

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN "BUDGIE DIGEST"

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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

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

JUNE MEETING – TUESDAY 2 JUNE AT 8PM

Our June meeting will again be conducted via the Zoom platform at 8pm and feature an interview with leading UK Breeder Mike Ball. All members were sent an invitation from Jonathan Trubshaw approximately 2 weeks ago, which contained a password required for logging on. The password will give our members first priority before we open the meeting to general fanciers, as the Zoom platform we use is limited to 100 participants. Remember to check your Junk Email options as it is possible the email is hiding there.

JULY MEETING - TUESDAY 7 JULY AT 8PM

Currently, a month is a long time in organising meetings and events. Further details will be supplied to all members mid June.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

In respect to the COVID 19 impact on our regular meeting halls, the Club is awaiting confirmation from both the Adelaide City Council and the Vermont Church regarding when our normal face to face meetings can resume. Whilst restrictions are slowly being eased in South Australia, I believe the 1 person to 4 square metres will be a significant rule change that impacts the hiring of halls, along with the cleaning and sanitisation programs the hall owners will need to comply with as we move into the new world. Once the Club is advised of the availability of our halls, we will advise all members as soon as possible.

To sum up the current situation, the June 13 – Ron Norman Annual Show is cancelled.

THANK YOU FROM THE BSSA

Some of our members have been working extremely hard over the past couple of months to coordinate our programs and offers to members. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their ongoing efforts.

Wayne Weidenhofer – thank you for donating the dark green cock bird which the Club raffled at our May monthly meeting, and congratulations to Troy Holmes for winning the raffle.

Troy Holmes – thank you for coordinating the overseas guests at our meetings. The contacts you have in the hobby are amazing and we are grateful for you arranging the sharing of this information with the members. Additionally, Troy thanks very much for the opportunity to raffle the light green opaline hen at the June meeting.

Ian Wise and Jonathan Trubshaw - Ian has been pushing the web site, Facebook pages and raffles extremely hard and has had unbelievable success in placing the BSSA prominently at the front of the online meeting trend in Australia. Jonathan's offer of the Zoom platform is very generous and we appreciate the ongoing moderating that Jonathan conducts for every meeting.

TRADING TABLE

With no face to face meetings being held, we understand our members will still require access to the essential items available at our Trading Table.

Please call Kerry and he will organise your order. Payment can be via direct debit and the Club can post your order.

The Club is currently manufacturing show cages which will be unpainted and sell for \$30 via our Trading Table. We think this is an amazing opportunity for members who would normally be expected to pay \$50 for a brand new painted show cage.

Realistically, members need show cages to train the birds, sort their breeding pairs etc, and these do not need to be painted, so why pay for it. Furthermore, painting the cages is a significant labour cost, so by removing this cost, and allowing members to do it in their own time, we have removed this added cost to the original purchase price of the cage. Orders can be placed with our Trading Officer – Kerry Murphy.

2020 RINGS – GREEN

The 2020 rings were issued on 15 December in line with ANBC rules. Members who have paid for postage should have received their rings already. Otherwise, pre ordered rings will be available from our Ring Officer (Wayne Bandt) at our monthly club meetings. As you can see from the chart below, the ordering of rings is becoming very specific and members need to plan in advance.

As Clubs make zero profit on ring sales, we cannot afford to order excess rings in the hope that we will sell them. So the onus is on our members to order sufficient rings to cover all their requirements. Any uncoded rings that are unused are able to be resold to other members – you just need to let the Ring Officer know the numbers for record keeping purposes.

15 December 2019	Issue date for Green 2020 rings.
12 June 2020.	Closing date for final 2020 ring order. This is the second and final chance to order your rings for 2020.
31 July 2020.	Estimated delivery date of the final 2020 ring order.
12 August 2020	Closing date for 2021 1 st order. The BSSA will not be holding spare rings. All members are encouraged to pre order their own rings. The next order is not until June 2021.
15 December 2020	2021 rings available from the Ring Officer – pending confirmation from the ANBC.

