





The South African

# Budgerigar Bulletin

**The Budgerigar Society of South Africa**

**Issue 25 April 2010 – April 2011**



## 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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### **Cover**

2010 South African Champion – Best Bird on Show –  
Pierre & Maja – Yellow Face Grey Cock

# 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. (Presently out of stock)

## 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 – R200.00

## 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](mailto:roy.bennett@za.abb.com) :

1. Fleece lined jacket - R130.00
2. Hat - R50.00

## **SHOW DATES 2011**

| <b>Show</b>                 | <b>Date</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| JSBS Gauteng Additional     | 19 February |
| Western Cape Rare & Spangle | 12 March    |
| Eastern Cape Championship   | 2 April     |
| Free State Championship     | 16 April    |
| Gauteng Area Championship   | 7 May       |
| KwaZulu-Natal Championship  | 21 May      |
| Western Cape Championship   | 28 May      |
| Free State Rare & Spangle   | 20 August   |

## **BSSA Affiliation Fees for 2011**

R200.00 - Affiliation fee (adult)  
R 0.00 - Affiliation fee (junior)  
R250.00 - Affiliation fee (partnership – family at same address)  
R200.00 - Affiliation fee (all other partnerships – per member)

R150.00 - Fee for registration of a partnership  
R100.00 - Fee for registration of a personal ring code  
R 4.00 - Price of Rings (per ring)

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### **The Quarterly Bulletin Advertising Rates** **Advertising Options**

A 6 cm x 4 cm advert will cost you R25  
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## *Message from the Chairman*

The festive season is on its way, with all the joy and happiness that goes with it.

It is also the quiet time on the Budgie Calendar as far as shows are concerned. Most of us are now in the breeding phase, hoping to breed that elusive winner for 2011, especially with the National less than 9 months away. The first 2011 rings have already been issued to members, with the remaining orders to follow. Please note that we also have 2011 BSSA rings available especially for new members as well as for members waiting for their coded rings. The ring colour for 2011 is blue.

We have had our first show on the 2011 calendar in October in Uniondale, (The new show season starts the day after the National Show) with the first show in 2011 due in February. Please visit our website [www.showbudgies.co.za](http://www.showbudgies.co.za) for all the information on our upcoming shows.

The colour of the year for 2011 is Lacewing followed by Grey in 2012. For all our newcomers to the hobby we have a Colour of the year every year to

promote that specific colour. The intention is to have a predominant colour one year and a usually not so prominent colour the next year. BSSA and hosting clubs also offer additional prizes for the colour of the year.

The 2011 AGM is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011. An e-mail with all the relevant information will be sent out shortly. All members are not only welcome but encouraged to attend as we will also have an open discussion on budgie topics during the morning session.

This will be my last preamble in the Bulletin as Chairman of BSSA. I would like to make use of the opportunity to thank you all for your support during the 5 years I have been Chairman. I enjoyed every moment of my innings. I would also like to wish the new Chairman who will be elected in February 2011 all the best with the task at hand.

In conclusion I would like to wish every member of BSSA and their family a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2011.

Yours in feathers

*Deon Davie*

# Nest Boxes

By Malcolm Taylor



Have you ever considered the nest box's we use, most use the inner box system, with various changes to suit themselves, and the birds breed?

Arthur Windel, when living in Pretoria used box's that you could breed cockatiels in, he always said when asked why such size quote "My birds are so big they need the space". Another breeder acquaintance in Vereeniging uses a very small box, the concave the size of the inner measurements, the height being around 200mm. another breeder no longer in the hobby used old casings of 12 volt batteries.

What you may ask is the purpose of all this? As I have observed over the years there seems not to be one method better than another as all of the above have had success in breeding, the birds will breed in whatever you give them if the time is right for them. I have firsthand experience in this, some years ago I left a piece of sisal for the birds to play with, over a period of time I noticed the inside being eaten out, which as we know the birds love to do. It then became clear the one hen took a liking to it and hung around the piece more and more, the next the hen disappeared and a young cock bird perched itself on the top and would not let and other bird near the entrance, I then started to check on the hollowed out piece and found the hen eventually laid four eggs all full and all hatched. When one considers that the piece in question measured no more than

80mm outside diameter, it was a marvellous feat that all four chicks were raised to full maturity.

Over the years we have being inundated with facts and figures regarding this or that and what is best for the birds. It is such a pity that our birds don't talk to us; we of supreme intellect seem to think we know best and the birds must just follow. The bird room must be at a certain temp, lights at night are required, natural light is essential, we must feed this or that (whatever the latest fad is), nest boxes of this or that size cages the same. The strangest thing is, no matter what we give the birds if it is there time to breed then they will. In Europe and America they breed in dark rooms no natural light what so ever, Johan Lucas new bird room I understand is very hot, the birds breed.

In the wild the rains determine how the bird's breed, if it has been good rains then they will have two rounds each, purely and simply it is based on food supply, if the rains are poor only certain numbers will breed. Nature has her clock which every animal knows and abides by. Not so the human being we are led to believe that we can alter nature, and by doing so we have the situation of today that top birds don't always produce, hence infertile eggs.

This very point is also born out in other species where man has tried to alter the make-up of certain animals. I give two



**Above:** The Budgie Tour 2010 included Tony Slight, Marius Heinrich, Heinrich Gross, Pierre Swart, Hannes Duvenage, Piet van der Berg  
**Front:** Chris Roodt, Johan van der Berg.



**Above:** On 3 February a visit was paid to Glen Furniss. (LtoR) Pierre Swart, Tony Slight, Piet van der Berg, Hannes Duvenage, Marius Heydenrych, Heinrich Gross, Glen Furniss.



**Above:** On 4 February a visit was paid to Eric Wolmarans and Deon Davie.  
 (LtoR) Heinrich Gross, Hannes Duvenage, Chris Roodt, Piet van der berg, Marius Heydenrych, Johan van der Merwe, Tony Slight, Pierre Swart, Eric Wolmarans, Deon Davie.



# Budgie-tour 2010

By Johan vd Merwe

Late in 2009 I was invited to join a couple of other budgie-breeders on a tour to Gauteng to attend the BSSA-AGM but also to visit other breeders along the way.

Mid afternoon on 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2010 Piet vd Berg, Heinrich Gross and I set off from Port Elizabeth to Cradock. At the same time, Tony Slight departed from East London to meet up with us in Cradock at the home of Pierre & Maja Swart. After our arrival in Cradock, we promptly started with our first aviary visit at Marius Heydenrych's home. Next in line were the aviaries of Pierre & Maya Swart and Chris Roodt. In the evening we were treated to supper by Pierre & Maja and went to bed fairly early as we had a long way to drive the next day.

