

Show Dates 2009

<u>Show</u>	<u>Date</u>
KwaZulu-Natal Championship Show	13 June
Safari Prestige Bird Show	26/27 June
National Championship Show	31 July – 1 Aug

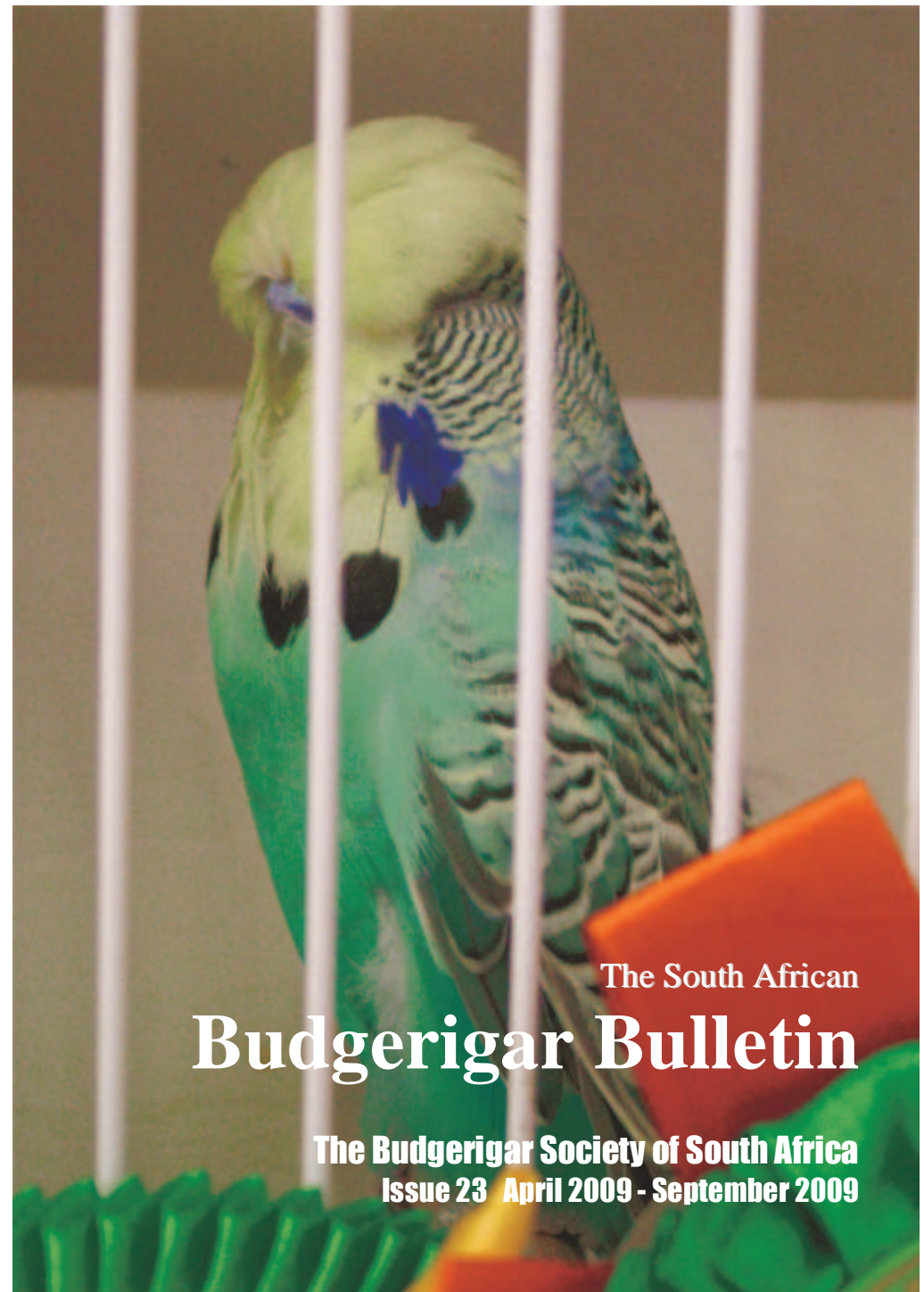
National Championship Show 2009

The National Championship Show will be taking place on 31 July to 1 August 2009.

BSSA Affiliation Fees for 2009

Affiliation fee (adult)	R150.00
Affiliation fee (junior)	R 0.00
Affiliation fee (partnership – family at same address)	R200.00
Affiliation fee (all other partnerships – per member)	R150.00
Fee for registration of a partnership	R150.00
Fee for registration of a personal ring code	R100.00
Price of Rings (per ring)	R 3.40

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The South African Budgerigar Bulletin

The Budgerigar Society of South Africa
Issue 23 April 2009 - September 2009





The Budgerigar Society of South Africa

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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 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

Cover

2009 Gauteng Championship Show – Best Bird on Show – Pierre & Maja – Yellowface Skyblue Cock



Visit the South African Budgie Sites

Visit the South African Budgie Sites

Budgerigar Society of South Africa
www.showbudgies.co.za



Please contact the Editor to add your site.



East London Budgerigar Society
www.Geocities.com/elbudgerigarsociety

Jacaranda Show Budgie Society
www.Geocities.com/Petsburgh/5240



MolKentin Stud
www.Geocities.com/molkentinstud



Available Items

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

Sales Items

Show cage drinkers @ R3.00 each + Postage & handling fee.

Ring cutters @ R55.00 each + postage & handling fee.

Videos

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

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

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

BSSA Constitution and Rules

Updated BSSA Constitution, Rules and Colour Standards can be ordered by members @ the following costs:

1. Could be downloaded from the BSSA website.
2. Printed and posted - R50.00 per copy + postage.

DVD and Video on Colour Identification

The following can be obtained from the Judges' Committee through Deon Davie. Tel/Fax (011) 760 6095 or 082 377 7686:

1. Video of the talks on Colour Identification given at the Judges' Seminar held on 5 February 2005 – R 100.00
2. DVD of the talks on Colour Identification given at the Judges' Seminar held on 5 February 2005

CLOTHING ITEMS SHOW CAGE COVERS FOR SALE

The following can be obtained from ERBS through Roy Bennett. Tel (011) 894 4407, e-mail roy.bennett@za.abb.com :

1. Fleece lined jacket - R130.00
2. Shirt - R85.00
3. Hat - R50.00
4. Cap - R40.00
5. Show cage covers - R20.00



Message from the Chairman

information. E-mails and sms's are also sent during the year with information. Please update your e-mail and cell numbers with your club and BSSA to receive the information referred to.