ANBC & BCSA NEWS & UPDATES

2022 ANBC Show is now in Adelaide

Following the cancellation of the 2020 ANBC Show, the ANBC meeting on May 11 resolved to allow Victoria to host the 2021 event and South Australia will now host the 2022 event. All details remain the same for our event, the venue is already booked.

Show Cage Fronts – The BCSA have confirmed that from 2020, only the new powder coated show cages fronts will be acceptable at the Logan Shield. It is our understanding that the NEBS and Port Pirie Clubs will be adopting this policy at their Club Shows.

The BSSA has resolved to continue to accept both the new powder coated fronts and the older chrome fronts at our Shows. Many of our newer members who have only been in the hobby a short period of time, may only have the older cage fronts, and we want people showing their birds, not paying out unnecessary money for new show cages or fronts. Over time, all cages will naturally convert to the new style powder coated cage fronts, so in a short time this will not be an issue. If you wish to update your show cages with the new powder coated front, they are available from our Trading Table.

2022 ANBC Organising Committee – In 2022, the ANBC Show returns to Adelaide at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hindley Street. Volunteers are being sought for a variety of positions on the Organising Committee. If any member is able to help out in any way. Please speak with Sue Adams, Chris Murphy, Wayne Weidenhofer or Jim Butterworth..

BREEDING EXHIBITION BUDGERIGARS **STARTS WITH VITALITY...**

By Jamie Wright

We're all striving to breed birds that have the greatest resemblance to the Australian Standard. Taking for granted that all members of Clubs affiliated with the ANBC are striving for exhibition excellence, it's also very important to incorporate 'Vitality' into the criteria by which we mark our birds.

Judges are looking at a specimen in a cage, and that judging process may last seconds or minutes, so their ability to assess the 'Vitality' of a bird in such small confines over such a short amount of time is incredibly limited.

Therefore, our role as breeders is to create minimum standards for 'Vitality' in our breeding programs to maximise our own chances of breeding success. After all, the wild bush budgie must be vital to survive. But they have ***natural selection*** to help take care of those less than robust. We adopt ***artificial selection***, so it's important that we assess for vitality and install minimum standards for it in our stock.

By having more vitality in our birds, should help perpetuate breeding successes, providing more opportunities to breed strong exhibition birds that are capable of reproducing for us.

So, what is Vitality?

VITALITY IS:

The state of being strong and active; energy.

synonyms: liveliness, life, energy, animation, spirit, spiritedness, highspiritedness, vivacity, exuberance, buoyancy, bounce, vibrancy, verve, vim, pep, brio, zest, zestfulness, sparkle, spark, effervescence, dynamism, passion, fire, vigour, forcefulness, ardour, zeal, relish, gusto, push, drive, punch...

The power giving continuance of life, present in all living things.

When others visit your birdroom, do they speak about your birds using any of the above phrases?

IMPROVING VITALITY...

There are a few things I try to do in my own birdroom to improve 'Vitality' Hopefully some of these will be useful to you, and who knows, you may already be doing some or all of them yourselves.

- FEED THE BIRDS WELL.
- PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT THE BIRDS ENJOY BEING IN.
- CREATE AN INTERESTING AND STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT.
- CREATE ACTIVITY.
- PROVIDE FORAGING OPPORTUNITIES.
- DESIGN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES NATURAL BEHAVIOURS (SEE BELOW).

In addition to these you could also:

- CULL BIRDS THAT DO NOT LOOK 'VITAL'.
- CULL BIRDS THAT DO NOT PRODUCE WELL.
- CULL BIRDS THAT DO NOT PRODUCE YOUNG THAT ARE 'VITAL'.
- SELECT FOR BIRDS THAT MEET YOUR DEFINITION OF 'VITALITY'.

It's ok to make exceptions, but ensure they are exceptions!

