

# THE BUDGERIGAR

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL BIRD



2019 Australian National Budgerigar  
Championship Show Winner  
Class 03 - Normal Blue

**Chenhall  
Family**

Congratulations!

*The Official Publication of the  
Budgerigar Society of New South Wales Inc.*



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Since 1895, we have been producing the GOLDEN COB® Breeder's Quality range of seed mixes, to provide Australian birds with the nutrition they need for health & vitality.

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# THE BUDGERIGAR

January / February 2020

The Official Publication of the Budgerigar Society of New South Wales Inc.

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Get more information or arranged a Subscriptions by emailing editor@budgerigar.com.au

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# WORDS FROM THE EDITOR.

Hi everyone,

I hope everyone has had a safe and happy Christmas and new year. I know I have, with new babies and the magazine being almost complete I think I'm off to a flying start.

I hope everybody has enjoyed the previous magazine and all magazines in 2019, 2020 will be bigger and better. This year I will endeavor to have the magazine out in the first week of the middle month so if it's the January / February issue it will come out either the last week in January or the first week in February.

Please don't forget to send me your feedback, images from shows, show results, club information updates, club show advertisements and anything else you would like to see in the budgerigar.

I would also like to incorporate something else into the magazine that is solely for YOU the members, I want to include a link to a survey monkey quick survey that would take you 5 minutes to complete, this survey will be for you guys the members to tell me what you want to see in the magazine in the coming months or give any feedback as to what you'd like to see change, added, removed, and just any improvements.

This will help me make it that your emails will not be lost as I will login and see your feedback, please know that all results are 100% confidential and not even I will know who you are. This is also 100% FREE and allows you to have an input into each publication.

I would like to wish everybody a very happy new year and can't wait for the show seasons to start and to see you all at the BSNSW Annual show in March. Please be sure to support this event as best you can.

Be safe and best wishes.

Justin Magnee

Editor BSNSW

The Budgerigar Society of New South  
Wales Inc is proud to be  
affiliated with the  
Australian National Budgerigar  
Council  
[www.nationalresults.net](http://www.nationalresults.net)



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# A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

Hi Members,

Welcome to the New Year & may your breeding season have been to your expectations.

I feel for those who have suffered through recent bushfire events & hope that your flock has survived & you will be able to participate in the coming show season.

The 2020 Annual State Show will be on 15th March 2020 at Hills Sports High School & please support this show being put on for you the members of the Society by the State Show Committee. Much planning has gone into this event.

Congratulations to James Matthews for winning the 2019 Best of Variety challenge & to all the winners of each variety and an award will be presented at this show.

The public awareness event for the Society is the Royal Easter Show with Judging on 6th April but entries close online 19th February 202 with no late entries accepted.

I hope that all Branch shows in the coming months are successful & I am planning to get to most of them.

Best wishes for the New Year & see you at the Shows.

Steve Wackwitz  
**PRESIDENT BSNSW**



# WORDS FROM OUR SECRETARY.






I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and safe New Year. For those members who have been affected by the recent fire tragedy that has taken hold of our state our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

I have received reports that some of our members have lost property and their birds. I will be working on behalf of the society to assist these members in any way that can be beneficial during this time.

The Show committee has undertaken a total review of its procedures and we look forward to seeing these in working action in upcoming show schedules. If the society can help any club in regards to implementing these changes including the new ribbons for the restricted classes please let me know. We look forward to seeing these new ribbons in action in upcoming shows this year.

Kind regards  
Mark Finnimore  
BSNSW Secretary

## BSNSW RING ISSUE YEARS

Colour	Visual Colour	Year	Upcoming year
Red		2018	2024
Black		2019	2025
Dark Green		2020	2026
Violet		2021	2027
Dark Brown		2022	2028
Dark Blue		2023	2029

# SHOW MANAGER'S REPORT

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and a successful year on the Show Bench.

The Show Committee and Executive have been working hard on trying to encourage members to show their birds on the Show Bench.

We are providing ribbons for all Branch shows for Champion Intermediate

( Reserve Champion or Opposite Sex Intermediate } Champion Novice ( Reserve Champion or Opposite Sex Novice).

These ribbons are donated by the Budgerigar Society of New South Wales and Association of Specialists Budgerigar Organisation "BRASEA"

and ribbons for B.O.V. in Intermediate and Novice donated by AVIONE.

Grand Champion medals and Patronage Medals have been ordered. All medals and ribbons will be sent out to the Clubs.

The B.S.N.S.W. Annual Show Schedules will be available shortly. The show being held on 15th March at The Hills Sports High School, 56 Best Road, Seven Hills. This year we are providing ANY AGE Sections for Restricted Cocks and Hens.

Medals for State Team Representations will be ordered shortly.

Jim Baker  
B.S. N.S.W. Show Manager

# JUDGES CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Judges Panel had a very informative meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> November but we would have liked a greater attendance. 11 Judges and two Trainees were present.

At the Trainee Session Steven Wilson and Anthony Starcevic had both a sight unseen written test and a practical test and the Judges Committee agreed that both showed pleasing promise. They also took part in a session on good judging practices. Steven Wilson suggested that Branches and Associates should provide the Judges for their shows with a schedule containing a blank column down the side of all the classes so that the Judges can put the number of birds there for each class instead of trying to squeeze figures around what is already there.

The Panel Meeting commenced at 12.15 p.m. The Dates for Judges' Panel Meetings in 2020 are 28<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

It was noted that in the 'Budgerigar' magazine the Judges information had not been updated nor on the website so Andre Ozoux will inform the Editor and Webmaster what needs to be done and also update the Judges' list.

The Judges at the Meeting then had a workshop on head markings , putting the birds into groups of heavy and light markings. It is not only the size of the heavy markings that will disqualify a bird but the majority of grizzle and flecking. Judges at Shows should be discussing any disqualifications of birds with heavy head markings with their fellow Judges at the Show so there will be unity in decisions.

Gary Gazzard said he would write an article on this topic of head markings for publication in the magazine which he did and it has been well received.

A note to Judges: When a bird is disqualified for any reason DQ needs to be written on the cage sticker and if it is disqualified for heavy head markings then HM should be written there as well.

The Judges at the Meeting then had a workshop on head markings , putting the birds into groups of heavy and light markings. It is not only the size of the heavy markings that will disqualify a bird but the majority of feathers affected by markings.

We hope that exhibitors will soon come to realise and accept why Judges have made the necessary decisions they will be making this year.

**Jean Painter**

**Judges' Chairperson and Secretary**

**On behalf of the B.S.N.S.W. Judges' Panel**

# GET TO KNOW YOUR STANDARD!



[https://anbc.iinet.net.au/uploads/9/8/7/0/9870161/2019\\_anbc\\_estandard\\_2019\\_master.pdf](https://anbc.iinet.net.au/uploads/9/8/7/0/9870161/2019_anbc_estandard_2019_master.pdf)



## B.S.N.S.W. 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHOW 2020



**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**The Hills Sports High School, 56 BEST ROAD SEVEN HILLS 2147**

Excellent schedule with special features e.g. Any Age Classes for Restricted Exhibitors, Special ribbons for Champion birds, Best of Variety ribbons for Novice and Intermediate, \$30 CASH for each B.O.V. in Show !

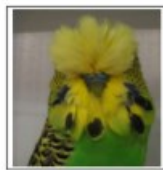
Schedule available on the website and at the Show there will also be an Auction of quality birds provided by successful exhibitors.

**THIS IS A CLEARWING CHALLENGE POINT SCORE EVENT AND A CREST GOLDEN POINTS EVENT.**

**Enquiries:** Jim Baker 0413 980 344 or Steve Wackwitz 0417 024 875

This is a B.S.N.S.W. Best of Variety & Status point competition event.

# First Show of the Year Illawarra Branch Budgerigar Society of NSW Inc Our 60th Show



Sunday 2nd February 2020  
At the  
Bulli PCYC  
253 Princess Highway Bulli

This Show will be a Clearwing Challenge Points Event  
This is a Crest Golden Points competition Event

## CASH PRIZES

Sponsored by Bird Boxes Galore,  
Woonona Petfood & Produce,  
Rod Price Mechanical Repairs, Avione  
Australian Bush Budgerigar Organisation  
A.S.B.S, Horizon Bank, B.S.N.S.W  
Free Bird Sale on Day

Bird Boxes Galore, Rod Price Mechanical Repairs, Avione, BSNWS, ASBS  
Woonona Petfood & Produce, Australian Bush Budgerigar Organisation.

## SHOALHAVEN BRANCH Budgerigar Society of NSW Inc



Sunday 09th February 2020  
Illaroo Road Primary School  
North Nowra NSW 2541

Most Successful Shoalhaven Branch Exhibitor - The Kate Sommerfeld Perpetual Trophy  
BEST FOLDING IN SHOW - Trophy donated by the Evans Family (most nominate bird for show)

Champion Blue Jay

Champion Intermediate Finch

Champion Service Finch

Champion Junior Bird

Champion Starling

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AUCTION and BIRD SALE

LUCKY EXHIBITOR PRIZE

## ST GEORGE BRANCH BSNSW 61st ANNUAL SHOW



SUNDAY, 16th FEBRUARY  
2020

BEXLEY SCHOOL OF ARTS, 476 FOREST RD,  
BEXLEY

Email enquiries to:  
jimandbrendabaker@gmail.com

This Show is inclusive of the BSNSW "Best of Variety Competition",  
"Clearwing Challenge Points Event" and the "Crest Golden Point Competition".

CLEARWING AND CREST - ASBS - "BRASEA"  
CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES, FRAMED PRINTS & ROSETTES  
"BRASEA" AWARDS, Rosettes & Diplomas for  
Fallow, Black Eyed Self, Darkwing, Saddleback & Recessive Pied  
In recognition of St. George Branch's support of the BRASEA Auctions.

# UPCOMING ANNUAL SHOWS

Newcastle Budgerigar Club Inc.

## Annual Show Schedule



23rd February 2020

FREE ENTRIES  
Wallsend Community Centre  
Cnr Cowper Street & Newcastle Rd, Wallsend

THIS IS A CLEARWING CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE EVENT  
Sponsored by the Clearwing Budgerigar Society of Australia.

Best Crest in Show gets Crested Budgerigar Club (Aust) points.

This is a BSNSW Best of Variety Competition

Over \$2500 Cash to be won plus Medals and Prizes

Introducing The Cinnamonwing Lottery. Each entry in a Cinnamonwing  
class receives a ticket in the Lottery. The entry drawn out at presentation  
receives a \$50 prize.