## 2 February

After loading the double cab to the brim with luggage, travel cages, garingboom logs and other bits & pieces, 7 of us (2 in the back) set off to meet up with Hannes Duvenhage near Steynsburg where we could share the load to the second double cab. We stopped for lunch in Bloemfontein and proceeded to the north-west Free State to visit the aviaries of Gert Erasmus, Die Besters, Jannie Kotzee and Casper Maree. Tuesday evening we were treated to a braai by the whole Kroonstad budgie club in proper Free State fashion at the Welkom club. We were housed by some of the members in their homes.

## 3 February

We left our hosts early on Wednesday morning to visit the aviaries of Koos Venter, Otto Hein and Piet Roos where we stopped for lunch. After lunch it was back on the road to Gauteng to visit Oom Chris Oberholzer, Heino Artus and Glenn Furniss. The Furnisses provided supper before we dispersed to our various hosts for the next 3 nights.

## 4 February

On Thursday morning we were fortunate to visit Ian Bleasedale, Bob Hirst and Ralph Morgan. After lunch we went to the aviaries of Tommie Roodt and Deon Davie and had supper at the Roodt's residence in the form of a braai. Deon Davies gave an interesting slide-show of his trip to some of the European breeders in Germany and Switzerland.

## 5 February

The whole of Friday was spent at the aviary of Reinhard and Holger Molkenntin before we returned to Johannesburg for supper with our hosts at Carver's restaurant.

## 6 February

Saturday was spent at the venue for the BSSA AGM where we attended the judges meeting, general discussion and the AGM itself. We left after the meeting for Bothaville where Jan Brits took us through his aviary. We spent the night with the Brits family and were once again treated with wonderful hospitality.

## 7 February

Early on Sunday morning we left Bothaville to return to our homes in Steynsburg, Cradock, East London, Port Elizabeth and Jeffreysbay.

6 days and 2700 km later we came, we saw and we learnt a great deal about budgies, friendship and fantastic South African hospitality.

We would like to thank everybody who went out of their way to make this trip a memorable experience. Everywhere we went we received an amazing welcome. We were housed, fed and entertained at the expense of wonderful people who went all out to make us feel at home. To each and every one of you, we would like to say a big thank you. We are looking forward to the next one!

examples in dogs, the Alsatian has been altered to such an extent by inbreeding that it now suffers from hip displacer and other chronic bone problems, the other is the British bulldog because of manipulation by man the dog has breathing problems and can hardly walk a few steps without causing suffering in the animal.

You may say this as nothing to do with the birds; I believe you would be wrong in assuming that, in all of the innovated ways of doing things have we strayed to far from nature.

At the beginning of this article I talked about nest boxes and the fact that the birds will breed in anything if they are ready to do so, may be just may be we need to look at what nature provides the birds, in the eucalyptus tree the birds use hollows which are narrow and straight down, the birds breed. This year I am going to try something different with some pairs, I am going to colony breed and use hollowed out tree trunks for nests, it is my own experiment to see if it makes any difference, I will let you know.



# Mothering Instincts

By Pierre Swart

All of us have, at some time or other, opened a nest box and found a weak newly hatched chick that is not being fed by its parents. We all know that feeling of despair that you experience and we know that many of these chicks don't survive.

Think again, Chris Roodt of Cradock has some wonderful "mothering" abilities and is able to pull those weak chicks through.

## What he does is the following:

He takes 5 – 6 grains of groats or oats, puts it in his mouth and chews it until it is a very fine pulp. He then spits it out on a spoon, scoops the milky part of the chewed oats onto a knife's point and holds the milky white fluid to the chick's beak, just touching it. Drop for drop he keeps on touching the knife point to the chicks beak while he softly blows on the chick. The chick will open its beak and suck in the milky fluid. He keeps on repeating this process until he is satisfied that the crop is nicely full. He tries to blow warm air onto the chick while holding it, lying on its back, in his free hand.

Next time you have a weak chick that is not fed, try this procedure and with a little bit of patience and effort you just might succeed in bringing it up to a good budgie. Let's all get back to our mothering instincts with lots of patience and care.



## UPCOMING SHOW DATES 2011

### Show

Gauteng Additional

### Date

19 February

Western Cape Rare & Spangle 12 March

Don't forget to diarise these dates. These are the early 2010 shows.

# Picture Report



Members wait for the JSBS Additional Show to start. (L to R) Heino Artus, Jan O'Kelly, Frank Gerber, Philip Jacobs, Christo Grobbelaar, Bertie Swanepoel, the Nagels (seated), Eric Wolmarans. Jan Brits



The Gauteng Show judges Tony Slight, Malcolm Taylor and Deon Davie.



The Gauteng Show. Val Nagel starts to debench.



**Left:** The Gauteng Show. Best Dark Green on Show – Heino Artus

**Right:** The Gauteng Show. Best Double Factor Spangle on Show – Piet Roos



# 2010 Show Season



Uniondale Best on Show – J vd Merwe



Uniondale Best Opposite Sex on Show – P vd Berg



Uniondale Best Novice on Show – Albert v Wyk



Free State Spangle Best on Show – Pierre & Maja



Free State Rare & Spangle winners with the Best on Show birds – Pierre & Maja

# ERASMUS VENNOOTSKAP

Te Virginia

Op soek na 'n stokperdjie en heelwat belandstelling en ondersoek in budjieberdery, begin ek met 4 broeipare in 2004. Die boerdery het bestaan uit 4 broeikaste onder my lapa. Hierdie proses duur ongeveer 'n jaar waarna ek uitbrei deur 'n "flight" by te bou en die broeikaste te vermeerder na 10. Broeikaste was nou in 'n hok en meer beskerm.

Gedurende die begin jare het ek net "Jap", wit / geel Millet gegee. Aanvullens het bestaan uit iodine blokke en cuttlefishstukke. In 2004 sluit ek aan by BSSA en woon my eerste skou nl. Rare & Spangle te Welkom in Maart 2005 by. Ek gaan skou met 5 voëls.

Algaande het die boerdery uitgebrei. Ek bou nog 2 nuwe "flights" by en rig 'n Wendyhouse op met 21 broeikaste binne in. Lopende water en elektrisiteit word aangelê. Broeikaste en "flights" het selfvoerders, waterbakkies en die kaste word gereeld skoongemaak en met saagsels uitgevoer. Heelwat stokkies en toue word in die hokke geplaas vir sitplek. Die "flights" kry baie direkte son en het seile vooraan wat toegemaak word as dit koud is of dit reën.

Voeding is aangepas. Bestaande voëlkos word gegee, maar voëls kry nou elke dag sagte kos wat bestaan uit broccoli, patats, beet, mielies, spinasie, wortels, knoffel en murgpampoentjies.

My huidige stoet bestaan uit 250 voëls, 21 broeikaste, 'n siekeboeg, creche, 'n jong voël " flight" en 3 groot "flights" vir die volwasse voëls.

