

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN "BUDGIE DIGEST"**

First published in April 1970

Vol 46

No 5

Mar - April 2014

**BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**

Meeting Place: Adelaide South West Community Centre,  
171 Sturt St, Adelaide SA

First Tuesday of each Month at 8.00 pm

Club website - [www.bssainc.org.au](http://www.bssainc.org.au)

**PRESIDENT:**

Chris Murphy—Coromandel East

H 8370 6306  
W 8300 5900

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Steve Elliott—Gawler

7220 4514

**HON. SECRETARY:**

Sue Adams—West Lakes Shore

8242 2849

**TREASURER:**

Marie Murphy—Coromandel East

8270 8284

**RING STEWARD:**

Wayne Bandt—Sheidow Park

0409 099 582

**TRADING OFFICER:**

Kerry Murphy—Coromandel East

8270 8284

**BOOK OFFICER:**

Tim Campbell—Adelaide

**SHOW MANAGER:**

Wayne Weidenhofer - Victor Harbor

8552 4283

**PUBLICITY OFFICER:**

Robert Worrall—Morphett Vale

8384 3471

**SOCIAL CO ORDINATOR:**

Tracey Haskell—Noarlunga Downs

0408 326 607

**WEB MASTER:**

Trevor Gwatking

**COMMITTEE:**

Jim Tolson—Somerton Park

8296 7011

Jim Butterworth—Sellicks Beach

8556 3609

Ian McEwan—Edwardstown

8276 4648

**AUDITOR:**

Neville Guthberiet

8346 6347

**DELEGATES TO B.C.S.A.:**

Chris Murphy (see above)

Positions Vacant (2)

**DIGEST EDITOR:**

Kerry Murphy

Email: [kerrymurphy@ozemail.com.au](mailto:kerrymurphy@ozemail.com.au)

The opinions expressed by the Authors are their own and not necessarily those of this Society

## **2013 President's Report**

Good Evening members and welcome to the 2013 President's Report.

The past year has been a very stable year for our Club. Membership has remained fairly static, the monthly meetings have been attended by the regular core members and our shows have been well supported.

In March the BSSA staged the first Novice only show. This event is designed to allow Novice members to experience the thrill of winning the best in show award and will hopefully continue to attract entries from all over South Australia. Wayne Bandt won the Champion Novice Young Bird and Geoff Hay benched the Champion Novice Old Bird. As Novices win promotion to Intermediate we understand that entries will fluctuate over the years, but our intention is to persist with the Show and continue to offer the membership opportunities to exhibit your birds. The other aspect to this event is the social gathering that it allows. We will continue to hold the Novice Show away from a Hall to promote the social aspect of the hobby and hopefully allow our members to build friendships. Thank you to Marie and Kerry Murphy for offering their home as the venue in 2013, and we appreciate Ian McEwan doing the same in 2014.

In April, the BSSA was the host club for the Deane Trevellion Interclub Challenge with the Southern Cage Bird Society. The Southern do not have a large budgerigar membership and our appreciation is extended to the members who supported both Clubs.

This was followed in May by the Stan Watson Breeders Show which for some was the final preparation before the Logan Shield and ANBC Show in June. Almost 300 birds were benched and Peter Simic won the Grand Champion award with a Dominant Pied Grey Green Cock.

At the National Show in Queensland in June, Barbara Fisher did our Club proud with a second placing in the Clearbody class, a bird which some judges have described as unlucky not to gain first place. As we all now know, Barbara's birds have been dispersed throughout Australia with her disposal sale in August.

The Ron Norman Annual Show in July was also well supported with 200 birds benched and the Grand Champion won by Stephen Elliott who benched a Normal Grey Green Cock. Our guest judge was Jeff Lloyd from Western Australia. Jeff is a great representative of the budgerigar fraternity as nothing was too much trouble and he met every need of the BSSA over the duration of the Show. The club auction on the day of the Show again proved a challenge in terms of quality and desire of members to part with their money. As such the auction this year will be held with the Breeders Show and our guest judge will be invited to provide a short presentation at the Annual Show in the time slot occupied by the auction. The Brasea Show was held in conjunction with the Annual Show and the Champion for this Show was benched by Sue Adams.

