



Budgie Bulletin



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2015-2016

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NORTH EAST B.S. NEWSLETTER

Issued bi-monthly for the members

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 2016)

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)

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.

Email Address: nebssa@gmail.com

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Editorial

Hi Everyone,

By now you will all be well into your breeding season. Hope you are breeding some winners. I am having the usual success and failures. Some nests have done really well, hatching 6 chicks, others only hatching 2 and one dies and the other gets splayed legs! Have fostered some chicks out, taken nest boxes off others so they can start again and put in totally new pairs to try and get some luck in some of my varieties. At the moment clearbodies and recessive pieds seem to be my least successful lots. However, I will keep going until I have the numbers I am happy with. As I have air-conditioning in my birdroom, I can keep going through summer if I want.

Later this month is the Unbroken Cap Show hosted by the BSSA. I'm not sure if I'll have any chicks to show as I started my breeding program in mid-to-late August. Only a small number of my 50 plus hatched chicks are over 3 weeks old. Possibly not old enough for the Show in several weeks' time. Hopefully, there are other NEBS breeders who will have plenty to make up the numbers. Good luck to all who enter. Hope NEBS wins!

The **CHRISTMAS DINNER** this year will be held at the **WALKERS ARMS HOTEL**, on North East Road, near the ABC building. It is an all-you-can-eat buffet, so no waiting for your meal to arrive. It will **COST \$30 PER PERSON** and I will need the money by the November meeting, or soon after. I will be asking for expressions of interest at our Night Meeting. The food is good, so the Committee hope to see you all there. No Meeting at the Hall. It will be held on **WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER at 7.30p.m.**

Our entertainment for the October Meeting is a judging competition, weather permitting. So for all of you who have ever queried a judge's decision, now is your chance to have a go. We have several different varieties for you to look at, so it should be a fun night. There will be some tasty rewards for those who get closest to the official judges decisions of 1st-5th in each variety. I'm going to have a go! I hope to see you all at the Meeting and don't forget about the CHRISTMAS DINNER.

Vicki Sanford, Treasurer.

NOTICE

2016 Rings

The initial order for 2016 rings (Orange), for the ring issue date of 1 January 2016, has now been placed with the overseas supplier.

Members are again encouraged to purchase their total ring requirements for 2016 very early in the new-year. 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.

Dennis Lomman
Ring Officer

SPANGLE ASC: Bird of the Month for September

I once wrote that there have not been any new budgerigar mutations since the Spangle in about 1974 and the Saddleback in 1975. In fact, by looking overseas other new mutations have subsequently appeared - the Blackface in 1992 and the Anthracite in 1998, but unlike the Spangle and the Saddleback, neither has found its way into Australia.

Spangles were first bred in Victoria in a colony breeding situation; hence, as far as I'm aware their ancestry has not been established with absolute certainty. Wing markings were striking when the mutation first appeared but as the variety was improved for size and feather the wing markings in recent times have been somewhat compromised.

The Standard for the Spangle ASC (single factor) describes a fine black marking near to but not at the edge of each wing covert and flight feather. The black marking on the covert is in the same position as in the normal budgerigar, but narrower. These fine black markings are generally lost or diffuse in the Opaline variation, being replaced by a marbled pattern. The sharp markings are retained in the Cinnamonwing variation but can be so pale that they are barely visible. Spangle combined with Opaline and/or Cinnamonwing is now exhibited in a separate class, the Spangle AOSV in order to preserve a class, the Spangle ASC, with the required wing markings.

Selection of hypothetical genetic modifiers to enhance the quality of wing markings in the normal Spangle ASC could theoretically be achieved in three ways. One way would be by crossing the better marked Spangles with Normals that have been bred from Spangles with the desired markings. The second way would be by inter-crossing two well marked Spangles to achieve the same aim (as well as giving us a few double factor spangles, but Spangle Double factors bred in such a way would be on a Normal background and hence likely to fail to meet the requirement for pure yellow or white body colour as prescribed in The Standard). Finally, the Spangle Double Factors produced from two well marked Spangle parents can be crossed to Normals bred from Spangles with the desired markings, or to any Normal, but as we have just discussed we don't really want to breed Spangle Double Factors with body colour suffusion. So for all practical purposes most breeders would mate Spangle to Normal, ideally avoiding cocks split for Opaline and/or Cinnamonwing.

