

March / April 2021

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Show

The Official publication of the Budgerigar society of New South Wales.



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THE BUDGERIGAR

January / February 2021

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

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Arrange to receive your copy today! by emailing editor@budgerigar.com.au

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WORDS FROM THE EDITOR.

Hi Again Members,

It has been a very busy few months with the return of the school year personally and with the magazine receiving many helpful articles and reviews. I hope you are all enjoying the magazine each month and again encourage you to have your say via the survey monkey link within the magazine.

This coming months sees many events coming back into play in the show circuit and the STCC is going ahead, with much joy I invite you all to attend the club selections and show your birds to represent your clubs at this show.

While we all prepare for the STCC and start our breeding seasons I hope you have all had a very prosperous start to the breeding season and hope you all have many babies in the nest, I would like peoples input as to what you all do I your breeding seasons and some practices you all enjoy during this time.

With that being said I would also like to encourage all of the many bird businesses and enthusiasts around to advertise both your businesses and birds for sale within the magazine if you wish.

Thank you for your support in re-electing myself for the editors role of the BSNSW state publication the budgerigar, I look forward to producing this publication into the future and would love your feedback and encouragement in the coming months, I endeavor to keep this publication fresh and up to date for you all.

The next publication will see a surprise issue of a special feature of the society for the year, I truly hope you all enjoy the coming editions and look forward to hearing from you all.

Thank you again
Justin Magnee
BSNSW Editor

The Budgerigar Society of New South
Wales Inc is proud to be
affiliated with the
Australian National Budgerigar
Council



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A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

After a year of bush fires & Covid 19, members have now had to endure devastating floods. Damage by flood water and road closures caused the Penrith Valley club to cancel their annual show.

I have just returned from The Royal Easter Show aviary exhibition & show where just about 100 budgerigars were Judged by James Matthews with Jim Baker taking home the Grand Champion award with a lovely Normal Green young cock & Tony Merriman the Reserve Champion with a very clean headed Opaline Normal green any age Cock. On display during the two days were almost all varieties and a number of bush budgerigars which enabled the stewards to discuss the differences between the bird to all interested visitors.

Mark Finnemore, our Secretary, has in the last month been far from well but is now on the mend and we wish him all the best for a speedy recovery and resume his duties for the society which he enjoys doing.

On the 15th May we are able to hold the State Team Challenge at Maitland Showground, hosted by Newcastle Budgerigar Club & Hunter Branch of BSNSW which I thank them for this. This will be a chance to see how your 2020 breeding season has gone and be able to support your club in this event. Get along to your club selection with your eligible birds with ANBC coded green rings. Rings of the 3 place getters will be checked on the day.

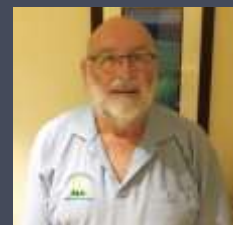
At the last ANBC Delegates meeting it was confirmed that the next annual show will be in Adelaide hosted by BSSA in May 2022 and then Victoria will take the 2023 date as Western Aust are unable & unwilling to host then. Victoria will then return to their place in the yearly rotation.

I trust that you are having a great breeding season with numbers with the hope of producing that outstanding bird.

Introducing

Steve Wackwitz







BSNSW President



WORDS FROM OUR SECRETARY.

Due to unforeseen circumstances all reports will be published in the next budgerigar magazine

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

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BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF NSW INC

MEMBERSHIP FORM

2021/2022

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH YOUR CLUB

ANNUAL FEES: 1st July 2020 – 30th June 2021 (Due by 31st May)

Membership Number	BSNSW Membership Number	First Name		Surname	
Exhibition Name			Affiliated Club	This must be filled in	
Address				Suburb	
State		Postcode		Email	
Home Phone				Mobile	
Membership Type Circle or highlight Membership Type		BSNSW Membership - Adult		\$20	
		BSNSW Membership - Junior		\$10	
		Junior Date of Birth			
Accepted By Club					
I certify that the details on this form are true and correct and is a member of the Club for the period of this BSNSW membership application				Stamp or Signature of Authorised Person	
BUDGERIGAR PRINTED MAGAZINE <i>Financial Members only will receive 6 issues per year by Email or Post</i>					
YES	ALL PRINTED COPIES INCLUDE POSTAGE If Your Postal Address is different from your membership address please fill in the postal section at the bottom				\$40
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<u>Postal Address</u>					
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(Formally BSNSW Inc. – Macarthur Branch)

2021 ANNUAL SHOW
Sunday 2nd May 2021

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Schedules available by contacting-
David Butters (02) 62413585, 0458 575 270
Rachael Hawkins 0477 701 459 or downloading from
WHATS ON page at www.budgerigar.com.au.

What is Colour Masking?

by Frank Dohrmann

I have been asked for an explanation of the masking of colours as it occurs in albinos and lutinos. Maybe this will help.

To understand masking you need to know something of how colour works in budgies. In budgie feathers there is a colouring material called melanin. This is a brownish - black substance and in normals it takes the form of little rods like short pieces of black dowelling. These rods are surrounded by a layer of cells which make the **black melanin** look **blue**

The cells work on the same principle that makes those distant hills look blue. Surrounding the cells is a sheath which is yellow in the case of greens and yellows and which is clear in the case of blues and whites.

Think of a strand of feather as being a lead pencil - the melanin is the lead, the cells are the wood and the sheath is like the paint on the outside.

Think of the colour as a mountain range of black rocks. From a distance they look blue, and if you looked at them through a piece of yellow glass they would look green. If the mountains were white, they would look white no matter how far away they were, and now if you hold up your yellow glass they would look yellow.

Colour in budgies works exactly the same way.

And now back to those little rods of melanin that look like black dowelling.

If you started to whittle them with a penknife until they were about half gone you would get something shaped like a dumb-bell, which is the shape of the melanin rods in a bird with 50% body colour. If you whittled them into rings like an old-fashioned table leg you would get the effect we see in the rods of fallows and near-whites and bad yellows. Whittle away practically all of the rods and you would get good blackeyed whites and yellows. For the cinnamon effect you would have to let the borers riddle your piece of wood until it was honeycombed! All these whittlings have the effect of reducing the amount of the black core, therefore the blue colour would become less and less intense until there was no blue left, only white. Then the final colour would depend upon the colour, if any, of the outside sheath.

What has all this to do with albinos? Just this: the albino factor does not interfere with, or change, the shape of these rods in any way; it leaves them exactly as they were, except that it bleaches out the colour. The bird ends up white everywhere, even the eyes; the red eyes are just the blood showing through like red ink in a bottle.

The albino factor does not interfere with the colour of the sheath. If the sheath is clear, the bird is an albino. if it is yellow, we call it a lutino.

To return to our metaphor of the mountains, if the normal blue bird is a range of black rocks, then a good black-eyed white would be a range of white rocks and the albino could be either range covered with snow. The snow would make them look the same, but they would be vastly different underneath. Remember that looking at them through yellow glass will change blue to green and white to yellow.

If you mate an Albino so that its chicks again have colour in the central core of their feathers, then they will also have the shape of those melanin rods they have inherited, and they will show whatever variety those rods produce. Albinos are recessive to normal, if the bird is carrying a factor for albino and a factor for non-albino then the bird will not look like an albino

The albino factor does not show if it has any opposition, but when it does show, it just bleaches out the original core colour no matter what it is. If it is a really good albino with no suffusion, it doesn't matter what the original was; a greywing opaline vollet mauve would bleach out to the same colour as would a normal sky. I have noticed that the brighter the red of the eye, the less suffusion the bird carries, but all red eyes show some suffusion in certain lights.

The albino factor does not interfere with light and dark factors, nor does it affect the sex linked factors for cinnamon or opaline. Everything is still there, but it has been bleached out.