September saw the BSSA again promote our hobby to the public at the Royal Show. This event is a massive undertaking over 9 consecutive days and the Club is extremely grateful to the members who volunteer to look after our display. The opportunity is always available for other members who wish to help out to volunteer to do so as many hands make the job a lot easier.

Our final show for the year was the Interclub Challenge in October with the North East Budgerigar Society. This year our Novice and Intermediate members did our Club proud

winning a significant number of classes which allowed the BSSA to win the shield. This event is easily the most social event of the year and with over 250 birds benched continues to prove that members from both Clubs will support this Show.

Overall it has been a very busy year for our Club with lots of events and Shows for members to participate in or just attend if you do not have birds to show. To ensure the Club continues to run smoothly, a significant number of members are always doing something behind the scenes. To ensure this continues, the best thing that members can do is get involved – attend functions and shows, enter birds in night shows and support your Committee wherever possible. This year alone, we have spent over \$3000 on our shows and events, and the Club will continue to stage as many events as possible to keep our hobby interesting and appealing.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Committee for the continuous work in keeping the Club functioning and on the right track. Everyone contributes as much as they can in their own way with no chance of ever being rewarded appropriately, but we all do it because we want to and do not want to see our Club take a backwards step. We have had a very busy 2013 with lots of shows and auctions. Let's hope 2014 is just as rewarding.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW – 29 MARCH 2014**

As members would be aware, this Saturday we are staging the Novice Championship Show. The Show will be held at Ian McEwan's home – 27 Adelaide Terrace Edwardstown. Schedules have been available on the BSSA website and all members are welcome to attend even if not exhibiting as this event will double as our social BBQ and get together. If all exhibitors could ensure their birds are benched by 10am, judging will then commence leaving ample time for our BBQ lunch and concluding at approximately 2pm with the trophy presentation.

#### **DEANE TREVELLION INTERCLUB – WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2014**

(This Interclub replaces our April monthly meeting scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>)

April 2nd – Wednesday Interclub Show at Vermont Hall.

Tonight we will be holding the annual Deane Trevellion Interclub Challenge with the Southern Cage Bird Society.

Each Club will exhibit birds in 10 classes, as we join together to remember the tremendous help and service Deane provided to our Societies during the 1970s and 1980s.

All members are invited to support the BSSA and Southern Club by attending the Interclub.

#### **MAY MEETING – TUESDAY 6 MAY 2014**

Entertainment – Tonight Stephen Elliott has been asked to present a talk on his families of Grand Champions. Stephen has benched the Grand Champion at our Annual Show for a record 7 consecutive years, and this highlights his ability to develop a successful exhibition stud. Stephen will talk us through his journey with his birds and provide an insight into building a stud of budgerigars, not a collection.

Bird of the Night – Cinnamon (including English and Australian Yellow Face)

Classes will be available for all varieties and will be allocated for our Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Open exhibitors.

## **Budgerigars in Paradise**

**Gerald Binks**

Reinhard Molkentin and his son Holger are two of the most experienced bird fanciers in the World today. In the past two years I have visited them in their wonderful thatched roof home with its surrounding terraces and swimming pool. Beyond this area are the aviaries containing Macaws and African Grey parrots managed by Holger and close by the superb budgerigar aviary. Intermingled with these are the cactus like plants everywhere and bougainvillea in full bloom. Look beyond and you see the Molkentin ostriches and some 18 miniature horses. With a group of neighbours, the massive surrounding area is now fenced (some 12 miles/19 kms) and to start with is in the process of being stocked with game such as zebra and springbok. The region is also frequented with snakes in some numbers which makes for an interesting concentration in keeping one's eyes open. A spitting cobra surprised Reinhard's wife Jutta being curled up immediately outside the kitchen door on one occasion. A natural, place to put it mildly. On entering their budgerigar aviary, you are greeted by recessed bays of superb breeding cages and five separate flight areas. All the floors are tiled and the cleanliness is excellent. Between my visits the aviary has been fitted with the installation of a spraying system which sprays a mist into the flights at various points. Timers activate the system every 30 minutes and if the weather is particularly hot, every 15 minutes. The mist is very fine indeed but the birds revel in it.

