North East Budgerigar Society

Established 1974

Inc.

Budgie Bulletin

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NORTH EAST B.S. NEWSLETTER

Issued bi-monthly for the members of the
The opinions and ideas expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the North East Budgerigar Society of South Australia Inc.

CLUB OBJECTIVES

TO PROMOTE FEELINGS OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP AND SPORTSMANSHIP AMONG ITS OWN MEMBERS AND ALL OTHER PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE BUDGERIGAR.

TO PROMOTE THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING VARIETIES AND THE PRODUCTION OF NEW ONES.

TO ENDEAVOUR TO PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE AND STIMULATE THE BREEDING OF BUDGERIGARS.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All subscriptions become due 1st January 2015
(Except new members who joined after 1st October 2015)
SINGLE $15.00 **DOUBLE** $22.50
FAMILY Single fee ($15.00), plus 50% single fee for each person over 18 years of age.
Under 18 years – no charge in family situation)
JUNIOR $9.75 (65% normal fee)
PENSIONER Single $12.00 (80% normal fee) **Double** $18.00
PARTNERSHIP $11.25 per person (75% normal fee)
5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP 4 times the applicable membership fee.*
BCSA Membership fee: $15.00 per person.

Members must be financial with North East Budgerigar Society and BCSA to purchase 2015 rings.
Please ensure that your membership card accompanies your order for rings.

Newsletter will be forwarded to financial country or interstate members bi-monthly.
Metropolitan financial members' newsletters will be available at club meetings.
If not collected they will be posted out 3 times per year.

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Editorial

Several members have recently asked me whether or not I thought the Club would still exist in a few years. The answer to that question is not a simple one.
Also, it is not just a question for NEBS but for all SA Clubs.
We are all aware that the number of breeders continues to diminish with the number of retirements exceeding new recruits. When I joined NEBS in 2000, there were 42 members who purchased rings. In 2014 there 34.
NEBS currently has a strong Committee and that is an essential element to the successful continuation of the Club. This strength can only be maintained providing members are willing to nominate for future positions on the Committee.
However a successful Club is more than just a Committee. The other essential element is a strong and supportive membership base. A successful Club needs both. Without either, a Club has no future.
Therefore the answer to question of the Club's future is very much in the hands of all members. Failure to fully support the Club in all of its activities can only place a question mark over the continuation of the club.
A lot of work is involved in organising our two major shows. Unfortunately, the number of birds benched at these shows in recent years has declined significantly with many members failing to bench any birds. At the 2014 Fisher Show, only 11 members benched birds. Of these 6 were committee members.
A Club's true strength is in being able to stage shows which include exhibitor and bird numbers representative of its membership base.
I therefore encourage all members to get behind the Club and support all of its activities.

In what ways can we support our club to ensure it has a future?

- Support the committee.
- Nominate for Committee positions.
- Attend monthly meetings.
- Contribute to discussions on the topic of the night
- Enter birds at night shows
- Enter birds at the Club's two major shows.
- Represent the Club at the Logan Shield Show.
- Represent the Club at the NEBS/BSSA UBC Interclub challenge.
- Encourage potential new members.

Dennis Lomman

Derby and Oaks Night Show

The Committee has decided that the Derby and Oaks Night Show will no longer be held after this year. This is due to the low number of entries being received for the Shows held in the last couple of years. The last Show will be held at the general meeting in July 2015.

2015 Rings

2015 Rings

2015 rings (VIOLET) are now available. They cost 50 cents each.

In the event that NEBS needs to place an additional order for 2015 rings, a one off only opportunity to purchase additional 2015 rings will be available in May.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:* What this means is that members will need to purchase their total ring requirements for 2015 in the first few months of 2015. This will allow NEBS to assess whether or not the initial order was under estimated and establish if any additional rings will need to be ordered in May. If members do not purchase or at least order their total 2015 ring requirements in the first few months of 2015 then they risk being unable to obtain rings when they require them later in the year.**

Dennis Lomman
Ring Officer

BCSA and NEBS New Websites

BCSA and NEBS Websites

The BCSA website can be viewed at *www.bcsa.com.au*.
Results of all Club and State shows are posted on the website. The Photo Gallery features photos of the winning birds.

