

BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

March / April 2022

Budgie Digest

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**BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**

Meeting Place: Unley Community Centre, 18 Arthur Street Unley

First Tuesday of each Month at 7:30 PM

Club website: www.bssainc.org.au

This Week's
Auction





Letter from the President

Hi Members, and welcome to the first prototype edition of the "Budgie Digest". Our Digest was first published in 1970, and was religiously published every second month until we hit Covid. During the peak of Covid in 2020, 2021 and now into 2022, quite simply communicating with our members

every 2 months was far too slow, and we had to find alternatives. Some positives out of Covid were our Facebook page being used to the point where it has almost 2000 members, our C32 auctions and much improved regular communication to our membership using email and our website.

However, we do not want to lose our past and history, so at the AGM in February, we spoke about our Budgie Digest being on the agenda for 2022 with a new and improved format. So now, it is over to the members to send us some commentary on this edition of the Digest. Whether it be a letter to the editor, an article you would like published, or a suggestion on a topic you might like to see in here, please pass them kerrymurphy@ozemail.com.au.

Next week, we have our April Club Meeting on Tuesday 5 April @ 7.30pm at the Unley Community Centre. Our Next Club Meeting will feature a mini show and the topic "5 golden rules of budgie breeding" will be our entertainment for the evening. More details are provided further into the Budgie Digest, or you can check out the BSSA website for further information.

Last Saturday, we held the Murphy Classic Show, our first show for the year. The Murphy Classic is for Intermediate, Novice and Junior exhibitors to showcase their birds, both old and young. Congratulations and a huge thankyou to all exhibitors, judges, stewards and helpers, with particular mention to Michael Smith and Gina & Ian Wise on their successes on the day. A full list of results is included in the Digest. A big thank you to our sponsors in Avian Vitality, Yankalilla Seeds and Natures Harvest for making the event possible.

In closing, there has been much chatter in the past few weeks about a mystery budgerigar disease that had the propensity to derail our 2022 National campaign. Whilst the exact cause and full details are still questionable, the topic of e-coli has been in the spotlight. An article from Vetafarm included in the Digest explains e-coli in some depth and describes some of the management techniques we can employ to minimise the impact of e-coli on our birds. If any of our members has any further information that has not been shared as yet, please do not hesitate to give me a call on my number below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Murphy'.

Chris Murphy | BSSA President

0409 799 627

April Meeting

Our meeting on April 5th will be two pronged. We will feature a Zoom video link up at the Unley Community Centre with ANBC Hall of Fame Breeders' Gary Gazzard from Newcastle, and Peter Thurn from Bacchus Marsh, along with several local breeders.

The topic for the evening will be the 5 Golden Rules of Breeding Budgerigars. We plan on having a robust discussion about those five rules, as each of the breeders argues their point about why their Golden Rules are more Golden than the others.

In addition to this, we will be having a mini-rare variety show. This will be a combined class event, with Novice, Intermediate and Open breeders all showing in the one class. We will have four classes total – Class 1 will be Black Eyed Self, Darkwing, Class 2 will feature Dilute, Clearwing & Greywing, Class 3 will be Fallow and Crested, and Class 4 will be Recessive Pieds. It's a great opportunity for our new members from the Come & Try night to get along and see some interesting varieties of budgerigars that they likely haven't seen before.

A "Bird of the Night" trophy will be available for each of the four classes, so be sure to get your birds on the bench for bragging rights. Bring them along in a standard Show Cage, preferably with a millet spray on the floor of each cage to make clean up easier at the end of the night. Stickers will be available on the evening and entries are \$1.00 per cage, up to a maximum of \$20. The event is open to both Young and Adult birds. We are eager to get as many rare (recessive) variety budgies along as possible on the evening.

May Meeting

On May 3rd, our monthly meeting at Unley Community Centre will feature be a BUY/SELL SWAP Meet.

Members are welcome to bring along birds, that can be sold by tender, or fixed price. Members are also encouraged to bring along any cages, budgerigar books, seed hoppers, and anything of the like that they might like to sell.

More details on the event will be available via the BSSA website and Facebook page.



5 GOLDEN RULES OF BREEDING

& a rare budgie mini show



**Featuring ANBC
Hall of Fame Breeders**



Peter Thurn



Gary Gazzard

7:30 pm 5th April 2022 at the Unley
Community Centre, 18 Arthur Street, Unley.

Annual Membership
Single Membership: \$20.00 | Family Membership: \$20.00 | Junior Membership: \$5.00

For more information, contact BSSA President Chris Murphy cmurphy68@msn.com
or BSSA Webmaster Jay Larkin 0404 337 445 | www.bssainc.org.au



Pairing Exhibition Budgerigars

Pairing birds and seeing the results of any given pairing is the part of the hobby that keeps me engaged. It's something that I am incredibly passionate about. My confidence in pairing comes through observing features and visiting a lot of bird rooms around the world, taking a keen interest in at least the two generations behind a super budgerigar, not just the bird itself. However, it was probably a stroke of luck in a visit to Mike Ball in the UK on a day that he was pairing that really gave me the confidence to have faith in the strategy that I will outline here. Now, at least once a year, I get to indulge and have Mark Fellows and Gary Gazzard down for at least two days, and we go through the pairings, and mechanisms thereof in great detail, and I also get up to Gary's bird room in Newcastle, where I listen intently on why he put a pair together, as well as the results from the previous year's pairings. Being able to observe is a key element to success in any feature breeding program.

I subscribe to the notion that we are all guilty of "balancing" pairings by compensating, and this is where we go wrong. We dilute down features, so they don't reproduce with any intensity, and slowly fade away, so that within three generations, the outcross that we brought in for a feature has transitioned back to our old norm. When you average down, are you fighting against evolution, or giving into it? You're regressing. You need to concentrate the features. Everyone will warn you about flecking, and how not to breed

flecking, but nobody seems to understand the same principles that apply to not pairing flecked birds together apply to locking in a good feature – "don't pair two flecked birds together, or you will lock in the flecking, and they'll only breed flecked birds", YET nobody seems to be able to apply the same principal to good features, like head feather, to only breed birds with good head feather. I find a great deal of interest in reading old articles and books about Ken Farmer in the UK in the 50's and the way he and Frank Wait tackled extracting features out of the unattractive long flight, by using the long flight for the extra feather length, and then getting rid of the long flights while keeping the long feather. Selective, concentrated pairings. Similarly, Ms Moss - Gerald Binks described her as "one of those breeders who worked with her birds but always with a very strict eye which was based on what she had in her mind's eye and way ahead of what she had in her aviary. Few breeders do that".

