



Budgie Bulletin



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2014-2015

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE No.</u>
PATRON	BILL DAVIS	N/A
PRESIDENT	LLOYD EDWARDS president.nebs@gmail.com	8522 4317
VICE-PRESIDENT	JOHN MULLEY	83310097
SECRETARY	JOHN MULLEY secretary.nebs@gmail.com	83310097
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	TO BE FILLED	
TREASURER	VICKI SANFORD treasurer.nebs@gmail.com	82637369
SHOW MANAGER	GRAEME ALCHIN showmanager.nebs@gmail.com	8380 5803
		0437099455
ASSISTANT SHOW MANAGER		entries.nebs@gmail.com
RING STEWARD	DENNIS LOMMAN rings.nebs@gmail.com	83448363
TRADING TABLE OFFICER	SUE NORRIS tradingtable.nebs@gmail.com	85246155
COMMITTEE	LEA TODD	N/A
	COLIN NORRIS	85246155
PUBLICITY OFFICER	BEN HALE publicity.nebs@gmail.com	0450649484
	HELEN EDWARDS	8522 4317
* * * * *	* * * * *	* * * * *
AUDITOR		
BCSA COUNCILLORS	DENNIS LOMMAN	83448363
	JOHN MULLEY	83310097
MAGAZINE EDITOR	LEA TODD editor.nebs@gmail.com	N/A



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 2016
(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.

Email Address: nebssa@gmail.com

ADDRESSES: -

Secretary
Mr John Mulley
13 Dunkley Ave
FIRLE 5070
(08) 83310097

Treasurer
Mrs Vicki Sanford
2 Baymor Crt
MODBURY 5092
(08) 8263 7369

Ring Steward
Mr Dennis Lomman
10 Muriel St
PROSPECT 5027
(08) 8344 8363

Editorial

Believe it or not, the budgerigar genome (its complete DNA sequence) has now been published (<http://www.gigasciencejournal.com/content/3/1/11>). That brings the number of birds with known whole genome sequence to more than 50. They include the chicken, pigeon, zebra finch, turkey, duck, eagle, ostrich, owl, penguin, and so on. The human genome sequence was published in 2000 but since then there has been incredible technological advances in both DNA sequencing and management of the immense volumes of sequencing data that has made such projects commonplace across the animal Kingdom.

Why choose the budgerigar to sequence? Parrots have a highly developed vocal learning capacity so are ideal subjects for exploring the genetic basis for such abilities. It turns out that there is a common set of around 50 genes upregulated in the brains of both humans and vocal learning birds, such as the budgerigar. This suggests that despite their evolutionary divergence, their learning pathways share similarities at the biochemical level.

Looking at the bigger evolutionary picture, with whole genome sequences now available from at least one representative from every major bird lineage, evolutionary trees can now be constructed far more accurately than has ever been possible in the past. Previously such trees were compiled from DNA sequences from a miniscule sample of genes, up to about 20. But utilising the entire DNA blueprint from each species, the rapid avian species radiation that followed the mass extinction of the dinosaurs about 66 million years ago can now be accurately tracked.

Interestingly, the avian genome is about 70% smaller than that of the mammals, such as us. This is partly due to the absence of so-called junk DNA characteristic of mammals, and partly due to massive gene loss, including 1600 genes which have essential functions in us humans.

The budgerigar sequence was determined from just one bird. Likely, when costs come down, it will become possible to determine the basis for all of the budgerigar mutations which define the classes as set out in our show schedules. We already know that blue, yellowfaced blue and goldenfaced blue are colour mutations away from green, all occurring at the same gene determining colour. But once this gene is identified at the DNA sequence level it will be possible to determine whether the different variations of blue all mutated direct from green or mutated sequentially.

John Mulley, June 2015

VALE ANDREW STOCK

Many of you would have known Andrew over the years he has been actively breeding and exhibiting budgerigars and working on club committees. Sadly Andrew passed away in Flinders Medical Centre on Friday June 5. Andrew was a bright and courageous young man fully aware of the seriousness of his lifelong condition. Despite this he enthusiastically volunteered at every opportunity, currently as the Assistant Show Manager at NEBS and Treasurer of the BCSA. He has been an active member of the Port Pirie club for many years. He will be a great loss to the budgerigar fancy in South Australia and has been an inspiration to all of us who have been privileged to have served with him.

