

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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Sue Adams (see above)

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

OCTOBER MEETING – TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER.

Our October meeting will be held at Sturt Street Hall on Tuesday 1st commencing at 8pm.

Ian Marshall and Troy Holmes will be leading our Entertainment, and will be talking about strategies and their breeding theories to improve the Lacewing and Fallow varieties.

Both our guest speakers have won the highest award in our hobby – first place at the ANBC in recent years, so I am sure their thoughts and ideas should challenge our current thinking and practices.

BSSA/NEBS INTERCLUB CHALLENGE – SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER.

The annual Interclub Challenge is just around the corner. It will be held at the Vermont Church Hall. Importantly, to qualify as a status movement event, this show is open to members of any club in SA, not just BSSA or NEBS members.

We are the host club for 2019, so please get your entries in. Also, remember that if your nest feather birds are not quite ready or have broken their cap, then you are able to enter older 2019 rung birds in the “Young Birds” class.

If any member has not received their schedule, please contact Chris Murphy via either email or phone and I can forward to you.

Entries close on Saturday 19th October so please be quick and get your entries in.

Hopefully we avoid the hot weather policy being required, although spring temperatures can be unpredictable, so please be familiar with the policy on the show schedule.

NOVEMBER MEETING – TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER.

Our November meeting will be at Sturt Street, with its usual 8pm start time.

Tonight's entertainment is a return of the President's Cup.

To win this prestigious award, bring along your best cock or hen with a ring number ending in “7”.

The entry can be any age, any variety, but the ring number must end in the lucky number “7”.

We will also combine this entertainment with a general discussion on the breeding season using the group discussion format.

OBITUARY - IAN MCEWAN

Ian Joined the BSSA in October 1998. He spent approximately eight years Ian serving on the BSSA committee as Book Officer. Prior to then, Ian was a member of the Budgerigar breeders Club and worked with good friend Robert Worrall in a committee position. Ian was a Budgerigar Judge and officiated at Shows held by all clubs including the State team selection show for National Competition, not forgetting the Royal Adelaide Show cage bird section many times.

Ian's specialty was the Fallow Budgerigar variety and won many best of variety awards for that variety. Until recently, Ian was a regular attendee at the club's monthly meetings and was well regarded by all. Ian's funeral was held on Friday 16th August.

DECEMBER MEETING – TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2019.

As we did last year, the December meeting will be held on our regular Tuesday evening. The topic for discussion is “The Recessive and Dominant Pied Varieties”, and we are hopeful of having Kelwyn Kakoschke as our guest speaker.

Kelwyn has been a frequent winner with his Dominant Pieds, and along with the Recessive Pied, these varieties are one of the more colourful varieties that new members are attracted to when they first get bitten by the budgie bug.

Commencement time will be 8pm.

2020 SHOW DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR.

Murphy Classic Intermediate & Novice Show – Saturday 28th March 2020.

Stan Watson Breeders Show – Saturday 2nd May 2020. (Change for 2020)

Logan Shield – Sunday 17th May 2020.

ANBC Show in Victoria (Bendigo) – Saturday & Sunday 23rd & 24th May 2020.

Ron Norman Annual Show & Brasea – Saturday 13th June 2020.

Interclub Nest Feather Show – Saturday 24th October 2020.

Please note the date change in our Breeders Show. Following a significant number of comments about the show being too late (in July for the past few years), and also being at the end of a long showing season, the Committee have moved the show to an early May date. There are pros and cons to the decision. Yes it's before the ANBC, when the young birds should be shown, but there is a solid argument that early May is still too early for the birds to be in a “good Show condition”. Either way, the date is in play and the entries and conditioning of the birds will need to be monitored over the next few years to measure this date as being the best option.

Murphy Classic Intermediate & Novice Show Sponsored Varieties:

To help assist with the ongoing costs of our shows, we are hopeful our Open members will come on board and support this show by sponsoring the trophy for a variety of their choosing. To date the following members have committed for 2020.

Mike Crossley – Green

J & W Weidenhofer – Australian Yellowface Blue

Wayne Bandt – Albino

Sue Adams – Clearbody

Chris Murphy – Lacewing

Paul Soul – Dominant Pied

M & K Murphy – Recessive Pied

Shiralee Reardon – Crested.

