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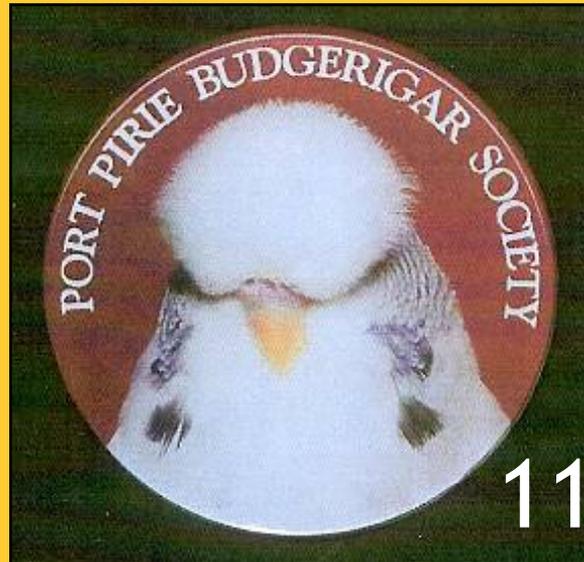


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**Budgerigar
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Editorial

Welcome to the first of our 2007 Magazines! Last year's attempt at a magazine was very well received by the budgerigar community in this state, and as a result, the BCSA has decided to continue this publication, up to two times per year (dependent upon available sponsorship for a second magazine).

Looking back on 2006, I think many of you will agree that South Australia fielded what we considered a strong team for the ANBC Titles held in Caloundra. The Logan Shield had great participation rates from fanciers across the state, with the partnership of Kakoschke & Rice dominating the event, with 11 out of 22 class wins. In fact, 28 of the 66 birds on the plane to Caloundra were from their aviaries.

However, a heightened level of competition from our interstate rivals saw only three South Australian birds placed in the top three at a National Level. The classes were Opaline, Clearwing, and Crest. As a result, the State scored poorly, finishing with only 231 points, narrowly beating the last placed North & Central Queensland on 213 points. The overall winner was NSW with 484 points, followed by Victoria on 418 points.

The Caloundra event, hosted by South Queensland, was an outstanding success, and it benefited greatly from the participation of internationally renowned fanciers such as Jeff Attwood, along with visitors including Doug Sadler from the UK, and a large contingent from New Zealand.

South Australia has taken this lead, inviting Marcel Bühler from Switzerland to judge alongside Nigel Tonkin, Kevin O'Callagan and Mark Bridgeman at the upcoming Nationals, to be hosted by the BCSA here in Adelaide.

I don't think anyone would argue that this hobby is truly international, when we have BCSA judges receiving appointments overseas, and the Council reciprocating by using international judges at the ANBC Titles, as well as our own local state selection (inter-branch) show, the Logan Shield. At this year's state selection (inter-branch) show, we will have guest judges in Rick Watts from the UK, and Alan Gamble from NZ, judging alongside Shiralee Reardon and Malcolm Loveridge from the BCSA. A brief profile on each international judge has been included in this magazine for those who are not familiar with our overseas guests, but I would ask that you join me in welcoming them to Adelaide.

This year, we have a great opportunity in hosting the National event, to promote the hobby in this state. A great deal of effort has gone into planning and promoting this event, so I ask that where possible, you please get behind it and participate in the tours and events that the BCSA has organized. It will be a great chance to meet fanciers from interstate and overseas who will be in attendance, who share a common love for this hobby.

On the topic of the Nationals, please be aware that the cut off date for registrations is March 31st 2007. Beyond this date, places at events, and on tours, cannot be guaranteed. The BCSA is encouraging ALL fanciers to register before this date, so if you haven't please do so as soon as possible.

Until then, all the best for the 2007 breeding season, and let's make the state proud at this year's Nationals.



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From the President

By Nigel Tonkin

This, our second magazine, shows that another year has passed quickly. It does not seem that long ago that we hosted our last National event in 2000, and now, the 33rd National Show is upon us and planning is near complete.

Our State Selection Show for the Nationals, the Logan Shield, will be a little different this year. There will be two sets of two judges, judging all of the classes. Rick Watts of the United Kingdom will be paired with Malcolm Loveridge and Alan Gamble of New Zealand will be paired with Shiralee Reardon. Peter Glassenbury will be given the task to oversee and ensure all classes conform to The Standard, either before or during the judging of classes, plus he will be available to answer any queries that Bruce Stafford, the Show Manager, may need assistance with. Please make our international guests feel welcome.

This show will be a full dress rehearsal for those that are assisting the following week at the Allan Scott Park, Morphettville venue.

There will be 4 x World Budgerigar Organisation (WBO) Rosettes available for the BCSA this year. (Once every 7 years). Two for the State selection show, that is one for Best in Show and one for Best Opposite sex in Show and two for the Port Pirie 50th anniversary show. Photographs must be taken of the winners of these rosettes and are to be placed on the WBO website with all other winners throughout the world. These winners can be viewed on the WBO website www.world-budgerigar.org.

The National Show is a big event and does not just happen without a lot of effort behind the scenes. A big thank you must go to

the Executive and Planning Committee. I do not like singling folk out, but I will in this case. A special thanks to John Mulley for putting the budget and all that goes with it together plus storing most of the national gear at his residence, to Bruce Stafford for all of his expertise in getting the holding cages into order plus doing a lot of the not so noticeable fixing of other items, to Graham Bell for modifying, chasing, creating a new innovation for the event, to Jennie Liebich for putting together a tour package that should cater for many, and to Troy Holmes and Michael Boonzaayer for getting information out on the World Wide Web.

The judges for this year's national event are Marcel Bühler of Switzerland, Mark Bridgeman of Victoria, Kevin O'Callaghan of Queensland North and Central Zone and yours truly from the host state.

This is the major judging appointment within Australia and we congratulate and wish all well on their appointment.

Last year a monetary incentive was used to encourage fanciers to participate in the State selection show. I believed the quality improved on previous years but alas so did the other States / Zones thus we did not progress up the ladder. We are not repeating the monetary incentive this year. Sponsorship instead will be used to finance a second magazine, which the BCSA feels will benefit all members, rather than a few who have success at the Logan Shield.

The drought and seed costs appear to be taking a toll on the fancy and I can only encourage each fancier to do their best in managing their hobby. We will do our best from a Committee perspective to hold our

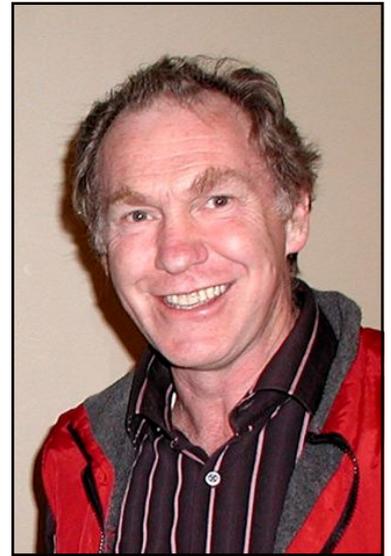
costs noting that there may be occasions that we have no control over what befalls us.

The BCSA website, <http://www.bcsa.com.au> is of great value, Any feedback, be it positive or negative will be greatly received. We are encouraging all clubs to submit information and updates to this web site.

As you will read in this magazine, Pakistan is a real growth industry, as far as the budgerigar goes. Since writing the article, I have given a lecture to the Budgerigar Society of Pakistan (BSP). This was a great success and I did not have to leave my office. I forwarded a Power Point presentation to the BSP some time before the lecture to ensure that it was operational. The BSP membership gathered around the 'big screen' and I ran the Power Point presentation at this end of the world whilst another fancier worked the presentation from over there. Add an interpreter, and away we go. Yes the fancy can grow by using new technology.

Good luck with your showing.

Yours in the fancy, and best of luck,





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Marcel Bühler: International Guest Judge

Marcel Bühler needs little introduction to local enthusiasts, having judged the 2001 North East Show as part of a tour of Australia. He is well known by many of the fancy here in the State, keeping in close contact via email, and through communications over his web site, which is one of the best around.

Marcel started breeding budgerigars in 1984, and in 1988, formed a partnership with his father Hermann Bühler, exhibiting under the name "H. and M. Bühler". In the same year, the partnership was elevated to the status of "Champion" in their home country of Switzerland, with numerous show wins and successes. In 2003, H. and M. Bühler formed the International Partnership of BÜHLER & PEARCE, with Ron Pearce from the UK.

Today, the Swiss side of the partnership consists of approximately 150 birds, most of which are normals, cinnamons, recessive pideds, yellowfaces, opalines and spangles. The lines are based on budgerigars from the studs of Fred Wright, Bryan Byles, Gren and Pat Norris in England, and his partner Ron Pearce, supplemented by birds that the partnership has been able to acquire from Jo Mannes.

In 1997, Marcel, along with fellow Swiss fanciers Frank Habegger, Daniel Lütolf and Jean-Pierre Rotzetter, took the first steps to becoming recognized as judges. Heinz Küppers and Jo Mannes took the four for their practical examination, and one year later, the theory examination took place at the Swiss club show in Boningen. All four fanciers were successful, and the SWV (the governing body for budgerigars in Switzerland) had its first four official budgerigar judges.

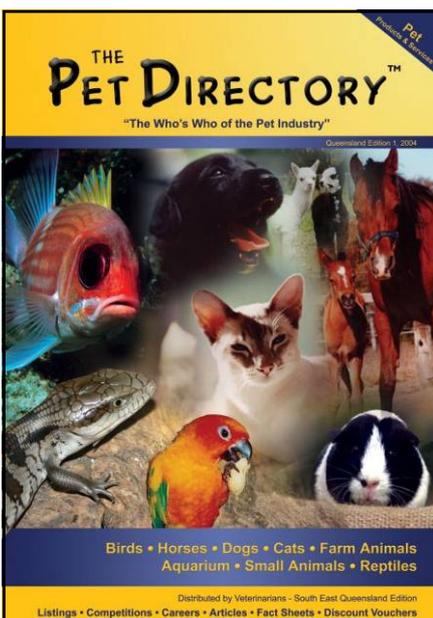
Marcel has also been on the executive committee of the SWV since 1998. Among other things, Marcel is responsible for the execution and the procedures of the various SWV Show Manager tasks. In addition, he holds lectures about budgerigars and is responsible for the further education of the SWV judges. In his official role as the SWV delegate, Marcel is the representative for Switzerland to the World Budgerigar Organisation (WBO) meetings.

Marcel has judged in most of the Major Award Shows in Europe and overseas. These include the Europa-Show in Germany, AZ-Bundesschau, DSV-National Show, Belgium National, Dutch National, Swedish National, French National (both), BS Clubshow, South African National, Canadian National, to name a few. His most memorable judging

experiences would be judging the BS-Club Show in the UK, as well as the Europa-Show, and back in 2001, the North East Annual Show.

