

# Deon Davie

Ring code : DEON



20-DEON-10



15-DEON-11



52-DEON-10

Breeds most colours

8 Registered Champion Birds

Challenge Certificates won in 17 colours

E-mail : [deon@donlan.co.za](mailto:deon@donlan.co.za)

Cell : 082 3777 686

## INVITATION :

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18-DEON-11



6-DEON-11



71-DEON-10

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The South African

# Budgerigar Bulletin

**The Budgerigar Society of South Africa**  
**Issue 26 - April 2011 – March 2012**



## 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**

2011 South African Champion – Best Bird on Show –  
Pierre & Maja – Grey Cock

# RECOGNITION

## They takes great pride helping fanciers

AND Won the National with a Spangle Grey Cinnamon and Best Any Age with a Yellowface Spangle.

This was never done before in South African history. They also registered the first Grand and Supreme Champion Birds in South Africa.

In 2010 they attended 3 shows and won all 3 including the National with a Cinnamon Yellowface Grey cock. They are the leading exhibitors with the most registered Champion birds.

They have a relatively small stud of about 250 to 300 birds. What is astonishing that they win with different birds and different variety of birds always doing extremely well at Rare and Spangle shows and actually any show they enter.

They were promoted to Champion status in 2001 and to Gold Medal status in 2007; skipping ribbons on 3 occasions. A feat Reinhardt Molkenntin achieved by skipping a ribbon once. That is an astonishing 2000 points in 6 years!!! That is on average 333 points per year. In 2011 they achieved yet another milestone never achieved by any

exhibitor in South Africa before, winning the National 3 years in a row.

Both Pierre and Maja are actively involved in the hobby apart from showing. For the past 10 years Pierre has been Club Chairman, and was the Secretary of the Club for 7 years before that.

Maja was Club Chairman for 2 years, before Pierre became Chairman. Maja then took over the Secretarial duties. Pierre & Maja are currently the Chairman and Secretary of the Judges Committee of the BSSA and Maja is currently serving on the BSSA Management Committee.

Shows held in Cradock are always outstanding, and their contribution to it cannot be under estimated. Notwithstanding all of these successes, they still have their feet firmly on the ground, and take great pride helping fanciers, who then became very successful. The best compliment that they can get is if an exhibitor does well on the show bench with birds bought from their aviary. It is their way of giving back to this wonderful hobby of ours.

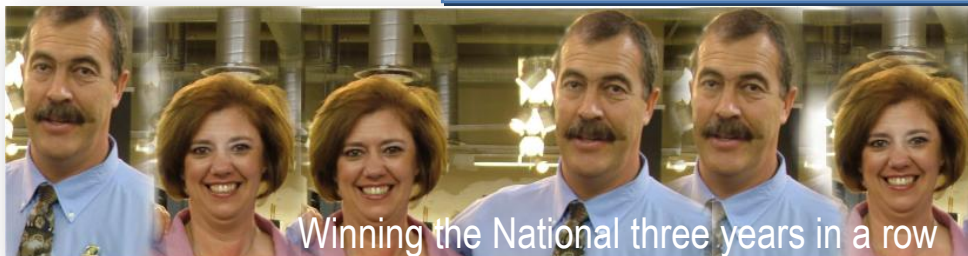
Well Done !!

## SHOW DATES 2012

<b>Show</b>	<b>Date</b>
Western Cape Rare & Spangle	10 March 2012
Free State Championship	14 April 2012
Western Cape Championship	5 May 2012
KwaZulu-Natal Championship	19 May 2012
Gauteng Area Championship	2 June 2012
Eastern Cape Championship	23 June 2012
National Championship Show	25/26 August 2012

# REPETITION EQUALS

By Deon Davie



Winning the National three years in a row

The title of this article or rather profile could also have been repetition deserves recognition. The profile is on Pierre & Maja Swart. I met them for the first time in Stilfontein in the North West province at the Free State Provincial Show in 1995. At this stage they were not exhibiting as a partnership, but competing separately. No comment on who beat who at the time.

If I said they were eager it would be an understatement. One other member made the statement that he was of the opinion that they would be very competitive in the future. Again an understatement.

But I also know that Pierre and Maja travelled to many shows in the early years, not doing well and sometime returned home without even winning a first. Very hard today thinking of them not winning anything.

They formed their partnership today known as Pierre & Maja with ring code PALM derived from their names and those of their two sons Arno and Louis. They won section major awards as Novices and as Intermediates.

To me the turning point for them came at the 1999 National when they won Best Intermediate with a Mauve cock. What made this win so special for them was that they beat the Intermediates dominating the Intermediate scene at that time, and also the achievement to win this award with a Mauve.

In 2000 they won their first BIS at an area championship show, with an Opaline Grey Green cock. At that stage most people did not expect them to repeat this.

They were promoted to Champion in 2001, and were very competitive winning shows and a variety of Challenge Certificates during the year.

At the Free State Provincial show the next year, they made a clean sweep winning all the major awards. All the big names at that time were present. I can clearly remember Pierre not sleeping at all the night before the show with anticipation.

Apart from winning BIS at a number of areas

shows the following years their partnership is always in the major awards at the Nationals:

2003 National Best Opp Sex with Texas Clearbody hen

2004 National Best Opp Sex with a Cobalt hen

2005 Pierre Judged the National

2006 Best Any Age on the National with a young Grey Pied cock.

2007 National - won Best on Show and Best Opp Sex With Yellowface Spangles

2008 National - Best Any Age on Show, again with a Grey Dominant Pied

2009 WHAT A YEAR!! Attended all 6 major shows in South Africa and won all six with 3 different birds.



## *Message from the Chairman*

There has been a bit of an upheaval within the management Council, with resignation of Casper as the Chairman. The MC decided by Majority vote that I would take the Chair until the next AGM. This complies with the constitution.

It is not a task I sought for but I will do my best for the hobby along with the other member of the council. I have always believed that the hobby belongs to us all and not the MC. The MC are custodians of the constitution and the welfare of the hobby. Although I believe the hobby belongs to one and all there still needs to be rules and lines of communication to follow. One of those rules refers to complaints/compliments etc that come via the club secretary in the proper way. That does not restrict any of you contacting me direct.

These are trying times for all, with the cost of everything rising, from seed to equipment, not to mention the price of birds and added to that the petrol price restricting movement and so I believe now is the time for us to look backwards. I shall explain my thoughts, in the not so distant past; the main event of the show was before and after the Judging. The get together were what folk lores were made from. Time was spent with each other, renewing friendships and making new ones, all of which are an important part of the hobby. Thursday benching with a Braai or snacks after, but we were together. Friday judging and everyone stayed to help. It was not as fast as these days but it did not matter. Friday evenings' Prize giving, took many forms mostly buffet but always, I mean always a bar. I never remember anyone

abusing this or being out of order, just good clean fun.

Today in our fast electronic age we seem to have forgotten the good times, now it is all rush, rush. The National of this year was a great event well organised and enjoyable but spoilt by the need to rush things. Some even de-benched on the Saturday making it, in effect, a one day show. This did not allow the members to mingle and talk about the birds. The only disappointment for me was no bar, this made for a dry evening for many and as soon as the prize giving was done, people left again. No camaraderie (considering I don't drink it was a very obvious omission).

