



**Best Opposite Sex on Show  
De Beer Partnership**



**Best Young Bird on Show  
George Norval**



**Best Cinnamon Green Series  
on Show - Lionel Sydenham**



**Best Opaline Grey  
Green on Show -  
KC Aviaries**



# *The SA Budgerigar Bulletin*

**The Budgerigar Society of South Africa  
Issue 17 October - March 2006**



**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.

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**The Quarterly Bulletin Advertising Rates**

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**Adverts**

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

**Cover**

National Championship Show 2005, Best Bird on Show – Cinnamon Grey Hen – KC Aviaries Durban

**2005 Major Award Winners in South Africa**

| Award  | Exhibitor           | Colour                     |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Gauteng Area Championship Show</b><br>756 Entered and 700 Benched       |                     |                            |
| Best Bird on Show  | De Beer Partnership | Grey Cock                  |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show  | De Beer Partnership | Grey Hen                   |
| Best Young Bird on Show  | M & G Stud          | Cinnamon Green Cock        |
| Best Any Age on Show   | De Beer Partnership | Grey Cock                  |
| <b>Western Cape Area Championship Show</b><br>600 Entered and 521 Benched  |                     |                            |
| Best Bird on Show  | De Beer Partnership | Grey Hen                   |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show  | De Beer Partnership | Opaline Grey Cock          |
| Best Young Bird on Show  | AH Olivier          | Opaline Cinnamon Blue Cock |
| Best Any Age on Show   | De Beer Partnership | Grey Hen                   |
| <b>Free State Area Championship Show</b><br>618 Entered and 585 Benched    |                     |                            |
| Best Bird on Show  | TS Roodt            | Grey Cock                  |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show  | Molkentin Stud      | Lutino Hen                 |
| Best Young Bird on Show  | Thistle Aviaries    | Dominant Pied Cock         |
| Best Any Age on Show   | TS Roodt            | Grey Cock                  |
| <b>Eastern Cape Area Championship Show</b><br>387 Entered and 365 Benched  |                     |                            |
| Best Bird on Show  | Fourie & Kotze      | Dark Green Hen             |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show  | Palm Aviaries       | Light Green Cock           |
| Best Young Bird on Show  | Palm Aviaries       | Light Green Cock           |
| Best Any Age on Show   | Fourie & Kotze      | Dark Green Hen             |
| <b>Kwazulu-Natal Area Championship Show</b><br>313 Entered and 253 Benched |                     |                            |
| Best Bird on Show  | Palm Aviaries       | Light Green Cock           |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show  | KC Aviaries         | Cinnamon Blue Hen          |
| Best Young Bird on Show  | Palm Aviaries       | Light Green Cock           |
| Best Any Age on Show   | KC Aviaries         | Cinnamon Blue Hen          |
| <b>National Championship Show</b><br>782 Entered and 706 Benched           |                     |                            |
| Best Bird on Show  | KC Aviaries         | Cinnamon Blue Hen          |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show  | De Beer Partnership | Opaline Grey Cock          |
| Best Young Bird on Show  | GM Norval           | Cinnamon Blue Cock         |
| Best Any Age on Show   | KC Aviaries         | Cinnamon Blue Hen          |

## Show Dates 2006

| <u>Show</u>                     | <u>Date</u>    | <u>Secretary Contact</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| KwaZulu Natal Championship Show | 27 May         | TBA                      |
| Western Cape Championship Show  | 17 June        | TBA                      |
| Free State Championship Show    | 6 - 7 May      | TBA                      |
| Eastern Cape Championship Show  | 28 - 29 Apr    | TBA                      |
| National Championship Show      | 12 - 13 August | TBA                      |

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 2006

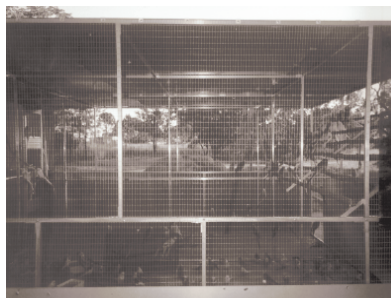
|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Entry fee for new member (adult)                       | R120.00 |
| Entry fee for new member (junior)                      | R 0.00  |
| Affiliation fee (adult)                                | R105.00 |
| Affiliation fee (junior)                               | R 0.00  |
| Affiliation fee (partnership – family at same address) | R145.00 |
| Affiliation fee (all other partnerships – per member)  | R105.00 |
| Fee for registration of a partnership                  | R 20.00 |
| Fee for registration of a personal ring code           | R100.00 |
| Price of Rings (per ring)                              | R 2.90  |
| Postage  | TBA     |

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## LARKWOOD AVIARIES AND RELOCATING TO PRETORIA

By Johan, Suzanne and Matthew Lucas - Larkwood Aviaries



### Introduction

We would have thought that breeding quality budgerigars is a challenge in itself until we decided to move from KZN to Pretoria. In ten years one can really expand and you just don't realise the effort and capital required to replace the aviaries and breeding cages.

Towards the middle of 2004 we started to realise that my career was keeping me in Gauteng and that it would be best for us as a family if we relocated. Well this would prove to be a very telling moment in our lives.

The brief was simple yet difficult: to find a place where we could keep all the animals but still be affordable. This we had to do just at a time when the property prices were going up and up and up. Well eventually we found a plot on the Warmbaths side of Pretoria.

In Pietermaritzburg we found

tenants for our house but that also posed an interesting problem to us. It was the Balla's and they also breed show budgerigars. Needless to say they were keen to take over our existing establishment. More importantly it meant we could leave the birds there until we had constructed an aviary in Pretoria. From past experience this was certainly a huge plus factor.