NOTICE

2015 Rings

A final order for 2015 (Black) rings has been placed and no further orders can or will be made. The final order only includes rings for those members who have Pre-ordered them.

2016 Rings

The initial order for 2016 rings (Orange) needs to be placed by the end of June. Coded rings will again be available in 2016.

Those members wishing to purchase personally coded rings will need to let me know by 15 June if they wish to order (and pay for) coded rings for 2016.

NEBS will bulk order NE coded rings for other members based on historical ring sales. The cost of the rings will be 50 cents each (in multiples of ten) including personally coded rings.

Dennis Lomman
Ring Officer

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.

FOR SALE

Old copies of budgerigar world

Price 50c per copy

You can purchase them from the club treasurer or Graham Bell

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NEBS FISHER ANNUAL SHOW RESULTS

Show held Saturday May 2

GRAND CHAMPION	Dennis Lomman
CHAMPION OPPOSITE SEX	Marshall Family
RESERVE CHAMPION COCK	Sue & Colin Norris
RESERVE CHAMPION HEN	Marshall Family
THIRD CHAMPION COCK	Marshall Family
THIRD CHAMPION HEN	Sue & Colin Norris
FOURTH CHAMPION COCK	Dennis Lomman
FOURTH CHAMPION HEN	Marshall Family
FIFTH CHAMPION COCK	Sue & Colin Norris
FIFTH CHAMPION HEN	Marshall Family
BEST OPEN BIRD	Dennis Lomman
BEST OPEN OPPOSITE SEX	Marshall Family
BEST INTERMEDIATE BIRD	Geoff Murch
BEST INTERMEDIATE OPP SEX	Geoff Murch
BEST NOVICE BIRD	Wayne Bandt
BEST NOVICE OPP SEX	Wayne Bandt

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.

NEBS BREEDER SHOW RESULTS

Show held Saturday May 30

GRAND CHAMPION	J & W Weidenhofer
CHAMPION OPPOSITE SEX	J & W Weidenhofer
RESERVE CHAMPION COCK	John Mulley
RESERVE CHAMPION HEN	J & W Weidenhofer
THIRD CHAMPION COCK	J & W Weidenhofer
THIRD CHAMPION HEN	Sue & Colin Norris
FOURTH CHAMPION COCK	Dennis Lomman
FOURTH CHAMPION HEN	J & W Weidenhofer
FIFTH CHAMPION COCK	Wayne Bandt
FIFTH CHAMPION HEN	Sue & Colin Norris
BEST OPEN BIRD	J & W Weidenhofer
BEST OPEN OPPOSITE SEX	J & W Weidenhofer
BEST INTERMEDIATE BIRD	Andrew Stock
BEST INTERMEDIATE OPP SEX	Andrew Stock
BEST NOVICE BIRD	Wayne Bandt
BEST NOVICE OPP SEX	K & J Harris



AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDARD AND PENALTY AND DISQUALIFICATION CLAUSES FOR 2015

To the Crested Standard

The ideal crest on the crested bird to be allocated a maximum of **30 points**. The remaining **70 points** are allocated for Type, Colour and Markings. The FULL CIRCULAR is preferred over the HALF CIRCULAR which is preferred over the TUFTED. Size, symmetry and central placement of the crest is paramount.

To the Penalty and Disqualification Clauses for missing primary flights (and primary tail feathers)

Penalty

As before, two outside visual flight feathers missing in one wing, one visual flight feather missing in one or both wings, and as before, missing one primary tail feather.

Disqualification (New)

Three or more outside visual flight feathers missing from one wing, two outside visual flight feathers missing from both wings, and as before, missing both primary tail feathers or neither tail feather below the secondary tail feathers.

Note 1: There are 10 primary flight feathers on each wing, 7 of which are visible. The first 3 are concealed under the secondary flights leaving 7 visible primary flights (but the tip of one of the first 3 is sometimes visible).

Note 2: Missing 2 primary tail feathers remains a far too common cause of preventable disqualification seen by judges at club shows.