In the past members travelled together, shared costs and talked birds, the last show we had with over 2000 birds was held in Vereeniging. Not exactly the centre of the country but people came from all over. Those who could not come sent birds. The best show I ever attended was in Kathu 1992. David Kruger and his team put on a show that is remembered by many, not only was it a great show but such camaraderie and friendship was to behold to believe.

So it has been done in the past why not now?

May I wish all of you well over the breeding season now upon us and hope that we can have good competition amongst us along with great friendship and respect for all.

**Malcolm A. Taylor** L.O.D.  
Chairman BSSA  
Cel: +2783 407 3583  
Tel: +2711 645 1617



# World Budgerigar Organisation



[www.world-budgerigar.org](http://www.world-budgerigar.org)

## **NOTICE BOARD - MARCH 2011**

The organisation held its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in the seaside resort of Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal on 29<sup>th</sup> October by invitation from Club SPO. Delegates from nine countries attended the meeting.

The WBO Chairman, Gerd Bleicher, thanked Club SPO for the wonderful hospitality received and for the wonderful array of gifts that Club SPO gave the delegates and their partners. This fantastic gesture from our Portuguese friends, the excellent hotel with sea view rooms, coupled with good weather and trips to Porto and Guimaraes, with visits to the Castle of the first King of Portugal (12th century) and the Bragança Dukes' Palace, which is a 15th century Palace, all set the scene for another successful meeting with full cooperation between delegates to achieve positive decisions. The Chairman also welcomed the delegates from Turkey who were attending for the first time and the delegates from Australia who were absent from meetings for many years.

The WBO Secretary, Ghalib Al-Nasser, informed the meeting that three more new societies have affiliated to the WBO during the year, namely Federacion Ornitologica Argentina (FOA), Turkey Canary & Cage Birds Federation (TKKKF) and Venezuela "Club De Canaticultores De Caracas" (CCC). This brought our strength to 38 affiliated societies from 28 countries spread over the 6 continents. A warm welcome was extended to the members in Argentina, Turkey & Venezuela.

The Secretary further informed the meeting of the result of the postal vote with regard to the proposed Rule Change re-Representation &

Voting (Rules 4 & 5) and the outcome was:

- **25 societies with a total vote of 40 were FOR the new proposed rule (91% of the votes cast)**
- **2 societies with a total vote of 4 were AGAINST the new proposed rule (9% of the votes cast)**
- **8 societies with 16 votes did not cast their vote**

As the proposal managed to attract the necessary 65% majority of the votes cast it became effective immediately.

The response from the questionnaire sent to member organisations asking about details of their Judges Training Scheme resulted in a response from 11 societies only.

The meeting approved the recommendation from the WBO Standards Committee who met in June to recognise the new variety, the **Anthracite**, and the written Colour Standard for that variety as well as minor changes to the wording in some varieties.

### **The Gould Award**

The WBO has created its own prestigious award called **The Gould Award** to commence from 2011 and to be awarded for **Meritorious Services to the World of Budgerigars**. The criteria for such an award to be as follows:

- The award to be presented to a person who is still alive or who died within 12 months of nomination.

# CENTRAL VET

TRINITY VILLAGE



## Stockists of bulk seed:

Canary, white millet, red millet, jap millet and mixed bird seed.

Candling torches, feeders, soft food, imported drinkers and OTC medicines available.

Dog and cat food such as Royal Canin, Eukanuba and Hills.



Trinity Village Shopping Centre  
Knoppiesdoring Street (Just off Beyers Naude)  
Randpark Ridge  
Tel: 011 795 3351  
Ian Bleasdale | [ian.budgie@gmail.com](mailto:ian.budgie@gmail.com)



# National Show Results

The National Championship Show took place on 16 July 2011. There were 65 exhibitors who benched 1003 birds. Although the number of exhibitors was up by 6 there was a drop of 122 entries when compared to 2010. The 65 exhibitors were spread as follows; 29 Champion, 13 Intermediate and 23 Novice exhibitors who benched 414, 277 and 312 birds respectively.

The birds were judged by Deon Davie, Heino Artus and Reinhard Molquentin. They were supported by senior stewards Andre Kruger, Ivan van Niekerk and Otto Hein.

## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

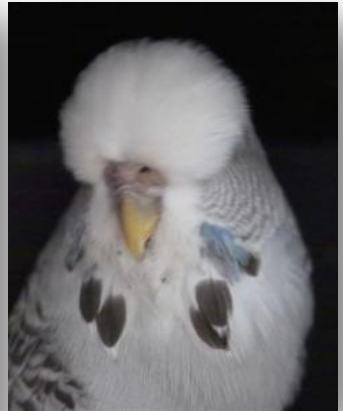
Best Bird on Show	Pierre & Maja	Grey Cock
Best Opposite Sex on Show	Pierre & Maja	Opaline Cinn Green Hen
Best Any Age on Show	Tommie Roodt	Cinnamon Blue Hen
Best Young Bird on Show	Pierre & Maja	Grey Cock
Best Champion on Show	Pierre & Maja	Grey Cock
Best Intermediate on Show	van Niekerk Broers	Cinnamon Blue Cock
Best Novice on Show	Chris & Annetjie Roodt	Spangle Green Cock



**Above Left:**  
Best Bird on Show – Grey Cock – Pierre & Maja



**Above Middle:**  
Best Opp Sex on Show – Opaline Cinn Green Hen – Pierre & Maja



**Above Right:**  
Best Any Age on Show – Cinn Blue Hen – Tommie Roodt



**Right:**  
Best Intermediate on Show – Cinn Blue Cock – Van Niekerk Broers

- A maximum of 1 award per year to be allocated.
- The Awards Committee to have the right not to award it in any year, regardless of nominations.
- Any member society can nominate only 1 person per year from any part of the world.
- Nominations will commence as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011.
- Closing date for nominations to be 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.
- Biographical notes of up to 200 words to accompany the nominations.
- All nominations to be sent to the Secretary.
- A Gould Medal and Certificate (both with the WBO logo and John Gould to appear in the design) to be awarded to the winner.
- The Gould Awards Committee to consist of one fancier from each of the 5 continents together with the Chairman & Secretary as ex-officio:

Some items of WBO news for fanciers all over the World to know about are:

### *Future Meetings*

The WBO is in a strong position in so far as future meetings till 2015 have already been planned with France in 2012, Italy in 2013, Turkey in 2014 and Great Britain in 2015.

### *Ring Specification, Colour Code and Sequence*

The current ring specification for the budgerigar and colour sequence as adopted by both the WBO and the World Organisation, the Confederation Ornithologique Mondiale (COM), is listed below:

<b>Minimum internal diameter</b>	<b>4.20 mm</b>
<b>Maximum internal diameter</b>	<b>4.40 mm</b>
<b>Wall thickness</b>	<b>0.60 – 0.90 mm</b>
<b>Ring height</b>	<b>3.85 – 4.00 mm</b>

<b>Colour</b>	<b>Pantone Code</b>	<b>RAL Code</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Violet</b>	<b>249 U</b>	<b>4008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Orange</b>	<b>1505 U</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Dark Blue</b>	<b>301 U</b>	<b>5019</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Red</b>	<b>1797 U</b>	<b>3002</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>2U2X</b>	<b>8005</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Pastel Green</b>	<b>344 U (closest)</b>	<b>6019</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2020</b>

Member societies are strongly reminded that, when ordering rings from any ring manufacturer, to specify the exact **WBO ring colour and the Pantone Code as well as the ring specification** to avoid any misunderstanding by ring manufacturers.