## RAAD AAN BEGINNERS

- Doen eers goeie navorsing oor jou uitleg van broeihokke, "flights" ens.
- Koop van die begin kwaliteit voëls om mee te broei.
- Versorg jou voëls gereeld en gee baie aandag  $\pm$  4 weke voor 'n skou. Daar is verskeie maniere wat aangewend word, soos kolle pluk, was, ens.
- Skerp jouself op t.o.v. die versorging van jou voëls. Vra hulp en leiding by die manne wat reeds lank in die bedryf is.
- Gee elke dag vars water en verwyder mis wat aan die pote van kuikens vasklou.
- Was gemengde saad goed af met water en laat droog word in die son.
- Sit jou siek voëls eenkant in die siekeboeg, weg van gesonde voëls.

Hierdie is 'n heerlike familie stokperdjie, want almal sit hand by gedurende die versorging en is behulpsaam met skoue.

Met dank

Gert en Rineth Erasmus

# Dominant PIEDS

By Fred Wright

I am delighted to have been asked to write an article on Dominant PIEDS – the BSSA Colour/Variety of the Year 2010. It's a fantastic variety, attractive and one that seems to encourage new fanciers to join the hobby. How many times do we get the request from new fanciers to supply them with Dominant PIEDS? Usually more frequently than the number of Dominant PIEDS we have to sell! It's unfortunate but in recent years there seems to have been a decline in the number of Dominant PIEDS benched at the shows and raising the profile of the variety will do much to increase the interest.

They are particularly attractive because of the colour variegation. I especially like the Cobalts and Violets, and the Skyblues - all followed closely by the Dark Greens. There is nothing wrong with a Grey Green or Grey - or even a Light Green but these do not have the vivid colour contrast that appeals to me.

I have serious doubts about mixing the variety with Cinnamon. I love Cinnamons, but the attraction of Dominant PIEDS for me is the contrast between the standard body colour and the extra yellow or white of the Pied. Cinnamon seems to soften the body colour and therefore the contrast. Plenty of Cinnamon PIEDS win at the shows but it's a personal preference that I prefer the non-Cinnamons.

There is an appeal for Normal Dominant PIEDS throughout the world – but Opalines are an interesting addition. The Opaline should intensify the body colour but with Opaline, so frequently comes the flecking. There is a theory that using Opalines with Dominant PIEDS helps to encourage a full set of spots – but that is only a theory.

The Pied marking is the variegation marking across the body. It's white for the white-faced

varieties and yellow for the green series birds. The variegation pattern is irregular but the standards suggest it should be up to 50 per cent of the body colour. All too frequently there is little variegation or even none. The flights should be clear and some variegation across the wings is allowed.

Spots can be a huge problem with Dominant PIEDS. Frequently, the pied marking carries across the mask and makes any number of spots disappear – sometimes just one side of the mask. There is a well documented theory that the use of the Opaline factor greatly reduces the missing spots in those youngsters. Alf Ormerod in the UK was one of the successful breeders of Dominant PIEDS and he was a great supporter of the use of Opalines to overcome this problem. It worked for him and it's worked for others in the past.

Perhaps THE reason why many fanciers are reluctant to breed and keep any of the specialist varieties is that “splits and carriers” are a by-product. With Dominant PIEDS there is none of this. The variety is what is known as a “partial dominant” – this means that when a Dominant Pied is paired to a non-Dominant Pied, 50 percent of the youngsters are Dominant Pied and the other 50 percent are non-Dominant PIEDS. This is at least the theory – many fanciers describe results that they are breeding less than 50 percent Dominant PIEDS from these pairings. This at least is the theory about the percentages. Talk to many breeders and they will tell you that their Dominant Pied to Normal pairing produce just 30 – 40 percent Dominant PIEDS.

The serious breeders of the variety over the past decades have suggested pairing Dominant PIEDS together. This will produce a percentage of Double-factor Dominant PIEDS. These birds are generally considered to be unattractive with an increased amount of

# National Show Results

The National Championship Show took place on 24 July 2010. There were 59 exhibitors who entered 1180 birds. Of these, 1125 were benched. The 59 exhibitors were spread as follows; 26 Champion, 12 Intermediate and 21 Novice exhibitors who benched 516, 289 and 320 birds respectively.

The birds were judged by Albert Olivier, Frank Nietgen and Marcel Buhler. They were supported by senior stewards Ian Bleasdale, Lionel Sydenham and Roy Bennett.

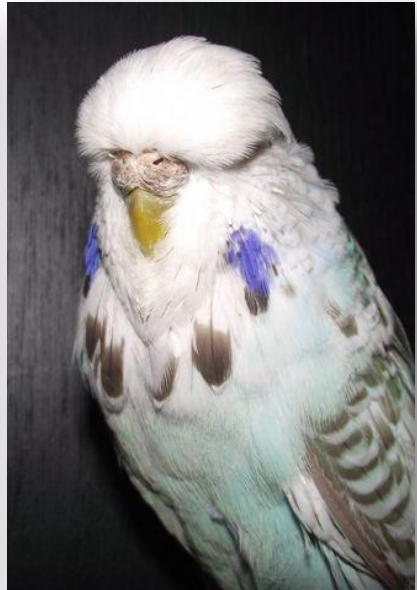
## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

|                           |                   |                    |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Best Bird on Show         | Pierre & Maja     | Yellowface Cock    |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show | Molkentin Stud    | Grey Hen           |
| Best Any Age on Show      | Cedric Aron       | Skyblue Cock       |
| Best Young Bird on Show   | Pierre & Maja     | Yellowface Cock    |
| Best Champion on Show     | Pierre & Maja     | Yellowface Cock    |
| Best Intermediate on Show | Piet van den Berg | Spangle Blue Hen   |
| Best Novice on Show       | Chris Roodt       | Dominant Pied Cock |



### Above Left:

National Best Any Age on Show –  
Skyblue Cock – Cedric Aron



### Above Right:

National Best Any Age Opposite Sex on  
Show – Cinnamon Skyblue Hen



# Eastern Cape Show Results

The Eastern Cape Championship Show took place on 10 April 2010. There were 37 exhibitors who entered 755 birds. Of these, 724 were benched. The 37 exhibitors were spread as follows; 20 Champion, 7 Intermediate and 10 Novice exhibitors who benched 325, 170 and 229 birds respectively.

The birds were judged by Albert Olivier and Lionel Sydenham. They were supported by senior stewards AJ van der Merwe and I van Niekerk.

## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

|                           |                    |                   |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Best Bird on Show         | Pierre & Maja      | Spangle Blue Cock |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show | Piet van den Berg  | Spangle Blue Hen  |
| Best Any Age on Show      | Pierre & Maja      | Spangle Blue Cock |
| Best Young Bird on Show   | Piet van den Berg  | Spangle Blue Hen  |
| Best Champion on Show     | Pierre & Maja      | Spangle Blue Cock |
| Best Intermediate on Show | van Niekerk Broers | Skyblue Cock      |
| Best Novice on Show       | Chris Roodt        | Skyblue Cock      |



### Above Left:

Eastern Cape Best Opposite Sex on Show – Spangle Blue Hen – Piet van den Berg



### Above Right:

Eastern Cape Best Intermediate on Show – Skyblue Cock – Van Niekerk Broers

variegation – too white or too yellow in the body. The advantage comes when these birds are used in the breeding cage. These Double-factor birds when paired to a non-Dominant Pied will produce 100 per cent Dominant Pies. It's a super way to produce lots of Dominant Pies. The quality – and the marking of the youngsters is usually good too.