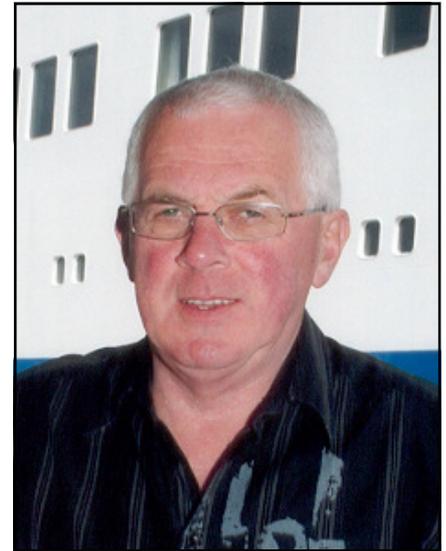
As an exhibitor, in recent years Marcel has won the following major awards:

- 1998 Best Bird Swiss National Young Stock Show
- 1998 Best Opp.-Sex Young Bird Swiss National Show
- 2000 Best Bird Swiss National Young Stock Show
- 2000 Best Cinnamon Europe-Show
- 2001 Best Cinnamon Europe-Show
- 2001 Best in Show Swiss National Show
- 2001 Best Any Age Swiss National Show
- 2002 Best in Show Swiss National Show
- 2002 Best Any Age Swiss National Show
- 2004 Best Opp.-Sex Swiss National Young Stock Show





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Logan Shield Guest Judge Alan Gamble (NZ)

As a prelude to the 2007 Logan Shield (State Selection Show), the BCSA thought it apt to profile the international judges who will be making an appearance at the event, outlining their experience, and years in the fancy. Those judges are Alan Gamble of New Zealand, and Rick Watts from the United Kingdom.

Alan Gamble has been breeding budgerigars for 41 years, and like most people, he started out with a few colourful birds around to beautify the garden.

Alan found relaxation in the hobby, away from his hectic work schedule, and soon, his passion for budgerigar breeding grew as he began to breed and exhibit. His work allowed him to travel overseas, and with it, aviary visits were a must. It was during these regular trips that Alan came to identify the quantum gap between the birds in Europe, and those being shown in New Zealand at the time.

As a result, he joined the Executive of the Budgerigar Society of New Zealand, some 25 years ago, as a co-opted Councilor. Five years on, Alan became a full Councilor, and then later President, after a long tenure as VP. In recent years, Alan has stepped down from this role, however he is still the Chair of the Judges Panel. For his efforts, Alan has been honoured as a Patron of the BSNZ, and a Life Member of same.

Alan became a judge some 25 years ago, after attending the 1980 Australian National Championships, held in Adelaide, South Australia. This was the first of many times he met Gerald Binks, and his inspiration encouraged Alan to become involved in judging. Since 1980, Alan has visited many more Australian shows, and is indebted to the friendliness and assistance of

the Australian bird fancy as a whole.

In 2000, Alan judged alongside Gerald Binks, and South Australia's own Nigel Tonkin, at the Budgerigar Society World Show in Doncaster, UK. This show holds special memories as one of the greatest for Alan, as it was Gerald's final year as a judge. It was about this time that Alan went into partnership with Mike Fuller back in New Zealand, exhibiting under the banner of Gamble & Fuller.

As an exhibitor, and then later as a partnership, Alan Gamble has won the New Zealand National Show six times now, with Best Young Bird on no less than four occasions. In the 72 years that the Budgerigar Society of New Zealand has been in existence, only one fancier has bettered this record, with seven wins, and three best

young bird awards. Alan's passion to win will hopefully see the Gamble & Fuller partnership surpass this in the coming years, with only one National title remaining between them, and the award for the most successful exhibitor/s in the history of the Budgerigar Society of New Zealand.

Alan brings to the table a wealth of judging experience and international appointments, and the Budgerigar Council of South Australia is delighted that he and Rick Watts are able to reside over judging for this year's Logan Shield State Selection Show.



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Logan Shield Guest Judge, Rick Watts (UK)

Rick Watts, an accomplished UK breeder and exhibitor of budgerigars, became a judge by "chance". He was attending a small members show in the UK, when the judge failed to turn up. The club asked Rick if he would judge the birds, and he discovered a side of the hobby that he now enjoys immensely.

Rick started in budgerigars at an early age, but it wasn't until 1972 that he joined his local Area Society, the London & Southern Counties BS. He knew immediately that he had been bitten by that budgie bug! He progressed through the novice and intermediate ranks, spending much of his time developing a good stud of exhibition show birds. Judging was a natural progression for Rick, and in 1982, he joined the London & Southern Counties subsidiary panel.

As a trainee judge, Rick judged 9 small open and member shows over a period of 3 years. By 1987, he progressed through to the main Budgerigar Society judging panel, and has been officiating over judging duties at major UK and international events ever since. Rick judged the Budgerigar Society World Show in 1997, and then again in 2005. He also judged the first Budgerigar Society Spring Show, held in 2003. International judging appointments have included Germany, Switzerland, Dublin, Belgium, Sweden, and now Australia.

As an exhibitor in the UK, Rick Watts has been a fierce competitor on the top bench since 1990, consistently winning top awards throughout the UK. In the last 10 years, at the 1997 National Exhibition in Birmingham, Rick won Best Adult & Best Young Albino, along with Best Lutino. At Doncaster, he won the Best Young & Best Adult Albino's in 1998, and in 2000, Best Grey Green and Best Opaline Green. At the Budgerigar Society Convention in 2002, Rick won Best Yellow Face, and in 2004, Best Opposite Sex in Show.

Rick feels that the acknowledgement he gets from his exhibition success is reflected in the judging appointments that he receives in the UK, as well as abroad. He finds the most rewarding thing about judging is the many breeders and exhibitors that you meet from all walks of life, the jokes, the banter, the amount of tea drunk, and the hours spent talking about birds. Be it fellow exhibitors, or judges, he never fails to find something to discuss in amongst this wonderful hobby.

Rick finds it no effort to travel hundreds of miles to show and judge birds, as exhibition budgerigars have formed a large part of his life now for 35 years. Rick is quick to mention that this could not have been achieved, had it not been for the support of his loving wife Barbara, and his family. Barbara travels with Rick wherever he goes, and is greatly looking forward to their trip down under to visit the Logan Shield/State Selection Show, as a guest international judge.

On behalf of the BCSA, please make Rick and his wife Barbara feel

welcome to our state, as we are delighted to have them onboard for the 2007 show season.

For any further information about Rick, his birds, methods and feeding regimes, visit <http://www.rickwatts.co.uk>

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The Quiet Achiever, John Mulley

At the 2006 Logan Shield/State Selection Show, it was hard to look beyond the 11 out of 22 class wins by Kakoschke & Rice. However, if you did, you might be surprised to learn that the second fancier on aggregate points score for the event was John Mulley, a quiet achiever who has always competed strongly in this state. John placed 1st in three classes, 2nd in two classes, and 3rd in one class, giving him six birds in total to travel to the Nationals in Caloundra. His best placing at Caloundra was 8th in the Opaline AOSV class with a lovely Opaline Cinnamonwing Grey Green hen.

John's passion for budgerigars was brought about by his father and grandfather having budgies in the 1950's. John looked after his father's budgies because of work commitments, at the same time as making nest boxes for his grandfather. In the late 1980's, luck struck John when he caught a grey budgerigar at the backdoor (someone's escaped pet), found him a mate, and started colony breeding.

It was then by accident that John got into exhibition budgerigars, as he never knew the hobby existed. One Saturday, he saw an advert in the bird section of the Advertiser - it was the first time he had ever looked in this section of the newspaper. The ad was from someone who was selling out of their "exhibition" budgerigars. John's not sure to this day what it was that attracted him to go and have a look, but he did, and the rest is history. By October of 1992, John had joined the North East Budgerigar Society, after seeing an advert for their next club meeting, again in the bird section of the Advertiser.

Shortly after, John became a founding member of the Budgerigar Breeder's Club (BBC), where one of the primary ideals was to make exhibition budgerigars readily available to beginners at reasonable prices. In 2006, John was honoured with a Life Membership from the North East Budgerigar Soci-

ety for his input into club and state activities, which he holds in the same regard as previous military and professional awards.

John enjoys the challenge of judging, particularly at the Logan Shield, where the state team is selected. He became a Judge in 1998, and then a Senior Judge by 2002, before being elevated to a Major Award Judge in 2006. His grandfather had been a bantam judge, his mother a judge of floral art, and father ended up as the National Chairman of rose judges, so he came well prepared for the thick skin needed to be a judge, and most important of all, the need to maintain a profile as an exhibitor at the highest level if one was to keep up to speed with the current exhibition bird and to adjudicate over exhibits of others. It gives John great pleasure to have his birds selected to represent the club at the state show, and then to represent South Australia at a National level, with his favourite time of the year being May, commencing with the club level shows, and culminating with the Nationals.

John sees these series of shows as the culmination of one's previous breeding season - it is the only way he knows of assessing the effectiveness of his previous breeding season.

John is quick to mention that he has met some great people and some talented breeders during his time in the hobby, and like his previous involvements in cricket and fishing, he has found it a great outlet from the pressures of work. However, unlike those mentioned above, this one keeps him in his own backyard, at least for most of the time!

The varieties John keeps are predominantly Normals, Dominant Pieds, Opalines, Cinnamonwings, Clearwings, Blackeyed Selves, and more recently, Yellow Faced Blue Series and Crests.

At a National level, over the past 10 years, John has done well in the following classes

Opaline AOSV: First in Adelaide in 2000 (featured opposite)
Blackeyed Self: First in Cairns in 2003 (featured above)
Dominant Pied: Third in Sydney in 1998
Hens Class: Third in Adelaide in 2000
Clearwing: Fourth in Cairns in 1996
Normal Green: Fifth in Surfers Paradise in 1999
Cinnamonwing: Sixth in Coffs Harbour in 2004
Yellow Faced Blue Series: Tenth in Caloundra in 2006
Crested: Twelfth in Coffs Harbour in 2004

John's immediate ambition is to get a Yellow Faced Blues Series, a Crested, an Opaline, a Blue and a Grey into the top seven at any future National event. He cites that he is always happy to get a bird in the top half, anywhere from 1 through 7, as this generally indicates that you are doing something right!

Given John's success and history here in the State, we thought it apt to ask him a few questions relating to his breeding and management regimes, show preparation and disease prevention. Below are the questions and answers:

Preparing to Breed

1. When you mate a cock bird across several hens in a season, do you:

(a) Leave him in the breeding cage with her constantly until all eggs are laid, and then put him with another hen?

(b) Put him in a breeding cage with a removable partition where you can run him across more than one hen in a day?

I have done both, but only occasionally and only with a superior cock. The first option is the safest. The second option sometimes comes unstuck with eggs in the nest being smashed, probably by the cock. For one year

old cocks I use no more than two hens at once. Older cocks can circulate around up to four hens at once, being moved morning and night. Interestingly, once they get into the routine they wait at the partition when you walk into the bird room wanting to get across to the next hen ASAP. Alternatively, cocks are moved vertically by hand through the breeding cages.

2. If you do option (a), do you put both birds back out in the flight after you have removed the eggs and put them under a feeding pair? If so, how long do you leave them out in the flight for, before re-mating them? Under this policy, how many nests would you expect to get out of one female in a breeding season?

Depends on the weather outside in the flights. If mild I fly them for up to a week before returning to the bird room for re-mating. Unless the hen has a particular problem with feeding, feather plucking etc. I let her raise at least one nest each breeding season. Since I breed between July and December this usually equates to three nests.

3. Do you let your 1st year hens have their first round of babies, or do you remove their eggs?

I like to get maiden hens into the habit of raising chicks as soon as possible. If their first round is fertile they raise their chicks. If not, the quandary is whether to put fertile eggs of the same age post-fertilization from another nest under the young hen, or let her lay again. Both options sometime work and both options sometime fail.