The cost to sponsor a variety is \$20, so if you are able, please advise any Committee member.
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2019 RINGS & 2020 RINGS

16 August 2019	Closing date for 2020 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 2020.
15 December 2019	2020 rings available from the Ring Officer.
12 th June 2020	Closing date for the final 2020 ring order. This is the second and final chance to order your rings for 2020.
31 July 2019	Estimated delivery date of the final 2020 ring order.
14 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.

Please Note – Due to the Ring Supplier supplying rings in error, we have surplus rings available for the balance of 2019. This is a one off supplier error, so any member requiring extra BLACK 2019 rings, please speak to our Ring Officer – Wayne Bandt.

BCSA COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE

The most recent meeting of the BCSA was held on August 30th, and the follow up actions are listed below.

The BCSA has ratified their decision from approximately 2012, that from January 2020, only the new style powder coated chrome cage fronts will be accepted at the Logan Shield. Both NEBS and Port Pirie appear likely to follow the Council decision and disqualify chrome cage fronts at their club shows.

The BSSA **will not** be penalising any exhibitor at our shows who still has cages with the chrome fronts. 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.

As a State, the Clubs are organising another “powder coating” day, where all members who still have chrome fronts are able to bring them along to the November club meeting and we will organise a bulk run.

Please note:

- This is a one off powder coating run to minimise the cost to those who take part. We do not know accurate costs – expect \$4 to \$5 each.
- Please ensure your cage fronts are clean, rust scraped/brushed off, and are securely tied together with your name attached.
- Bring them to the November meeting (Tuesday 5th).
- If you wish, the new powder coated fronts can be purchased from the Trading Table (\$8.50).

Help is still required for the 2021 ANBC National Organising Committee to assist in the running of the Show in Adelaide. A variety of roles still require volunteers to fill them, including stewards, door teams, fundraising teams, security officers, travel coordinators, and numerous other roles. If any of our members can assist, please let any member of the BSSA Committee know.

Results of the Kadina A H & F Society Show

Budgerigar and Caged Birds Section, held on August 17th 2019

Budgerigars	Breeder
Grand Champion	Malcolm Loveridge
Champion Opposite Sex	Malcolm Loveridge
Reserve Champion Cock	Malcolm Loveridge
Reserve Champion Hen	Malcolm Loveridge
Best Novice	Graham McCullum
Best Young	Graham McCullum
Canaries and Finches	
Champion Canary	Chloe Williams
Champion Zebra Finch	Hayes & Gorden
Reserve Champion Zebra Finch	Hayes & Gorden
Champion Australian Finch	Hayes & Gorden
Reserve Champion Australian Finch	Hayes & Gorden
Champion Foreign Finch	Hayes & Gorden
Reserve Champion Foreign Finch	Hayes & Gorden
Champion Others	Chloe Williams

Thank you to the BSSA for your continued support

BRINGING BUDGERIGARS INTO BREEDING CONDITION & PAIRING UP

Terry Pilkington

What is the best way of bringing budgerigars into breeding condition?

This is a question often asked by the beginner. The answer can be varied from fancier to fancier. We have always used the same procedure every year since we started, i.e. the BS rings are issued on or about the 1st January each year, so we try to get most of the birds into breeding condition for the end of November. This is the time when we pair up the majority of the stock, therefore timing the hatching for approximately Christmas day, so that chicks are ready to ring as soon as the rings arrive. We have found that the preparation for the breeding season is very important; it is where all your future plans begin.

When do you start preparing for the breeding season?

The answer is when the last one finishes. It is very important that birds are fit when paired up, especially the hens. It is best to keep birds that are not required for the show bench in the flights, helping them to keep in trim. Also, I think the exercise is important, especially for the hen, which spends most of the breeding season in a small nest box.

Should the hens be flown with the cocks, or kept separate?

When we were beginners, and the space available was limited, we used to fly both cocks and hens together. We found that some birds paired off, and it can be difficult to break a pair bond up when trying to pair the birds to different mates, although the cocks kept the hens active. We now have two flights, side by side, with adult cocks in one and adult hens in the other. We find the hens are still kept fairly active flying after the cocks, but there is not the same pair bonding. The youngsters are kept in a different aviary and, again, we keep the cocks and hens in separate flights.