### **BLOODLINES**

I asked the partnership where their first serious bloodlines came from? The lines came from Ormerod and Sadler first of all, followed by birds from Jim Moffat and finally Angela Moss when she left the hobby. 268 birds were transferred to South Africa from Germany eleven years ago, the best ones being cinnamons and spangles at the time. Today there are about 750 birds in normal, cinnamon, spangle, red eyes, recessive peds and lacewings, all of very high quality. Suffice to say some 30 birds now exist at "Tanglewood", my home in England. I have found they are very fertile indeed and the first 25 birds bred 84 chicks, on the perch, on the first occasion and are still going well.

### **MISTAKES**

I then got down to my interview with Reinhard. My first question was "what in his opinion were the most common mistakes made by both experienced and non experienced fanciers?" "There are three main errors", he said.

- 1) Buying from too many different aviaries
- 2) Continuing to produce birds without tails and flight feathers which is not French moult but a genetic problem.

3) The desire to breed bigger and bigger birds without paying attention to feather quality.

#### OUTCROSSES

My next enquiry was that when new blood was needed, which were his main sources for outcrosses? "I look for top quality outcrosses from breeders who possess the same genes as I do", he said. "Jo Mannes has really outstanding stock with the same background birds as mine and Ralph Jenne on occasion. Clemens Keller and Daniel Lutolf are the other two breeders who help me a lot."

My next question concerned champion breeders who have bred closely for 3-4 years and suddenly find they are losing size. What was the cause in his opinion? "Such a breeder has to act firmly and decisively. He has to outcross fast. I suggest he sells some of the best cocks and replaces them with the same quality from another stud. He should keep his hens. Watch the short feathered birds. Breeding them together for several years will result in size being lost. Rough feathered buffs should be introduced."

#### PURCHASING

The previous comment raised another question. What did he think about mistakes that can be made when actually buying new birds? "The first mistake is buying the really super quality hens from a breeder. The next level down, related to them, are the ones that will breed really well. Hens over 18 months old are also to be rejected if you are spending a lot. By contrast, a super cock that may not have bred in it's first season may be worth trying in a new aviary. Budgerigars are fickle birds and often do the unexpected.

#### MASSIVE ROUND SPOTS

A superb feature of the Mol Kentin birds are the massive ROUND spots that are everywhere. I wondered where they came from? "They arrived in 1995", he said. "One pair suddenly produced these beautiful large round spots. I was very pleased of course. Greys and skyblues appeared with these spots and I concentrated on them since they also had very deep masks as well. All were kept and all worked hard including the parents to get the feature fixed in the stud. It seemed to be a mutation but of course that was unlikely. It is now a dominant feature and breeders who buy from this line find their birds quickly acquire those same spots.

#### LIQUID SOLUTIONS

I spotted some Ivomec (ivermectin) solution on a table. How did he use it since I could not see any birds with mite problems? His reply surprised me. "I place a small amount on the tail of a chick at 8 days of age at the same time I am ringing it", he said. The advantage is that with the very big headed long feathered birds that

sometimes finish up as 'tail-less wonders' in aviaries, my process stops this for some reason. If it is a genetic problem as we talked about earlier, then of course it will have no effect. But look around - no birds without tails." There was another liquid there as well called Arbortyl. This is a solution that instantly stops minor bleeding when applied. Ideal for quills that suddenly burst before a show or where a fight has occurred.

#### NEST BOXES

All nesting boxes contain silver sand with just a little sawdust. The developing four week old chicks swallow some of the grains early and this gets the digestion process in the gizzard moving sooner than normal. Bigger birds result. Hens are paired at 7-8 months of age, but the cocks need to put on weight so in general they are 10 months before they are paired. Nest boxes vary in design, but Reinhard feels box designs are not so important as fanciers think. Pairs that produce super chicks are allowed to breed for as long as they decide they wish to continue. None of the birds are vent feathered trimmed which is unnecessary if your birds are fed on a sound system.