Remember, she is still the same girlfriend even if she has peroxidized her hair!

Pairing Up

by F.N. Clews

I have found that the best time to pair up budgerigars is about the end of April, just after the main moult. Our birds are at their fittest at this time, most of them 'jumping out of their skins', and adult hens have usually lost most of the excess fat they may have had.

Normally such hens are in good condition at this time, often go to nest quickly, lay eggs and rear chicks with a minimum of fuss whereas if breeding is not allowed until later, the birds' fat will begin to build up, around the ovaries at first. Once the ovaries are surrounded by fat it's very difficult to get budgerigars to breed.

You will have heard the common advice that it's unwise to use a hen until it is over twelve months old. That, in my opinion, is nonsense. In the wild budgerigars begin to breed when they are old enough and mature enough - by their judgement. I have had some of my best results from hens when they were just five or six months old.

The common tale is that such young hens may allow chicks to die because the hen hasn't the gumption to start feeding them but in fact her instinct, no matter how young, is to respond correctly to a squeaking, hungry baby. Such young hens should be watched closely after the first youngster hatches and if there is no sign of a little white 'bubble' of her milk in its tiny crop before evening and it seems to be getting quieter and weaker, swap it into a nest of thriving babies and give her a chick three or four days old which is full, wriggling and soon noisily demands more. This almost invariably encourages the novice hen to begin feeding and after that they never look back.

Usually there is less behavioural and health trouble with young hens and fertility tends to be better because they don't disappear immediately into the nest box when introduced to the unfamiliar breeding cage. Putting the pair in together, it may take a young hen a week before she decides to investigate the dark nest box, giving the cock time to win her over and fertilise her eggs. Quite often adult hens will go into the nest box straight away and the cock can't get near her, or for long enough to do his duty. Many hens if left until they are older than 12 months before being allowed to breed are more reluctant to accept the persistent attentions of a cock bird.

In my experience, just the opposite to the above philosophy seems to be more common with cock birds, in that if you put up young cocks in their first year and they do very well, they inevitably seem to be poorer breeders in following seasons. If I had plenty of room and patience I'd leave young cocks in the flights until they are in their second year, until they are more mature and much stronger. After that you should get several years good breeding results from them.

And when pairing up do remember one of the essential findings of a veterinarian team at the University of Liverpool (UK): that the one major influence the breeder of budgerigars can have on the fertility of his birds' (particularly the larger, coarser feathered ones) is to trim both cocks and hens around the vent.

The aim when retaining birds and selecting pairs must only be to breed progeny better than they are. My personal practice, keeping that target in mind, is to sell my adult hens whenever the breeding season is over and when I have a firm assessment of my new crop of hens, only varying from that rule if there is a really outstanding reason to keep a particular hen for one more year. Cocks I'll keep for a extra year, but almost never hens.

Once established, it is not necessary to use a large number of pairs to be successful - only breed sufficient birds fundamentally for your own requirements. Nine or ten breeding cages should easily result in an end to the season with fifty or sixty youngsters in your flights, more than enough to participate in the shows with four or five of the outstanding ones, give you ample choice of those to be retained for next season's breeding stock to maybe say a dozen cocks and eighteen hens, and leave you with a minimal disposal problem with those surplus to your requirements. And when you breed a small number of birds of good and increasing quality, selling your extra birds becomes no problem at all.

It just isn't necessary to breed two or three hundred youngsters a year to come up with good birds - if you have to breed several hundred young birds to produce a small percentage of good ones, there is something wrong. Such numbers are hugely time-consuming and create a lot of hard work (aside from the disposal problems at cull times), when breeding budgerigars is supposed to be a relaxing hobby.

Keep just a small number of birds so that they are not a chore and you are sure to enjoy them - it only takes one exhibit to take the Best in Show award!

NOTICES

GET TO KNOW YOUR STANDARD!



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THE SPANGLE 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 black marked throat spots with ground colour centers, 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 and neck—black, clearly defined and symmetrical on the appropriate ground colour.

Wing Markings:

Each covert and flight feather of appropriate ground colour with fine black marking near the edge.

Eyes:

Black with a white iris ring.

Body Colour

Full intensity.



A young spangle.

Distinguishing Features based on colour

Colour	Cheek Patch	Tail Quill	Tail Feather
Light Green	Violet and/or Silvery White	Neutral	Yellow or Yellow Edged with Black.
Dark Green	Violet and/or Silvery White	Neutral	Yellow or Yellow Edged with Black.
Olive	Violet and/or Silvery White	Neutral	Yellow or Yellow Edged with Black.
Grey Green	Grey and/or Silvery White	Neutral	Yellow or Yellow Edged with Black.
Sky Blue	Violet and/or Silvery White	Neutral	White or White Edged with Black
Cobalt	Violet and/or Silvery White	Neutral	White or White Edged with Black
Mauve	Violet and/or Silvery White	Neutral	White or White Edged with Black
Violet	Violet and/or Silvery White	Neutral	White or White Edged with Black
Grey	Grey and/or Silvery White	Neutral	White or White Edged with Black

Breeding expectations

	Cock	Hen
1.	Spangle S.F	Normal
	50% Spangle S.F	
2.	Spangle D.F	Normal
	100% Spangle S.F	
3.	Spangle S.F	Spangle S.F
	25% Normal 25% Spangle D.F	
4.	Spangle S.F	Spangle D.F
	50% Spangle S.F	
5.	Spangle D.F	Spangle D.F
	100% Spangle D.F	

THE DOUBLE FACTOR SPANGLE BUDGERIGAR

The Standard

Mask and Spots:

The mask is to be clear, wide and deep, (not cleft) extending beyond two large cheek patches.

General Body Colour:

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

Markings:

To be absent from all areas. Wings corresponding to body colour.

Eyes:

Black with a white iris ring.

Primary Flights:



Distinguishing Features based on colour

Colour	Cheek Patch	Tail Quill	Tail Feather
Yellow (Buttercup)	Silvery White	Neutral	Approaching full body colour
Dark Green	Silvery White	Neutral	Approaching full body colour

Breeding expectations (As seen over the page)

Types of Spangle classes on the show bench in Australia.

Normal Spangle

A bird containing only the spangle variety and no other standard variety.

Spangle AOSV

A bird containing the Spangle variety combined with any other standard variety.

Double Factor Spangle

A bird containing two Spangle genetics and no visible markings. Distinguished from Ino's by the black eye.

Normal Spangle



Spangle AOSV



Double Factor Spangle



You're Invited State Team Challenge 2021

When
Saturday 15th May 2021

Where
Maitland, NSW

YOU CAN ADVERTISE IN THIS PUBLICATION

COMMERCIAL RATES

Two Page Spread	-	\$650	Yearly ONLY
Full Page	-	\$360 / 6 Issues	- \$70 Per single advertisement
1/2 Page	-	\$210 / 6 Issues	- \$45 Per single advertisement
1/4 Page	-	\$120 / 6 Issues	- \$30 Per single advertisement
Business card size	-	\$60 / 6 issues -	\$15 Per single advertisement

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Staphylococcus

in budgerigars

While I have a great number of interesting reports concerning Budgerigar breeding, genetics, feeding methods, etc, in my literature collection, I miss reports on Budgerigar diseases and most important of all on their cures. This is why I would like to rouse myself and inform the reader about the attack of Staphylococci and the successful treatment of these bacteria.

In the spring of 1986 I had to ascertain after the breeding of about 50 birds, that their quality was appalling. Thus I procured another batch from a well-known breeder. I bought one cock and three hens. The quality of the birds was excellent; however, it was obvious that hygiene did not play an important role for the breeder. Yet still I yearned for these animals, as it is typical for beginners.