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# WBO – Notice Board

## Membership

The WBO currently is in a healthy position with Hungary (Magyarországi Diszmadárbarátok Pannónia Országos Szövetsége) joining in early 2011 enjoying a membership from 39 affiliated societies that are spread over 6 continents in 29 countries.

They are:

- **Asia:** Japan, Pakistan, Philippines
- **Australasia:** Australia, New Zealand
- **Africa:** South Africa
- **Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eire, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Slovensko, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom
- **North America:** Canada, United States of America
- **South America:** Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela

## International Judges Panel

A list of current judges who are on the WBO International Judges Panel is on the website and full addresses of each judge may be obtained from the Secretary. The conditions relating to admittance to the WBO Judges Panel are as follows:

- a. to be a current champion breeder and exhibitor of Budgerigars in their own country. Where a country/society has only “one” Status of Exhibitor, a breeder and exhibitor of long standing will be acceptable subject to “b” & “c” below.
- b. be a fully qualified judge for a minimum of **5 years** in their own country or in the country/society in which they qualified.

- c. apply in writing to their National Society (or the society in which they qualified) to be placed on the list. The National Society will then be responsible for checking their qualifications and, if eligible, for passing names, addresses and telephone numbers to the **WBO Secretary** for inclusion on the list.

The WBO recommend that member countries should consider inviting judges from overseas who are members of the WBO International Judges Panel, as approved by the WBO, to judge at shows that are under their jurisdiction. A full WBO International Judges List is available from the Secretary on request.

## Standardisation of Colours

The WBO has an A5 coloured card with the agreed **Budgerigar Colour Guide** depicting the 10 primary budgerigar colours using the Pantone Colour Codes. The cards used are of 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> card print. The colours are only there as a **guide** with the understanding that the colours for the grey and grey green are those for the light factor.

Should any society wish to purchase these cards in quantity they can do so at a cost of **€0.50** (euro) each + postage (minimum order is 10) from Gerd Bleicher at his home address: (Schramberger Str. 41, D-13467 Berlin, Germany. Tel: +49 30 40 44251, email: [gerd.bleicher@dsv-ev.de](mailto:gerd.bleicher@dsv-ev.de)).

## WBO Badge

At the 2010 meeting the WBO approved its own designed badge depicting the WBO logo of the Ideal Budgerigar superimposed on the world map. The cost to purchase this badge, from the secretary, is 3.00 GB pounds each, plus postage.

# Picture Report



The only three members who were present at the 50th anniversary of BSSA in Kimberley in 1986 and present again at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011 in Cradock. (L to R) Heino Artus, Ian Bleasdale and Malcolm Taylor



Best Bird at the JSBS Gauteng Additional held in February 2011 – Molkentin Stud



The National Show judges Reinhard Molkentin, Deon Davie and Heino Artus.



Deon Davie receives his awards for Best Rare on Show as well as Best Spangle on Show at the JSBS Rare & Spangle Variety Show held in August 2011

# 2011 Show Season



KwaZulu-Natal Best Opposite Sex on Show –  
Creigh Kenton



KwaZulu-Natal Best Intermediate on Show –  
Montrose Aviaries



KwaZulu-Natal Best Novice on Show  
– Keifer Stud



Gauteng Additional – Deon Davie receives  
his Best Bird certificate from Ian Nel



Best Any Age at the JSBS Gauteng Add  
held in February 2011 – Molkenin Stud



Gauteng Additional – Keifer Stud receives  
the award for Best Novice on Show

## WBO Rosettes

Each member country/society receives four WBO rosettes each year, as part of their affiliation, for **Best Any Age, Best Any Age Opposite Sex, Best Young Bird & Best Young Bird Opposite Sex in Show** to be awarded to four different birds at their national show. Names of winners and photos of the winning birds are then included on each year's Rosette Winners file. Please visit the website for current & previous winners.

## WBO World Show

The WBO is to investigate in depth the feasibility of staging its own World Show to coincide with one country's national show.

## WBO Executive Committee (E.C.)

An Executive Committee was created in 2004 to run the affairs of the WBO between Council meetings. The E.C. for 2011 consists of Chairman Gerd Bleicher (Germany), Secretary Ghalib Al-Nasser (U.K.), Vice-Chairman Carlos Ramôa (Portugal) and Immediate Past Chairman Roger Carr (U.K.).

## *WBO Publicity and the Website*

The WBO website is kept updated on a regular basis with many files of interest such as research articles, Pictorial Ideal, Colour Standards, Scale of Points, details of member organisations, ring specification etc. Photos of past WBO rosette winners around the World are also included on the website (click on each photo to enlarge it).

For further comments on any of the above items please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary and please keep visiting the WBO website for regular updates.

**Ghalib Al-Nasser**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
[al-nasser@cbb4u.co.uk](mailto:al-nasser@cbb4u.co.uk)

## Yellowface birds come in different flavours:

By Maja Swart

- A – Golden Face (sf)  
Golden Yellow extends over the entire body (deep & rich)
- B – Golden face (df)  
Golden Yellow confined to the head (deep & rich)
- C – Yellowface (sf) Mutant II  
Deep Yellow extends over the entire body (deeply)
- D – Yellowface (df) Mutant I  
Deep Yellow confined to head & tail
- E – Cream face (sf) Mutant I  
Yellowface – Gentle Cream  
Yellow confined to head
- F – Cream face (df)  
Pure blue bird – all blue progeny  
WILL BE cream face mutant I. All green progeny will be split for Cream face mutant I.

Any Green bird may be split for Goldenface (sf), Mutant II (sf) or Cream face (sf).

As Mutant I Yellowface (cream face) (df) appears as a blue and will produce all cream face young when paired with a blue bird.

No other blue bird can be split for any form of yellow face.

All yellow face birds are genetically YELLOW FACE rather than BLUE.

# The World Budgerigar Organisation

By Ghalib Al-Nasser, Secretary/Treasurer

The question is often asked “What are the aims of the **World Budgerigar Organisation (WBO)** and the benefits to its affiliated member countries?” I hope in this article that I can outline the aims, benefits and achievements of the WBO in its short history since its foundation in 1994.

The aims of the WBO are as laid down in its Constitution which can be found on its website ([www.world-budgerigar.org](http://www.world-budgerigar.org)) and can be summarised as:

- (i) To bring together representatives of member countries.
- (ii) To serve as a unified international **advisory** organisation in promoting common standards for the budgerigar fancy throughout the world.
- (iii) To support and encourage the free movement of budgerigar breeders and budgerigars across international borders in order to improve the breeding, exhibiting and judging of budgerigars.
- (iv) To assist in the protection of the interests of members of the organisation.
- (v) To assist in the progress of scientific knowledge by the accumulation of data and literature and the distribution thereof amongst members of the organisation.
- (vi) To reward any work of outstanding merit with prizes or other marks of recognition.

To highlight the benefits of the WBO I need to give a comprehensive history and background to the formation of the WBO.

