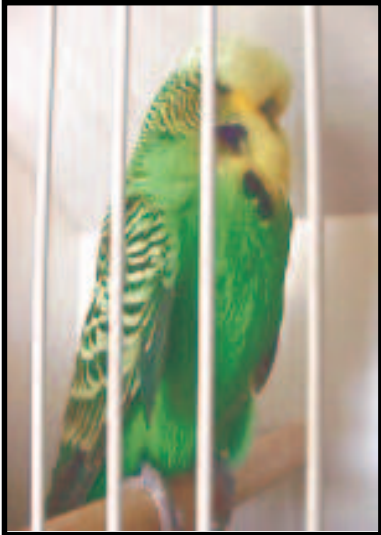
Members are reminded that they can buy personalised ring codes with a maximum of 4 digits for R50.00 from the Administrator.

### DVD and Video on Colour Identification

DVD and Video on Colour Identification given at the Judges' Seminar held on 5 February 2005 can be obtained from the Judges' Committee through Deon Davie. Tel/Fax (011) 760 6095 or 082 377 7686:

- Video - R100.00
- DVD - R200.00

## From the Past - 1999 National



Left: Best Bird on Show – Molkentin Stud  
Top: Best Opposite Sex – Fred Sherman



Left: Best Spangle on Show – de Beer Partnership  
Bottom: Best Intermediate YB – Palm Aviaries



Pictures by John Nel

## Where so many Novices go wrong with Budgerigars by Fred Wright

These days, Opalines and Opaline Cinnamons almost need to be considered as a specialist variety as they lack quality in numbers and they have variety-specific problems.

Some novices will favour particular colours and varieties. Other than the “specialist varieties” like Crests, Recessive Pieds and Clearwings, it is my belief that it does not matter about the colours you retain. Some people will favour keeping Grey Greens or Skyblues because they like them. My suggestion would be that you retain the best birds and tend to forget the colour. During the early stages it really does not matter if you are “top-heavy” with Cinnamons, Light Greens or Spangles. The early years are about raising good numbers of quality birds and it matters very little what colour they might be. It’s easy at a later stage to concentrate on a group of colours like Light Greens and Skyblues.

Taking advice is a mine-field. I used to get very annoyed when someone would say to me that something must be correct because they had read it in one of the magazines. When someone writes something it is really no more than their view or opinion. The best way to take advice is to listen to several respected people, read as much as you can from all sources and then decide for YOURSELF what YOU are going to do. It is not possible to listen to everyone and follow everyone’s advice. However, if you have the confidence to follow the advice of a local, successful champion, you will not go far wrong.

## Feeding a stud of Budgerigars by Keith Hunt

FEEDING A STUD of Budgerigars can be either easy when the diet is a simple seed and water combination or more complex when many different “extras” are added to the basic diet. Feeding the “extras” properly can take a lot of time and we have no real idea whether it is necessary or not. What we do know is that a mixed aviary of breeding Budgerigars will perform quite well on the simple diet, however, most breeders believe that quality Budgerigars require a far more interesting and nutritious diet if they are to produce good numbers of healthy babies every year.

Most of the nutritional work that has ever been carried out for birds has been undertaken on poultry - because that is big business, Budgerigars and cage birds in general are not. We do not know the exact nutritional requirements of a Budgerigar, we might have a good idea but we are not entirely sure.

During the late 1980s I visited Brazil for the first time and saw a couple of Budgerigar studs being fed entirely on a pellet food, designed for Budgerigars. It was manufactured by a well known international pet food company but the results are there to be seen - poor breeding results and the plumage looked dull.

*Continued on page 16*

## Feeding a stud of Budgerigars by Keith Hunt

Something was obviously missing from the diet. The problem was that the missing "requirements" could not be identified!

All serious exhibition breeders try to feed a good basic diet of a mixture of seeds with a supply of water throughout the year. However, for every fancier there must be a slightly different feeding regime. The differences being in the variation and quality of the extras offered. These days nearly everyone offers some form of softfood.

It varies from a brand manufactured for the purpose, an egg and biscuit mix, to soaked bread and milk, but they are all rich in protein, more protein than seed alone. Today all breeders accept that feathers, body-weight (muscle) and growth is all about protein. If we are to breed and show quality birds with plenty of feather and substance we need to feed plenty of protein. However, that is not the end of the story - feed too much protein and things start to go wrong with the youngsters. Softfoods round the 16 - 20% protein levels seem to be about the right balance - nothing more.