Now, everyone knows how to breed a flecked bird. Its easy. Getting the flecking out of birds is hard work, but it can be done. I've listed four statements here that I've heard budgerigar fanciers use to help people navigate the issue of flecking. I commonly hear the following in budgerigar circles:

- "Avoid using flecked birds all together (avoid the problem)"
- "Don't pair two flecked birds together"
- "Don't pair a flecked bird into a bird from a family with flecking"
- "To breed flecking out of a bird, pair it to a bird from a clean line. The first generation might be flecked, but then pair those into non-flecked birds again, and the majority should be not be flecked."

In each of the above, I've highlighted the word flecking, or flecked. Let's do this simple trick, and change only the word flecking or flecked, and let's make it "good faced". Let's change the fault to a feature. Good face is a very broad term. When we talk about good face, we could be referring

to width of cap, the blow, the directional feather over the eye that creates the brow, the lateral feather out from the cere, the feather down the side of the beak that creates the width of face, the disassociation of the feathers around the cheek patch that create the owling effect, or the depth of mask and the balance between it and the height of the cap. But for simple explanation purposes, we can just bundle them all together and call them "good face". So, how we NOT breed "good face"?

- "Avoid using good-faced birds all together (avoid the feature)"
- "Don't pair two good-faced birds together"
- "Don't pair a good-faced bird into a bird from a family with good-face"
- "To breed good-faced out of a bird, pair it to a bird from a non-good faced line. The first generation might be good-faced, but then pair those into non-good-faced birds again, and the majority should not be good-faced"

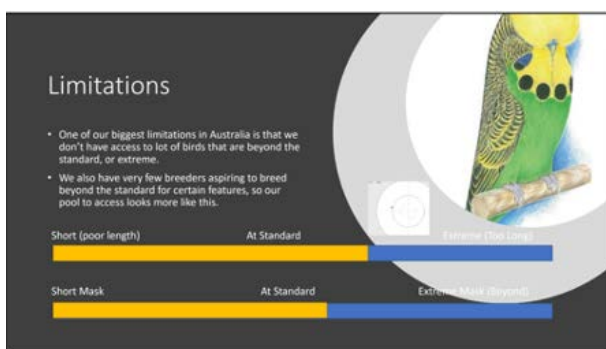
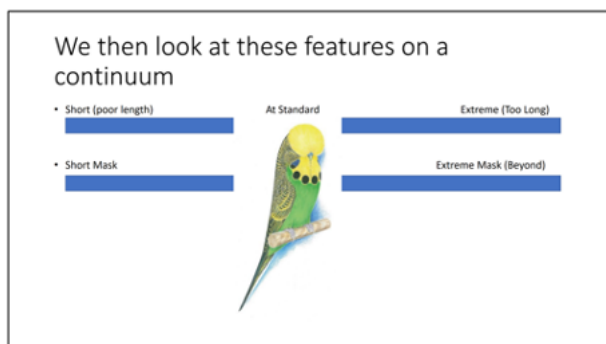
What are we seeing here? Averaging down. Conceding ground. I've seen so many breeders who take a big cock, and a small hen, because its easy to get her to breed, and they average down. Some of those chicks may be big, but do you really think those babies be pre-disposed to consistently breeding big birds like the father when they mature? Unlikely. Just the same way as we treat a fault like flecking. Except we want to treat a feature in entirely the opposite way to a fault. I subscribe to the notion that we are all guilty of "balancing" pairings by compensating, and this is where we go wrong. We dilute down features, so they don't reproduce with any intensity, and slowly fade away, so that within three generations, the outcross that we brought in for a feature has transitioned back to our old norm because of our subconscious habits that define us as breeders. You need to concentrate the features. Everyone will warn you about a fault, and how not to ingrain that fault in your stud, but nobody seems to understand the same principles in the opposite direction apply to locking in a good feature –

don't pair two flecked birds together, or you will lock in the flecking, and they'll only breed flecked birds, YET nobody seems to be able to apply the same principal to head feather, where we DO want to pair these two birds together to lock it in. Breeders will compliment the pairing first, before they consider consolidation and concentration. Its natural instinct for many breeders, who just maintain the status quo.

I've seen many breeders who are afraid to breed a big bird to another big bird. The key is getting the birds right to breed by identifying when they're ready and having in place an associated feeding program to support this – I can't convey enough how important this is.

So, how do we specifically concentrate? We take a stud cock, and look at what its features are. The metrics I use are length, shoulder, mask, spot, brow, directional feather, back-skull, height above the eye, width of head, width of face, and style (particularly how it stands off the perch). A couple of key ones missing here are variety, and wing carriage, but specifically for the later, my self-awareness doesn't allow me to use birds with poor wings often (they're unsightly and not attractive to me in the aviary). So, I look at the stud cock, and I identify its strengths, and its weaknesses. Ideally, the bird wants to be as close to the ideal as possible. Rather than being vague and aloof, I would use examples to show how I develop this model. I take the stud cock, and I critically aware of any weaknesses, as I can concentrate a fault just as easily as I can concentrate a weakness. So, I am looking for the following metrics:

- length,
- mask,
- brow,
- back-skull,
- width of head,
- and style (particularly how it stands off the perch)
- shoulder,
- spot,
- directional feather,
- height above the eye,
- width of face,



Now, you may be sitting there saying this is great in theory, but our pool is limited by what we can use. I mean, where do we find extreme, and “past the standard”? Our genetic pool in Australia is limited by the fact that we can't import birds like our overseas colleagues can, but I think the fundamental mistake is what we are not aspiring to breed birds well beyond the standard – what we call extreme.