#### NEWCOMERS

All Societies need new members especially teenagers or men in their twenties. I asked Reinhard if he helped beginners in any way, apart from selling them birds? "I spend a lot of time with them," he replied. I show them everything we do here. How to feed, breed and the full routine. If they work hard at it they get the results but if not ! I do not agree with beginners paying too much too soon. They have much to learn and if they have spent a lot and have bad seasons to start with they leave the hobby. Start slowly and learn first.

#### DIRECTIONAL FEATHERING

Reinhard stated that much attention is paid today with feather direction and length. This applies especially when width of face is required and enclosing the beak with feathers to a degree. Depth of mask, frontal throw and height above the eye with great backskull are all points we as fanciers strive to achieve when pairing. When you want to improve, especially if you are a champion and you want the quality, then in this World you have to pay for it. Sell 10 birds and buy one is the general advice, but too many fanciers then keep the money in their pockets and no progress is the result.

#### THE SICK BUDGERIGAR

Any bird can fall ill mostly with minor problems. If caught early then a heat source in a cold aviary helps recovery. I asked Reinhard what he gave such a bird that was showing signs of chilling with raised feathers and a hunched look? "I give a well known Swiss product called AURAMIN" , he said. It looks like a black paste within the tube. A small amount squeezed into the beak has two effects. Firstly it contains an

antibiotic but also, and this is very important, it makes the bird eat very quickly. The bird then recovers.

#### FEEDING

Seed and all the other usual products for feeding apart, the Molkentin Stud is striking for applying natural green foods to the birds but in large quantities. I recall as a boy of 12 years of age feeding my birds on chickweed and so on but for years we have had to put up with greens that have been treated with chemicals. The Molkentin's are lucky in that they grow large amounts of their own produce for themselves as well as the livestock. Every vegetable you can think of including hard beetroot is mixed together and blended before hard boiled eggs are added and fed every morning. It is wonderful to see the birds attacking it as soon as it appears. All hard work, but the results pay dividends. The pure water source is via a borehole and nothing is added. The soft food provides all the vitamins. The region has a lot of eucalyptus trees, so their branches are placed in the flights twice weekly with the usual results. Breeding is then easy with all this attention.

#### CONCLUSION

I concluded my interview by asking Reinhard for any good advice that he would pass on to the hobby. "First of all you must travel a lot to see birds every-where in your own country and other countries. You need to see what other breeders are producing and going to other aviaries gives you fresh ideas. You need to create your own bird to beat others. Jo Mannes is perhaps the most obvious breeder who has done this. You can identify a Mannes bird easily by it's feather structure especially around the face and everybody can recognise them anywhere. At Shows you have to accept that there are Judges who are a mixture of those who know what is required in a quality budgerigar and those who have no idea and who judge on any feathers out of place for example. Do not be fooled when you receive a bad result from one judge. Stay with your Ideal Bird in your mind and keep focussed on what you are creating. Never sell a bird that you know is a key bird which a poor judge has ignored because he has never bred a top bird in his life. There are such judges. Talk to a close friend about such decisions Such a friend who understands quality can be a great help. It is not a stud of heavy buff birds but a stud of real quality in many colours that reproduce very well for them and other breeders. If you visit South Africa at any time you must include a visit here. It is not far from Johannesburg Airport and the Country is very special in so many ways. I had a great time with super hospitality and if you want to visit and see enthusiasm for birds at their very best, then visit the Molkentin's. Memorable is the word.

Budgerigar World

## **SHOW PREPARATION**

**By Jack Hackshall**

On Monday 26 November 2007, Jack Hackshall gave the following talk demonstration on show preparation, something he has kindly repeated for us many times over the years. Jack is renowned for his ability in this area.

Presentation and preparation is important for the exhibition side of the hobby. This has gone backwards in the last 5 years and appears not to be considered as important as it once was.

### **Preparation starts 8-10 weeks before the actual show.**

The first step is ensuring that the birds are free of internal and external parasites (worms, feather mite, lice). Fido's is good to use as it has a wetting agent.

Spray the birds with warm water from a spray bottle, thoroughly soak the birds the first time. You can add 1/3 teaspoon of glycerine into boiling water and spray this on the birds to make the feathers look good. If you do this you must add the glycerine to boiling water otherwise the birds will end up covered in long white strings of glycerine! If you hold the spray bottle about 3 feet or 1 metre from the birds, by the time the water comes out of the spray bottle in a fine mist, it is not too hot.