At home, I placed the birds in a breeding box with the provision of food and water. I took care to ascertain the separation between the newly bought and the other birds. On entering the breedingroom the next day, I became aware of a penetrate smell similar to that of a pigsty. There was no doubt about it, the cause were the excrements of the new birds.

The scent however dissipated a few days later and consequently I placed the newly acquired birds together with the others. This was the beginning of a perfect catastrophe. Shortly after, I fail to reminisce; it came to my attention that the birds were suffering from diarrhea. Having fed them carrots the day before, I saw the probable cause in this fact. I bought carbide tablets and mixed them with the bird feed. An automatic improvement was noticeable, but not for long. After 8 days the trouble commenced again. I also noticed that the birds let their wings hang loosely or simply rested them on their perch.

A few days later these particular ones had dark green smeared and sticky anuses. They became thinner and refused to eat. After this, the first birds died. Amongst the remaining sick were the four newly acquired birds. They however only had green smeary diarrhea, like some birds have at exhibitions. The skinny ones were hens, which had had their broods and young birds that had experienced their first moult. I tried again, but in vain to wax a cure with the help of carbide tablets. My last hope was the antibiotic 'Tetraseptin' that can also be applied to psittacosis. The effect was disastrous. The severely stricken birds died successively. During a conversation with a doctor practicing at the Ludwig-Maximilian-University, Institute for Poultry and Bird Diseases, in Oberschleissheim, I was informed that Staphylococci were resistant against most antibiotics, and that the already weakened intestinal flora was almost utterly destroyed as a result. To be brief, I notified the responsible Veterinarian. Excrement samples were sent to the institute in Oberschleissheim at once. After a short while I received the first results: "Destroyed intestinal flora - infection due to "Staphylococci".

After a series of tests, an existing antibiotic was discovered which killed Staphylococci successfully. The Veterinary assured me, that healing the birds would not be so easy. The intestinal flora had to be brought into working order. He advised me to feed urgently the birds with yogurts containing Bacteria cultures. I had to produce the yogurt myself. How I was to feed the birds with the yogurt was yet an untackled problem.

I finally found a solution, with the help of a syringe with a valve hose attached to the end of it, I force fed the birds each with 1.1/2 ml two times daily. I noted no signs of vomiting. After two days the Budgerigars were much stronger. Also the consumption of bird feed increased. Now the remedy against Staphylococci could be applied, the remedy being Chloramphenicol in a 5% solution. The mixture was put in the drinking bowls. After not knowing the mixing proportions, I had to look up medical books till I found the answer in Dr. Kronburger's book "vogelkrankheiten". The mixture to be put in the drinking bowls was proportioned in the ratio 4 ml of the 5% Chloramphenicol solution to a litre of water, 14 days later the tragedy was over.

After an extra thorough cleaning of the aviary, the sickness seemed to have disappeared. This proved to be misleading. Again, after a few weeks, a few birds had weak wings and smeared anuses. After a single and consequent treatment with Chloramphenicol the normal and healthy conditions of the birds were restored. During the treatment I noticed that the two fairly newly acquired hen birds always had slight diarrhea and yet were quite fat. I began to suspect that these two were the cause of this curse.

As after four months the disease kept remaining I acted upon my suspicion and disposed of the two birds. I was right! The disease never plagued me again. Today I can report this pestering incident with a humorous undertone, yet at that time I certainly was at the end of my tether.

The Home production of Yogurt!

Highly pasteurized yogurt, bought in stores, is useless, as all the helpful bacteria are absent. These are yet very important for the successful treatment of diseased intestinal flora.

There are two production methods:

1: This is the easier and the safer one.

This method includes the use of a yogurt machine consisting of six 118-litre containers and a heating plate. (The machine can be bought in every department store for home-use electrical appliances).

Application: The six containers are filled to three fourths with very fresh dairy milk. Then normal bio-yogurt (without any additions) is supplemented in each of the six containers till they are full. These are then closed tightly and heated for 18 hours.

If not in use, the filled glasses with the newly produced yogurt are to be placed in the refrigerator. Before using, it is advised to have the containers (not more than one is needed usually) standing for a few hours to attain room temperature. It is also advised to retain one glass of yogurt for the next production. So as to keep the production costs low.

2: Normal glass containers which can be procured easily (e.g. jam-glasses) are filled to 3/4 full with milk and 1/4 with normal bio-yogurt and placed in an area of warmth 30°C to 40°C. It takes a bit longer than the first method, but yogurt is guaranteed.

By Helmut Birker; Member of the Illertal
Budgerigar Club, South Germany.

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Breeder Management & Fertility

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An original article by Mike Rankin

Obviously, copulation is necessary for fertilisation, but it also doesn't guarantee it. One often overlooked practice that improves our birds chances of fertilising eggs is trimming the vent feathers on the cock and the hen. This is especially true of birds, which are of intermediate feather, buff feather or double buff feathering. There is, by the way, no truth to the notion that birds have guide feathers, which 'guide' the sperm to the cloaca of the hen. If you don't have apposition of the cloacas, you don't have passing of sperm from the cock to the hen!

One Cock with Multiple Hens

Budgerigar hens, as is common among a number of species of birds, have the ability to store semen for a limited period of time. Some evidence suggests that this period is up to 20 days long. Biologically, this is quite adaptive as it insures fertilisation of a clutch of eggs if for some reason, such as death by predator, the cock is unavailable. Some knowledgeable breeders, taking advantage of this, have used a single outstanding cock bird to fertilise a number of hens during the same time frame.

This is not a particularly difficult procedure and there are several variations used by different breeders, all of which have been effective. One of these methods is, once having selected three complimentary hens for the cock that is to be used, set them up in breeding cages one above the other.

This arrangement is used so that:

1. They are out of sight of each other.
2. It keeps one from getting confused as to which breeding cage the cock will be rotated to next.

Next take the cock bird and place him in one of the cages and watch for signs of acceptance by the hen, if they are present then leave him with her for one half of a day. The rest of the day do the same in the next cage and on the second day move him to the third hen. If any of the hens reject him, try several others until all three hens find him suitable. For the rest of the second day, place him back in cage one where he stays until the next morning. Then rotate him to cage two for one day and then cage three for one day. From this point on he should be rotated from one hen to the next on a daily basis until the last egg is laid.

If you wish you may leave him with the hen that finishes egg laying last. In this case, the other two hens are left to raise their clutches on their own. These hens cannot be used for a second round as it is too taxing on them, to both lay eggs and feed chicks by themselves.

Alternatively, remove the eggs as they are laid from all three hens, to be fostered to pairs specifically for this purpose or to other nests where there are clear eggs. In this way, you can get the equivalent of two rounds of eggs from each hen without putting any of them in a position of having to raise chicks on their own. This also allows time to rest the hens for a month and then mate them to different cocks. This alternative method is preferable but circumstances do not always favour it.

Sawdust

In the wild, small amounts of wood dust/shavings and feathers are often found in the nest. It is common practice for Budgerigar breeders to do the same. While some believe that the purpose of providing sawdust is to simulate a natural nesting site, a more practical purpose is that it cushions the eggs from contact with the hard surface of the concave when the hen rotates them. As well, sawdust helps keep the eggs from being scattered and accidentally broken if the hen is startled off the nest. Once chicks are hatched, it also absorbs the moisture from droppings, helping the nest box environment remain clean.

What should be remembered is that new sawdust/wood shavings can have a drying effect on the nest box atmosphere if put in a box with existing eggs. This drying effect, by absorbing humidity in the box, can have a disastrous effect on the developing eggs. In light of this, new sawdust and shavings should be left exposed for several days before being used so that they may pick up humidity from the air in the breeding room.