In most countries, it's accepted that the tail feathers can be dark or light. In Germany, with at least the larger National society, it's important that both tail feathers are either white or yellow. I remember talking to top German breeder Jo Mannes, years ago about a wonderful Dominant Pied he had bred – but it had one black tail. He was reluctant to show it but finally decided to pull the dark tail and suffer the result of having the bird penalised for having just one tail!

There are huge advantages that come with Dominant Pies. They are striking – and many judges will be attracted to them, but we will come back to judging them later. They are hugely popular and are the very reason why many new fanciers enter the hobby. May be they will just breed them for fun and perhaps pets but many of those who start with pets will eventually enter the exhibition side of the hobby – which must be good.

Many exhibition breeders complain they are unable to sell their surplus birds. Breed Dominant Pies and you will always be able to sell the surplus. They might come as customers to buy Dominant Pies but you can tell them, hand on heart, that the best pairing is for a Dominant Pied to be paired to a non-Dominant Pied. So – you sell your Pies and non-Pies at the same time. If a fancier cannot sell his surplus – it's very important to be able to turn things around by breeding a few Pies.

One variety/mutation that does seem to find its way into Dominant Pies is the Yellow-face. I am not sure in my mind about Yellow-face Dominant Pies. They are attractive but

the yellow from the head and face seems to run right through the body colour of the blue and grey series birds. Personally, I do not like it but many would say they are attractive. May be I will expand on my view – I do not like them as exhibition birds but as colourful budgerigars, they are wonderful.

Let's look at the judging of Dominant Pies. I believe that if the variety displays the vivid contrast, and there are no serious faults – like flecking, judges are attracted to them and will frequently favour them. If a judge sees a Dominant Pied Cobalt, Violet or even a Skyblue – it's in with a serious chance of doing well. There is something about them that at least makes the judge give them a second look. It's my view that judges will “talk” about variegation of body colour – but once a Dominant Pied is placed in front of them – all that theory disappears. In the UK we have seen it happen time and time again. Barry Wild, from Lancashire bred a wonderful Dominant Pied Skyblue that took two best in show award and a best Young Bird in show award at one of the Budgerigar World shows – with no variegation whatsoever.

Another bird I remember well was a Yellow-face Dominant Pied Skyblue. So serious was the run through the body that it was almost unrecognisable as a Skyblue. It was a wonderful showman – but not a great bird. It was bred and shown by a novice but I remember that bird taking top awards many times in the south of the UK years ago. There is no doubt in my mind that it was the variety that was the attraction for the judges – and not the bird.

The colour standards tell us that Dominant Pies should have a full set of spots. In practice, this does not happen. Judges will usually “talk” the full set of spots story but put up birds with missing spots. When judges are looking at Dominant Pies – they seem to throw the rule book away – and put up what they like! I make this observation of judges throughout the world - and not just South Africa.

# Dominant Pies, *continued from page 9*

It's never easy buying good birds. Almost impossible to buy a top quality Dominant Pied – but with Dominant Pies you are really in with a chance. The variety runs side by side a stud of Normals so well. If you can purchase a well bred, well marked Dominant, even if it's a bit small, get it paired to a really good Normal and you are in with a serious opportunity of breeding decent Dominate Pies in the first season.

It makes the variety an ideal bird to be Bird of the Year, but I will make just one prediction. It may well take the year to see more fanciers attracted to the variety – and may be bringing one into your birdroom. But by the second and third year we will see an increase in the numbers of Dominant Pies shown at the top shows in South Africa. Now that could well be an advantage for everyone. This may bring an additional interest in budgies, and even more Dominants being bred. In turn they will get in the pet shops and this could well be the push that South Africa needs to increase the numbers of budgerigar fanciers throughout the country wanting to breed and show their birds.



| Pairing                                 | Expectations<br>(cocks & hens)   |
|---|--|
| Dominant Pied (sf) x Normal             | 50 per cent Dominant Pied<br>50 per cent Normal  |
| Dominant Pied (df) x Normal             | 100 per cent Dominant Pied (sf)  |
| Dominant Pied (sf) x Dominant Pied (sf) | 25 per cent Dominant Pied (df)<br>50 per cent Dominant Pied (sf)<br>25 per cent Normal |
| Dominant Pied (sf) x Dominant Pied (df) | 50 per cent Dominant Pied (sf)<br>50 per cent Dominant Pied (df)                       |
| Dominant Pied (df) x Dominant Pied (df) | 100 per cent Dominant Pied (df)  |

Notes:

- Production of Dominant Pies is controlled by a dominant gene which can be carried in single or double form.
- For the purpose of this chart, “Normal” indicates a non-Dominant Pied.
- (sf) = single factor
- (df) = double factor

# Free State Show Results

The Free State Championship Show took place on 1 May 2010. There were 22 exhibitors who entered 336 birds. The 22 exhibitors were spread as follows; 12 Champion, 4 Intermediate and 6 Novice exhibitors who benched 191, 66 and 63 birds respectively.

The birds were judged by Roy Bennett, Ian Bleasdale and Malcolm Taylor. They were supported by senior stewards Casper Maree, Val Nagel and Martin Olivier.

**Major Awards were allocated as follows:**

|                           |                |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Best Bird on Show         | Koos Venter    | Light Green Cock           |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show | Nagel Aviaries | Grey Hen                   |
| Best Any Age on Show      | Koos Venter    | Light Green Cock           |
| Best Young Bird on Show   | Piet Roos      | Double Factor Spangle Cock |
| Best Champion on Show     | Koos Venter    | Light Green Cock           |
| Best Intermediate on Show | Maree Aviaries | Grey Green Cock            |
| Best Novice on Show       | Piet Roos      | Double Factor Spangle Cock |



**Above Left:**  
Free State Best Opposite Sex on Show – Grey Hen – Nagel Aviaries



**Above Right:**  
Free State Best Bird on Show winner with a Light Green Cock Koos Venter



**Right:**  
Free State Best Opposite Sex on Show winners with a Grey Hen Nagel Aviaries

# Western Cape Show Results

The Western Cape Championship Show took place on 15 May 2010. There were 26 exhibitors who entered 438 birds. There were 10 Champion, 7 Intermediate and 9 Novice Exhibitors.

The birds were judged by Maja Swart and Pierre Swart. They were supported by senior stewards Harish Chavda and Zaheer Majiet.

## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

|                           |                    |                   |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Best Bird on Show         | Hoesein Sydow      | Dark Green Cock   |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show | Piet van den Berg  | Cinnamon Blue Hen |
| Best Any Age on Show      | Tommie Roodt       | Opaline Blue Cock |
| Best Young Bird on Show   | Hoesein Sydow      | Dark Green Cock   |
| Best Champion on Show     | Hoesein Sydow      | Dark Green Cock   |
| Best Intermediate on Show | Piet van den Berg  | Skyblue Cock      |
| Best Novice on Show       | Steyn Redelinghuys | Lutino Cock       |

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# Kwazulu-Natal Show Results

The Kwazulu-Natal Championship Show took place on 22 May 2010. There were 18 exhibitors who entered 313 birds. Of these, 298 were benched. The 18 exhibitors were spread as follows; 12 Champion, 4 Intermediate and 2 Novice exhibitors who benched 178, 95 and 25 birds respectively.

The birds were judged by Maja Swart and Pierre Swart. They were supported by senior stewards Malcolm Taylor and Casper Maree.

## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

|                           |                   |                    |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Best Bird on Show         | Ian Bleasdale     | Grey Green Cock    |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show | Creigh Kenton     | Dominant Pied Hen  |
| Best Any Age on Show      | Larkwood Aviaries | Dark Green Cock    |
| Best Young Bird on Show   | Ian Bleasdale     | Grey Green Cock    |
| Best Champion on Show     | Ian Bleasdale     | Grey Green Cock    |
| Best Intermediate on Show | Montrose Aviaries | Albino Cock        |
| Best Novice on Show       | Rajen Pillay      | Spangle Green Cock |

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# 2010 Promotions

The following members are congratulated on their promotions.

To Silver Medal Champion – Cedric Aron

To Green Ribbon Champion – Tommie Roodt and George Sutton\

To Yellow Ribbon Champion – Glen Furniss and Albert Olivier

To White Ribbon Champion – Gemicor, Cassiem Langeveldt, Maree Aviaries, John vd Merwe

To Intermediate – Steve Botoulas, Terry Hansen, Steyn Redelinghuys, Piet Roos, Cornelius Spies, Eric Wolmarans, WW Aviaries.

# Feather Duster

By John Nel

In 2007 this feather duster was bred. This was the first and only one bred in 14 years in the hobby. At first you think you have bred that elusive potential show winner but soon realize that something is amiss.



The bird basically uses all its energy in growing and growing the feathers. This is one of the reasons they do not live very long.



What we did notice is that the parents know something is up as they continued feeding the chick long after the next round of eggs were laid.

Once removed from the parents one had to trim the feathers around the eyes daily so the bird could see the food in order to eat.



Looking at the pictures one can see how long the feathers have grown especially when one looks at the mask. Here you will notice the elongated spots.

As indicated the chick only survived a couple of weeks after being removed from the parents.



# Fostering of Chicks

By Don Burke

Acknowledgement is also given to "BRASEA"-Budgerigar Rare and Specialist Exhibitors of Australia

Some fascinating research from Science magazine sheds new light on preparation of hens for breeding, the raising of large, healthy chicks and also on fostering of chicks.

The research was done with canaries, but it is very likely to apply equally to most bird species, including budgies.

The researchers raised two broods of chicks per pair per year over successive years. They cross-fostered the second round of eggs between pairs and let the foster parents raise the chicks.

Some of the research findings are:

1. Differing amounts of substances deposited in the eggs by the mothers (such as testosterone, antibodies and carotenoids) influence how intensely her offspring beg for food after hatching. Intense begging in turn leads to faster growth rates and larger size at maturity. This proves that the preparation of your hens for the breeding season is pivotal for breeding success. Presumably healthy hens put more of the substances inside the eggs.
2. Hens that have a more demanding brood of chicks fostered to them laid fewer eggs the following year.
3. Hens that had a less demanding brood of chicks fostered to them laid more eggs the following year. So, year to year hen management is also pivotal for the number and quality of the chicks.
4. On average, fostered chicks grow at a slower rate to a smaller size than non-fostered chicks. That is, fostering is damaging for chicks.



5. Fostering chicks, on average, does not damage the hens. (Remember that this is fostering an entire clutch, not the odd baby here and there.)

So, What does all of this mean?

## Preparation of Hens

Preparation of hens is probably the single most important aspect of quality chick production. It is known that hens (even female dinosaurs that birds evolved from) deposit key chemicals in their bones in readiness for egg laying. Hence you need a long-term management strategy that really pays off. We now know that draining a hen in one year significantly affects her breeding success the following year, so how do you prepare a hen?

Clearly Vitamin D3 is pivotal. D3 is the key to calcium absorption. It is also the hormone that drives the entire immune system of birds and mammals. Normally Vitamin D3 is made from sunlight changing the oils on birds feathers to

# Gauteng Show Results

The Gauteng Championship Show took place on 29 May 2010. The show was held in a shopping centre which drew visitors to the show. There were 27 exhibitors who entered 415 birds. On the show there were 16 Champion, 5 Intermediate and 6 Novice exhibitors.

The birds were judged by Deon Davie, Tony Slight and Malcolm Taylor. They were supported by Senior Stewards Casper Maree, Ian Nel and Val Nagel.

## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

|                           |                   |                            |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Best Bird on Show         | Molkentin Stud    | Grey Green Cock            |
| Best Opposite Sex on Show | Molkentin Stud    | Grey Hen                   |
| Best Any Age on Show      | Molkentin Stud    | Grey Green Cock            |
| Best Young Bird on Show   | Molkentin Stud    | Grey Hen                   |
| Best Champion on Show     | Molkentin Stud    | Grey Green Cock            |
| Best Intermediate on Show | Montrose Aviaries | Spangle Blue Cock          |
| Best Novice on Show       | Piet Roos         | Double Factor Spangle Cock |



### Above Left:

Gauteng Best Bird on Show – Grey Green Cock – Molkentin Stud

### Above Right:

Gauteng Best Opposite Sex on Show – Grey Hen – Molkentin Stud

### Right:

Show venue entrance.





# French Molt (B.F.D.)

## Budgie Fledgling Disease

This Article was published in Budgie World Magazine. It has been re-written by Alan Bundy and certified as accurate by Steve Holland.

Budgie breeders have been dealing with a condition known as French Molt for quite some time. The disease, a virus more commonly known as Budgie Fledgling Disease or BFD is actually the Polyomavirus. It is recognized during the breeding season as the young chicks are about to leave the nest. Chicks can loose wing and tail feathers, and in severe cases loss of all feathers leaving only the down. The virus is know to appear from 8 to 30 days of age.

French Molt known as the Polyomavirus otherwise known as Budgerigar Fledgling disease or BFD has been with the Budgerigar community for a long time. It is recognized early, as the fledglings are about to leave the nest. The BFD virus appears usually between 8 and 30 days, and can result in loosing a few feathers to in severe cases all of its feathers leaving only the down. German scientists Lehn and Muller isolated the actual virus BFD. The virus attack was captured on film. The merge of the virus through the feather cell wall and the modification of the DNA were observed. Infected at this point the cell starts the onset of the active viral disease. White blood cells attack non-normal cells or the virus and attempt to kill it. White blood cells prevail and at this point generate antibodies, which prevent any further infraction to the virus of the budgie. In severe cases if white cells lose the fight, the budgie will die.