## CANBERRA BRANCH

BSNSW OF NSW INC

## 2020 ANNUAL SHOW & AUCTION

Any Age and Young Birds

Sunday, 23 February, 2020

Show Schedule & Auction Catalogue  
on the BSNSW Website: "What's On"

Show Manager: Stuart Foster

Phone entries to Show Manager

by telephone to 0439 898 472

on Thursday, 20 February, 2020, 7 - 9.30pm

or email to [nita.stuart@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nita.stuart@optusnet.com.au)

BSNSW Best of Variety Competition 2020

Golden Crest Award, Clearwing Challenge,

Don Geary Memorial Shield for Albino

Breakfast, lunch, tea/coffee, drinks available

Bird Sale, Raffle, Door Prize and AUCTION

## ELENBEE TRADE TABLE

St Jude's Primary School  
Mulley Street  
Holder ACT

## 25th Annual Show

June Ex-Services Memorial Hall  
Broadway, Junee NSW 2663



Sunday 8th March 2020

Prizes include:

SOUTH WESTERN NSW SPECIAL AWARD

Best Novice NORMAL CINNAMONWING ASC

CHAMPION DOMINANT PIED IN SHOW

BSNSW INC MEMBERS BEST OF VARIETY IN SHOW COMPETITION

Any Age & Young Birds will compete for the Best of Variety

Award Points

CLEARWING CHALLENGE EVENT & CRESTED GOLDEN POINT COMPETITION

Patron:

JUNEE EX-SERVICES MEMORIAL CLUB

Elenbee Bird Supplies will be operating a trade table on  
the day.

Pre-orders are accepted, please contact Barry or Terese on 0422 618 419.

NB: No seed to be used in show boxes. Please use French White  
Millet sprays only. Min 2 sprays per box.  
Sprays will be available to purchase on the day.



# BSNSW INC. WHAT'S ON?

## JANUARY

11th BSNSW Management meeting, Blacktown RSL Club

## FEBRUARY

2nd Illawarra Branch Annual Show  
9th Shoalhaven Branch Annual Show  
16th St George Branch Annual Show  
23rd Canberra Branch Annual Show and Auction  
23rd Newcastle Branch Annual Show

## MARCH

1st Hills Branch Annual Show  
7th BSNSW Management meeting, Blacktown RSL Club  
8th South Western NSW Budgerigar Club Annual Show  
15th Budgerigar Society of New South Wales Annual Show  
22nd BRASEA March Budgerigar Auction  
28th BSNSW Judges Panel Meeting

## APRIL

5th—7th Royal Agricultural Show (R.A.S.)  
19th Penrith Valley Branch Annual Show  
25th Wollongong and District Agricultural Society Inc. Annual Show

## MAY

2nd BSNSW Management meeting, Blacktown  
3rd Macarthur Branch Annual Show  
16th S.T.C.C and S.T.C State Slections  
23rd—24th Australian National Budgerigar Championship Show in Bendigo

## JUNE

7th Orana Avicultural Society Annual Show  
21st BRASEA June Budgerigar Auction

## JULY

4th Hills District Branch Super Budgerigar Auction  
11th BSNSW Management meeting, Blacktown RSL Club  
12th Newcastle Young Bird Show  
25th Judges Panel Annual General Meeting (AGM)

## AUGUST

2nd New England Branch Annual Show  
9th Newcastle Branch Annual Auction  
23rd Northside Branch Annual Show

## SEPTEMBER

6th West Sydney Branch Annual Show  
12th Budgerigar Society of New South Wales Annual General Meeting  
13th Pied Budgerigar Society Annual Auction  
20th Hunter Branch Annual Show  
27th South Western NSW Budgerigar Society Young Bird Show

## OCTOBER

11th Canberra Budgerigar Club Annual Show  
18th BRASEA October Budgerigar Auction  
25th St George / Illawarra Young Bird Show

## NOVEMBER

1st Mid State Budgerigar Club Annual Show  
14th Judges Panel Meeting  
29th BRASEA Annual Sydney Lawn Show



Management meetings



Annual General meetings



BSNSW Inc Annual Show



Judges Panel Meetings

# BSNSW INC. BRANCHES

## CANBERRA

For Further information regarding meetings please contact the secretary of this branch.

**Chairperson** Stuart Foster  
Ph: 0439898472  
Email: stuart.foster@optusnet.com.au  
**Secretary** Rita Corbett  
Ph: 0417 044 023  
Email: rita.stuart@optusnet.com.au

## CENTRAL COAST

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm

Tuggerah Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah

**Chairperson** Col Taylor  
Ph: 0414 327 085  
E: colt.2012@hotmail.com  
**Secretary** Narelle Anderson  
Ph: 4355 1470  
E: narelleanderson@gmail.com

## HILLS DISTRICT

4th Friday of each month at 8:00pm (except December) Don Moore Community Centre, Nth Rocks Rd, North Rocks

**Chairperson** Daniel Child  
Ph: 0410 628 691  
E: fordano@hotmail.com  
**Secretary** Cliff Spare  
Ph: 0421 070 118  
E: clicky.bill@bigpond.com

## HUNTER

1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm Thomas Morgan Pavilion, Maitland Show Ground (entry Anzac St)

**Chairperson** Tony Mills  
Ph: (02) 4932 8826  
**Secretary** Angus Cameron  
Ph: (02) 49 323180  
E: hunterbudgies@hotmail.com

## ILLAWARRA

Meeting is 3rd Monday of the Month at Balgownie Community Hall. 113 Balgownie Road Balgownie at 7.30pm.

**Chairperson** Dan Strinic  
Ph: (02) 4283 4355  
E: illabsbudgies@tpg.com.au  
**Secretary** Darren Burgess  
dbbudgies@gmail.com

## SHOALHAVEN

3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm (except June, July & December) Shoalhaven Library Meeting Room, Berry St, Nowra

**Chairperson** Dennis Tipping  
Ph: (02)4446 0289  
E: dennistipping@iprimus.com.au  
**Secretary** Terry Evans  
Ph: (02) 4421 0117  
E: rollyevans@bigpond.com

## WEST SYDNEY

1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm Dining Hall Blacktown Showground enter off Kent Road

**Chairperson** Bruce MacCarthy  
E: maccabruce@outlook.com  
**Secretary** Robyn Wilson  
E: robyn5918@outlook.com

## MACARTHUR

1st Friday of each month at 8:00pm Beverley Park SSP School, 100 Beverley Rd, Campbelltown

**Chairperson** David Butters  
Ph: (02) 6241 3585  
E: davecbutters@yahoo.com.au  
**Secretary** Ian Cocks  
Ph: (02) 4628 4237  
E: ian.cocks@gmail.com

## MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION AREA BREEDERS

Time, Date and Venue of meetings to be advised by Newsletter. Please enquire via club email.

**Chairperson** Estelle French  
Ph: (02) 6947 3391  
E: horatiofrench@bigpond.com  
**Secretary** Horatio French  
Ph: (02) 6947 3391  
E: horatiofrench@bigpond.com

## NEW ENGLAND

Meeting Date and Venue of meetings to be advised by Newsletter

**Chairperson** Terry Smith  
Ph: 0459116443  
**Secretary** Yvette Smith  
Ph: 0400 246 000  
E: shredder2@bigpond.com

## NORTHSIDE

1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm Senior Citizen Hall, 259 Pacific Highway, Lindfield

**Chairperson** Dennis Beckett  
Ph: 0412 211 183  
E: the\_becketts@hotmail.com  
**Secretary** Kathleen Sharp  
Phone (02) 9626 0300  
E: ksharp7@live.com.au

## PENRITH VALLEY

1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm Community Hall Opp. Llandilo P/School, Seventh Ave, Llandilo

**Chairperson** Justin Magnee  
Ph: 0433 124 499  
E: penrithvalleybudgerigar@gmail.com  
**Secretary** Aaron Beman  
Ph: 0488 013 509  
E: penrithvalleybudgerigar@gmail.com

## ST. GEORGE

3rd Friday of each month at 8:00pm Bexley School of Arts, Forest Rd, Bexley

**Chairperson** Bruce Bradford  
Ph: (02) 9344 0779  
E: bnbradford1@optusnet.com.au  
**Secretary** Jean Painter  
Ph: (02) 4889 4926  
E: jean.painter@bigpond.com

# BSNSW INC. ASSOCIATES.

## BUDGERIGAR IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

**President** Wayne Altman  
Ph: 0428 423 369  
All enquiries to be directed to the secretary.  
**Secretary** Heather Dunn  
Ph: 0419 259 550  
E: budgerigar.improvement.society@gmail.com

## MID-STATE BUDGERIGAR CLUB

1st Wednesday of the month, Contact branch for details.  
**President** Rob Pepper  
Ph: 0447 669 234  
E: rjpeffer@hotmail.com  
**Secretary** Garry Pymont  
Ph: 0427 401 267  
E: midstatebudgerigarclub@gmail.com

## NEWCASTLE BUDGERIGAR CLUB INC.

4th Friday of the month Maryland Community Centre, Maryland  
**President** Darren Peters  
Ph: 0410 412 006  
E: dkazza5@outlook.com  
**Secretary** Ken Yorke  
Ph: 02 4988 6539  
E: kyorke@tpg.com.au

## ORANA AVICULTURAL SOCIETY INC.

Meets Bo-Monthly, 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Railway Bowling Club, Dubbo  
**President** Steve Draper  
Ph: 02 6882 9098  
**Secretary** Ian Todhunter  
Ph: 02 6884 2896  
E: toddy.3@hotmail.com

## PIED BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY

2nd Friday of the month at Canley Vale Public School (Canley Vale RD, Canley Vale)  
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Ph: 02 9150 5875  
E: m.holyoak@bigpond.com  
**Secretary** Ken Denmeade  
E: kmndenmeade@outlook.com

## WASSEC

**Chairperson** John Walker  
Ph: 0417 044 654  
Email: whiskeyjc@optusnet.com.au  
**Secretary** Brad Kerr  
Ph: 02 4256 0005  
E: wassec@outlook.com

## BUDGERIGAR RARE & SPECIALIST EXHIBITORS OF AUSTRALASIA "BRASEA"

**President: Warren Wilson**  
Ph: 02 9747 6642  
FAX: 02 9715 7165  
E: warren@brasea.com www.brasea.com  
www.brasea.com

## SOUTH WESTERN NSW BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY INC.

Bi-monthly 4th Sunday of the month, 10.30am at Belling Hall June 5/ Ground  
**President** Tony Butt  
Ph: 0418 577 400  
E: tony@tline.com.au  
**Secretary** Lance Rodd  
Ph: 02 6922 6214  
E: joan.rodd@bigpond.com

## TAMWORTH BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY INC.

**President** Tom Davis  
Ph: 0412 336 063  
E: thomasandberyl.davis@gmail.com  
**Secretary** Paul Hull  
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E: paul.hull@bigpond.com

## CANBERRA BUDGERIGAR CLUB

**President** Dennis Harrington  
E: shares29@hotmail.com  
**Secretary** Ann Hand  
Ph: 0487 801 217

## EBAG

**Chairperson** James Matthews  
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E: jamesmatthews@mppl.net.au  
**Secretary** Matthew Troy  
Ph: 0422 447 752  
E: matt28u@icloud.com

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ALSO DON'T FORGET TO SEND THE EDITOR YOUR SHOW ADS, THESE CAN JUST BE THE FRONT PAGE OF YOUR SHOW SCHEDULE IF YOU WISH



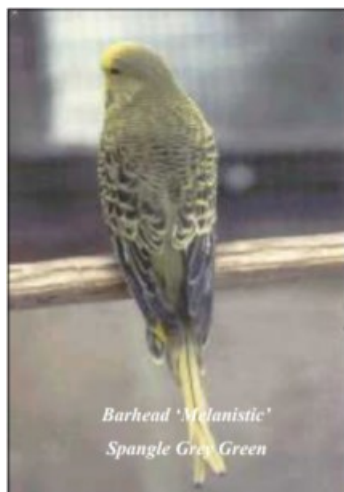
# THE MELANISTIC SPANGLE

By: Jeff Attwood

On my last visit to Australia during May 1991 I heard of a new form of the 'Spangle' which had been produced in Brisbane, and decided to travel there and see it for myself. These birds in question had been produced by Garry Heuval who I had met on a number of occasions at the Australian Nationals. The birds showing the melanistic markings had been originally produced from conventional Spangle stock but the youngsters in question had appeared as Normals in every respect except for the tail which was clearly Spangle type. They appeared in both cocks and hens, and on reaching the second moult, the appearance of the birds changed dramatically to that of what I have since named the 'Melanistic Spangle'. Similar to the standard spangle form but clearly quite different. Spots were very prominent and solid in appearance, not bulls eyes as in the accepted Spangle form, and cheek patches were clearly defined, not white flecked as is so often with Spangles. The tail remained original in the Spangle form, but the most eye catching change was in the wings and flights, which took on a very clearly defined contrast, which I have heard commented upon as 'almost a Spangle in reverse'

I took several photographs and returned to England. I heard nothing further of this new Spangle form. During the 1998 breeding season, I produced from a Spangle Cinnamon Grey Green cock x Dark Green hen, fifteen youngsters over three rounds. In the final round one young cock appeared which in all respect was a normal Grey Green, but with a clearly defined Spangle tail. The bird eventually reached adult plumage and remained unchanged and my interest waned. Six months passed and once again the bird moulted and with the passing of six weeks the appearance of the bird changed completely. It now took on the feather form of the birds I had seen at Garry Heuval's bird room in Brisbane.