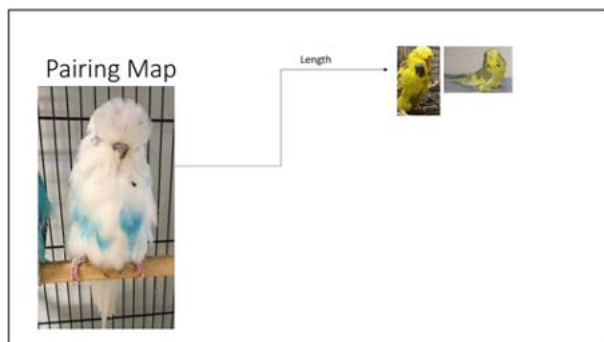
When you see what Mike Ball and people of the like are doing in Europe, and what we call extreme, the two are poles apart. One of the key successes Gary Gazzard reiterated to me when the first imports came into Australia in the early 90's was that he bred some birds well ahead of their time by pooling some of the best genetic material available from overseas. Gary attributed this to the fact that some of the top overseas breeders wouldn't necessarily work together. By pooling some of our best birds, we can do so much more with the genetic pool on offer. Working together is one of our keys to success. I don't believe that it is a case that we need an enormous number of cabinets in the hope of producing 10 to 15% of birds worth keeping, because we couldn't have intent with that many cabinets, and I struggle to believe that we would have quality at the extent

that we need to move forward that will fill all of those cabinets. In fact, we want the reverse. We want to only have 10 to 15% of the birds to dispose of, because the quality is on point. Some of the best breeders only have a small number of cabinets, as it keeps the quality very high.

So, let's look at a consolidation feature – length. In my aviary, I need to find the longest hen, that is consolidated for length. I can't just find a long bird – that won't do. I need a long bird, bred from long birds, that is going to preproduce length. In my situation, I went outside my aviary, to a trusted friend, Wally Capper, for one of my three. We all have nuances as breeders, and Wally's is that he breeds big birds. Others you might consider are Tony Appleton, Kelwyn, Henry George, Jeffrey Leong, John Ennis, Peter Thurn, Craig Barnett, Mick Gearing, Norm Wheatley, Mark Hawke or Wayne Weidenhofer amongst others. Whether these guys like it or not, they tend not to suffer a small bird, and if you listen long enough, you'll find the line share of them use the term “Big Bastard” very affectionately. Wally's National Winning hen line is a line of big birds, bred in conjunction with Craig Barnett. They are a good, strong bird, with shoulder and good bone structure. In my mind, I line up the top three hens I can establish for length:

- Cinnamon Grey Green Hen 15/080
- Opaline Cinnamon Hen – WAL 16/071
- Cinnamon Grey Green Pied Hen –16/093





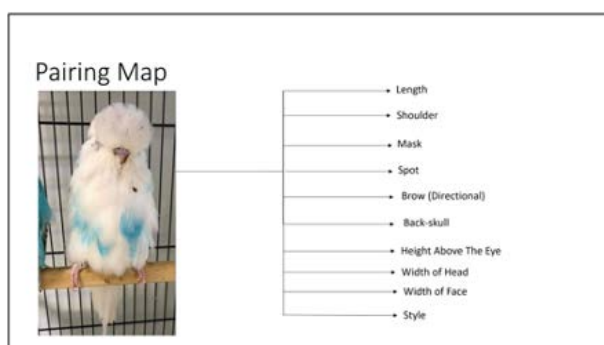
Using what I have flagged, I begin to create a “pairing map” which becomes a ring number matrix.

I start identifying up to three birds (and if the three birds don’t make the grade, the number is less – ruthless is best!). This helps me identify up to three hens I would pair to that cock, to improve that feature on him.

I have to stress that it is to IMPROVE, not to maintain, or worse still, to dilute it down, or weaken it. Where is my longest hen in the aviary, bred from long birds, that is from a line of long birds?

I then look at the second feature – shoulder, and I work my way through my birds trying to locate the best shouldered birds. In this instance, I have to be honest, and it may be that I only have one hen on the premises that is going to improve his shoulder. Again, I have to stress that it is to IMPROVE, not to maintain, or worse still, to dilute it down, or weaken it, relative to this specific cock. Where this helps me (as a side note) is making me critically aware of what I might need to find if I visit someone else’s stud, or an auction.

As I work my way through all of the attributes, I create a table of features to go to this particular bird, and where it becomes very interesting is where the same hen appears in multiple categories. This hen then becomes a MUST to pair to this cock.



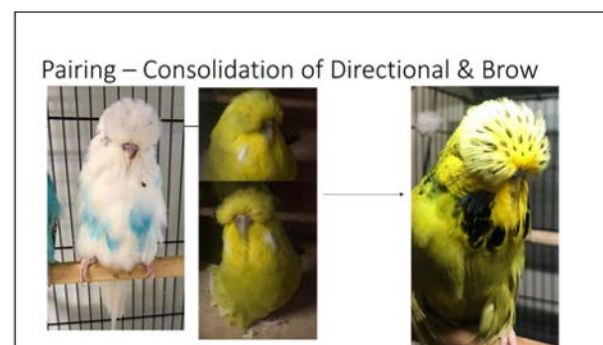
Pairing Map

	Hen 1	Hen 2	Hen 3
Length	15/080	WAL 15/071	16/093
Shoulder	15/2129	16/021	17/121
Mask	WAL 15/071	16/043	17/099
Spot	17/043	15/8149	17/046
Brow	16/NO RING	16/002	17/048
Directional Feather	16/NO RING	17/020	18/019
Backskull	15/238	WAL 15/071	18/022
Height above the eye	16/049	15/238	15/20266
Width of Skull	17/001	16/1	
Width of Face	16/007	18/080	
Style/Plume	17/023	18/033	16/212
Feather Texture	18/031	17/093	17/028
Cleanliness	16/155	15/2129	17/007

This table becomes a very interesting tool. I’ve identified only the single feature of a hen to go with this cock that will improve his feature. I’ve been very honest, and said that I only have one hen in the aviary capable of improving his width. So when I am out and about, and I am looking at the budgerigar auctions, or aviary visits, my focus is on finding birds with the best possible natural width of skull, that I can bring in to improve this guy.

Now, what my table also does is show where a bird appears multiple times. This becomes a priority pairing. Right now, WAL 15/071 appears three times, as a hen that will consolidate length, mask and backskull. 16/NO RING is also on there twice as a hen with brow and directional feathering, as is 15/238 ad 15/2129.