Lightly spray the birds every second day until 4 days before the show. You can add 3 - 4 drops of Dettol to the water.

If you spray the birds with ice cold water out of the fridge it helps birds with heavy feather and heavy down, but only if they are used to it. Do this the day before the show to help the huffy feather lay down nice and smooth.

Check the flight and tail feathers and remove any broken feathers. Don't pull out both tail feathers at the same time in case they don't both grow back. Pull one tail feather and when you can see a new tail feather growing and healthy, then pull the second one. You can show a bird with one tail feather but not with none.

Make sure your birds are used to being in holding cages - some won't eat in a holding cage if they aren't used to it.

Check the length of the toe nails. If toe nails are too long, the bird may not be able to grip the perch properly in the show cage. You can take the tip off the toe nail with a nail file.



Dressing the mask - only pull one feather out at a time. You can use tweezers, there are a lot of different ones on the market. You can clip the mask with nail clippers but this takes a lot of practice and is very hard. The advantage is that the spot doesn't grow back until the cut feather actually falls out, so this is a good way if you want to keep showing the bird over a period of time. You get a lot of spots near the cheek patch, just leave one spot under the cheek patch. Don't pull out all the underspots otherwise the feathers won't sit right, they will stick out. Try and take out the black striations above the eye if you can. It makes it look as if the cap goes back further.

Wash the cap of white capped birds with baby shampoo (No More Tears). Rinse the shampoo out and sprinkle Johnsons Baby Powder onto the cap. The next morning blow the powder off and the cap will be lovely and white. Some birds may need to be shampooed (e.g. albinos). Use No More Tears shampoo. The poultry people use Martha Gardeners Eucalyptus Wool Wash which brings the birds up really well.

Straighten flights and tail feathers on the morning of the show with either steam or boiling water. Put boiling water in a cup. Hold the bird so that your thumb sits at the base of his tail and dip the feather into the boiling water. This doesn't hurt the bird, and by holding your thumb at the base of the tail you will burn yourself before you burn the bird.

On the morning of the show you can use this technique to make the head of a bird appear wider. Dip your finger in some baby oil and rub it into the back of your hand. Lick your finger, wipe this finger across the baby oil on your hand and using this finger rub the feather above the eye outwards over the eye, bringing the feather out over the eye. This creates the illusion of a wider head and lasts for several hours.

**Good preparation will come back.**

**A bird that is well prepared and in good feather will always beat a bird in poor condition.**

**If you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail.**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **BSSA 2014 SHOW DATES**

The dates for our remaining Shows in 2014 will be as follows:

Stan Watson Breeders Show – Saturday 17 May

Logan Shield – weekend of 14/15 June

National Show in Adelaide – weekend of 21/22 June

Ron Norman Annual Show & South Australian BRASEA Show – Saturday 5 July

Interclub Nest Feather Show – Saturday 25 October

### **Email to the Editor**

Hi Mr Editor,

I would just like to advise you how much I am enjoying the budgie breeding/keeping hobby. Firstly I really appreciate the info in the Digest, and as a 63 year old newcomer I get a lot out of the articles. Naturally I have experienced the lows, in the most expensive bird I have bought laid about 25 clear eggs then died. However on the other side of the spectrum I have lime green male!!!! (Ex spangle cock-light green hen) paired to a grey Opaline female (who breeds babies) and currently in the third batch they have a grey, green, albino and lutino (I think). I love the genetic side of breeding but this caught me by surprise. I assume the male (lime-green), must carry albino and lutino???

So once again I thank you for your efforts in the Digest

Kind Regards

Kevin Cooke

Naracoorte

You are welcome to print this in the digest if you have a gap to fill and/or think someone may be encouraged by it.

P.S

The lime green could be a cinnamon wing light green

Kevin

### **COPING WITH SEASONAL SETBACKS**

**by Terry A. Tuxford ( Budgerigar World)**

There are times during the breeding season when hens can be the most unpredictable of creatures. We all hope that following pairing up, she will go about her preparations for egg laying, the eggs will be laid on alternate days, all will be fertile, incubation will be trouble-free and chicks will hatch and be fed diligently. However, seldom does this plan come to fruition and we are always faced with problems of one kind or another. Most of these difficulties can be met with common sense but this has to be gained with experience and yet again we are faced with several options of action to take, each recommended by a leading fancier.