Nest Box

Nest box design, size, shape, and material of construction have been a matter of preference. A standard box is approximately 9" (h) X 6" to 8" (w) X 6" to 7" (d) with an entry hole of 2 inches diameter. The depth of the box is one of preference but should be no less than 9 inches high as shallow boxes encourage chicks to leave the nest early. Generally nothing of consequence will happen to these early exiting chicks other than you have to keep putting them back in. However, this exposes them unnecessarily to attacks by the parents or to extremes in temperatures while partially fledged and quite vulnerable.

Step-down Blocks and Double Compartments

Some nest boxes are provided with a step-down block, which is nothing more than a block of wood placed in the nest box next to the entry hole. A number of fanciers believe that the purpose of the step-down block is that they allow entering and exiting adults access to the nest box without the danger of damaging eggs in the process. However, in reality seldom is there a problem with hens or cocks damaging eggs when not provided with a step-down block. This is true even in box designs where the concave is directly below the entry hole. The primary function of the block is to protect second round eggs from the still unweaned chicks from round one.

Developing fledglings will move to the higher location next to the nest hole where they are fed by the cock. In doing this, they abandon the nest hollow, decreasing the chance that they will damage or soil newly laid eggs. A very interesting design is a nest box divided into two compartments. When the hen enters this nest box, she is in a holding chamber that is higher than and partitioned off from the concave. To get to the concave, she has to enter another entry hole into the breeding chamber. As chicks mature, they are lured by the light of the nest box entry hole and climb through the divider hole into the holding chamber where they are fed by the cock. This removes them from the vicinity of the nest hollow and also allows the hen to proceed with incubation of a second round with little interference.

Factors Affecting Nest Box Entry

There is no evidence supporting the belief that there is an increase in nesting behaviour or readiness to mate by blocking off the nest box hole with cardboard and making a hen chew her way into the box.

There is also no evidence that using two nest boxes on a breeding unit stimulates the natural breeding process by offering the hen a choice of nesting sites. The factors most significantly influencing early nest box entry are:

1. The stimulus of loud warbling by the cock bird during the first few days of breeding cage occupancy.
2. The position of the nest box entry hole in relation to the perch position.

Hens do not show early nest box oriented behaviour when the hole of the nest box is 5cm above or below the perch.

They do, however, show almost immediate exploration of the nest box when the nest box hole is 15cm (5 to 6 inches) above the perch. Once having entered the nest box, it is the soft warble of the cock bird coupled with the relative darkness that the nest box provides that initially stimulates the hens ovarian and oviduct development. Contrary to the common practice of providing air holes or breathing holes during nest box construction, a properly built and positioned nest box should provide as much darkness as possible. Mounting position of the nest box, whether internal or external, is of little consequence as long as it is securely mounted and the nest hole faces in a direction that minimises the amount of external light that enters the box.

Concaves

In nest boxes provided without a nest hollow, but supplied instead with a soft pulp paper nest bottom, hens showed 2-3 times more gnawing activity than hens in nest boxes with a nest hollow. The peak duration of gnawing occurs 4-6 days prior to egg laying but never exceeds 30% of the total time a hen spends in the nest box. It is believed that this gnawing activity is a remnant of nest building behaviour but ultimately it is of little consequence to ovarian development. There are no differences in latency of laying the first egg between groups supplied with a nest hollow or without a nest hollow. As nest hollow gnawing behaviour is exhibited whether a nest box is provided with or without a nest hollow, it would suggest that nest hollows (concaves) are optional in nest box construction. However, they help keep eggs from scattering whenever a hen leaves the nest.



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Email: stuart.foster@optusnet.com.au

Secretary Rita Corbett

Ph: 0417 044 023

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CENTRAL COAST

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm

Tuggerah Hall, Anzac Rd, Tuggerah

Chairperson Col Taylor

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E: colt.2012@hotmail.com

Secretary David Frame

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HILLS DISTRICT

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

Chairperson Daniel Child

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E: fordano@hotmail.com

Secretary Cliff Spare

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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

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Secretary Tony Schafer

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E: hunterbudgieclub@outlook.com

ILLAWARRA

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

Chairperson Walter Bell

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Secretary Darren Burgess

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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

E: dennistipping@iprimus.com.au

Secretary Sue Strinic

E: illabsbudgies@tpg.com.au

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

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MACARTHUR

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

Chairperson David Butters

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Secretary Ian Cocks

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MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION AREA BREEDERS

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

Chairperson Estelle French

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Secretary Horatio French

Ph: (02) 6947 3391

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NEW ENGLAND

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Secretary Yvette Smith

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NORTHSIDE

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

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Secretary Kathleen Sharp

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PENRITH VALLEY

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

Chairperson Stuart Williams

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Secretary Robert Mead

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ST. GEORGE

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

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MID-STATE BUDGERIGAR CLUB

1st Wednesday of the month, Contact branch for details.
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NEWCASTLE BUDGERIGAR CLUB INC.

4th Friday of the month Maryland Community Centre, Maryland
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E: toddy.3@hotmail.com

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2nd Friday of the month at Canley Vale Public School (Canley Vale RD, Canley Vale)
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Feather

By Rob Manvell

The following article has been prepared from a lecture I gave to Newcastle Budgerigar Club of Australia. Following is an insight into what is a very complicated subject. That is Feather Quality!

The overall appearance of our exhibition Budgerigars is the result of a combination of many components. Bone structure, skeletal dimensions, muscle, fat and the all-important feathers are the basic components, which make up our exhibition Budgerigars. Whether the bird is of excellent quality or not will depend upon the configuration of these components. Furthermore, the way a bird controls its feathers and the direction they are held, will also have a major bearing on our Budgerigars appearance.

Feather is probably the most important and least understood aspect of breeding exhibition quality Budgerigars. Feather has responsibility for the following list of features that make up the exhibition bird of today.

The below list is only basic, however you can see how important feather is. Therefore a basic understanding of feather is necessary if you wish to be successful with exhibition budgerigars.

- **Variety:** Whether the bird is a Opaline, Cinnamon, Clear-wing or Pied, its variety is expressed by feather.
 - **Colour:** The birds colour is expressed by feathers, that is blue, violet or dark green Etc. Also if the bird is of good colour or not it will be displayed by feather.
 - **Markings:** A bird's markings are also displayed by the feathers. Wing markings, spots etc., both good and bad markings must be considered. The markings on a bird are something which is neglected by the general fancy. We should consider the definition or clarity along with intensity of markings when pairing to produce the ultimate bird. A bird with exceptional markings, always stands apart from the less than perfect counter parts.
- Size and Shape of the Bird:** The more feather a bird has, generally the larger it will appear. The shape of the bird is a combination of the Skeleton, Muscle and Fat as mentioned earlier along with the feather it carries and where the feathers are located/concentrated.

The all-important Top end.

In my opinion the most important part of the Budgerigar and the part which attracts immediate attention is its Top End. Even though we must consider the whole bird, the head and face seem to be so important for that first and lasting impression.

Following are the exhibition characteristics and how feather controls their appearance.

Mask; it is impossible to have a deep mask without length of feather.

- **Spot (size/shape);** To have a large well shaped spots you need to have a feather that is proportionally wide and long. It must be obvious we can not have a large spot on a small feather although the reverse is true. I do not have an answer to controlling spots. I think spots are inherited randomly with regards to shape and size. However if your birds are from a family strong in this feature, you are well on the way to having good spot on your babies. The shape and position of the spots should not be neglected either, on at least one side of the pairing you should have round and reasonably well positioned spots. This will help alleviate misshapen spots and split masks in your birds.

- **Cap;** The cap on a Budgerigar is the direct result of the length and width of the feathers on the top and over the crown of the head. Feather direction is so important in this area, especially when the bird relaxes, and the top end feathers are 'blown'. If you have the correct feather in this area and the bird has the ability to unleash the cap feathers, transforming its top end to give the frontal, lift and brow we now require. The crowning glory of the Budgerigar!