The Spangle mutation slightly reduces the amount of melanin. The original Spangles had clear centred target shaped spots due to partial loss of melanin, but such spots are not so common nowadays, presenting usually as crescent shaped "spots". Sometimes one sees patchy body colour on the rump also due to reduced melanin, which needs to be penalised.

The Spangle is often classified as a dominant mutation, but not so. There are discrete phenotypes depending upon the presence in a budgerigar of one or two Spangle mutations. Clearly the Spangle mutation is partially (or semi-) dominant since the single factor and double factor forms are very different.

One of the myths in our hobby perpetuated by regurgitating old articles is that the quality of Normals is enhanced by breeding them through a Spangle. That has no logical genetic basis other than if the Spangle is a superior budgerigar in Type to its Normal partner then of course it will on average most likely improve the quality of Normal offspring, compared with the lesser Normal parent. Any Normal of equivalent quality to the "superior" Spangle partner would lead to the same outcome.

The Melanistic Spangle is a variant that comes out of the nest looking like a Normal except for the tail, which is yellow (in the green series) or white (in the blue series). During successive moults their wing pattern takes on conventional Spangle characteristics.

John Mulley, October, 2015

FOR SALE

Old copies of budgerigar world

Price 50c per copy

You can purchase them from the club treasurer or Graham Bell

North East Budgerigar Society

Entertainment Wednesday November 11, 8.00 pm

49 Le Hunte St, Kilburn

Topic:

First aid for budgies – keeping them alive until morning

Speaker: Dr Anne Fowler

Bird and Exotics Veterinarian

Adelaide Animal Emergency and Referral Centre

119 Anzac Highway, Kurralta Park

Phone: 8371 0333

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BCSA and NEBS New Websites

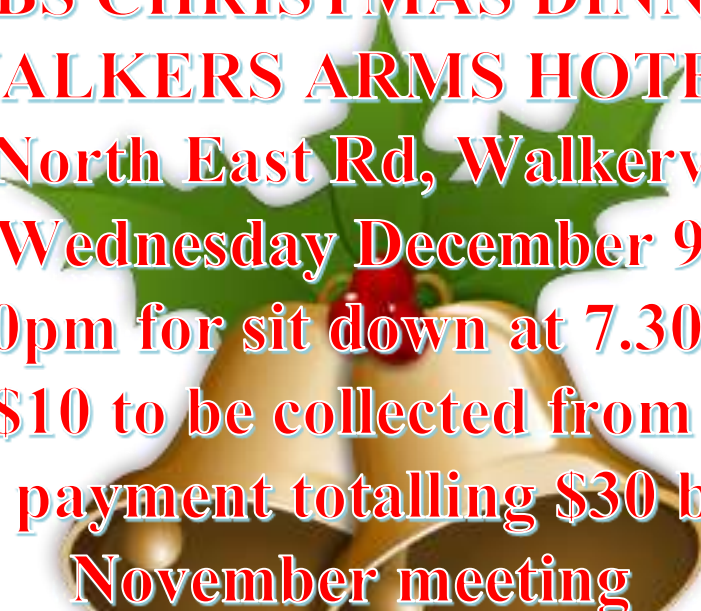
BCSA and NEBS Websites

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 CHRISTMAS DINNER
WALKERS ARMS HOTEL
36 North East Rd, Walkerville
Wednesday December 9
7.00pm for sit down at 7.30pm
Deposit \$10 to be collected from October
Final payment totalling \$30 by the
November meeting

NIGHT SHOW AGGREGATE POINTS UP TO SEPTEMBER

	Points	Shows entered
Novice		
Ben Hale	8	1
Intermediate		
Vicki Sanford	16	1
Andrew Stock	35	2
Open		
John Mulley	50	3
Sue Norris	8	1

Highest aggregate points in each section each year win either a \$30 Trading Table voucher or a show cage. To be eligible need to enter birds in a minimum of three of the available six night shows

**RESULTS OF THE BUDGERIGAR SECTION
KADINA A H & F SHOW
Held 15TH AUGUST 2015**

Judge: Larry Jeffries

Grand Champion: TREVOR RUSSELL
Champion Opposite Sex: TREVOR RUSSELL
Reserve Champion Cock: GEORGE & BEV JONES
Reserve Champion Hen: MALCOLM LOVERIDGE
Champion Young: MALCOLM LOVERIDGE
Aggregate Points 2014/15: MALCOLM LOVERIDGE

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

Convenor
Malcolm Loveridge



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for generously sponsoring the
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Your support is greatly appreciated

Elaine Bensted
Chief Executive
Zoos South Australia



Principal Partner
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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

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 August 12, 2015

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.01p.m.