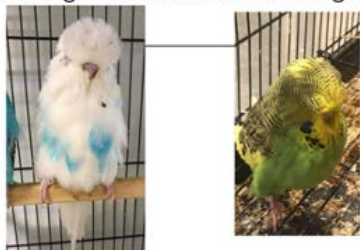
As we identify each of these traits, you can see at times, there is a double up, where the same bird is repeated as a bird that may have the best brow over the eye (forming that chiselled look), as well as being the best directional feather in the stud. In my mind, these are really important birds that we seriously want to consider the pairing thereof. Eventually, in a perfect world, we want to consolidate all of the features in one pairing. In reality, the cock can’t run over an infinite number of hens in a season, so with these pairs in mind, let’s look at the outcomes.



So we start to pair the birds. Our brow to brow concentration, as well as our direction feather to directional feather concentration pair is the stud cock 16671 to HOL 16/NO RING, and we breed a bird that not only has super brow and directional feather, but it is also big. Now, here is where being honest is so important. Is that bird big – the answer is YES, but is that bird consolidated for BIG? The answer is NO. This bird hasn't been bred from a size to size pairing. The mother wasn't small by any stretch, but she wasn't the hen identified for size, so the size of this baby is a pure bonus, and can't be relied upon for size. The baby in this instance is HOL 18/017. He is flecked. When we consider the iterative process of him moving forward, all the partners we identify for the features can't double up on the flecking attribute.

When I am looking at brow, the strength in this typically comes from finding a breeder who repeats pairings of birds with brow to brow – who has inadvertently concentrated this over time, whether openly, or subconsciously. In my mind, Gary Gazzard has some super-strong face in his birds, and particularly those associated with Blue and Orange lines, as well as in later years, birds bred from 75 and 57. In years prior, I had bred a hen I considered to have super brow: HOL 16 Spangle Opaline Cinnamon Grey Green Hen, which goes back to Gary's BLUE line.

Pairing – Consolidation of Length, Mask & Skull



Pairing – Consolidation of Backskull & Blow

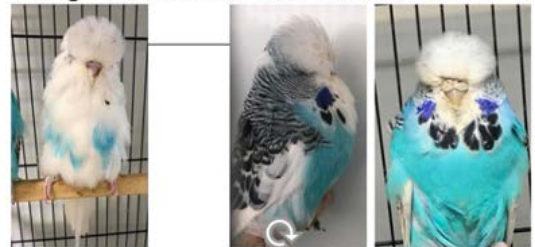


In parallel, 16671 is paired to the Cinnamon Grey Green sibling to Wally's National winner. She is a big hen, from a big nest, with excellent shoulder. She breeds three chicks, all of good size and length, AND reasonable facial characteristics. These birds are consolidated for size and shoulder, but can't be relied upon for other features unless they are doubled up.

To 15/238, a hen who has bred super backskull and blow on her chicks, the outcome is shown as consolidation or backskull and brow.

To the hen that was identified for cleanliness and shoulder, these two birds (amongst others) were bred.

Pairing – Consolidation of Shoulder & Cleanliness



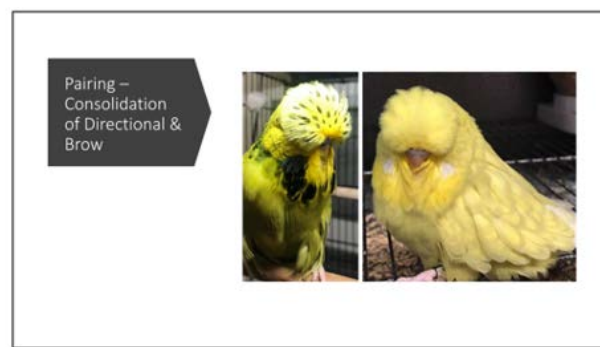
The beauty of the matrix is that it gives us a really clear picture of which birds we are likely to you the next year, and helps us ask the question, why am I actually keeping this bird. It also helps us understand if a bird "breeds true". At the same time, we get the ability to understand what we might need in the way of new additions, or outcrosses, to fill voids – in my case, the natural skeletal width in the cap.

This becomes a map, and when we have time to really sit down and consider these pairings, and

where the priority for a hen has to go (who ends up with who). It also provides a great reflection tool, for the heat of the moment, when you go to re-pair two different birds in the middle of the breeding season, having a “strategy” document by identifying three hens, and not just one.

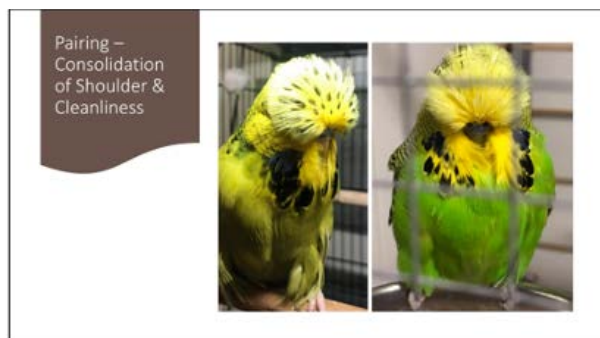
The process has to be an iterative one, where each year, we strive to improve. So in 2019, the focus becomes 18/017, and not 16671. That's not to say 16671 isn't used – but the focus for moving forward becomes the next generation bird. However, he has a massive limitation in that I can't pair flecked to flecked, so I need to create his matrix with this in mind.

So in 2019, 18/017 is placed into the matrix, the son of 16671 and the HOL 16 Spangle Opaline Cinnamon hen. We consider the longest hen he can be bred to, it is still the sister to Wally's National winning hen that was previously paired to 18/017's father from the year prior. This same pairing applies to the shoulder, as this hen is very strong in this area also. The pairing of 18/017 and the Cinnamon Grey Green hen produces birds that are likely consolidated for size and shoulder. At the same time, they have brilliant backskull, which is a trait of those particular Capper birds, who release their heads from the mantle v-area near the wings. At the same time, because their father has been consolidated for brow and direction feather, this has been imprinted onto the babies also, so these will be a step ahead of him.



It is important, knowing that this bird is consolidated for directional feather and brow, that we double it up again. In this instance, 18/017 was bred to a bird down from Gary Gazzard's 75, who in my opinion has one of the strongest faces this country has seen. One of the chicks is shown here from the pairing of 18/017 to a Grand-daughter of 75. This bird will be a good sized hen, but her importance is linked to the fact that she is consolidated for directional feather and brow. I believe that because she is a double up of a double up, she should reproduce directional feather and brow in almost all of her pairings once she matures. In effect, she will be “prepotent” by selection, not chance.