Back skull; A bird has to have a lovely collar of feather which extends up from the shoulder region, filling in the portion of the bird which starts about the crown of the bird and flows over to the back of the bird (nape) in one extended graceful sweep. Back skull is the feature which gives the birds the appearance of having a beautifully rounded head from which ever angle you view the bird. Without this feature in your birds, you will not achieve a good back line. Poor back skull, equals poor back line.

- Nothing looks worse than birds which cut away behind the head. Birds that lack back skull should be eradicated immediately as this is a very invasive and dominant fault, if not kept in check.
- Shoulder; This is a debatable area, I think good shoulder is a combination of the birds skeletal and muscular system combined again with feather. To have great shoulder a bird needs to have a wonderful full collar of feather around the top end of the bird, from the wing butts upwards. If your birds do not have shoulder they will not have width of mask. The "BIG FACE" look we all aspire too have on our birds. Along with the above features the bird must hold each individual feather around the beak or facial area in a different direction, giving the impression of the feathers radiating out from the beak. Thus giving the bird a tucked in beak and head width, these are probably the hardest features to obtain and then retain.

Feather Descriptions Misleading

To date feather has been discussed by the fancy as being — Yellow, Intermediate and Buff — this is a dreadful over simplification of a very complexly structured piece of material. It would seem this description was put forward many years ago. I am led to believe it was taken from the canary fanciers of the time, who used it as a classification of the colour of their birds feathers. I am not convinced it had anything to do with large or small feathers as both buff and yellow coloured canaries are essentially the same size. Members of the hobby, since and to-date, have endorsed this concept by adopting its usage without giving feather on Budgerigars in particular, too much thought. We probably could justify it as being a broad classification of feathers. But apart from that, this simplistic classification is useless and basically meaningless. Most experienced breeders would realize feathers are much more complex than that.

From studying feathers for many years on Canaries, Zebra Finches and for the past sixteen years on Budgerigars I have come to the following conclusion. All corresponding feathers on birds of the same species are different. To explain this further, each species of bird is different from each other species, a duck has a different feather structure to a sparrow as an example. Most importantly, ***all Budgerigars have a different feather structure to each other***, it could be considered a birds finger print. Therefore, ***no two Budgerigar's feather structures are exactly alike***. The difference between individuals may be unperceivable, but there will be a difference!

Individual Feather characteristics.

Following are the feather variables we must contend with when breeding birds for exhibition. Each one of the following feather features has a bearing on the visual qualities of our birds.

Length:- Length of feather is self explanatory. Our birds feathers can be short as is the case on a pet bird or they can be extremely long, also they can be any length in between. Feather length alone is not responsible for the Supreme exhibition birds of today, this is a common misconception. Granted it is important but only in conjunction with the following feather features

Width:- Width is the distance across the feather, a feather can be narrow or wide and as above any width between these parameters. From my observations I believe feather width acts independently to feather length.

Shape:- The feather can be rounded, squared off or even pointed. Possibly feather shape could be almost limitless.

Thickness:- Feathers are not mono or even bi-dimensional. They are three dimensional like all matter, not only does a feather have length, width and shape, it also has thickness and especially the feather shaft. This could be explained as the distance from the front or outside of the feather through to the inside or back of the feather. If you have a thinner feather and still maintain the other dimensions of width and length, the bird will exhibit all the great features which come with the extra larger feathers whilst keeping the bird tidy because the feathers can lay closer on top of each other.

Structure:- feather structure is it's actual components, that is the feather shaft, the down, the barbs etc. It would be reasonable to expect and is the thinking of some experienced fanciers, a new mutation or variety brings with it a new type of feather construction. Thus in some cases it is capable of changing other varieties feather structure when utilized with them, both good and bad, the Opaline and Cinnamon would be good examples.

The spangle is the most recent on the scene and it appeared to have some very positive influences on all varieties of Budgerigars. It should also be noted, the spangle was first introduced into Germany via Switzerland and this variety may be an important factor in their new style of budgerigar. Without harping about the Mannes birds, it has also been substantiated his feather structure is different to the norm. The electron micro scope has indicated his feathers have more barbules per millimeter than comparable size feathers from the UK. A possible explanation as to why his birds while retaining their massive bulk appear to have a beautiful finish to their feathers, giving them a delightful soft sheen.

If I had the chance, I would question as to which varieties of birds the feathers for these studies were collected. It would certainly give a fuller picture to the findings. Just putting my thoughts forward, it would appear to me, the finish Mannes has achieved, on his birds is not that dissimilar to the finish on Cinnamon Budgerigars. It may be the case and is possible the cinnamon characteristics could have crossed over and aligned themselves with the elementary budgerigar feather genes. Therefore through selection Mannes has fixed this across all varieties in his stud.

Down:- The amount of down at the base of each feather will have a definite bearing on the appearance of the bird. The down acts as a packing underneath the feathers, holding them off the body giving the bird the illusion of being larger. During a lecture given by Fred Sherman some years ago in Tasmania, he claimed to have built his formidable stud at that time, by the observation of feather down on the babies in the nest and selecting for this when pairing up. So down is definitely very important in the appearance of the finished bird.

Density:- The density of feather is the number of feathers on a bird. Birds which impress me appear to have many more feathers on them than the average bird. Density of feather also keeps the bird looking better under the stress of judging or what ever. This feature is an absolute asset in the production of top quality Budgerigars. Some how it gives the impression of the bird being tight feathered which is not normally the case with heavy feathered birds. I have noticed on my better birds, more feathers on the top end, this coupled with good feather structure gives some uniquely large headed specimens. This feature may in fact be an elusion as I have no way of counting the feathers to see if this is correct. However as I said there appears to be more feathers.

Distribution:- The location of the feathers on the bird. As above we are looking for a concentration of feather on the head, a lovely collar of feather to give back skull and a full back line whilst enhancing the shoulder and width of mask. You can have a bird with lovely feather but if it is in the wrong places it is useless, you will end up with nothing but untidy bags of feathers. I believe this was the case with the old Australian birds, we always had the feather qualities we needed, before we started to import birds from the UK. However, the birds we were breeding had the feathers concentrated in the wrong places. Most particularly on the top end of the Budgerigar i.e. Head, shoulder and face.

From the above feather features we can see how meaningless the words Yellow and Buff are as an explanation or description of the particular feather any of our birds are carrying.

Some of the above individual feather features are very hard to identify, however if you study your birds overall feather appearance, whilst keeping the above in mind, I am sure you will see your birds in a very different light.

The mode of inheritance of feather

My observations would suggest the Yellow to buff pairing theory which has been touted for decades is with out foundation. There is nothing I have seen which confirms the pairing of yellow or finer type feathered birds to Buff or longer feathered birds produces a blend some where in between , described as the intermediate feathered bird. Intermediate birds being put forward as the required show bird. There is also no evidence to substantiate the continual pairing of the so called buff birds together will make your birds become more or double buff. This concept would have it's beginnings placed some sixty years ago. I can't understand why they keep pushing this theory, it is obviously wrong.

Feather is not passed on in such a simple manner. After many years of breeding and studying the feathers as I said before on exhibition Budgerigars, Canaries and Finches, I still **do not** believe it is possible to manipulate feather. The type of feather an individual budgerigar ends up with is basically in the "laps of the gods".

It has also been said, "Buff feather is recessive"! How can it be? If you pair two so called buff birds together what do you breed? (Answer from the floor) *"Anything and everything, no consistency what so ever"*. Exactly! Blue is recessive, if you pair two Blues together or two Recessive Pieds together you will breed 100% Blues and Recessive Pieds respectively. If this is the case, " how can buff feather be recessive"??