All Budgerigar seed mixes contain various combinations of canary seed and various millets. It is accepted that around 50 per cent of the mixture should be canary seed because this seed contains a slightly higher level of protein than millets. Exhibition breeders tend to disregard the cheaper Budgerigar mixes that contain too high levels of millets because of the lower level of protein. However, just as important as nutrient levels, a clean seed that has not been contaminated by rodents or pesticides is vital.

Frequently fanciers and seed suppliers like to add something to the seed mix to add weight to the birds. Groats or dry oats are sometimes used for this purpose. The birds find these seeds easy to eat and are high in carbohydrate.

### Grits and Minerals

Grit is something that many new fanciers never realise is important. Oystershell is rich in calcium for bones and egg shell while a mineralised grit should provide the mineral requirements. A "washed grit" is best as this will have lost the sharp edges that can damage the digestive system. Parts of the mineralised grit will be hard and this aids the digestion of the food as it passes through the system. Cuttlefish is usually offered to Budgerigars but many believe that with a good supply of oystershell grit, it is not necessary. These days cuttlefish bone is expensive and if given to birds in a flight - especially hens, it can be seen that most of it is wasted. However, cuttlefish-bone is high in calcium, which is the major part of egg shell, so this is seen by many fanciers as a way of being sure that quality egg shells are produced during the breeding season.

In recent years moulded grit blocks have become popular. They can be expensive but if they do the job they might be worth the money. However, they might be a luxury rather than a necessity.

The final thing that completes the basic requirements is fresh water. Drinking water must be fresh every day and ideally provided in special drinkers, which can protect it from droppings and birdroom dust.

*Continued on page 17*

## Changing the way we do things! By Ian Bleasdale

### Option 3

Same as Option 1 except that the two Best in Shows, Young Bird, Any Age and Opposite sex winners compete for overall Best.

### Pro's

1. 44 CC's overall
2. More points for Rares
3. Allow exhibitors in Rares show to compete with winners of the conventional National
4. Three Best in Show, Young Bird, Any Age and Opposite Sex awards

### Con's

1. Winning of one show but who did not win overall will be diluted
2. Engaged judges may not show at all
3. Less entries

### Option 4

The other alternative is for the Rares to be added in full to the existing schedule creating about 44 classes. This option I feel will defeat the purpose of allowing the breeders of Rares to compete for a Best in Show, Young Bird, Any Age, Opposite Sex and Section awards. Generally the Rares do not feature in conventional shows and this option will eliminate their chances of winning.

### Summary

I am personally in favour of Option 2 as it allows those exhibitors who feel they have Rare variety birds capable of winning on the conventional National the chance to do so. However, at the same time the breeders of Rare varieties can enjoy a show competing against birds of equal strength as will be the case for the conventional National.

BSSA have put forward the suggestion for your consideration. The above are my thoughts on the position. Management would dearly love to have your point of view. Your response and or alternative ideas would be greatly appreciated.

## R.D.M Aviaries

Orlux Eggfood Dry ~ Orlux Eggfood with Honey  
Vitamins

Ferti-vit ~ Omni-vit ~ Muta vit ~ Probi-zyme Probiotics ~ Bio-Digest Intestinal Conditioner  
Calci-Lux Soluble Calcium ~ Bio-Bad Bath Salts  
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**Phone Ralph 083 659 3147**



## Changing the way we do things! By Ian Bleasdale

The fancy has been losing members since a peak about 15 years ago. The reason for this is multi-faceted with various theories being put forward, such as television, computers and so on using up our spare time as well as the cost of keeping and breeding birds. Club politics and the different expectations of the modern "Birdman" in that winning is important to staying in the fancy, have all contributed to dwindling numbers.

Another possible reason is that the fancy's policy makers and yes, of which I have been part, have perhaps not been listening to those who derive pleasure from the not so popular (and more difficult to breed to a high standard) colour varieties.

### Promoting the Rare Varieties

Bearing this in mind and in an attempt to stimulate the fancy and newcomers, it has been decided to look into the feasibility of promoting the rarer colours in such a way that those breeders who wish to specialize in such colours may also have the opportunity of competing for Challenge Certificates (CC's), Section awards and Best in Show awards.