There is more to preparing the birds for the breeding season than getting them fit. The lights and feeding also play an important part. From May to October, the birds are kept in natural daylight, i.e. no artificial lights at all (our aviary is well lit with windows in the roof). Towards the end of October we slowly introduce the artificial lights in the evenings, controlling them with a time clock. At first for an hour, this is increased weekly until the lights are on until 10.30 p m, by the end of November. This way, the lighting is extended slowly and reflects the natural breeding cycle of the wild. We find that, using this system, the birds will go into a heavy moult in September/ October and, by the end of November the birds are in breeding condition. This condition must not be confused with show condition.

What is the difference?

Show condition/peak fitness means feather fit; breeding condition appearing prior to show condition. The cere is usually nut brown or deep blue (some hens show a paler brown usually an inherited feature) but the feathers are not necessarily complete. The habits of the birds are usually different; they tend to swoop from perch to perch "shouting" and calling, and the hens will have started to chew any wood in sight. These are the most important things to look for when choosing which birds are ready for the breeding cages. Both sexes are always on the move and bright in the eye, but not in top "show" condition. Generally, we have found that the birds in peak condition have just gone "over the top" for breeding. We like to pair up just before the stage of perfect feathering, as, this way, the birds arrive in top breeding form

as they start to lay, and usually go on to produce two to three rounds of quality chicks without too much trouble. Most of the breeding problems that we, as breeders, encounter is that the birds were not fit enough when paired up, so a little patience in waiting until each individual bird is ready to breed is very worth while. To this end; we always keep twice as many hens as cocks, hoping that enough hens will be in condition at the appropriate time.

What happens once you have selected the pair?

Usually you will find a few of your pairings do not take to each other. They sit on opposite perches and as one flies across to the other bird, that bird will dive to the floor or across to the other perch, as if avoiding each other. In these cases, keep your eye on them, leave together (if not fighting) for approximately one week to see if they settle down (sometimes these pairs end up the best breeders) and, if not, they should be split up and repaired or returned to the flights.

The feeding of our birds during the show season is basic; pearl white millet and Canadian canary seed, fed in separate dishes. Twice weekly, we feed tonic seed, and mineralised grit, iodine nibbles and cuttlefish are always available. In the water, we add "SOLVIT" vitamin two days a week and "Murphy's" Prosystem minerals are available in finger drawers. We have been using these products for a long time and have found them to be beneficial to the birds' health and breeding capabilities and thoroughly recommend both.

In late September, as we approach the breeding season, we start to increase the food and tonic seed is fed on alternative days. "Maxi-Feed", a high protein food, is given in a finger drawer every other day; the idea being to try to encourage the birds to eat more, as the moult takes a lot out of them, and also, they will need to build up their resources for the breeding season. The hen will have to work hard, especially if the cock is not doing his share of the feeding.

Do not forget to allow at least 14 - 16 hours of light when they are breeding, so that the parent birds have plenty of time to feed, both themselves, and their offspring.

Now that you have done all that you can regarding preparation for the breeding season and that all the birds are in breeding condition and are compatible to each other, you can settle back and dream of producing that elusive 'World winner' without any problems. NO CHANCE! This is when times really try your patience



BREEDING CAGE CONSTRUCTION

By Jom Bratt

All wire mesh $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or $\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 inch or all wood cages, with or without removable capture trays on the bottom, are a matter of choice rather than science and the birds will breed equally well in each style. The all wood with commercial punch bar front and pull out trays on the bottom are preferable in terms of looks and are the standard in most European countries. All wire cages with pull out trays on the bottom require less annual maintenance than the all wood and are probably used more frequently in the U.S. than other countries. They are also easy to clean. An advantage of the all wire over wood is they are not as heavy and are easier to move around or remove from the bird room for cleaning.

Some breeders have started using all wire cages with a double wire bottom and a capture tray between them. This allows droppings, seed, etc. to fall through the first wire bottom into the capture tray and prevents the adults and young from picking through the litter. Young birds do not appear to have difficulty finding seed dishes as they exit the nest box and they adjust to walking on the wire quickly. Hygienically, this is probably the most efficient of the breeding units. It is the one most recommended for pathogen control in the breeding area of your aviary. The all wire with wire bottom and no capture tray is the least preferable as they are the messiest with litter, seed and droppings falling onto the floor or cages below them. This increases the chances of contamination spreading to other cages and exposes other pairs to pathogens that may be present.