### What was our plan?

Our plan was simple enough. We were going to construct the aviary on the new property and then move the birds up as soon as they started moulting in Pietermaritzburg. This normally happens during June. So the birds would stay in Pietermaritzburg from Feb until June. One of our aims was to build the aviary in the same direction as the one in Pietermaritzburg (east to west) and take into account the most common wind direction at our new home in order to use that as an aid for ventilation and the circulation of fresh air through the bird room.

*Continued on page 4*

## LARKWOOD AVIARIES AND RELOCATING TO PRETORIA, continued

Both aspects we believe to be very important for successful breeding.

Also we wanted to see a few aviaries in the area and the method of construction used in order not to construct something that would not work. Remembering all the time that the birds must be happy and breed in the bird room and it must be comfortable to us at the same time.

Another consideration was the fact that in Pietermaritzburg when you place a walking stick on the ground and leave it for some time it will root and grow! Here that will never happen because it is just so dry and then the white ants would eat it in any event.

During the waiting period we would also start building the breeding cages as the old ones remained in Pietermaritzburg.



From the outset we decided we were not going to put a lot of pressure on ourselves and would write off the 2005 breeding season.



### What changed?

One good morning our son phoned and said that the birds had gone into a severe moult. There were feathers everywhere. So we then decided to move the birds as soon as possible. The aviary was almost finished but not the bird room.

The birds were accordingly in a moult for over eight weeks, which did not help with the show season as the better more buff birds seem to struggle with the moult longer than the yellow-feathered birds. However we seemed to get away with one heavy moult rather than two or more.

*Continued on page 12*

## Promotions with effect from 1 October 2005

The following promotions came into effect on 1 October 2005. The editor would like to congratulate all the members on their success and wish everyone the very best for the 2006 show season.

| Name  | Code | Club |
|---|------|------|
| <b>White Ribbon to Yellow Ribbon Champion</b> |      |      |
| KC Aviaries                                   | XC 9 | DBC  |
| GM Norval                                     | N 39 | DBC  |
| Royale Aviaries                               | XL 1 | PBC  |
| <b>Intermediate to White Ribbon Champion</b>  |      |      |
| Carstens Partnership                          | XC 8 | TBC  |
| F de V Gerber                                 | G 28 | KBC  |
| Nagel Aviaries                                | XN 4 | VBK  |
| A Wadge                                       | W 27 | ERBS |
| <b>Novice to Intermediate</b>                 |      |      |
| M Cosani                                      | C 14 | ERBS |
| JJ Duvenage                                   | D 16 | KABV |
| Milella Partnership                           | XM 1 | ERBS |
| M&G Aviaries                                  | MGA  | DBC  |
| MS Olivier                                    | O 7  | VBK  |
| FN Stroh                                      | STRO | CTBC |
| Wemarc Stud                                   | XD 2 | PBC  |

### ***Budgie Fun ~ Word Search ~ Colours ~ Answers***

- |                   |                     |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 - Violet        | 2 - Grey            | 3 - None          |
| 4 - Dark Blue     | 5 - Black           | 6 - White         |
| 7 - Clear         | 8 - Grey Blue Tinge | 9 - Pale Cinnamon |
| 10 - Pinkish Grey | 11 - Pinkish Grey   | 12 - Fleshy Pink  |
| 13 - Dark Blue    |                     |                   |

# Budgie Fun ~ Word Search Colours



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

- 1 - Green cheek patches
  - 2 - Grey Green cheek patches
  - 3 - Lutino spots
  - 4 - Green tail feather
  - 5 - Grey tail feather
  - 6 - Albino tail feather
  - 7 - Clearwing tail feather
  - 8 - Greywing tail feather
  - 9 - Lacewing tail feather
  - 10 - Fallow leg
  - 11 - Cinnamon leg
  - 12 - Lutino and Albino leg
  - 13 - Clearbody (Texas) tail feather
- (Answers on page 33)

## Is Width of head due to skeletal size or is it feather alone by Ian Bleasdale



It has been said over the years that all budgerigars have the same width of head and that when one appears wider across the face, that it is only the feather thickness and direction that accounts for this.

I have never measured the width of face or skull with any instrument and therefore I have no scientific proof to disprove the old adage.

However, top birds today are an extension of the progress made on the original wild budgerigar and there is no way that the original skeleton is the same as that of a top class exhibition budgie of today, and I can see no reason why it should be. A good way of assessing width of head, be it skeletal or feather, is to observe a budgerigar face-on in a show cage and by closing one eye and lining up one side of the head with a bar, see how many open spaces the head covers. Nearly all fairly good budgerigars will be 1 ½ spaces. The top breeders in the

world all have their birds covering two spaces.

I have seen a budgie of intermediate feather of good size and deportment with a head covering a millimetre short of three spaces, yes – plenty of long head feather but I believe also a much wider head bone structure.

It does not make sense that budgerigars should all be the exact same size when stripped of feather, just as man when stripped of muscle etc will all have different size skeletons.

It therefore remains important when pairing up to consider width of head, feather direction etc. because whatever the cause of a head appearing wider, it is this aspect that top breeders around the world have stamped on their studs.



Often a bird looks impressive when it has lots of height and lift and yet is without width, which takes away that something special. That something special is width. Add width to height and lift and you are half way there. ♦

# No. 90

by Deon Davie



This is the ring number of the bird in this article, and also the physical address of his proud owners the De Beer Partnership from Plumstead, and no his owners aren't 90. (Yet)

XD1-90-01 a Grey cock must be one of the best birds alive today, as he has proved himself thoroughly on the bench and in the breeding box. His long list of awards and the quality of offspring is proof of this statement.