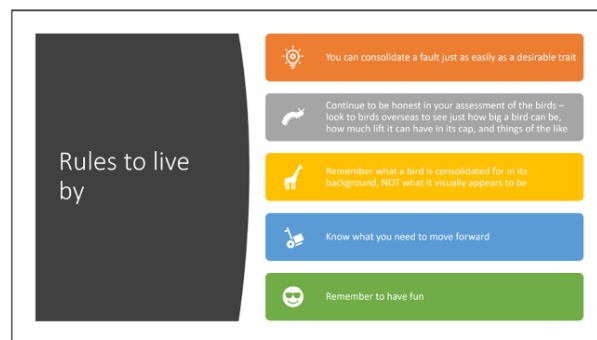
In this instance, again I am showing a real life example of the outcome of pairing him to a bird consolidated for cleanliness and shoulder. The mother was a light green spangle, a half sister to the national winning grey green by the same sire. The pairing was consolidated for shoulder and cleanliness, making her eligible to be paired to him to consolidate this feature.



What having these consolidated birds does is allow the breeder to go out and “tap” a bird for a feature, whether it be consolidated mask, width, or something of the like. I am a firm believer that prepotency doesn’t happen by accident – being prepotent for a feature is simply a result of concentrating a feature over and over again – doubling up.

The beauty of working this strategy is that it can also provide very clear and concise insight into what a breeder needs to be on the look out for as an outcross, as well as providing a very real tool for culling birds, as you identify what you will use, inadvertently leaving behind those that aren’t required. When considering this pairing strategy, there are some important rules to live by:

1. You can consolidate a fault just as easily as a desirable trait
2. Continue to be honest in your assessment of the birds – look to birds overseas to see just how big a bird can be, how much lift it can have in its cap, and things of the like
3. Remember what a bird is consolidated for in its background, NOT necessarily what it visually appears to be (if it shows that feature)
4. Know what you need to move forward
5. Remember to have fun



In conclusion, strategic pairing for a purpose can provide a great structure for understanding your stud, and consolidating features. Pairing tools can be employed not only for possible matings, but also for identifying surplus birds, and features required in outcrosses. For any pairing strategy to be successful, it is underpinned by an honest assessment of the birds, and most importantly, a great understanding of your birds. Challenge yourself, and in your head, identify the best hen and best cock in your aviary for blow. Then identify the best capped cock and hen in your aviary, and tell me about why you haven’t paired them yet. Start to think about where your birds fit in the matrix and what each one has to offer, and suddenly you’ll start to get a lot more clarity on where the pieces of the mosaic fit when creating the ideal budgerigar.

Show Dates for 2022

Sunday
1 May

**Stan Watson
Breeders Show**
@
Westbourne Park
Memorial Hall,
388 Goodwood
Road.

Sunday
22 May

Logan Shield
@
Enfield Community
Centre,
540 Regency
Road, Enfield
(hosted by
the BCSA)

Saturday
& Sunday
28 & 29 May

**2022 Australian
National
Budgerigar
Championship
Show**
@
Victor Harbor
Convention Centre

Sunday
12 June

**Ron Norman
Annual Show**
@
Westbourne Park
Memorial Hall,
388 Goodwood
Road.

Sunday
30 October

**Interclub
Challenge with
North East
Budgerigar
Society**
@
Westbourne Park
Memorial Hall,
388 Goodwood
Road.

Preparing Birds for Show

An interesting comment was overhead from one NSW fancier to his Victorian counterpart — “you know, the difference between our states really is Ian Hannington”. The other nodded in agreement.

Ian Hannington, or “Hanno”, as he is affectionately known, is an ANBC Hall of Famer, with 14 Logie wins, 8 of which were in the Fallow class. Ian was also the NSW bird carer for the National titles, a role which he flourished in for many years. In this position, he was responsible for the preparation of the birds, from their selection at the NSW Interbranch Show, through until caging at the ANBC show the following week. He is generally assisted by two others at each event, but year in, year out, he provides a solid preparation routine that gives the NSW birds every chance of winning.

Given Ian’s reputation for preparing birds, and the upcoming show season, it was pertinent to detail what it is that he does with the birds to “get them right”. Ian’s response is below:

1. Select the birds you wish to show at least 5 to 6 weeks prior to your club selection. Remember at all times that the more birds your club has to pick from, the more points it will gain on the day. Please, don’t pre-judge your own birds before hand, as they only have to be better than 1 other bird in the class to gain an extra point.

Carefully spread the flights of each of the selected birds & check them for feather mites & lice by holding them up to the sun or a strong light, if they are present you will clearly see them along the barbs of the feathers. One thing which we all should remember is that, quality birds are far more wide spread now than in years gone by, so if you want the best result possible on the day, the effort must be put in during the weeks leading up to the show.



2. Place the selected birds in a wire cage/cages & spray them all with Coopex Residual Insecticide, At the dose rate recommended by the manufacturer on the sachet.
3. Leave the cage, preferably in the sunlight, until the birds are completely dry. You may have to keep a close eye on any Red Eyed varieties, because I have found in the past that some times if the birds are not accustomed to direct sunlight, it can have an adverse effect on them & they may begin to scratch at their eyes, causing all sorts of future problems for showing.
4. I have on 2 separate occasions, pulled tail feathers in preparation for shows & both times the birds have not grown a tail again, so for me, I no longer do this. Some people cut the main 2 feathers with scissors, causing the bird to drop them of there own accord, once again this is something for you to make up your own mind about. Any broken or damaged flight feathers must be seen to at the same time.
5. I believe that there is nothing like plenty of water sprays to get the birds into condition, & for this reason I spray my birds at least once a day, sometimes twice if I feel they need it. Leaving them in the sun helps them to dry out in a short time, but always be cautious of the

affect the sun may have as well as native birds such as Butcher Birds, etc.