4. If you follow policy (b), how many hens would you run one cock across at any given time? Furthermore, at what time of the day would you swap him between the females?

Number of hens depends on the age of the cock, as stated above. Swapping occurs before I go to work and after I return from work. I might only do this with one or two cocks per season otherwise the numbers of foster pairs can get out of control and one never knows how well the process of running the one cock over a number of hens will work. If he is infertile, then obviously it fails and foster nests will need to be put to an alternative use. Generally I like to avoid use of designated fosters as they can be hard to synchronize with the breeders. I prefer to use space in the nests of other breeding pairs where there are less than five fertile eggs and chicks.

5. Exploring Option (b) further, I have spoken to some breeders who advocate leaving the hen on her own to raise the babies, or running the cock between two hens, and letting him raise one set in the morning, and the other babies in the afternoon. Is this something that you would do? Why/why not?

I advocate neither option. Cocks play an important role in raising a nest and I only do the former when forced into it (i.e. the cock dies and the chicks are too old to transfer to another nest). Making the cock service two families simultaneously is not the smartest

way of managing ones best cocks, which are presumably birds of considerable value. In order to avoid stress related disorders, including feather problems, we need to supply the best of nutrition, and we need the parents to work together and take it from there.

6. Do you put pairs in a breeding cage together, or do you let the hen go into the cage, and let the male enter several days later? Which do you find the better option and why? Do you put the nest box on immediately?

I have tried all conceivable options. If the birds are in breeding condition it makes no difference. The older I get the less time I seem to have, so I put hens and cocks in together at the beginning. The mating will usually work when the hen has disturbed the mound of wood shavings in the nest box within a few hours. Once upon a time I waited until that happened before adding the cock. Now, I don't think it matters and the majority of hens don't waste any time in having a sticky-beak inside the nest box. The first egg is usually laid within 10 days. If the vent of the hen has not swollen and changes to droppings have not indicated that egg laying is imminent within 3 weeks, then the pair should be returned to the aviary so as not to take up valuable space in the breeding room.

7. When you line breed birds, how do you generally pair - based on genetics, visual appearance, or both? What sort of routine do you normally follow with respect to how close you mate? Do you go so far as to mate father to daughter, half brothers and half sisters, cousins to cousins, etc?

I pair visually and then fiddle around with a few changes based on bloodlines as summarized in the printout, off the database, of each bird I keep. Since exhibition characteristics are usually recessive, breeding programs are based on inbreeding using stock without serious visual faults, and slow inbreeding to allow time for adjustment of fitness characteristics, otherwise fertility etc will suffer and even lead to loss of a line. So most of my matings are between cousins, uncle nieces, aunts nephews, and more distant relatives, but rarely closer than those mentioned, and usually with some level of relatedness except for outcrosses, which are usually regarded by me as experimental.

8. What do you do to make sure that you get the most out of your very best birds?

Use them, especially young hens. But the best laid plans often come unstuck for a whole variety of reasons.

9. What efforts do you make to increase, or improve, the fertility of a bird? Do you pluck or shave the bird? If so, using what?

I cut the feathers from around the vent of both the cock and the hen. But most importantly, I resist the urge to start breeding too early in the season and especially not until the moult has been completed. In Adelaide July-August is the best time to start, which would fit very nicely with the proposal to bring the ring issue date forward to Sept 1.

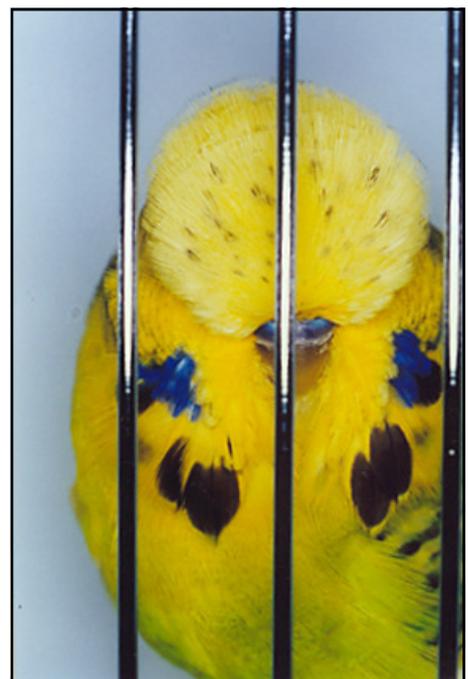
Preparing to Show Birds

10. I have often heard people state that they have not trained a bird to show. This can often be the difference between winning and losing. How do you train your birds, and for how long?

This is an area that I now neglect compared with the past, due to time issues. But as much as possible one handles chicks in the nest, breeds for steadiness by culling the highly strung, uses show cages attached to holding cages so that they enter them and become familiar with the confined space, and locates the holding cages for the chicks in an area frequented by the breeder so that they become accustomed to being in proximity to humans. Then there are night shows at monthly club meetings and on weekends if one gets a chance it is helpful to put the most promising youngsters into a show cage from time to time.

11. As opposed to training a bird, how do you prepare a bird for any given show? Plucking spots is obvious, but what else would you typically do prior to showing? Is there any special diet that you place the birds on? Do you cage them up for several days before the show? Do you send them to the show in their show cages? Do you bring them all home in the same cages (and not a travel cage)?

Breeders often neglect the subtleties like removing pale spots from clearwings and blackeyes where The Standard says there should be none, removing the odd dark feather from spangles, crushing or removing the odd pinfeather, etc A lift in the diet such as sprouting seeds, like oats, can improve condition, but don't overdo it and make the birds fat. Caging the birds two weeks prior to the show with improved nutrition and a daily light spray of water is sufficient to bring them into show condition. This human contact also helps settle them for the show, and makes them easier to access for some show cage training. They travel to and from shows in their show cages since I show locally in Adelaide, apart from the nationals where transport arrangements are different.





Budgerigar Council South Australia



Feeding the Birds

12. What do you feed the birds? What is the seed mixture that you use? Do you feed from different seed containers, so that the birds can pick and choose?

The basic seed mixture I use is canary 50%, jap millet 25% and white millet 25%. To 5 parts of this I add one part red panicum. I use this one seed mixture rather than letting birds pick and choose different seeds from separate containers. I don't think they are smart enough to decide what is best.

13. Who do you purchase your seed through?

This is not important, other than to choose quality seed and continue with the same source.

14. What seed bins do you use to ensure that the seed at the bottom is not getting old and rancid? Do they empty from the bottom?

I use the large plastic barrels that hold in excess of two 40kg bags of seed. When getting close to the bottom I tip it upside down and empty the remaining seed onto the top of the seed in the next barrel I am about to use.

15. In addition to seed, what else do you provide to the birds?

I provide sunflower seed separately in the aviary, plus apple, carrot, corn on the cob, silver beet and when the garden gets away from me, seeding grasses. During the breeding season the aviary also receives any surplus sprouting seed left over from feeding the breeding pairs with chicks.

16. Do you feed birds differently in the flights, versus the breeding cages?

The breeding cages get sprouting seed daily, except Friday, in addition to the basic seed mix mentioned above. Sprouting seed con-

sists mainly of bandicoot oats with a bit of wheat, sunflower and mung bean. To this I add salt and a liberal quantity of budgie starter. They also get freshly picked home grown silver beet three times a week. Sometimes this is substituted with chickweed, depending on availability.

17. Do you feed the birds anything just prior to the breeding season in an effort to increase their fertility? Chris Snell recommends chickweed as a stimulant - is there anything that you use?

Nothing, except this year for the first time I used Vetafarm Breeding Aid and Tracemin as well. It is difficult to assess if this made any difference because the seasonal conditions this last breeding season year were abnormal for Adelaide. I have routinely used Vetafarm Calcivet (liquid calcium and vitamin D3) for many years. Few of the birds in the breeding room have access to direct sunlight, hence we must supply the vitamin D3 for calcium absorption. I use no other vitamins, except whatever is in budgie starter used in the sprouting seed mix.

18. What grits do you feed your birds?

Broken Hill grit and shell grit. Interestingly, some recommend no grit due to cases of compaction. I think budgies have a grinding gizzard for the same reason chooks have one and if compaction occurs then there is some other problem with the management of, or the health of, the birds which causes the compaction.

19. What soft foods do you feed the birds, and when? Particularly with reference to those in breeding cages? Do you feed early morning and late night only? Do you feed egg-and-biscuit mix, soaked oats, breads, or anything of the like?

See response to 16 above. I feed sprouting seed every night after work (so lighting in the birdroom is required) except Friday when I

have a night off to stop in at the pub on the way home from work.

20. When the unbroken caps have left the nest, how do you feed them? Are they placed in a dedicated flight away from the adult birds?

They are placed in a long holding cage for at least two weeks before release into the main aviary with adults. The holding cage is located where I walk past it frequently so the babies get used to humans. It is vital to avoid crowding in the holding cage, so plenty of space is required. That assists with maintaining water quality in the open dish and avoidance of stress that would otherwise make them susceptible to the diseases endemic to budgerigars. One area of the floor of the holding cage is covered in shellgrit. The rest of the floor is covered in seed, and there are dishes of seed replenished daily. Babies enjoy millet sprays when taken from the breeding cage.

Disease in the Birds

21. What do you do to prevent disease in your birds? Do you have quarantine cages for new birds? How long do you typically leave them in there for?

I don't bring in a lot of birds each year. Those I do I will give a standard course of RonivetS in a holding cage before releasing into the rest of the flock. I like to give RonivetS as a preventative to the whole flock once a year, but that doesn't always happen. I have been fortunate in never having a major outbreak of disease. The best preventative is to harden the aviary birds by giving them plenty of space to exercise (especially flight lengths and height), access to direct sunlight and rain when they want it, and shelter away from the wind when that blows up. And clean water always, plus an array of interesting toys to satisfy their inquisitiveness.

22. What precautions do you take with new birds?

Ronivet-S and then the flights.

23. What preventative measures do you take with your own birds to ensure that they are not infected by native birds in outside flights? Some breeders have suggested Ronivet-S, this is used as a preventative to Canker two-three times per year, and Sulpha AVS and Coccivet as a preventative to Coccidiosis particularly during wet weather.

I check any branches (from fruit trees, native shrubs) taken into the aviary for the birds to chew on to ensure they don't carry wild bird droppings. That part of the aviary with a wire top to let the rain go through is suspended across the front of the aviary with a wire bottom to let any droppings go right through to the shrubs growing underneath.

24. When you have a sick bird, from a common illness such as enteritis, what is your typical procedure for dealing with this, and getting the bird back to good health?

Vigilance for early detection and transfer to a heated holding cage. I don't use heroic measures to save the weak.

25. What products do you use to sterilize and clean the cages? Have you found any particular products that are over-powering, or affect the birds adversely?

For wooden holding cages I use warm water, dishwashing fluid and scrubbing brush, followed by a hosing down. For the wire breeding cages I stack them on the lawn when it looks certain to rain and leave them there for some days.

The Breeding Room

26. How do you air condition the bird room? If you use a wall mounted split system reverse cycle air conditioner, how do you ensure that too much draft is not created? How do you ensure that the air is not left too dry?

I do not air condition as it is not necessary in Adelaide when breeding between July and November, as I do.

27. How do you determine what is ventilation, versus a draft?

Ventilation is air movement to keep the room fresh: like whirlies, plenty of window area on the leeward side of prevailing winds and no more than the gaps under the corrugated iron roofing on the wall facing the prevailing winds. Draft is something more.