His family originated in 1996 when a

Grey cock from John Coles paired to a De Beer Opaline Yellow Face Sky Blue hen produced very smart, stylish birds although on the small size. The cock was re-mated to a large Sky Blue hen and they produced just six offspring, three Grey cocks and three Grey hens. One of the Grey hens from this pairing was then mated to an Opaline Yellow Face Grey cock from the first pairing in other words, half brother to half sister.

*Continued on page 7*

## 2005 Champion of Sections and Top 10 Exhibitors in each section

| Champion of Champions |                     |      |            |        |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------|------------|--------|
| Pos                   | Name                | Code | Club       | Points |
| 1                     | Thistle Aviaries    | XS 3 | PBC        | 250    |
| 2                     | Molkentin Stud      | XM 7 | JSBS       | 237    |
| 3                     | Deon Davie          | DEON | JSBS       | 192    |
| 4                     | De Beer Partnership | XD 1 | CTBC       | 180    |
| 5                     | Palm Aviary         | PALM | KABV       | 173    |
| 6                     | KC Aviaries         | XC 9 | DBC / ERBS | 83     |
| 7                     | HG Artus            | A 4  | PBC        | 60     |
| 8                     | TS Roodt            | TOMR | PBC        | 56     |
| 9                     | CA McCarthy         | M 21 | CTBC       | 48     |
| 10                    | Larkwood Aviaries   | XL 3 | PMBBC      | 40     |

| Champion of Intermediates |                      |       |        |        |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Pos                       | Name                 | Code  | Club   | Points |
| 1                         | GR Furniss           | F 14  | PBC    | 169    |
| 2                         | Nagel Aviaries       | XN 4  | VBK    | 158    |
| 3                         | F de V Gerber        | G 28  | KBC    | 143    |
| 4                         | JW O'Kelly           | O 11  | ERBS   | 96     |
| 5                         | A & B Aviaries       | XT 1  | PBC    | 95     |
| 6                         | HJ Venter            | V 15  | KBK    | 84     |
| 7                         | Carstens Partnership | XC 8  | TBC    | 66     |
| 8                         | A Wadge              | W 27  | ERBS   | 65     |
| 9                         | PRC Aviaries         | XC 5  | WP&BBS | 59     |
| 10                        | W & T Stoet          | W & T | VBK    | 57     |

| Champion of Novices |                      |      |      |        |
|---------------------|----------------------|------|------|--------|
| Pos                 | Name                 | Code | Club | Points |
| 1                   | Phillips Partnership | XP 4 | CPBS | 167    |
| 2                   | M Cosani             | C 14 | ERBS | 128    |
| 3                   | Wemarc Stud          | XD 2 | PBC  | 107    |
| 4                   | M & G Aviaries       | MGA  | DBC  | 75     |
| 5                   | Milella Partnership  | XM 1 | ERBS | 74     |
| 6                   | JJ Duvenhage         | D 16 | KABV | 68     |
| 6                   | MS Olivier           | O 7  | VBK  | 68     |
| 8                   | R Sykes              | S 19 | JSBS | 48     |
| 9                   | FN Stroh             | STRO | CTBC | 42     |
| 10                  | GC Haasbroek         | H 13 | PBC  | 29     |

## Roy Aplin answers some of the most frequently asked questions about Budgerigars continued from page 29

Those who have been with top exhibition Budgerigars for a long time will all tell you about the people they have seen come into the hobby, spend a fortune and had a couple of years success – and then they disappear. The fanciers who start slowly, and build a stud tend to stay around much longer. Lastly, there are plenty of good fanciers who will be happy to offer advice throughout the early years. Listen to the advice, sort it through, and adapt it to your situation. The greatest problem is being sure the fancier you take advice from knows what they are doing, and that will only come through chatting to other fanciers.

### **Selling Budgerigars – how?**

Selling surplus Budgerigars is always difficult when you are at the beginner stage. Bird farms and pet shops unfortunately do not want to pay anything like a reasonable price for birds, so only sell to them if there are no alternatives.

Many fanciers say they cannot sell their surplus but they have never advertised. If fellow fanciers do not know you have birds to sell, it is unlikely they will come knocking at your door. If you have been buying birds from one of the successful champions, remember to include the name of the breeder where your stock originated in the advert. A free

advert in Cage & Aviary Birds will usually bring a response. I have never understood why more fanciers do not use the sales classes at open shows. All too frequently, potential buyers attend these events and are anxious to go home with a bird or two. Sales classes should be an ideal place for exhibition breeders to sell at least some of their surplus.

These days' clubs and societies are holding what can only be described as increasingly popular Sales Days. These are great social events and have rapidly become more popular than the shows themselves in some areas. Members can hire a table and sell their surplus stock – and any other surplus equipment or cages. It might even be an idea for a couple of fanciers to get together and sell birds together.

There is a golden rule that people never learn until it is too late. When fanciers are buying birds, Blues, Yellow-faces, Pies and Red-eyes are always popular. If you have a flight full of Greys and Grey Greens you do have a bit of a problem as new fanciers are attracted to the bright colours. This should be a lesson for others. During the early years when it is going to be more difficult to sell surplus stock, consider keeping a higher percentage of the more attractive, more saleable colours. ♦

## No. 90 continued



From this point on there was no looking back. The family consistently produces C.C. winners of Yellow Faces, Normal Greys and Opaline Greys in both cocks and hens. No. 90, now a registered Champion bird, was never beaten in his class on any shows entered on and usually won the C.C. He was a contender for Best in Show at the 2002 National at Mossel Bay.