The bird became adult and during the 1999 season I paired him to a Dark Green hen. Several youngsters were produced and among them three visual Normals with spangle tails. One Grey Green cock, and two Grey hens. It is interesting to note that Normals with conventional tails were also produced and remained unchanged. In due course these three youngsters developed in the 'melanistic' form and were paired in the breeding cage for the 2001 season. Up to now only one pair have produced; a Grey Green cock x Melanistic Spangle Grey hen. Three youngsters, one conventional normal Grey (black tail), one normal Grey Green (spangle tail) and one strange youngster which appears to be a recognisable Melanistic Spangle. I have since produced more of these youngsters, which in every case are always well marked conventional Spangles, which do not change their appearance in any way when reaching the adult stage. A number of similar birds of this melanistic form have now appeared in different UK aviaries, and also in Europe indicating that the mutation is here to stay.



*Barhead 'Melanistic'  
Spangle Grey Green*



*Adult 'Melanistic'  
Spangle Grey Green*



*Melanistic Spangle Grey hen with clear tails.  
As a barhead (left) and moulted through (right)*



**Photographs – Jeff Attwood ©**

Note: The Budgerigar Society Colour Standards Committee have decided that this type of bird should be exhibited in the Spangle classes and penalised accordingly.

# QUARANTINE?

**David N. Phalen, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ABVP**

Director of the Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre Avian, Reptile, and Exotic  
Pet Hospital

University of Sydney  
Camden, New South Wales, Australia



Over the many years that I have worked with birds, the issue of quarantine and biosecurity has come up over and over again. As a result I have lectured on this topic to many people who keep birds for many reasons. During these lectures I feel like a minister preaching to a congregation that needs to be inspired to mend their ways. After all isn't the most important thing to keep our birds healthy by keeping disease out? Like a minister, after the preaching is over, there are some converts, some who heard some of the message and others that come up to me rolling their eyes and either saying or are thinking, 'Yeah. Right. In what world are you living?'

Is there a place for a bio-security program that includes quarantine in your aviary? To answer this question, let's examine the value of quarantine and what a quarantine program requires? Quarantine is a period of time that all new birds and any bird that has left the aviary but then returns are kept in isolation before they are allowed to mix with the other birds in the aviary. The reason for quarantining birds is that infectious diseases are most likely to develop in the weeks immediately following disease exposure. Therefore, in theory, an exposed bird would develop signs of illness before exposing the resident birds in the collection.

Principles of quarantine include location, duration, isolation and the all in and all out concept. No two quarantine plans will be exactly the same, as each bird owner will need to create a quarantine protocol that fits their needs and their circumstances. The quarantine room can be anything from a bathroom to a separate building. The main features of the quarantine room should be that it is as far away from your other birds as possible; it should have limited traffic in and out; and it should not be your hospital area. The duration of the quarantine period is also going to vary. Thirty days is probably the minimum effective quarantine period. However, the longer the quarantine, the better. It is possible for you to carry disease agents from quarantined birds to the birds in your aviary. Therefore, you should always take care of the birds in quarantine last and keep their food sources and food and water bowls separate from the food and bowls used for the main aviary. The all in and all out concept means that if a group of birds is put in quarantine, that new birds are not added to that group during the quarantine process. If new birds are added to the quarantine room and birds are already in there, then the clock starts again so that all the birds, new and old, leave quarantine at the same time.

Two realistic questions to ask at this point are: 1. Does a quarantine program make sense for you? and 2. Is a quarantine program alone sufficient to keep disease out? Quarantine takes time and effort. According to quarantine basics all new birds entering the aviary and all birds returning from shows should be quarantined before they return to the flock. Ideally, birds going to one show would be quarantined in a separate quarantine set up. For most budgerigar breeders this is highly impractical or at least highly inconvenient during the show season.

Not only is quarantine sometimes not practical, sometimes it is not effective. An unfortunate fact of life is that some infectious agents can infect birds and these birds may never show signs of illness and as result these infections will not be detected in quarantine. However, they may still be able to pass their infection onto another bird and that bird may become ill. A good example of this is avian polyomavirus. This virus does not cause disease in young adult birds, but is shed for several months after infection and when it gets into chicks it can be fatal. To keep out these types of infectious agents, birds need to be quarantined, but they also need to be tested. In many cases testing requires that birds be taken to a veterinarian and the cost of testing may be more than you are willing to pay. Additionally, not all tests are available in all places and not every test is 100 per cent accurate.

Quarantine is not going to do you any good if the diseases that you are trying to keep out are already in your collection. There are several infectious diseases that are widespread in budgerigars. Many, like *Macrorhabdus ornithogaster*, formally mega bacteria, are present in nearly every aviary. Quarantine is not the solution to this type of infectious agent.

So is there any point is quarantine at all? I think there is and while it will not provide you with a guarantee that you will keep your birds free of disease, it may keep out the really bad infectious agents that could be devastating.

What I currently recommend is that budgerigar breeders keep at least two distinct populations of birds during the show season. The first are the breeding birds and the birds you are preparing for the show or are intending to sell. These are your clean birds—you care for them first. The second group contains the birds that have been to shows or are birds that you have just acquired. Keeping your show birds and newly acquired birds separate or at least in different cages would be best, but will depend on your circumstances. These birds you care for last. They should remain as isolated as possible until you are ready to set them up for breeding. This gives you a buffer, so if they bring back a very hot virus or a bacterial infection, hopefully it will show up soon after they enter your aviary and it will not get into your most valuable birds, your breeding stock.

This article by Dr. David N. Phalen is supplied by the World Budgerigar Organisation ([www.world-budgerigar.org](http://www.world-budgerigar.org)), as part of their encouraged exchange of research information, and supplied to the WBO with kind permission by the Budgerigar Society of New South Wales, Australia.

# BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF NSW INC

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWALS FORM 2019/2020

### BSNSW MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR

8 Marie Close, Bligh Park NSW 2756  
memberships@budgerigar.com.au  
0402 835 238

ANNUAL FEES: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Senior	40	
Concession	30	
Junior <del>Junior</del> = 16 years or under	10	
Printed magazine + postage (6 issues) Extra issues \$7 each	40	
TOTAL AMOUNT	Cheque / EFT	\$

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Please reference the payment with MEMBER|ID and Surname e.g. 1768HENKE

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## DATES OF MANAGEMENT MEETINGS 2019-2020

NOVEMBER 9TH 2019

JANUARY 11TH 2020

MARCH 7TH 2020

MAY 2ND 2020

JULY 11TH 2020

SEPTEMBER 12TH 2020 (AGM)

ALL MANAGEMENT MEETINGS ARE HELD ON A SATURDAY @  
BLACKTOWN RSL CLUB STARTING AT 10:30AM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

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## Join us at the **B.S.N.S.W 65TH ANNUAL SHOW**



When: Sunday 15th March 2020

Where: Seven Hills High School

56 Best Road, Seven Hills 2147

Schedule available on the website.

Auction on show day from Successful Exhibitors.

# Penalty and Disqualification Clause for Head Marking

As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 the Penalty and Disqualification clause for Head Marking in the ANBC standard will be introduced and applied at all future shows.

This article will try and explain how the judges apply this clause and how they interpret the varying degrees of head marking. It is important for Exhibitors to understand what birds will be penalised and what birds will be disqualified.

It is very important that we use the correct terminology in explaining Head Marking. Calling it Head Flecking only infers one type of Head Marking and will be very confusing going forward.

Firstly let's explain the different types of Head Markings.

**Flecking.** Flecking is the cap feather with a spot in the feather, can be round or elongated but distinctively spotting in the feather and probably the most common form of head marking.

**Ticking.** This is identified by a vertical strip down the centre of feather and is the second most common form of head marking.

**Grizzling.** This is the least common form of Head Marking as it usually occurs on certain varieties. The easiest way to explain is that it is a marked feather with no mixed pattern but is usually streaky following the direction of the feather barbs.

If you now have an understanding of the different types of head marking, it is important to understand that there can be different shades of marking; very deep in colour and very distinguishable and they can also be very light. Not to be confused with cinnamon marking which is diluted in colour.

The important factor here is that, it is the percentage of feathers that carry the marking as well as the intensity that help determine if it is light Head Marking or Heavy Head Marking.

A light marking in a large percentage of feathers is also determined as being heavily marked.

Birds with head ticking will be the ones most misinterpreted in this area.

As stated in the Standard birds that are considered as border line birds will be accepted and heavy penalty applied. Border line birds will I think be the most difficult area to get consistency on a regular basis. Once you determine that it is borderline between light and heavy head marking, this bird has to be accepted with penalty applied. If this bird is of high quality, it can still go on and win even though it has penalty applied.

## Head Markings—HEAVY



# Head Markings—LIGHT



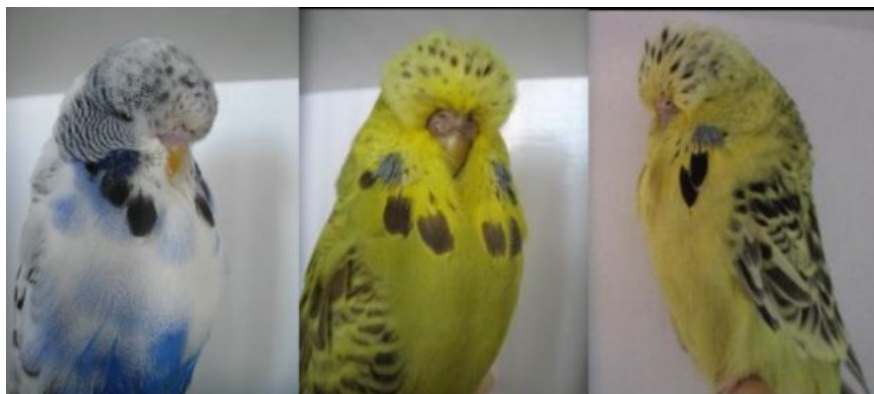
Below is the Penalty and Disqualification Clause in Standard at present

## Extract from the current ANBC Standard

### Heavy Head Markings:

- Intensity and distribution of melanin in the Frontal, Forehead or Crown equal to or greater than any of the examples shown below. Borderline cases difficult to classify as heavy or light are to be very Heavily penalised.