APOLOGIES: John Mulley, Sue Adams, Diana Trevarthen, Trevor & Tina Wilson-Smith.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTENDING: 27

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Southern Cagebird August Newsletter; Budgie Digest for July-August from BSSA. From Port Adelaide Enfield Council forms for 2016 Hall Hire and Hirer Activity Analysis for risk assessment associated with club activities during hall hire

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Response to Port Adelaide Enfield Council with information they required

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: Nil

TREASURER'S REPORT: Funds for August – Term Deposit \$12,500.00: Incentive Saver \$5,334.53: Cheque Account \$1,920.99. Total Funds \$19,755.52. Audited report to be presented at the AGM

RING OFFICER REPORT: Supplement order has been received and some rings already handed out.

Have extra 1000 rings available in Australia due to an order hiccup. If you think you require more rings, then see me soon.

TRADING TABLE REPORT: Bird baths on special, finger drawers too. Lots of things available for the breeding season.

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS: Welcome to Ken & Jane Harris and Paul DiCaterina.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS: Any suggestions for this year's Xmas Dinner? Bette suggested the Walkers Arms Hotel.

AWARDS: President Lloyd Edwards presented Lea & Margaret Todd with their 30 year continuous membership badges.

He also presented the Vetafarm Vouchers to the winners Dennis Lomman and Wayne Bandt.

AGM CONDUCTED AT THIS POINT – SEE SEPARATE AGENDA, THEN RETURN TO THIS AGENDA

ENTERTAINMENT: Dennis presented us with the first half of the Daniel Lutoff DVD with discussion to follow

QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION: Very interesting, but there were no questions.

NIGHT SHOW: No birds tonight due to the AGM.

LUCKY ENVELOPES: No lucky envelopes.

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Colin Norris; Second: Tony Melbourne; Third: Lea Todd.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Reminder to collect magazines.

Reminder to Committee members that Meeting to be held at Vicki's place at Modbury.

NEXT MEETING: September 9 will be the presentation of the 2nd half of the Daniel Lutoff lecture with comments and discussion to follow. Bird of the month will be Spangle ASV

REMINDERS: Please stack your chair at the back of the hall prior to supper

MEETING CLOSED: 9.27p.m.

Lloyd Edwards, President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

August 12, 2015

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.13p.m.

APOLOGIES: As per the General Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM: Read out by Vicki Sanford.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Motion 1: Base membership rate to rise from \$15 to \$20 to take effect for the 2017 calendar year onwards. **Justification:** Membership fee has not risen for many years and cost of magazine postage is about to significantly rise.

If Single Membership raised to \$20, then

Double Membership fee (single fee plus 50%) becomes \$30

Family Membership fee (single fee plus 50% of Single fee for each party over 18 years; under 18 no charge in family situation)

Junior Membership fee (65% of single fee) becomes \$13

Pensioner Membership fee (80% of single fee or 80% of Double Membership fee) becomes \$16 and \$24 respectively

Partnership Membership fee (75% of single membership) becomes \$15 per person

Moved: Vicki Sanford. **Seconded:** John Mulley

Motion carried

Motion 2: Rescind under 9(d) of the Objects, Rules, By Laws and Constitution dealing with Membership Fee Structure the clause "Membership fees paid five years in advance shall be discounted by one year's fee." **Justification:** Income versus expenditure equation needs to be brought into closer balance.

Proposed: John Mulley. **Seconded:** Vicki Sanford

Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: As per the magazine. Lloyd thanked all members for contributing to the success of the club.

TREASURER'S REPORT: See August magazine for full details including the detailed and audited balance sheet. Starting the new financial year with \$1963.60 in the cheque account, up from last year's starting balance. Had an operating loss of \$511.73. Closed a term deposit and put some funds into the cheque account and the balance in the Incentive Saver.

