



# **Budgie Bulletin**



**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2013-2014**

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE No.</u>
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VICE-PRESIDENT	PETER GLASSENBURY	8288 7102
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SECRETARY	JOHN MULLEY	83310097
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	GRAHAM BELL	8251 0792
TREASURER	VICKI SANFORD	82637369
SHOW MANAGER	GRAEME ALCHIN	8380 5803
ASSISTANT SHOW MANAGER	MARION STAFFORD	8356 0579
RING STEWARD	DENNIS LOMMAN	83448363
TRADING TABLE OFFICER	SUE NORRIS	85246155
COMMITTEE	LEA TODD	N/A
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	HELEN EDWARDS	8522 4317

\* \* \* \* \*

AUDITOR		
BCSA COUNCILLORS	DENNIS LOMMAN	83448363
	PETER GLASSENBURY	8288 7102
	JOHN MULLEY	83310097
MAGAZINE EDITOR	LEA TODD	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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014  
(Except new members who joined after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013)

**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 2013 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](mailto:nebssa@gmail.com)**

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## **NEBS Newsletter Editorial**

Hi Everyone, It sure doesn't seem like a year since I last wrote an editorial for this magazine. Isn't time flying! A lot has happened in the last year with breeding, showing etc. Talking to people this year I'm finding breeders are having the same problems in their birdroom as me. A small consolation I suppose. Sometimes wonder why I spend so much time and money on the birds when I end up with such poor breeding results! Why don't our birds do what we want them to? Even tried some colony breeding to increase numbers on my normal/variety goldenfaces. Ended up with a lot of goldenface spangles as the cock had a go with every hen in the colony! Pity I'm not more into spangles. I will continue with my breeding program and hope that as the weather warms up, my birds will feel more co-operative.

The Club's Social Day was held at my place this year. Did a lot of gardening work and cleaning aviaries etc. so that everything looked nice. We had a beautiful sunny day with a light breeze. Perfect! Everyone who made the effort to attend had a lovely day with plenty of tasty meat and salads and desserts to eat. We relaxed and chatted about anything and everything, including birds of course. It gave people the opportunity to look at my birds, my breeding room and the babies. A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped out on the day. For those that didn't come, try to make next year's social day as it's a good opportunity to catch up with everyone outside of our busy meetings. It is also that time of the year when I will be requiring numbers and money from people attending our Christmas Dinner. It will be held at the Buckingham Arms Hotel again as the smorgasbord is good. It will be on Wednesday night, the 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00p.m. Prices will be known towards the end of October, but I think it will probably be around the \$27 per person mark. So please let me know soon if you are coming, because I will need final numbers and the full amount by the end of November.

My friend, Barb Fisher, has a huge amount of plastic split rings for sale. If you are interested in purchasing any, please let me or Barb know. She has lots of different colours available if you use them on your birds to denote hidden characteristics. With Chapman Rings selling the business, it is a good opportunity to stock up on the rings.

Enough said. Continuing good luck with your breeding season. Let's hope that S.A. does well at the Nationals next year and that you have already bred that winning bird.

**Your fellow budgie breeder, Vicki**

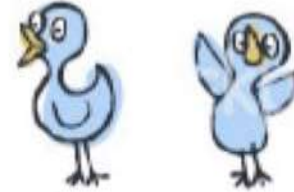
Sponsors of the North East Budgerigar Society Raffle Table.....

# **MAGILL GRAIN & FODDER**

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Suppliers of all types of seeds and products for animals, whether they be bird, fowl, dog, cat or livestock. Quality stockists of:

- |                  |                    |                         |
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| ▶ Red Panicum    | ▶ Medications      | ▶ Garden requirements   |
| ▶ Canary seed    | ▶ Paswell products | ▶ Rat traps...and more! |



## **Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting**

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday August 14, 2014

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.05pm                      Reminder to members to wear nametags to be eligible for the \$10 door prize

APOLOGIES: Bill and Kate Davis, Libby Thomas, Sue Adams, Barbara Fisher, Dianna Trevarthen, Ian Marshall, Bruce Stafford, Murray Bray