As you may know, BSSA had more than a very fruitful discussion with the South African Cage Bird Association (SANCBA) on joint shows. We feel this is a step in the right direction as this will lead to a bigger exposure for our wonderful hobby. We may also even recruit a few members from our fellow feather lovers. We will be having another combined show this year with SANCBA and would also like to encourage our members to participate in the budgie section at the SANCBA National Show on 8-11 July in Bloemfontein.

All areas now have their own Budgie Banner for use at club and Area/National shows.

Clubs still in need of some free A3 promotional posters can contact either myself or the Administrator.

My wish is for us all to stay positive in the current times, to stay away from the "Budgie Politics", keep our current members happy, recruit new members and last but most importantly to ENJOY OUR HOBBY.

Yours in feathers
Deon Davie

Our show season is in full swing with some shows already something of the past. We saw a decline in entries on the first couple of shows but hope that this will improve as the season progresses. Let's participate on our shows. It is here where we measure our success that we had in the breeding room. It is here where we socialize with our fellow breeders.

It is also here where we have the opportunity to see the current top birds and rub shoulders with the trend setters.

Some clubs recently discussed joint ventures as a club or even in conjunction with another club to attend shows. With expenditure on the increase we can decrease the personal expenditure of a show with joint ventures. If you can not attend the show in your personal capacity, try to send some birds with a friend to represent you at the show.

If you are unsure of the show dates please visit our website www.showbudgies.co.za for information on our shows as well as other useful



Storing your seeds without poisoning

your birds

By Margie Frayne

It is with great alarm that I hear how many bird lovers purposely put poisons into their containers of seeds. "Oh but we don't!" you say. "We would never do that!" "Our birds are so expensive, and we look after them so well - so we would never poison them."

So then I ask, "Why am I told that some of you put moth balls into the seeds to get rid of the moths, while others toss in a Vapona Strip, and others simply spray 'Doom' on the seeds?"

The answer comes back, "We are just killing the moths! The seeds are full of moths and weevils."

Oh, ..Right!.....So, you mean to tell me that if you use poison in and on your seed to kill the moths, that is as far as it goes? Where does that poison go after it has killed the moth? Does it vanish?

Do you know? Do you actually know?

No my friend, it stays in and on the seed, and slowly, but surely you are "killing" your birds with it!

ALL , every commercially available insect 'killers' are **registered poisons!** That is why they have warnings on their labels. And poisons kill! It is that clear.

Do you ever stop and READ the label of whatever you have decided to use to control the moths and creepy crawlies that come along with your seeds? All of them carry a warning that the ingredients they are made from are poisonous – and therefore should be

used with great care. Many of the warnings are written in such small print that you really do need a magnifying glass to actually read them, but that doesn't mean that they are any less poisonous.

Now, the warning on these products is there because a small dose of their active ingredient will either **kill or cause severe illness in a human**. If you don't believe what I am saying, take yourself off to the casualty rooms of a local hospital and see how often people come in to be treated for poisoning from household insecticides. They are dangerous! Now let's just compare something here... how much bigger is a human compared with a bird? So if a small dose of these household poisons can affect a human, imagine how little is needed to have an effect on a bird.

Let us take a closer look at Moth balls. Although the name indicates that they are designed to kill cupboard / clothes moths – they can kill a human too. I can hear some of you saying "Nonsense, we have been using them in our cupboards for years and no-one has died, and I have been using them for ages in my bird seed and my birds have not died." Moth balls, or more correctly known as Naphthalene /Naphthalin balls, is a petroleum based product, also known as tar camphor, white tar or albocarbon and it IS a poison. Humans, particularly small humans, also known as children, can develop a condition called haemolytic anaemia after eating just ONE moth ball – that is, if they survive. Eating moth balls happens, because these dreadful things look just like sweets and are usually thrown into cupboards (or even cars! You cant imagine what humans get up to!) where children can find them. A toxic dose for a child is 2 gm (1

Get the Best from Breeding Pairs

By Clive Wakeman

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

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

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

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

By systematically removing unfertile eggs I believe that the hens were encouraged to lay extra eggs. The following was the result. One round seven eggs, eight rounds eight eggs, three rounds nine eggs, one round

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

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

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



Line Breeding

By John Machado

line breeding as opposed to out crossing

I have some free time to make another post that I hope will be of some help!

Today I would like to talk about line breeding as opposed to out crossing in improving your stock!

Many new comers to our hobby think of inbreeding and line breeding as no-no's because they think of it on human terms, aka we don't marry our close relatives and so on! The fact of the matter is that the only way to get stock better than their parents is to wisely use close relatives like cousins if you will but always pair birds up that don't have the same faults or this will never get you anywhere, best bird to best bird won't help if they both have the same fault or even worse faults!

While this may rub against the grain in some of you, you can be sure that the top breeders and show winners at the very least line breed with relatives and many are not afraid to inbreed even closer than that!

Now about out crossing!

Out crossing can be used when the out cross has a needed strong point like a deeper bib or better throat spots or many other such needed improvements to your flock!

Outcrossing has many benefits to our lines both seen and unseen, like added fertility etc. But as you will find out if you constantly use this practice above all others it has a great down side as well!

The best way to state this is to give you an example of the results of long term out crossing on a line of budgies, if you can even call out crosses a line of birds at all!

The first thing you will notice after a few years of doing this if not right away is how in every nest of young they all look like they came from every nest instead of being siblings in looks and quality. They will range from almost good enough to show to almost pet type, and if you persist in just out crossing so as not to have any related breeding it will only get worse as the years go by. So rethink your breeding practices and use them wisely without preconceived notions of putting human morals on your budgies!