A large family has been built around this strain and besides No. 90, a son of his, an Opaline Grey cock, also a registered Champion bird, has excelled on the bench and is producing good quality offspring.

**Number 90 was entered on three shows during 2004. He won the CC on all three shows and also won Best in Show on all three these shows, including the National.**

A daughter of No. 90 beat her father to win B.I.S. at the 2005 WC Area Show. That was the first time No. 90 came off the bench without a Challenge Certificate. It was not unusual to see several related birds among the C.C. winners at the shows where they were entered.

Among the C.C. winners at this year's National no fewer than five birds were closely related. The Opaline Grey cock a son, the other four all grandchildren of No.90. **The son also won Best Opp. Sex on Show.**

**Winning record of number 90 includes the following:**

Numerous

- Best Young Bird and
- Best Any Age awards.

Has won the Grey CC on his last three consecutive Nationals.

(2002, 2003 and 2004)

8 Challenge certificates up to date.

4 Best in Shows at Area Shows.

Best in Show at the 2004 National. ♦

by Deon Davie

By looking at your offspring we can gather valuable information pertaining to the parents for use in future matings. In this article I will make use of an actual mating.

The father was a normal grey and the mother an Albino hen.

Offspring bred:

1. Opaline grey cock
2. Sky blue hen
3. Grey cinnamon Spangle hen

Let's look at the first chick, an Opaline Grey cock. The father would have to be split for opaline to produce opaline offspring. The Albino hen must also be an opaline to produce an opaline cock. This offspring will be split for albino as his mother is an albino. Based on the colour of his nest mates he might be split for blue and cinnamon.

Let's look at the Sky blue hen. This indicates that the father is split for blue, and that the mother might be a blue or at the least be split for blue.

The grey cinnamon spangle offspring tells us even more about the parents. The father must be split for cinnamon to produce a cinnamon hen. The fact that this chick is also grey like the

first chick indicates that the mother is either a grey or blue masked by the ino factor. If it is blue then the Cinnamon Spangle chick will be split for blue herself. Coming to the spangle factor. This can only come from the mother the albino hen, as the father is not a visual spangle.

In this mating we dealt with the sex-linked colours cinnamon, opaline and albino.

No hen can be split for any of the seven established sex-linked colours. We also dealt with split for blue. Any bird hen or cock can be split for some colours and the recessive varieties. No bird can be split for a dominant colour or dominant variety.

It must carry it visually, but can be masked by another. The hierarchy of dominance is green, grey and then blue. Finally we also looked at the dominant spangle. As mentioned above any dominant variety must be visually present on the bird. In this case it was the spangle, but was masked by the ino factor of the albino.

Many happy variety breedings. ♦

## Roy Aplin answers some of the most frequently asked questions about Budgerigars

continued from page 28

They will have confidence in you to do well with their birds and you will have the confidence to buy. It's a great relationship that can develop with buyer and seller, which results in success.

Do not go to Tom, Dick and Harry for birds. Birds that are pedigree bred will always do better than unrelated birds. Once you have birds that are as good or not far from the quality of your supplier, then it's time to think about buying from another successful fancier. However, by now you should only be looking for the odd bird with a feature that you wish to introduce.

When possible, and it's not always possible, buy young stock. Young, unused hens are going to breed far more successfully than birds that have been used in another birdroom. Try to look for young cocks but occasionally a fancier will release a super cock when they have bred young birds from it. It is sometimes the only way to buy that "super-bird".

These days it is fashionable to keep pedigrees – sometimes on computer. If it is possible to get a print-out with your purchases, so much the better. It is sometimes interesting to keep the pedigrees of birds that you buy from any one particular fancier, and over the years you can see just how

closely related the birds become.

### **Tips for keeping Budgerigars without it costing a fortune**

Starting up in most hobbies can be expensive, buying cages, a birdroom and of course, the birds – all take money. My first suggestion to anyone about to make a start with Budgerigars would be to join a local club or society. Talk with the members and find out who might be the best person to offer advice – most important of all will be to find a Budgerigar fancier who is "genuine". Try to find someone who has helped others to do well in the hobby. There are lots of fanciers who have bred Budgerigars for many years who delight in helping others and getting them started successfully.

Once you are on the "tram-lines" it is difficult to get off – and you do not want to fall off. A good club will help you to buy second hand cages and equipment, and frequently a decent fancier will be happy to lend you equipment to get started.

Never be tempted to spend fortunes on birds in the early stages. It's easy to buy success but all the fanciers at the top these days have taken their time, learnt their trade and built a stud on solid foundations.

*Continued on page 30*



## Roy Aplin answers some of the most frequently asked questions about Budgerigars continued from page 27

Its unfortunate, but an Opaline cock will always produce young Opaline hens and at least split Opaline cocks. Using those Opaline cocks has a tendency of bringing too much Opaline into the stud.

There was a theory many years ago that seems to have been re-told to every one of our new fanciers that pairing Opalines together brings a short mask – and our aim is to have birds with deep masks. These days most Opalines have deep faces, but if they should have spots that are too high, do not use them.

Getting spots in the correct place can be a problem in some birds. A deeper mask can give the appearance of a split mask and elongated spots. The distance between the spots should all be the same across the face. There should not be a larger gap in the middle!