The Polyomavirus is attracted to hot spots on budgies, these hot spots are enriched with blood and nutrients where major growth areas begin. The long tail feathers are the hottest spots on a young budgie. The quill is inflamed by the attack of the virus and causes swelling. The blood supply is cut off by the white blood cells causing the quill to rupture at the feather shaft where the remaining

blood begins to dry. At this point the swelling changes the shape of the feather shaft to a shorter blunt end.

Only budgie chicks experience this type of response to the BFD virus. Exposure appears between 8 and 30 days. It is possible for an adult bird to contract the virus however there appears to be no resulting damage. An adult can contract the virus however it does generate antibodies to the virus.

Additional strains of the BFD virus have been discovered in recent years in German labs that are significantly different from the initial BFD and are known as BFD1 and BFD2 etc. BFD1 causes death in many cases. This strain can mutate very easily and each Aviary can develop a slightly different strain of the virus as stated above. Each Aviary then establishes its own antibodies for the particular virus contracted. When the antibodies exist there will be no outbreaks of the BFD disease. This usually takes 2 years to resist.

Outbreaks can occur when a new bird with the BFD disease is introduced to the flock and can infect a new strain that then starts the infection/antibody process again. The result is a new set of antibodies that are re-enacted again.

In conclusion we have learned that BFD is an infant disease. It can be managed, providing new birds are not introduced into the Aviary while breeding. It is possible to breed BFD chicks which do not carry the virus but instead have developed an antibody to the disease. Each aviary has a different period in developing antibodies that can take approximately 2 years.

D3. Birds then consume the D3 through their mouths while preening. So the antibodies and the calcium that chicks crave for disease resistance and skeletal growth, that need to be deposited in the egg, come from Vitamin D3. Give your birds all the sunlight that they can get – direct sunlight, not light that has passed through glass, clear fibreglass or clear plastic. Once sunlight passes through any clear material, the UVB light is always missing. It is the UVB component that produces Vitamin D3. I also use a Vitamin D3 supplement: Soluvite D Breeder to be on the safe side.

Weight is a huge factor in fertility (as is Vitamin D3). Fat hens and cocks have fat deposits inside their bodies around their ovaries and testes which drastically reduce their fertility. So, prior to your breeding season go through an austerity diet to trim your birds down. Feed only seed, water and a D3 supplement. No oats or any other fattening food. Exercise is also essential to remove fat inside the body that you may fail to notice.

Do I make you randy? This is a critical issue for fertility. Daniel Lutolf mates his birds up if he notices them in love with each other in the aviary. This is very smart. Look for birds that are often together, where the cock feeds her, where they serenade each other and hopefully where they mate in the aviary. Better to have 6 quiet good babies than a perfect pair that produces no babies.

The history of your hens is critical. Each year, check the production record for your hen, the previous year. Don't re-pair these hens till they are randy and look superb if their previous year involved lots of eggs and babies.

### **Fostering**

We all need to foster chicks and it usually

works quiet well. If a hen has two chicks, two or three foster chicks on top of her basic two should be okay. But keep an eye on her and the chicks. If they look a bit haggard, reduce the number in the nest. From the above research, it's clear that fostering is not quite as good an idea as we once thought. So if you can avoid it, do so. Perhaps using culls as fosters is a good idea; just throw away their eggs and replace them with eggs from quality birds.

If you foster because some of your hens feather pluck, try to stop the plucking. Keeping the hen busy and well fed is a good start. Peter Dodd suggested to me that I put a lump of cuttlefish bone or some white millet sprays in the box. These sometimes do work. He also suggested using Nivea hand lotion on the plucked areas of the bird. This too can work. Sometimes I put in a piece of soft wood for the hen to chew on.

### **Parental Feeding**

From the above research, some parents have been shown to be really strong feeders, others less so. Some chicks demand more food and may get it, but beyond a certain point, all the effort of asking for more food uses up too much energy. Usually a balance is struck. I suggest that you feed the parents lots of things that make them want to eat; slices of corn on the cob, carrot, silverbeet (especially the stems), endive, beetroot, seeding grasses, chickweed, tree Lucerne, amaranth, etc. Anything that contains carotenoids is good; carrots, chillies, red capsicums, ornamental chard (ie. Coloured silverbeet) etc.

Research Reference: Article by Hinde, Johnson & Kilner in the magazine Science.

# VOORBEREIDING VAN BUDGERIGARS

(vir Nuwelinge tot die Stokperdjie)

deur Chris Oberholzer

Die eerste kampioenskapskou van die jaar vind gewoonlik gedurende April plaas. Ek werk van hierdie datum af terug om uit te kom by die tyd wanneer ek begin om vir die skouseisoen voor te berei.

Stertvere neem ongeveer ses tot agt weke om te groei en vlerkvere ongeveer 'n week minder. Ek trek dus die stertvere en gebrekte vlerkvere van my skouspan uit deur gebruik te maak van die bogenoemde periodes as 'n maatstaf maar laat 'n bietjie ekstra tyd toe om veilig te wees. Dit is belangrik, veral in die geval van jong voëls, om seker te maak dat die vere wat uitgetrek word nie nuwes is wat nog besig is om te groei nie. Indien die slagpen enige tekens van bloed toon, moet dit nie uitgetrek word nie. Om so'n jong veer uit te trek is om die gevaar te loop dat sodanige veer nooit weer sal groei nie en dat 'n goeie budgerigar geruïneerd sal wees vir die skoubank.

## Van Vlughokke tot Voorbereidingshokke

Die moderne budgerigar het benewens die gewone vere ook baie donsvere en het baie voedingsstowwe nodig om dit en die res van die voël self sterk en gesond te hou. My voëls kry normaalweg benewens die gewone saadmengsel ook nog geweekte afgedopte hawer (groats) en voorafbereide sagtekos. Ek hou so ongeveer twee maande voor die eerste skou op om vir die skouspan sagtekos te voer.



So ongeveer drie tot vier weke voor die eerste skou word die skouspan (verskillende ouderdomme en mannetjies en wyfies apart) in voorbereidingshokke geplaas. Dit help om die "pecking order" uit te sorteer. Leë broeihokke kan ook as voorbereidingshokke gebruik word. Terwyl hulle in die voorbereidingshokke is, word die skouspan die gewone saadmengsel en geweekte afgedopte hawer gevoer. Dit is baie belangrik om elke dag skoon vars water te voorsien. Indien ek merk dat enige van die voëls teveel afgedopte hawer vreet en teveel gewig optel, word hulle in 'n ander hok geplaas en nie die hawer gevoer nie.