Try to breed best to best - watch out for show faults in your lines, keep from to close an inbreeding unless you see a great need too on occasion [some times it works out great]. Bring in an out cross when you see a need for improvement, or when fertility is dropping, the out cross bird should be the best bird you can buy with the qualities your stock needs for improvement!

I hope this helps out, best wishes in your quests for that showstopper! ♦

moth ball), and for an adult 5-15 gm.

The known side effects of naphthalin, are many and awful. Naphthalin is neurotoxic – affecting the nerves. (Snake venom is also a neurotoxin.) In small doses it causes confusion, lethargy, fatigue, sleepiness, vertigo(dizziness), restlessness, pale skin (lack of blood circulation), and lack of appetite. More serious toxicity results in liver damage, jaundice, kidney damage, blood in the urine, and death. Naphthalin is a skin irritant and is acutely irritating to the eyes. Exposure to constant amounts of naphthalin vapour may damage or destroy red blood cells and it can cross the placenta in sufficient amounts to cause foetal damage(deformity).

This damage has been observed in humans who are gigantic in comparison with a bird. If you are the clever dick who believes that it is just the right thing to put moth balls in your seeds, what do you think this is doing to your birds? They are such sensitive creatures – surely the moth ball vapour is doing them great harm? Does your bird fall off its perch for no reason? Does your bird produce dead chicks? Does your bird fail to breed? Does your bird just not seem to be in top form?

Can you see where this is going?

By putting moth balls into your seeds in a sealed container you are impregnating the seed with this effective poison. The vapour works its way through out the container and is absorbed by the seed, which you then feel very content about, as it has done its job of killing the moths. But you then give this poison-soaked seed to your precious birds. Minute quantities of naphthaline poison moves directly into the digestive system of the bird and from there into its blood stream on a daily basis until the levels in the blood stream reach critical proportions - no wonder you are picking up health problems with your birds, and worse still it is your own doing! You caused the problem! Wow!

Lets move on and take a closer look at aerosol insect sprays and cupboard strips.

You will come across many different names for the poisonous ingredient in these products– Permethrin, Tetramethrin, Allethrin, Esfenvalerate, Cypermethrin, Resmethrin, or 20 others. They are all derivatives of Pyrethroid, which is a toxic substance also synthesized from petroleum, and it causes headaches, triggers asthma attacks, irritates the respiratory system, irritates the skin and eyes, and in large doses causes body tremors and seizures. Quite often you will see that another chemical called piperonyl butoxide is added to the pyrethroid – “to enhance its activity” or more simply put – to make it kill quicker. You should think twice before you use these *killers* near your birds.

But then, you wail, “How will we get rid of the moths in the seed?”

You want to destroy the moths as well as their eggs without changing the safety status of the seed.

The easiest method to destroy the moth and eggs, and arrest the breeding cycle, is to store your seed in a deep freeze. The low cold temperature kills the moths and their eggs. Simple as that! But then you scoff at me and say, “Why should I spend money on a deep freeze just to keep seed in?” And I will reply “Because it is the best way to store your seed – a small one costs less than R2,000, and I know that the great majority of bird breeders don't flinch to spend R8,000 on a pair of birds.... so, surely you should not stop at finding the best way to look after these expensive acquisitions?”

You can also stop moths in their tracks by adding wood ash to the seed. Burn some good indigenous wood next time you have a braai and when it is cool put it through a very fine sieve and then mix it in small quantities into your seed. (Never use the ash of Syringa tree wood – it is poisonous. Never use the wood you would use for carpentry as much of this wood has been treated with preservatives which are poisonous!.... Yes!) The ash clogs



the breathing apparatus of the moth, causing it to suffocate, and it dies. This fine ash does not harm your birds – it is actually mineral salts and carbon - *natural* - in fact it will introduce additional natural minerals into the diet of the bird, something I am sure they will benefit from.

Another totally harmless method is to mix into the seed a very little of a very fine natural powder derived from fossilised crustaceans (shelled sea creatures). This powder has the ability to desiccate (dry out) the moth at every stage of its development. It is simply added into the seed and mixed well, and when you use up the seed you can sieve it out and re-use it, or you can leave it in the seed when you feed it to the birds. It does them no harm – because it is a *natural* mineral salt rich powder. In fact it will also control parasites within the digestive tract of the bird. (It is not that easy to come by, so look for our product called “Dust Down” Nest and Cage control.)

Natural and organic grain farmers swear by the use of the ash/ powder method to store their grains. These farmers may not resort to the use of any dangerous chemicals or poisons in any aspect of their farming practice. If they do, they lose their organic status. This was the method that our forefathers used to store seeds for centuries - there were no chemicals to use for this purpose in the years before the early 1900's. We have only been adding poisons to our food and that of our animals for the last century. Coincidentally the prevalence of immune deficiency diseases, like cancer and HIV-AIDS has increased exponentially.

You can also introduce packets of silica gel into the container, which will keep the seeds really dry. Moth and insect eggs will not hatch when there is no moisture.

Another harmless method of preventing moths in seeds is to drop a handful of bay leaves (loerie blare) in the storage container.

But this is really only effective for seed that you might keep for longer than several months.

Washing the seed might remove the moths, but it will not remove the eggs which are microscopically small and remain firmly attached to the seeds.

Remember to practice good housekeeping.

- Use up all your old seed, and clean the storage container thoroughly with really hot water and good soap, to ensure that there will be no trace of moth eggs adhering to the walls of the container before you put new seed stock in.
- Keeping seed in a tightly sealed container prevents a stray moth from entering the container.
- A tightly sealed container will not allow moisture into the seeds. Often just a change in the moisture content of the air will cause moth eggs to hatch.
- Keeping the seeds at a constant, cool temperature and as dry as possible will go a long way to controlling moths and weevils.
- Keep your aviaries meticulously clean, removing unused seed regularly. This will ensure that any eggs that could be on exposed seeds will not hatch and start a new batch of moths.