28. What colour are your breeding cages? Are they Marine Ply? Some breeders have suggested that white is not good, and have advocated a light blue, or green, to negate reflection of light (and darken up the nest). What would you recommend?

I use nothing but wire cages for breeding, but believe light blue or green to be desirable for the walls of the breeding room and the inside of nest boxes to be painted black. My walls are light green but I haven't got around to

painting the insides of all of my nest boxes as yet, and don't think it represents a major component of breeding success.

29. How often do you clean the cages? Each day, each week?

Excess seed husk falls out of the breeding cages over the edges of the floor of the cage, which is a lino sheet on the metal tray which slides in over the wire bottom of the cage. Most of this is caught in a metal trough around the edge of the breeding room, where I run a broom around once a week and bag it for disposal. I have not yet retired so any time saving is a bonus. Full credit for this must go to Bob Deverson, from whom I got the setup, who designed it out of necessity - to save time. It is brilliant. I use a trowel at irregular intervals to remove any piles of droppings that build up under the perches.

30. Do you use ionisers in the bird room? If so, how many, and how far apart from one another? Is there any particular brand or model that you would advocate?

No. I think you only need these where there is insufficient ventilation or where the breeder is more sensitive than average to any feather dust.

31. Do you leave some night lights on in the breeding room at night, just in case the birds are scared, and need to return to their perches?

No. I have a sheet of clear material as part of the roof which lets moonlight in, and living in Adelaide there is some diffusion from streetlights.

32. What times do you have lights on in the breeding room? Do you try to extend the hours of natural light?

When I set up in July I have the lights on a timer to go out about an hour after dark. As the day lengthens I continue to keep the lights on for about an hour after dark by fiddling the timer. Since I don't feed sprouting seed to the breeding cages until I get home from work the extended hour of light facilitates that.

Breeding Programs & Documentation

33. What information do you store on the nest card?

I use the back of the place cards I get at the shows, which becomes quite busy. Numbers represent each egg and alongside that is the approximate date laid and date due to hatch. In the early days I meticulously numbered each egg by checking every nest every night and recorded the exact date laid. Now I might not check a nest until several eggs are laid, then I count back for an approximate laying date for the first one, which is accurate to + or - one day. This saves a lot of time and gives me the information I need to be able to expect eggs to begin hatching, to transfer eggs from one nest to another, and to know close enough to when the last egg is due to hatch. Ring numbers of the parents and their varieties are written across the

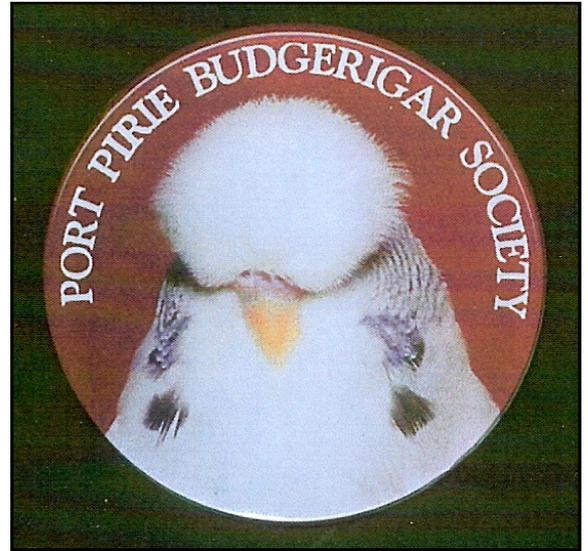
top. Nest number and date set up are written across the bottom. I record ring numbers of birds rung in that nest in red. In black I document movement of unrun chicks and unhatched eggs, both inwards with nest origin, and outwards with nest destination. The back of a fresh card is used for the next round.

John, we thank you for your time, and trust that your answers to these questions may have helped enthusiasts out there, who may not be in a position to visit you, or chat on these topics.





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Port Pirie 50th Anniversary Show

By Doug & Ruth Lange

With the Port Pirie 50th Anniversary Show coming up on July 7th, the BSCA thought it apt to complete a little history on the club, compiled by long time members, Doug & Ruth Lange.

The inaugural meeting of the "Port Pirie Budgerigar Club" was held on August 27th, 1957 at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Davies at 150 The Terrace, Port Pirie. There were 22 foundation members present, who decided to call the club the "Port Pirie Budgerigar Club". Mr. Thredgold was elected President and held this position until 1964. At the same time, Mr. Sharpe was elected Secretary/Treasurer and also held that position until 1964. Subsequent meetings were held at the St. Andrews Hall in Florence Street from 30th. September 1957 until 26th. June 1959.

Membership fees were set at 15 shillings per member (\$1.50) and everyone was initially asked to pay immediately, so that a bank balance could be established. (Even in those days members had to be reminded !)

Show cages were made up in kit form from Chas Geddes and sold to members for 17 shillings and 3 pence (\$1.75).

The first Club show for members at monthly meetings was held 28th. March 1958. Entry fee was 3 pence (3 cents) per bird. There were only 9 birds shown, but members could see the interest generated from showing birds at monthly meetings, so this number soon grew to 20 -25 birds.

The first Annual Show was held on the 5th. July 1958 in the Rechabite Hall in Mary Ellen Street, Port Pirie. Entry fee was 1/- (10 cents) per bird. Judges were Mr. Robert (Bob) Hancock and Mr. F. Brown from Adelaide. Judging commenced at 9.30am. Doors

were open to the Public at 11.30am and entry fee was 1/- per person to view the Show. The doors did not close until 8.30pm. It is hard to imagine in today's terms a show running that late, but 8:30 pm was the shut off time. Trophy presentation was at 6.30pm, where the raffle for a show cage was drawn, raising the club £2 13 shillings (\$5.30)

On 31st July 1959, the meetings were moved to the South Baptist Hall at Solomontown and were held there until 29th. November 1969.

The first Young Stock Show was held in April 1961 and the first Unbroken Cap Show was held in November 1972.

Halls once again changed, this time to the Solomontown Scout Hall, on 31st January 1970 until October 1988. This hall is the location where most of the current members of the Port Pirie Club started in the fancy, holding special memories and a place in the heart of those life-long members.

In 1965 Mr. H Johnston was elected President and held this position until 1989. Since then we have had various Presidents with the current President being Mr. Trevor Russell.

In 1965 Mr. M. Hutchinson was elected Secretary/Treasurer and held this position until 1987.

On 14th. January 1989 and until September 2002 meetings and shows were held at the Community Welfare Centre, the YMCA, and at the home of C & T Yates.

From 2003, meetings have been held at the homes of various members during the day, where the club has combined this with a BBQ.

Our two Shows each year are now held at Crystal Brook, mainly due to the costs of Halls in Port Pirie.

When the Logan Shield commenced, it was rotated amongst the South Australian clubs. In 1979, Port Pirie hosted its first Logan Shield Show, which was subsequently held in Port Pirie every five years. This show is now held every year in Adelaide and organized by the BCSA as the State Selection Show. We now combine as Port Pirie/Broken Hill to field a team for the Logan Shield and because of this have over the last few years been almost able to fill every class, something we had never been able to do in the past.

A Tri Shield competition commenced in 1988 between Central Districts, Broken Hill and Port Pirie. This was held between these Clubs because we were all of similar size in membership. This proved to be a popular inter-club competition held at each Club every three years. Back then, everyone looked forward to driving to Broken Hill for the weekend. Unfortunately Port Pirie only won the shield three times, but in the process had lots of fun and fellowship.

It ceased in 2002, due to decline in memberships at Port Pirie and Broken Hill, and the closing of the Central Districts/Central Plains Club.

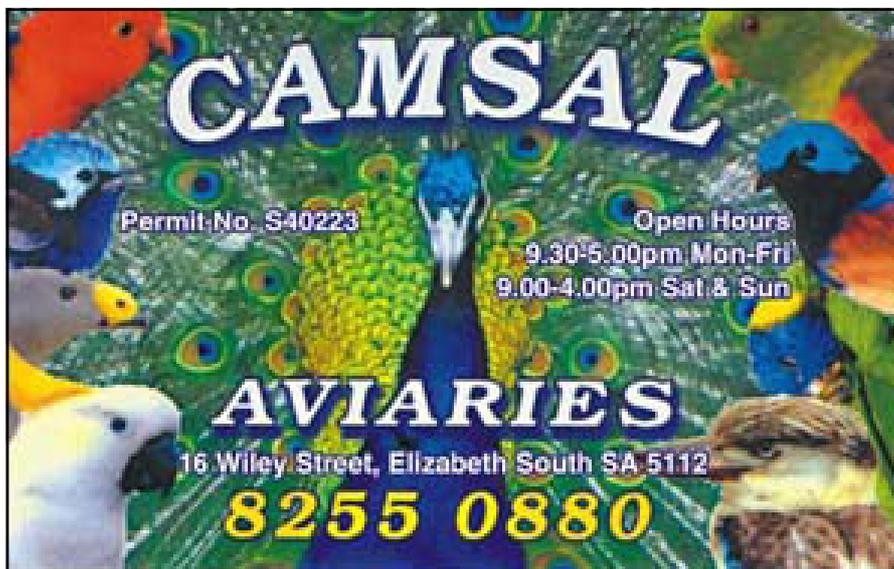
Over the years Port Pirie established a reputation for putting on wonderful lunches and afternoon teas at our Shows. We had ladies who were accomplished cooks and nothing was ever too much trouble to them. Even today, the "Senior" members of our Society refer to the days of going to Port Pirie for the "Food".

When the club was founded in 1957, there were 22 foundation members, Each meeting would average 20 members, and this was impressive given that people came to Port Pirie from Whyalla, Port Augusta, Clare, Jamestown, Crystal Brook, Adelaide and even Victoria. Over the years membership peaked at 35 - 40 members, but sadly, as with most clubs, this has declined over the past 8 - 10 years. Today, Port Pirie/Broken Hill has 18 financial members whc come from as far afield as Port Pirie, Crystal Brook, Port Augusta, Maitland, Kadina, Jamestown, Adelaide and Broken Hill. We travel many kilometres to meetings, and to the Logan Shield each year.

Over the years we have always tried to support other Clubs, either by Showing at their Shows or just attending. Some of our members are members of other Clubs which we benefit from by keeping up with showing, new ideas, information, making friends etc.

Recently, the Port Pirie club became a half affiliate member of the BCSA, which entitles us to have one delegate (and one vote) on Council. This can only benefit our small Club in keeping up with Council matters and making a positive contribution to the state.

Over the years some of our members have had



birds selected to represent S.A. at the Nationals. They are thrilled to have their birds selected, which in the case of two greys, placed as high as 2nd and 3rd at the National titles.

If it were not for those enthusiastic 22 members in 1957 and their love for the Budgerigar, Port Pirie Club would not be where it is today. Hopefully the Club will survive for the next 50 years. Please help us to make our 50th. Anniversary a big success by entering birds on the day.

The event is being held on Saturday 7th. July 2007 at the sentimental home of the Port Pirie Budgerigar Club, the Solomon-town Scout Hall, now called the P.A.D.A.R.C. Hall, in Crystal Brook.

If anyone has photos or other memorabilia relating to Port Pirie from years ago, please advise the club if you would be willing to lend them for the day to be displayed.