ENCOURAGING NATURAL BEHAVIOURS

In our march toward the Standard of Excellence it is mind-boggling how many of us will tolerate abnormal behaviour in our flocks. Abnormal behaviours will generally not allow you to effectively populate your breeding program. In fact, over time they can destroy it. Therefore, encourage natural socialisation, courtship, breeding, nurturing and feeding behaviours by:

- LIMITING OVERCROWDING.
- CULLING STOCK THAT DO NOT SATISFY YOUR DEFINITION OF 'NORMAL BEHAVIOUR'.
- CREATING NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS FOR YOUR BIRDS TO IN TURN ENCOURAGE NATURAL BEHAVIOURS.
- BEING DILIGENT ABOUT REMOVING UNNATURAL BEHAVIOURS NO MATTER THE QUALITY OF THE BIRD INVOLVED.

Try not to grieve when a 'line' of birds dies out. Have confidence in your own skill as a breeder to build a great bird, and remember that there are plenty of others with great birds that can lend you a bird, sell you a bird, or provide advice to help you along.

BREEDING CONDITION

By Steve Amos

LET US BEGIN by accepting that the annual moult, the autumn moult, the main moult or whatever description you may feel is appropriate, the one that usually occurs in the autumn of the year and is also usually the moult which is the most severe. I personally believe that the start of this moult is really the beginning of the search for breeding condition.

In our birdrooms we prefer that this moult starts quite naturally, that is when the birds feel like it and not when we want it, just because we want to send a team to just one more show, or we allow ourselves to be influenced by the ring issue date. Even though we are aware that we can induce an early start to the moult by juggling around with the settings of the time switch that controls the lighting.

All of our stock is given the freedom of the flights during the moult. This freedom we believe, combined with consistently good feed and attention, aids recovery and the only birds that will be caught and caged up at are our show team for the BS Club Show.

To get through the moult requires much patience on our part as apart from seeing that the birds are fed and watered and that any that show signs of ill health are taken care of, there is no point in wasting time just watching them. So, while I prepare the show team for the Club Show I am also making sure that all the requirements for pairing up are in order.

Following the moult, it is then that the search for visible signs of breeding condition begins in earnest, the cocks and hens have been separated for about six weeks. All of the hens in my partner Ron Thumwood's birdroom and all the cocks in mine in our case as we live only two gardens apart, the sexes can hear but not see each other. Throughout the rest of the year the sexes have been flighted together and this results in a considerable amount of pair bonding, so separation before pairing serves two important purposes. Firstly the breaking of any undesirable pair bonds and secondly the hens have more opportunity to rest and re-cover from the moult without interference and too much attention from cock birds.

Cocks ahead of Hens

It has been our experience over the years that cock birds reach their full breeding condition about two weeks before the hens, this of course is a generalisation but the condition of most of the birds in a flock kept and fed the same way will be similar. Of course there will be a few exceptions. The odd few will be either in a better or worse

condition than the majority. However, in the case of the cocks the first indicator of breeding fitness will be the noise, in fact the noisiest period in any part of the year is from the cocks flight just prior to pairing up. They will be very active, chasing each other around, drumming on the perches, feeding each other and maybe having a scrap and causing a little blood to flow. Quite often at this time many cock birds will not be feather perfect, a few feathers missing or damaged is never detrimental to breeding condition. Now is also the time to note those bright in the eye and all those that are on top line and raring to go. I believe the fitness of these cocks to be the catalyst to which the hens react to bring them to the peak of fitness just as she is about to start laying.

A careful watch is kept on the hens. We like to see them nice and plump but not too fat, hens that are too fat rarely are good breeders. There will be a lot less noise from the hens although they can often be heard calling to the cocks. They too will be alert and active but unlike the cocks they may not be chasing each other and instead they could well be doing their utmost to destroy the birdroom, so give them plenty of things to chew at, like easily replaceable softwood perches, fruit tree branches etc. Study the colour of the cere, particularly in the maiden hens. When the cere is a milky coffee colour they are almost in full breeding condition. When they are like that we want to get them paired within a fortnight or we may well miss the best time in the breeding cycle.