The NEBS website is a subset of the BCSA website and can be accessed by clicking on the NEBS logo on the BCSA Homepage or directly at *www.bcsa.com.au/nebs/.*
Information available on the site includes the NEBS Monthly Meetings Program and the Night Show Schedule.

NORMAL VIOLET: Bird of the Month for January 2015

Normal violet was recently introduced as a separate class at the national show creating greater incentive among serious breeders to raise more of them to exhibition standard. They have always been a favourite with so called colour breeders. Violets are more difficult to breed than sky blues which normally dominate the blue series show classes (other than grey). Moreover, the addition of dark factor and the violet modifier both act in tandem to reduce the desired body structure as described in The Standard; hence violets are less competitive than some of the other blues in the absence of a dedicated class for them.

Visual violet requires the presence in blues of a dark factor (responsible for cobalt) with the violet colour modifier superimposed upon what would otherwise be a cobalt. Violet like the dark factor intensifies the colour in sky blues and light and dark greens and imparts a sheen on grey greens somewhat resembling dark green but distinguishable from dark greens by the presence of a grey cheek patch and black tail.

Visual violets have been recognised since the 1930s although earlier presence may not have been appreciated given a presentation similar to the dark factor except when superimposed upon the dark factor responsible for cobalt. If I wanted to seriously breed visual violets I would likely use one of three general approaches:

First approach: Mate violet sky blues to violet mauves. All offspring would carry one dose of the dark factor (producing cobalt a prerequisite for visual violet) and assuming the usual scenario of single factor violet in the violet sky blues and violet mauves we expect three quarters of the offspring to carry violet and hence manifest that as visual violet. Of these visual violets, one third will be double factor violet with a richer visual violet colouration. The difficulty with this approach is that violet mauves would be virtually unobtainable "off the shelf" so one would need to create them first by mating together two visual violets giving one quarter mauves of which three quarters of them would be violet mauves possibly not easily separated from mauves without test mating.

Second approach: This simply involves crossing visual violet with an outstanding sky blue giving one quarter visual violets among the offspring. If you have one, substitution of a quality violet sky blue in place of the sky blue would substantially increase your chances of breeding a violet and open up the possibility of breeding double factor violets.

Third approach: If you have a stud of blues and greens with many of the greens split blue and substantial numbers of the blues and greens carrying the violet factor then visual violets will pop out in due course in numbers proportional to the size of the operation.

The club would love to receive an article for the magazine from anyone who is a serious breeder of violets explaining how they do it. John Mulley, January 2015

MONTHLY MEETINGS NIGHT SHOWS
POINTS AWARD as at JANUARY 2015

******INTERMEDIATE******

Andrew Stock	11 points
Vicki Sanford	16 points

******OPEN******

John Mulley	6 points
Sue Norris	8 points

Andrew Stock

SHOW SCHEDULE FOR MONTHLY NIGHT SHOWS

Class 1: Normals (GreenSeries, Blue Series, Normal Yellowfaced Blue Series & Normal Goldenfaced Blue Series)

Class 2: Dilute, Blackeyed Self, Clearwing, Greywing, Fallow & Recessive Pied

Class 3: Lutino, Albino, Cinnamonwing, Opaline ASC & AOSV, Clearbody & Lacewing

Class 4: Spangle Double Factor, Spangle ASC & AOSV & Dominant Pied

Class 5: Crested, Darkeyed Clear, Darkwing & Saddleback

Class 6: Bird of the Night (Double points, combined status class)

Note that classes now include the four colours: Green, Blue, Yellowfaced blue and Goldenfaced blue (single factor golden faced will be penalized for colour)

NO ENTRY FEE. Night shows will be held where the Program includes a Bird of the Night.

Entries will be for Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Open owner bred **Young** birds rung with the current ring year or the previous ring year rings. Young birds rung with the previous year rings cease to be eligible as Young birds on **September 1 of the current ring year**.