- A rare occurrence is the hen who decides to eject her eggs from the nest box. Occasionally this can be an inherited problem and nothing can be done to cure the habit, however, more often than not the reason is due to the hen not being in full breeding condition. She instinctively knows her condition is not at its optimum for rearing chicks and so the eggs are ejected as they are laid. The best course of action is to re-flight the hen and allow her to readjust and then to try her later on.
- One of the problems that I experienced a few years ago is the hens that lay their eggs in the breeding cage, rather than in the nest box. Usually these are young

hens that perhaps have not yet learnt the difference between an egg that requires laying and the need to excrete. If wood shavings are used on the cage floor or there is a build up of seed husk it is quite usual for the egg to fall from the hen on the perch to the floor quite intact. As incubation will not have commenced, even if the egg is stone cold but assuming it is fertile, development will start quite normally if the egg is placed under a sitting hen. Before the egg is put with a hen it should be gently warmed and if you own one, an incubator is ideal for this operation.

Alternatively, the warmth from your hands will also do the trick.

- As for the hen, if nature has brought about the correct changes she will be broody and will often accept the egg herself, with it being placed in the nest box.

Personally, I prefer to use a known clear egg to try her out and foster her own egg to another hen. Often

this proves to be successful and the remainder of the clutch is laid in the nest box.

On some rare occasions the hen will lay the entire clutch of eggs off the perch and in one particular instance all I did was to pick up the eggs from the cage floor as they were dropped, incubation was quite normal and a nest of healthy chicks were reared.

- No matter how carefully you pair your birds, ensuring that they all appear to be in breeding condition, you will always have a number of totally clear nests, indicating that the pair has not successfully mated. When this occurs you then have to decide when these infertile eggs are discarded and the pair started off again. I must admit that in my experience, a first clear round is often followed by one that is also clear, especially when the pair are experienced. Returning to the decision of when to discard the clear eggs, the most logical time is on the day when the first chick would have hatched had the eggs been full. This should have the least effect in throwing the hen out of breeding cycle.

- An alternative to this is to use the pair with the clear eggs as foster parents for another bird's chicks. The action of feeding and rearing often ensures that the subsequent round is more successful but there is no guarantee.

- Now and then you will have a hen who is apparently too successful and proceeds to lay 8 or 9 or even more eggs, all of which are fertile. It is always tempting to foster a number of the eggs to other hens but in my experience the greatest success rate is achieved by allowing the hen to brood the entire clutch. As the chicks hatch and are rung it is these that I would move and place with foster parents until there are four chicks left, these can be reared by their true parents.

- Alternatively, you may be unfortunate, due to timing, and have nowhere to foster the chicks to, so there is no other course but to allow the hen to continue with both the full complement of chicks and eggs. Seldom can a hen cover more than five developing chicks and eggs, and so when the fifth egg has hatched the remaining eggs will have to be fostered as you have little other choice. In my view it is better to have some doubts over the pedigree of a chick than to have no chick at all.

## **Over Feeding VITAMINS can result in a POOR BREEDING season**

**By JIM HUTTON**

Back in the 1970's a significant number of Budgerigar fanciers lost stock due to crop infections. Many breeders obtained antibiotics and fed them to their birds without veterinary advice. There may be some excuse for this because, compared with today, the number of vets who knew anything about birds was few. It was not unusual for a veterinary surgeon to lecture at a club meeting and finish the evening by having gained more knowledge from the fanciers who had come to learn than he had imparted.

A consistent problem when giving medication to birds is arriving at the correct dosage. In their ignorance, the breeders of the 1970's who dosed their Budgerigars on large doses of antibiotics did more harm than good. Could the same be happening today, with the feeding of vitamin additives?

Another consistent problem with Budgerigars is the bad breeding season. As always, some are producing chicks in great numbers, but reports suggest that breeding Budgerigars in the 1990's is proving to be more difficult than usual.