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Notification from Ray Slade of urgent sale of 100 birds due to his relocation
2. Notification from Ray Slade of additional items for urgent sale: seed hopper with 500kg holding capacity, 10 old style show cages and a small aviary
3. Minutes from the BCSA AGM
4. Notification of AGM of the United Bird Societies of South Australia to be held on Sunday August 25
5. Certificate of Insurance from United Bird Societies of South Australia
6. Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society July Newsletter
7. July-August Budgie Digest from BSSA

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT: Refer to AGM

RING OFFICER REPORT: New 2014 rings due September 1 and can pick up from Dennis if required urgently and prior to the September meeting. No 2013 green rings left

TRADING TABLE REPORT: Several specials. Plus a new product for scaly face called Ivomec designed by Vetafarm specifically for birds by topical application to skin

BCSA REPORT:

1. Planning for the national show continues, with a meeting of the Show Committee on site at the Grand Chancellor in Hindley Street tomorrow
2. A novice exhibitor can apply to the BCSA through their club to be promoted after 5 years if not promoted by points within that period, conditional upon an assessment of competitiveness by BCSA judges
3. Reminder that any open exhibitors who feel they would be more competitive in Intermediate can apply to the BCSA through their club for status revision. There are currently insufficient Intermediate exhibitors at many of the shows for Best Intermediate bird to accrue status moving points so more competition needs to be created at that level
4. See Editorial in the August issue of Budgie Bulletin for matters arising from ANBC

NEW MEMBERS: Nil

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Sunday September 29 is a NEBS Social Day and BBQ at the Vicki Aviaries. Details in the magazine
2. Saturday October 26 is the Unbroken Cap Interclub between NEBS and BSSA to be hosted this year by BSSA

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1. Annual General Meeting held at this point (see separate minutes)**

LUCKY ENVELOPE: Not filled. SHOW CAGE ENVELOPE: Not filled

ENTERTAINMENT: Presentation of first three placegetters in each class of the national show presented by Peter Glassenbury

QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION: Nil

DOOR PRIZE: \$10 Trading Table voucher to Trevor Wilson-Smith

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Geoff Hay; Second: Trevor Wilson-Smith; Third: Andrew Stock

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Nil

REMINDERS: Pick up August magazines out the front

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday September 11 Young birds with bird of the month being crested and speaker being Tim Neilson

MEETING CLOSED: ~9.30pm

Lloyd Edwards, President

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

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## **Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society Annual General Meeting**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

August 14, 2013

WELCOME: President Lloyd declared the meeting open at 8.17pm.

APOLOGIES: As per the General Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM: Taken as read.

BUSINESS ARISING: Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Thank you to everyone who supports the club meetings and other club activities. Thank you especially to those who show their birds at night shows, club shows, interclub competitions and who put their birds up at the Logan Shield for national pre-selection. Thanks to the ladies for their work in the kitchen at these events. All the best for the coming breeding season with 2014 rings due in two weeks time.

Lloyd Edwards, President

TREASURER'S REPORT: Term Deposit \$19,000. Cheque Account \$2,004.92. Incentive Savers Account \$3,030.72. Total funds \$24,035.64. See August magazine for full details including the detailed and audited balance sheet.

**AWARDS:**

1. 30 year membership badges presented to the Marshall Family
2. \$50 Vetafarm Vouchers awarded for aggregate points over all classes across the Fisher Annual Show and Young Stock Show. Combined Junior, Novice & Intermediate:  
Geoff Murch                      Open: Dennis Lomman
3. Vice President Peter Glassenbury presented Helen Edwards with Life Membership of the North East Budgerigar Society for service to the club.

**ALL POSITIONS DECLARED OPEN:** In the absence of the Patron Bill Davis the election of the new Committee was conducted by Bette Marshall. The new Committee:

PATRON	Bill Davis
PRESIDENT	Lloyd Edwards
VICE PRESIDENT	Peter Glassenbury
SECRETARY	John Mulley
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Graham Bell
TREASURER	Vicki Sanford
RING OFFICER	Dennis Lomman
SHOW MANAGER	Graeme Alchin
ASSISTANT SHOW MANAGER	Marion Stafford
TRADING TABLE OFFICER	Sue Norris
COMMITTEE	Polly Heal
COMMITTEE	Helen Edwards
COMMITTEE	Lea Todd
COMMITTEE	Colin Norris

**Position vacant:**

AUDITOR                      No nominations. To be addressed by the incoming Committee

**Positions previously filled:**

BCSA COUNCILLORS                      Peter Glassenbury, Dennis Lomman, John Mulley  
MAGAZINE EDITOR                      Lea Todd

Bette Marshall then handed the meeting back to the incoming President who welcomed the new Management Committee

Vote of thanks was given to the retiring auditor Brian Marshall

Returned to August General Meeting, at 8.40pm.