Points will be accrued at night shows for both Young (January to August) and UBCs (September to November). 1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 1 point for each Class and Status. Points will be awarded for each Class even if there is only one bird entered in that Class.

Best bird of each Status will be awarded a certificate and be chosen from Young birds, **except for September - November** when best of each Status will be chosen from UBCs.

Bird of the Night will be chosen from Young birds, **except for September - November** when Bird of the Night will be chosen from UBCs. Bird of the Night will be awarded a Certificate.

Old birds may be exhibited at any night show but will be judged separately in a single combined Status and Class and will not accrue points or certificates.

UBC's may also be exhibited at any night show and will also be judged separately in a single combined Status and Class and will not accrue points or certificates, **except for the months of September - November** as per the above.

At the end of each calendar year the member with the highest aggregate points in each Status will be awarded a $30 Trading Table Voucher or a Show Cage. **To be eligible a member must show birds at a minimum of three monthly night shows.**

HOT WEATHER POLICY: If on the previous evening the temperature forecast is **above 32 degrees** NO BIRDS WILL BE BENCHED Revised January 2015

Hatchability of the Modern Exhibition Budgerigar, Ken Yorke, Australia

Being competitive with exhibition budgerigars is about managing the quality of the birds. Quality generally relates to managing traits, bloodlines and the skill of pair selection. Even the most consistent bloodline of quality pairs will produce a range of differing quality chicks, as can be expected by genetic variability. Despite all the skill of the breeder we are still bound by some degree of probability and statistics which means that in order to maximise the number of good quality offspring that a pair can produce then we need to maximise the total number of chicks produced from any particular pair.

In simple terms, if a pair of birds produces 4 chicks (2 good and 2 poor) in a clutch, then at the end of the season you will have 2 good birds to show and breed with next season. If the same pair instead produces 6 chicks (3 good and 3 poor) then you now have 3 good birds to show and breed with instead of 2. The more birds you breed then, on average, the more good birds you have to select from for showing and future breeding. The point of this simple theoretical exercise is to show that in order to manage quality of birds it is also advantageous to maximise quantity.

To breed more birds you could i) buy more pairs and increase the number of breeding cages, or ii) increase the number of clutches from existing pairs or iii) improve the reproductive ability of existing pairs. Option i) above is expensive, option ii) causes more wear and tear on birds and may even shorten their breeding life. This article will address option iii), maximising quantity through examining hatchability of the modern exhibition budgerigar.

In the last few decades, many theories and anecdotes abound about the perceived drop off in fertility of the exhibition budgerigar brought about perhaps by inbreeding and/or increased feather length interfering with the physical act of mating. However, very little factual evidence exists to confirm or deny such claims.

In order to establish some benchmarks I extracted some data from my own breeding records.

Table 1	
No of eggs	12,830
No of years	21
% eggs hatched (Hatchability)	Yearly Average 38% (Std Dev +/- 7%)
% hatchlings survive (Rearability)	Yearly Average 70% (Std Dev +/- 9%)

This means that for every 100 eggs laid, 38 chicks will hatch and of these chicks, 27 will survive. These numbers may seem small but the truth is that few people ever measure such statistics and would probably be surprised to get similar results if they did.

True egg fertility is difficult to measure without scientific instruments as some fertile eggs die at such an early stage they appear clear. Hatchability, on the other hand, is very easy to measure, eggs either hatch or they don't.

In a smaller sample of data (2,009 eggs) where an attempt was made to examine the cause of non-hatching eggs, the following approximate data was realised.

Table 2	
Clear	44%
Broken/Damaged	8%
Addled/Dead in Shell	10%
Hatched	38%

The data in Table 2 should be regarded as approximate only, with the true percentage of clear eggs probably being lower and the addled/dead in shell being higher.