## BACKGROUND

Initially it was the Budgerigar Society (B.S.) of Great Britain that played the major part in the formation of the World Budgerigar Organisation (WBO). It was as early as 1975, at the B.S. Convention in Harrogate, when the International guests asked the B.S. to take the lead in forming an international organisation; again in 1985 at the B.S. Convention the then B.S. Chairman, Arthur Bracey, mooted the idea of an international organisation.

However, the seed was finally sown at the 1990 B.S. Convention when, at the International session represented by Gerd Bleicher (Germany), Dave Marquart (Canada), Joe Sabella (USA), and the late Borg Stenstrup (Denmark), the B.S. was asked to take the lead in forming a World Association for the exchange of opinions, ideas, and ultimately, standards. This desire was based on the need for closer co-operation between countries due to the greater movement of birds and exchange of judges.

Overseas fanciers generally looked to the B.S. for a lead due to the fact that the B.S. has been established since 1925. This was answered when the General Council of the B.S. agreed to set up meetings of international representatives. As Chairman of the B.S. at the time, Roger Carr asked a fellow councillor, Geoff Bostock, to organise the first International Delegates Meeting. This was held in November 1992 in Doncaster, England, to coincide with the B.S. Club Show. Delegates from 15 countries attended and it was agreed that the International Organisation would be formed and would operate in an **Advisory Role** so that the integrity and independence of each member society would remain unharmed. The B.S. sponsored this meeting and paid the participants a part of their travelling costs.

Objectives, aims and priorities were set with issues such as the Ideal Budgerigar, Colour Standards, Show Cage, Research, Ring Colours, Structure of the Organisation, International Judges Panel, Judges Training, Anti Bird Keeping Lobby and many others were discussed and carried forward to the next meeting. This was arranged for November 1993 at Doncaster, again to coincide with the B.S. Club Show. It was agreed that the **official language** would be **English**.

At the second meeting in November 1993, delegates from 14 countries attended and the items discussed at the first meeting were again discussed and received backing from the organisations that the delegates represented.

At that meeting the historical decision was

# Kwazulu-Natal Show Results

The Kwazulu-Natal Championship Show took place on 21 May 2011. There were 21 exhibitors who benched 271 birds. The 21 exhibitors were spread as follows; 11 Champion, 3 Intermediate and 7 Novice exhibitors who benched 151, 61 and 59 birds respectively.

The birds were judged by Lionel Sydenham and Tom Lynch. They were supported by senior stewards Creigh Kenton and Ian Bleasdale.

## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

Best Bird on Show	Deon Davie	Grey Cock
Best Opposite Sex on Show	Creigh Kenton	Grey Hen
Best Any Age on Show	Ian Bleasdale	Grey Cock
Best Young Bird on Show	Deon Davie	Grey Cock
Best Champion on Show	Deon Davie	Grey Cock
Best Intermediate on Show	Montrose Aviaries	Light Green Cock
Best Novice on Show	Kiefer Stud	Spangle Green Cock



### Above Left:

Best Bird on Show – Grey Cock –  
Deon Davie

### Above Middle:

Best Opp Sex on Show – Grey Hen –  
Creigh Kenton

### Above Right:

Best Any Age on Show – Grey Cock –  
Ian Bleasdale

### Right and Far Right:

Best Intermediate – Montrose Aviaries  
Best Novice on Show – Kiefer Stud





# Eastern Cape Show Results

The Eastern Cape Championship Show took place on 2 April 2011. There were 33 exhibitors who benched 613 birds. This was a drop of 142 entries when compared to 2010. The 33 exhibitors were spread as follows; 180 Champion, 6 Intermediate and 9 Novice exhibitors who benched 281, 190 and 142 birds respectively.

The birds were judged by Arthur Windell and Malcolm Taylor. They were supported by senior stewards Ivan van Niekerk and Johan van der Merwe.

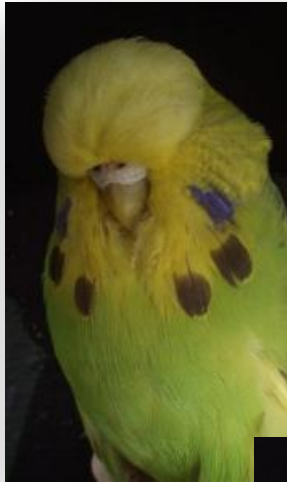
## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

Best Bird on Show	Pierre & Maja	Grey Cock
Best Opposite Sex on Show	Pierre & Maja	Opaline Cinn Green Hen
Best Any Age on Show	Pierre & Maja	Grey Cock
Best Young Bird on Show	Pierre & Maja	Opaline Cinn Green Hen
Best Champion on Show	Pierre & Maja	Grey Cock
Best Intermediate on Show	Piet van den Berg	Spangle Green Cock
Best Novice on Show	Chris & Annetjie Roodt	Dominant Pied Cock



### Above Left:

Eastern Cape Best Bird on Show – Grey Cock – Pierre & Maja



### Above Middle:

Eastern Cape Best Opposite Sex on Show – Opaline Cinn Green Hen – Pierre & Maja



### Above Right:

Best Intermediate on Show – Spangle Green Cock – Piet van den Berg

### Right:

Eastern Cape Best Novice on Show – Dominant Pied Cock – Chris & Annetjie Roodt



taken that resulted in the formation of the World Budgerigar Organisation (WBO) with effect from **1st April 1994**. A draft constitution was agreed upon with voting powers depending on the size of the society. Roger Carr was elected Chairman and Geoff Bostock Secretary/Treasurer. The first official meeting of the WBO was organised in August 1994 at Karlsruhe, Germany to coincide with the European Championship Show. At the start of the WBO in 1994 there were 19 member countries that affiliated to the WBO. In April 1997 Ghalib Al-Nasser took over the role of Secretary/Treasurer and after 12 years in office Roger Carr retired from the position of Chairman and in April 2006 Gerd Bleicher (Germany) took over that post. Very few changes in officials since the formation indicate the stability of the organisation.

entitled to have 2 delegates to attend meetings who are the contact with that country/society as well as the secretary of that national society.

The WBO meets once a year either in mainland Europe or Great Britain. However, in 2005 the meeting was held in the USA (Las Vegas) and in 2011 the meeting was held in Australia (Canberra). This is to demonstrate that the organisation is truly international. The decision where meetings are held is taken by the delegates at their annual meetings.

It was agreed from the outset that all decisions taken by the General Council of the WBO would have to be ratified by member countries prior to them becoming official WBO policy. Each action taken by the delegates at a meeting will have to go back to each individual country/society for debate by their committees and will be brought back again at the following meeting. This ensures that every action taken is fully endorsed by societies and not by their delegates only. After all, the delegates only act as ambassadors for their countries, just like the United Nations.

It was also envisaged that not all decisions reached by the WBO could be adopted by member countries. However, for an organisation in its infancy, the progress has been much greater than ever envisaged when considering an international body which meets, at most, once a year and considering all the difficulties of different languages and the time taken for interpretation during the meeting.

The friendship and agreement between the delegates has been nothing short of astonishing and co-operation between member countries continues to flourish because of the will of delegates and their countries for the international organisation to succeed.