For more information please feel free to contact Doug or Ruth Lange.

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The Rise & Rise of Bob Smith (SQLD)

One of the great success stories of the 2006 National Championships held in Caloundra was undoubtedly the three class wins by Bob Smith, representing South Queensland. Rivalled only by Ken Seagrott, Bob won the Normal Green, Grey Green and Opaline classes, and ran 7th in the Hens class with some stunning birds that will be remembered for many years to come. When you consider that Bob has only been back in birds for six years, and his stud consist of around 50 birds, his rapid ascent to the top bench is an even more amazing story.

Bob's first breeding season was in 2000, after leaving the hobby ten years earlier due to the costs associated with importing budgerigars. He was very careful in the selection of his foundation stock, bringing birds in from Gary Gazzard (Binks, Mannes, Pilkington & Lane), the partnership of Plunkett & Tasi (Binks), and Nigel Tonkin (Kellett, Williams, Mannes, Parker, Harris).

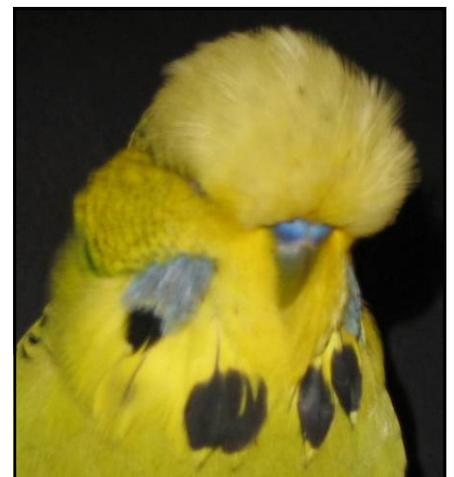
Two years in, he had an Opaline Cinnamonwing in the South Queensland team that ran 7th in the Nationals. In 2003, he again represented the state, and this time went on to win the Yellow Faced Blue Series. The 2004 show season saw Bob place 2nd in the Yellow Faced Blue Series, 3rd in Opaline and Hens, 5th in Grey Greens, 6th in Greys, 10th & 11th in Spangle classes. He continued on his success in 2005, winning the Spangle Double Factor class, whilst also placing 8th in the Light Greens, 12th in the Blues, and 13th in the Opaline AOSV. His greatest successes came in 2006, with three out of four entries winning their respective classes, and of the four birds on show, three were from one nest, testifying to a consistent level of quality throughout the youngsters.

What makes Bob's victories at Caloundra even more amazing is the circumstances surrounding his 2005 breeding season. With the heat wave that occurred over the 2005/2006 Christmas period, Bob lost 10 hens and 2 cocks, which significantly impacted the size and breeding plans of his incredibly small stud. In relative terms, Bob's stud went from 70 birds to 58 birds. He then defied the odds, and culled his stock back to 48 birds. Local breeders sympathized with Bob's plight, and offered to assist him with surplus birds from their studs, but he refused, sticking to his strict regime of line breeding and closed families from specific breeders. The results are now history - 1st in the Green, Grey Green and Opaline classes, and 7th in the Hens class with a sister to the Grey Green cock, and the Opaline Grey Green cock.

Bob adheres to a strict variation of traditional closed breeding, which he attributes a lot of his success to. He pairs a cock to three related hens, and uses their progeny to then pair half-brother and half-sister the following year. The year after, these progeny are then mated back to the original four birds (the cock and three hens). Bob adapted this principle from line breeding programs in various budgerigar literature, as well as what he understood from breeding show cattle. He found that by introducing the half-brother, half-sister pairings in the second generation, he got much better results when he then used this progeny to go back to the founding birds (so effective grandfather to grand-daughter, rather than father to daughter). His observations lead him to conclude that the results of father-daughter pairings were a lot less effective, when compared with the interim, adapted step.

Bob is very strict in so far as the founding cock is selected along with the three hens on various specific traits. He then uses a process of Assisted Insemination (AI) to ensure maximum fertility with the hens, to generate the maximum number of possible half-brother, half-sister combinations for the following year. The following year, only the best half-brother, half-sister pairs are chosen purely on visual features, which include the length and thickness of down on the feather shafts. These pairs are then allowed to breed without interference, and do not partake in any form of assisted insemination program. In the season that follows, the very best young hens, and the three best young cocks, as used back to the original foundation birds.

The addition of this "interference" year is strategic - from pairing half-brother to half-sister, in some degree of quantity, where the pairing focus is visually quality, the features that Bob is chasing from the original pairing of the foundation bird can be



exposed, producing a resultant bird that is visually the bird that you'd like to then pair back to the foundation birds. Using this bird, which is still 50% of the foundation bird's bloodlines (because of the half-brother, half-sister pairing), you have a more visual bird that may or may not have the features that you have tried to impress upon the birds with the first original foundation bird pairing. Bob has found that in his experience, the quality produced is much higher using this method, when compared with simple father-daughter line breeding methods. In Bob's words, it is paramount to "double up" on these features, rather than taking a "compensation" approach.

Pairing considerations in the Smith stud are focused on visual quality, and in particular, "feather". Many fanciers consider "feather" in various forms - directional feather, length of feather, and things of the like. Bob is very specific in the sense that he looks at the physical structure of feather, and in particular, the length and thickness of the down associated with the feather on various parts of the body. Bob's study of feather has led him to conclude that the further the length of "down" extends along the feather shaft, the bigger the bird appears. The same principle applies to the density of the down, which again gives the perception of a bigger bird, particularly in the breast area. In the heat of Northern NSW, Bob has found it difficult to improve the density of the down, so he has worked on extending the length of the down along the feather shaft. In the six years that he has spent working on improving the length, he has managed to increase the length of down from 4.0 mm to almost ¾ the length of the feather shaft.

Bob's breeding results and studies have led

him to conclude that there are two physical types of genes that affect body feather, (i) that which applies to the head and mask region, and (ii) that which applies to the chest and remainder of the body. The two are controlled separately, but in the same manner, which he attributes to the phenomenon of big faced birds with small bodies.

During the pairing process, once related birds have been identified, and their relative length of down established, Bob then looks to the characteristics of directional feather and blow. In his experience, hens absolutely must have directional feather - it does not matter how long, so much as it is present. On the other hand, the cocks must excel in "blow". Bob has found that in 75% of the cases, this pairing produces desirable birds. Conversely, where the hen exceeds in blow, and the cock in directional feather, only about 5% of the progeny have excelled in directional feather, and have been worthy of keeping. In terms of the progeny, Bob is a very strong believer that the hen gives more to the relationship than the cock.

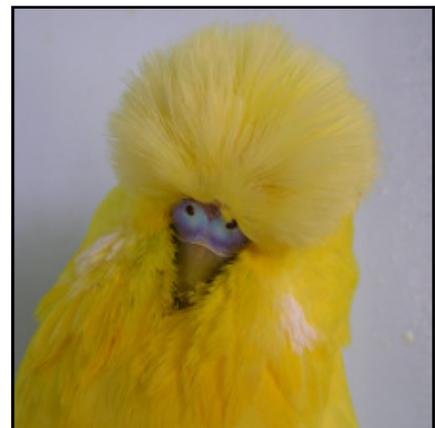
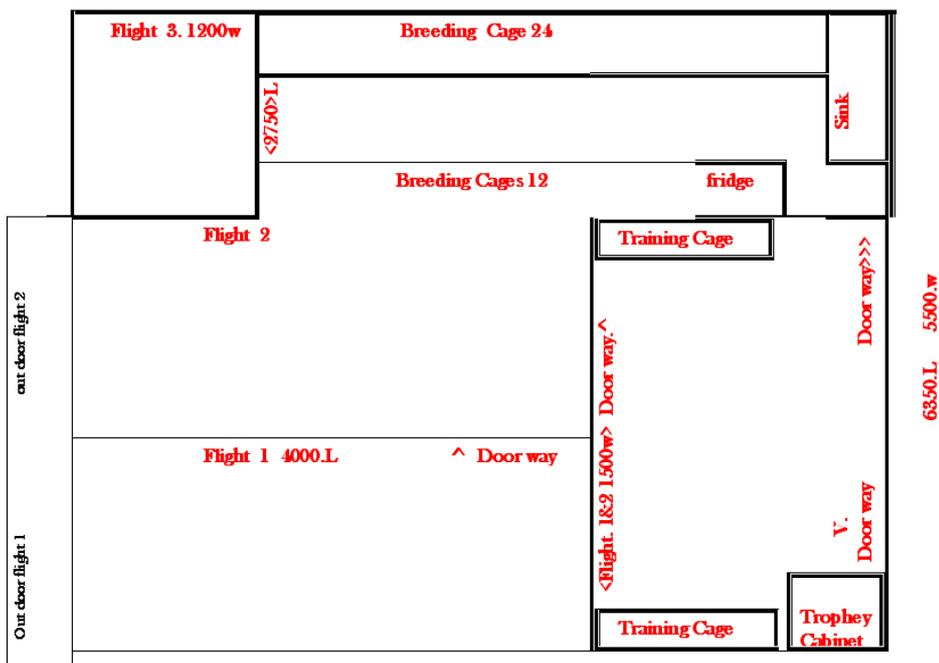
Bob attributes a lot of his research and understanding of budgerigars to "The Challenge" by Gerald Binks. When Bob reentered the hobby in 1999, he read the book cover to cover, and still to this day takes a worn and ragged copy with him most places he goes. He says that you can never stop learning, and Gerald has produced an incredibly detailed book, which he recommends as a reference to us all.

The mechanics of breeding in the Smith stud are very focused on harnessing the natural breeding cycle of the wild budgerigar. Bob attempts to breed between March and October, so in the middle of January, six weeks out

from the commencement of the breeding season, Bob places an abundance of eucalypt branches into the aviary. The hens tear these apart, and they are continuously renewed, as this assists in bringing hens into condition. To determine if the hens are in condition, Bob looks at the cere and feather condition of the birds, but he goes further, and assesses the down. He has observed that the thicker the down, the more effective the eggs will be incubated.

At the same time, Bob catches up and individually cages his birds to check their dropping for any signs of Mega bacteria under the microscope. Once cleared, the birds are then dipped in Coopex as a preventative measure against lice and feather mite. Doxycycline is then added to the drinking water for a period of 10 days to prevent Psittacosis, as well as to help improve fertility and breeding results.

Once the birds are ready to breed, the cocks are selected and placed into any one of the 36 breeding cages on offer. At this time, the ring and variety details are noted on the nest card, but furthermore, Ivermectin is placed behind the head of the birds with a cotton bud. Two days later, the selected hen is placed in the cabinet, and the same process is completed.





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When pairing, Bob attempts to put an older cock with a young hen, or visa-versa, where possible - experience has shown that a maiden cock and hen together can be a recipe for disaster. Bob always tries to let a maiden hen raise her first round of chicks, believing that it sets a precedent for future breeding programs. Once the full clutch of eggs is laid, Bob administers another dose of Ivermectin to the back of the head of both parents. When the chicks have hatched, Bob places Ivermectin on the back of the birds heads at age 5 days, to reduce/contain the possibility of an outbreak of French Molt. When the youngsters get their first pin feathers (not down, but feathers), the process is repeated, except this time it extends further to the wings, and tail feathers. Beyond this, every bird in the aviary is painstakingly treated at 4 weekly intervals.