I hope the information above helps Exhibitors select their show team with confidence in knowing which birds will be acceptable and which won't.  
Please be accepting of judge's decision as there will always be varying decisions when it comes to interpretation of the standard and its application.



Written by Gary Gazzard on behalf of the NSW Judges Committee



14 January 2020

Mr Sam Davis  
C/O PO Box 230  
FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2094

Reference: 8000191466

## Level 2 Water Restrictions

Dear Sam

Thank you for contacting the Minister for Water, Property and Housing, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, who has asked me to consider your request and respond to you directly.

The exemption granted to the Federation in 2004 has expired, however we recognise that the welfare of aviary birds during hot weather remains a concern and this was not addressed by the information provided on our website.

We have considered your request and I am pleased to advise that Sydney Water will allow aviculturists to use water to provide appropriate care. The exemptions related to the caring of animals have been updated and now allow the following.

You can:

- ✓ Provide drinking water for animals, including birds. If you use a hose, it must be fitted with a trigger nozzle.
- ✓ Clean or cool animals using a bucket and sponge, a hose with a trigger nozzle or a professional animal wash service
- ✓ Use a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, bucket or high-pressure cleaning equipment to clean pens, yards and cages.
- ✓ Cool animal enclosures (such as sheds and similar enclosures) to ensure animal welfare or meet legal requirements using:

Dedicated sprinklers used only for cooling between 6 am and 9 pm when the temperature inside the shed is higher than 30 C

Fogging systems, misting systems or cooling pads at any time

You can't:

- Leave hoses running unattended
- Use a hose without a trigger nozzle to fill water dishes, clean animals or clean pens
- Use sprinklers except as outlined above for cooling of sheds and similar enclosures

We trust these updated conditions meet the requirements outlined in your letter.

This is one of the most severe droughts on record, and if we all do our bit and save a little, together we'll make a big difference. . If you'd like more information about Level 2 restrictions, please visit [sydneywater.com.au/restrictions](http://sydneywater.com.au/restrictions).

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Jodie Gray, Water Restrictions Manager at Sydney Water on (02) 9616 2465.

Yours sincerely



Kathy Hourigan  
General Manager Customer Services

# Parasites of Budgerigars

## A Practical Guide

Hamish Baron BVSc (Hons)

Avian Reptile and Exotic Pet Hospital

University of Sydney, NSW Australia

General husbandry advice is easy to come by in our great hobby. Everyone has their own secrets on how to get the best out of their birds, or how to bring them into condition for breeding or showing. This article is designed to share knowledge about the parasites which commonly infect our birds. It focuses on internal worms and external parasites; I have chosen to do this because these are the parasites which we, as budgerigar fanciers, can take responsibility for identifying, and set about removing from our birds' environment.

There are many parasites that inhabit the intestinal tract of our birds, many of which have complicated life cycles and require detailed understanding in order to identify and treat. I have selected the parasites that I think, through good husbandry, a small amount of diagnostic testing and commitment from the fancier, we should be able to eliminate or minimise their effects on our budgerigar studs.

### **Nematodes**

intestinal round worms) Round worms are occasionally seen in companion and aviary birds. To be spread to our birds, they require access to eggs which have had a chance to mature out of the budgerigar, intermediate hosts (other species who act as "middle men"), or faeces of other species. Because these are the contributory factors, round worm problems occur most frequently in birds kept in dirt-floored enclosures.

### **Ascarids**

(Round Worms) Eggs become infective 2 to 3 weeks after passage in faeces, the worm egg must develop into larvae before it becomes infective. Ascarid eggs can persist in moist environments for prolonged periods and because if this, ascarid infections are most commonly seen in budgerigars with access to the ground.

### *Clinical syndrome*

Intestinal ascarid infection can cause the birds to stop eating, develop diarrhoea, lose weight and to experience stunted growth. Heavy infections can result in gastrointestinal obstruction and death (Fig 1).

### *Diagnosis*

Your veterinarian will be able to perform a faecal flotation which will allow visualization of typical ascarid eggs in the faeces (Fig 2).

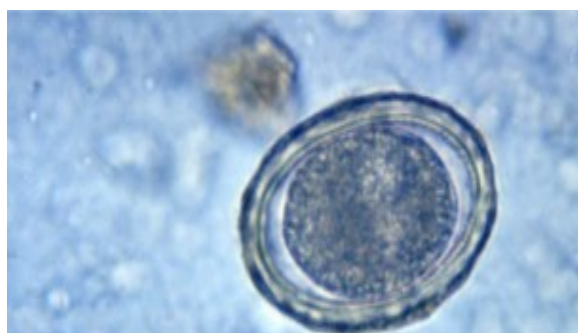


Figure 1. Ascarid worms causing intestinal obstruction and death

Figure 2. A typical ascarid egg on 1000x magnification



## Capillaria

(Thread Worms) Capillaria species are tiny, threadlike worms. Most capillaria species of caged birds have a direct life cycle (eggs are passed in faeces and subsequently consumed by other birds to continue the lifecycle). Species with an indirect life cycle commonly require earthworms as an intermediate host.

### *Clinical syndrome.*

Adults burrow into the walls of the intestine, causing the birds to stop eating, regurgitate, develop diarrhoea, and lose weight. Heavy infections can result in ulcers, anaemia, and death. Infections of the oesophagus can cause gaping (birds which appear to be yawning) and difficulty in swallowing.

### *Diagnosis*

Faecal floatation will allow visualisation of typical capillaria eggs. But even when present, it is difficult to find these eggs and they may require multiple faecal floatations to visualise them.

### *Control*

Prevent access to the ground and intermediate hosts (invertebrates and earth worms). To prevent the lifecycle from continuing, keep birds in an aviary with floors that can be easily cleaned (i.e. not dirt) and clean the floors at least every fortnight. Eggs take 2 weeks to become infective and so cleaning every two weeks will help to minimise re-infection.

## Arthropods

### Tracheal Mites

Caused by the mite *Sternostoma tracheacolum* which commonly infects the trachea (windpipe) of canaries, finches, parakeets, and cockatiels. This mite is much less of a problem in budgerigars, they appear to be less affected clinically, but is a useful bit of knowledge for bird fanciers in general. It appears that Lady Gouldian Finches are most commonly infected.

### *Clinical syndrome*

Shortness of breath / panting, coughing, and sneezing may occur. Signs are most severe in hatchlings and juveniles.

### *Diagnosis*

Tiny black mites can be visualized by shining a light through the windpipe. Eggs can sometimes be identified in faeces or vomit by a veterinarian under a microscope.

### Cnemidocoptic Mites (scaly leg and face mites)

This is one of the most important parasites for budgerigar fanciers. This mite is common in New Zealand budgerigars and it is our responsibility to help share the knowledge to other fanciers in order to help limit its effects on our birds. The mite, which burrows into the skin to lay its eggs, causes grey-white encrustations around the cere, the beak, the intersection of the upper and lower beak. If left untreated, it can result in severe distortion of the beak. Prolonged infection can cause massive enlargement of the legs, feet and beak and result in necrosis (tissue death).

In budgerigars this mite is especially important because of the tight fitting rings that we use. It is my experience that infections with *cnemidocptes* often result in skin thickening (hyperkeratosis) which causes the ring to become even tighter and can cut off the blood supply to the leg below it. In these cases the ring needs to be removed and in some severe instances, the affected leg amputated.

The good news is that it is really easy to prevent *cnemidocptes* from becoming a problem in your aviary by thoroughly examining birds before purchasing them. If you do notice your birds with scale around their face and feet there are many topical formulations which you can apply to clear the mite infestation quickly and effectively.

### *Clinical syndrome*

The "scaly leg and face" mite (*Cnemidocoptes* species) seen in budgerigars, canaries, and other small birds causes thickening of the skin with honey-combed masses on non-feathered skin, especially around the beak and on the legs.



### *Diagnosis*

Easily diagnosed by its clinical appearance in commonly affected species (budgies and canaries) (Fig 3)

Figure 3. Classical clinical appearance of *cnemidocptes* mites

### **Feather Lice**

These lice are classified as “biting and chewing” lice and cause feather damage by chewing on the feather barbules and shaft. Despite popular belief, this species of lice do not suck blood.

#### *Clinical syndrome*

In my experience with feather lice, the budgerigars present with various different symptoms. Most drastically, I have seen birds whose flight feathers have been so debilitated by the lice that they are unable to gain lift when flying, and as a result end up on the aviary floor. Less seriously, there are birds with severe irritation and restlessness with some feather damage to the emerging feathers as they leave the quills.

#### *Diagnosis*

Lice can be visualised on flight feathers when they are held up to the light. Visually they appear as a white dot sitting close to the feather shaft. Microscopically, we see evidence that the entire life cycle is carried out on the budgerigar with eggs attached in clusters around the shaft of the feather.

### **Feather and Quill Mites**

There are many different species of feather mites and I believe there needs to be further investigation with regards to their involvement in feather loss. They have been proven to cause feather loss and thickening of the skin with heavy infestations but are fairly widely accepted to be otherwise harmless. The mites live in the groove between the feather barbules, with different species preferring different feather types or even different areas of feathers. Quill mites live in the region around growing feathers. Some quill mites feed on keratin (the tissue that feathers and hair are made of), but syringophilid mites pierce the quill wall and feed on feather follicle tissue fluid. It is because of this feeding practice that I feel further investigation is warranted as this could severely damage growing feathers.

#### *Diagnosis*

Microscopic examination of feathers will reveal mites on the feather shaft (Fig 4).

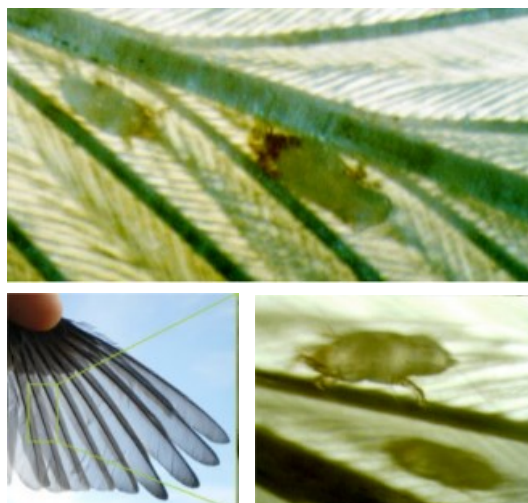


Figure 4. . Feather mites on gross examination and under microscopic examination showing their predilection for life close to the feather shaft.

### **Dermanyssus Gallinae – The Red Mite**

This mite is a blood sucker that hides in cracks and crevices, most commonly in the dark corners of nest boxes or wooden breeding cages. They feed on birds mostly at night whilst they are resting, or in the dark confines of the nest box. One of the most challenging factors when considering the control of red mite is its ability to survive in the environment. These mites are able to survive for up to a year without a blood meal and therefore environmental control is vital.