One of the most important achievement is working closely with the world legislative mixed variety organisation, **Confederation Ornithologique Mondiale (COM)**, who has



**Left to Right:**  
**“WBO Executive Committee”**  
 Roger Carr (U.K. – Immediate Past Chairman),  
 Ghalib Al-Nasser (U.K. – Secretary/Treasurer),  
 Gerd Bleicher (Germany – Chairman),  
 Carlos Ramôa (Portugal – Vice Chairman)

Now, in 2011 there are **40** national societies representing **30** countries in the 6 continents that are affiliated to the WBO. They are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eire, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Slovensko, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA and Venezuela. Each society is

# The World Budgerigar Organisation, continued from page 9

fully adopted our Colour Standards, Pictorial Ideal & Ring Colour Sequence in 2009. This was only achieved by the close liaison of certain delegates and officials who work within both organisations. The COM World Show staged each year in a different country towards the end of January attracts an entry exceeding 20,000 birds of all types.

Some of the WBO achievements so far can be summarised as follows:

- Formulated a Constitution
- Formulated a 40-page Colour Standards for all world-wide recognised varieties
- Issued a Scale of Points for Budgerigars
- Issued Guidelines for Judges and Exhibitors
- Formulated the Standard of Perfection for Budgerigars
- Published the International WBO Pictorial Ideal in 2008
- Formulated an International Judges Panel
- Developed an International Show Cage with technical drawings and specifications
- Issue four rosettes every year for National shows to each member country/society
- Formulated an international Ring Colour Sequence and Specification
- Formulated a Colour Guide for Rings and Budgerigars using the Pantone Colour Codes
- Obtain and circulate Research articles from International Avian Vets & Scientists to member countries
- Created the **WBO Gould Award** commencing in 2011 to be awarded for **Meritorious Services to the World of Budgerigars**

At each meeting of the WBO there is a wonderful exchange of ideas whereby best practice, judging methods, how to become a judge, problem areas, ideas that are successful in other countries are discussed

for member countries to pick up and implement if they so wish.

To run an organisation like the WBO it is understandable that the matter of costs has to be discussed. So the basics of financial regulations are laid down in the WBO rules. To understand the base of finances see the following part from the WBO Constitution.

Part of the WBO Constitution:

## FINANCES

- Each member of the Organisation will be responsible for the expenses of its delegates.
- The Organisation will be responsible for the cost of meeting rooms, light refreshments, administrative and secretarial expenses including essential interpreting costs.
- The Organisation will pay the **travel** and **accommodation** costs incurred by the Chairman and the Secretary/Treasurer in the execution of their duties.
- The Organisation will pay the **accommodation** cost incurred by the Vice Chairman and immediate past Chairman in attending General Council meetings.

All this and more can be found on the WBO website ([www.world-budgerigar.org](http://www.world-budgerigar.org)).

I hope that this will give a better understanding of the function of the WBO and illustrate the benefits of organisations to be part of the parent body.



# Free State Show Results

The Free State Championship Show took place on 16 April 2011. There were 32 exhibitors who benched 453 birds. This was 10 exhibitors up on 2010 and 117 more benched birds. The 32 exhibitors were spread as follows; 15 Champion, 5 Intermediate and 12 Novice exhibitors who benched 205, 69 and 179 birds respectively.

The birds were judged by Marius Heydenrych, Maja Swart and Pierre Swart. They were supported by senior stewards Ian Bleasdale, Otto Hein and Roy Bennett.

## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

Best Bird on Show	Heino Artus	Dark Green Cock
Best Opposite Sex on Show	Molkentin Stud	Cinnamon Green Hen
Best Any Age on Show	Heino Artus	Dark Green Cock
Best Young Bird on Show	Molkentin Stud	Cinnamon Green Hen
Best Champion on Show	Heino Artus	Dark Green Cock
Best Intermediate on Show	Piet van den Berg	Spangle Blue Cock
Best Novice on Show	Grobbelaar Stud	Cinnamon Green Hen

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## BSSA Affiliation Fees for 2012

Affiliation fee (adult) .....	R 200
Affiliation fee (junior).....	R 0
Affiliation fee (partnership – family at same address).....	R 250
Affiliation fee (all other partnerships – per member).....	R 200
Late payment of affiliation fee (after 31 December).....	R 100
Fee for registration of a partnership.....	R 150
Fee for registration of a personal ring code .....	R 100
Price of Rings (per ring) .....	R 4
Postage (registration) (including handling and envelope).....	R 19
Postage (priority mail) (including handling and envelope).....	R 62

Chris Oberholzer, Tel: 011-6931790,

Email: [BSSA@Netactive.co.za](mailto:BSSA@Netactive.co.za)

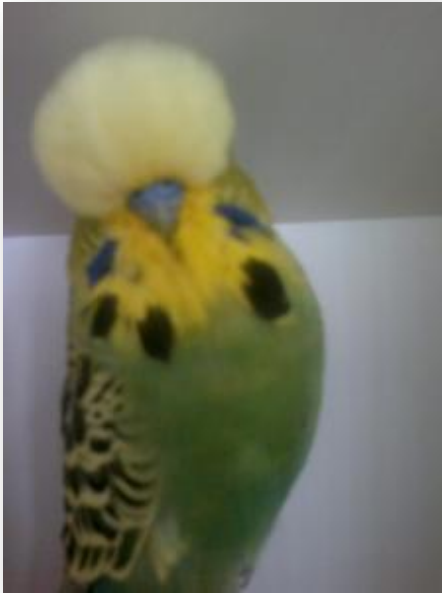
# Western Cape Show Results

The Western Cape Championship Show took place on 28 May 2011. There were 23 exhibitors who benched 364 birds. This was a drop of 74 entries when compared to 2010. There were 9 Champion, 6 Intermediate and 8 Novice Exhibitors.

The birds were judged by Deon Davie and Tony Slight. They were supported by senior stewards Harish Chavda and Piet van den Berg.

## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

Best Bird on Show	Hoesein Sydow	Dark Green Cock
Best Opposite Sex on Show	Hoesein Sydow	Grey Green Hen
Best Any Age on Show	Hoesein Sydow	Dark Green Cock
Best Young Bird on Show	Pierre & Maja	Any Other Colour Cock
Best Champion on Show	Hoesein Sydow	Dark Green Cock
Best Intermediate on Show	Piet van den Berg	Spangle Green Cock
Best Novice on Show	Chris & Annetjie Roodt	Spangle Green Cock



### Above:

Western Cape Best Bird on Show –  
Dark Green Cock – Hoesein Sydow

### Right:

Western Cape Best Opposite Sex on  
Show – Grey Green Hen – Hoesein  
Sydow



# WW AVIARIES = Willem&Wilma

Deur Pierre Swart

Ek kyk altyd wie is die kampioen van die Novice afdeling, dit is gewoonlik 'n naam wat later weer herhaal word.



Aan die einde van die 2010 skouseisoen was die kampioen van die Novice afdeling Wilma en Willem, n baie dinamiese paartjie wat ondanks moeilike werksomstandighede steeds baie suksesvolle budgie telers is. Wilma Marais en Willem Schnugh (WW AVIARY) het aangesluit by die BSSA op 2007/01/15 met ring nr XM3 en behoort aan die Karoo Budgie Klub. Hulle woon tans te Doringboomstraat 3, De Oude Spruit, Brackenfell en het aan die einde van 2010 skou seisoen Intermediate status bereik na 'n baie suksesvolle novice seisoen.