Lloyd Edwards, President



# Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday September 11, 2013

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.07pm

Reminder to members to wear nametags to be eligible for the \$10 door prize

APOLOGIES: Barbara Fisher, Sue Adams, Lea Todd, Ian Marshall, Bruce Stafford

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

8. Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society September Newsletter
9. Adelaide Zoo requesting donations to support their breeding program to help save the Tasmanian Devil
10. Adelaide Zoo notification that our annual budgerigar adoption renewal (\$100) is due
11. Southern Cagebirds September Newsletter
12. BRASEA auction catalogue and Spring Bulletin

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Shall we continue to fund our adopted budgerigar at the Adelaide Zoo? Yes

TREASURER'S REPORT: Term deposit \$19,000; Incentive Saver Account \$3,073.61; Cheque Account \$3,246.72; Total funds \$25,320.33

RING OFFICER REPORT: New 2014 rings are now available at \$56 per 100 and it is now time to pay for Derby and Oaks rings

TRADING TABLE REPORT: Sue highlighted a number of items regularly on sale from the Trading Table, including Ivomec for topical application to combat parasites

BCSA REPORT:

1. Who would like to make themselves available to assist in some capacity at the national show in 2014? Apart from the Committee, just one volunteer from the floor!
2. Notification received from ANBC that Chapmans will no longer be supplying rings beyond the current 2014 issue

NEW MEMBERS: Nil

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

3. Sunday September 29 is a NEBS Social Day and BBQ from 11.00am at the Vicki Aviaries. See Flyer on the table by the door
4. Buckingham Arms has been booked for our Christmas dinner for 35 for the December meeting. Need to start taking names from next month and \$10 deposits. See Vicki

5. Saturday October 26 is the Unbroken Cap Interclub between NEBS and BSSA to be hosted this year by BSSA. Schedules are on the table by the door
6. Show schedules for Clare and Balaclava are on the table by the door

#### GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Committee will be setting the Program over the next couple of months for the first half of 2014. Any suggestions from the floor? None!
2. Past member Jack Boden has donated his book "The Challenge" autographed by the author Gerald Binks.

LUCKY ENVELOPE: Not filled; SHOW CAGE ENVELOPE: Not filled

ENTERTAINMENT: Tim Nielsen on "Aviculture – its Role in Conservation". Tim described the breeding efforts underway in zoos to save species of birds facing extinction, and release back into the wild. Extremely interesting presentation from someone with a wealth of experience

NIGHT SHOW: Judged by Peter Glassenbury. Bird of the night crest: One half circle with the fringe up variation plus a display of multicrests, a full circle and spontaneously arising crests from a pair of blackeyed yellows

QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION: Deferred due to time constraints

DOOR PRIZE: \$10 Trading Table voucher to Peter Glassenbury

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Colin Norris; Second: Marion Stafford; Third: Graeme Alchin

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Nil

REMINDERS: Pick up unbroken cap show schedules from the table at the door

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday October 9 for unbroken caps with bird of the month being albino. Speaker will be Peter Glassenbury on "Offspring"

MEETING CLOSED: ~9.30pm

Lloyd Edwards, President

## BCSA and NEBS New Websites

The new **BCSA** website is now live and can be viewed at [www.bcsa.com.au](http://www.bcsa.com.au).

The new website provides all the information which was available on the old site but in a much more attractive and user friendly manner.

One of the features of the new site is the Photo Gallery where photos of the winning birds at Club and State Shows can be viewed.

The site will also feature information about the 2104 Nationals in Adelaide. Detailed information about the Nationals will be posted when and as it becomes available. Initial information about the venue and accommodation is already posted on the site.

The new **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/?page\\_id=992](http://www.bcsa.com.au/?page_id=992). Information currently available on the site includes the NEBS Monthly Meetings Program and the Night Show Schedule.

So if you want to know what is coming up at the Monthly Meetings and cannot locate your hard copy of the program, then look it up on the website.

Check out the results of the NEBS Fisher Show and Young Stock Show and view the photos of the winning birds in the Photo Gallery.