RESULTS OF THE RARE VARIETY MINISHOW HELD IN MAY

Intermediate:

**First Vicki Sanford;
Second Andrew Stock**

Open:

**First John Mulley;
Second Dennis Lomman**

Varieties represented on the night were violet, goldenfaced AOSV, Blackeyed self, dilute, clearwing, greywing, Clearbody, recessive pied, crested and Darkeyed clear. Missing were double factor goldenfaced, fallow and Darkwing. Individual birds rating special mention were Blackeyed, dilute, greywing, and the entire class of clear bodies

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When a bird can't stand it any longer.



NORMAL GREEN: Bird of the month for April 2015

My impression from reading Budgerigar World magazines when first coming into the hobby more than two decades ago was that a lot of studs especially in the United Kingdom were based largely on normal greens. Nowadays, it can be difficult to find quality normal greens for sale, even at auctions and breeder sell outs. Is this because as a variety they are now considered uninteresting and therefore not bred in such large numbers, or is it because with a greater appreciation and understanding of genetics in the modern era more breeders have expanded into the many other varieties available to them?

Historically, the first recorded descriptions of normal green budgerigars, the only variety known at that time, were from the UK by the naturalist George Shaw (1751-1813). These descriptions were based on dead native Australian specimens collected in NSW by the colonists and sent back to Sir Josef banks in the UK. George Shaw was an interesting character who studied in Oxford to be ordained as a deacon in 1774, which he subsequently abandoned to study medicine in Edinburgh, then he returned to Oxford as a lecturer in botany and ended up in the natural history section of the British Museum.

These first descriptions of the budgerigar by Shaw were in *Naturalists Miscellany* published in the years 1789-1813 and *Zoology of New Holland* published in 1794. To put this into perspective these descriptions of Australian fauna began appearing just one year after European colonisation of Australia in 1788 and before inhabitants of the new colony were able to find in 1813 a way to cross the Great Dividing Range running along eastern Australia.

The first live pair of normal light green budgerigars arrived in England in 1840, the same year the postal system in that country introduced the world's first adhesive postage stamp. Budgerigars were first bred in captivity in Berlin in 1855 by Countess von Schwerin and subsequently bred in Europe in very large numbers for wide distribution. This suggested that their husbandry had been well worked out. Wild Australian budgerigars were trapped and exported in large numbers worldwide until banned by the Australian government in 1884, due to animal welfare considerations given massive mortality rates during sea transport.

The native light green, variously known as the bush budgie or shell parrot, has throughout its long evolution been moulded by natural selection for endurance to survive the harsh and variable Australian conditions and for speed, agility, camouflage and flocking behaviour for protection against its predators. What struck me most when keeping these some years ago, apart from the difficulty in catching them when emptying an aviary for cleaning, was their uniformity in appearance compared with the exhibition budgerigars. Locked behind that phenotypic uniformity must have been an extraordinary amount of genetic diversity as evidenced by their transformation into the modern exhibition budgerigar through inbreeding and selection over their many generations since domestication.

The normal greens that we now see on the show bench form a series with variations imposed upon the normal light greens which affect the intensity and shade of the green colouration. The modifier genes involved are the dark factor, violet factor and grey factor. The dark green budgerigar has one dark factor gene, the olive green has two dark factor genes, the violet light green has one violet gene, the violet dark green has one dark factor gene and one violet gene, the violet olive green has two dark factor genes and one violet gene, and the grey greens have the grey factor gene superimposed upon any of the above variations with and without the dark factor and violet genes. Greens without grey have a violet cheek patch. Grey greens have a grey cheek patch and black primary tail feather. Tail feathers in the greens without grey are mid blue with a turquoise suffusion (in the light green), dark blue (in the dark green) and dull blue-black (in the olive green). The quill in the tail feather of all variations of green is black. Ideally all areas of ground colour in normal greens are pure yellow free of any green suffusion.

There is a concept in developmental genetics referred to as canalisation. The concept was developed by C. H. Waddington (1905-1975), another interesting British character, known variously for contributions in developmental biology, palaeontology, embryology and philosophy with interests also in poetry and painting. He ended up as Professor of Animal Genetics at the University of Edinburgh. Canalisation is the ability of a wild population to produce the same uniform phenotype (visual appearance) regardless of its natural environment and regardless of underlying differences in genotype between individuals within the population (by genotype we mean the complement of genes carried by an individual). Waddington applied a heat shock to the pupal stage in the lifecycle of the vinegar fly *Drosophila* and induced absence of a cross vein invariably present in the wing of the normal fly. When “invariably present” it is impossible to select for its absence through selective breeding. However, by selecting flies without a cross vein after being subjected to heat shock during pupal development it was possible to breed flies without cross veins in their wings in subsequent generations without subjecting them to heat shock. Thus, hidden genetic variation was proven to exist since it became heritable after being exposed to enable selection.