There are various ways of doing this and one way would be for a full Rares show to be held at the same time and venue as the conventional National Show.

There are various options that can be

considered when deciding which way would best benefit the fancy. The options mentioned below would all necessitate the removal of all Rare classes from the National schedule.

#### Option 1

Two completely separate shows with each producing a Best in Show, CC winners, sectional awards and Grade A points.

#### Pro's

1. Two Best in Show awards
2. Two Best Young Bird, Any Age, and Opposite Sex awards
3. 44 CC winners overall
4. More points for Rares
5. Engaged judges can show on one of the shows, therefore more entries
6. No overall winner to dilute winning a Best in Show (Conventional vs. Rares winner)
7. Will encourage non-breeders of Rares to start – especially judges who can then judge and exhibit

#### Con's

1. Exhibitors are not able to show Rares on conventional National.

#### Option 2

Same as Option 1 except that an AOV class be included on the conventional National schedules to allow a breeder who feels they can compete for Major awards with a Rare to have the opportunity.

I do not believe that this class will attract breeders trying to gain extra points but serves merely as a way of allowing exhibitors to show any Rare exhibit in a single class on the conventional National.

*Continued on page 21*

## Feeding a stud of Budgerigars by Keith Hunt

### Greenfoods

The subject of greenfood and feeding any vegetables seems to split the fancy. Many believe that greenfood is unnecessary and with the risk of contamination and the time it takes to collect and feed, is just not worth the effort. However, there are many, like me, who believe that feeding greenfood benefits the birds and is well worth the trouble.

Chickweed is my favourite for the birds closely followed by spinach. Chickweed I am able to collect from a local farm where no spraying takes place. A small piece of chickweed can be just the thing to start a young hen off when she is finding it difficult to feed her first chick. Spinach is easily grown through many months of the year but can be purchased from supermarkets. Carrots are popular with the birds. Some fanciers feed it in small pieces to their birds and others grate it into the softfood. Either method is popular with Budgerigars.

Water-cress is loved by most birds and so is salad cress. There was a time when I used to sprout mung beans but this can be difficult during the cold weather and these days it is easier to pick up a packet at the local supermarket - sold as bean sprouts. If Budgerigars are familiar with bean sprouts, they are devoured quickly.

When nothing else is available I am prepared to offer my birds a small piece of lettuce once a week. It must be fresh which keeps in a fridge for several days. Too much lettuce seems to make the birds droppings wet and this needs to be avoided. The other vegetable I give my birds - and they love it - is corn on the cob. However, my birds love it so much

that I freeze bags of it and offer the cut-up cobs to the birds throughout the year. It freezes easily. Budgerigars enjoy corn so much that in recent years I have added a small quantity of frozen corn to their softfood.

### To feed – or not to feed, soaked oats

For years I used to feed soaked oats to my Budgerigars during the pre-breeding season about twice a week. The birds liked it and it did add some body-weight to the birds. During the breeding season it was offered to the hens just before chicks were due to hatch and while they were feeding youngsters. The hens loved the oats and I always believed that they were a valuable addition to the basic diet. The oats were always soaked in Vanodine and thoroughly washed in clean water before being given to the birds. However, there were always losses of young chicks. I am sure there will always be losses of chicks at one and two days old but I considered that my losses were too high and wanted to do something about it. I put a stop to feeding hens soaked oats while they were feeding young chicks. The losses of young chicks dropped rapidly and I have therefore never offered soaked oats again to pairs with very small youngsters.

Millet sprays tend to be expensive and I have always found it difficult to believe that nutritionally they are any better than millet seed; however, they are so popular with the birds - especially when youngsters leave the nest. During the breeding season I soak a bunch of sprays - again in Vanodine and cut them into two or three pieces. A couple of times a week a piece is given to each pair feeding youngsters.

*Continued on page 18*

## Feeding a stud of Budgerigars by Keith Hunt

When chicks are about to leave the box, I add a piece to the nest-box. Usually the chicks can be seen taking their first food by eating the millet. As the chicks leave the boxes at around 30/32 days, they are familiar with the sprays and they are feeding without any delay - or any loss of body-weight. While the youngsters are with the parents and for the next couple of weeks, soaked millet sprays are offered, and much appreciated by the birds.