The birds are fed a commercially available seed mix, which is 50% Plain Canary, 20 % Japanese millet, 20% White French millet, and 10% Panarama. A small dish of bandi-



coot oats is added to each breeding cage, along with grit. On a daily basis, a soaked seed/soft food mixture is provided to the breeding cabinets, which comprises soaked seed, vegetables, and egg food. The soaked seed component consists of bandicoot oats, wheat, sunflower, saffron and mung beans, which are soaked for 6 to 8 hours in a mixture of water and Milton (baby product disinfectant). Soft food is prepared separately, which comprises commercially available egg and biscuit mix, iodine salt, ID Yeast, baby formula, and a small amount of meat meal for added protein. The soft food is sprinkled over the soaked seed, and along with grated carrot, and is fed to the birds twice daily. In addition (in a separate dish), each cage is provided with ¼ of a hard boiled egg, and green food, comprising spinach, beetroot and celery, fed in the mornings only. The protein content of ID Yeast is approximately 54%, and similarly the meat meal, available from the local abattoirs, is almost pure protein. Bob feels that it is extremely important to maintain these high levels of protein, as it is paramount to the feather and down condition of the modern budgerigar. Bob also uses a Pigeon Pink powder, available from Belgium - it contains many nutrients, and results have shown that it makes the fledglings very lively and is of great benefit.

The drinking water is supplemented with 5 mL/L of Vitamin B12 liquid twice weekly to enhance the hatchability of the chicks - this is reduced to once a week once all the chicks have hatched, and during the non-breeding season. Calcivet is also provided once a week during the breeding season, as is Ivermectin at a rate of 1 mL/100 mL of water.

The facility where all of this takes place,



the bird room, is compact but effective, with 36 breeding cabinets that are never all in use. In 2006, Bob had a maximum of 19 in operation at any one point in time. His nest boxes are 230 mm high by 160 mm wide by 220 mm long, and the inserts inside the nest box are 40 mm thick with a concave. Bob has one hole in the bottom of the nest box and two in the top, as experience has led him to conclude that with the holes about 10cm on the sides that the box becomes too humid. By placing the holes top and bottom the babies are very comfortable, even on the hottest of days, and they do not go to each corner of the nest box. The breeding room has a night light that runs constantly, and the main light is switched off at approximately 8.30pm each night. Because of the hot climate in Northern New South



Wales, Bob employs a box style air-conditioner as required - he is mindful of the humidity when using this, but has found that it has never dropped below 40% humidity yet. An exhaust fan in the aviary is run when the air conditioner is not on, which is generally at anything below 30 degrees Celsius.

Preparation for an Inter-branch or National Show in the Smith stud starts 12 weeks beforehand. In the case of the 2007 Nationals, preparations will begin on Saturday March 3rd. At this time, Bob will artificially induce the birds into a moult by feeding them only Japanese or White French seed. At the same time, Bob places the prospective team of birds into show cages for a more aggressive training regime. Those which perch and show naturally get no special attention - those that don't are sprayed with a jet of water until the bird decides to perch, and this is continued until a stubborn bird perches each day.

Four weeks before the show, Bob removes ALL the spots from a bird, and then sprays the group every day, alternating with boiling hot water on one day, and cold water the next. Three days before the show, Bob uses four ice cream containers, placing warm water into each. The first container is used to rinse the bird, while the second container has baby shampoo in it (as it does not affect



the birds due to the mildness and "no tears" formulation). Bob uses a shaving lathering brush to wash the birds, before passing them into the third container for a second rinse. The fourth container contains a mixture of glucose (5 mL) and warm water, which the bird is then dunked in. The birds are immediately placed in a wire holding cage out in the sun to dry, but before they dry completely, they are brought back into the preparation area, where Bob uses his wife's hairdryer set on warm, to finish the job off perfectly. The very next day, Bob applies a commercially available Baby Oil to the cere, feet and ring of each bird. For the three days leading up to the show, Bob also supplements the birds with Spark-Electrovet, a product from Vetafarm, and then for an additional two days after the show. When the birds return from a show, they are placed into a holding cage for one week thereafter to ensure that they are eating correctly, and not affected by the travel.

Disease management in any successful exhibition stud is paramount, and one of the things that any visitor to Bob's establishment will note is that he is thorough, and he likes to understand the root cause to any problem. Bob is not broadly accepting of any statement, and as a result, he is constantly analysing and investigating, with the assistance of fellow fanciers, and his trusty microscope. Over his six years back in exhibition budgerigars, Bob has built up a slide library of diseases and parasites, so that he is able to complete his own in-house crop swabs, faecal analysis and feather testing for mites, to assist in the diagnosis of any problem. When a new bird is brought into the stud, it is placed into quarantine for six weeks, well away from the other birds. During this time, if one of the birds (either the quarantined bird or one of the flock) becomes ill, Bob completes a checking process of the droppings, to determine any abnormalities. From this, he is able to identify the presence of Megabacteria or Coccidiosis. At the same time, he checks for Canker by completing a throat swab. His preferred medicines of choice in the treatment of

avian ailments are Baytril 2.5%, Doxycycline 10%, Moxi-T, Ronivet-S and Sulfa AVS.

Bob Smith's approach of ruthless culling, strict closed breeding regimes and good management has certainly paid dividends for him on the show bench. With such a small number of birds, Bob is certainly proving the point that small can be successful, and we wish him every success in the 2007 show season.





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The Bundesschau, 2005

By Nigel Tonkin

As I have probably stated in previous articles, all shows have been exceptional experiences and will leave lasting memories.

The Bundesschau invitation came, thanks to Marcel Bühler of Switzerland who advised the AZ-DWV (Avicultural & Conservation Society - German Budgerigar Association) President, Heinz Kueppers that I would be visiting Europe and was judging the Swiss National event in 2005. I was later invited to lecture at the Budgerigar Society Show in the United Kingdom, but sadly the dates clashed with the German appointment.

Some history of the Bundesschau leading up to the judging:

On the 17th of November, a Thursday, Jennie (my partner) and I drove with Marcel Bühler's car from Switzerland (Hagendorn, Cham near Zug) to Karlsruhe in Germany to Leo & Hilde Endres residence to travel to Kassel with Leo, Leo planned to leave at 11 am. We left Hagendorn at 7 am. and arrived on the dot of 11 am. at Leo's and departed for Kassel within 10 minutes after saying a quick hello to Hilde and loading our luggage into the vehicle. I think Leo got a bit of a shock to see the amount we were carrying. The idea of driving on the 'wrong' side of the road is a little daunting, but Jennie's ability to advise me that I was getting too close to the gutter or a post was most welcome.

The 420 km trip to Kassel took a little over 3 hours; Leo informed us that he could not go over 190km/hr because he had his winter tyres on. Oh and we stopped for a toilet and food break and a stretch along the way.

We deposited our luggage at the hotel;

Jennie remained there whilst I was whisked off to the show venue for introductions and the signing of all place cards from 1st to 7th plus cards for the colour groups from 1st to 16th. I am told the total number of budgerigars entered is 3961, I have 347 of these. I am allocated the following classes to judge; Cinnamon Light Greens, Cinnamon Opaline Light Greens, Cinnamon Greys, Cinnamon Opaline Greys, Yellow Faced Cinnamon Blues, Yellow Faced Cinnamon Greys, Yellow Faced Cinnamon Opaline Blues, Yellow Faced Opaline Blues, Yellow Faced Opaline Greys, and Yellow Faced Spangle Double Factor (the Australian and Europe Yellow Faced are shown in the same class). As a comment, the Cinnamonwing (in Australia) is classified as Cinnamon and the Opaline Cinnamonwing is classified as Cinnamon Opaline in Europe.

The benching of the birds takes place on the Thursday; none of the officiating judges are permitted in the show venue proper. There are many other species of birds at this show. Overall entries are around 11,500.

Total entries I am advised are down this year because of the media coverage of the Bird Flu scare, in fact both the Swiss and the German shows appointed one specific spokesperson for the media to prevent misinformation getting to the media. There are 72 exhibitors missing from the budgerigar section alone. The record entry for budgerigars is 9,600 or there about some years back.

There are 10 budgerigar judges, 7 from Germany, one from Holland and one from Denmark plus yours truly; all can speak fluent German except me. I guess I can speak enough to cover the varieties and placing of

the birds plus enough to get me out of trouble (or in it) when getting around to places via train or in restaurants.

Thursday evening there is a meal with the officials of the show and I am presented with an English translation of the AZ-DWV Guidelines for Judging. This will turn out to be invaluable. I read through it and found difficulties in some areas thus the Judge from Holland, Han Schrijver who spoke excellent English, Heinz Kueppers, Winfried Beger (one of two vice presidents of the DWV) and I sat down and worked through the document. From this meeting, I have rewritten and reformatted the document for future English speaking judges.

I am required to be ready to head to the show venue by 7.15 am the next morning (Friday) being advised that it could be a long day.

Friday the 18th of November I am up at around 6 am, showered and ready for breakfast by 6.45 am we hit the road for the show venue at 7.20 am.

Judge and Steward Introductions take place; each judge is allotted 3 stewards,





my chief steward being Gunter Will, and a wonderful gentleman though like his two assistants, he could not speak English.

I commenced judging at 8.15 am and soon found a good rhythm. Judge 1st to 7th in the four show classifications, from Beginner to Champion, young birds and old birds, cocks and hens, put all first placed birds together and if a full compliment = there should be 16 birds in the colour class line up, judge these from 1st to 16th. Sounds easy? Whilst judging your own classes, you are called upon to assist two other judges to judge a best in colour variety group; I assisted with the Dominant Pieds, The AOSV's (Continental Pied, Clearbody, Crest, Fallow and Dark Eyed Clear) plus the Cinnamons, Cinnamon Opalines and Yellow Faced varieties - the other two judges that I teamed up with had judged the remainder of these varieties or had been called, as I had for the Dominant Pied and AOSV classes, from another area of judging.

The Light Greens, the Sky Blues, the Greys and the Grey Greens are in their own Group Class and dark factor normal green and blue series are combined.

Given this the Judge who had completed judging the line up of Normal Greys from 1st to 16th, as an example, was then subjected to 2 other judges (one being me) coming along and reassessing the group with his input. This would be nothing but daunting as we did make some changes 1st to 2nd, 2nd to 1st and some other changes further down the list.

At the time I was judging the Greys my thoughts were that we were assessing the work of a trainee judge and had written a note to discuss this with one of the Vice

Presidents, Winfried Beger, at days end, as it was he approached me later in the day re this very subject to ask what I thought of this system. I stated as per above that it would be daunting and almost undermining.

I completed my class judging at 12.35 pm, There were some condition problems and a number of birds scratched. The best bird that I judged in these classes was a Cinnamon Light Green Hen, an awesome bird that I placed second; her primary tail feathers were just touching the primary tail coverts, sadly not in contention for any of the major awards. The next best bird that I judged was a Yellow Faced Cinnamon Sky hen that I placed first even though she had a twisted toe nail plus the end of another toe nail missing. The second bird in this class would not perform; she was a big powerful bird.

The judging of the final birds commenced around 1.15 pm. The best of each colour group was put before the judges who were all seated nearby. 2 x 3 judges and 1 x 4 were asked to judge the birds and place their nomination on a piece of paper that had been supplied. Not being familiar with the way things were to work, I followed the two judges with me and looked over the birds, no birds were moved at all, these two judges wrote on their piece of paper and handed in their vote, I walked back and forward checking over a couple of birds at either end of the stage and thought "should I move these or not?" I chose not to, the bird I went for as did 5 other judges was a superb Spangle Double Factor White adult cock bird that had won the show the year prior, an exceptional effort given the number of birds entered at both shows. The final vote went 6, 2, & 2.