EFFECTS OF VISUALISATION AND HEARING ON MATING

While a considerable amount of common literature suggests that Budgerigars need to see others in order to stimulate mating behaviours, there does not appear to be any studies, which support this. In fact, it has been demonstrated that the testes of surgically deafened Budgerigar cocks will fail to grow and produce sperm even in the presence of other mating pairs. Other studies have supported instead, the importance of male vocalisations in determining female reproductive development as well as stimulation of the testes in other males. Pairs of Budgerigars isolated from other pairs rarely show nest box oriented behaviours but when exposed to only the vocalisations of other pairs, nest box behaviour is induced.

Based on this information, the use of opaque or clear glass partitions between connecting breeding units, choosing all wire cages to enhance visualisation of other breeding pairs, or arranging the breeding room so that breeding cages face one another is unnecessary. Because it is the vocalisations of males that is important to sexual stimulation, more emphasis should be placed on designing your aviary so that the breeding room is adjacent to or adjoining the flight area where stimulation from the noise of other cocks is the greatest.

When this is not practical or when separate breeding and flight areas are used, as in the case of a breeding room set up in the basement or garage with flight areas in the back yard, then a number of pairs should be set up at the same time. Some of the more knowledgeable and experienced breeders in this situation, set up their breeding pairs, then fill remaining empty breeding units with single males. The additional warbling of these single cocks induces loud warbling in the paired males as well as testicular development and the production of sperm.

PERCHES

It is universally accepted in the hobby that square perches are better and more stable for gripping by the hen when mounted by the cock than round perches. A knowledge of Budgerigar physiology, however, indicates that because of their foot and leg structure, the hens grip on the perch, whether square or round, is actually tightened by the flexor digitorum longus tendon as she squats to accept a male mounting her. If you think about it, it doesn't seem likely that mating pairs in the wild pick out square branches to mate on.

Opinion is that securely mounted perches are more important than the shape of the perches in the breeding process. Exceptions to this are that the diameter/width of both round and square perches are not too small or large for secure gripping and that the surface is not too smooth as to cause slippage of the grip. A unique but particularly effective perch design that appears to facilitate secure gripping by conforming to the structure of the Budgerigar foot is the shape of a flat topped tepee.

Two perches, placed at an equal height on opposite ends of the breeding cage are superior to one perch running the length of the cage, for encouraging mating behaviours. In normal mating behaviour the cock will fly from one perch to another either followed by the hen or the hen remains on the perch for his return. This is followed by side walking, where both the hen and the cock walk sideways from one end of the perch to another. Then the cock bird faces the hen in forward display, where his cap feather and spots are thrust forward. He will then knock his beak against hers while issuing guttural vocalisations, which induce the hen to adopt a copulating posture. In this posture, she squats low to the perch, raises her tail upward while at the same time arching her head backward. The cock will then attempt to climb onto her back. young and inexperienced cocks typically have difficulty mounting but once it is accomplished they settle down and begin treading with toes and nails to affix a grip.

Once balanced, he will wrap one wing around her while adjusting his position on her back so that his cloaca comes in contact with hers. This is followed by a vigorous, rotating/thrusting motion of his pelvic area, which within a short period of time brings about an orgasm. With the orgasm, a white, creamy drop of ejaculate, about the size of a raindrop is released. This is immediately drawn into the hen's oviduct by a suctioning action of her cloaca and motorability of the spermatozoa. At this point, the cock will dismount as the hen rights herself with a slight shivering motion and fluffing of her feathers.

Motility then propels the released spermatozoa through the oviduct and into channels, which connect to the sperm host glands. These glands, also referred to as sperm glands or sperm nests, extend the life expectancy of spermatozoa in the oviduct while they wait to be released for fertilisation.

It is not uncommon to find pairs copulating 2, 3 or even 4 times in succession. Copulation typically occurs in the early morning but can take place at any time throughout the day. Most often, it ceases after the last egg of the round is laid but some cocks may attempt mounting even after the first chick is hatched. The hen will determine when copulation terminates and will generally avoid or discourage his attempts until the behaviour is extinguished.