For eggs to hatch they must first be fertilised. Infertile (clear) eggs can have two main causes with numerous possible sub-causes such as, but not limited to:-

i) Temporary or permanent sterility (including reduced fertility) due to

a) Old age

b) Illness

c) Moult

d) Out of condition

e) Stress

ii) Failure to mate due to

a) Breeding cage deficiencies

b) Excess feathering

c) Lack of libido

d) Physical disability

Age

The same raw data used to construct Table 1 was also analysed to assess the effect of parent age on hatchability. This is shown in Table 3.

Table 3							
Age (years)	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7
Cock Hatchability	35%	39%	38%	38%	37%	33%	20%
Hen Hatchability	35%	40%	37%	36%	28%	37%	0%*

(* Small sample of data)

Surprisingly there is no dramatic drop off in hatchability until the age is 6 to 7 years. A very slight peak appears in the 1-2 year age group but this is minimal.

Breeding Season

Unlike most breeders, I allow my birds to breed at any time of year, i.e. I do not have a defined breeding season. I have birds breeding twelve months a year. All the above data reflects this 12 month a year breeding time. Many years ago I colony bred and again allowed the birds to breed any time they liked in a twelve month period. In the colony system it was obvious that the birds willingness to breed was always much higher in spring than any other time. But that is not to say that those birds that did choose to breed outside spring bred poorly. Is there a best time of year to breed in order to maximise quantity? Are there periods to avoid, such as moult etc.? Table 4 shows the results of a data study.

Table 4												
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hatchability	35%	36%	39%	37%	36%	42%	39%	38%	36%	37%	36%	31%

Table 4 shows no dramatically good or bad months to breed. This surprisingly shows that there is no special benefit to breeding in spring (i.e. Sep-Nov for the Australian climate in the above data). Past colony breeding showed increased preference for breeding in spring but if the birds chose (or are forced) to breed outside spring, then their actual hatchability is unchanged. In other words, the natural desire to breed is stronger in spring but the actual hatchability achieved doesn't vary with time of year.

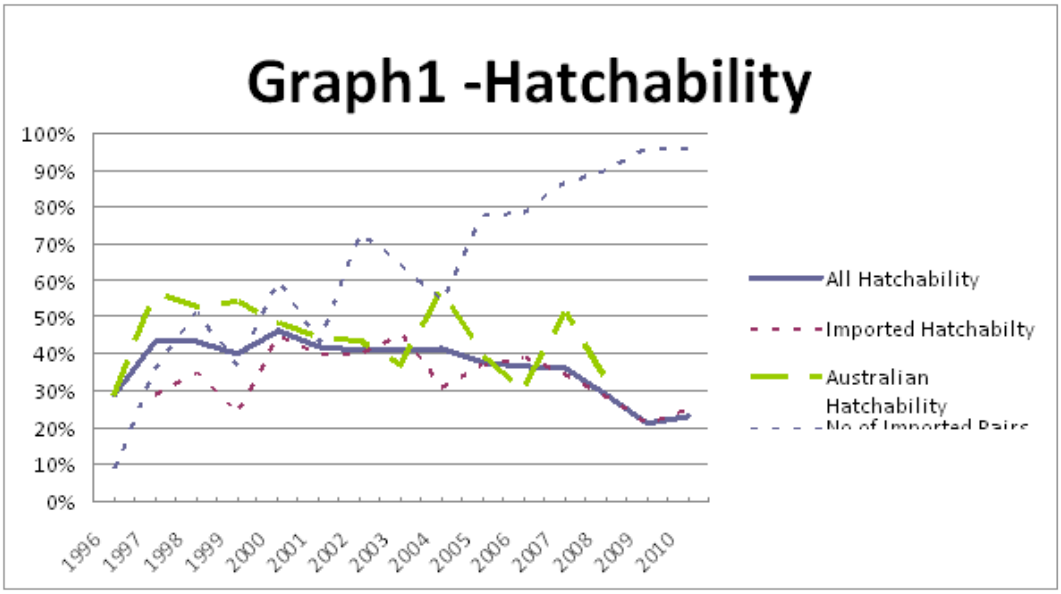
Likewise, the major moults in April and October have little effect on hatchability. There is however, a major proviso to the moult situation. Practical experience has shown that birds which are paired up immediately before or during their major moults tend to have poor fertility and hatchability but this is not reflected in the data above. This is because I avoid pairing up in these moult periods, but I instead pair up considerably before the moult and breed successfully through the moult period. Birds which are breeding successfully well before the moult commences actually substantially skip the moult and thus do not get most of the downside effects of the moult. When breeding finishes, they often immediately moult in order to catch up on the moult they missed.