Breeding birds with the correct size spots, in the right place and making sure they are round can be a bit of a challenge for some breeders. It is fairly easy to increase the size, but to produce a deeper mask can sometimes be difficult, so decisions have to be made about continuing to use a bird in a breeding team with that short mask. Elongated spots is quite a different problem. This problem is usually associated with

the course, longer-feathered Buff birds. I believe that elongated spots is far more about feather shape and quality than the spots – but that is another story!

### ***Where should I look to be buying birds?***

Try someone who is successful on the show bench. Look for a fancier who shows and wins with a selection of birds rather than the odd single winner that take the top award. You would probably be best advised not to contact the one who takes the major awards but who consistently wins good classes at a number of shows.

There are lots of fanciers around who believe they have good birds but rarely show them. However, there is no better test of a good stud than out where it counts – at the shows. Some of the fanciers who can talk good birds, rather than show them have sometimes lost touch with the modern type of Budgerigar. Every time for me it would be – buy from a fancier who wins at the shows.

Once you have found someone who can supply you with the type and quality of the birds you require, keep with them for a few years.

*Continued on page 29*

## KWAZULU NATAL AREA SHOW 2005

by SUZANNE LUCAS



This year the Pietermaritzburg Budgerigar Club hosted the KZN Area show. Once again it ran on the opening weekend of the annual Royal Agricultural Show, which always gives exhibitors the added bonus of free entry to that show – not a bad incentive to enter some birds!

The show was organized and run from near and far. PMBBC is a very small club by comparison and we – the Lucas family – have split the club's membership by moving to Pretoria. This could have proved a daunting task, however thanks to modern technology, many e-mails passed between Lionel Sydenham in Pietermaritzburg and Johan Lucas in

Pretoria. Together with the odd meeting to round up all the members, each one was given a portfolio. We were also grateful to some of our friends from DBC who offered a helping hand – after all “many hands do make light work.”

The hall was well prepared this year having taken note of comments made from previous shows. A work party was arranged to clean and fumigate the hall and an extra bank of lights were fitted to help with judging. You know we had Bleasdale and Artus both with failing eyesight doing the judging!

The weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> May arrived and we made our now very long trip on the day of 26<sup>th</sup> May, from Pretoria to Pietermaritzburg. We stopped off in Boksburg to pick up a trailer and another hundred or so birds from the Gautengaleng “mob”. This was certainly the longest trip we have ever made to a show hosted by our own club!

We arrived in Pietermaritzburg a bit later than expected, having stopped off in Ladysmith to pick up members needing transport. However once arrived there were plenty of willing hands available to help us with the benching of everyone's birds we had taken down with us.

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## KWAZULU NATAL AREA SHOW 2005

continued

Judging started on time the following morning and Heino and Ian were soon in their stride, ably assisted by our many volunteers.



Teatime provided a delicious spread of eats with tea and coffee, whilst things were being organised ready for the judging of the major awards. At this stage the show was run on a manual system as the PC programme crashed. The judges managed well with no hitches. The catalogue was copied and ready in record time, considering the entire show was re-entered as a new show.

We were also glad to welcome for the first time Pierre and Maja Swart to Pietermaritzburg. We ladies are very proud of Maja doing her best to becoming a judge. She did so well within the relaxed atmosphere of our show and passed her test. Well done, Maja!

The rest of the show followed well. Maybe I should mention that we had to contend with a certain exhibitor behaving in a totally strange manner. It was close or we had to admit him to the local mental hospital that was fortunately not far from the hall. This was all because of a first challenge certificate being achieved. Anyway well done to our good friend, Malcolm Taylor!

Once the judging was completed the hall was opened for the public. Obviously having the show coincide with the Royal brings in such a lot of people. If only they would all join the society! Many questions were asked by the public normally around health issues and why the birds are so big, for example. Heino had the opportunity to share his considerable knowledge with a member of the public, which was very well received.

The club had done a fair amount of advertising – in the Witness (local Pietermaritzburg newspaper), on East Coast Radio and in the Royal Show media advertising. In all these publications a strong word was put out for the National Show.

Birds were for sale to the general public as well as cages and other bird paraphernalia supplied by Wilgo who once again provided us with a super display and generous financial support.

*Continued on page 11*

## Roy Aplin answers some of the most frequently asked questions about Budgerigars

By Fred Wright

### **How to improve on quality**

It's difficult to define quality, but for me it's all about getting a set of good features on a balanced bird. Real quality comes in depth through a stud and not just on the odd bird.

If birds come from good exhibition stock and there is "quality" behind the birds in pedigree, when paired properly so most of the features come together, many of the youngsters will be better than their parents. The aim for the novice or new fancier must be to gather a family of birds around you that all carry most of the features you need. Try hard to eliminate any faults by not breeding with birds that carry visual features you do not wish to see in the youngsters.

By showing (taking the advice of a judge) and taking the advice of fanciers more experienced than yourself, regularly introduce the odd bird from another fancier that carries one or more of the features you wish to improve.

It is not difficult to establish a good stud of Budgerigars these days, and it does not need to cost a lot of money. For the first couple of years establish that basic family of birds with as few faults as possible, and

introduce quality in the form of a single bird with the features you wish to establish. The real lesson is to recognise the birds that are not going to take you forward – and never breed with them.

### **Getting bigger spots – and at the right price**

I have found the best way to improve spots is to run a family of Opalines through the stud. These days we tend to try and breed as many Normals as possible in a stud but unfortunately we want them with big spots. Big spots are a feature of Opalines, so by using them with our Normals, it is possible to keep the spot size up. However, well-spotted Opalines usually come with another problem – flecking. Flecking is a huge problem, but unfortunately necessary in a good stud of Budgerigars, but the fancier needs to learn to use birds with this feature carefully, and keep it under control.