RATIO OF COCKS TO HENS

By John Chambers

John Chambers started in the hobby by accident rather than design. It was 1990 and his wife, Linda, had been colony breeding a few, pretty coloured, pet shop quality birds. He was working in Wickford, Essex and was advised that Bill Watson, a champion budgie breeder, lived in the area. Linda could not accompany him the day he arranged a visit with Bill so John went on his own. "It was love at first sight when I saw what an exhibition budgerigar looked like", said John. After this, colony breeding changed to breeding cages, pretty little birds changed to exhibition type birds and he took over Linda's hobby. She has forgiven him and although it is now his hobby she will feed the birds if he is away from home.

The first proper set-up was a 10ft x 6ft shed with 9 breeding cages and a 5ft x 6ft inside flight. An 8ft x 6ft outside flight was attached to the end. To go through the different stages as the Chambers aviary progressed in any detail would take forever but each year showed an improvement. Suffice to say that it is now 30ft x 9ft and "yes" the original shed is in there, somewhere. He can't make it any longer as it goes across the whole garden and Linda will not let him make it wider. It now consists of a breeding room that is 18ft long with 27 breeding cages along the back wall and 9ft deep to accommodate work units and a sink. There are 2 main flights each with a seed hopper big enough to take half a sack of seed. An outside covered flight and two small baby flights.

John tries to have 100 birds available for the breeding season but like most fanciers he carries a few more than he really needs. The stud is 50% red-eye due to his success on the show bench with Albino's. His mentor in the early days was Brian Anson, an intermediate who had a nice stud of light greens. He told him "never worry about the colour of the stud but breed good budgerigars. You will find that it can change in a matter of two seasons". As John said, "How right he was, I have gone through all the normal colours and a few more in the last ten years. My present stud, apart from my Albinos and Lutinos, consists mainly of a very good family of blues and greys. Brian was the biggest influence on me in my first 4 years, which is when he gave up budgies and moved to Norfolk." Everybody needs somebody like Brian when they start because you have so many questions and so few answers. The other major influence on him was and is Ernie Sigston because nobody ever stops learning and we all need someone to confirm or consult with on issues we are uncertain on.

MANAGEMENT

For the Chambers Stud the daily routine outside the breeding season is to feed and water in the evening and visually check for any symptoms of illness in the birds by their general appearance and checking vents by looking from under the perches. Then it's time to pull up the chair he keeps in the aviary and watch the birds. "It is not only relaxing but gives me the opportunity to assess the birds for quality, fitness and showmanship." This is essential for selecting your show team. He tends to avoid additives or supplements outside the breeding season unless there is a problem that needs addressing. The reason being that John believes the bird's body systems benefit from a period of a good staple diet whilst they are in the flights. This consists of a seed mixture of 50/50, plain water, grit, iodine blocks and carrots twice weekly and red millet sprays once a week.

He flies both sexes together in the main flights with the doors open or even removed to allow them as much flying area as possible. "Again it is what they would do naturally. I do not worry about the ratio of cocks to hens to keep during the year as long as they are of good quality. When it's time to cut the stud, just prior to the breeding season, then my aim is to have a ratio of 40% cocks to 60% hens. However, there always tends to be those few extra cocks that I just can't bring myself to let go."

He has an outside flight as, in John's view, the birds benefit from fresh air and direct sunlight as they would in their natural environment. Also if the weather is fine he enjoys watching them in the outside flight from the comfort of a reclining chair on the patio with a large drink beside him. Keeping budgies should not be all about hard work but an enjoyable relaxing hobby.

THE BREEDING SEASON

The breeding cages used are 2ft x 18in x 18in in three banks giving a total of 27 cages. He would like them 6 inches longer but is restricted for space. There are removable plastic dividers between each cage, which make runs when they are not being used for breeding. The birds seem to prefer seeing each other rather than being shut off as they were with the solid dividers he used before. Each cage has a small seed hopper, which holds about a weeks seed for a breeding pair with youngsters which is quite useful if your spare time is limited.

The first nest boxes he had were situated inside the breeding cages; inspection being by a sliding door attached to the front. He changed to the box within a box style on the outside of the cage, having found that by being able to remove the nest box for inspections is less stressful to the hen.