A big thank you to Sandy for auditing the books again this year.

ALL POSITIONS DECLARED OPEN: Election of the new Committee moderated by the Patron Bill Davis

The new Committee:

PATRON	Bill Davis
PRESIDENT	Lloyd Edwards
VICE PRESIDENT	Dennis Lomman
SECRETARY	John Mulley
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	
TREASURER	Vicki Sanford
RING OFFICER	Dennis Lomman
SHOW MANAGER	Graeme Alchin
ASSISTANT SHOW MANAGER	Michael Smith
TRADING TABLE OFFICER	Sue Norris
COMMITTEE	Lea Todd
COMMITTEE	Helen Edwards
COMMITTEE	Colin Norris
COMMITTEE	Ben Hale
BCSA COUNCILLOR	

Positions previously filled:

BCSA COUNCILLORS Dennis Lomman, John Mulley
MAGAZINE EDITOR Lea Todd

The Patron Bill Davis thanked all who nominated for positions and handed the meeting back to the incoming President.

Lloyd Edwards resumed as President for 2015-2016 and welcomed the new Committee
Lloyd acknowledged the contributions made to the club by the late Andrew Stock in his role as the Assistant Show Manager. Sadly missed.

Returned to the August General Meeting at 8.32 p.m.

Lloyd Edwards, President

Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday September 9, 2015

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.05pm

APOLOGIES: Nil; NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTENDING: 19

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Feathered World Newsletter for August-September from the Canary and Cagebird Federation; Survey form from Port Adelaide Enfield Council seeking information on the extent to which our membership is comprised of diverse ethnic backgrounds; Southern Cagebird September Newsletter; Request from the UBBSSA seeking a pricelist for the species of bird we keep and breed; Reminder Notice from Adelaide Zoo that our annual adoption payment for our budgerigar is due

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: As a club are we prepared to continue the sponsorship of our budgerigar? Yes. The amount is \$100

TREASURER'S REPORT: Term Deposit \$12,500.00; Incentive Saver \$5,355.85; Cheque Account \$2,841.76. Total Funds \$20,697.61

RING OFFICER REPORT: Additional rings are available but need to be ordered through the Ring Officer prior to NEBS sourcing through the BCSA

TRADING TABLE REPORT: No specials tonight; NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS: Nil

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Committee will be discussing entertainment options for the first half of 2016. The membership was asked if they wanted any specific topic to be considered. One suggestion was a talk on the lesser varieties
2. State government has issued guidelines for the handling of animals and suggested that signage and hand sanitising facilities be provided wherever animals are displayed. The club has taken this on board
3. Schedules and entry forms for Clare Show are on the table

ENTERTAINMENT: Second half of the Daniel Lutolf DVD was played with subsequent discussion of some of the points covered. An interesting point: Daniel puts a higher selling price on cocks compared with hens since cocks have the potential to produce more chicks

QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION: Nothing beyond what was raised in the DVD

NIGHT SHOW: Judged by John Mulley. He thanked the one member who bothered to bring birds to the night show. This is meant to be a highlight of the meeting. The judge reminisced about the time not so long ago when we would have seen in excess of 50 unbroken caps presented at the September night show

Best Novice: Ben Hale; Bird of the month (Spangle ASC): No entries

LUCKY ENVELOPES: None filled

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Ken Harris; Second: Colin Norris; Third: Michael Smith

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: October 14 entertainment will be a judging competition. Bird of the month will be yellowfaced blue

REMINDERS: Please stack your chair at the back of the hall prior to supper

MEETING CLOSED: ~9.30pm

Lloyd Edwards, President

What is an Anthracite Budgie? – Carl Slavin – Canada. Photos Didier Mervilde, Belgium



The word Anthracite conjures up a vision of a coal black bird. The real Anthracite colour is more akin to very dark grey. It is unique and clearly noticeable when in its visual phase. Anthracite can also change the appearance of many different varieties. To date Anthracite has been bred into many varieties including, just recently, Goldenface.