As fanciers struggle to breed Budgerigars it is only right that they should try to find the reasons for failure. I believe that one reason for poor breeding results is the over feeding of vitamins. Breeders visit each other and learn from each other's methods. When a successful Budgerigar fancier uses a certain additive, the news gets around and it is not long before lots of others are trying to emulate his success by using the same product. What they often do not take into account is that their birds present diet already has in it many of the substances the new additives contain. They can easily fall into the trap of over-feeding certain dietary components.

### **Water soluble**

I believe this to be particularly true of water soluble additives. The water intake of Budgerigars is variable. They consume great quantities at times, such as when feeding chicks yet, unlike some other birds, can be quite unaffected by a day without water. So there can be virtually no control over the consumption of water-soluble additives.

A side effect of some water soluble vitamins is that they can give a Budgerigar's droppings an unpleasant odour. One breeder I visited was overfeeding vitamins in the drinkers and the stench of the hens droppings was awful. His birdroom was a most disagreeable place.

Overfeeding vitamins can bring Budgerigars into breeding condition so quickly that their natural cycle is upset. I have known hens to start laying a second round of eggs when the first round chicks are still only half reared. When this happens, what is the hen to concentrate on doing - incubating the eggs or feeding the chicks? Like most things that are caught between two stools, she will most likely fail on both accounts.

### **Plain seed and water**

I would advise anyone who was suffering a poor breeding season and feeding water-soluble vitamins to cut back on them. One of the products used by many Budgerigar breeders should be diluted to the rate of one drop in two gallons of water yet I know people who put three drops in a pint without a second thought. We must never lose sight of the fact that a normal diet already contains vitamins and the addition of natural foods, among which I include cooked meat from the Sunday joint, helps to avoid the need for additives. There are those who say that Budgerigars are not equipped to eat animal protein but they are, by nature, scavengers. Any-one who has failed to spot a dead Budgerigar in the flight, for only a few hours, will tell you that the carcass is virtually unrecognisable by the time it is found.

Still on the subject of animal protein, most of the proprietary soft foods on the market contain eggs and I have never heard breeders advise against using them on the grounds that birds are not able to digest egg properly.

It is better to underfeed additives than overfeed them and anyone failing to produce Budgerigar chicks could do far worse than splitting up the pairs, keeping them on a plain seed and water diet for a couple of months and trying again.

Additives apart, the most likely reason for a bad breeding season is not being able to recognise when our Budgerigars are ready for pairing. Hens will lay whether they are in condition or not, but if they are not in full breeding condition their eggs will be infertile. If, by chance, the eggs are fertile, problems will occur during the incubation period if the hen is not in peak condition. One reads of breeders who pair up 40 pairs on the same day. I cannot envisage a situation in any birdroom where so many hens are at the right point to be paired, all at the same time. In my own, admittedly small, stud I am lucky if three hens can be put down to breed over a single weekend.

My reservations about over feeding vitamins extend into the show season. Too many vitamins can cause an untimely moult not at all what you want as the show season looms. Dry groats are a sufficient additive to bring Budgerigars into show condition. I do not believe in soaking any seeds as I blame many crop and stomach disorders on this practice. There is also a final factor that can make a great difference to a breeding season, yet it is a factor that one does not read much about. Indeed the point I am referring to is not only ignored by many successful fanciers, it is denied. The factor I am referring to is luck!