"Breeding time is a stressful time for the birds and they need all the nutritional help I can give them. To the basic 50/50 seed (10 parts) I add hemp (1), safflower (1) and groats (2). Each cage is given a finger drawer of a mixture of Hormaform and Maxifeed daily. When the pairs are first put in the cages they are given a small dish of conditioner seed twice a week. This is changed to a tray of Vydex "Grow rite "soft food mixed with grated carrot and grouts given daily commencing a few days before the chicks start to hatch."

Noisy birds are happy birds, which makes it the most important proof of a good atmosphere in a birdroom. To achieve this John has raised the noise levels by use of a radio and making sure there are no sound barriers between the flights and the breeding room. He has also increased visual contact between them. By having plastic dividers for the birds in the breeding cages also adds to the effect. Budgerigars fly in flocks in the wild and all this helps recreate those conditions.

In deciding which birds are in breeding condition if a cock looks fit and active then he'll try him. Hens have to be not only visually fit but have to feel right. To do this he holds the bird in one hand so that it's front is facing him. Then using the pad of the index finger on the other hand he places it between the pelvic bones. If the bones are at least 3/4 of the pad apart it shows the canal for the egg to descend is open and the hen is in laying condition. Anything tighter and it will take time for her to come into condition. John said that this is the BEST tip he has ever been given.

When pairing up the first thing he does is to see if there are any pairs from the previous breeding season that he wishes to pair together again. It could be that what they produced was so good that he wants a few more chicks off them before pairing them to different partners or for some reason he wishes to try them again if they did not produce. Then he cages up each variety in turn and check the hens to see if they are in laying condition. "I see no point in pairing up birds that are not fit and waiting for them to come into condition." Then he pairs visually taking care not to double up on faults and looking for birds that compliment each other, knowing that each variety is bred from the same line unless he has recently bought an outcross. Lastly, he checks from the breeding records to make sure that they are not full brother/sister or parent/child.

When the hens start laying he numbers the eggs in turn with a felt tip pen and tests them with a 8. W. torch once the fifth egg is laid. If the first one is not showing as fertile he removes it, continuing this process as each egg is laid. "It is sometimes surprising how the sixth or seventh can be the first fertile egg," said John. If the whole clutch is clear and the birds are still fit he will let them go for a second round or use them for fosters for the pair that are producing fertile eggs. Either way their second round can produce good results. When chicks are hatched the first time he handles them is usually to ring them. The next time is when they are feathered up unless they get dirty. After that he handles them each time he inspects the nest box. This helps him to start assessing them and they get used to being handled. "You can usually spot the very good youngsters early on by their big feet. Quite often the hen will get fed up with pumping food into them when they are about 3 to 4 weeks old and when you inspect them there is only a small amount of food in their crops. It is then that I supplement their diet with a parakeet hand rearing food using a crop syringe." When the young are about five weeks old they are transferred to a small baby flight 3ft x 3ft x 3ft until they are 9 to 10 weeks old. Nest box cards are used as an initial record and the data is transferred into a breeding record book. This is backed up with a card index on each bird and a computer programme.

EXHIBITING

Basically John does not show a lot, maybe 3 or 4 shows a year at the most but always at the B.S. World Show, which he thinks, is the highlight of the year. He usually shows about 6 to 8 birds and looking through the CC's he's won the majority have been for albino's. The most rewarding win was at the 1997 club show when he won the Any Age CC for Albino and took the LABS trophy for Best Redeye in Show. The show team is caught up about 3 to 4 weeks beforehand, any sooner and they put on too much weight in the stock cages.

Although albinos do not have to be despotted they take a lot of care to keep them clean once you have washed them in baby shampoo, by spraying them every other day. He does not specifically train birds to show but likes to breed it into them. However, there is always that one good bird that won't show properly and he will leave them in a show cage each day, whilst he is in the birdroom, until they settle. When returning from a show the birds are put back in the stock cage they came from, making sure they have plenty of grit and fresh water. The grit pot seems to be the first port of call for them, then the water fountain. "For me, the hardest part of the year is deciding what to keep and what to sell. After you have sorted out

the best and the worst, you are left with a large section of birds that are roughly the same quality, all coming off good birds. It's then that I have to decide what is the most number birds I want to keep, taking into consideration the amount of each variety and the ratio of cocks / hens. After that it's all down to will power not to keep too many "just in case."