The first appearance of an Anthracite was in 1998 at the aviary of the late Hans Lenk in Germany. Hans was the DSV delegate to the WBO (World Budgerigar Organization) and was recognized as a champion breeder and long time exhibitor of Budgerigars. The first recorded breeding came from the pairing of a dark green split opaline cock and a grey hen. There were 12 chicks from the pairing and three of them, two cocks and one hen, were visually different. These first Anthracites as they were eventually called, caused some attention in Germany. Gerd Bleicher, the Chair of the DSV and the WBO, who was also a friend of Hans, then obtained a few birds to breed and experiment with.

Gerd and Hans bred enough of this strain and sold a few of them. The WBO has a very specific requirement for recognition of a new variety and to date the Anthracite has not met this standard. The standard calls for exhibition of minimum three birds of each sex in three different countries with different exhibitors. The birds have been exhibited in Germany and perhaps other European locations but not with the numbers required.

There are a few breeders in the United States and Canada who currently are working with the variety. The variety has been exhibited in both countries without the numbers required for International recognition. I have Anthracites in sufficient quantity to obtain recognition for Canada and Steven Fowler in Arizona could exhibit in quantity but we both prefer to await WBO recognition elsewhere at this time.

The same manner as Violet



Anthracite should be looked on as breeding in the same manner as Violet. Simply stated it is basically a color enhancer. The intrusion of Anthracite into a budgerigar of any color will see a darker shade appear. Violet has the same properties. There is a wonderful article on breeding Violet in the Feb. 2008 ABS bulletin. This article was written by ABS judge Leon Saad and is of value to any breeder of either Anthracite or Violet. Leon refers breeders to the theory presented by Peter Bergman of Australia in which he states that violet is only visual in the double factor mode.

To help you understand the concept ; if a visual double factor violet is bred to a sky blue all the chicks from that pairing will be considered as being single factor violet chicks. In this case they will all look like cobalt's in color. When two single factor violet chicks are bred together they will produce a number of double factor chicks which will be visually violet in color. Anthracite (An.) works in the same manner.

When a double factor (visual) An. is bred with a sky blue all the chicks will look like dull shaded cobalt's or at minimum a very darker shade of sky. The clear indicator with An. is always the cheek patch. In all budgies of the blue series, according to the WBO color standard the cheek patch is described as violet. With the An. the cheek patch has a very distinct and obvious duller shade of violet origin.

The difference is subtle to the eye especially when viewed in artificial light. For the serious breeder it is necessary to take what might be a single factor Anthracite into daylight and compare the cheek patch with a sky blue or cobalt to be certain. This may be necessary when checking the offspring from a single factor An. as in theory 50% of them will also be single factor An. The breeding of single factor An. is very helpful to the serious breeder as An. to An. breeding while producing An. does not produce many top quality specimens. The variety has a disturbing habit of wanting to return to the original budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).

I was able to secure three Anthracite cock birds and three single factor An. hens from Gerd in 2006 and have been working with them in the hopes of improving the exhibition quality of the variety. It is a slow process as the single factor birds have very good exhibition qualities while the visual double factor Anthracites often do not. It is clearly a labor of love. There is hope for the future of the variety as I have shared some An. with a number of dedicated fanciers and they are making progress. Jim Jeffery has recently produced the best An. hen I have seen and as more breeders contribute we may see the quality desired.

Breeders were very puzzled



When the first Anthracites appeared many thought them to be a combination of Recessive Grey and Violet. Breeders were very puzzled to find that no matter what combinations they bred the supposed recessive factor did not produce as predicted and the violet colour was of a deeper shade. It has recently been proposed and accepted by many that Anthracite is indeed a new Mutation and its breeding is predictable. My good friend Eric Peake being one of the nay sayers.

I have also produced a few single factor An. in the green series and as you would imagine they appear as grey green. The cheek patch is also slightly different but not so as to be definitive. Some breeder in the future will do a study on this breeding. I hope You may compare the breeding of Grey and Grey green in the same light as Violet and Anthracite. We are all aware that grey comes in two shades best known as single and double factor Grey. If you ponder this widely held

knowledge you will then easily identify with the breeding of Anthracite and Violet.

In the future we expect to see Anthracite listed as a variety and exhibited in all color combinations. This year I plan on producing Spangle Anthracites. When Anthracite is combined with Violet the Violet takes on a deeper hue and is very striking to see. When Anthracite is bred with double factor grey the Visual Anthracite is very dark indeed. When Anthracite is combined with double factor Grey and double factor Violet.....well..... we'll just have to see, won't we !