Breeding Hens

Dr. Mike Cannon BVSc. MACVSc

MANY BREEDERS will not let a young hen breed until she is at least 9 months old. In Britain, however, the trend appears to be to breed young hens at 5-6 months old. Mike Cannon was asked, are hens fully developed at this age and capable of breeding without harmful effects?

It is not as simple as a yes or no as far as the answer to this goes. You have got to look deeper as regards what is the stimulus for the birds to "come on". The actual determinant in animals, as to when they reach puberty, is not so much age as weight. With cattle, and it holds for all animals, if you put a cow to pasture in Western Australia she will mature very early, at about 9 months of age. If you took her up to the Northern Territory it would be 3 to 4 years before she began to cycle because it takes them longer to get to that stage. Most of the studies have shown the on-set of puberty depends upon weight, more than age and condition. I am sure it would hold in birds as well. Parrots fanciers build their birds up very quickly and can get most of their birds breeding by the time they are 12 months old. Once you get to that critical weight other things become important such as whether they are raised with a male and have good, strong psychological pair bonding.

Another important factor is temperature; if you go into different areas of Australia the budgies will actually breed at different times of the year. I can remember going

to a lecture by Kelwyn Kakoschke where he talked about the different times that he is getting his birds to breed and the different fertilities obtained. This is very much related to temperature and length of day. The other item that certainly stimulates is rainfall.

In budgies there has been a lot of research to prove that male vocalisation is very important, the hen bird being stimulated by certain male sounds. However, one of the main factors they found was the amount of light, or rather the amount of darkness. In most birds the amount of light you supply is important but with the budgie, if you put hens in 24 hour darkness they will lay eggs. If you put them in 24 hour light they will soon go off laying. What has been theorised is that the nest box actually provides a nice dark stimulus to them for lay eggs. It is quite interesting that it is the amount of dark, not the amount of light that plays the important role. Studies have been carried out for all different lengths of darkness versus light to show this. If you have birds laying and you want them to stop the simplest thing to do is lengthen the period of light you provide for them. I have certainly used this technique on pet budgies whose owners complain about them laying eggs all over the cage and getting egg bound. For the cure I get the owners to increase the length of day.

I do not think that a lot of your birds are going to be ready at 5 or 6 months of age, although it is something you can select genetically. In the poultry industry they have selected for two types of bird. One is a bird that grows very quickly and does not lay many eggs and the other is a bird that lays lots of eggs but looks very scrawny; one for the egg laying market the other for the meat market. You can also select your birds, the problem being that it will be a tradeoff. If you want them to breed early you are going to be trading off some of the other characteristics. This is because genetic selection is hard you have found out when trying to get the right shape, head and feather length etc. It is certainly another criteria you could look at as most of your birds have a short breeding life. So if you can get them breeding at an earlier age and turn them over more quickly it may be an advantage.

One of the areas that you need to be aware of is, if the bird is not fully grown and you do get it to lay you may have problems with egg binding and infertility. It may be better to have a slight trade off and wait just a little bit longer.

EXHIBITION BUDGERIGARS: Health and the show Season

by Dr. Rob Marshall B.V. Sc., M.A.C.V Sc. Avian Veterinarian

ALTHOUGH there are many different methods used to prepare Exhibition Budgerigars for show, it is the strict attention to detail and careful planning which separates the very best fanciers from the rest.

Success in the show arena is solely dependent upon the results of the breeding season and for this reason preparations for a successful show campaign must begin well before this time. It is both the correct selection of the breeding pairs and the production of healthy and robust youngsters which lays the foundation for a successful

show season. In this article, I shall discuss the importance of health in the preparation of the Exhibition Budgerigar for the Show Season.