If, over several years, Normals are paired together, the spot size will have a tendency to reduce. My method has always been to run a few well-spotted Opaline hens through a breeding team. Somehow Opaline hens are more useful than cocks.

*Continued on page 28*

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|            |   |  |  |
|------------|---|--|--|
| Omnivet    | For better breeding results<br>To increase resistance against disease   | 1 spoonful<br>250ml or<br>100g soft food | Throughout<br>the year<br>2 x a week           |
| Mutavit    | In moulting season<br>Helps prevent soft moult<br>For weight loss or poor liver activity                          | 1 spoonful<br>250ml or<br>100g soft food | Moulting<br>Season<br>3 x a week               |
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| Calcilux   | For good formation of the eggshell<br>And the building-up of a<br>Healthy skeleton.<br>To avoid lay-insufficiency | 1 spoonful<br>100g soft food             | Breeding<br>period<br>Daily<br>2 x a week      |
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## KWAZULU NATAL AREA SHOW 2005

continued

All who participated and attended enjoyed the show. De-benching went well and PMBBC should be congratulated for once again hosting a smooth-running show with a happy and jovial environment for all concerned.

If you did not show at the KZN Area show you missed out on something special! We do not promise the best hall in the country but our hospitality is top notch. The Royal show adds a different flavour and then the beach is not that far away. Ja and its not the Vaal dam or Sun City, its real!

Try us next time you will not be disappointed. ♦



## LARKWOOD AVIARIES AND RELOCATING TO PRETORIA, continued from page 4

We also reconsidered the manner in which we were constructing the breeding cages as a lot more spraying of the birds during the breeding season would in our opinion be required as it is so dry up here. We decided on wire breeding cages.

We used some successfully in Pietermaritzburg and redesigned one for our new bird room. Needless to say the change in system has put us back a few months but we are hoping to have the first pairs down by the middle of September.



### What is the current position?

We are now nearing the end of August and most of the birds are now in beautiful condition. The hens are chewing and some have been laying eggs on the floor of the aviary. We take it that the move has now been completed as far as the birds are concerned. Now we will establish how the breeding will go after the

move and we should soon know.

And the bird room? Still not finished!

### What did we learn?

Do not rush into a move. We were fortunate to be able to leave the birds at our other home for some time and that certainly helped a great deal.



Previously when we moved from town in Pietermaritzburg to Winterskloof we had to keep the birds in stock cages for months while we were building the new aviary. A lot of our better birds never bred after that.

Even when one thinks you have come up with the best plan things change that affects progress. We are hopeful for a great 2006 breeding season and that with time we will once again have a comfortable bird room.

It is not cheap to start over again! ♦



## THE 2006 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW VEREENIGING TOWN HALL

By Deon Davie

It might only be September 2005, but the planning by the combined Free State clubs for the 2006 National is in full swing and in an advanced stage. The show will be presented on 12 and 13 August 2006 in the Vereeniging Town Hall. This is also the year in which we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Budgerigar Society of South Africa.

I was amazed at what was already in place and what is planned for the show after a recent visit to the area. You can name it, and they have thought of it. From big prizes to small things like a free gift for each exhibitor. These guys and their opposite sexes are really putting a huge effort into this show.

The people involved in the planning of the show are no newcomers to the game. They have the experience and expertise to present a humdinger of a show. As an ex-member of the area I will put my weight behind their efforts.

Let's make an effort and all support this show which promises to be "One of the Best" with our presence and our entries.

**The 2006 National – "Don't miss this one"**

# A Day in this Modern Life

continued from page 23

And if my friends don't make an appointment for me to view the show with them, sometimes I even forget to go!

These are the facts of life in this modern era. Nobody can make anyone attend a meeting or a show that is not enjoyable, especially if negative sentiment seems to be the order of the day.

Nobody can threaten or bully anyone to give up some other pleasure to attend a show that requires the time and effort that they really do not have.

Is this unrealistic and unfair?

Is it too much to expect the Society to change to accommodate our modern lifestyle?

Should I hang my head in shame and stop keeping and breeding show budgies because I cannot find the time to attend as many shows and meetings as I used to?

I'm sure that these are some of the questions that have also been asked by many members who have given up and moved on.

I think not. This is my hobby and I really do enjoy seeing how the offspring develop into fine

specimens, which I sometimes like to exhibit at a show. However, to give up something else for this hobby, I must be able to do those things that give me pleasure. And naturally, the easier it is to fit the many facets of the hobby into my fast moving modern lifestyle, the more events I will be able to attend!

So the challenge is - if the Society/show committees can present SHOWS that are more enjoyable and easier to fit into our pressurised lifestyle more members will attend such shows. And the same goes for club committees with meetings and other events.

And as it is our Society for which we made the rules and must approve the changes – the challenge for us is to see that our Society stays abreast with the needs of our modern lifestyle so that we continue to attract and keep new and younger members.

After all – this is a pull hobby not a push one!! Let us enjoy what we do together. ♦

**Breeders Directory**

To place an add in the breeders directory please  
**Call Deon Davie on  
 082 377 7686**

# From the 50's and 60's

By Deon Davie

During my last visit to Cape Town I was fortunate in obtaining very old "Budgie Chatter's" produced by the Transvaal Budgerigar Society (TBS), with J.H. Milne as the editor. The time period is the late 50's to beginning of the 60's.

I thought it would bring back fond memories to some of our older fanciers who exhibited against or knew the likes of Jimmy Runkel, Jimmy Benjamin, Reg Young, Reg Martin, Jock Milne, Haddon Phipson, Lawrie Marshall, Harold Grant, Walter Bingham, Jock Pearson, John Coles, Frank Otto, Norman Sydenham and of course Doc Robertson.