### BSSA Hall of Fame - ANBC Class Winners

<b>K &amp; J Kakoschke - 22 Wins</b>	<b>Nigel Tonkin - 2 Wins</b>
Normal Green - 1980,1984	Spangle - 1993
Normal Blue - 1980,1984	Hens - 1988
Red Eye Self - 1977,1979,1983,1984,1986	
Clearwing - 1980	<b>R Arnold - 1 Win</b>
Cinnamonwing - 1981,1993	Normal Blue - 1977
Opaline - 1986	
Fallow - 1982,1986	<b>B Coventry - 1 Win</b>
Lacewing - 1986	Dominant Pied - 1977
Dominant Pied - 1980,1982,1986	
Yellow Face - 1984	<b>R &amp; E Deslandes - 1 Win</b>
Hens - 1977,1982	Greywing - 1980
<b>Kakoschke &amp; Rice - 7 Wins</b>	<b>Graham Evans - 1 Win</b>
Normal Green - 2005	Normal Green - 1981
Clearwing - 2005,2010	
Opaline - 2011	<b>Alan Kett - 1 Win</b>
Opaline AOSV - 2010	Normal Blue - 1981
Crested - 2005	
Dark Factor Green/Blue - 2003	<b>Stan Watson - 1 Win</b>
	Hens - 1981
<b>Geoff Smith - 5 Wins</b>	
Opaline - 1984	<b>Malcolm Aspen - 1 Win</b>
Dominant Pied - 1981,1983,1984,1985	Opaline - 1985
<b>Wayne Weidenhofer - 4 Wins</b>	<b>Marie &amp; Kerry Murphy - 1 Win</b>
Yellow Face - 1977,1978,1979,1980	Spangle - 1989
<b>Deane Trevellion - 3 Wins</b>	<b>Lynn Ray - 1 Win</b>
Clearwing - 1981	Dominant Pied - 1990
Greywing - 1983	
Fallow - 1985	<b>Ron Norman - 1 Win</b>
	Hens - 1996
<b>Peter Glassenbury - 3 Wins</b>	
Blackeye - 1980,1992,2009*	<b>Mike Crossley - 1 Win</b>
	Yellow Face - 2002 *
<b>Ethel Dobie - 2 Wins</b>	
Lutino - 1975	<b>Peter Simic - 1 Win</b>
Dominant Pied - 1975	Recessive Pied - 2010
<b>Gordon Lowe - 2 Wins</b>	● Indicates a past or current BSSA
Opaline - 1979	member who did not enter with the BSSA team
Yellow face - 1983	For Logan Shield pre selection event.
	<b>Note:</b> Both Geoff Smith and W Weidenhoffer
<b>G &amp; E Duffield - 2 Wins</b>	would be ANBC Hall of Fame members, however
Black eye - 1975	ANBC by laws only count wins since 1983 when
Clearwing - 1994	all seven states became full members and
	participants

**MAGILL GRAIN STORE**

**( JOHN & ALAN WALLIS )**

**574 Magill Road Magill SA 5072**

**STOCK FOODS**

**POULTRY & HORSE REQUISITES**

**TOP QUALITY BIRD SEEDS**

**White French Millet 20kg**

**Plain Canary 20kg**

**Jap Millet 20kg**

**Fisher Mix 20kg**

**Magill Budgie Mix 20kg**

**(Please phone for a price)**

**PHONE : (08) 8331 8159**

## B.S.S.A. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS SCORING SYSTEM

### February to November (Monthly Meetings)

(20 cents entry per bird)

1<sup>st</sup> = 3 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 2 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 1 point

Bird of the Night = 3 points

### Annual, Breeders, Novice, Deane Trevellion and Unbroken Cap Shows

Each Class

1<sup>st</sup> = 3 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 2 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 1 point

\* Denotes non member but Show results acknowledged

<b>OPEN</b>		Graham Alchin	6
J & W Weidenhofer	120	Alan Kett	6
M & K Murphy	106	Trevor Gwatking	3
Sue Adams	93	Polly Heel *	2
Peter Simic	84	<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	
Michael Crossley	57	Vicki Sanford *	72
Dennis Lomann	54	Tracy Haskell	66
Stephen Elliott	46	<b>NOVICE</b>	
Barbara Fisher	36	Wayne Bandt	158
Glenn Stearnes	34	Andrew & Lucy *	94
Mulley & Stafford *	21	Libby Thomas	59
C&T Murphy	18	Sophie Patterson	44
Graham Evans	16	Susanne Steele	41
Butterworth & Stone	15	J Kaleas/S Wright *	34
R&I Field	15	Geoff Hay	26
Robert Worrall	13	George England	16
Peter Glassenbury *	11	T&K Campbell	15
S & C Norris *	9	Ashley Wenham	6
Ian McEwan	7	Ian Jenke	6
L & H Edwards *	7	Jim Tolson	2

LIFE MEMBERS CONT 2001: Mr. C Murphy; 2004: Mr. K Murphy, Mrs. M Murphy  
2008: Mr J Fisher; 2012 Mr K Wing.