## SHOW SCHEDULE FOR MONTHLY NIGHT SHOWS 2013-2014

- Class 1**        **Normals (GreenSeries, Blue Series, Normal English Yellowfaced Blue Series & Normal Double Factor Australian Yellowfaced Blue Series )**
- Class 2**        **Suffused, 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**

NO ENTRY FEE. **No double rung birds** except for unbroken caps

**Note that classes 2-5 now include the four colours: Green, Blue, English yellowfaced blue and Double Factor Australian yellowfaced blue**

Sections for Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Open. Owner bred Young birds rung with the two latest ring colours are to be exhibited together. UBCs will be judged separately and for them ring colour is immaterial. Old birds will not accrue points

Young birds rung with the earlier of the two latest ring colours cease to be eligible as Young birds on **September 1** of each year. For example, gold rung birds cease to exist as Young birds on September 1, 2013

Points will be accrued monthly at the club night shows (except at Mini Shows & Derby and Oaks) for both Young (as defined above) and UBCs. 1<sup>st</sup> = 3 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 2 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 1 point

Bird of the night will be awarded a certificate and be chosen from Young birds, except for October and November, when bird of the night will be chosen from UBCs

Best bird of each status will be awarded a certificate and be chosen from Young birds, except for October and November when best of each status will be chosen from UBCs

At the end of each calendar year the member with the highest aggregate points in each Section 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

## **Change to the BCSA Status Movement Rules**

**Novice Section:** A member when first joining a BCSA Affiliate / Associate Society must show in the Novice Section and will remain in this section until such time as the member has gained 20 points from recognised shows with at least three different owner bred birds within a 3 year period. Once the points have been achieved the member will automatically be elevated to Intermediate Section on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

A Novice can also apply to be promoted after 5 years if not promoted by points within that period. Promotion is to be conditional on an assessment of the overall competitiveness of their birds by BCSA nominated judges. The commencement of the five year period is retrospective to the commencement of the Status Movement Process in 2010.

## **RESULTS OF THE BUDGERIGAR SECTION KADINA A H & F SHOW Held 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013**

**Judge: Bruce Stafford**

**85 birds benched**

**Grand Champion:** R SIMPSON

**Champion Opposite Sex:** R SIMPSON

**Reserve Champion Cock:** T RUSSELL

**Reserve Champion Hen:** R SIMPSON

**Best Young:** R SIMPSON

**Aggregate Points 2012/13:** K & A SMITH

Thank you to the North East Budgerigar Society for your continued support.

Convenor

Malcolm Loveridge

## **DERBY AND OAKS NIGHT SHOW**

The next Derby and Oaks Show will be held on the night of the July 2014 general meeting.

To enter members must nominate either the **first** ten or **first** twenty of their 2014 Black rings. The cost of nomination is 50 cents per ring and payable to the Ring Officer at the time of purchase of the 2014 rings.

As well as an Open section there will also be a combined section for both Novice and Intermediate breeders.

Cocks and Hens will be shown in separate classes.

Judging on the night will be done "out the front".

All moneys collected will be put into prizes for the best three cocks and best three hens in each section.

Members who purchase their rings through other clubs will also be able to enter by simply nominating their first ten or twenty rings and paying the entry fee.



**Man, I wish I could build nests like that!**

## LATEST SITUATION ON THE SUPPLY OF RINGS

To all

Following discussions yesterday between Nigel Tonkin (ANBC rep) / Bruce Chapman / Geoff Chapman the following was determined:

- Chapman's are targeting to supply 2014 rings until the end of 2014 as per correspondence to the ANBC dated 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013
- Circumstances that may change this relates to employees not being available to process the rings
- One employee is departing Chapman's ring department in November
- The remaining employee will continue to process rings as they arrive inclusive of budgerigars – budgerigars being his key role presently
- Fanciers are best to contact their ring registrars and to not contact Chapman's direct for information
- Fanciers may wish to order rings in a **controlled manner** to ensure they have numbers to fulfil their breeding season requirements
- Panic buying will only create unnecessary issues for all and may cause the cut off of ring ordering prematurely due to over ordering as the staff can only produce a certain number of rings per day.

It is important that the budgerigar fancy reflect on the service that Chapman's have given the ANBC over a 40 year period, beyond this Chapman's have collected the ring levy for and distributed to the ANBC over a number of years on a no fee basis.