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

By Gordon and Sylvia Hallam

It is our belief that in all forms of livestock breeding, blood is of more importance than visual qualities. Of course, if you are able to have both the visual qualities and the blood, then so much the better, but those types of birds are rarely available and when they are, the asking price is usually greater than the average fancier can afford.

Before purchasing birds, one should always make a point of looking for breeders who do their winning with owner bred birds. If at all possible, arrange to visit the birdrooms of possible outcrosses. It is of the utmost importance that the overall quality of the stud is of the highest standard, for we believe that you can only expect to breed birds equal to the average quality of the stud from which they came.

These outcrosses must be paired to the most prepotent birds that you possess, in order that the qualities you saw in their "home stud" can be brought out. Our most successful outcrosses have come from the inferior brothers and sisters of really top class budgerigars from good studs. It is far better to buy the worst bird from a really outstanding stud than the best bird from a poor one.

A word of warning about buying blood; only buy blood if you are able to see where the so called blood came from. Many birds are sold on the premise of being off one strain or another. If the bird you are purchasing has been bred from rubbish, then you can be quite sure that it will surely breed more rubbish, even if its great, great grandfather was Best in Show at the World Show!

We like to keep plenty of spare stock; it is all too easy to sell good birds, just try to buy some back. Fanciers should aim to have a good choice of pairings, even on their last pair. That way, you will have no need to pair two faults together; and, should you have a bad breeding season, you will have some reserves to fall back on. Far too many fanciers cut back on the numbers they keep just to keep the seed bill down! A false economy.

NO PAIRING UP ON PAPER

We never pair up on paper prior to breeding. We like to pick out those hens that are alert and bright eyed, in short, those which appear to be in breeding condition. It does not matter whether it is the best hen or the worst one; we then look for a visually suitable cock. By suitable, we mean that any failings shown by the hen must be countered by using only cocks which excel where the hens fail. Similarly, faults in the cock must be countered by the hens excelling in those points.

Never pair up birds which show the same faults; that way you should never produce inbred faults. In the long run, you will only get out what you put in. If you double up on faults they will find you out in the long run.

Only when we have found a visually suitable partner do we check records to see that they are not too closely bred. By close, we mean brother x sister or parent x offspring; These apart, anything goes. Having successfully paired your "blood birds" to your best or most prepotent partners, the results should be carefully studied. These results can usually be assessed as being in one of three groups.

Group 1 - An odd show bird with some nice stock birds

Group 2 - A number of mediocre stock birds

Group 3 -- Everything of poor Quality

DISPOSE OF THE LOT

If your results are in group 3 then it is far better to dispose of the lot. If your most prepotent birds cannot get anything out of your outcross then it better to call it a day there and then.

Group 1 birds are easy; you have picked a winner as the two strains are obviously compatible, you have got your successful outcross.

Many more outcrosses result in birds from group 2; and it often pays to retain a few of the better hens and pair them back to your own lines. It will usually be worthwhile, if you chose your outcross well.

Nowadays, feather appears to be all important on the show bench and many fanciers pair their coarse feathered birds together. This is often successful for a short time but, eventually, nature catches up:

- The better birds usually fail to reproduce in reasonable numbers
- Problems with missing flights and tails increase dramatically
- Body size decreases
- The show birds are difficult to get into show condition and then hold it for a very short time
- The life span of the birds decrease.

Many years ago, Canary breeders trod the same path that we, in the budgerigar fancy, are today. They saw the light and now do not pair buff to buff. Very coarse feathered birds should be paired to birds of a finer feather to produce-the ideal show bird - a large bird of intermediate feather.

Magill Grain Store

574 Magill Road Magill SA 5072

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White French Millet 20kg

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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	119	Paul SOUL	158
M & K MURPHY	109	K & J HARRIS	60
G ENGLAND & SONS	60	Vicki SANFORD*	35
Wayne BANDT	40		
Tracy HASKELL	34		
Jim BUTERWORTH	32	NOVICE	
Sue ADAMS	20	Michael SLOPER	99
Dennis LOMMAN	19	Ian JENKE	57
Chris MURPHY	12	Phillip KIRKPATRICK	39
Michael CROSSLEY	6	Jonathon TRUBSHAW	28
Ian MARSHALL*	2	Marcus STRUDWICKE*	27
		Paul WILTON	22
		Geoff POYNER	17
		* NEBS member	

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