The other proviso on the Table 4 data is that this applies to a mild Australian climate. Breeding outside of spring in harsher climates may bring reduced hatchability.

Large Feathers

The next issue to look at is the perceived issue of excess vent feathering preventing fertilisation during the act of mating. This has received a lot of press in the last two decades, in particular due to the reasonably rapid rise to prominence of large feathered birds in the exhibition arena. To alleviate this possible problem many breeders pluck or cut the feathers around the vent of each bird prior to pairing up. This however is not strictly a modern practice as I know breeders who have done this for over fifty years (long before the long feather fad). Many breeders do not admit to this practice however, as to some, it feels like a stigma, admitting that their strain of birds has a fertility problem. So, is there any truth to large feathers causing mating problems and is plucking or trimming a preventative.

In Australia the number of exhibition birds with large feathers increased dramatically with the importation of birds from England in the early 1990's and later indirectly from continental Europe. In my case the introduction of birds with imported ancestry was a gradual process and I kept many Australian exhibition strains going (particularly in the very rare varieties, as one had no alternative but persevere with the "older style" Australian bird). This gives me a reasonably unique ability to compare the breeding capability of large and short feathered birds at the same time. Graph 1 below shows the hatchability of imported birds and Australian birds and also the combined hatchability of all birds from 1996 to 2010. Superimposed on this is a line showing the gradual increase in the percentage of breeding pairs with imported ancestry in my whole aviary.



Graph1 shows a few features:-

i) 1996 was a one-off poor year. This can be easily explained as this was the year the birds were moved from one residence to another and was their first year in a completely new and quite different aviary. Stress of relocation and slight climate change is a major factor.

ii) The percentage of pairs with imported ancestry increases from 9% in 1996 to 95% in 2010. While not every bird with imported ancestry necessarily has large feathering, it does however reflect the general increase (with a probable time delay) in the percentage of birds with large feathering over time.

iii) In the 12 year period from 1997 to 2008 where there is sufficient data to make a meaningful comparison between imported and Australian birds, it is noticeable that the Australian birds had better hatchability than the imported birds in 10 out of 12 years.

iv) Overall hatchability across all birds peaked in 2000 and had a continual slight decline until 2007 followed by a dramatic decline from 2008 to 2010.

A conclusion that can perhaps be drawn from this is that imported birds generally had poorer hatchability than Australian birds and the more imported birds one had breeding over time, the worse the overall hatchability of the whole aviary became. What then is the reason for the poorer hatchability in imported birds? Is it genetic predisposition to poor hatchability or is it large feathering?

If large feathering is the cause then the practice of plucking vent feathers should help. In 2008 through 2010 I tried plucking the vent feathers from my pairs (a practice I previously did not do). Graph 1 above shows that this 2008 through 2010 period was dramatically bad for hatchability. As with lots of statistics, it should not be taken at face value. Feathers are plucked when the birds are first paired up. These same feathers start to grow back within two weeks and are usually fully grown back by about 5 weeks. This means that the plucking only has any potential benefit for the first breeding round only. Second and later rounds have the feathers grown back unless they are plucked again.

Table 5 looks at hatchability data for three years without plucking and three years with plucking but also looking on a round by round basis.

Table 5

Year		Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
2005	NotPlucked	32%	36%	47%	44%
2006		37%	36%	32%	55%
2007		33%	40%	31%	55%
2008	Plucked1st Round	33%	32%	18%	22%
2009		28%	18%	15%	19%
2010		28%	21%	17%	47%

In this data the round 4 hatchability is generally very good compared to earlier rounds, which would seem unexpected. This can be explained because almost all pairs in my breeding program have two rounds and it is very common to have three rounds, only those exceptional pairs who have already displayed good breeding behaviour in the first three rounds are permitted to have a fourth round.