The ANBC trust that the fancy respect the wishes of Chapman's and also understand their commitment as best as is possible is to the ANBC in relation to ring supply until the end of 2014.

Your cooperation in all of this would be appreciated



**MONTHLY MEETINGS NIGHT SHOWS**  
**POINTS AWARD 2013**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**\*\*\*NOVICE\*\*\***

Andrew and Lucy	14 points
Brad Nunn	11 points
Libby Thomas	3 points
Michael Smith	8 points

**\*\*\*INTERMEDIATE\*\*\***

Geoff Murch	11 points
Vicki Sanford	15 points

**\*\*\*OPEN\*\*\***

Lloyd and Helen Edwards	7 points
Dennis Lomman	20 points
Mulley and Stafford	8 points
Graham Alchin	10 points
Diana Trevarthen	6 points
Polly Heel	3 points
Peter Glassenbury	8 points

The year is coming to a close and only two more night shows to collect points in. this month and November will be the chance for you to bring unbroken cap birds in.

**Bird of the Month for November will be Clearwing.**

We will be having an **INTERCLUB CHALLENGE SHOW** on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October and the B.S.S.A. are hosting it this year.

Entry forms will be available at the meeting tonight.

Marion Stafford... Assistant Show Manager

## **Tips For Looking After Your Birds During Hot Weather – Nigel Tonkin, South Australia**

Many of us provide heating for our birds for the winter months but how many make provision for extremes of temperature when the weather gets hot. Australian fanciers are well experienced in dealing with these conditions. Here, Nigel Tonkin offers advice based on his experience.

These are things that I DO or DO NOT do and others may beg to differ – if so, add yours to this article at the end.

### **WATER**

DO water in the early part of the day – I try to at around 0600 – 0700 a.m. and then again later in the evening at say 1930 – 2000 p.m. I have lights on timers so the birds can see from 0500 a.m. until 2300 p.m.

DO add ice to the water in the morning to keep it cool for a longer period of time.

DO check the water later in the day to ensure all containers have water.

DO change the water twice daily.

DO use open trays, glass or enamel – not galvanised. I am not one for upturned bottles as they do not allow all of the birds' access to the drinking water when they need it i.e. only permits one at a time vs. a flock situation

DO NOT add vitamins as these can go off'.

DO add Aviclens or a similar sanitiser to the water

DO NOT spray the birds in the aviary during the day as this increases humidity and puts more stress on the birds

### **AIRFLOW and AVIARY ACTIVITY**

DO use electric fans to create air movement.

DO us air-conditioning if you have it but it can be dangerous if the power goes off due to the potential for a significant jump in temperature over a short period of time.



DO get into the aviaries early in the day. Once out stay out to prevent disturbance of the birds.

DO allow the birds to control their own day without interruption once you have fed, watered and turned on any items you might use.

Do insulate in preparation for hot weather if you are able to but only when cool.

DO use shade cloth to take some of the heat off the aviary.

## GREENS

DO NOT feed green food unless in the early morning or late afternoon and it can all be eaten in a short period of time

## SOFT FOODS and SOAKED / SPROUTED SEED

DO NOT feed soft food as this can quickly sour in the heat, I cease all dietary add ins.

DO feed sprouted seeds but take care as these can be a treat if done properly but a disaster if overdone and or seeds are not thoroughly rinsed.

## CHECKING BIRDS

DO check your birds both in the a.m. and p.m.

As stated at the outset, others may not do the same as me but that's okay so long as we are all aware of the need to use best practice to prevent disasters during hot weather conditions.

# **NOTICE**

**As an option, this magazine can be emailed to members instead of receiving a paper copy.**

**You will be sent it as soon as it is sent to the printers.**

**It will be in colour**

**You can read it on your computer, smart phone, I pad, and eBook reader or you can print it.**

**If you can't come to nightly meetings, you don't have to wait up to 4 months for your magazine.**

**If you would like to take up this option please contact the club secretary John Mulley**

## 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 Normalcocks. 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 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

## Dead In Shell Youngsters – Dr Colin Walker, Australia



Dead In Shell Chick

I regularly receive calls from aviculturists that fertile eggs are failing to hatch i.e. that the embryos these eggs contain are dying in the incubation period. Many aviculturists immediately think of Salmonella when they see this, when in fact all infections together including Salmonella account for less than 5% of all dead in-shell youngsters. So just why do

these youngsters die? Most young that die in the egg usually die either in the first few days of incubation, or alternatively the last few days of incubation.