Leaving the above aside, I will endeavor to explain how I believe feather is inherited. Basically we need to understand; features, whether they be on a Budgerigar or any living thing, are passed on to the next generation by in some cases, many thousands of genes. These genes control the features and everything to do with the offspring. Furthermore, features are either passed on fixed or in a state of constant change.

The first example where the feature is fixed is called **Discontinuous Variation**:-this is where there is no variation passed on to the offspring. My belief is this type of inheritance could be controlled by one single gene and therefore easy to predict and control. An example of this would be the Ino. or blue gene in Budgerigars. These features are passed on without change, in either a visual or latent state, they do not change they are either in the genes or they are not.

The second example which is technically called **Continuous Variation**:- is where the feature is passed on to the next Generation in a modified state, it is continuously changing from one generation to the next. This inheritance phenomena could be the result of the cumulative effect of many and possibly hundreds of genes, and maybe in the case of overall feather quality and features even thousands of genes. Consequently feather quality is virtually impossible to control or predict. Examples may help to explain, a Human finger print is continually changing, there are no two finger prints on Earth the same. Human height is another good example of continuous variation. This is how feather is inherited, in a constant state of variation. So each birds feather in the nest is, if you like is a mutation of its parents feathers and **each offspring will be different**.

If we take feather as a two dimensional object i.e. just length and width, you can see we have two factors are in a state of continuous variation, within maximum and minimum parameters. Leaving aside all the other dimensions and features of feathers which could also be in a state of constant change. I would suggest this is why when we pair two lovely birds together we can, and most of the time do, breed less than desirable youngsters! Could this also be why it is so hard to get any continuity of quality in your nests?

"If the above is the case, why bother", I hear you say. Well lucky for us, as we know some human parents have a tendency to produce above average height. As it turns out we also have families of budgerigars or individuals for that matter, that tend towards producing excellent quality youngsters, with favorable feather characteristics. It is our responsibility to identify these families or individuals and concentrate our efforts into them. These good families will still throw out poor babies periodically because you are working against Mother Nature.

Continuous Variation is in essence the basis of Darwin's Law of Evolution. Survival of the fittest. If species were not in a state of constant variation there would not be the genetic diversity within the species in order for it to survive in a continually changing environment.

Remember you are fighting against 4 million years of evolution, thus the birds readiness to revert to it's natural wild state. Quality can only be maintained and improved with attention to detail, keen observation and sensible well thought out actions. Finally you must select for and concentrate on FEATHER QUALITY!

(c) Robert Manvell

Useable tips for the experienced and novice members.

By: Jim Baker

This year I have learnt the hard way that effort or lack of, is what you put into your birds really does count.

In the early part of the year, and because I was heavily involved with the show committee in organizing the national show, things that I would normally do, like giving shell grit regularly, pink Pidgeon mineral powder, greens and just lack of attention generally.

In the last month I have got back to being normal and noticed a dramatic improvement in breeding.

1. Shell grit
2. Pink mineral Pidgeon powder
3. Green
4. Liquid gold oil mixed in seed
5. Tummy rite vitamin powder.

My JB'S Dry mix includes:

- 3 KGs Elenbee sunflower kernels
- 5 KGs Elenbee breakfast mix
- 5 KGs Elenbee fledgling mix
- 3 KGs Pet & Wire coarse egg & biscuit mix
- 4 KGs Turkey starter crumble
- 4 KGs Chicken starter
- Packet crushed weetbix multi grain (from supermarket)
- 3 x 750gram packets of fine breakfast oats

The total cost to me is approximately \$90.00 which lasts up to three months in the breeding season.

My second mix in a separate dish is 50% Grenfell Cool blend Horse multigrain and 50% Hulled oats and also have a good quality budgie seed mix on hand at all times.

Useful tips

- For general sick birds—Sulfa 3—1 drop near to the beak morning & night
- Sulfa 3 in water, correct dose for 1 week Vetafarm Ronivet S (available only by prescription)
- For young birds in the nest e.g. pale or dark coloured skin. I have had 90% success with COCCIVET (vetafarm) given to parents for a week.
- Mix and match young ones for size in nest.
- Do not take away too early, i.e.. After the hen lays her 2nd egg is a good indicator
- Nappy cage birds do not shift into a big flight too quickly. Young ones need to be 4 months old.
- Check nest boxes everyday
- French white millet sprays available daily after taking young ones away from parents.

I am happy to offer any more advice on request.

Budgerigar Society of NSW INC

Nomination form for the Annual Election of Office Bearers

Mark Finnimore BSNSW Secretary

PO BOX 5431

GREYSTANES NSW 2145

bsnswsecretary@budgerigar.com.au

Special Notes:

- *Completed nomination for the 2021 Annual Election of Office Bearers are to be forwarded to reach the BSNSW Secretary of the Society at the above address by **31st May 2021***
- *Nominee and both persons nominating must be financial members of the society*

PART A: NOMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT)

Name:	
Address	
Nominated for the society position	
Above nomination is made by	

PROPOSER		SECONDER	
NAME		NAME	
ADDRESS		ADDRESS	
SIGNATURE		SIGNATURE	
DATE		DATE	

PART B: (FOR SOCIETY USE ONLY) Actioned by the Secretary

Valid Nomination (Part A) received: (Form completed correctly and financial status checked)	YES/NO	
Nominee contacted and advised of the nomination	YES/NO	
Nominee accepts nomination and has indicated a willingness to stand for the nominated position	YES/NO	
Nomination details are included in notification to the members	YES/NO	
Nominee included on Ballot Paper for Postal Vote	YES/NO	
Nominee including position has been advised to the returning officer	YES/NO	

BSNSW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2021 - 2022

CONGRATULATIONS

PRESIDENT
Steve Wackwitz

**VICE
PRESIDENT**
Barry Wise

SECRETARY
Mark Finnemore

**VICE
PRESIDENT**
Stuart Williams

TREASURER
David Butters

**MINUTE
SECRETARY**
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OFFICER**
Ian Manton

**SHOW
MANAGER**
Jim Baker

**MEMBERSHIP
REGISTRAR**
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WEBMASTER
Robert Mead

EDITOR
Justin Magnee

**RING
REGISTRAR**
Robert Mead

**COLOUR AND
STANDARD**
Andre Ozoux

PUBLICITY
TBA

**RETURNING
OFFICER**
Andre Ozoux

SERVICES
TBA

TRUSTEE
TBA

BSNSW INC. WHAT'S ON! 2021

APRIL

Wollongong & District
Avicultural Society Inc.
and BSNSW Illawarra
Branch combined
show.

Saturday
24th

Bulli PCYC

NOVEMBER

Mid State Budgerigar
club annual show

6th

Orange
Showground,

MAY

Macarthur Branch
annual show

Sunday
2nd

AH & I Hall
Menangle Street,
Picton

JULY

Hills Branch Super
Budgerigar Auction

Cancelled

North Rocks

AUGUST

Pied society Annual
Auction

Sunday
29th

TBA

SEPTEMBER

Hunter Branch Annual
Show

19th

Thomas Morgan
Pavilion, Maitland
Showground

Budgerigar Improvement
Society Annual Show

25th

Gilgandra, NSW

OCTOBER

South Western
Budgerigar Society YBS

10th

June

**MORE
INFORMATION
COMING
SOON!**

Please make sure to send any intentional show dates to the Show manager,
once your dates are confirmed please forward these dates to the webmaster
and to the editor for insert into the correct places.

SPLAYED LEGS

By Dr Hamish Barron



There have been discussions on the Budgerigar Society Facebook page around the issue of splayed legs in budgerigar hatchlings and many questions posed as to how to overcome this problem in our breeding programmes.

Having also replied to several splayed leg posts on the Budgie Society of New Zealand Inc. Facebook page I think now is as good a time to address the reasons behind splayed legs in our birds.