Here is some information from the documents:

## BSSA National Show and entries

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1942 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> National Show 250 entries<br>Best in Show - Mr. Fouche with a Cinnamon Yellow cock   |
| 1944 | 300 entries Mr. C.H.K. Jones won Best in Show with a Light green cock  |
| 1952 | Best in Show - Reg Young   |
| 1953 | Best in Show – Haddon Phipson<br>Introduction of the 3 Sections for exhibiting   |
| 1954 | Best in Show - Reg Young   |
| 1957 | 1026 entries - Johannesburg<br>Best in Show – Reg Young  |
| 1958 | 793 entries – 16 <sup>th</sup> National - Durban<br>Best in Show - Reg Young - Light Green cock<br>Opp. Sex - Yellow hen – Breeder unknown.  |
| 1959 | 1342 entries – Bloemfontein<br>Best in Show - Dibs de Bruin – Grey Green cock  |
| 1960 | 1124 entries - Cape Town.<br>Best in Show - Dirk de Hart   |
| 1961 | 1259 entries – Pretoria<br>Best in Show - Issy Klein and Max Schwab – Opaline Light Green cock<br>Best Opp. Sex – Dr. Robertson – Yellow hen |
| 1962 | 1144 entries – Pietermaritzburg<br>Best in Show Jimmy Runkel - Light Green Cock  |

*Continued on page 14*

## From the 50's and 60's

continued

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1963 | 1169 entries – Kroonstad<br>Best in Show - Eric Labuschagne Green cock<br>Best opp Sex - Greywing hen - Breeder unknown   |
| 1964 | 900 entries – Parow Cape<br>Best in Show went to a Grey cock of Frank Otto<br>Best opposite Sex – AOV hen - J Blignaut  |
| 1965 | 1360 entries (A new entry record) – Johannesburg<br>Best in Show Yellowface Skyblue cock - Capes & Van Rijn<br>Prize money on the show:<br>Best in Show R50-00, Best Opp. Sex R35 and R8 for Best in Section. |
| 1966 | 1003 entries – Durban<br>Best Bird on Show - Cinnamon Light Green Breeder cock –<br>Mr. H.A. Phipson (Phippy)   |

### BSSA Membership

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1940 | 70 members                                  |
| 1941 | 30 members (Due to World War)               |
| 1943 | Only 14 members - Bank balance of 14 pound. |
| 1946 | 70 members                                  |
| 1953 | 150 members                                 |
| 1956 | 500 members                                 |
| 1957 | 309 members                                 |
| 1959 | 560 members                                 |
| 1960 | 510 members                                 |
| 1962 | 375 members                                 |
| 1965 | 276 members                                 |

### Additional Information

The average entry fee per exhibit per show in late 60's was 15 to 20 cent.  
Catalogues incidentally cost the same.

*Continued on page 15*

## A Day in this Modern Life

by Sam Rosslee



Ah yes, those were the days when I joined the fancy (about 1983 if my memory serves me well)!

A day was still about 24 hours long and life moved along at a comfortable pace. Even though I had a "pressure job" I had enough time to watch the kids' sport on weekends, the one rugby game that was broadcast on SABC TV, entertain with my friends and family and still have plenty of time left to dedicate to my hobbies, of which the showing and breeding of show budgies was but one.

That was a far cry from last week.

There is still a job with long and irregular hours and too much rugby, Ashes and other cricket, Formula 1 racing and other sport on DSTV (throughout the week nogall!) so that I hardly had enough time get my emails out to England, America, NZ and the rest of South Africa, both for business and pleasure purposes.

I did have a braai planned for last

Saturday but my friends had to cancel – some other crises cropped up which was more important.

So I used those spare hours to put up some breeding pairs – something I had been putting off for a few weeks now. It was really great and in my mind's eye I can see the great birds that these pairs will produce (watch this space!!). And I had a little time left that evening to enjoy some DVD music too!

The world has shrunk and there is so much competition for my time and attention that I've really had to limit the amount of time available for my own enjoyment and myself. So I try to concentrate on that which gives me the most pleasure in the little time that I have available.

I'm really sorry that I do not have as much time as I used to have to prepare my birds for a show. So unfortunately if a show is held when my birds are naturally in a bad moult, I often do not have the time to spray them, as I know I should.

So too, if entries must be in too far ahead of a show, I'm often not sure which birds will still be in condition, so most often I chicken out and do not enter them.

*Continued on page 24*

## From the Past - 2000 Gauteng Championship Show



Left: Best Bird on Show Heino Artus  
Top Right: Best Opposite Sex on Show Fred Sherman



Left: Best Intermediate on Show – Craig Kenton  
Middle: Best Novice on Show – Aratinga Aviaries  
Right: Best Beginner on Show – Jacobs & Uys

## From the 50's and 60's

continued

Prize money was awarded at some show for the following :

| Number of Entries | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1-4               | 10c             | 5c              | x               |
| 5-8               | 15c             | 10c             | x               |
| 9-12              | 20c             | 15c             | 10c             |
| 13 and over       | 25c             | 20c             | 15c             |

December 1965 the BSSA Treasurer reported "The price of rings has been increased to 4 cents each by the makers and this increase is therefore passed on to the members." We had 276 paid up members in 1965" "Therefore you will no doubt have calculated our Total Revenue for BSSA for 1965 was R206-00."