In the first few days, embryo death is usually due to either inadequate incubation leading to too low a temperature to keep the chick alive, excessive jarring of the egg that either fatally damages the chick or yolk, or alternatively, a genetic problem affecting the chick which is incompatible with life.

Towards the end of incubation, chicks usually die as a result of problems associated with hatching. As incubation ends; the chick has to shift from getting its oxygen through the membranes that surround it, to breathing air. It also re-absorbs its yolk sac which supplies it with both food and immunity. If the temperature or humidity is incorrect at this time these processes fail to occur correctly and the chick can die.

Between the beginning and end of incubation, the chick is essentially just growing and it is here that nutrition and infection become more important. If the young chick is lacking a nutrient it needs for growth or becomes infected, it may die.

This past year has been a particularly good breeding season for me. Nearly every egg that was fertile has hatched and the resultant youngster has been successfully weaned. Although pleasing, this situation is not always the case despite the best of care. I did however, have one aviculturist mention to me last week that he had had 30% of all fertile eggs fail to hatch. He did not seem overly concerned and appeared to think that nothing could be done. This is far from the truth. An embryo fatality of 5% could be regarded as normal; anything more than this should arouse suspicions of a problem.

For those of you having a problem with dead-in-the-shell youngsters let's have a look at the potential problems that can arise with each of these periods of incubation in more detail, so that hopefully the problem can be solved.

## **Embryonic Death At The Start Of Incubation**



### **Handle With Care**

Deaths early in incubation can be detected by opening the egg and seeing that it is in fact fertile, but that the embryo is only poorly developed. As mentioned earlier, the usual cause is poor incubation leading to the egg becoming cold after development has started. Possible causes include over interference by the breeder, inadequate control of nest box mites, old arthritic birds, poor nest box design, poor parenting, nest box too hot or too cold or poorly ventilated, outside disturbances etc.

Also as mentioned earlier, eggs are very vulnerable to vibration type injuries early in incubation. Shaking or jarring can kill the developing embryo either directly or by rupturing the yolk. This is of particular relevance when eggs are being transferred for fostering. Embryos that are unlucky enough to have genetic abnormalities usually also die early in incubation. Genetic problems are more likely to occur with in-breeding.

### **Deaths From Day 4 To Day 14 Of Incubation**

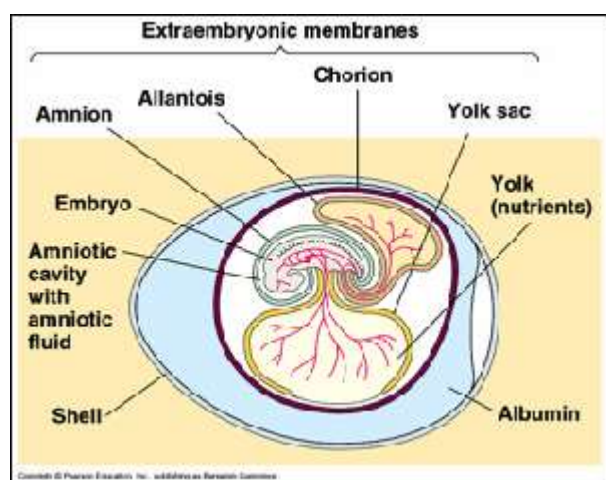
This is the longest period of the incubation process and yet it is the time when least deaths occur. The embryo is simply growing. The growing chick receives its nutrition from the yolk and deaths here can reflect nutritional problems in the hen. Hens that are correctly fed are more likely to produce nutritious yolks that support healthy embryos. The effect of breeding bird nutrition is much underrated. By simply feeding a blend of 2 or 3 seeds and a calcium supplement such as grit, it is not possible to prepare the hens for breeding. Aviculturists who believe they can do this often accept as normal an elevated embryo death rate or several weak chicks in the nest.