The fact of the matter is, splayed legs in budgerigar chicks are not natural and it means that we as breeders are doing something wrong. For those new to the hobby or those who have yet to have a chick in a nest with splayed legs, I will introduce the concept and the pathophysiology first.

There are two types of splayed legs in budgerigars, the first is a congenital form (acquired before birth) where the chick hatches with mal-positioned legs, having been sitting in the egg in the wrong position. These chicks are unlikely to improve without immediate intervention, and even then, their prognosis is poor. The second type of splayed legs is an acquired form – this is the one that we can prevent (and treat) through better husbandry and management.

The Causes

So, what causes splayed legs? As I said, it is – more often than not - something that we are doing wrong. The most common cause is an incorrect diet that does not meet the metabolic requirements of the parents and, therefore, the babies. Most often it is attributed to a low calcium level in the diet, but it can also be related to protein levels and any other mineral required for correct bone formation. It is for this reason that feeding a complete diet **long before** the breeding season starts is so important. It is not suitable to start supplementing calcium and soft foods when we pair the birds up, or when the chicks hatch – the fact of the matter is, the nutrition that the hens are able to put into the yolk comes from the diet we feed long before they lay their eggs. Having yolks full of nutrients and energy is going to help with hatchability, as well as having healthy chicks in the nest box.

Hens that sit too tightly early on is something that we can address easily by either placing a block of wood at the edge of our concave or by placing a 20mm marble in the nest which does not allow the chicks to be squashed. Leaving un-hatched eggs in the nest allows newly hatched babies to have something to lean on and will also keep the hen from sitting too tightly. These do, however, end up getting very dirty and should be removed once the chicks are about 10 days old.

Lastly, the easiest way to avoid producing chicks with splayed legs is to have the correct substrate in our nest boxes. Every week I deal with breeders who got tired of refilling the nest with substrate after the hen had cleaned the box out – this is no excuse. Raising chicks on a wooden nest box floor is asking for trouble. Having done all the hard work to pair birds and to have had the eggs hatch, there is no excuse for not having substrate in the nest box. Most hens will forget about cleaning out the substrate once she has laid her first egg. We use pine wood shavings; I know of others who use coconut husks and peat. It is a matter of finding the substrate that works for you and providing it for the chicks to have something to grip on when they are moving around the nest.

Early Detection

If a chick of yours does develop splayed legs, if it is detected early enough it is easy enough to fix by placing a splint on their legs. There are various methods you can use but the most common is to use soft foam. I like the soft foam method but do find that sometimes the holes become too tight for the growing chick's legs. An alternative to this is a pipe cleaner or wool tied between the chick's legs.

Many breeders utilise their society rings and put a ring on either leg, this allows the legs to be tied together using a pipe cleaner, wool or string without risking making the loops too tight – it is a good idea if you have spare rings!

To repair splayed legs, it is best if the chick is on its back and there are two people as it makes it easier to bind the legs together.

Firstly, wrap the pipe cleaner around one leg just above the ankle and twist the pipe cleaner to make a loop around the ankle, not too tight but not loose enough for the chick to slip its foot out. Then put the legs together to just less than the normal standing position and wrap the pipe cleaner around the other leg making another loop around the ankle, making sure to cut off any excess pipe cleaner.

The splint will need to be left on for anything from a few days or up to three weeks depending on severity and the age of the chick. Remove the splint every few days to see if the chick can walk. If it is ok then leave the splint off and keep an eye on the chick's progress, but if the legs are still splayed then replace the splint.

Acknowledgement



Splayed Legs



Foam Splints

MACARTHUR BUDGERIGAR CLUB of NSW Inc.
(Formerly BSNSW Inc. – Macarthur Branch)

2021 ANNUAL SHOW
Sunday 2nd May 2021

SPONSORED BY AVIONE

Picton A H & I Society Hall,
Menangle Street, PICTON

Judges: Wayne Doull, Mario Capasso, Kathy Manton.

\$265.00 cash prizes in total for NOVICE major award winners.
All Novice exhibitors receive a products pack from the major sponsor AVIONE.

BSNSW Inc. Members – Best of Variety in Show Competition.

Most Successful Macarthur/Non-Macarthur Novice Exhibitor.
Bob Bourke Trophy for Best Aust Goldenfaced Blue.
Clearwing Society Challenge Certificate Event.

Bacon and Egg Rolls available for Breakfast at a reasonable cost – Tea & Coffee included. BBQ LUNCH AVAILABLE.

Entries by email: davecbutters@yahoo.com.au
or Phone 0262413585 from 6.00pm,
Thursday 30th April 2020.

Schedules available by contacting-
David Butters (02) 62413585, 0458 575 270
Rachael Hawkins 0477 701 459 or downloading from
WHATS ON page at www.budgerigar.com.au.

BSNSW JUDGES PANEL

Senior Panel

Baker	Jim	Moorebank.	2170	0413980334	jimandbrendabaker@gmail.com
Bevan	Terry	Orange	2800	0263651131	heatherbdunn@bigpond.com
Bourne	Andrew	Wanniassa.ACT	2903	026231 8612	a.mbourne@iinet.net.au
Buckingham	Craig	Carlingford.	2118	0408602381	ultexp@bigpond.net.au
Capasso	Mario	Coombs ACT	2611	0411 012 415	mario.capasso@iag.com.au
Doull	Wayne	Lethbridge Park.	2770	0412312840	waynedoull@gmail.com
Gazzard	Gary	*** Louth Park	2320	0411 834690	garry.gazzard@bigpond.com.au
Manton	Kathy	O'Connell NSW	2795	0411 835 757	iankathymanton@bigpond.com
McCauley	Allen	*** Windang.	2528	024297 3914	almau7@bigpond.com
Ozoux	Andre	Gladesville.	2111	0418 272 870	idandre@iprimus.com.au
Painter	Jean	*** Colo Vale.	2575	024889 4926	jean.painter@bigpond.com
Reid	Allan	*** Pennant Hills.	2120	029449 4563	allanfreid@bigpond.com
Wilson	Warren	Croydon.	2132	029747 6642	warren@brasea.com
Wood	Geoff	Manila	2346	0437546800	
		*** Indicates ANBC Judge			

Panel

Butt	Tony	June	2663	0418 577 400	tony@tline.com.au
Matthews	James	Collector	2581	0411 050 849	jamesmatthews@mppl.net.au
Peffer	Rob	Molong	2866	044 766 9234	rjpeffer@hotmail.com
Wise	Barry	Bellbird Heights	2325	0458271504	bmwise@westnet.com.au

Probationary

Wilton	Mark	Kings Langley	2147	0438 567 820	mark@wilton-partners.com
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Cadet

Trainee Judges

Starcevic	Anthony	Berkeley	2506	0404698783	anthony_dana@bigpond.com
Wilson	Steven	Oran Park	2570	0414907415	steven@hotmail.com

Retired Senior Panel

Carter	John	Revesby	2212	0415050841	johncarterbnb@gmail.com
Hunt	Ron	*** Glenfield	2167	0296055473	
Nicholls	Keith	Nabiac	2312	026554 1688	knico2@bigpond.com

To book a judge for your show, please contact:

Mark Wilton
0438 567 820
mark@wilton-partners.com

A tip from our judges!

**A WELL PRESENTED BIRD,
MAKES YOUR BIRD STAND
OUT ON THE SHOW BENCH.**

AVIAN VETERINARIANS IN NSW AND SURROUNDS.