It strikes me that the normal green bush budgie is an example of canalisation in nature. Irrespective of genotype, canalisation produces the same end result in the wild budgerigar regardless of its genetic background and variations in environmental conditions normally encountered.

We now introduce the concept also originating from W. C. Waddington, namely genetic assimilation. This is where an environmentally induced phenotype (such as the cross veinless phenotype referred to above) becomes exposed to selection and then inherited. Bush budgies domesticated and confined within an aviary protected from predators and supplied with unlimited food and water may also have begun to display hitherto unseen phenotypic variation allowing selection for the various features now developed to varying degrees in the exhibition budgerigar housed in a multitude of aviaries. I am suggesting that the bird became genetically assimilated when transferred to its new environment.

What about the exhibition of “bush budgies”? I have seen such classes listed in show schedules interstate. Since none of these would be wild trapped, but all bred in captivity, I am suggesting there is no such thing as a “bush budgie” after genetic assimilation.

John Mulley 2015

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

Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society

General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday April 8, 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: Graeme Alchin, Ian Marshall, Marion Stafford, Sue Adams, Geoff Murch

NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTENDING: 26

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

See Vicki for tickets in the raffle for the Dr Rob Marshall book The Budgerigar to be drawn at the Fisher Annual Show \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Schedule for the Breeder Show and the application to enter birds in our Tender Sale in June were sent out electronically to the membership who are connected to email

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Reminder for renewal of the insurance on the clubs trailer; Southern Cagebird April Newsletter; Budgie Digest March-April Newsletter; Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Newsletter; Henry George auction catalogue

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT: Term deposit \$19,000; Incentive Saver \$311.82; Cheque account \$2,274.28; Total funds \$21,586.10

RING OFFICER REPORT: 300 rings available and reminder to let Dennis know by the end of April how many rings you wish to order for use during the rest of the year given there will be only one more order submitted by the ANBC to Germany in about the middle of this year

TRADING TABLE REPORT: No specials tonight

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS: Carla Deverson, welcome as our newest member

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Past issues of Budgie World magazines are available for 50 cents each of 12 for \$6
2. Fisher Annual Show schedules and May Rare Variety MiniShow schedules are on the table if you didn't pick them up last month
3. Breeder Show schedules for May 30 are on the table for collection
4. Entry Forms for the June Sale of Birds by tender are on the table for collection
5. BCSA auction expression of interest forms are on the table for collection
6. DVDs of the Daniel Lutolf lecture presented at the Adelaide National Show are being distributed free of charge to those who registered for this event and available for \$6 each for anyone else, while stocks last
7. Barbara Fisher still has birds and gear for sale, including wire breeding cages and show cages for \$20 each
8. Janet and Yanni Kaleas and Stan Wright are selling out. Normal green and normal blue series and other varieties, plus show cages, holding cages and aviaries. Janet and Yanni at Henley Beach 0422732428; Stan at Woodside 83897506
9. Election of NEBS delegates to the BCSA: Current delegates Dennis Lomman, Andrew Stock and John Mulley were re-elected
10. Thirty show cages available from a breeder who has left the hobby, \$10 each or \$200 the lot. See Secretary for details

ENTERTAINMENT:

1. Brief discussion of Bird of the Month the Normal Green by John
2. Presentation on show preparation by John

QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION: Covered during Entertainment

NIGHT SHOW RESULTS: Thanks to Peter who judged the night show

Intermediate: Andrew Stock; Open: John Mulley

Bird of the Month - Normal Green won by Andrew Stock

LUCKY ENVELOPES: None filled; DOOR PRIZE: \$10 Trading Table voucher to Lea Todd

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Trevor Wilson-Smith; Second: Lea Todd; Third: Geoff Hay

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None

NEXT MEETING: May 13 will be the Rare Variety MiniShow

REMINDERS:

1. Please stack your chair at the back of the hall prior to supper
2. Don't forget to pick up show schedules if intending to show at our May shows
3. Remember to enter the Fisher Annual Show to be held on May 2, which is before our next club meeting
4. Remember to enter the Rare Variety MiniShow which will be our May meeting
5. Logan Shield schedules will be available next meeting

MEETING CLOSED: 9.12pm

Lloyd Edwards, President

Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday May 13, 2015

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.02 pm. Reminder to members to wear nametags to be eligible for the \$10 door prize

APOLOGIES: Andrew Stock, Sue Adams; NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTENDING: 22

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Past issues of Budgie World magazines are available for 50 cents each or 12 for \$6

Winner of the special Fisher Annual Show raffle for the Rob Marshall book The Budgerigar was Tony Melbourne. Congratulations Tony

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Schedule for the Logan Shield was sent out electronically to the membership; Notification to BCSA that NEBS can provide catering at the Logan Shield; Get Well card for Tina Wilson-Smith

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: UBSSA Newsletter, Seminar Registration Form and Ballot Paper for election of Councillors; Southern Cagebird May Newsletter; Feathered World Newsletter from the Canary and Cagebird Federation; BRASEA Newsletter and auction catalogue; Zoo Times; Kakoschke auction catalogue; Minutes of the BCSA Meeting held Friday May 8

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: BRASEA Newsletter and auction catalogue are on the table for anyone who wants one; BCSA met to discuss motions to be voted on at Mandurah in June

TREASURER'S REPORT: Term deposit \$19,000; Incentive Saver \$322.63; Cheque account \$1,475.32; Total funds \$20,797.95. See Vicki for split rings

RING OFFICER REPORT: Tonight is the last opportunity to order 2015 rings to be included in the second ANBC order to Germany. 100 rings are currently in stock

TRADING TABLE REPORT: Tonight's special is avian insect liquidator

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS: Visitors Dean and Marylyn Stock were welcome to our meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Breeder Show schedules for May 30 are on the table for collection
2. Entry Forms for the June Sale of Birds by Tender are on the table for collection

3. BCSA auction expression of interest forms are on the table for collection
4. Logan Shield Schedule is on the table for collection
5. The club now has business cards on the table – please take a few to hand out to potential members, especially to anyone to whom you sell birds

ENTERTAINMENT: Judging of the Rare Variety MiniShow. This was a great opportunity to give the birds some show cage training prior to the Breeder Show and the Logan Shield. There was a near complete range of so called rare varieties benched for anyone wanting to work out which ones to tackle, since the club needs someone to breed each of these varieties

QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION: Nil

NIGHT SHOW RESULTS: Thanks to John Rice who judged the MiniShow and commented on the varieties at the end of each class

Intermediate: First Vicki Sanford; Second Andrew Stock

Open: First John Mulley; Second Dennis Lomman

Bird of the Month: None programmed for this month

LUCKY ENVELOPES: None filled;

DOOR PRIZE: \$10 Trading Table voucher to Lloyd Edwards

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Colin Norris; Second: Lea Todd; Third: John Mulley

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Nil

NEXT MEETING: June 10 will be the sale of birds

REMINDERS: Please stack your chair at the back of the hall prior to supper; Don't forget to pick up show schedules if intending to show at the Breeder Show and the Logan Shield; Don't forget to pick up entry forms for the June sale of birds

MEETING CLOSED: 8.45pm

Lloyd Edwards, President

FOUR FEMALES AND ONE MALE



Inbreeding and Knowing When to Cull – Malcolm Freemantle UK



Inbreeding for many fanciers is often viewed as pairing Mother to Son or Father to Daughter, where in fact this is only one part of the equation. All pairings of closely related cocks and hens are in the arena of Inbreeding; Line breeding is the same thing.

I was most surprised to hear an eminent fancier quote from a famous breeder's book – one that is recognized as a standard work on the subject – that inbreeding is a double-edged sword. Defects and recessive qualities, which otherwise lie dormant and only slowly come to the surface – as they do with outcrossing – are highlighted much more quickly. This is the argument in favour that is used by experienced in-breeders who know what they are talking about. The added advantage is the good characteristics that this close pairing brings out. The breeder is able to select, preserve and continue to breed with the best of the offspring and eliminate poor mediocre progeny.