Nowadays, time to spend with the birds is often limited by work and family commitments, which means that realistic goals and careful planning are needed for the continuing success and enjoyment of this very challenging hobby. The joy of keeping and showing Budgerigars and the camaraderie within the Budgerigar fancy must not be spoilt by the disappointment of failing to achieve unrealistic goals, because of time restraints. If your time is limited, then lower the numbers and varieties of birds that are exhibited and set the birds up for just one or two major shows a year.

A "pre-breeding plan" is the first step to a successful show season

A master plan for the Show Season, starting well before breeding, will make the most of the time spent with the birds. The fun part of breeding Budgerigars is the "pairing on paper" of the potential pairs before the breeding season begins. It is during this time (6-10 weeks prior to pairing) that a "Pre-breeding Health Programme" is designed and implemented, remembering that an informed health programme will maximise the chances of a good breeding season. By "informed", I mean, that the "resident" illnesses in your aviary have been correctly identified (by droppings tests, post-mortem and pathological analyses) and are then treated appropriately.

The breeding season determines the physical and genetic quality of the show team

It is not good practice to treat for illnesses which are not in the aviary. Medicines such as Doxycycline (Doxycycline 10, Psittavet), Ronidazole (Turbosole, Ronivet-S), Metronidazole (Emtryl, Flagyl), Amphotericin (Megabac-S, Fungilin), Ivermectin, Levamisole (Avitrol), Amprolium (Coccivet) are all potentially hazardous to breeding birds and must only be used when there is the corresponding illness in the aviary. For example, do not use Doxycycline in aviaries which are not experiencing fertility problems. Likewise, do not use Megabac-S, Psittavet, nor Ronivet-S in aviaries which do not have a Megabacterial, Chlamydial (Psittacosis) or canker problem respectively and remember to rejuvenate the breeding birds at the completion of any medication course with health stimulants (soaked seed enriched with protein, energy, vitamins, minerals, trace elements etc.) for at least 4 weeks prior to pairing. Only vital and perfectly healthy birds should be used for breeding, because the best show birds are the most robust and naturally healthy specimens.

Health during the breeding season is vitally important to show success because the most vital and robust babies in the nest make the best show birds. Health problems during the breeding season occur when weakling (low vitality) birds are used as breeders.

A "carrier" bird or untreated bird (which has a resident illness) is used for breeding. Stress related illnesses occur which are the result of incorrect nutrition, poor hygiene,

aviary and food management practices are lacking. Weakling birds have a low resistance to the stresses of breeding and are highly susceptible to illness. They are either genetically weak (which means that a high proportion of their offspring will be weak as well) or physically weak (caused most often by a latent illness and a low level of natural resistance to illness.). Weak birds not only perpetuate a genetically based health problem within the entire aviary, but also expose other breeding birds to an increase germ count, predisposing the breeding pairs to illness. During breeding, illness in the adult birds will affect the youngsters either through the egg (infertility or dead in shell) or in the nest (poor development or dying babies), and because unwell babies rarely recover from a set back in the nest, they will fail as show birds. The "carrier" bird can be readily recognised during the breeding season because it will become unwell some time in the first round. A "carrier" bird is one which appears outwardly healthy but "carries" a disease, which becomes apparent under times of stress, such as breeding or moulting. The worst affected "carrier" birds will become apparent within a week of pairing or soon after egg laying. The others will become unwell at some later time during the breeding cycle (i.e. pairing, egg laying, incubating, feeding youngsters). All "carrier" birds should be eliminated from the breeding programme, because they lower the flock's level of natural resistance to illness. "Carrier" birds fail to survive in the wild, let alone reach breeding condition. It must be the aim of every Budgerigar fancier to select the breeding pairs as harshly as nature does, where the paradigm of the survival of the fittest rules successfully. French Mould is a good example of a carrier type disease. Birds which have feather problems in the nest may moult out into normal feathers during the first juvenile moult. Such a bird becomes a carrier of French Mould and perpetuates the disease during the breeding season. The fancier must rely on breeding methods to cure French Mould, because medicines cannot treat this disease in the bird. French Mould is cured by the fancier selecting birds for breeding which have not had French Mould and which do not carry the illness. In fact this drug free approach is the perfect model for the control of all diseases in the Budgerigar aviary. The best show quality youngsters are produced in aviaries which are not only disease free but which provide the breeding birds with the best feeding methods. Above all, the food must be clean and fresh and although it is widely accepted that protein levels are vital for normal baby development, I believe it is the energy level of the food which is critical to the best development of potential show quality babies. Rapid growth is dependent upon the energy level rather than the protein level of the diet, whereas feather quality relies upon a good mix of protein rather than excessively high levels of protein. Energy can be provided in the form of starch or fat (oil) and most successful fanciers rely on soaked grains (starch) and protein/oil additives to provide the required energy and protein levels to produce the most robust and vital babies. The increased growth rate created by the correct feeding means that there is an increased demand for