6. If a particular bird is extremely dirty, or has stained feathers, it may be necessary to wash them with a mild shampoo, such as Pears Baby Shampoo, and then continue to spray with fresh cold water every day along with the others. I quite often use the tooth brush on the birds without using water. This is mainly on the head & neck area, always brushing with the grain of the feathers. Any new head & mask feathers can be coaxed to open at this time with the use of a tooth brush, personally I like to keep 3 different brushes available at all times. The first one is used on the vent area only, the other 2 are used where ever they are needed on the rest of the bird. One of them is a medium & the other one is a soft tooth brush. The soft one is usually the main one used towards the end of the preparation period.
7. Care must be taken at this stage to avoid the confined birds from becoming overweight due to the lack of exercise. Plenty of millet sprays can help, as the birds spend a certain amount of time fossicking around the floor of the cage instead of just standing at the seed bowl.
8. The birds should not be spotted before your club selection, or you may find that in 2 weeks time, if the bird is selected for the National Show, it may not have the correct amount of spots available on the day. All the team should be spotted on the Wednesday night or Thursday morning prior to the Interbranch Selection only. If you are not confident about doing your own birds, ask someone with a bit more experience to show you how, or have them do it for you. Personally I prefer to use a pair of surgical tweezers, the reason being they have a finer point on them & there is less chance of me pulling the wrong feathers out by accident. Although I have witnessed people doing this job extremely well just using their fingers.
9. I continue to spray my birds right up until the day before the show, I have been told that this doesn't allow the bird's time to get the sheen on their feathers that they require for showing, but the last 2/3 days, the sprays they get are more of a mist instead of a spray.
10. The final job as far as preparation goes is to put a small amount of Baby Oil on the beak, cere & feet, (if you hold the bird close to your chest they will usually grab your shirt with their feet, which makes this operation really simple) this is done with a cotton bud, & only a very small amount of oil is needed, take care not to put too much on the cotton bud. The bird's tail is then dipped into a container of boiling water, for approx. 5 seconds, wipe the excess water off with a clean white towel in the direction of the feathers, i.e. towards the tip of the tail.
11. Before placing the bird in the cage, check that your show cage is in good condition & clean. Put approx 500 grams of clean seed into the cage while holding it flat on its back, turn the cage up to the correct position, & blow the loose husk off the back of the cage. I have at times seen excellent birds benched in disgusting cages & this certainly doesn't create a good impression on the Judge the first time he looks at the cage.

If you follow these few simple steps during your preparation period you will make life much easier for your team carers during the final days prior to the National being held. At the same time, you'll give your bird every chance of a the greatest prize of all, a National Logie.



Official update on the ANBC National Show Schedule for May 28th & 29th 2022

As many are now aware the National Championship Show for 2022 has been reviewed regarding the initial cancellation and a revised format event is proceeding by the BCSA with the activity held in a far more reduced format than is usual.

The event is now scheduled to be held at Victor Harbor, a picturesque country seaside town south of Adelaide around 60 minutes' drive from the Adelaide Airport.

The venue will be the Victor Harbor Convention Centre part of the McCracken Country Club, McCracken Drive, Victor Harbor SA 5211 and all seven states and zones have agreed to participate and we are thankful for that overall response. Our main aim is to stage an event where all states and zones can participate however with this Covid Pandemic in full swing we have had to make drastic changes to the actual activities.

Key components to these changes are as follows –

There will be NO visitors or attendees to the event other those with official roles to facilitate the operational activities. This includes that same restriction for our local members.

The venue is not sufficient in size to expand visitor entry due to density limits and while we apologise for this strict ruling it was either full entry which would mean no event at this venue or strict controls to hold the event for the benefit of all to some degree.

The event will be further restricted numerically to three bird handlers only from each state or zone to control their respective teams. Detailed instructions will issue to states and zones on this aspect of the event as the vagaries of distance must now be accounted for unlike the events in SA in the past. Bird handlers will be made fully aware of requirements in separate direct memos regarding transport, identification and Covid.

Strict Covid measures will be applied to every person attending – even those in working roles. Masks and RAT daily tests will apply during the event. These conditions are currently in play in SA at present and are also an integral part of the venues current protocols. Any carers that are not yet fully vaccinated (2+1) need to act promptly to comply with the strict conditions. Put simply no JAB no ENTRY. Health and safety is paramount to the National event proceeding.

Four Judging sessions will remain however we may vary the number of classes per session to better suit timeframes

The usual bird auction will take place however this will be undertaken electronically with around 20 pairs from notable breeders listed on 32 Auctions for the BCSA. It will commence at the beginning of May and concluded on the Sunday of the Championship Show. There will be much less stress on the birds with no requirement for transport other than a final trip from the Breeder to the happy purchaser. This methodology may be adopted by others in the future and frees up

valuable time during the show weekend that is currently strained

Live Streaming will be the key element and will be free to every interested party.

There will be no peripheral meetings including the usual AGM with states and zones being informed of those future AGM timelines. Likely to be set around two weeks after the actual show.

We would again reiterate visitation restrictions will be in place to comply with density limitations.

Peter Glassenbury | President BCSA



E.coli - Myths and Misunderstandings

Many of us are using pathology to get a diagnosis of problems in our birds. We do this so that we can make informed decisions on the way to treat disease or how to prevent disease getting into our aviaries. Our intentions are good. What is causing alarm to me is the amount of misinformation and outright garbage being fed to the birdkeeper by people (including veterinarians) who should know better!

The classic example is the rubbish that is being peddled as "fact" about the bacteria E.coli. Lets look at this bacteria and try and get some things straight. For the sake of accuracy, the facts presented here have been checked and verified by a senior veterinary pathologist with a large Government laboratory.

What is an E.coli and where does it live?

E.coli. (*Escherichia coli*) is a member of a group of bacteria that live in the gut of most animals. Mammals have E.coli. in their intestines as part of their normal bacteria, this is why the Water Board measures E.coli. levels in drinking water. The number of E.coli. present give a guide as to the amount of faeces (of various animals) entering the water supply. The presence of the E.coli. itself is not a major concern, it is simply an indicator of contamination.

In birds this bacteria may or may not be a normal part of their gut. For example Psittacines (parrots) do not normally carry E.coli., whereas pigeons and poultry have it as a normal inhabitant of the intestine.

There are many strains of this bacteria, some can move themselves (motile) others cannot. Some have capsules around them, others do not. It is very difficult to know which of the many types of E.coli. that are found by simple cultures in the laboratory are a problem in birds.

The strains of E.coli that affect man and other mammals may not be a problem in birds! They seem to have a different set of E.coli. that act differently in their intestines.