Thus round 4 hatchability data in table 5 is biased toward good hatchability and thus should not be compared against earlier rounds. Although it does display what levels of hatchability can be achieved by the best breeding pairs and thus sets a goal (about 55%) for all pairs to strive.

In the first three years where no plucking was performed there is no obvious trend from 1st to 3rd round. It is a mix of slightly up and down or near level. In the last three years where plucking was performed in the first round, the trend is always worse in 2nd and 3rd rounds This tends to suggest that plucking before the first round improved the hatchability of the first round, and hatchability deteriorated in the later rounds when not plucked. Therefore, plucking feathers does seem to work. Is there a case now to pluck the birds again before the second and third rounds? The advantage of cutting feathers with scissors instead of plucking would mean that you only need to do this once per season instead of each round as cut feathers do not immediately regrow. The disadvantage to cutting is that it usually leaves the sharp stumps of quills behind and this can have a "porcupine" effect which can make the act of mating awkward or painful and of course this leads to failure to mate and poor hatchability. Data on cut feathers is a research project for the future.

Again looking at Table 5, despite plucking the 1st round in the final three years, hatchability levels were still the worst of any previous years going back to 1996 (and probably would have been worse again had I not plucked feathers). So despite the large feathers being detrimental to hatchability there must also be another factor contributing to a decline in hatchability. Such things could be a bloodline genetic deficiency or even a decline in husbandry and housekeeping standards by the owner (It's not always solely the bird's fault). Genetic deficiency can be addressed by culling birds for poor breeding ability as well as poor quality.

Failure to Hatch

Assuming that an egg is fertilised then there are still reasons why it will not hatch such as, but not limited to:-

i) Damaged or broken eggs due to

a) Nest box design

b) Parent breakage

c) Human breakage

ii) Addled or dead in shell due to

a) Malformed eggs

b) Environment

c) Genetic weakness

d) Poor incubation

e) Poor housekeeping

f) Poor nutrition

g) Disease

Of these I will concentrate on the addled and dead in shell and some of the measures we can take to minimise these issues and hence improve hatchability.

Malformed eggs (including too big/small or porous) can be the fault of poor nutrition or poor health including old age and tumours etc. Hens which continually produce malformed eggs should be culled.

Environment causes include incorrect humidity, air temperature and presence of chemicals (e.g. poisons, pesticide strips etc). If the membrane inside the egg shell dries out then the fully formed chick inside often gets stuck to the shell and cannot rotate around inside the shell to chip out, resulting in dead in shell.

Genetic weakness includes predisposition for unhealthy embryos and lethal genes. Families displaying these traits should be culled.

Poor incubation is primarily the fault of the hen, including spending too much time outside of nest, or not consistently sitting on eggs until several have been laid. Although night fright, vermin, illness and bad food can also cause hens to stop sitting for periods.

Poor housekeeping relates to clean nest boxes. Nests do not have to be spotless but too many droppings (particularly from previous chicks and parents) can partially bury eggs. Eggs need to roll around a small amount in order for the embryos to develop in the correct position inside the egg. Conversely if they roll around too much (in the case of flat bottom nests or parents who play soccer with eggs) then the embryos get damaged. Wet nests also can contaminate eggs, as egg shells are porous and do absorb chemicals from the environment.

Poor nutrition relates primarily to the hen before the egg is laid. All the nutrients the embryo requires are deposited by the hen inside the egg. If the hen has a deficient diet then the embryo will also be deficient.

Eggs are porous and can in some instances get diseases from their environment.

Many of these failure to hatch examples above deserve full research in their own right and require somewhat more scientific knowledge than the layman possesses. Similarly I have not addressed the next stage, rearability, i.e. the raising and survival of a newly hatched chick to adulthood.