vitamins and minerals which must be provided to the adults either in the water or on the soaked grain. The taste of these food and water additives is more readily accepted by the Budgerigars during the all important "Pre-Show Season Health Programme", because they have had these additives from the nest through to the aviary. The best fanciers initiate much of the show training techniques early in the life of the show Budgerigar, such as producing tame birds by regular handling of the babies and giving the breeding adults a wide variation of tastes which the young Budgerigars readily accept as adults, especially when required for the pre-show preparations. The attention to these and other small details is what separates the best from the rest. Hygiene and good aviary management is critical at all times throughout the Budgerigar year in order to keep the germ count low. Excessively high levels of any germ predisposes even the most healthy and robust Budgerigar to illness. Dust, red mite, moisture and poor quality food are major factors in outbreaks of illness in the breeding aviary. Regular weekly aviary disinfecting and water cleansing is mandatory throughout the year, but especially during breeding and showing, when the birds are more susceptible to illness.

The fancier takes total control of the health of the young Budgerigars after they enter the aviary

Much of the preparation for the top health needed for success on the show bench is established by good aviary practice during the pre-breeding season and breeding season. Young birds in the aviary are better prepared for the stress of weaning and the moult when they leave the nest in top health. The fancier becomes totally responsible for the continuing good health of the youngsters after they have left the nest box for the aviary. It is good hygiene and aviary management which maintains and protects the good health nurtured by the parent Budgerigars. In the uncrowded aviary, juveniles which are slow to wean, moult slowly and are quiet in the aviary are probably unwell and are best investigated and treated in isolation.

Those unwell young birds that fail to respond to treatment within 2 weeks are best culled, because they will never make champion show birds. It is impossible to make an informed culling decision of a young bird which comes from an aviary which is overcrowded, cold, wet, unclean, has rodents or where the water and/or food are dirty. The young birds are protected from the stress of weaning and fledging by the regular use of health additives and aviary and water cleansers. Unless there is a disease outbreak (several birds unwell at the one time or one or more young birds dead within a week) it is unwise to give preventative medicines to young Budgerigars, because this is a critical time for the development of a strong natural resistance for them.

Good clean food is a critical part of this important stage in the life of the exhibition Budgerigar. It is the strong natural resistance developed during this stage of development which protects the Budgerigar from illness during the rigours of the show

season. A water cleanser is used once a week in the water and the aviary is cleaned once a week to keep the germ count low. The health additives are given as the various products indicate on their packaging.

The Pre-Show Season Health Programme primes the Budgerigar for the show bench. Most fanciers select and start preparing their show team some 4 to 8 weeks before the first show. This gives them enough time to bring the show Budgerigar into top form not only physically but psychologically. Physically, the bird must have both an active metabolism and be perfect in the feather. Top mental form is achieved by providing plenty of rest, health additives and recreation in between the training sessions.

The health of the aviary birds prior to the show season is not always known by most fanciers and for this reason I recommend a Pre-Show Season Health Programme which treats all resident illnesses within the aviary. Most fanciers will recognise that the aviary is not quite right by a decreased noise in the aviary and the occasional poor dropping and fluffed up bird. At this time I would recommend that the fancier check his birds individually for illness and select at least six birds for a veterinary examination, which will utilise dropping tests and crop washes to identify the existing resident illnesses. All existing illnesses are eradicated well before the show team are put under the stress of show preparation. Unwell birds fail at the show because they have poor feather colour and sheen, are lifeless or nervous.