Margie Frayne has been a practicing organic farmer for many years, specialising in medicinal herbs, and has advocated natural and herbal alternatives for diet and health for more than 30 years. She is a member of the executive council of the Herb Association of SA. ♦



all the side orders, open bar, pool room, and Bob Hirst favourite the dance floor with some local hottie's for good measure. Everyone had time to talk to friends and members from other areas and enjoy a very informal, formal get together. Add to this list the first show held in Craddock, the Thursday evening braai, and the Friday prize giving, (finger snacks). What is the golden thread that connects each? The chance to mingle, renew old friendships, no rush, and a two day show.

Now back to the most talked about show of all KATHU. This is my own account of this show, others will remember other parts. In 1995 the Kathu Budgerigar Club held their first show, David Kruger led the team of dedicated members, and I suppose many who were there will say that it was easy in that they were backed by the Sishen mine. It still had to be organized. Kathu as those who went can attest is a very quiet town centered on the mining operations.

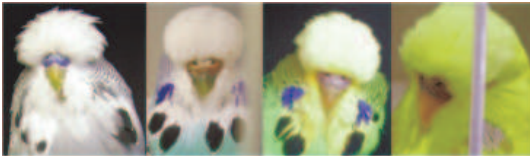
The journey. Those who travelled from Johannesburg and surrounds, met at a pre-arranged spot to travel in convoy, George Sutton rode shotgun, warning of speed traps ETC, and arranging stops along the way. You're truly employed as drag; this was because George and I were the only ones with cell phones at the time. The stops were well timed to allow the change of drivers in the cars; everyone had someone with them, and also to refresh ourselves. The journey was most enjoyable and went quickly. On arrival in Kathu it was like entering a cemetery, the only person on the street was an old black man on his bike. This was the day the Springboks played Australia in the opening game of the World cup. On arrival at the hall we were told to leave our birds and proceed to the club house, there a TV had been set up along with a bar and we settled down to watch the game. After returning to the hall to see that our birds had water and were stacked by numbers ready for us to bench, no stress or strain on any of us. That evening we all returned to the club house for

a spit braai again at no cost to the members, mingled with our fellow breeders and renewed friendships. The Friday was the Judging, again I digress slightly, the hall which was the local Primary school was decorated with drawings of Budgies, drawn by the school children in a competition for a budgie and cage, not just one, but one for each age group. After judging the whole school was brought in to see the birds and those who won be presented with bird and cage. Great fun for all who were there. Also during Judging the wives and those not participating in the show were treated to a trip to the Sishen Mine (one of the biggest open cast mines in the world).

The evening dinner was a sit down affair in the main club complex of the mine, beautifully done and great food, again at no cost. Prizes had a special twist in that all the trophies had been made by the mine apprentices using shells from the nearby artillery range and stainless steel shaped as budgies, those that won these were the envy of all, for they were truly very special.

A really unforgettable show, three days of fun strengthen ties with fellow breeders from around the country as well as our own members who travelled together, I don't know if a show will equal it. I would like to think that the example would be set for others to follow. Our biggest problem is the rush we have now at shows, with advent of the one day show we, I believe killed a lot of the social side of our hobby added to that the it seems the need to try and outdo each other in staging a show. As mentioned a common thread is the wonderful social side at shows, I have only mention those I remember maybe those of you would remember great shows in your areas and glean from that memory what made them so good and brought the members to them. ♦





The Magic of Shows

By Malcolm Taylor

Over the past couple of months much has been discussed regarding the lack of members exhibiting over the show season. Although all points raised have been valid and have merit, I believe one of the major areas has to do with the clubs and the sharing between members; the other area is the shows themselves.

Clubs are members encouraged to attend shows or at least send birds either by plane or with other members. We have a strange situation at this time were some members won't show outside their area, I believe this reflects badly on the clubs they belong too. I remember well one show; a member arrived in his bakkie empty. No other members had even made enquiries regarding transport, what is wrong? I believe some members need to be spoon fed, otherwise they do not move out of their comfort zone.

If we are to be part of the solution to our dwindling membership then we need to participate as much as possible in all aspects of the hobby, there is a need for workers, within the clubs and at the shows.

One club I make mention of as supporters in all respects is Kroonstad Budgerigar Club; they are led by an active chairman in Casper, who seems to be at the forefront in all events and is willing to transport others with him. Surly other chairman can follow suite and be leaders and not just a figure head with a fancy title.



Now the main area that I believe encourages or discourages members to show. The show it's self.



I recently asked some members which show they remember best, and without exception all said Kathu, before I give a brief description of that show; there are other shows over the years that have stood out. Not always for the venue but the atmosphere created by the host club and its members. Going back in years, the shows held at the civic hall in Queensborough Durban. What made these shows over the years was the prize giving, no fancy sit down; finger supper was supplied at no cost to the visitors, an open bar for those who enjoyed a drink, here jokes were told, stories retold. Arthur Windell held court on many occasion to everyone's delight. The prize giving part was held to minimum, because we had to listen to Reg Martin singing MY WAY, it became a tradition.



Another show also held in the Durban area of a more recent vintage, this was held at children's home and we slept in the children's rooms (very basic). The hall was very bad, crowded and very small, so what made the show stand out, again the evening prize giving. Held in the pub around the corner, the members put on a spit braai with

Championship Show 2009
The Safari Prestige Bird Show in Pretoria will be taking place on 26 - 27 June 2009.

Championship Show 2009
The Whilme du Plessis Memorial Championship Show will be taking place on 31 October 2009

Test Your Knowledge of Genetics
What does it mean when a bird is said to be split?
A.- two colours present as in a pied
B - not visible on the bird but carrying one gene for another colour or variety
C.- two colours/varieties present, dividing the bird down the middle; halfsider

Test Answers
The correct answer is B. A bird that is split (shown as /) has one gene for a recessive or sex-linked trait and is carrying it in a hidden or non-visible manner because for it to manifest itself visually, the bird would have to possess two genes for it.