Summary

In order to breed quality birds you require parent birds capable of producing quality chicks. In order to breed lots of quality birds then it is advantageous to have parent birds capable of producing lots of chicks. One aspect of producing lots of chicks is to maximise the hatchability of parent birds. Table 6 below summarises things we can do to help achieve that goal of maximising hatchability.

Table 6	
Issue	**Remedy**
Age	Parents less than 6 years old. Slight preference for 1 – 2 years old.
Illness/Disease	Do not use ill birds, nor birds with inadequate recovery time from previous illness.
Moult	Do not pair up birds which are actually moulting. Pair up after the moult or considerably before the moult and breed through the moult period.
Out of condition	Do not pair up birds out of condition. Wait until they have an active libido. Check for latent illness.
Stress	Do not pair up birds which are undergoing stress (e.g. overshowing, disease recovery, changed location, changed diet etc)
Breeding Cage	Ensure enough space for the act of mating to take place comfortably. Ensure perches are solid, with good grip and appropriate size.
Excess Vent Feathering	Pluck large vent feathers before each round. (or perhaps cut feathers before 1st round)
Lack of Libido	Pair up only when active (Libido often increases in spring), or cull birds which continually have lack of libido.
Physical Disability	Cull birds with disabilities or modify cage design to better assist with act of mating.
Breeding Season Time	In harsh climates, breed in spring. In mild climates the time of year is irrelevant.
Damaged Eggs	No sharp objects or edges in nest box. Trim sharp nails and beaks of parents. Remove and transfer eggs from difficult parents as immediately laid. Minimise human handling of eggs.
Malformed Eggs	Ensure correct nutrition and exercise of hens. Cull repeat offending hens
Environment	Remove hazardous chemicals from aviary. Monitor and adjust humidity (with open water containers). Monitor and adjust room temperature.
Genetic Weakness	Cull families with consistent poor hatchability.
Poor Incubation	Transfer eggs to other hens. Cull repeat offenders. Ensure no distractions e.g. vermin, noises etc. Ensure no illness and good food,
Nestbox Housekeeping	Regularly clean nestbox of excess debris. Carefully clean eggs which are covered in droppings.
Parent Nutrition	Ensure good balanced diet before and during breeding.

About the Author:

Ken Yorke is an open exhibitor who has bred budgerigars for 40 years in the Hunter Valley in Australia.
He has bred and won on the show bench with almost every variety that exists, specialising in extremely rare and new varieties.
He is the author of a book, numerous published articles and developer of software for bird breeders. He is the Secretary of the Newcastle Budgerigar Club and recently retired as a budgerigar judge in his home state of New South Wales.
He currently runs about 250 birds in a steel aviary complex 18m x 9m consisting of 9 flights and 34 breeding cabinets, producing about 200 chicks a year in numerous varieties

Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday January 14, 2015
WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.05 pm
Reminder to members to wear nametags to be eligible for the $10 door prize
APOLOGIES: Lea Todd, Ian Marshall; NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTENDING: 30
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Christmas raffle winners were Ben Hale first; Brian Marshall second; Sally Bell third
CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Condolences to George Duffield on the passing of his partner Maureen
CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Note and card of appreciation from George Duffield; 2015 Nationals Registration Form; Port Adelaide Enfield Council notifying us that they are introducing an electronic booking system for the hall and moving to a calendar year basis; Trailer registration renewal received from Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure; Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird November Newsletter; Southern Cagebirds November Newsletter; UBSSA December Newsletter
BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: Nil
TREASURER'S REPORT: Term deposit $19,000; Incentive Saver $279.43; Cheque account $2,404.91; Total funds $21,684.34
RING OFFICER REPORT: Plenty of purple 2015 rings are now available. Only one more batch will be ordered during 2015 so the club recommends that you buy early in order to assist the club in determining how many more to order in the second batch. Quality of the rings from the European supplier is disappointing and is not anywhere near the quality of the samples they supplied to the ANBC prior to ordering.
TRADING TABLE REPORT: Various specials greatly reduced including scaly face and leg, insect liquidator, wormer, Triple C, etc.etc.
NEW MEMBERS: None
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. March MiniShow Schedules are on the table
2. 2015 Nationals Registration Forms for Mandurah in WA are on the Table
3. Bag of Broken Hill grit available from John for $12
4. Membership renewals are now due
5. February will be the last magazine for nonfinancial members
6. Barbara Fisher has many items for sale in a complete and urgent sell out