An add in 1965 by Jimmy Runkel

**"Good birds for Sale – from R10 per pair"  
"Show cages R2 each"**

During 1966 the Chairman reported "It is proposed to increase the BSSA affiliation fee from 25c to 50c".

1966 By Mrs. R. Gatehouse "I personally agree that it would be a good idea to centralise the National, if an ideal hall could be found in the centre of the country." We are still discussing this possibility almost 40 years later. ♦

### Test Your Knowledge of Genetics

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

Test Answers

No, a dominant pied cannot be bred from a pair of recessive piers.

In order to produce a dominant pied, or any other dominant variety for that matter, at least one of the members of the pair must be visually that variety and therefore in possession of at least one gene for the trait, to pass on to a chick.

## 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 R100.00 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

## National Picture Report



Above: The National prize giving

Above: Colour of the year and Best Cobalt on Show – Nel Brothers Stud



Left: Members at the 2005 National Championship Show.

L to R are Ian Nel, Jimmy Steele, Mike Davies, Ray Brown and Phil Reaney



# National Picture Report



Left: Ken and Silvia Scott attending their final National as exhibitors after deciding to give up their birds.



Right: Craig, Deon, Arthur and Ian at the National.



Left: Deon Davie and Reinhard Molkentin discuss the ideal.

# Thinking back - The Kimberley Days

by Ian Bleasdale



It was in the sixties in Kimberley that I can remember going to the annual cage bird show which was always held in the Methodist church hall in the middle of the town, it was a great venue for attracting the public because in those days all shopping was done at the OK Bazaars and John Ore's which meant you had to walk past the bird hall.

John Ore's of course still had that system of payment whereby your money (no cheque or credit card) plus invoice was put into a small cylinder and via vacuum pipes would be sucked to a central office where the change would be worked out and returned by the cylinder via the pipe. The only other shop in town just about was McCurdy's - They sold horse shoes.

The Kimberley show scene was dominated by the late Bill Martin and Laurie Potgieter. Birds for the show often arrived by train.

Sadly the one thing that has not changed much since then is our "reluctance" to not only attract the public but to do something to nurture

their interest when we do get them inside.

Later on in the seventies the Swanepoel Brothers joined, who were breeders who enjoyed a party as much as they enjoyed their birds. Koos and the late Hennie went on to breed arguably the finest budgie ever exhibited in this country. No one who ever saw "Champ" can even forget that magnificent Grey Green. Champ was exhibited on two area and three national shows winning all by a mile. Other characters from Kimberley were Louis du Bruyn, Jock Moncur, Okkie Joubert, Dennis Bredenkamp and Gerrit Goussand.

Kimberley were great supporters of shows and usually a few of us would take everybody's birds to one show and others all the birds to the next show. If we could not go in person we would send by air, but we always supported as we believed that the fancy was too small for area shows to rely on local breeders.

My first encounter with support was the early eighties when five of us left Kimberley at 5 Am for Cape Town in Dennis Bredenkamp's gold Mercedes. Dennis drove, Bill Martin was in front and I was squeezed in-between Koos and Hennie. Well at about 6 Am a flight from Johannesburg passed overhead and so it was decided that liquid refreshments would be taken.

*Continued on page 18*

# Thinking back - The Kimberley Days

by Ian Bleasdale

The only stops made were to replenish stocks. I was made official dispenser as I was the youngest.

In the eighties and nineties entries were dominated by the Novices and later Beginner section as opposed to today where show entries are dominated by the Champions. We are obviously doing something right for the Champions. What must be done to get the Novices and Intermediates to show?

The one disappointing change from those days is the after show parties. Often it was only snacks and a bar, yet everybody was there enjoying themselves. Sometimes, especially at the nationals a band would provide the music and the talking and dancing and singing of "I'll do it my way" by Reg Martin, just went on and on, late into the evenings. Sadly today all too often the hosting clubs are reluctant to provide the platform for memorable evenings. I wonder why? Is it cost, lack of support by exhibitors? Just what has caused the change over the years? All too often today breeders bench their birds only to be seen again at de-benching. How do we change attitudes? What can hosting clubs do or need to change to attract not only new members but existing members to become more involved and subsequently reap from the hobby what it is really all about – friendship.

Your ideas and thoughts can be sent to the SABB editor. ♦

**Budgerigar Society of South Africa**  
[www.Geocities.com/budgiesouthafrica/](http://www.Geocities.com/budgiesouthafrica/)

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

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# Tygerberg Budgerigar Club's 30th Birthday Bash

by John Dunlop

Tygerberg Budgerigar Club celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2005. To mark the occasion the club held a team competition and braai. Members were split into 2 teams, the Red Team led by Arthur Windell and the Blue Team led by Chris Smit. Teams had to compete for the most points on show. This was well supported by 19 members with a further 16 guests joining for an "on the house braai" organised by Leon Gerstner and his team.

Albert Olivier placed the awards and Arthur Windell led his Red Team to victory by 281 points to 211 points.

Individual winners were as follows:

- Best Bird on Show - **R Dreyer**
- Best Opp/Sex - **R Dreyer**
- Best Intermediate - **R Dreyer**
- Best Intermediate Opp/Sex - **R Dreyer**
  
- Best Champion - **Windell P/Ship,**
- Best Champion Opp/Sex - **J Dunlop,**
  
- Best Novice and Best Novice Opp/Sex - **P Saayman.**

After judging the prizes were presented to the winners and every member present received a club badge and TBC key ring with all the ladies receiving a TBC handkerchief. Everyone then settled down to enjoy the braai and refreshments.

Arthur Windell thanked everyone for their attendance and the show closed at 15H00. ♦