From here the Best Opposite Sex in show was chosen. There were 7 or 8 top quality hens on display, and again the judges were in groups but this time I was with two different judges. The secret ballot process came into play again. A Cinnamon Grey Green young hen that I assisted two other judges with to put best overall in the Cinnamon section won, with the voting going 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 and 1. I went for the Yellow Faced Cinnamon Sky hen as she was really blossoming even though I recognised she had toe nail problems. The Cinnamon was not performing and had two 'shadow' spots. She showed better in her class when I judged her and certainly turned it on afterwards. Again, no birds were moved to compare side by side thus I asked the judge from Denmark, who spoke good English, if this was forbidden, he said no it was up to the individual judge to make that decision.

The list as per the Bundes Gruppensieger

Deutsch	English
Hellgrün	Light Green
Hellblau	Sky Blue
Graugrün	Grey Green
Grau	Grey
Normalvogel	Dunkelfarben Normal Dark Factor
Gelbe, Weisse, Grauflügel	Yellow, White, Greywing
Ino	Lutino, Albino
Hellflügel	Clearwing
Zimt	Cinnamon
Zimtpalatin	Cinnamon Opaline
Opalin	Opaline
Gelbgesicht	Yellow Faced
Spangle Doppelfaktorig + Neumutationen	Double Factor Spangle + New Mutation
Lacewing	Lacewing
Rezessive Schecke	Recessive Pied
Australische Schecken	Australian Pied
Spangle	Spangle
Übrige Farben	AOSV
Paare	Pairs
Kollektionen	Collection



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Three judges were selected to make the decision on Best Novice in show; they chose an Australian Dominant Pied Grey Green cock.

Next was the judging of the Best Adult Hen in show, again we are broken up into groups with the same secret ballot process taking place. There were 3 very strong hens in this group and I was in the last group to judge and thought a Grey Green hen might be the one to challenge for this spot: a big shouldered bird in proportion, and then I got to the other end of the bench and saw a wonderful Clearbody Grey hen and a Spangle Grey Green hen. I became bold and moved the Grey Green beside these two birds and eventually voted for her. The Grey Green won 4 votes to the Clearbody 3, the Spangle Grey Green 2 and a strong Light Green hen 1.

Best Young Cock went to a Cinnamon Grey that I had judged earlier in the day. I did not rate this bird that highly compared to those that it was competing against on the top bench - a hot and cold bird as far as exhibiting goes, I went for a Spangle Cinnamon Grey that I believed stood out over the other cocks, Three others agreed with me, but we were outvoted as the Cinnamon Grey obtained 5 votes and a nice Grey Cock 1. The

young hens were certainly superior to the young cocks. The Best Young Bird in show went to the Cinnamon Grey Green hen that had already won best of colour. Jennie had painted a Dominant Pied in acrylic paints for the Best Young Bird thus the breeder, Jo Mannes, has this hanging in his lounge. Interestingly, it was revealed that Jo had won the Best in Show at this event 12 times and had judged on other occasions.

I was selected in the group of three judges to judge Best Novice Bird, this went to an Opaline Greywing Grey cock that was in great condition but lacked the head quality that I like, and I went for a Cinnamon Light Green cock.

The remaining four judges assessed the Intermediate class and gave this to a Grey Green Cock.

Best Champion had already been won by the Spangle Double Factor White cock bird.

After the show, I was advised that the Yellow Face that I regarded so highly (and other did too I am told) should have been disqualified because of the twisted toe nail. I could not find anything within the disqualification clauses on this one. I was pleased to

see via Wellensittich Welt (Budgerigar World) produced by Dieter Keller that this bird was Best in Show and Best Young Bird at the 39th AZ-Landesschau Hessen. I do feel somewhat relieved now.

Judging was completed by 3.15 pm. At the Bundesschau, the birds are judged in their colour and variety groups (Gruppensieger) then in their selected overall groups (Bundes Gruppensieger).

On the Friday at the completion of judging, judges, stewards and the management team had hot food and beer and during this period there was a presentation of a certificate and judging stick for those that judged. This was very social with lots of laughter.

One thing that I found to be of great use was the flat judging stick; we now call this the Svensson Paddle in Australia. One of these was given to me to use with the difficult birds and this worked a treat in the main. Australia will be able to use this tool at future National events and from now on at all shows, what a blessing this is.

On the Friday night after the show back at

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the hotel, Schnapps flowed freely from the winners. I do not usually get involved with this side of the event, but yes, one got caught up and totally enjoyed a few schnapps, as did Jennie - I believe a first for her. I had a great sleep that night.

On the Saturday evening there was an official dinner that I would suggest around 400 attended. Most of the major awards were presented for all varieties of birds. The Australian parrots and finches seemed to feature a lot in this. We arrived home from this event around midnight, hit the hotel room being advised in advance that we will probably get a knock on the door in the wee hours of the morning once a group of Bavarians arrive with specially prepared food and yes, drink. The door knock did come at, I suggest around, 1.30 am and we joined in (watched in the main) whilst lots more food and beer was consumed. A hilarious morning.

There was an official Budgerigar meeting on the Sunday at which in part comments / complaints from exhibitors in relation to judging took place if they wished, and they did. Thankfully I escaped unscathed, well I believe I did. Presentations were made, elections were had and it was a friendly atmosphere.

What a wonderful show to attend and even greater to be able to officiate at. If you do get the opportunity, make sure you plan any trip to Germany around this event. You will not be disappointed.

Thanks to Leo Endres for being an absolute gentleman, guide, our carer whilst we were at Kassel and to Hilde for her kindness as always in ensuring we were well fed when in Karlsruhe. Also a big thank you to the show management team for taking the risk of having an Australian judge officiating at such a big show.

Absolutely brilliant. A trip I will never forget.

RESULTS

Best in Show	Spangle D/F White Cock	Jo Mannes
Best Opp.-Sex in Show	Cinnamon Grey Green Hen	Jo Mannes
Best Any Age	Spangle D/F White Hen	Jo Mannes
Best Opp.-Sex Any Age	Grey Green Hen	E. Schrank
Best Young Bird	Cinnamon Grey Green Hen	Jo Mannes
Best Opp.-Sex Young Bird	Cinnamon Grey Cock	E. Schrank
Best Champion	Spangle D/F White Cock	Jo Mannes
Best Open	Grey Green Cock	ZG Schiller/Lautenschlager
Best Intermediate	Greywing Grey Cock	J. Eichler
Best Beginner	Dominant Pied Grey Green	F.X. Friedl

GROUP WINNERS

Normal Greens	M. Dedecke
Normal Blues	M. Dedecke
Normal Grey Greens	E. Schrank
Normal Greys	M. Ahrens
Normal Dark Factor	P. G. Reimann
Yellow, White or Greywing	S. Langer
Ino (Lutino or Albino)	Z. G. Kachel
Clearwing	R. Lehmann
Cinnamon	J. Mannes
Cinnamon Opaline	E. Kempel
Opaline	H. Kitemesch
Spangle Double Factor plus new mutation	J. Mannes
Lacewing	ZG Kachel
Recessive Pied	B. Waible
Australian Dominant Pied	ZG Dresden
Spangle	J. Mannes
A.O.S.V.	P. Fischer
Pair	J. Mannes
Collection	J. Mannes



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The Birth of the Fancy in Pakistan

By Nigel Tonkin

This interview by Nigel Tonkin (Australia) with Mobassir Sattar (Pakistan) was carried out via the internet during the months of March through to June 2006

Mobassir, how advanced is the budgerigar fancy in Pakistan?

Answer.

As a hobby, bird keeping is as old as Indo-Pak history. If you are referring to the English Budgerigar, they were first introduced here in the early 70's. Fanciers are taking interest in breeding birds with proper ring bands and with correct aviary management. More people are becoming seriously involved in bird keeping and even Bird shows are becoming common here. The formation of the Budgerigar Society of Pakistan is a major step towards this and the continued advancement of the fancy.

Are you involved with a Budgerigar Club or a mixed bird club?

Answer.

I am glad that I am a member of the first Budgerigar Society of Pakistan. The idea emerged last year when I was browsing the websites of international breeders. The quality and characteristics of the English Budgerigars encouraged me to do something in Pakistan for the promotion of these birds. I contacted Mr. Ghalib Al-Nasser (Secretary/Treasurer of the World Budgerigar Organization) in this regard and with the help of Ghalib the first Budgerigar Society of Pakistan came into being. I am personally thankful to him and to Mr. Amir Sharif Malik (Vice President, Budgerigar Society of Pakistan) for accepting the proposal and for all of their efforts and support to get the Society to where it is today.

How many Budgerigar fanciers, serious Budgerigar fanciers would you have in Pakistan?

Answer.

From the beginning, senior bird keepers have been involved in Budgerigars in one way or another. In general, the majority started this hobby with wild budgerigars and has some knowledge of keeping them. The main reason may be that Budgerigars are more colorful and textured in looks. We can safely state that more than 50% of the total fancier are involved in Budgerigars. But if we talk specifically about Exhibition budgerigar's breeders, then this quantity is low. However now the breeding ratio is increasing and breeders are showing their interest in Exhibition budgerigars.

Here I would like to mention a few names of senior and experienced fanciers in Pakistan: Exhibition Budgerigars breeders In Lahore: Amir Sharif Malik (champion breeder), Mr. Zafar, Mr. Hannad, Hammid Raza Shah, Sohail Fazal, Malik Janhgeer, Zaheer Minhas, Shahid Shiekh, Naveed Ijaz, Khurram alikhan, Rizwan Qasim, Mazhar Abbas, Ali Raza and Ahmed Raza brothers etc.

Crested Budgerigars breeders In Lahore: Rana Khalid (Mr. Rana is last year champion in crested variety), some other in crested are Qasim Subhani, Haroon, Fawad Bhukari etc.

From other cities of Pakistan: Mr. Waqas (champion breeder) Mr. Waqas is last year best in show winner under CBS. Mr. Moieen Ahmed he is good friend of mine and is doing very well with Exhibition Budgerigars, he has good blood lines. Dr. Nasar ullah Khan from Bhawalpure.

There will be many other good fancier in other cities but I do not have knowledge of them at this stage.

(Note: All of the above mentioned fanciers are not specialists in Exhibition Budgerigars; almost every one keeps multiple species of birds, because as you are aware we have just established our first society for Budgerigars, so now after the establishment of BSP the concept of specialising in Budgerigars will automatically develop.)

You mention the formation of the Budgerigar Society of Pakistan - are there Specialist Budgerigar clubs that affiliate with the Budgerigar Society?

Answer.

The Budgerigars Society was founded just a few months ago and we are planning for our first Show. Furthermore as an introduction and to increase interest in Budgerigars we are planning for our open shows without BSP closed ring restrictions for exhibitors / fanciers. At the moment there are no other clubs affiliated with the Budgerigar Society but hopefully the Society management may allow affiliation of other clubs later.

What attracted you to the Budgerigar?

Answer.