Even the presence of a nasty form of the bacteria in the gut of a parrot does not automatically mean

it will get sick. There are many factors that determine if disease will occur. The lab test can only determine the presence of the organism - not its effect on the bird.

What does an E.coli infection look like in my birds?

It depends on how the bird got the infection. Most cases involve the bird swallowing the bacteria from contaminated food or water. Then if it is a nasty strain the bird may get an enteritis (infection in the gut) with diarrhoea as the common sign. However the symptoms vary widely with some of these infections leading to sudden death.

Septicaemia (bacteria in the blood) caused by E.coli can lead to kidney damage, infection in the joints and liver damage.

Hens may get E.coli. infections of their uterus, which will lead to chronic infertility. Chicks with an E.coli infection in the navel will often get a yolk sac infection that is fatal. Typically a bird with an E.coli. infection will look fluffed, become lethargic, stop eating,, lose weight and may have diarrhoea.

The vast majority of E.coli that get into a bird are passed uneventfully. In a survey done by a Dr Flammer (*Avian Diseases* 32: 79 - 83, 1988) it was found that from population of clinically normal birds (mostly cockatoos), up to 84% of the birds could have E.coli. detected in swabs taken from their cloaca - these were normal birds not sick birds. What is the value of a flock screen from healthy birds that shows the presence of an E.coli? - the answer is nil.

It is important to realise that the bacteria are in the environment all the time and that only a small percentage of them are capable of causing disease and that the birds own defence mechanisms can take care of most cases of infection.

How do I find E.coli. in my birds?

You cannot look down a microscope at a dropping sample and say that the bird has E.coli. Even if the slide is stained, you cannot know that the bacteria you are looking at is an E.coli.

You cannot send dropping samples to the lab (unless specially preserved) and know that what they grow is actually what is in the bird. E.coli. can

multiply quite happily in the unpreserved specimen.

If proper transport swabs are used, the lab may be able to grow bugs that were actually in the bird - but are they significant? As we have discussed, all E.coli. are not the same, it takes a specialist laboratory to type these bacteria into those known to produce disease and those that are just passing through.

OK then, how do I get a proper diagnosis of E.coli?

If birds are ill and a transport swab is used to collect a fresh, uncontaminated dropping sample, and the lab grows predominantly E.coli. and other underlying causes have been excluded, then you can be satisfied that it is the cause of your problem.

The most accurate way of diagnosis is to get a series of swabs collected at a post mortem examination that grow pure (or predominantly) cultures of E.coli.

This coupled with the changes in the tissues and the symptoms in the aviary gives you the best diagnosis. This is not a "two minute" diagnosis. Some of our best pathologists have spent years working with these bacteria and they still do not have an easy way of getting a diagnosis - how can you expect to get the correct answer by sending a lump of pigeon poop, wrapped in plastic, via the mail to a laboratory that hasn't the ability to sort the dangerous from the innocuous.

I just want to clean out my birds to prevent problems.

Lets get real. You are talking about a bacteria that exists in all mammals and many birds as a normal organism - how do you expect to rid your birds of it! In a vain attempt you could use large amounts of antibiotic continuously. But even then you would suppress not eliminate the organism, and you would create antibiotic resistance problems as well as yeast and fungal overgrowth (not to mention the possible long term toxicity problems from the antibiotic).

If an individual bird is ill and it appears to have an infection then by all means treat with antibiotics. If there is illness sweeping through your aviary then of course you should begin medication to stop the spread of the disease. But do not for a minute think that if you treat your flock in May with the wonder drug for E.coli that they cannot get a outbreak of E.coli. enteritis in June! If only the world was that simple.

If you want to promote good health in birds you need:

- good hygiene
- good nutrition
- good water supply
- good aviary management
- good quarantine
- ventilation.

Dr Tony Gestier BVSc MACVSc

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BSSA Murphy Classic Future Champions Show

Saturday 26th March 2022

BSSA Murphy Classic Future Champions Show

Saturday 26th March 2022

Sponsors:

Avian Vitality
Yankalilla Seeds/Natures Harvest

Major Award Judge:

K.Murphy

Judges:

Ian Marshall
Wayne Bandt

Birds Entered: 178

Birds Benched: 170

BSSA Murphy Classic Results

GRAND CHAMPION

INTERMEDIATE YOUNG BIRD

Michael Smith – *Normal Grey Green*

RESERVE CHAMPION

INTERMEDIATE YOUNG BIRD

Michael Smith – *Dominant Pied*

CHAMPION INTERMEDIATE OLD BIRD

Paul Soul – *Aust. White Cap*

RESERVE CHAMPION

INTERMEDIATE OLD BIRD

Paul Soul – *Normal Spangle*

GRAND CHAMPION NOVICE YOUNG BIRD

Ian & Gina Wise – *Dilute*

RESERVE CHAMPION NOVICE YOUNG BIRD

Danny Brill – *Spangle AOSV*

CHAMPION NOVICE OLD BIRD

Ian & Gina Wise – *Normal Grey Green*

RESERVE CHAMPION NOVICE OLD BIRD

Ian Jenke – *Opaline ASV*

Murphy Classic Best Of Variety

BEST NORMAL GREEN

J.Kelb

BEST NORMAL GREYGREEN

M.Smith

BEST NORMAL BLUE

J.Kelb

BEST NORMAL VISUAL VIOLET

P Soul

BEST NORMAL GREY

P.Soul

BEST NORMAL YELLOWFACE BLUE

J.Kelb

BEST NORMAL AUST GOLDEN FACED BLUE

V.Sanford

BEST BLACKEYED SELF

I & G Wise

DILUTE

I & G Wise

BEST LUTINO

Paul Soul

BEST ALBINO

G. McCallum

BEST DARK EYED CLEAR

No Award

BEST CLEARWING

V.Sanford

BEST GREYWING

NIL

BEST CINNAMONWING

T. Van Der Brink

BEST D/F SPANGLE

G McCallum

BEST OPALINE

J.Kelb

BEST OPALINE AOSV

J.Kelb

BEST CLEARBODY

V Sanford

BEST LACEWING

P Soul

BEST FALLOW

M Smith

BEST NORMAL SPANGLE

P Soul

BEST SPANGLE AOSV

D.Brill

BEST DOMINANT PIED

I.Jenke

BEST RECESSIVE PIED

V.Sanford

BEST CRESTED

I.Jenke

BEST AUSTRALIAN WHITECAP

P Soul

AOV

M Smith

Show Manager's Report

The Vermont Uniting Church Hall has been the show arena for the Budgerigar Society of SA for approximately 15 years, but our association has ended as the hall is being handed back and will probably be put up for sale. All our next shows will be at the Westbourne Park Memorial Hall.