Avian Reptile and Exotic Pet Hospital

Address	415 Werombi Rd, Camden NSW 2570
Phone	(02) 4655 0798
Email	vetscience.areph@sydney.edu.au
Website	https://www.avianreptileandexoticpethospital.com.au/

Railway Row Veterinary Clinic

Address	1 Station St, Emu Plains NSW 2750
Phone	(02) 4735 3268
Email	INFO@RAILWAYROWVETS.COM.AU
Website	https://railwayrowvets.com.au/

Bird & Exotics Vet Sydney

Address	995 Bourke St, Waterloo, NSW, 2017
Phone	(02) 9319 6111
Email	clinic@birdvet.com.au
Website	https://www.birdexoticsvet.com.au/

Avian and Exotics Service

Address	335 Mona Vale Rd, Terrey Hills NSW 2084
Phone	(02) 9452 2933
Email	info@northsidevetspecialists.com.au
Website	https://avesvet.com.au/

Canley Heights Veterinary Clinic

Address	Canley Heights Veterinary Clinic, Shop 6, Harden Street & Avoca Rd, Canley Heights, NSW 2166
Phone	02 9604 9792
Website	https://www.localvet.com.au/canleyheights/Default.aspx

Cannon & Ball Veterinary Surgeons

Address	461 Crown St, West Wollongong NSW 2500
Phone	(02) 4229 8888
Email	N/A
Website	https://www.cbvets.com.au/

Carlingford Animal Hospital

Address	772 Pennant Hills Rd, Carlingford NSW 2118
Phone	(02) 9871 6036
Email	robmarshall@birdhealth.com.au
Website	https://www.birdhealth.com.au/

Practice name

Address	
Phone	
Email	
Website	

Practice name

Address	
Phone	
Email	
Website	

Practice name

Address	
Phone	
Email	
Website	

South Western NSW Annual Young Bird Show 2019

Revisited

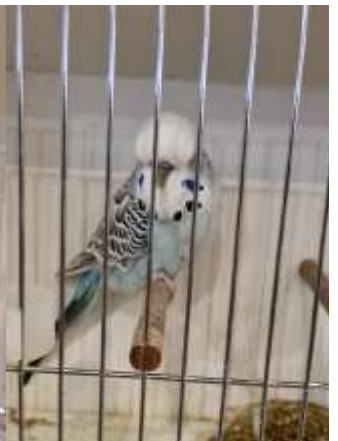
Our 2019 inaugural Spring Show was well received by members and exhibitors which was held on Sunday 22nd September. Exhibitors travelled from Sydney, Canberra and surrounding areas. With 231 birds from 22 exhibitors the judges Mario Capasso and Andrew Bourne had a steady flow of birds to judge. Well done to all the winners on the day and a full list is attached to the newsletter.



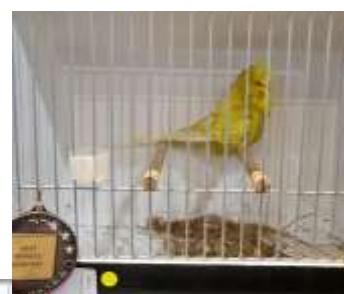
Champion Young bird in show	Cookee
Champion Juvenile	James Matthews
Res Champion Juvenile	Eric Whitton
Best Clearwing in show	James Matthews
Best Crested in show	Forster & Corbett
Champion open young	Cookee
Champion open young opp sex	James Matthews
Champion intermediate	Steve Thomas
Champion intermediate opp sex	Steve Thomas
Champion novice	Eric Whitton
Champion novice opp sex	Eric Whitton
BOV Normal green	Forster & Corbett
BOV Normal grey green	Eric Whitton
BOV Normal blue	Eric Whitton
BOV Normal violet	Jim Baker
BOV Normal grey	Geoff & Ann Hand
BOV Normal Aust Goldenface	Eric Whitton
BOV Black eyed self	James Matthews
BOV Dilute	David Bozz
BOV Lutino	Dianne Pinney
BOV Albino	Simon Woods
BOV Dark eyed clear	Hilton Smith
BOV Clearwing ASC	James Matthews
BOV Greywing ASC	James Matthews
BOV Cinnamonwing	James Matthews
BOV Spangle DF	Tony Butt
BOV Opaline ASC	James Matthews
BOV Opaline AOSV/ASC	James Matthews
BOV Clearbody ASV/ASC	Jim Baker
BOV Lacewing	Jim Baker
BOV Fallow ASV/ASC	Eric Whitton
BOV Spangle normal	James Matthews
BOV Spangle ASOV/ASC	Cookee
BOV Dominant Pied ASV/ASC	Eric Whitton
BOV Danish Recessive Pied	Tony Butt
BOV Darkwing	Pam Hewitt
BOV Crested ASV/ASC	Forster & Corbett
BOV Whitecap	Bob Pitt



South Western NSW Annual Show 2021



Grand Champion	Tony Butt	Best of Variety Clearbody	Jim Baker
Champion Any Age	Tony Butt	Best of Variety Lacewing	Andrew Cusack
Champion Any Age Opposite Sex	James Matthews	Best of Variety Fallow	Eric Whitton
Reserve Champion Any Age Cock	Wayne Cusack	Best of Variety Spangle Normal	James Matthews
Reserve Champion Any Age Hen	Eric Whitton	Best of Variety Spangle AOSV ACS	Eric Whitton
Champion Open Young	David Kelleher	Best of Variety Aust Band dom pied	Eric Whitton
Champion Open Young Op Sex	Tony Butt	Best of Variety Dutch Pied	Bob Pitt
Res Champion Open Young Cock	Tony Butt	Best of Variety Dom Pied clear flight	John Carter
Res Champion Open Young Hen	Gary Pymont	Best of Variety variegated dom pied	Eric Whitton
Champion Intermediate Young	Eric Whitton	Best of Variety df dom pied	Bob Pitt
Champion Intermediate Young Op Sex	H & E French	Best of Variety Danish rec dom pied	Tony Butt
Res Champion Intermediate Young Cock	H & E French	Best of Variety Darkwing ASC	Pam Hewitt
Res Champion Intermediate Young Hen	Eric Whitton	Best of Variety Crested ASV ASC	Stuart Foster
Champion Novice Young	Jessica Woodlands	Best of Variety Whitecap	Jim Baker
Champion Novice Young Op Sex	Jessica Woodlands	Special Awards	
Res Champion Novice Young Cock	Jessica Woodlands	Best Novice Normal Grey ASC	Jessica Woodlands
Res Champion Novice Young Hen	Jessica Woodlands	Best Pairs One sc One sv hen&cock	Stuart Foster
Champion Juvenile	Eric Whitton		
Res Champion Juvenile	Eric Whitton		
Champion Dom Pied in show	Eric Whitton		
Champion Young bird in show	David Kelleher		
Best crested in show	Stuart Foster		
Best clearwing in show	Andrew Cusack		
Best of Variety Normal Green	Tony Butt		
Best of Variety Normal Grey Green	David Kelleher		
Best of Variety Normal Blue	Wayne Cusack		
Best of Variety Normal Violet	H & E French		
Best of Variety Normal Grey	Gary Pymont		
Best of Variety Normal Yellowface	Mark Chandler		
Best of Variety Normal Australian Goldenface	Eric Whitton		
Best of Variety Black eyed self	Wayne Cusack		
Best of Variety Dilute	Wayne Cusack		
Best of Variety Lutino	D & G Pinney		
Best of Variety Dark eyed clear	Bob Pitt		
Best of Variety Clearwing	Andrew Cusack		
Best of Variety Greywing	James Matthews		
Best of Variety Cinnamonwing	Jim Baker		
Best of Variety Spangle DF	Tony Butt		
Best of Variety Opaline	Mark Chandler		
Best of Variety Opaline AOSV ASC	Wayne Cusack		



Penalty and Disqualification Clause for Head Marking

As of January 1st 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

Head Markings—HEAVY



Property of the BSNSW Inc. 2020

Head Markings—LIGHT



Below is the Penalty and Disqualification Clause in Standard at present

Extract from the current ANBC Standard

Heavy Head Markings:

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

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