BREEDER PROFILE

PIERRE & MAJA

BREEDERS OF THE FUTURE - SETTING THE TRENDS

THE START

Pierre & Maja joined the Karoo Budgerigar Club in 1993. In 1994 they travelled 800 km to Johannesburg to their first show. They did not show any birds but simply worked as stewards and during that weekend they learned more about budgies than they had in the previous two years. They purchased two Doc Robinson bred birds from somebody who had previously purchased them directly from Doc Robinson and they were all fired up. One was a Grey cock which bred well and he was the founder bird of our Stud today. In 1995 they travelled more extensively to the shows meeting Reinhardt Molkentin who had just emigrated from Germany. The following month Pierre travelled 1000 km to Reinhardt Molkentin's residence to purchase two pairs of birds.

DAILY ROUTINE

In the morning the birds receive chickweed / spinach / endive which they grow in a small garden. Pairs with chicks get larger quantities. The next boxes are checked where chicks are expected to hatch. In the afternoon clean filtered water is given to all birds. Cages that have self-feeders are checked. The birds get their soft food mix, which consists of grated carrot, broccoli, sweet potato, cut corn, soaked germinated grouts and seed with egg food mixed together. The next task which is the highlight of the day is checking the nest boxes. Much time is spent watching the birds in the flights, as well as those birds which have just been paired up. This assists a lot when it comes to pairing up birds and birds that are ready for breeding is easily spotted. Every week the flights are scrubbed with a disinfectant. The flights have been built at a slight angle so that it makes it easier for rinsing and washing.

Viru-kill is used for this task. The partnership is simply run. Pierre and an assistant clean the bird room, as Maja is allergic to the dust particles. Maja will assist in choosing and preparing the show team, she likes the show side of things more than Pierre does. She will normally choose the winning bird from the Stud a few days prior to the actual show date. When it comes to culling Maja is the strict one and Pierre will always defend a particular bird.

PAIRING

They always try to pair related birds. Birds are paired up to improve the quality of the bird and never for a specific colour. When they pair up rare varieties, the same rule applies. They don't mind pairing opaline to opaline or cinnamon to cinnamon as long as an improvement is envisaged in the protégée bred from this pairing. The cock and hen are normally placed into the breeding cage at the same time and the nest box is kept open for them to enter into. If the hen does not enter the nest box within three days, they remain patient for another day or two if it is a maiden hen, otherwise the pair will be split up. Wheat bran is used as nesting material, you can easily notice when the hen has been in the next box or not. They prefer the pairing of nephew to niece and half brother to half sister. They never pair up hens younger than eight months old. It is our experience that hens paired up younger than 8 months are only successful in the first round and become troublesome hens after that. They do not hesitate to pair up a cock bird as young as 6 months old if they are ready for breeding. Some cock birds mature at a very young age. When pairing up birds, at least one bird must have natural showmanship (swank), which is

EASTERN CAPE

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2009

Picture Report



Left and Bottom:

- Van Niekerk Broers
- Best Novice on Show
- Sky Blue cock

The Eastern Cape Championship Show was hosted by the Karoo Budgie Club on 30 May 2009.

Best Bird on Show went to Pierre and Maja with a Yellowface Skyblue Cock.

Best Intermediate went to Jeanette Fouche with a Cobalt cock.

Best Novice went to the Van Niekerk Broers with a Skyblue cock. ♦



Jeffreysbay Mini Show Results

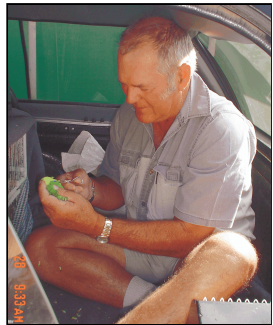
By Pierre Swart

On Saturday 28 March 2009 at the home of Piet & Hester van der Berg from Jeffreysbay Karoo Bugerigar Club & Eastern Province Budgerigar Club came together to have a club meeting regarding the Eastern Cape Provincial Championship Show which will be held on 30/31 May in Cradock.

After the meeting a mini show was held with 90 birds benched. These birds were judged by trainee judge Toni Slight from East London. The results were as follows:

Best bird on show	Hennie Lotz
Best opposite sex on show	Johan van der Merwe
Best champion on show	Hennie Lotz
Best intermediate on show	Johan van der Merwe
Best novice on show	Piet van der Berg
Best barhead on show	Michael Greenwood
Best opaline on show	Hannes & Elsa Duvenage
Best blue on show	Hennie Lotz
Best green on show	Pierre & Maja
Best spangle on show	Hennie Lotz
Best yellowface & dominant pied on show	Pierre & Maja
Best cinnamon on show	Pierre & Maja
Best any other colour or variety on show	Hannes & Elsa Duvenage

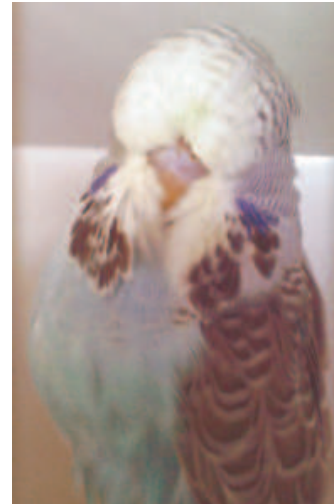
There after a nice braai were enjoyed by all who attended.



Top Left:
Hannes Duvenage preparing one of his birds for the show
Top Right:
Members attending the meeting
Right:
Hennie Lotz with the Best Bird on Show



not always obtainable, but they do prefer to do this pairing. They never clean or fiddle with the next box until the first egg has been laid.