The show again had Covid restrictions and finished earlier than usual with no lunch being provided which annoyed Marie Murphy. We all know how well she caters for the membership. It's pleasing to see committee rotation with George England becoming Show Manager and Ken Harris being Chief Steward for the first time.

There were exhibitors in each section benching 170 exhibits with Kerry Murphy being the Major Award judge. It was pleasing and exciting to see another 2 members showing for the first time. Our juniors were back showing again this year. That makes a total of 10 new members showing for the first time in the last two years so our come and try nights must be having an impact. Avian Vitality and Brasea were the Major sponsors.

Congratulations to Michael Smith, Paul Soul, Gina and Ian Wise, Danny Brill and Ian Jenke for having birds on the top bench. Mention must be made of Graham McCallum and Tony Van Den Brink who travelled from Booleroo Centre and Auburn. There was a high standard of exhibits on display and with promotion and relegation the club has become more balanced and stimulated in the exhibition of budgerigars.

The BSSA club trailer made its maiden appearance and will be sign written shortly with the show staging going in for alternation and should be completed by the Stan Watson Show.

Wayne Weidenhofer | BSSA Show Manager

BSSA Hall of Fame - ANBC Class Winners

K & J Kakoschke - 22 Wins
Normal Green - 1980,1984
Normal Blue - 1980,1984
Red Eye Self - 1977,1979,1983,1984,1986
Clearwing - 1980
Cinnamonwing - 1981,1993
Opaline - 1986
Fallow - 1982,1986
Lacewing - 1986
Dominant Pied - 1980,1982,1986
Yellow Face - 1984
Hens - 1977,1982
Kakoschke & Rice - 12 Wins
Normal Green - 2005
Clearwing - 2005,2010, 2015, 2016
Opaline - 2011, 2019
Opaline AOSV - 2010, 2015
Crested - 2003, 2005
Grey Green - 2016
Wayne Weidenhofer - 6 Wins
Yellow Face - 1977,1978,1979,1980
Clearbody - 2015, 2018
Geoff Smith - 5 Wins
Opaline - 1984
Dominant Pied - 1981,1983,1984,1985

Deane Trevellion - 3 Wins
Clearwing - 1981
Greywing - 1983
Fallow - 1985
Peter Glassenbury - 3 Wins
Blackeye - 1980,1992,2009*
Ethel Dobie - 2 Wins
Lutino - 1975
Dominant Pied - 1975
Gordon Lowe - 2 Wins
Opaline - 1979
Yellow face - 1983
G & E Duffield - 2 Wins
Black eye - 1975
Clearwing - 1994
Nigel Tonkin - 2 Wins
Spangle - 1993
Hens - 1988
R Arnold - 1 Win
Normal Blue - 1977
B Coventry - 1 Wins
Dominant Pied - 1977
R & E Deslandes - 1 Win
Greywing - 1980

Graham Evans - 1 Win
Normal Green - 1981
Alan Kett - 1 Win
Normal Blue - 1981
Stan Watson - 1 Win
Hens - 1981
Malcolm Aspen - 1 Win
Opaline - 1985
Marie & Kerry Murphy - 1 Win
Spangle - 1989
Lynn Ray - 1 Wins
Dominant Pied - 1990
Ron Norman - 1 Win
Hens - 1996
Mike Crossley - 1 Win
Yellow Face - 2002 *
Peter Simic - 1 Win
Recessive Pied - 2010
D Lomman - 1 Win
Violet - 2014 *
Troy Holmes (Holmes Family*) - 1 Win
Grey Green - 2018

*Note: Both Geoff Smith and W Weidenhofer would be ANBC Hall of Fame members, however ANBC by laws only count wins Since 1983 when all seven states became full members and participants. * Indicates a past or current BSSA member who did not enter with the BSSA team for Logan Shield pre selection event.*

Budgerigar Society of South Australia

Founded May 20th 1948

First Budgerigar Society in South Australia

Foundation Member of the Australian National Budgerigar Council

Winner – Australian National Budgerigar Championship
in 1977, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1986

OBJECTS & PURPOSE

- To promote, encourage and stimulate the breeding and exhibition of budgerigars.
- To promote the improvement of existing varieties, and the establishment of new varieties.
- To promote feelings of good fellowship and sportsmanship among our own members, and all other people interested in the budgerigar.
- To serve the interests of members of the society in all matters pertaining to the budgerigar fancy in South Australia
- To co-operate with other clubs or societies to the benefit of the society of the budgerigar fancy.

AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

- Budgie Digest magazine issued Bi-monthly
- Informative and educational monthly meetings
- Guest speakers, seminars and lectures
- Social activities and bus trips
- Two major annual shows
- Trading service with a huge variety of products
- Closed and coloured split rings
- Books – latest releases always available

LIFE MEMBERS

The Budgerigar Society of South Australia wishes to acknowledge both past and present members who have been presented with Life Membership.

1960 Mr. L. Whyatt

1964 Mr. R. Hancock

1966 Mr. D. Barlow
Mr. & Mrs. Logan

1967 Mr. & Mrs. Watson

1968 Mr. G. Hogg

1970 Mr. A. Davy

1974 Mr. J. Laidlaw

1975 Mrs. E. Dobie

1977 Mr. W. Bull
Mr. A. Gribble
Mr. L. Poole
Mrs. E. Simpson

1980 Mr. & Mrs. Duffield

1981 Mr. & Mrs. R. Deslandes

1983 Mrs. R. Hancock
Mrs. I. Laidlaw
Mr. G. Smith

1984 Mr. F. Jackson

1986 Mr. R. Norman
Mr. K. Kakoschke
Mr. G. Lowe

1998 Mr. T. Weckert

2001 Mr. C. Murphy

2004 Mr. K. Murphy
Mrs. M. Murphy

2008 Mr. J. Fisher

2012 Mr. K. Wing.

2020 Mr. G. Stearnes

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