Willem het met Lovebirds gebroei totdat tuindienste die hok se draad stukkend gesny het en al die voels weggevlieg het. Daarna het Wilma hom oorreed dat hulle met skoubudgies moet broei. Hulle het begin met 2 broeipare wat hulle by John Dunlop gekoop het. Hulle was nog baie onervare en het verskeie budgies by Petshops gekoop. Tans is hulle bloedlyne meerderheid Pierre&Maja en ook Molkontin. Hulle gebruik tans 12 broeikaste en broei 3 tot 4 kuikens per broeipaar en broei tussen 60 en 80 kuikens per jaar.

Willem hou van Violets en Opalines. En Wilma hou eintlik van almal maar sal graag eendag "n mooi "olive green" kuiken wil broei.

Hulle gunsteling opparing is light green op grey green. Albei is dit eens dat wanneer hulle oppaar moet beide voels mooi kolle, masker en houding hê.



Hulle grootste nagmerrie is n hen wat eiers uitbroei maar dan die nes met kuikens los. Hulle saad mengsel bestaan uit kanarie, jap millet, wit millet en niger saad. Die sagte kosmengsel bestaan uit geweekte grouts/kanarie/jap millet, broccoli, wortels, patat met pitmielie, nature choice wheat germ, avi-plus egg food breeder en spinasie word ook sekere dae gevoer. Calciboost, B12, Pro biotic Bio plus word om die beurt in water gevoeg.

Hulle skou gewoonlik tussen 20 en 30 voels op n skou. Skou voorbereiding begin ongeveer 8 weke voor die skou. Die voels word met lou water en baba shampoo elke dag vir 'n week gespuit en daarna elke 2de dag met gewone water. Die dag voor die skou word kolle word gepluk, koppe gewas en geborsel. Gliserien word gesmeer op die neus en pote. Die sterte word laastens in warm water reggedokter. Hulle eerste wen was op 7 Junie 2008 op die Wes Kaap skou - Best Novice Light Green.

Hulle gebruik diatom blokke en Ivomec vir parasiete, oog infeksie word behandel met Terracotril Oogsalf en vir die voorkoming van kropkanker word Medpet 4 in 1 of YBD 7 in 1 gebruik. Hulle hoop om 'n hele paar mooi kuikens te broei wat goeie resultate sal gee, maar hulle wil graag hulle voels op so standaard hê dat wanneer hulle kampioen status bereik hulle kan meeding met ander kampioen telers.

Hulle raad aan ander lede wat begin is: Wees geduldig, Rome is nie in eendag gebou nie. Sorg dat jou broeiery nie te groot is nie maar hanteerbaar. Luister na raad en advies van suksesvolle lede en lees alles wat jy in die hande kan kry oor skoubudgies. Kennis is mag.

My voorspelling is dat hierdie vennootskap definitief dopgehou moet word in die toekoms. Hulle name sal weer en weer op groot pryse pruike.

# Doc Aron

By Pierre Swart



Anybody who has written Doc off will be making a very big mistake

Maja and I were invited to judge the 2011 Gauteng Area Show. We could not pass up the opportunity to visit in our opinion, one of the great names of the South African budgerigar fancy namely “Doc” Aron as everyone knows him. In the short hour and a half we visited him on 6 May 2011 our respect and admiration grew even more.

We are sure many of the competitive exhibitors of the show scene today are very happy that Doc shows as seldom as he does. Very good big birds were all over his aviary; birds that will win challenge certificates and major awards on any shows.

Doc won Best Any Age on show at the 2010 National Show.

In the earlier years Doc Aron competed against maybe one of the most difficult persons to beat on the show bench, the name “Doc Robertson” who was without a doubt also one of the icons of the SA budgie scene for years.

In 1981 Doc Aron was 5th Best Champion Breeder at the National show. Doc Robertson won 10 of 11 top awards except for Doc Aron’s bird; a light

green cock.

At this National 1275 birds were entered from 25 champion breeders including 547 novice birds. The fancy really thrived with so many breeders those days before the advent of computers and other distractions

Although he doesn’t show much he has been in the Major awards constantly.

## 1987

Best Bird on show Light Green Tvl Provincial 1200 birds benched

## 1989

BEST bird on show. S A National Dark Green cock 1250 birds benched

## 1994

Best Any Age on show

## 1994

Best Bird on show Violet cock Free State provincial about 1000 birds. Many people still says best violet that has ever been shown even

# Gauteng Show Results

The Gauteng Championship Show took place on 7 May 2011. The show was held in the Bel Air shopping centre which drew many visitors to the show. There were 34 exhibitors who benched 416 birds. This was 7 exhibitors up on 2010 but only 1 benched bird extra. On the show there were 18 Champion, 7 Intermediate and 9 Novice exhibitors.

The birds were judged by Marius Heydenrych, Maja Swart and Pierre Swart. They were supported by Senior Stewards Bertie Swanepoel, Otto Hein and Malcolm Taylor.

## Major Awards were allocated as follows:

Best Bird on Show	Molkentin Stud	Cinnamon Green Cock
Best Opposite Sex on Show	Molkentin Stud	Grey Hen
Best Any Age on Show	Heino Artus	Dark Green Cock
Best Young Bird on Show	Molkentin Stud	Cinnamon Green Cock
Best Champion on Show	Molkentin Stud	Cinnamon Green Cock
Best Intermediate on Show	Bertie Swanepoel	Light Green Cock
Best Novice on Show	M & G Stud	Opaline Grey Cock



**Above Left:**  
Gauteng Best Bird on Show – Cinn  
Grey Green Cock – Molkentin Stud



**Above Right:**  
Gauteng Best Opposite Sex on  
Show – Grey Hen – Molkentin Stud

**Right:**  
Marius Heydenrych, Maja Swart and  
Pierre Swart – the Judges on the day





difficult to judge and each are at opposing ends of the spectrum. First is the class that contains a number of first class exhibits both in terms of quality and condition and then there is the class of budgerigars that have nothing or little going for any of them. The technique with the first type is to look at the exhibits and maximise of their good points. A useful tip is to not stand too close to the birds throughout the judging procedure. It is good to stand back and appraise the class as a whole and very often the best exhibit becomes obvious. For the mediocre class it is best to seek the exhibit with the least number of bad faults.

For me, judging Budgerigars is a very pleasurable part of the hobby and has been crowned by taking part in many top shows. Judging is not for everyone but for those fanciers who would like another challenge I would highly recommend it.

Extract from Budgerigar World, August 2010.

Author: Terry A Tuxford

# 2011 Promotions

The following members are congratulated on their promotions.

To **Gold** Medal Champion

- Heino Artus

To **Blue** Ribbon Champion

- Ian Bleasdale

To **Red** Ribbon Champion

- Creigh Kenton

To **Green** Ribbon Champion

- Sunward Aviaries

To **Yellow** Ribbon Champion

- Carstens Partnership
- Hennie Lotz
- Tony Slight

To **White** Ribbon Champion

- Erasmus Vennootskap
- Piet van den Berg

To **Intermediate**

- Grobbelaar Stud
- Heinrich Aviaries
- Rajen Pillay
- Chris & Annetjie Roodt

today.