129-09

SHOWING

They show a big team only when the show is in their home town or close by. The size of the team depends on a few things but it basically comes down to how much space they have available when travelling. The birds get sprayed daily for four weeks before the show, spots and damaged tails are removed ten to eight weeks before the show. Two days before the show the spots get plucked and the faces of the birds are washed to open the feathers just above the cere. This is very important; many fanciers don't do this and therefore do their birds an injustice. It is the little things that count. Maja is the expert in removing and cleaning blood feathers, she is always able to "repair" any damage. The seed for the show team also gets washed and sun dried. Daily training of birds is not practised in the stud, but when it is a bird's first show it is placed into the show cage a few times and if it does not settle down naturally, it gets to sleep over in the show

cage that night. This normally does the trick! It is our opinion that birds that are not natural showers, never really do well on the show bench. Birds that are nervous in the show cage must be of outstanding quality before they keep it. On the way home after a show the drive back is always made short with the show catalogue that is discussed in length by the two of them. Upon returning from shows they make sure the birds are placed back in their original stock cages, with fresh water, grit and soft food, no matter how late the hour, even if it is 3 am in the morning, the birds are attended to and fed and watered. When dealing with sick puffed up birds, they don't advocate long periods of medication being used. They prefer to treat the sick bird for a short period, if they don't recover, so be it.



184-09

BIRD SELECTION IS ONGOING

The selection and sorting out of birds is an ongoing process. They have three flights, one large flight where they keep all the birds that are transferred from the weaning cage. The birds that go to this flight are normally



the outstanding and average ones. This flight is observed very keenly, therefore birds that don't belong are removed if their quality is not up to standard. Another flight is used for keeping adult birds. From this flight the breeding pairs are chosen. Cocks and hens are housed together. This way the hens don't get fat and lazy and by observing them it is easily established which birds are in breeding condition. They also make use of an American Aloe stump in the adult flight, for the hens to chew on to get them into breeding condition and makes the selection of breeding birds easy. The last flight is where all the culled birds are kept. Youngsters that show no good features or promise at all go straight from the weaning cage into this flight.



Flights

SHOW RESULTS

Our first big win came in 1996. Winning Best Beginner on Show in Port Elizabeth with an Opaline Sky Blue Cock, all offspring of the Grey Cock bred by Doc Robinson. At the end of 1999 they paired up an outstanding grey green cock that was bred from one of Reinhardt's birds with an average opaline grey hen that they had purchased from Pat de Beer in Cape Town. One cock in particular, an opaline grey green won four Best in Shows. Maja named him "Simply" because he

was "Simply the best". He was a wonderful bird and although he had some faults he always seemed to catch the judge's eye. At a show in 2001 he won Best in Show, his sister was an opaline grey green hen and she won Best Opposite Sex and a grey spangle cock won Best Young Bird in Show. They have produced a large family around this bloodline, although "Simply" never bred himself.

At the National Show in 2003 they again achieved something previously never done by winning Best Opposite Sex with a Texas Clearbody Hen. In 2005, four out of a possible six Best in Shows were achieved. Pierre judged the National and as such could not enter for the show. In 2006, six out of possible seven Best in Show were achieved; they also won best any age on show on the 2006 National. They were promoted by two ribbons in the champion section which was only once achieved by another champion exhibitor before namely Reinhardt Mol Kentin. Things even got better in 2007, which Pierre & Maja always predicted will be their best year with a possible five out seven Best in Shows including Best Bird on Show and Best Opposite Sex on Show at the 2007 National. They were over the moon. Again they were promoted two ribbons to silver medal champions. They were also rewarded with the medal as Champion of Champions for 2007.

In 2008 they entered four shows and won three Best on Shows. On the National Show they won Best Any Age on Show. They have done exceptionally well on the Nationals since 2003 winning a Major Award every year except for 2005 when Pierre judged. They were again awarded Champion of Champions for 2008 and were promoted to Gold Medal Champions.

When asked what more they want to achieve and what do they expect for 2009,

Champion!

he was one hell of a budgerigar!

The Swanepoel Broers were true characters and especially the two Kathu shows can vouch for this. They were outgoing breeders adding a lot of humor to the shows, especially Hennie. Any show that they attended was full of excitement during the social side of the show. Sadly Hennie passed away a couple of years ago. I had the privilege again in 2008 to visit Oom Koos as I called him, who is not experiencing the best of health over the last couple of years.

Both Koos and Hennie bred birds. They concentrated mainly on normals with a couple of Lutino's here and there. It was Koos who had the final say in birds for sale. Visiting Hennie he would say yes it is ok but lets just confirm with Koos first.

Champ won Best Bird at the 1987 National in Pretoria. He then also went on to win Best Bird at the 1988 National. Due to condition (a dropped tail) he was not benched in 1989. In 1990 the National was hosted in Cape Town. The Swanepoel Broers benched 3 birds, Champ, his uncle an opaline grey green and a related hen. All three won their classes. Champ won Best in Show for the 3rd time with his uncle taking the second best award on show namely Runner-up to Best Bird. Up to this day no other bird has won the National 3 times.

It was in the early 90's during one of my trips to visit the Swanepoel Broers that I was sadly told that Champ had died. Oom Koos' wife called me aside shortly after arriving at their home to tell me that Champ had died more than 2 weeks before but that Koos was still keeping him in the bar fridge in the birdroom. She asked me if I could try and convince Koos to say his final goodbye.

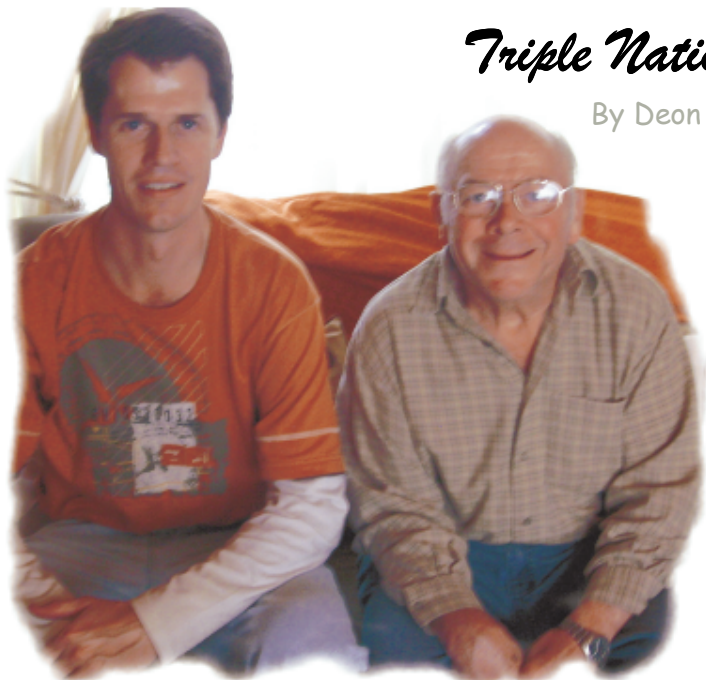
When entering the breeding area I was shown Champ. Stiff as a stick but still handled with ultimate care. The emotions could clearly be seen on Koos' face. Champ was finally laid to rest a couple of days later.