Iets waarvan ek seker maak is dat die sitstokke hoog genoeg van die vloer af is om te voorkom dat die voëls wat op die vloer is die sterte van die ander op die stokke kan byt of kou.

## Afrigting

Vanaf so ongeveer twee weke voor die eerste skou word die voëls wat nog nie voorheen geskou was nie al om die ander dag vir 'n dag lank twee-twee in skouhokke geplaas en die hokke word

exhaled and in turn inhaled by others.

People who care for birds may inadvertently transmit the virus through their own breathing actions, as well as by contact with the dust on clothing and debris on shoes.

#### **What is the cure?**

There is no known cure but a vaccine is available, not readily, in Canada and it can be costly. Baby birds can be vaccinated at 5 weeks of age with a booster 2 to 3 weeks later. If there is an outbreak in your aviary all birds should be vaccinated annually.

#### **What can we do to prevent it?**

For the health of the rest of our flock, all new birds, no matter what the source, should be quarantined and vet checked before introduction to your own collection. There are several schools of thought as to how long the quarantine should last. Recommendations range from 30 to 90 days.

Nursery management is a very important factor, how babies are fed, using the same tools for hand feeding instead of fresh ones for each clutch, not mixing species together, keep species separate.

When you are visiting another aviary, follow a set of rules. Change clothes before and after the visit so that you do not inadvertently bring something in on your clothing or shoes. Do not handle the birds unless you are invited to and disinfect your hands before and after.

The source of an infection of APV into an aviary is almost impossible to identify. Birds taken on visits or to public displays can contract the virus simply by being close to an infected bird or its caregiver. Virus particles can also be passed on in dust on books or other aviary equipment moved from an infected aviary to an unaffected one it can be spread from second-hand cages, nest boxes, used seed cups, etc., which are not thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before coming into a home or aviary with birds.

APV can rapidly spread once established in

an aviary. Particles can evaporate into the air from feces as they dry, can spread through air flow, disturbance of even the smallest amount of dust and physical contact of caregivers.

APV particles are very resistant in the environment. They can survive in extreme heat and can contaminate an environment for an extended period of time. There is no information as to just how long. Polyoma is also very resistant to many disinfectants, however, chlorine bleach is thought to be effective, as well as sodium hypochlorite.

Closed aviaries are encouraged for people who wish to breed birds, in order to avoid infections. Any new birds entering the aviary should be tested for Polyoma and other diseases while in quarantine, and no visitors should be permitted into the aviary. A bird, which is shedding APV, can be kept as a pet, but only in a situation where it does not expose other birds, particularly neonates, to the virus. Veterinarians do not recommend keeping infected birds as pets in a home or aviary where breeding is taking place, even if they are in a separate room and if a bird is identified as having APV.

Any chicks that die in the nest for no apparent reason should be taken, within 24 hours or sooner, to an avian pathologist for necropsy. Fresh samples are necessary to identify the virus. Live birds can be tested for APV by an avian veterinarian, however, the testing is not cheap as samples must be sent to the U. S. A. for analysis. The best defense is prevention. Education about this infection is the first line of defense in protecting our feathered friends.

In closing, Polyoma is out there, yes, it can have devastating effects but it can also be managed. We can all start by examining our own practices and following the hygiene guidelines so many people believe are only for those "big bird owners". We can cut down the incidence of this virus by how we manage our own aviaries.

# Avian Polyoma Virus

Compiled by D. C. Rahm (Based on information from the Ottawa Psittacine, May 1996)

Most bird owners are unaware of the devastating impact this viral infection can have or the simple precautions that can be taken to prevent an outbreak. The birds that we need to worry about most with this disease are young Psittacines between 2 weeks and 5 months of age. Birds that are infected during this time will die, most commonly at weaning. If infected later they will not show any signs, but may become carriers. Carriers are dangerous because they don't look sick, are difficult to test for unless they are shedding the virus at the time, but may shed the virus when there are babies around and hence kill them.

A bird infected with Polyoma virus can show no symptoms, appear completely healthy in all respects and may not shed the virus until placed in a situation involving stress. (Such stresses may include bleeding, undersized cages, being placed in too close proximity to birds of different species, etc.)

## **What is Avian Polyoma Virus?**

Avian Polyoma Virus (APV) was first discovered in 1981 in budgies and was called Budgerigar Fledgling disease. It is a virus in the Polyoma family a group of very small, unencapsulated viruses. (Viruses are small infectious proteins, which need living cells to reproduce.)

## **What species does it attack?**

Fortunately, Polyoma Virus does not affect humans, however, it is devastating to bird populations and appears to threaten a wide variety of birds including: Macaws, Amazons, Conures, White Billed Caiques, Parrotlets, African Greys, Lovebirds, Ring Necked Parakeets, Eclectus, Scarlet Chested Parrots' Bourke's Parrots, Cockatoos, Cockatiels, Budgerigars and Finches.

## **What does it do and what are the symptoms?**

APV targets just about every system, and can be seen in many of the organ systems. As the vital organs fail, the body is unable to process food, crop stasis occurs and the bird dies from dehydration even though the crop is full. Sometimes

subcutaneous haemorrhaging (bleeding under the skin) occurs and other infections may have set in. Adults may experience weight loss, recurrent bacterial and fungal infections and poor feather formation. They may appear to recover but die months later from renal failure.

If birds infected with APV are bred, nesting and laying can appear normal. Chicks sometimes die in the shell or hatch in a very weak state only to die within hours. Other chicks may hatch just fine and appear to be thriving for as long as 15 days, however, due to a weakening of the vital organs and the immune system, the body cannot support its own growth and the chicks die acutely, within hours with full crops. As the vital organs fail the body is unable to process food, crop stasis occurs and the chick dies of dehydration although the crop is full.

Some chicks live longer but fail to thrive. They may have poor muscle tone, swollen abdomens, be unable to fly and never learn to feed themselves. Still others may seem completely normal, other than being slow to grow and feather out. These chicks learn to fly and eat on their own and appear completely normal, but they may be carriers of the virus and go on to infect others and their offspring.

## **How do birds get APV?**

Affected birds may shed the virus intermittently. Parents may infect offspring through vertical transmission into the egg before laying, regurgitation of food, via exfoliated crop cells. Fostered eggs and chicks can pass the virus on to new parents. The virus can be shed in feather dust and transmitted though breathing the air near an infected pair. Studies suggest that the virus could be shed from all bodily functions, reproductive, gastrointestinal and renal functions, so the virus may appear in feces, urine, eggs and sperm. The virus may also be

# VIR DIE SKOU

dan so geplaas dat alle beweging van myself reg voor hulle plaasvind. Elke nou-en-dan gebruik ek ook 'n beoordelaarsstok om hulle op die sitstokke te laat sit. Indien ek vind dat 'n voël nie geredelik op die stok wil gaan sit nie, draai ek die hok onderstebo. Die voël sal dan afgly op die skuins gedeelte van die bokant van die hok. Hulle hou nie hiervan nie en klim dan op die stok.