### **Feeding a quality Softfood**

Once feather, and plenty of it became popular on a good exhibition Budgerigar, softfood was seen as the way of introducing higher levels of protein into the diet. There seems little doubt that some form of softfood helps the hen while she is rearing youngsters. Whatever might have happened in the past, a softfood is currently seen as a necessity in the preparation of the breeding season, while the hen is feeding youngsters and for young birds during the weaning process.

Many brands are available from shops and avicultural suppliers. They tend to be biscuit-based with the addition of dried egg products. These are fed with the addition of water. However, many fanciers decide to make their own softfood with various forms of biscuit meal, eggs and water. The deciding factor of a bought brand or a home-made softfood is with the fancier concerned. Bought brands tend to be scientifically developed while home-produced softfoods are far less formally produced. My advice would be to use a commercially produced softfood - it will

contain the same food value throughout the season and it is usually easier to prepare every day.

Feeding softfood is important when trying to produce plenty of youngsters but it should be offered to the birds "little and often" rather than at weekends and once or twice during the week. If it can be given four or five times a day, in small quantities, to hens while they are feeding youngsters during the breeding season, it is a huge benefit to the breeding pairs.

Routine is never more important than when feeding a softfood. Budgerigars do best with one brand throughout the year. Adults should become familiar with the food during the build-up to the breeding season and a couple of times a week while the hens are laying and incubating. When the first egg is due to hatch, softfood should be offered. It is often enough to provide the incentive for the hen to produce crop milk to feed her first chick.

While hens are feeding youngsters they do well if given softfood every day until the chicks are ready to leave their parents. Once the chicks are taken away, the youngsters should be offered softfood two or three times a day.

Many fanciers talk about preparing their birds for the breeding season with the addition of certain foods. I have taken the view for many years that Budgerigars naturally come into breeding condition if they are offered a good stable diet with the addition of extended day-light hours. Softfood can be given at this stage but it is more for the birds to become familiar with the food than any nutritional requirement.

*Continued on page 19*

## Feeding a stud of Budgerigars by Keith Hunt

My Budgerigars are offered softfood throughout the year. Plenty during the breeding season and while youngsters are being weaned but once or even twice a week during the non-breeding season. I am sure that Budgerigars benefit greatly from a softfood at most times, all the year round. However, I am keen to keep my birds in peak condition.

### **Keeping drinkers and dishes clean**

It might seem an obvious thing to state but feeding dishes and drinkers need to be kept clean. Many fanciers experience losses with their birds but do little to prevent birds becoming sick. Birds do die but things are far more likely to go wrong with a stud of Budgerigars if they are kept in unclean conditions.

Keeping feeding utensils clean is made far easier if you have a sink in the birdroom but no sink is no excuse. Some fanciers overcome the problem by having plenty of spare dishes and drinkers - some even have two sets that can, one to be used and the other to be returned to the house for cleaning. Spare seed dishes enable the fancier to exchange a soiled dish for a clean one easily.

The greatest problems occur with drinkers that are used for additives and dishes that are used for softfood and soaked seeds, especially soaked oats. Such utensils need to be washed

thoroughly on a regular basis.

### **The value of a routine feeding programme.**

If there is one thing that gets over-looked in most feeding programmes it is that Budgerigars seem to do best with a routine feeding regime. They perform best without changes being made to the basic foods that are offered during the seasons. A standard seed mixture should never be changed in the middle of the breeding season. It is by far the best way to keep with the same softfood throughout the breeding season.

It is not just the food that needs to remain constant, it's the frequency it is offered. There is little point in offering softfood five times a day at the weekend and then just once a day during the week. Twice a day, seven days a week, would be far better.

There is only one exception to routine feeding. Budgerigars and Canaries do appreciate the odd "treat" and it keeps them "interested", especially when they are feeding youngsters. The birds do enjoy a piece of water-cress when they are breeding, they love a couple of bean sprouts and everyone knows how much a breeding pair of Budgerigars will relish a piece of millet spray. The "treats" should never be solely seen as a food, they are something the birds enjoy and we should enjoy watching our birds feeding on them.

**Jacaranda Show Budgie Society**  
[www.Geocities.com/Petsburgh/5240](http://www.Geocities.com/Petsburgh/5240)

**East London Budgerigar Society**  
[www.Geocities.com/elbudgerigarsociety](http://www.Geocities.com/elbudgerigarsociety)