From the NEST BOX to the SHOW CAGE

By Ron Thumwood of the Amos & Thumwood Partnership

FOR A BUDGERIGAR EXHIBITOR to be able to put a bird in a show cage at all, means that he feels that he has bred a bird good enough to show. In this article I am going to take a wide view and start with the nest box on this journey to the show cage. Step by step along the way from the hatching of the bird that we hope will be awarded the winners rosette.

There is nothing new in the way budgerigars are bred except in the methods used by individuals to carry out their individual ideas on producing winners.

Starting with the nest box - these come in many shapes and sizes and over the years have been constructed of such diverse materials as wood, cardboard, plastic and even way back in time of coconut shells. All have had their successes and every breeder has their own ideas as to what the ideal nest box should be for their own circumstances.

Inside the box nesting materials also differ, some of the things used are concaves with a step, with or without coarse sawdust so the hen can make her own nest and is able to sit where she wants to. Care should be taken regarding the source of supply of sawdust in case it has originated from chemically treated timber; breeders have also successfully used peat and bran.

POSITIONING THE BOX

The position of the box again depends on circumstances in each birdroom , some fanciers prefer them fixed to the outside of the cage which makes for ease of inspection and cleaning and also gives more room inside the cage. Others prefer a loose box on the floor inside the cage, which has the disadvantage of disturbance to the birds and having to remove the box when inspection and cleaning is required. Cages with built in nest boxes are quite good and easy for inspection and cleaning but we feel that the space taken up would be more beneficial to the birds as cage space. The one great advantage of boxes fixed to the outside of the cage is that they can be easily taken off, cleaned and disinfected and put away at the end of breeding season. Whether to buy or make your own nest boxes is a question we have all come across, and over the years we expect that our idea's have changed, most pet shops sell nest boxes with a concave made from material too thin for a winter breeding season which only leaves about 1/8th inch thick under the eggs, not enough to keep them warm and in our opinion it is not enough and is likely to be one of the reasons for dead in shell early in the breeding season.

EARLY ADVICE

We were lucky in our early days to have the help of a really great fancier, the late Fred Lane of Leamington Spa, he advised us to have a certain type of nest box which we have used and are still using, it is 9 x 9 x 6 inches made from timber 1/2 inch thick with a 2inch thick stepping block under the entrance hole which is 2 inches in diameter. Hens in lay need a good size hole to help them in and out and our concaves are 2 inches thick so we have at least 2inches of warm timber under the eggs. The entrance hole is always as high up in the box as possible as a safeguard to stop the youngsters from toppling out whilst waiting to be fed and so possibly ending up dead. By the time they are old enough to climb out of a high hole they are usually old enough to cope if they find themselves on the cage floor.

We have only ever used sawdust in our nest boxes if however the hen throws it all out we wait until laying starts and sprinkle a little sawdust around the eggs to stop them rolling about. If she persists and carries on still removing it we leave her alone to get on with the job until chicks hatch when we restart replacing the sawdust as it helps keep the chicks clean and we usually find that the hen is too busy feeding that she stops bothering about the sawdust.

We originally used a perch under the hole on the outside of our boxes but found they were a problem as the cocks were apt to sit there and keep the hen in the box. This caused a little fighting and sometimes did not allow the hen to come out far enough to be mated thus we felt in some cases causing infertile eggs. Also a problem was youngsters regaining access to the box easily with the possibility of disturbing incubation of a new clutch of eggs or breakages, We took away the perches on the boxes and have never used them since.