Although embryos can die of infection at any time during incubation, it is at this time of growth that they are most vulnerable. Certainly, there are some infections that can be carried by the hen that can infect the ovary such as Chlamydia and Salmonella. These can be incorporated into the egg at the time of its formation, and subsequently infect and kill the embryo as it grows. Infection can also pass

through the oviduct wall into the egg. However, these types of infections, that enter the egg prior to laying, are in the minority.

Most infections that develop are caught in the nest after hatching. Nests that are dirty, poorly ventilated or excessively humid lead to egg- shell contamination and movement of infectious agents into the egg. Egg quality is also important. Cracked, thin, misshapen or rough eggs allow easier entry of infection and are more subject to trauma. Poor eggs can be due to oviduct disease, but are more often associated with a nutritional deficiency – in particular calcium. Some aviculturists will have noticed eggs with translucent clear lines running around the outside of the egg showing the eggs rotations, as it was passing down the oviduct. These thin areas can be an early sign of calcium deficiency.

### Embryonic Deaths At The End Of Incubation



### Parts Of An Egg

Through incubation a membrane called the chorioallantois develops around the chick. The chorioallantois acts a bit like a human placenta, in that it delivers air to the embryo after it diffuses through the shell. At the end of incubation the chick must swap from a chorioallantoic respiration to breathing air. It does this in two stages. First it internally pips. This involves cutting a small hole into the air chamber at the end of the egg and starting to breathe the air it contains. At this stage vibrations can be felt in the egg and chick will sometimes vocalise.

After another 12 to 36 hours the second stage begins, with the chick cracking the shell and breathing external air. While this is happening the last of the yolk sac which is the chick's nutrition during incubation, is drawn into the navel. This eventually ends up as a tiny sac in the wall of the small intestine called Merckels diverticulum and lasts the whole life of the bird. Interestingly, during this time, the chick also drinks the clear fluid around it called the amniotic fluid. This amniotic fluid, and also the yolk sac contain the antibodies that protect the chick from infection in the first few weeks of life.

While all this complex physiology is going on the chick is vulnerable to problems. Too high or low temperature or humidity during this time will adversely affect the chick. The usual problem is too high a temperature, or too low a humidity. This combination causes the shell and shell membrane to become hard and dry. This can lead to a healthy chick becoming exhausted. In addition to this, the chick quickly becomes dehydrated. I am sure many of you, myself included, have helped these

chicks hatch only to find them dead later. These chicks often die because they are dehydrated. Such chicks if given small drops of water will often suck them down greedily and survive. These dehydrated chicks are called “sticky chicks” because of the way they stick to the dry shell membranes. They are often found dead after hatching a quarter to half the way, emerging from the shell. If removed from the shell they often have unabsorbed yolk sacs and there is often dry, gluggy albumen still in the egg.

For consistently high hatch rates, it is vital the breeding birds have access to a bath around this time. If not possible the underside of the hen and also the eggs can be lightly misted with water from a spray bottle. In most species, ideally the nest box should have a humidity of 70% and the sitting bird needs to keep the eggs at between 36.5 to 37.0 degrees Celsius. If unsure, a thermometer and hygrometer can be placed in the nest box.

## **Summary**

In summary, hatchability can be dramatically improved by three simple steps:

- Improving nutrition in the months prior to breeding.
- A clean nest for every round and ongoing nest box hygiene.
- Access to a bath around hatching or spraying to increase humidity by the breeder.

If attending to these matters does not help, your avian veterinarian will usually want to review the aviary environment and your management practices, test the hens for infection, or do an egg autopsy.

## **About the Author:**

Dr Colin Walker was born in 1954 in Melbourne, Australia and graduated as a veterinary surgeon in 1979. Through post graduate examination he became a college accredited avian veterinarian in 2003. He operates a bird-only veterinary clinic in the Melbourne municipality of Knox.

As well as being an active pigeon racer for over 30 years he also maintains 54 aviaries containing an extensive collection of Australian parrots, finches and doves.

Dr Walker has established two companies, The Australian Pigeon Company and Aussie Bird Vet Pty Ltd which manufacture medications and health supplements, specifically for pigeons and cage and aviary birds respectively.

These companies are dedicated to provide the best quality veterinary supplements at an affordable price to pigeon fanciers and aviculturalists. The products are now widely used in Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA and South Africa with distribution to further countries a plan for the future. It is hoped that bird keepers find these products of value in managing their bird's health.

[www.melbournebirdvet.com](http://www.melbournebirdvet.com)