I was recently advised that combining Anthracite with Yellowface and/or Goldenface is very difficult due to some lethal issue. We have all heard of lethal genes, but, realistically the offspring most likely have either died due to natural causes or breeder neglect. Jim Jeffery has bred a few single factor already. The door to a new horizon has opened, the world of budgerigars has taken another step forward



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.

Ask The Vet – with Kevin Eatwell



On a daily basis, what should a fancier be looking for when he observes his/her birds in the flights?

All birds should be watched for any signs of ill health twice a day. Each individual must be observed at rest to identify any problems early. Many diseases are brought on by being low in the pecking order, these birds suffer malnutrition and secondary disease follows. It is also important to note that the pecking order will vary. Moulting birds or birds that have been breeding or shown recently are more likely to suffer. In these cases removal of these birds prior to showing obvious illness is prudent. Isolation and good feeding is all that is required in many cases. All too often when I recommend removal of a bird from a flight the owner comments it is not sick and returns it to the flight, sure enough these birds become ill. Isolating the bird for a week gives time for the bird to regain strength or indeed proper assessment for disease. If you are in any doubt about the health of a bird, even if it is just moulting isolate it.

Signs of ill health can vary from discharges from the cere, mouth or vent, vomiting, weight loss (sometimes the only sign) down to a fluffed up bird.



How can you tell that a flight is overcrowded?

Over-crowding is a major problem in many studs. This leads to problems with health and moulting birds are particularly prone to becoming ill in this situation. Generally one has to consider the number of high perches in a flight that the birds are happy to roost on. In most cases this will be only the top three or four perches. Each bird needs ample space to roost. I would suggest at least six inches per bird. So a three foot wide flight with two banks of perches would hold up to forty eight birds.

How do Probiotics work?

Probiotics are a foreign bacteria introduced into the birds intestinal tract. As a result these bacteria are subject to competition from the natural bacteria and very soon die off when the natural bacteria increase in numbers. Their use is to fill up “gaps” in the birds natural bacteria that have been removed by antibiotic treatment. They also will provide competition for pathogenic infections including fungal diseases such as Candidiasis. The best time to use them is after antibiotic treatment. Personally I can see no long term benefit in routine treatment with these.



Is there any merit in giving antibiotics routinely, say twice a year?

None what so ever! It just promotes bacterial resistance and secondary fungal infections. Some antibiotics cause enteritis by upsetting the birds natural gut bacteria; oxytetracycline is a well known cause of this.

What causes a feather cyst and how can it be treated?

Feather cysts can arise as a result of the bird's feather type. In most cases the feather is too coarse to develop through the normal skin. As a result it grows in a cystic shape, which can impair fertility if covering the vent or causing discomfort. There is a hereditary link, most likely due to the buff feathering. Ethically treatment is not advisable in birds intended for breeding and they should be



removed from the stud. In practice this may lead to the removal of some very good birds. A compromise may be achieved by mating these birds to unrelated fine feathered individuals to reduce the recurrence of the cysts. Surgical removal is possible but it may lead to the bird being bred with by another breeder without the knowledge of a genetically linked disease.

What would be the ideal contents of an aviary first aid box?

1. Broad spectrum antibiotic to be used for enteritis. An example would be amoxicillin.
2. Dimetridazole for Trichomoniasis.
3. Amphotericin for Megabacteriosis.
4. A suitable antibiotic and steroid eye ointment for conjunctivitis.
5. Syringes and crop tubes.
6. A probiotic.

It would also be useful to have isolation facilities and a heat lamp for sick birds. Some fanciers may be able to have injectable antibiotics available to get therapeutic levels of drugs into their birds quickly.

How can a fancier best help their vet to help them?

Firstly by actually discussing their set-up with their vet and explaining that the birds they possess are not "pets" but require a different approach based on stud management and disease prevention. In many cases where a specialist vet is not available you may find discussing the problems that you face helps to get the vet in the right frame of mind.

A veterinary practice can only help if they are aware of the problems. It is certainly worth while considering post mortems on your stock to identify diseases before they become a welfare issue and lead to high mortality. Even if the practice itself is unable to carry out the post mortems the laboratory that they send their samples to will be able to help

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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

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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

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