#### *Life Cycle*

Because this mite multiplies rapidly in the warmer months of summer, its lifecycle is brief. Eggs are laid in cracks by females following engorgement on a blood meal. They hatch within 72 hours under warm, humid conditions. The larvae moult into nymphs which also feed on the budgerigar before maturing to adults.

#### *Important points*

The mites can cause intense irritation, restlessness and self trauma to the feathers. These mites can leave the budgerigar and feed on humans who come into contact with the birds, it is important to realise, however, that the mite cannot multiply without the avian host. Sitting hens and nestlings are most susceptible and heavy infestations can result in death in small nestlings.

### **Treatment of Intestinal Worms**

It is all very well knowing what is living inside our birds and making them sick, but the next step is knowing how to get rid of these unwanted inhabitants. Symptoms of worm infestation vary according to the degree of infestation, but it is advisable that you have a “flock health” approach to your treatment regime, rather than waiting for birds to start becoming sick. This is known as prophylactic medication and follows the same principles that we use for treatment of fleas and worms in our dogs and cats. Birds at risk should be treated on a regular three monthly basis. As well as regular worming treatment, great care should be taken with aviary hygiene; floors should be cleaned and allowed to dry thoroughly. All cages should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after treatment.

There are a variety of products registered for the treatment of intestinal worms in birds. The two I would recommend are "Anthel Three in One Bird Wormer" (Tetramisole) and Vetafarm "Wormout Gel" (Oxfendazole and Praziquantel). These products are obtainable through your veterinarian or from some pet supply stores. These products are registered for use in avian species and this means they have undergone trials and tests to ensure their safety. They come with proven track records and specific dose rates depending on the bird's weight. The Anthel wormer can be administered in the drinking water whereas the Wormout gel requires either individual administration to each bird – a more labour intensive but far more efficient method or there are instructions for in-water use on the label. So there are options for both intensive fanciers with time on their hands and those who would like the birds to effectively worm themselves.

Many fanciers use Ivermectin as a treatment for their birds. This is considered to be "off label" use which simply means the manufacturer has not performed the scientific testing to develop safety margins and efficacy. Because ivermectin is used off label, it is advisable that if you are going to treat your birds with it, you seek veterinary advice first pertaining to the dose rate and safe administration and handling. Any veterinarian with an interest in avian medicine will be able to give you advice on the most effective and safest worming products for your birds.

### **Treatment of Ectoparasites**

Again there are many methods for treating mites and lice on our birds. Many fanciers don't treat ectoparasites regularly, this may be because they don't look for them and assume they are not there, or that they don't feel like they are causing a problem. I believe that having birds that are parasite-free makes for a happier, healthier aviary.

There is one product I will recommend for treatment of ectoparasites and that is Avian Insect Liquidator. Avian Insect Liquidator or A.I.L. is an extremely safe and effective insecticide and insect growth regulator for all avian species. It provides instant control of ectoparasites on contact, with an additional six week residual protection against reinfestation. When used directly on the bird, A.I.L. penetrates into feathers to kill mites and lice. When sprayed around the environment A.I.L. kills insects on contact

Because it is a growth regulator, it also inhibits the lifecycle of any mites or lice that are developing on the bird at the time of application, meaning they will not mature to become reproductive. Vetafarm who makes the product recommends its use on mites, lice, flies, spiders, ants or any situation where external parasites are a problem, including nest boxes, flights, perches, aviary floors, indoor cages and for direct application to the bird.

To use A.I.L. simply pour the required amount (50ml/L of concentrate) into a trigger action or other similar pump pack, add water for dilution and mix well. Hold the trigger pack 30 to 40 cm from the bird(s) and apply four to five pumps/bird. Also spray cages, aviaries, perches and nest boxes thoroughly with diluted product. It is advisable to repeat in four weeks and again eight weeks after the initial application and this should eliminate mites and lice from your stud.

It is very important, that when bringing new birds into your aviaries, these are checked thoroughly for mites and lice, mutual grooming, sharing perch space and close proximity will allow mites and lice to spread rapidly through a flock and this will mean treatment of all birds is required again, rather than treatment of only the incoming birds. For this reason, quarantine is such a great idea.

## ADVERTISEMENT RATES

### **COMMERCIAL RATES**

Two Page Spread	-	\$650	Yearly ONLY
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\$60.00 / 6 Issues or \$15.00 Per desired issue.

This option allows for advertising during peak cull season and times you may need to advertise birds for sale.

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1 Free 1/2 Page Advertisement per year, any other advertisements will be charged at \$10 per advertisement.

All payments must be made to the society prior to the deadline for the magazine.



# THE CINNAMONWING BUDGERIGAR

## The Standard

### Mask and Spots:

The mask is to be clear, wide and deep, (not cleft) extending beyond two large cheek patches ornamented by six evenly spaced, large, round cinnamon throat spots, the outer two being partially covered by the base of the cheek patches.

### General Body Colour:

Back, rump, breast, flanks and underparts to be a solid and even shade throughout.

### Markings:

On cheeks, back of head, neck and wings, cinnamon clearly defined and symmetrical on the appropriate ground colour.

### Eyes:

Dark with a white iris ring.

### Body Colour

Approaching full intensity.

### Feet & Legs

Pinkish grey

### CINNAMONWING GROUP:

This includes Yellow Faced Blue Series. The Standard for these birds is as for the Cinnamonwing Blue series modified by the applicable Yellow Faced Blue colour with which it is combined.

### Distinguishing Features based on colour.

Colour	Cheek Patch	Tail Quill	Tail Feather
Light Green	Violet	Brown	Cinnamon Light Blue Green
Dark Green	Violet	Brown	Cinnamon Mid Blue
Olive	Violet	Brown	Cinnamon Dark Blue
Grey Green	Grey	Brown	Cinnamon
Sky Blue	Violet	Brown	Cinnamon Light Blue
Cobalt	Violet	Brown	Cinnamon Mid Blue
Mauve	Violet	Brown	Cinnamon Dark Blue
Violet	Violet	Brown	Cinnamon Violet
Grey	Grey	Brown	Cinnamon



### Breeding expectations

	Cock	Hen
1.	Normal / Cinnamon	Normal
	25% Normal / Cinnamon cocks 25% Normal cocks 25% Cinnamon hens 25% Normal hens	
2.	Normal	Cinnamon
	50% Normal / Cinnamon cocks 50% Normal hens	
3.	Cinnamon	Normal
	50% Normal / Cinnamon cocks 50% Cinnamon hens	
4.	Normal / Cinnamon	Cinnamon
	25% Cinnamon cocks 25% Normal / Cinnamon cocks 25% Cinnamon Hens 25% Normal	
5.	Cinnamon	Cinnamon
	100% Cinnamon cocks and hens	

# THE GREYWING BUDGERIGAR

## The Standard

### Mask and Spots:

The mask is to be clear, wide and deep, (not cleft) extending beyond two large cheek patches ornamented by six evenly spaces, large round grey throat spots, the outer two being partially covered by the base of the cheek patches.

### General Body Colour:

Back, rump, breast, flanks, and underparts to be solid and even shade throughout.

### Markings:

On cheeks, back of head, neck and wings, mid grey clearly defined and symmetrical on the appropriate ground colour.

### Eyes:

Black with a white iris ring.

### Primary Flights:

Approaching full intensity.

### Feet & Legs:

Blue / Grey Mottled.

### Greywing Group:

This includes Yellow Faced Blue Series. The standard for these birds is as for the Greywing Blue series modified by the applicable Yellow Faced Blue colour with which is it combined.



## Distinguishing Features based on colour.

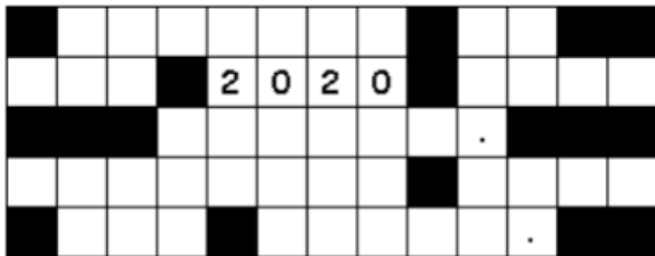
Colour	Cheek Patch	Tail Quill	Tail Feather
Light Green	Violet	Grey	Smokey Grey with Blue Green suffusion
Dark Green	Violet	Grey	Dark Blue
Olive	Violet	Grey	Dull Blue Black
Grey Green	Grey	Grey	Grey
Sky Blue	Violet	Grey	Greyish Blue
Cobalt	Violet	Grey	Dark Blue
Mauve	Violet	Grey	Dull Mauve
Violet	Violet	Grey	Royal Blue
Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey



## Breeding expectations

	Cock	Hen
1.	Normal / Greywing	Normal
	25% Normal / Greywing cocks 25% Normal cocks 25% Greywing hens 25% Normal hens	
2.	Normal	Cinnamon
	50% Normal / Greywing cocks 50% Normal hens	
3.	Greywing	Normal
	50% Normal / Greywing cocks 50% Greywing hens	
4.	Normal / Greywing	Greywing
	25% Greywing cocks 25% Normal / Greywing cocks 25% Greywing Hens 25% Normal	
5.	Greywing	Greywing
	100% Greywing cocks and hens	

# THE BUDGERIGAR PUZZLER!

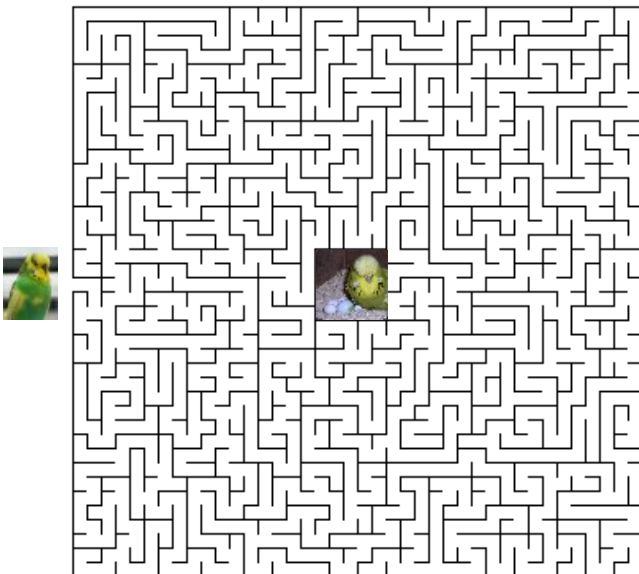


← Use the letters provided to solve the puzzle.

Find the words listed below, and find the words unlisted below to solve the hidden message.

T E S O M O W  
H O D L B S K S H  
T O E E E U S N N F R O M  
G W H L C A C E S T O O W

Help the male find his beloved girlfriend.



H P E A V Y F L C E C K I O N  
G R I S N O W H D I S Q P U A  
L I I F Y A A D J B L A E S L  
D Z V F M M L U E V L M A D A  
Q E X S P V D E R I I Z S B M  
A S J I H G C O N M P F E U E  
T X O V E O L E G R I N G S V  
V N V S G G W M L L Y B X N R  
I O R W V V U T X G E S F N E  
T N A N I M O D I N N E G J S  
G O O D L U C K C M P A R T E  
N V J Z O U P H M U E Z P E R  
O W V Q S Q I K N I F O R S C  
D D Y G P N O M L T W H A H S  
U T R D G D H U B U E Q A N J

Benching Goodluck Opaline Reserve  
Cere Judges Pied Showtime  
Champion Leggings Prizes Spangle  
Dominant

-----  
-----  
-----

Try to fill in the missing numbers.