Nature perhaps? I have always admired the beauty of this bird, vivid colors, structure & size. I always enjoy the surprising results from new pairings, almost all with new colours and different feather texture. Furthermore the Show Budgerigars are easy enough to breed and easier to distinguish (the male from the female) which is a bit difficult in many other types of birds

i.e. Love Bird, Grey Parrots, Ring Necks etc.

What period of time have you been involved with the budgerigar?

Answer.

Since 1999, this was discontinued for a period from 2003 to 2004 due to some personal problems. Other than that it has continued through to the present time.

What do you want from the budgerigar fancy?

Answer

From the Pakistan Budgerigar fancy viewpoint I want fanciers to breed for the promotion of this bird in our country, to try and compete to an international standard and with international quality budgerigars. I want to get a message to all fanciers throughout the world that we should breed this bird but at the same time, we should care for our birds like we do ourselves. We should plan to breed with these birds whilst giving them the opportunity of having a long and healthy life. We should never breed them in any way that impacts upon their health, or in a way that might shorten their life by using an in depth inbreeding system which not only comparatively reduces their life but might also make them sensitive to any disease that non-highly inbred birds are susceptible to.

How many birds do you have?

Answer.

Since it's a hobby and not a profession my setup is not so large. At the moment I have about 50 to 60 birds including the young of the 2005 and 2006 seasons and crested. Hopefully this number will increase since I intend to breed different mutations which I don't have at the moment.

In Pakistan the majority of breeders have their setups on their roofs, so my small setup is also situated on the second floor of our residence. My bird room is based on some breeding cages, 2 medium size flights, another attached room utilized for storage of seed and other miscellaneous extra stuffs, treatment of sick birds, and also for quarantine process for new birds when ever required.

The rear of the breeding cages are covered with a wall while the front and both sides have about 50% wire netting with wall, the area is well ventilated. Since the summers in Pakistan are very hot, I took special care that airflow is thorough within the aviary.

The remaining right side portion has some plants which help to create a fresh environment. It is actually the main entrance area for sunlight and air. In summer I cover it with green net for direct heat protection which works as a layer of netting roof for

this open area, for more protection from weather in extreme heat and cold days I also have installed scrollable blinds which I have shown in the sketch in violet color with broken lines at the boundaries of the aviary. These scrollable blinds are very useful for the protection from serious weather conditions; almost every breeder covers their aviary with these kinds of locally made blinds.

I have some future plans to install one big outdoor flight and some new cages in this area if breeding exceeds my expectations.

And what about the feeding program?

Answer.

I understand that there should not be any compromise in the feeding criteria of my birds. I always try to give them the best I can get. My feeding regime is as per below: Seed: The seed is changed at night when I arrive from the office or, early in the morning.

Water: Filtered clean and fresh water. In summer, the water is changed along with seed, twice a day. However in the winter, I always remove the water containers from all cages at nights and the water containers are replaced early in the morning with clean, lukewarm water. All containers are cleaned and washed with hot water before using, in both seasons.

Soft Food and Greens: My birds love soft food and greens. According to my observation, birds are excited and jumping from one perch to other, making noises early in the morning because they are expecting fresh greens and soft food.

Multivitamins and Minerals: Both in the breeding and non breeding season as per required directions.

Where do you source your seed from?

Answer.

I always use clean and self selected seed for my birds. Unfortunately we don't have any good seed brands or a provider, especially for birds. So we have to buy from an open seed market. However I try my best by visiting multiple shops in search of the cleanest and best quality I can lay my hands on.

What mix do you use?

Answer.

I do not purchase any already mixed seed for my birds. I always purchase different self selected seeds as mentioned in my last answer and as per requirements, quantity and depending on the season. I mix them as required.

It certain areas of Australia the water quality is not that great, what is Pakistan like?

Answer.

The quality of water is different as per each geographical area. In Lahore, water quality is satisfactory. However as I have already mentioned that we are using filtered water (sometimes also boiled), which is common in larger cities of Pakistan.

Does Pakistan have the avian expertise available to them from Veterinary Scientists to back up what appears to be a growth industry?

Answer.

We have the expertise available for live stock. To the best of my knowledge, we have avian facilities (in Lahore) but I am not sure this could be considered as having expertise at all. I am sure though that with an increasing ratio of the budgerigar and other avian species, we may have some support in this matter by the agricultural ministry.

Do you have a Standard of bird that you desire to breed?

Answer.

In the past as an amateur, I was just breeding the bird in different attractive colors without knowing of, or following any standard. Presently I follow the WBO standard for birds. If you mean what breeders birds I prefer, then I like the standard of Daniel Lütolf from Switzerland and Gerald Binks from the UK. I like birds with big puffy heads. So in the future I would like breed like birds like Daniel, birds with big heads.

Does Pakistan have a Standard?

Answer

Yes we do, we have adopted the same standard as the one used by Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and the UK.

Have you been to visit breeders in other countries?

Answer.

Not yet but hopefully in the future I intend to visit the UK to attend shows and to meet other breeders like Gerald Binks, Ghalib Al-Nasser. In Switzerland Daniel Lütolf and in Holland I would like to visit Cor Booster and Rinus van den Broek....

Is there a particular bird / style that you prefer?

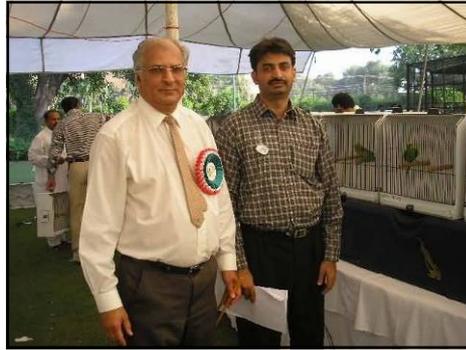
Answer.

Yes, I like birds with large puffy head feathers with the eyes and the beak of the bird almost totally obscured. As far as colors go, I like Normal (in all colors, I use them to improve size and marking in other varieties), Opaline, Cinnamon, Cinnamon Opaline (I always like hens from these varieties).

And for special colors, I am attracted to



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Spangles, Lutinos, Pieds, Yellow Face Spangles and Full Circular Crested.

Are birds able to be imported into your country?

Answer.

Of course, most of the birds are imported from Holland and the Belgium region. However in the past birds had been imported by bird's importers for the pet trade sale purpose only and for this reason they never thought about quality or any faults in the birds. It is also a major reason why people faced infertility problems in the past and why most of the bird keepers were not interested in breeding or keeping English Budgerigars. But now everything has changed so much. Hobbyists and breeders are more educated and informed than ever thanks to this wonderful age of the Internet and the information that fanciers can obtain from this technology. Now many of the Pakistan breeders are interested to import birds directly from respected breeders for breeding purposes.

Has the avian flu crisis caused major concerns for you as a fancier?

Answer.

Not in Pakistan yet but people are afraid to purchase birds from unknown sources because of this disease.

What do you see as the best way to encourage the fancy to survive in your Country? Each country seems to be on the decline for various reasons.

Answer.

Many factors are involved in the encouragement of the fancy in Pakistan; first of all,

clubs or societies play a very important role in this regard. We had a few societies here for birds and now we have our first Budgerigar Society of Pakistan. Since this platform has become available, I feel that most fanciers will start to develop an interest in budgerigars. Furthermore some other factors such as discussion groups, quarterly meetings, interviews of senior breeders, printed material in the local language with pictures and basic information on varieties will do the job.

What price does a fancier expect to pay for a quality budgerigar in Pakistan?

Answer.

The current market price of one pair of Budgerigars is about US\$40 to US\$60 (Pak Rupee 2,500 to 3,500). On the open market one can get birds at this price. However buying a pair from a well known fancier is another story. The price can be any where from US\$30 to US\$200 or more. If a buyer is already a Budgerigar breeder and understands the value of bloodlines, features and quality then he can pay these prices to improve his stud.

Mobassir, it has been an absolute pleasure interviewing you and I do wish you and the fancy in Pakistan the greatest of success. Maybe just maybe one day I will get the opportunity to visit your fine country to see the progress you are making.

Since this interview The Budgerigar Society of Pakistan has held their first Budgerigar Show, on the 24th of September 2006. Mobassir Sattar was appointed as the Show Manager of this the first open show in Pakistan and in his words "I tried my best to manage this show with my limited knowl-

edge and as per the international standard with the help of Ghalib Al-Nasser.

Ghalib Al-Nasser of the United Kingdom was the judge of the show.

Best-in-Show was won by Naveed Ijaz. Mobassir won the following awards on the day:

Shield for acting as Show manager
Best Dominant Pied bird in show
Best Dominant Pied in any age opposite sex class (also winning 2nd position in this class)

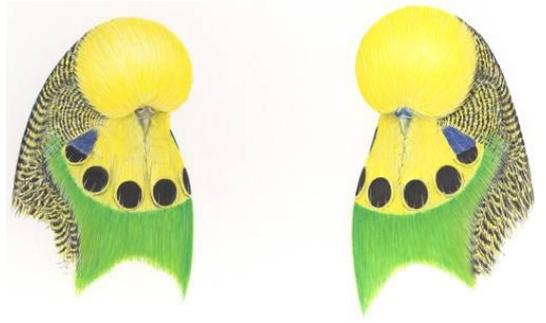
3rd best Dominant pied any age class
Best Opaline & Cinnamon young bird opposite sex class (also winning 2nd and 3rd positions in this class)
2nd best bird in Opaline & Cinnamon class.

2nd and 3rd positions in Crest any age opposite sex class.

With the above awards Mobassir will receive a certificate as one of the under-training Judges of Ghalib Al-Nasser in Pakistan.

Congratulations to Mobassir Sattar on the above. I wish you and the fancy in Pakistan the best of luck for the future shows.





Notification of BCSA Annual Auction **Saturday July 21st, 2007** **Enfield Community Centre,** **Regency Road, Enfield**

Benching from 8:00 am, Viewing 9:00am, Auction 10:00am
Light refreshments available

AUCTION RULES:

Cocks will be limited to 2003 bred and younger (red, blue, purple and gold rings). Hens will be limited to 2004 bred and younger (blue, purple and gold rings). A commission fee of 10% will be payable to the BCSA, with a minimum fee of \$5 per lot. Where a reserve price has been nominated, a handling fee for unsold lots of \$2 will be incurred.

Please note that there is no pre-selection, so the above rules represent an initiative to attract best quality birds from both SA and interstate, most likely to be useful to purchasers' for improving their stock, with realistic reserve prices. The emphasis is on quality rather than quantity. Any major permanent deformities and disabilities to be clearly specified in the description. A reserve price will be permitted, and unsold birds to be returned at the owner's expense.

TO THE VENDORS:

Final numbers with full details on the appropriate form are due to the Auction Coordinator by no later than Friday June 22 2007. Any assigned lots may be forfeited at this time, if the information has not been received in a timely manner. Where possible, please use the variety nomenclature according to rules of the standards matrix. This year, the catalogue will feature details of year, ring number, variety, and description (including bloodlines) where provided by the vendor. Extended descriptions of lots including pedigree cards (beyond that in the BCSA catalogue) can be added to the auction cage during the benching process.

Whilst every effort will be made to contact all potential vendors directly, and to distribute the catalogue electronically, if you feel that you may have been overlooked, please do not hesitate to contact the Auction Coordinator. Please also advise the Auction Coordinator if electronic copies of the submission form are required for submitting entries.

Expressions of Interest Close
Friday June 8th, 2007
Interstate Vendors WELCOMED

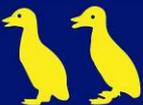
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