To gain maximum advantage from inbreeding the newcomer must learn to cull (eliminate). This is probably the most important point if the fancier is to succeed in building up a first class strain of their chosen variety. In fact there is only one better thing than culling and that is more culling. There is no room for mediocre or average budgerigars in a planned progress of inbreeding. Include such birds as this and the whole purpose of inbreeding is defeated.

Inbreeding provides the small fancier with the necessary tools with which – when properly used – will put them on a par with larger and more comprehensive studs. One of the best systems to follow is the mating of the best cock in the bird room to the best three or four hens. Obtain two nests from each and then mate the sire back to the best of the daughters the following year.

He can be mated to more than one daughter and foster pairs should be put up to transfer the eggs to. Don't forget to continue culling and retain the characteristics, which indicate the qualities of the chosen foundation cock.

Make sure that your foundation cock has good, all round quality; he must have depth of body colour whether that is in Light Green or Sky-blue or one of the dark factor birds. Size and shape is just not enough to lay a firm foundation.

Amongst other forms of livestock there are examples where successful inbreeding has brought about the desired results i.e. it has helped to increase the production of beef and eggs as well as improving the uniformity of Pigeons, Rabbits, Cavies and Mice. Take your time and select your initial foundations pairs carefully and cull ruthlessly, it has worked for others, so why not follow a successful way of breeding top budgerigars.

About the Author: Malcolm and Pam Freemantle's introduction to budgerigars came in 1955 when Malcolm went to pick up Pam after work outside the Reading Pet Shop. Malc was late one day and Pam had her eye on a small monkey in the shop window. The compromise was a pair of budgerigars.

Malcolm joined the BS in 1959 and has been a full panel judge since the 1970s and is an Honorary Life Member of the Budgerigar Society.

During his time in the hobby Malcolm has always been involved with administration and was a founder member of the Clearwing Budgerigar Breeders Association and their Secretary / Treasurer for 30 years.

Although Pam had been more in the background in those early days, Clearwing fanciers around the country recognized Pam more easily than Malcolm although he was CBBA secretary. Pam manned the stand at the BS Club Show and took the subscriptions for the whole of the 30 years he was in office.

Over the years many different varieties have been kept starting off with Lutino's before moving on to Clearwings. Challenge Certificates have been won with Sky blues, Opalines and Pam's favorite Yellowface, but, the main colour has always been Whitewings and Yellowwings.

It would be true to say that they have been one of the top three Clearwing studs in the country since the early 1970's.

Since their retirement Malc has had time to publish a book on Clearwings, "The Art of Breeding Clearwings"

Egg Binding

My bird has a tendency to become 'egg bound' how do I avoid this problem and what causes it?



There are many causes of egg binding. Cold environmental conditions, laying a first egg, laying an abnormally large egg, laying a thin shelled or soft shelled egg, hypocalcemia (lack of calcium circulating in the blood – usually a problem with not enough dietary calcium or vitamin D3). Make sure your bird isn't being subjected to unusually cold temperatures during egg laying. Make sure your bird is being adequately supplemented with calcium and Vitamin D3. Birds exposed to direct sunlight for 20 minutes two or three times a week minimum can manufacture their own Vitamin D3.

Exposure to full spectrum lights with UV range to allow birds to manufacture their own vitamin D3 is risky for two reasons: the bulbs lose the UV potency over time, as quickly as 3 months, and the bird needs to be within about 6-8 inches of the light to benefit from it. Seeds, fruits and vegetables do not contain vitamin D3. Your bird needs to eat a pelletised diet containing vitamin D3 or get an avian multivitamin with vitamin D3. You can give your bird plenty of calcium but if it isn't getting adequate vitamin D3 it will stop absorbing the calcium from its diet

Going Forwards and Making Progress by Terry Tuxford UK

The situation where you have to take two steps back to take one forward is widely accepted in both amateur and professional pursuits alike. In golf, for instance, returning to a teaching pro to iron out bad habits will add a few shots to your game until you are back in the groove again. Many professional golfers have been known to do this and completely rebuild their swing and following a few negative results they usually go on to win a number of Majors. However, when it comes to breeding exhibition Budgerigars the need to go back to move on, although still relevant, needs to be viewed in a totally different manner.