Fortunately for the owners, Champ and his brothers produced chicks, but nothing close to the Champ himself.

Unfortunately they had to retire from the hobby not long afterwards due to ill health.

Champ might not be able to compete with today's top birds, but for those who saw him will remember him for some time to come . . . he was one hell of a budgerigar! ♦





Deon Davie and Koos Swanepoel during 2008

Triple National

By Deon Davie

“CHAMP” *The name says it all.*

Champ, the nickname of a grey green cock bred in 1986 in Kimberley by the Swanepoel Broers partnership, Koos and Hennie. Without taking anything away from any super bird that was bred after Champ or any current super bird on the show bench this year, Champ was in a class of his own.

For those who had the privilege to see him in real life this article will surely refresh your memory of this outstanding bird. Some said at the time he was 15-20 years ahead of his time. I

can agree with this statement. I first saw Champ in 1988 in Kroonstad on the show winning Best in Show. In my fathers' words on the day “You don't want to breed them bigger ” Not far fetched words for those days, as Champ was superior in all aspects. I believe all competitors that came up against him may feel the same and never felt bad to be beaten by him.

Champ was exhibited 5 times in his lifespan and won Best Bird on Show all 5 times. The difference between Champ and the next best on any show was in most cases huge.

BREEDERS OF THE FUTURE - SETTING THE TRENDS

both Pierre and Maja admitted that it won't be easy to duplicate their achievements of 2007/8, but they certainly will try. They also want to register a champion bird in each colour and variety within the next couple of years. An achievement that they will certainly accomplish seeing that they only need less than nine champion birds and most of them have already won one or two Challenge Certificates.



Breeders

HINTS & TIPS

- * Keep your aviary size manageable. Too many fanciers have too many pairs where they breed many birds, but lack quality. Rather keep less pairs, which makes the selection of pairs more difficult, but only the best is used for breeding which results in more quality being bred and thus improving your stud.
- * Remember not all birds are show material and some will do well on the shows and some will do very well breeding.
- * Be harsh - cull regularly to improve the quality of your stud. Don't keep a bird because it looks nice.
- * Attend to your birds before a show; in the end it is all worthwhile. Like they said, it is the little things that make a huge difference.

- * Knowledge is power - Read - Read - Read
- * Don't always believe everything what people are saying - listen to what is being said, work through it and then decide what will work in your setup.
- * “Steal” with your eyes and ears - don't be too angry if it is said that your bird is not up to standard - find out what to do to improve your faults on the bird
- * Spend lots of time with your birds and observe, you must know your birds to breed them
- * Perseverance
- * Expect disappointments everyday and learn how to overcome them
- * If something does go wrong - don't ask “what is wrong with the birds” - ask “what did I do wrong and find your mistake - somewhere you did something different
- * Good quality food, good quality water, quality soft food especially when there are babies in the nests and supplements
- * Determination - Set yourself reachable targets or goals (example - next year I want to win at least 3 CC's at a show, or I want to improve the quality of my spangles or I want to achieve at least 20 points at a show) You must have goals or something to work towards.

Good luck and create new memories every day. ♦

Pierre and Maja can be found at
49 Neasted Street, CRADOCK
5880
or can be contacted on
083 797 2306 (Pierre) and
083 468 7123 (Maja)



Colours from a different angle

April 2009

Questions asked recently by my son Eric triggered this article.

I bred an opaline light green from a Grey green cock paired to a Grey Yellow face hen.

He had "how" and "why" questions ?

First of all the opaline light green must be a hen. The reason for this is that both parents are normal and therefore the father must be split for opaline.

Will the bird be a yellow face ? Only test matings can shed some light on this question.

The fact that the bird is a visual green bird implies that it can be a visual yellow face masked by the yellow mask of the green bird or a pure green bird. There is a 50/50 chance that the offspring can be a yellow face.

Will the offspring carry the grey factor of the mother ? No. If the offspring received the grey factor from her mother she would have been a grey green bird. The reason for this is that the green from the

father combined with the grey factor from the mother would have resulted in a grey green bird.

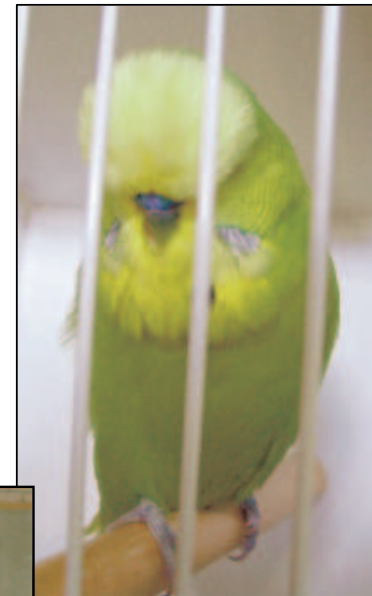
As this is not the case what else do we know of the mother ? If she did not pass on the grey factor, what colour did she pass on to her offspring ? Blue. She must therefore be split for blue.

What does this tell us about the offspring ? The offspring is also split for blue and can as in her mother's case reproduce blue offspring if mated to a blue or split blue partner.

Did the offspring inherit grey, blue or green from the father ? Green. If she received a grey factor from the father and the blue factor from the mother the bird would have been a grey split for blue. If she received a blue factor from the father and a blue factor from the mother, she would have been a blue bird. The offspring therefore received a green factor from the father, and together with the blue from the mother resulted in a light green.