## 1995

Runner up to Best bird Tvl Provincial.

## 2001

Best Young bird on show Pretoria Show and Best Opposite Sex

Sadly in 2001 Doc was diagnosed with Leukemia, which resulting in him neglecting the birds for a couple of years. Fortunately Doc recovered and in 2008 he was on his winning way again winning 4th Best Champion at the Free State Show

According to Doc Aron, Doc Robertson played around with different dog biscuits as there was not the soft foods there are today such as Orlux and Avivet etc. "My dogs were being given Ken-L dog biscuits" Doc says so he softened them in water and he still gives them to his birds today. His seed is about 25% Canary and equal amounts jap and white millet.

They also get sunflower seed about once a week mixed with groats. The breeding birds get soaked groats daily. All birds get spinach every day occasionally carrot tops.

For 2 days in a week he adds protexin probiotic in the water and alternates it for 2 days with abidex and cytacon and now because of megabac threat apple cider vinegar 3 days a week.

He always sprays his flights and breeding rooms with F10 weekly, and Prays daily for no more deaths in the aviary.

Very good chicks were seen in abundance. It was very evident that Doc was as keen as ever. We were treated to the best Cheese cake and an excellent stud of show budgerigars. We left Doc with agreement that anybody who has written Doc off will be making a very big mistake indeed. We took some photos of unprepared birds, to prove this - they do say "seeing is believing".



A selection of unprepared birds from Doc Aron's stud.



# Philosophy; On Breeding Exhibition Budgerigars

*Dr. Rob Marshall's (B.V.Sc., M.A.C.V.Sc. (Avian Health), Sydney)*

Knowledge of the breeding patterns of the wild budgerigar is needed to improve the breeding results of exhibition budgerigars. This article outlines the important areas of wild budgerigar biology and their application to the modern day exhibition budgerigar.

The wild budgerigar is a remarkably successful species. For over five million years it has survived in the harsh, dry conditions of inland Australia. Its success can be attributed to a nomadic lifestyle and its ability to breed "on the run". Breeding activity is initiated in a similar fashion as for other bird species. It is dependent upon seasonal and climatic conditions but in many ways the behaviour of budgerigars is unique amongst birds. Its breeding activity is completely dominated by the availability of water and food. These are scarce resources across the vast dry regions of inland Australia. Survival, rather than breeding, dominates the life of wild budgerigars. Seasonal rains and temperatures dictate the breeding cycle of wild birds.

Budgerigars do not breed in the heat of summer, even after summer rains, because the high temperatures rapidly kill off most desert grasses and dry up water holes. In nature, budgerigars reserve this time for the annual moult. Similarly, exhibition budgerigars should not breed, but be allowed to moult during summer.

Winter temperatures often drop below freezing in

Australian deserts causing budgerigars to abandon their nests. Exhibition budgerigars should also not be allowed to breed when it is too cold. Budgerigars in nature breed prolifically during favorable seasonal conditions and their cousins, exhibition budgerigars, have certainly retained this ancient and strong characteristic.

Sadly, many champion exhibition budgerigars have lost this fundamental trait through poor selection. The consensus of opinion is that the breeding requirements of the modern day exhibition budgerigar are more demanding than those of wild budgerigars because of the increased size of their young. In many Australian studs poor fertility has been reversed by those holding defiantly to the wise breeding principle of "selection of the fittest".

It is agreed that modern day exhibition budgerigars are more difficult to breed and need special attention. The fancier should see improvements in breeding results when the principles of the breeding habits of wild budgerigars are applied to the somewhat difficult exhibition budgerigar. The following facts should increase the chance of breeding success and reduce the likelihood of breeding failure. They are introduced here and will then be explored in detail in future journal issues.

It cannot be denied that cage birds are really difficult to judge and Budgerigars are at the top of that list of challenges. The reason why I say this is because budgerigars change from one moment to the next. They are never in the same position for more than a few seconds; they blow their body feathers but not their head feathers—not until after judging that is. They sit on the floor or hang from the cage front but then sit like soldiers on parade when judging is complete. There are times when we would all like to change our minds about that odd bird.

### **IT IS JUST NATURE**

It is just nature, budgerigars do vary from one minute to the next and all can be faulted at one time or another. The bird that wins most top awards will be the one that looks good in any position and can hold it. You can have a bird with a superb head and all the other show properties but unless it stands correctly it will be penalised.

Some judges will completely eliminate exhibits for missing spots or having a tail feather down. I believe they are taking the soft option by trying to make their job easier by cutting down the number of contenders in a class. Both tail feathers missing or a bird in a complete moult should be addressed severely as you cannot really get a true picture of an budgerigar in such condition but for the others it is a consideration of placement.

The standard asks for size, shape, balance and deportment, with condition and the bloom of show preparation being paramount. Head quality just cannot be ignored. It gives a

budgerigar the power and the “look at me” appeal.

Everyone sees a budgerigar slightly differently and it would be stupid to think that judges do not have their personal preferences. However, I can never understand a judge who changes his mind throughout a show. This is particularly infuriating for the Specialist Budgerigar breeder, such as when a Clearwing judge places the Champion exhibits based on size irrespective to variety content but then penalises the other sections for dirty wings and poor body colour. We can all follow and respect the judge who sticks to a certain type of exhibit throughout a show.

The easiest class to judge - apart from the one with a single entry - is the one which contains a bird that picks itself out. The first impression you get about a budgerigar is usually the best. It is easy to spend too long on a class, simply looking for something that is just not there. In saying that, there are the odd one or two judges who think it is a race and take delight in finishing first. I believe it is a matter of pace. If you have lots of birds to judge the practice should to get on with it - I have heard more complaints about slow judges that I would like to repeat. On the other hand if you have plenty of time I always like to involve stewards from the Beginner and Novice sections in a discussion about the various merits of individual birds but strictly after the class is judged.

### **DIFFICULT CLASS TYPES**

There are two class types which are quite

## **A JUDGE HAS TO BE A SPECIAL TYPE OF PERSON WHO COMBINES DIPLOMACY AND A THICK SKIN WITH DECISIVENESS AND CONFIDENCE**

*Extract from Budgerigar World, August 2010.*

*Author: Terry A Tuxford*

It is not possible for a judge to please every exhibitor; someone's Budgerigars have to come behind the first in class!! The only exhibitor you can guarantee to please is the person who takes Best In Show and just maybe those who take a first prize. Consequently a judge has to be a special type of person who combines diplomacy and a thick skin with decisiveness and confidence.

By far the vast majority of judges place awards to the best of their ability and very few are influenced by other factors such as suggestions from their stewards or through recognition of well known exhibits. What most do is see how the birds look when they are placed before them irrespective of who the owners of the birds are. Influencing personalities must not come into judging; the decision made should be clear and unbiased.

It would not be unusual for a judge to recognize a budgerigar and know who its owner is, however, judging takes place on the day with all the exhibits on view and no account is taken of past successes. Some less professional judges are often heard to quote an exhibit's past performance which, in my view is totally wrong. Whether we like it or not, some exhibitors are more popular than others with a few being down right unpopular. This can, and I am certain does, influenced the results of more than one show. Every show bird should have its opportunity irrespective of who bred it and what it has won in the past. As the BS rules state, condition is essential, and this can and should be one of the deciding factors, together with the comparison with other birds on show in deciding

the winner on the day.