Most fanciers, I assume, would consider reducing overall size in their birds as the obvious “move backwards” but in my view this is to be avoided at all costs. Balance is the key to top quality show birds and I do not believe that any fancier today has birds that are too large and that this commodity can be sacrificed in any way, shape or form. Size is paramount and needs to be a fixed feature in a successful stud.



There are other features that I believe should also be maintained and never sacrificed at any cost; the absence of a hinged tail for instance. A hinged tail on a show bird is a dreadful fault and is a fault that is sometimes not evident until the bird is placed in a show cage. With the additional insecurity that the cage gives the bird, its tail hinges at 30 degrees to the backline. Apart from looking awful the bird can no longer stay on the perch at the overall correct angle due to the overbalancing effect that the tail has, resulting in an even worse appearance. The hinged tail effect is hereditary and will be passed from generation to generation. Irrespective of other qualities, no outcross showing this fault should be used – it may not show in the immediate offspring but will certainly manifest itself in future generations at some time or another

and will be extremely difficult to eradicate.

Another aspect not to be toyed with is a good backline. A quality bird can easily be spoiled by a bumpy backline. The imperfection on the back of our birds can show as a hump high on the bird, almost as though accentuating the shoulders at the rear. Alternatively, the hump can be low down on the back. Both spoil the bird. As with the hinged tail, this fault will be passed to future generations and will prove a serious hindrance to your future on the show bench.

Example Of A Step Backwards

A few seasons ago many of the birds that were appearing on the show bench did not have a good overall shape. They were ragged in appearance, not too good in showmanship and looked large and heavy. In fact, much of this appearance was caused by the change in feather texture; away from the yellow feather and a move towards the buff feather. This could clearly be seen as a retrograde step but as it has turned out, only a short lived one. Today, top breeders have got their act together and have managed to control feather texture, returning their best birds to very attractive, highly show-worthy Budgerigars. This is an excellent example of moving one step back to go two forward.

On the show bench today, it would appear that the area that is receiving great attention by breeders is the mask, including the spots. In an attempt to deepen the mask and increase spot size, the spots on some birds are currently below the lower mask line. This does little to enhance the overall beauty of the exhibit at this point in time but is an ongoing example of the theme of this article.



In the past, spots have received considerable work to them, much of which has been through the use of heavily spotted and equally heavily flecked Opaline hens, paired to Normal cocks. Improvement in this area was made but unfortunately many flecked birds started appearing on the show bench. An attempt to eradicate this by banning them from the bench was made but this was not successful. Today flecking is seen as a show fault and birds are judged accordingly. Fortunately, flecking is also seen to be visually undesirable and so unless the bird is supreme in all other respects not too many of them I are seen on the bench.

When introducing an outcross that excels in a particular feature that is lacking in a stud of birds it is very rare indeed for the outcross not to carry other visual faults. These need to be weighed up very carefully against what this bird can

potentially offer you to ensure that you get the maximum gain and the minimum loss. It certainly can be accepted, as has been shown, that certain sacrifices may have to be made to the eventual benefit of the stud. These may slow you down for a couple of years but that should be all. Finally, you should always remember that just as it may take two or three generations of breeding before the good features of the outcross show through – so it does it take this time for the bad features to come through in the youngsters bred.

About the Author:

Terry Tuxford first began breeding budgerigars in 1979 and joined the BS in 1980. He was elevated to Champion in 1985 when he went into partnership with Brian Poole. This partnership is probably one of the longest existing partnerships in the UK hobby today having lasted some 27 years so far and is still going strong. Terry and Brian are also partnered by Yvonne Tuxford who joined the BS in 1990.

Terry demonstrated his penmanship early in his budgerigar career and wrote in the second edition of Budgerigar World. Little did he realise then that in just over 8 year's time he would become editor following a 20 month apprenticeship with founding editor, Gerald Binks. Terry went on to edit a total of 245 editions up to May 2011.

In 1993 Terry took his Budgerigar Society Judges final examination and was awarded Subsidiary Judge of the Year and has gone on to judge the Budgerigar Society World Show on three occasions as well as many top shows at home and abroad. He is also an accomplished speaker and has been a guest at societies throughout the UK as well as Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and many other European countries.

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

1994, Malcolm Loveridge, Perth;

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