Happy colour breeding.
Deon Davie♦

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2009



Top Left:

- Best Rare Opposite Sex on Show
- Recessive Pied
- Heino Artus

Top Right:

- Best Spangle Intermediate on Show
- Spangle Normal Grey Green
- Maree Aviaris

Left:

Andre Scholtz with the winning exhibit



FREE STATE Rare & Spangle

Picture Report



Top:

- Best Rare Novice on Show
- Violet
- PJ vd Berg

Right:

- Best Rare Champion on Show
- Violet
- Heino Artus



Above: Members at the prize giving

2009 National Championship Show *Combined Western Cape Budgerigar Clubs Incorporating CPBS, CTBC & TBC*

Show Manager - Albert Olivier, PO Box 36710 Chempet 7442. Cell 082 490 2251
Show Secretary - Gerald de Beer, 90 Tiverton Road, Plumstead 7800. Tel. 021 7621921
Show Co-coordinator - John Dunlop, 5 Hoogstede Str, Oakglen, Bellville 7530. Tel. 021 9192625

The 2009 National Championship Show will be held in Cape Town and will be taking place between 31 July and 1 August 2009.

See enclosed information regarding the National Show from the hosting clubs.

Championship Show 2009

The KwaZulu-Natal Championship Show will be taking place on 13 June 2009.



GAUTENG

Picture Report

The Gauteng Show was hosted by the Jacaranda Show Budgie Society on 7 March 2009. There were 35 exhibitors who entered 492 birds. Best Bird went to a super Yellowface Skyblue Cock benched by Pierre and Maja. Best Opposite Sex went to Heino Artus with a Cinnamon Skyblue hen with superb spots.



- Above:**
- Best Bird on Show
 - Yellowface Skyblue Cock
 - Pierre and Maja



- Above:**
- Best Opposite Sex on Show
 - Cinnamon Skyblue Hen
 - Heino Artus

National Championship Show 2009
 The National Championship Show will be taking place on 31 July to 1 August 2009.

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2009



Above:
 The judges on the day Maja and Pierre Swart with trainee judge Tony Slight



- Above:**
- Best Spangle Opposite Sex on Show
 - Normal Spangle Blue Hen
 - Glen Furniss



Above:
 The stewards on the day were students who were trained on the processes and procedures of being a steward.



FREE STATE Rare & Spangle

Picture Report

The Free State Rare & Spangle Show took place in Welkom on 14 March 2009. There were 145 Rare and 165 Spangle exhibits.

Rares

A total of 12 Champion, five Intermediate and four Novice exhibitors entered birds on the Rare show.

Best Rare on Show went to Maree Aviaries with a Texas Clearbody. Best Opposite Sex went to Heino Artus with a Recessive Pied Hen.

Best Rare Champion went to Heino Artus with a Violet.

Best Rare Intermediate went to Maree Aviaries with the Texas Clearbody show winner.

Best Rare Novice went to PJ vd Berg with a violet.

Spangles

A total of 13 Champion, five Intermediate and four Novice exhibitors entered birds on the Spangle show.

Best Spangle on Show went to Andre Scholtz with a Spangle Normal Green.

Best Opposite sex went to Glen Furniss with a Spangle Normal Blue hen.

Best Spangle Champion went to Andre with the Spangle Normal Green show winner.

Best Spangle Intermediate went to Maree Aviaries with a Spangle Normal Grey Green.

Best Spangle Novice went to PJ vd Berg with a Double Factor Spangle White.



Above: Best Rare on Show – Texas Clearbody – Maree Aviaries.

Below: Best Spangle on Show – Andre Scholtz



CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2009



Top

- Best Intermediate on Show
- Cinnamon Green Cock
- Maree Aviaries

The show was judged by Barend Allers, George Sutton and Reinhard Mol Kentin with Senior Stewards Michael Borchers, Smartryk Burger and Val Nagel.

A new innovation was the introduction of a Pink Dot area. Birds could be entered up to 30 minutes before the show. These exhibits went into the Pink Dot area and the documentation was duly highlighted so stewards could find the exhibits. This worked extremely well as exhibitors who had wrong class birds could enter them in the correct classes.

Right:

- Best Novice on Show
- Cinnamon Blue Series Cock
- Bertie Swanepoel

Best Intermediate went to Maree Aviaries with a Cinnamon Green Series Cock. Best Novice on Show went to Bertie Swanepoel with a Cinnamon Grey Cock.

There were 20 Champion exhibitors who benched 260 exhibits. The Champion exhibitors took 18 of the Challenge Certificates.

A very disappointing six Intermediate exhibitors benched a total of 97 exhibits but managed to take five Challenge Certificates.

There were nine Novice exhibitors who benched 92 exhibits and took three Challenge Certificates.



GAUTENG

Picture Report



Above, Left and Right and Next Page:
Mike Davies welcomes all to the show while (L to R) Roy Bennett, Christo Grobbelaar, Clarence Marks, Smartryk Burger, Gert Pieters, James van der Nest, Bertie Swanepoel, Deon Davie, Reinhard Mol Kentin (behind pole), Tony Slight, Barend Allers and Des Stow (seated)



Above:
The Judges on the day were (L to R)

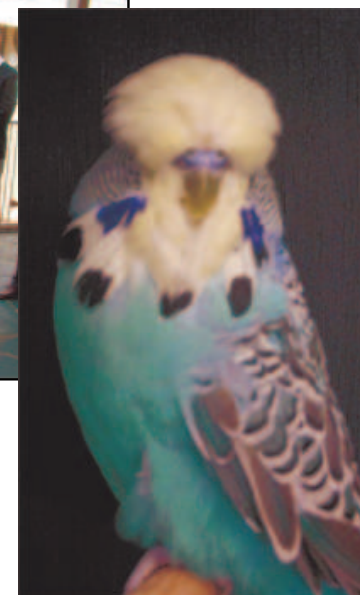
- George Sutton
- Barend Allers
- Tony Slight (Trainee Judge)
- Reinhard Mol Kentin

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2009



Right:

- Best Bird on Show
- Yellowface Skyblue Cock
- Pierre and Maja



Above:
George Sutton judging while (L to R) Ian Nel, Dean and Michael Borchers look on.