37

The missing numbers are integers between 0 and 9.  
The numbers in each row add up to totals to the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom.  
The diagonal lines also add up the totals to the right.

7			7			32
6	1	7	0	9		24
		3	5		6	17
	8			2	2	26
4		5	1		1	22
8	1	4			3	22
32	21	28	18	25	19	24



Submit your entries and one lucky entrant with the whole crossword complete will get a mention in the next "Budgerigar Puzzler"

Happy Puzzling :)





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Formula

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For Technical Inquiries and sales contact Dr. Michael Evans Principal Avian Nutritionist, Ph 0418 659 423

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[www.world-budgerigar.org](http://www.world-budgerigar.org)

## NOTICE BOARD - DECEMBER 2019

The organisation (WBO) returned to Karlsruhe, Germany, to celebrate its **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** since its formation when the WBO held its first meeting back in August 1994 in the same city, Karlsruhe. The chairman of the day Roger Carr (United Kingdom) welcomed the 28 delegates representing the 16 countries to that meeting. On this occasion the current chairman Carlos Ramôa (Portugal) welcomed the 44 delegates representing the 25 societies from 24 countries to the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August to coincide with the 35<sup>th</sup> AZ European Champion Show and the 7<sup>th</sup> WBO World Championship Show.

It was by far the best attended meeting held by the WBO, with delegates attending from the following countries; Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.



WBO Delegates at the 2019 Anniversary Meeting

The chairman, Carlos Ramôa, thanked the delegates for attending this special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting and gave a special welcome to the new societies who have joined our ranks since the last meeting; Bangladesh, Israel (re-joining), Indonesia, Mexico, Romania and Thailand. The chairman also gave a warm welcome to Hr. Karl-Friedrich Scharrelmann (President of the German Society AZ) and the new delegates from Australia, Bangladesh, Denmark, France, Israel, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.



The chairman also paid tribute to four delegates who attended the first meeting in 1994 and are present today at this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting namely Jean Peelman (Belgium), Bjarne Christiansen (Denmark), Ghalib Al-Nasser & Grant Findlay (United Kingdom). Ghalib Al-Nasser (current secretary since 1997) holds the record in attending all WBO meetings since 1992.

The chairman also called for a minute's silence in memory of Gerald Binks, last year's WBO Gould Award winner, who passed away during July.

The WBO secretary, Ghalib Al-Nasser, highlighted this momentous year for the organisation returning back to Karlsruhe to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary where we held our first meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1994 at the Queens Hotel, adjacent to the show hall. He congratulated the 4 delegates who attended that first meeting by coming back to this meeting again.

The secretary highlighted the strength of the organisation now with 59 societies representing 46 countries stretching around the 6 continents in comparison to the 21 societies representing 18 countries as the founder members. The spread of the organisation is currently coming from the Arab World, Asia & Latin America.

The secretary also thanked the host society, the German AZ, and in particular Christian Back and his team for hosting this meeting as they did back in 1994.

During the lunch break the chairman called upon the WBO Executive Committee to join him in cutting the special large Anniversary cake in the presence of all the delegates and to have a glass of champagne to celebrate the occasion.



The Celebration Cake

All delegates attending the meeting received a memento of a newly designed badge and a coaster celebrating the occasion.



### Research – Feather Problems in Budgerigars

One of the important subjects discussed at the meeting was the research project conducted by a University in Portugal on feather problems. The chairman provided a report from the University and gave a power point presentation on the University's findings.

A consignment of 24 birds suffering with various degrees of French Molt were supplied from England to the University in January and further blood samples were supplied from some breeders in Austria, Germany and Hungary.

PCR tests on 16 birds for Polyomavirus and Circovirus proved that all the birds tested POSITIVE for Circovirus (PBFD – Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease) and all tested NEGATIVE for Polyomavirus (APV).

A total of 17 blood samples arrived in June and were tested both for Polyomavirus and Circovirus and all the blood samples tested **NEGATIVE** for Circovirus. Regarding Polyomavirus some were POSITIVE and others NEGATIVE, and in a group of samples coming from a single breeder ALL were POSITIVE for Polyomavirus and with a very strong signal. Further studies to be conducted to identify the dominant virus strain or strains that are most likely to induce the most serious disease condition. This is work in progress.

### The Gould Award

The **WBO Gould Award** was created back in 2011 to be awarded for **Meritorious Services to the World of Budgerigars** in any field; this prestigious award in the form of a specially designed certificate and a special Gould Medal to commemorate the win, has been awarded so far to Jo Mannes from Germany in 2012, Warren Wilson from Australia in 2013, Ghalib Al-Nasser from United Kingdom in 2014, Gerd Bleicher from Germany in 2015, Gren Norris from United Kingdom in 2016, Roger Carr from United Kingdom in 2017 and Gerald Binks from United Kingdom in 2018.

During 2019 two societies sent nominations for this award for two candidates and they were from Germany (DSV) for Roy Aplin (U.K.) and from Germany (AZ) for Leo Endres (Germany).

Under the new selection Rules, the delegates attending the meeting used a secret ballot to elect the winner and this year's winner was Leo Endres and the award was given as an acknowledgement of his past work and involvement in the hobby that spanned over 52 years in promoting the exhibition budgerigar and his involvement in the administration of the local and national society. The presentation was made to Leo by the WBO Executive Committee at the Gala Dinner following the meeting. Nominations for this award close on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year and need to be sent to the Secretary in writing on the society's official headed paper with biographical notes of the candidate not exceeding 200 words.





Leo Endres (centre) receiving his Gould Award from the WBO Executive Committee (Left)

### Vice Chairman

Under the new Constitution the position of the Vice Chairman needs to be elected by the General Council meeting for a period of 3 years. The current vice chairman, Grant Findlay (United Kingdom), was re-elected unopposed.

### WBO World Championship Show

The concept of this show was initially agreed upon in 2010 when the WBO meeting was held in Portugal with the guidelines further laid down at the 2011 meeting held in Australia and re-modified in 2019 in Karlsruhe. The very first official WBO World Championship Show took place in Forlì, Italy in October 2013. The German (AZ) Society held the WBO 7<sup>th</sup> Championship show in conjunction with their 35<sup>th</sup> European Championship show held in Karlsruhe. The international judges invited for the exhibition budgerigars were Neale Love (Australia), Jeff Coles (Canada), Albert Olivier (South Africa), Clemens Keller (Germany) and Ghalib Al-Nasser (U.K.). The Colour Budgerigar judges were Günter Huber (Austria), Peter Hofmann (Germany) & Rolf Schindelmeiser (Germany).

The show was a great success with a total entry received of 1261 plus 763 colour budgerigars from 196 exhibitors and 21 juniors. Exhibitors came from 14 countries to support this special event; from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland and Spain. With 14 countries participating in this event it was truly an international show.

This show was also unique as it operated under the **One Status of Exhibitor** where all exhibitors regardless whether they are champions or beginners all exhibited together under one show status.

With such participation from top exhibitors from the 14 countries there was no clear winner as the two top awards were decided on a majority decision.

For the Best in Show the award was contested between two super birds; the Cinnamon Grey Green cock of Daniel Lutolf (Switzerland) and the Double Factor Spangle White cock of the German/Belgium partnership of Uwe Effertz/Rene Heylen and the eventual winner was the Cinnamon cock of Daniel Lutolf.

This is a fantastic bird excelling in size, head quality and large spots and already proved itself when it won Best in Show as a young bird in Budapest, Hungary at the 5<sup>th</sup> WBO World Championship Show in 2017 then came back in 2018 as an adult to win Best in Show at the 34<sup>th</sup> European Championship show.

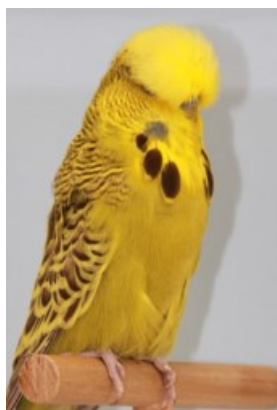
The partnership of Effertz/Heylen came back to claim the two remaining major awards of Best Opposite Sex in Show and Best Young Bird in Show with a massive Grey Green hen that excelled in size and quality.

### **Major Winners**

Best in Show	Daniel Lutolf (Switzerland)	Cinnamon Grey Green cock
Best Adult in Show	Daniel Lutolf (Switzerland)	Cinnamon Grey Green cock
Best Opposite Sex in Show	Effertz/Heylen (Germany/Belgium)	Grey Green hen
Best Young Bird in Show	Effertz/Heylen (Germany/Belgium)	Grey Green hen
Best Adult Opposite Sex	Daniel Lutolf (Switzerland)	Cinnamon Grey Green hen
Best Young Bird Opposite Sex	Tomaz Grajzar (Slovenia)	Yellowface Cobalt cock
Best Junior	Lukas Wiethaler (Germany)	Cobalt cock
Best Colour Budgerigar	Günter Donnerbauer (Austria)	Lutino cock

### **Best of Colour Awards (receiving WBO rosettes):**

Green Series	Effertz/Heylen
Blue Series	Florian Böck
Grey Green	Effertz/Heylen



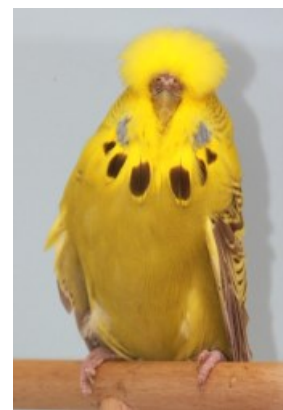
Best in Show - Daniel Lutolf



Best Young Bird - Uwe Effertz & Rene Heylen



Best Young Bird Opposite Sex - Tomaz Grajar



Best Any Age Opposite Sex - Daniel Lutolf

### WBO Judges Test

During the show two candidates sat the WBO Judges Test and both obtained the necessary minimum 70% mark in each of the three sections to pass the test and be qualified as national judges in their respective countries. These were Jean Peelman (France, AFO society) and Abdelrahman Khedr (Egypt). The test comprised of a practical test where each candidate spent some time with each of the five judges judging few classes and assessed by the main panel judge. After that they sat the written test and then the colour identification test conducted by Grant Findlay the vice chairman.

The two candidates were then presented with their WBO Judges Certificate by the WBO Executive Committee. Five years from passing the test they can, through their national society, apply to the WBO for their names to be added to the WBO International Judges Panel.



Jean Peelman & Abdelrahman Khedr with their Judges Certificates

### Judges Criteria

At the 2011 WBO meeting it was agreed to create a **Judges Criteria** to assist the smaller and newer countries/societies that do not have a proper Judges Training Scheme to assist their members on how to become judges in their own countries. The following criteria was adopted by the WBO:

- 5 years breeder of budgerigars
- Test approved by WBO
- Test through management of WBO or an appointed person from WBO
- 5 years judge in national organization before applying to the WBO Judges Panel

Since this scheme commenced, many fanciers have taken a judging test laid down by the WBO and under WBO supervision consisting of practical, written and colour identification tests and passed. These were Ahmad Raza Sahi from Pakistan (passed in December 2012), Björn Johansson from Sweden (passed in October 2013), Maarten Heylen from Belgium (passed in May 2015), Amir Malik, Hannad Shaker & Waseem Anwar from Pakistan (passed in September 2015), Catalin Josan from Romania (passed in October 2017), Rene Heylen from Belgium (passed in August 2018), Jean Peelman from the French Society AFO and Abdelrahman Khedr from Egypt (passed in August 2019) and Mohammed Abdelaziz from Egypt (passed in September 2019). They are now qualified judges in their own country.