ENTERTAINMENT:

1. There was a discussion of the Violet which was the Bird of the Month for January
2. Main topic: Review of the Breeding Season. Despite maintaining the same protocols as in previous breeding seasons some breeders had vastly better than usual results and some had vastly less than usual results, with no apparent explanation being identified

NIGHT SHOW RESULTS:
Points are allocated for Young (black ring) owner bred birds with double points for the bird of the night. Thanks to the judge Shiralee Reardon who thanked everyone who brought birds in for the night show. Best bird winners were:
Intermediate: Vicki Sanford; Open: John Mulley; Bird of the Night: Sue and Colin Norris
QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION: Covered during the ENTERTAINMENT
LUCKY ENVELOPES: None filled
DOOR PRIZE: $10 Trading Table voucher to Samantha Macbeth
NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Dennis Lomman; Second: Dianna Trevarthen; Third: Peter Glassenbury
ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None
NEXT MEETING:

1. February 11 meeting will be on Computer Record Keeping
2. Bird of the Month for February will be the Greywing and a volunteer was requested to speak on that variety

REMINDERS: Please stack your chair at the back of the hall prior to supper
MEETING CLOSED: ~9.30pm
Lloyd Edwards, President

Result of NEBS Christmas Raffle draw:

First: Ben Hale

Second: Brian Marshall

Third: Sally Bell

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to members for sale of tickets.

Some articles for this magazine are supplied from:
Budgerigarworld.com
The international website for the hobby worldwide.

THE NORTH EAST BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY HONOURS AND AWARDS

NATIONAL CLASS WINNERS WHO REPRESENTED NEBS IN THE LOGAN SHIELD

1996	Helen Brooks	Fallow	Cairns
1997	Rob McKie	Opaline	Melbourne
2000	John Mulley	Opaline AOSV	Adelaide
2001	M & R Rafferty	Opaline AOSV	Freemantle
2002	S & C Norris	Dominant Pied	Hobart
2003	John Mulley	Blackeyed Self	Cairns
2007	Marshall Family	Albino	Adelaide
2009	Peter Glassenbury	Blackeyed Self	Burnie
2014	Dennis Lomman	Normal Violet	Adelaide
2014	Marshall Family	Recessive Pied	Adelaide
2014	D & R Lange	Crested	Adelaide

NATIONAL JUDGING APPOINTMENTS WHILE A NEBS MEMBER

1999, Shiralee Reardon, Gold Coast; 2000, Peter Glassenbury and Nigel Tonkin, Adelaide;

2002, Malcolm Loveridge, Hobart; 2003,Peter Glassenbury, Cairns;

2007, Nigel Tonkin and Peter Glassenbury, Adelaide; 2008, Peter Glassenbury, Busselton;

2010, Malcolm Loveridge, Rockhampton; 2012, Peter Glassenbury, Geelong;

2014, Nigel Tonkin, Adelaide

NATIONAL SHOW MANAGER WHILE A NEBS MEMBER

2000 & 2007, Bruce Stafford, Adelaide, 2010; Nigel Tonkin, Rockhampton;

2014, Doug Lange, Adelaide

NEBS LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Lowe (dec); Bob Hancock (dec); Betty Fisher (dec); John Fisher (dec); Arthur Harvey (dec); Coral Harvey; Julie Kakoschke; Kelwyn Kakoschke; Brian Marshall; Bette Marshall; Bruce Stafford; Marion Stafford; Lloyd Edwards; John Mulley; Graham Bell; Helen Edwards; Lea Todd

Please notify the Club Secretary if you know of any errors or omissions in the above