Op hierdie manier leer hulle gou om op die stok te gaan sit.

## Skouhokke

Moennie wag tot aan die einde van die teelseisoen, of nog erger, tot die begin van die skouseisoen, om jou skouhokke na te gaan en op te knap nie. Maak seker dat die hokke aan die spesifikasies, soos deur die BVSA bepaal, voldoen, dat hulle heel is en dat die sitstokke stewig vas en op die regte hoogte is. Dit is ook 'n goeie beginsel om die hokke elke twee of drie jaar van 'n nuwe laag verf te voorsien. Die vertoner kan sy/haar potensieële weners geen groter onreg aandoen as om hulle in hokke te vertoon wat nie aan die spesifikasies voldoen en wat vuil is nie. Dit kan 'n wenner van sy regmatige prestasie ontnem.

## Voor die Skou

Vandat hulle in die voorbereidingshokke geplaas is, bespuit ek my skouspan elke dag liggies met warm water met 'n bietjie babasjampoe daarin. Ek gebruik warm water want sodra die water deur die spuitmeganisme is, is dit afgekoel en net loutwarm wanneer dit die voëls tref. Dit voorkom verkilling wat baie gevaarlik kan wees. Ek staak die bespuiting drie dae voor die skou om tyd toe te laat vir die voël om homself op te tooi en glad te stryk en sy natuurlike glans te verkry.

Vier dae voor die skou pluk ek die oormatige keelkolle met 'n haartangetjie. Indien 'n voël regtig baie te veel kolle het, probeer ek nie om alles op een slag te verwyder nie maar doen dit in stadiums om die vere eers weer 'n kans te gee om te gaan lê want die regte kolle kan so maklik verwyder word indien jy te haastig is en nie versigtig is nie.

Indien daar bloed aan 'n voël se vere vassit, los ek 'n bietjie sout in lou water op en was die bloed met 'n tandeborsel af. Ek is altyd versigtig om nie van die soutwater in die voël se oë te laat kom nie deur die vere weg van die oë af te borsel. Sodra die bloed met die soutwater afgewas is, gebruik ek babasjampoe om die voël mee af te spoel. Indien 'n voël so-te-sê reg is met nog net een of twee bloedpenne op die kop, wag ek tot die laaste minuut voordat ek dit versigtig met 'n haartangetjie verwyder. Die lagie was wat nog aan die vere op die kop van die voël vassit word verwyder deur die kop met 'n stukkie ystersaaglem te kam. Stertvere en vlerkvere wat geknak is word herstel deur dit versigtig in kookwater te doop vir 'n paar sekondes. Hiermee gaan ek versigtig tewerk en maak seker dat die pote nie ook in die kookwater beland nie.

As al die voorafgaande nagekom is voel ek ek het my deel gedoen en dat dit dan die voëls se beurt is om hulle slag te toon.

Photo: Best Bird on Show Gauteng 2010 Molkentin Stud

# Keep those cage birds happy and healthy –

Since its inception in 1988, Medpet has been a world leader in the research, development and production of premium, avian health products.

The Medpet range of avian and pigeon products is extensive, covering all the aspects of avian health care, including cage birds (not just racing pigeons).

Take a look at these tips for tackling typical diseases...

## Ecto-parasites (mites and lice)

**Avian Insect Liquidator** is exceptionally safe and also inhibits the insects' life cycle by preventing eggs from hatching and larvae and pupae from developing further. Spray directly on birds as well as in the aviaries and in nest boxes (before eggs are laid). May also be used to spray around the aviaries to prevent ants and other insects from passing on Tapeworm to birds. Also useful during Pox outbreaks to control mosquitoes.

## Scaly Face (Knemidocoptes) and Tracheal mites

Scaly Face Mites and Tracheal Mites affect budgies and canaries respectively. In the past these were very difficult conditions to treat. Now it is as easy as placing a few drops of **Scatt** behind the birds' head on the skin of the neck. Treatment is repeated every 10 – 14 days until symptoms disappear.

## Internal parasites (verminosis)

Worms are a common cause of disease, emaciation and poor fertility. **Mediworm Powder** is a true broad-spectrum avian dewormer. It contains Pyrantel and Praziquantel in a special, easy to mix base. It may be mixed into the birds food or crop

dosed. Mediworm powder is exceptionally safe and may be used in all avian species, even water birds and chickens and may even be used during the breeding season. Unlike most other dewormers it has no effect on feather growth and may also be used during the molt.

## Trichomoniasis (Crop canker)

Trichomonas is a protozoon infection causing an ingluvites of the crop and is mostly seen in Budgies and Lorikeets.

**Medizole** is a high potency Ronidazole specifically registered for use in pigeons and cage birds. It may also be used in the treatment of Giardia and Hexamita infections. Medpet has also pioneered



**Ronsec** tablets – the first of their kind in the world: combination tablets (Ronidazole and Secnidazole) in a slow release base that are effective against hyper-resistant strains of Trichomonas in pigeons.



## Coccidiosis

Coccidiosis is a commonly found carrier disease that reduces the birds' resistance and fertility. Alternating the use of **Medicox powder** and **Coximed tablets** ensures optimal efficacy and reduces resistance to drugs.

# Top Treatment Tips

## Salmonella and other intestinal infections

Diarrhoea, acute deaths, infertility, early chicks mortality and poor health in general may all be due to a low grade Salmonella or E.coli infection.

**Mediprim**, the high potency Trimethoprim powder is the ideal, safe and effective treatment for gastrointestinal bacteria and may safely be used during the breeding season.



**Entero-Plus** is an avian specific probiotic with an avian strain of beneficial bacteria.



## Chlamydia

Chlamydia is extremely common as a carrier disease in birds. It is imperative to treat preventatively twice a year with **Doxybiotic**.

When treating ill birds **Psittavet Injectable** is advised.

If using **Doxybiotic** use 5 grams per litre of drinking water and 5 grams per kg of soft food for 45 days, always combining with **Entero-Plus**, the avian specific strain probiotic.

Single cage birds may be treated with **Doxybiotic-S**, specifically formulated to treat single cage birds.

## Mycoplasma

Mycoplasma is one of the primary causes of upper respiratory disease in canaries and Ghouldians. Mycoplasma may also be transmitted via the egg and cause infertility or early death of chicks in the egg or in the nest. The unique combination of antimicrobials in **Longstim** will prevent this.

## Vitamin and mineral deficiencies

**Premolt 5** is uniquely formulated, as a total supplement for single cage birds. It contains vitamins, mineral, trace elements and amino-acids.

Premolt 5 is also indicated for birds that show a tendency for **feather plucking**. African Grey's tend to develop a calcium deficiency if fed only on seeds.

**Calcibird** is a calcium, Vit D3 and Magnesium specifically for birds that may be added to the bird's drinking water twice a week. It should also be used in all breeding birds three times a week.



The addition of **Plume-Plus** oil to birds' seed twice per week will supply essential fatty acids and improve plumage.