### **COMPROMISE TO BE MADE**

Of course, at times there is a compromise to be made based upon judgement, which all said and done is the precise role of the judge. It is true to say that a first-class budgerigar that is out of condition should be penalized accordingly and this type of birds is easily recognized by a skilled judge. However, this is a temporary fault and it will be known that such a bird will be a winner at a future show. In my view therefore it would be wrong to place a vastly inferior specimen with permanent faults amongst the winners just because it is in excellent condition.

Good judges use the BS standard as the visualization of perfection. This provides the criteria for assessment but in saying this, certainly in the UK and other countries that do not use a points system for judging, it is the comparison of one exhibit against another that results in the winner. Penalising exhibits is all about judgement—yes, it's that word again.

For instance, a bird should be penalized less for having small spots but which are correct in number, round and evenly spaced on a deep wide mask that a large spotted bird which has a narrow and beaky head. The same thing goes for a bird that is a spot down or has a missing tail feather. A budgerigar can always grow another feather but it cannot grow another head!

### **"General timing" guidelines**

Fertility problems (albeit not in every breeding pair) must be expected when budgerigars are paired at the wrong biological time of the year, irrespective of the presence of artificial lighting or temperature control. Disappointing breeding results must also be expected in the depth of winter prior to the shortest day of the year and during summer. Breeding should not occur in summer at the time of the natural annual moult. It is imperative to give the exhibition budgerigar the same biological calendar as the wild bird when autumn and spring breeding predominate.

### **"Precise timing" guidelines**

Breeding condition is a prerequisite for successful breeding. The best results are seen when the breeding condition of each sex is synchronous. Informed breeding management systems introduce the pairs to mimic the wild bird situation. Poor results should be expected when the hen in "breeding condition" is not introduced to the cock or nest on time.

### **"Day-length" guidelines**

The availability of food and water is required for wild budgerigars to breed. Most often it is the autumn rain pattern of central Australia that creates the best conditions for wild budgerigars to breed. Wild budgerigars also breed in spring when good autumn rain saturates the water table. With the onset of warmer weather, the soil moisture produces a flush of summer grasses. It is the biological clock of ancient birds that stimulates breeding at this time. The increasing day length activates the biological clock and initiates breeding behavior in most bird species. With the

increasing day length that follows the shortest day of the year (June 23rd in Southern Hemisphere; December 12th in Northern Hemisphere) the sex organs of cock birds are stimulated. As long as the weather is not too cold, they will come into "breeding condition" within 4 weeks. Hens do not respond as quickly to the increasing day length. They require a day length of at least 10 hours, and closer to 12 hours, to attain "breeding condition". This apparent asynchrony is beneficial to the breeding outcome by protecting the energy reserves of the hen. She must preserve her energy for egg production. When in breeding condition, her nesting and egg laying response will not be completed unless she receives appropriate courtship activities from a cock bird also in breeding condition. Warmer weather may also stimulate hen birds into breeding condition. Although budgerigars respond to increasing day length as a remnant of the ancient birds' biological clock, it is not an important stimulus to breeding in the wild and should not be expected to provide the same breeding stimulus as the completion of the natural summer moult.

Australian breeders provide their birds with direct sunlight; as it is such an integral part to breeding success. Direct sunlight should be utilised wherever possible. Enclosed bird rooms are used for convenience and when direct sunlight is impractical. They offer advantages and challenges for the budgerigar breeder. Day lengths between 10 and 14 hours are used to stimulate breeding activity.

Enclosed bird rooms are also used in Australia, but are far more common in other parts of the world. Without the benefit of natural day light hours, breeding expectations must be lower for environmentally controlled indoor bird rooms. The temperature, humidity and day length controls found in indoor bird rooms do, however, provide breeding budgerigars with significant advantages compared to budgerigars in naturally lit aviaries.

**"Natural selection" guidelines** in nature, the strongest budgerigars select the best nest sites and are first to breed. Similarly, the most vital exhibition budgerigars are the first to come into "breeding condition" and are the best breeders. Fanciers must select wisely and follow nature's doctrine of "survival of the fittest". *Freedom* from disease also plays a major role in the breeding performance of the exhibition budgerigar and health programmes should be implemented prior to breeding for studs with poor breeding records. It has never been easy to breed champions, because they are few and far between, even from studs with the very best European stock. Success at breeding champion livestock has always been and continues to be a "numbers and chance" game. The more offspring bred from proven pairs the better the chance of producing a champion. Consequently, the aim must be to improve the breeding success of each pair. Budgerigar fanciers are wise to take note of this fundamental tenet and take advantage of the extraordinary breeding capabilities of the budgerigar.

Selecting for vitality, above all else, is the best and quickest way to succeed at breeding and exhibition. This is due to the fact that vitality is intimately related to fertility. The theory of selecting for

vitality sounds straightforward. However, it is complicated in practice by the fact that the most successful exhibition budgerigars have in many cases been, and continue to be, infertile or poor breeders. The current lack of fertility in the best quality exhibition budgerigars has occurred, in part, to poor selection by budgerigar fanciers in the past (vitality and fertility are both strongly heritable characteristics). The genetic link between poor vitality/fertility and the desirable features of the standard, namely large body size and long feathers, add to the difficulties of breeding champions from champions.

**"Fertility" guidelines** - Many, but not all of the best quality exhibition budgerigars have fertility problems. In an effort to recover the lost vitality of the champion bird in future generations, the most practical solution would be to use the family gene pool of lesser quality, but more vital brothers or sisters of the champions. There is a far greater chance of producing future champions from the lesser birds purely due to increased numbers of offspring produced. A champion produced from this "lesser" pairing is much more likely to be vital and fertile. They can then be used to start a sturdy and productive family more in line with the old Australian families.

My advice is to breed at the right time of year and

# On Breeding Exhibition Budgerigars

then to reassess your breeding results. If infertility persists, "cleanse" the stud with a prescribed disease treatment programme. If fertility is good and the babies develop poorly, look more closely at the feeding system being used. By following these simple rules, breeding success is guaranteed in all pairs except those with a genetic weakness.

**Moult guidelines** - Understand the relationship between the moult and the breeding season. The wild budgerigar can breed at any time of the year but generally does not breed in the heat of summer, prior to the monsoon rains. It is during these hot months of December, January and February that it replaces its feathers in what is referred to as the annual moult. It is the completion of the moult and the beginning of the autumn rains that prime the wild budgerigar into breeding condition. The fancier must also follow this same natural process with the aviary budgerigar and wait for the completion or termination of the annual moult before starting to breed. This applies to both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and is outlined in the chart below.

Month	Southern Hemisphere
December	Annual Moult
January	No breeding during the
February	annual moult.
March	March 1 <sup>st</sup>
April	The best time to start breeding.
May	Continue until it gets too cold.
June	Never start breeding in June
July	Start breeding after July 1 <sup>st</sup> in warm climates.
August	
September	September 1 <sup>st</sup>
October	The second best time to start
November	breeding in most areas.

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