Their societies will be able to ask the WBO to add them on the WBO International Judges Panel after completion of 5 years as judges in their own countries; consequently, Ahmad Raza Sahi and Björn Johansson have already been admitted to the WBO International Judges Panel.

### Future Meetings

The next WBO meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in **Stoke on Trent, England** to coincide with the Budgerigar Society Convention to celebrate its 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Budgerigar Society will also be hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> WBO World Championship Show at this event.

The WBO is in a strong position in so far as future meetings to coincide with national shows till 2026 have already been planned with Italy in 2021, Belgium (27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> August 2022), Egypt (September 2023), Turkey (2024), the B.S. U.K. (June 2025) to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the United Arab Emirates in Dubai (2026).

### Ring Specification, Colour Code and Sequence

The current ring specification for the budgerigar and colour sequence as adopted by both the WBO and the Confederation Ornithologique Mondiale (COM), is listed below. Please note the two new changes for the Dark Green (2020) and Dark Brown (2022).

Minimum internal diameter	<b>4.20 mm</b>
<b>Maximum internal diameter</b>	<b>4.40 mm</b>
Wall thickness	<b>0.60 – 0.90 mm</b>
Ring height	<b>3.85 – 4.00 mm</b>

Colour	Pantone Code	RAL Code	Year
<b>Dark Green</b>	<b>3292 U</b>	<b>6026</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Violet</b>	<b>249 U</b>	<b>4008</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Dark Brown</b>	<b>1535 U</b>	<b>8003</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Dark Blue</b>	<b>301 U</b>	<b>5019</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Red</b>	<b>1797 U</b>	<b>3002</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>2U2X</b>	<b>8005</b>	<b>2025</b>

Member societies are strongly reminded that, when ordering rings from any ring manufacturer, to specify the exact **WBO ring colour and the Pantone Code as well as the ring specification** to avoid any misunderstanding by ring manufacturers.

### Membership

The WBO currently is in a healthy position with 59 affiliated societies spreading over 6 continents in 46 countries. They are:

- **Asia/Middle East:** Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates
- **Australasia:** Australia, New Zealand
- **Africa:** Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, Sudan
- **Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eire, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom
- **North America:** Canada, Mexico, United States of America
- **South America:** Argentina, Brazil

### International Judges Panel

A list of current judges who are on the WBO International Judges Panel is on the website and full addresses of each judge may be obtained from the Secretary. The conditions relating to admittance to the WBO International Judges Panel are as follows:

- to be a current champion breeder and exhibitor of Budgerigars in their own country. Where a country/society has only “one” Status of Exhibitor, a breeder and exhibitor of long standing will be acceptable subject to “b” & “c” below.
- be a fully qualified judge for a minimum of **5 years** in their own country or in the country/society in which they qualified.
- apply in writing to their National Society (or the society in which they qualified) to be placed on the list. The National Society will then be responsible for checking their qualifications and, if eligible, for passing names, addresses and telephone numbers to the **WBO Secretary** for inclusion on the list.

The WBO strongly recommends that member countries should consider inviting judges from overseas who are members of the WBO International Judges Panel, as approved by the WBO, to judge at shows that are under their jurisdiction.

A full WBO International Judges List is available from the Secretary on request.

### Affiliation Fee

The new affiliation fee to member societies which became effective as from 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 with 50% of the fee goes towards the Research programme are:

<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Annual Fee (£)</u>		<u>No. of Votes</u>
5000 or above		800	10
3000 to 4999	640	8	
1000 to 2999	400	6	
500 to 999	210	4	
Less than 500	80	2	

### WBO Badge

At the 2010 meeting, the WBO approved its own designed badge depicting the WBO logo of the Ideal Budgerigar superimposed on the world map. The cost to purchase this badge, from the secretary, is 3.00 GB pounds each, plus postage.

### WBO Rosettes

Each member country/society receives four WBO rosettes each year, as part of their affiliation, for **Best Any Age, Best Any Age Opposite Sex, Best Young Bird & Best Young Bird Opposite Sex in Show** to be awarded to four different birds at their national show. Names of winners and photos of the winning birds are then included on each year's Rosette Winners file. Please visit the website for current & previous winners.

### WBO Executive Committee (E.C.)

An Executive Committee was created in 2004 to run the affairs of the WBO between Council meetings. The E.C. for 2020 consists of Chairman Carlos Ramôa (Portugal), Secretary Ghalib Al-Nasser (U.K.), Vice-Chairman Grant Findlay (U.K.) and Immediate Past Chairman Gerd Bleicher (Germany).

### WBO Publicity and the Website

The WBO website is kept updated on a regular basis with many files of interest such as research articles, Pictorial Ideal, Colour Standards, Scale of Points, details of member organisations, ring specification etc. Photos of past WBO rosette winners around the World are also included on the website (click on each photo to enlarge it).

For further comments on any of the above items please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary and please keep visiting the WBO website for regular updates.

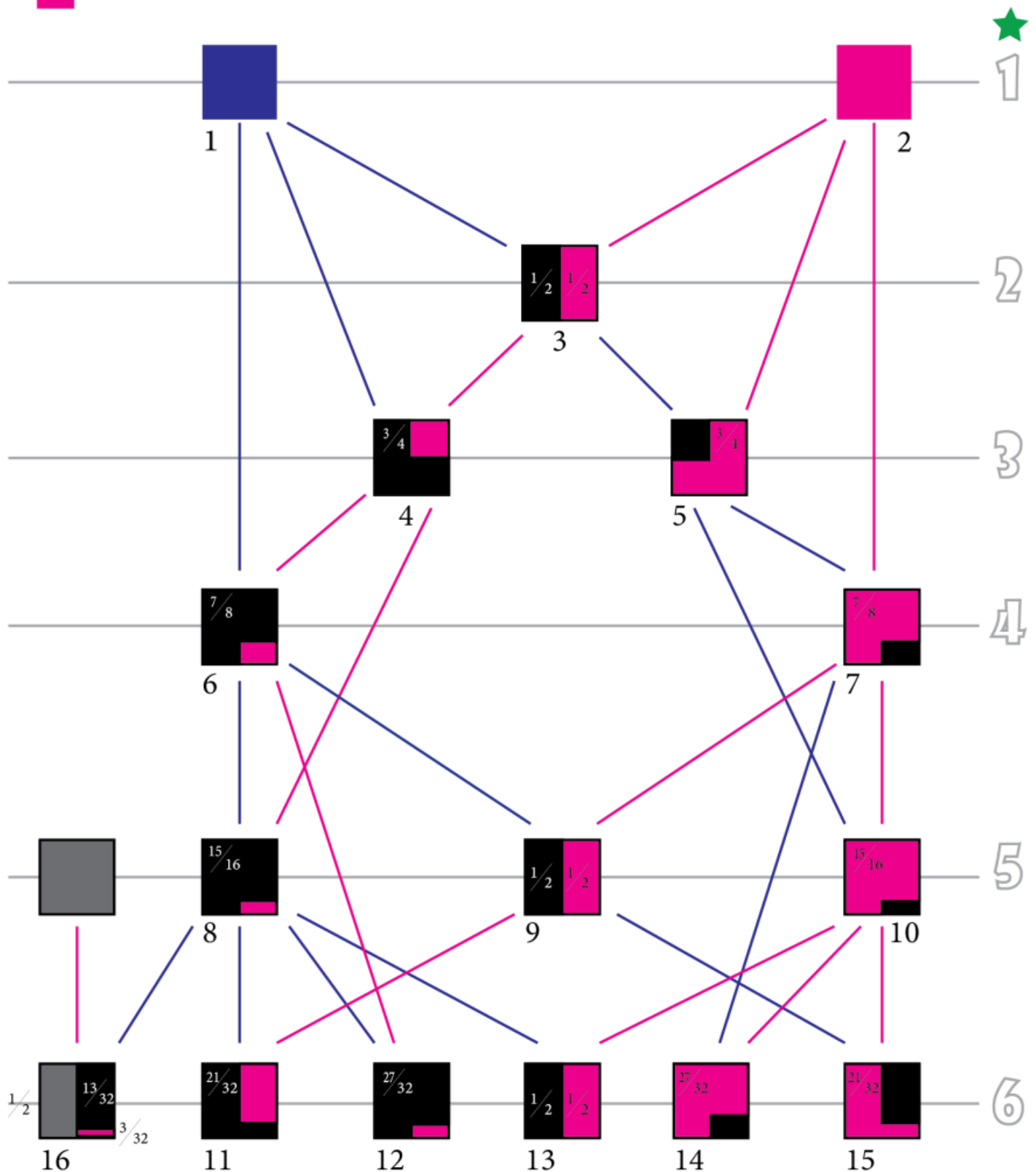
Ghalib Al-Nasser  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
[ghalib.alnasser@gmail.com](mailto:ghalib.alnasser@gmail.com)





Cock  
Hen

# LINE BREEDING



★ 1 - 6 GENERATIONS

1 - 16 MATINGS

All Lines indicate a downward direction of breeding and pairing

A recreation of an article in the "BUDGIE NEWS" - November 1962

# HALF SIDER BUDGERIGARS

It is that time of the year again, babies are hatching, parents are feeding and the chicks are starting to feather up. It is my favourite time of year as a budgie fancier – it is the time when all of our hard work is, hopefully, rewarded with beautiful young birds on the perch and parents who are raring to go again. It is also the time of year when we notice interesting looking birds in our nest boxes. This article will touch on two of those genetic anomalies – the “feather duster” budgerigar and the half-sider budgerigar. In order to understand the half sider anomaly I will need to use some scientific jargon so please forgive me and feel free to contact me if there is anything that is unclear!

A half sider is a tetra gametic chimera; ‘tetra’ meaning 4, ‘gametic’ meaning gametes (sperm and ova) and ‘chimera’ meaning a single organism composed of two different populations of *genetically distinct* cells that came from two different zygotes (early stages of fertilized cells). In order to form, two fertilized eggs must fuse together.

Put simply, half sider budgies are formed when two fertile yolks come together to create one egg. It happens purely by accident and is not genetic. It occurs when the female has released two yolks from her ovary at the same time (not an uncommon occurrence) and they fuse, after each is separately fertilized by different sperm.



Because the half sider is essentially the combination of two baby budgies fused together, it has two different sets of DNA. In a visual half sider, pigment on one side/part of the body is controlled by one set of chromosomes while pigment on the other side/part of the body is controlled by the other set of chromosomes from the other zygote, which is why half siders are generally two colours. If the zygotes had not fused, you would have gotten two healthy, perfectly normal budgies (one blue one and one green one). Half siders have the potential to be all combinations of colours, it all depends on the parents and their genetics!