MAGILL GRAIN STORE

(JOHN & TONY 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

BSSA Hall of Fame - ANBC Class Winners

K & J Kakoschke - 22 Wins	G & E Duffield - 2 Wins	Lynn Ray - 1 Win
Normal Green - 1980,1984	Black eye - 1975	Dominant Pied - 1990
Normal Blue - 1980,1984	Clearwing - 1994	
Red Eye Self - 1977,1979,1983,1984,1986		Ron Norman - 1 Win
Clearwing - 1980	Nigel Tonkin - 2 Wins	Hens - 1996
Cinnamonwing - 1981,1993	Spangle - 1993	
Opaline - 1986	Hens - 1988	Mike Crossley - 1 Win
Fallow - 1982,1986		Yellow Face - 2002 *
Lacewing - 1986	R Arnold - 1 Win	
Dominant Pied - 1980,1982,1986	Normal Blue - 1977	Peter Simic - 1 Win
Yellow Face - 1984		Recessive Pied - 2010
Hens - 1977,1982	B Coventry - 1 Win	
	Dominant Pied - 1977	D Lomman - 1 Win
Kakoschke & Rice - 12Wins		Violet - 2014
Normal Green - 2005	R & E Deslandes - 1 Win	
Clearwing - 2005,2010, 2015, 2016	Greywing - 1980	
Opaline - 2011, 2019		
Opaline AOSV - 2010, 2015	Graham Evans - 1 Win	
Crested - 2003, 2005	Normal Green - 1981	
Grey Green - 2016		
	Alan Kett - 1 Win	
Wayne Weidenhofer - 6 Wins	Normal Blue - 1981	
Yellow Face - 1977,1978,1979,1980		
Clearbody - 2015, 2018	Stan Watson - 1 Win	
	Hens - 1981	
Geoff Smith - 5 Wins		
Opaline - 1984	Malcolm Aspen - 1 Win	
Dominant Pied - 1981,1983,1984,1985	Opaline - 1985	
Deane Trevellion - 3 Wins	Marie & Kerry Murphy - 1 Win	
Clearwing - 1981	Spangle - 1989	
Greywing - 1983		
Fallow - 1985		
Peter Glassenbury - 3 Wins		
Blackeye - 1980,1992,2009*		
Ethel Dobie - 2 Wins	Note: Both Geoff Smith and	
Lutino - 1975	W Weidenhoffer would be ANBC	
Dominant Pied - 1975	Hall of Fame members, however	
	ANBC bylaws only count wins	
	Since 1983 when all seven	
Gordon Lowe - 2 Wins	states decame full members	*Indicates a past or current BSSA
Opaline - 1979	And participants.	member who did not enter with
Yellow face - 1983		the BSSA team for Logan Shield
		pre selection event.

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

February to November (Monthly Meetings)

1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 1 point

Bird of the Night = 3 points

Annual, Breeders, Novice, Murphy Classic and Unbroken Cap Shows

Each Class

1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 1 point

OPEN		INTERMEDIATE	
J & W WEIDENHOFER	150	Paul SOUL	194
J MULLEY*	140	K & J HARRIS	75
M & K MURPHY	109	Vicki SANFORD*	35
G ENGLAND & SONS	78		
Tracy HASKELL	54		
Wayne BANDT	46	NOVICE	
Dennis LOMMAN	46	Michael SLOPER	143
HOLMES FAMILY*	42	Ian JENKE	57
Sue ADAMS	29	Phillip KIRKPATRICK	40
Diana TREVARTEN	19	Marcus STRUDWICKE*	32
Ian MARSHALL*	18	Jonathon TRUBSHAW	28
Michael CROSSLEY	16	Graham MCALLUM*	26
L & H EDWARDS*	14	Paul WILTON	22
Chris MURPHY	12	Geoff POYNER	17
Shiralee REARDON*	7	Michael SMITH	13
		* NEBS member	

LIFE MEMBERS CONT 2001: Mr. C Murphy; 2004: Mr. K Murphy, Mrs. M Murphy
2008: Mr J Fisher; 2012 Mr K Wing.2020: Mr G Stearnes