It is for this reason that the half sider budgerigar is not a real mutation – by breeding two half sider budgerigars together, you will only create another half sider by chance (the exact same chance that created the initial budgies). When it comes to breeding a half sider with another budgie it all depends which of the budgie’s chromosomes formed the



Dr Hamish Baron  
BVSc (Hons) MANZCVS (Avian Health)  
Resident | Avian Reptile and Exotic Pet Hospital  
Faculty of Veterinary Science  
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Join us at the  
**B.S.N.S.W 65TH  
ANNUAL SHOW**



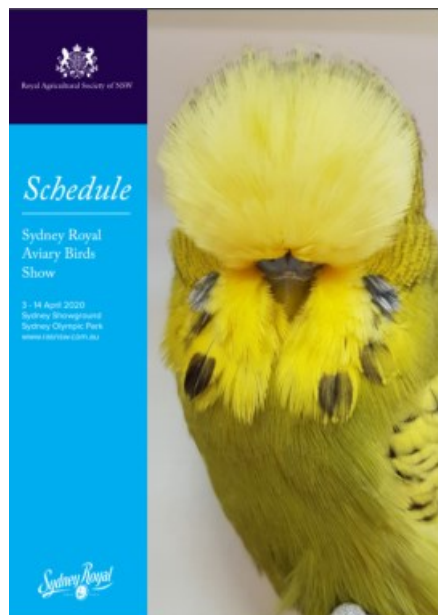
When: Sunday 15th March 2020  
Where: Seven Hills High School  
56 Best Road, Seven Hills 2147

Schedule available on the website.

Auction on show day from Successful Exhibitors.



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



As the budgerigar is the featured avian species at the 2020 Royal Agricultural Societies—Sydney Royal Aviary Birds Show, we encourage all exhibitors of the BSNSW to please support this show as best you possibly can.

This show is a feature public event for our society.

**Download your schedule at:**

<http://www.rasnsnsw.com.au/globalassets/document-library/rasnsnsw/competitions/cage-bird/2020-aviary-bird-schedule.pdf>

**Place your entries at:**

<https://www.myras.com.au/res/online/showentries/Login.aspx?dir=CageBirdsDefault.aspx>

**Please note the closing date for all entries for the competition is on Wednesday the 19th of February 2020.**

The competition dates are Monday the 6th of April and Tuesday the 7th of April 2020. Your birds will remain on display for these two days, but will be looked after by the society carers on the days.

**Birds must be bumped in on Sunday ,5th of April, from 5Pm. Birds can be dropped off on Monday via arrangement only.**

This year the “feature variety” is Budgerigars.

This means there will be an aviary available for us to place a display in, also there will be an area provided for us to use for promotion of the Society. This could be, but not limited to, information booklets, pamphlets, videos, cages of specific or all varieties.

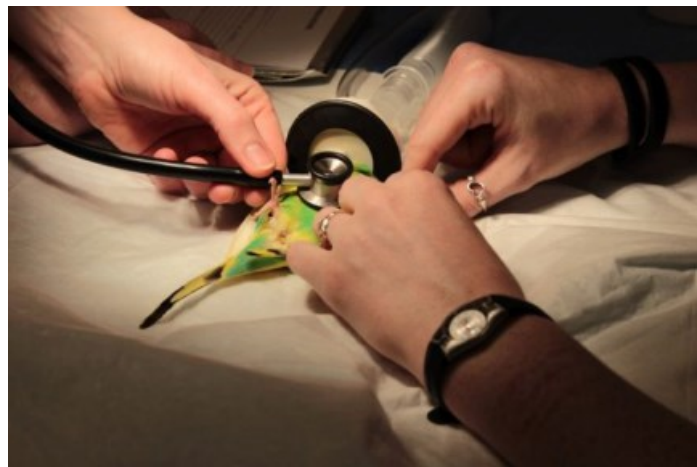
Volunteers are being organized to care for the aviaries (there will also be another aviary for other species). Hills Delegate, Con, is from the Avicultural Society and is involved in this.

Just something to consider in future years—currently the RAS pays one night’s accommodation for country judges (if required). However as from 2021 such accommodation will only be provided (if required) for the judge of the “feature variety”.

While I acknowledge that we haven't really gained any new members from our presence at the show, this is still a tremendous opportunity to at least make the public aware of our existence. Members should be encouraged to exhibit and contribute to the promotion of our society.

Ian Manton  
Chief Steward  
RAS Aviary Bird Competition

# WHY FERTILE EGGS FAIL TO HATCH.



BUDGERIGAR BREEDERS often comment on fertile eggs, which fail to hatch because the chicks die during incubation. There are a number of reasons for these failures, which will be discussed below.

In the first few days chick death is usually due to inadequate incubation. This can be from half hearted or intermittent sitting by the hen and subsequent low incubation temperatures or excessive jarring of the egg that fatally damages either the chick, or the yolk; this is sometimes caused by the breeder when hand-checking the eggs but seldom by the birds themselves. Finally, the other possible causes are a genetic fault and a bacteriological infection. Eggs that die at this time are addled.

Towards the end of incubation, chicks usually die as a result of hatching problems. As the 18th day of incubation approaches, and the hatching process commences, there are a number of things that can happen which will prevent successful hatching. Chicks that die at this time are dead in shell.

For the period between the beginning and the end of incubation, the chick is growing and developing and it is this time when nutritional needs and exposure to infection become significant, as any problem with either, will result in death for the chick.

## **Embryonic Death at the Start of Incubation:**

With deaths early in incubation, the egg is, in fact, fertile but the embryo is poorly developed. The usual cause is poor incubation causing the egg to become cold after development has started. Possible causes include improper nesting material, excessive interference by the aviculturist, inadequate control of nest mites, overcrowding in the aviary, old arthritic birds, poor nest-box design, competition with other birds within the aviary, poor parenting, nest box which is too hot, too cold or poorly ventilated and external disturbances.

Eggs are also very vulnerable to vibration type injuries early in incubation. Shaking or jarring the egg 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 also usually die early in incubation. Genetic problems are more likely to occur with inbreeding.

## **Deaths from Days 4 to 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 fed correctly are more likely to produce nutritious yolks that support healthy embryos. The effect of breeding bird nutrition is very underrated. By only 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.

Although embryos can die of infection at any time during incubation, it is at this time of growth that they are most vulnerable. Certainly, some infections, eg. Chlamydophilosis and Salmonella can be carried by the hen and infect the ovary. 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 contracted in the nest, after hatching. Nests that are dirty, poorly ventilated or excessively humid can cause eggshell 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 prone to trauma. Poor eggs can be caused by oviduct disease, but are more often associated with nutritional deficiency, in particular,



### Embryonic Deaths at the End of Incubation:

Through incubation, a membrane called the chorioallantois develops around the chick. The chorioallantois is similar to the 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 chorioallantois respiration to breathing air. It does this in two stages: First, it pips internally. The chick cuts a small hole into the air chamber at the end of the egg and starts to breathe the air that it contains. At this stage vibrations can be felt in the egg and the chick will sometimes vocalize.

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 Merkel's diverticulum which remains there for the whole of the life of the bird. Interestingly, during this time, the chick also drinks the clear fluid around it. This fluid, called the amniotic fluid, along with 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 occurring, the chick is vulnerable to problems. If the temperature or humidity is too high or too low during this time the chick will be adversely affected. The usual problem is that the temperature is too high, or the humidity is too low. The combination causes the shell and the shell membrane to become dry and hard. This can lead to a healthy chick becoming exhausted. In addition to this, the chick quickly becomes dehydrated. I am sure that 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-way emerged from the shell. If removed from the shell, they often have unabsorbed yolk sacs and the egg often contains dry, gluggy albumen.



Credit:

Damon Fitzpatrick

Budgerigar Society of New Zealand

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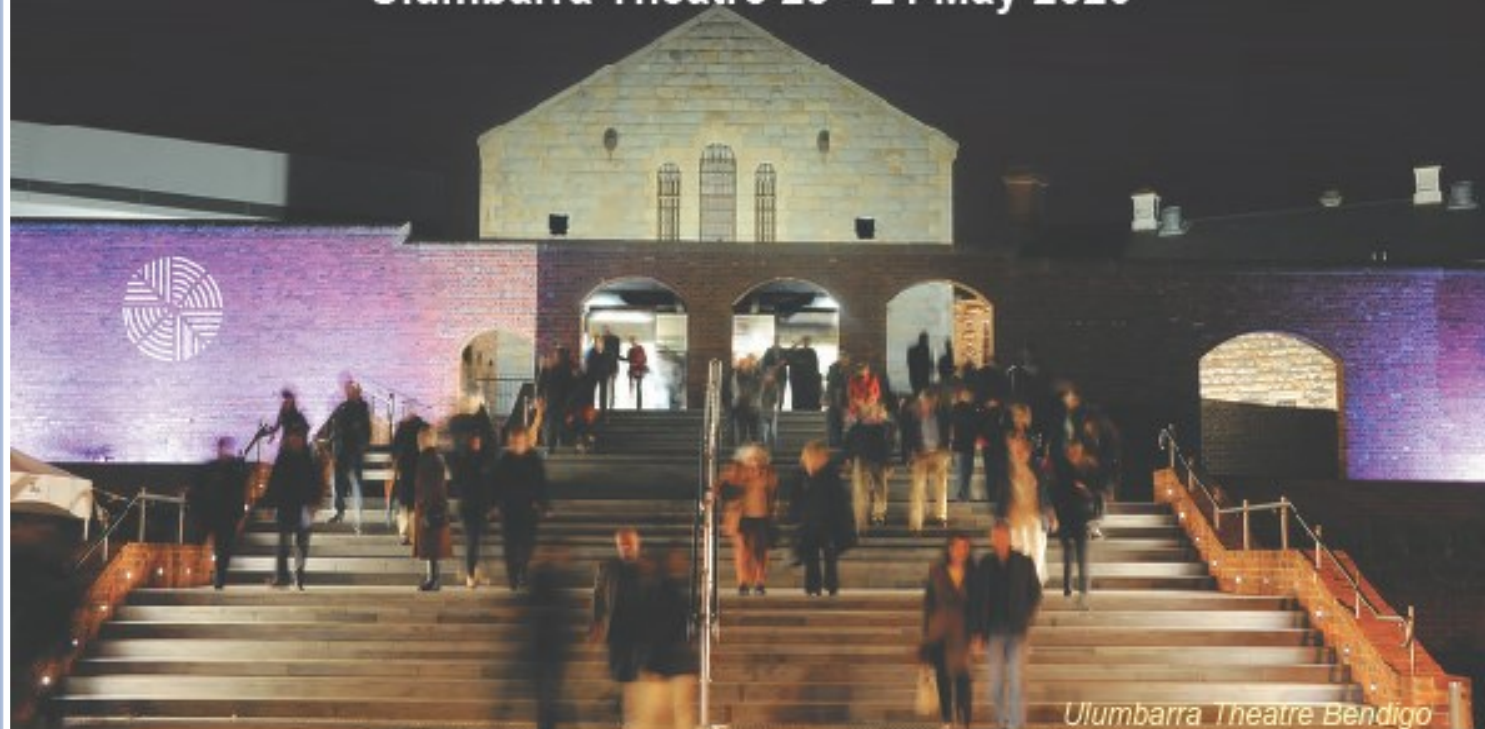
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