



Bird Chatterings



**Issue 6 Volume 6
June 2004**

The Newsletter of the North Shore Cage Bird Club

Meetings at the Sunnynook Community Centre,
148 Sycamore Drive, Sunnynook.
8pm, 4th Thursday of each month excluding
December.

Show Season

Is upon us and many members will have been to several shows already.

Congratulations to those who have been 'in the money' and have won places and prizes.

Breeding Season

Will be here for many of us in the next few months and there is an article on Egg Binding, one on Seed Sprouting and getting birds to eat new foods, later in this issue.

Question Time

in Please take the time to fill out the survey (2 questions) and return in the SAE. Your opinion is important!

Recycle and Scrap Metal - Please give to Jim Ziarno who is kindly collecting for club funds

This newsletter is proudly supported by AA Tourism

<http://www.aatravel.co.nz>



Lizard Canary

This newsletter, past issues, membership forms, and other resources and information are on the web at:

<http://cagebirds.arecool.net>

Who's Who!

Patron: Jim Middleton
Vice Patron: Bill McAlees

President: Jim Ziarno, 18 Stanley St, Glenfield,
Auckland. Ph 444 3024.

Vice President: Ron McIlwain Ph 483 8351.

Treasurer: Mark Nissen Ph 482 3471.

Secretary: David Burn Ph. 476 3505.

Editor: Mark Nissen Ph 482 3471.

Committee: Bill Bates, Colin Punter, Kate Nicholas,
Robyn Clark, Jim Ziarno, Luke Staal, Gordon McGibbon.

Show Manager: Maurice Donell.
Assistant Show Managers: Gordon McGibbon,
Paul Hughes. Ph 415 9106.

Show Secretary: Colin Punter.
Assistant Show Secretary: Kate Nicholas.

Trophy Custodian: Jim Middleton.

North Shore Cage Bird Club Membership Subscription/Renewal

Due annually from date of A.G.M.

SurnameFirst Name/s

SurnameFirst Name/s

StreetSuburb

TownPostal Code

PhoneD.O.B. if < 16 yrs

Status: Champion/Novice/JuniorParent Club: Yes/No

Interests (circle those that apply): Budgerigars, Yorkshire Canaries, Gloster Canaries, Norwich Canaries,
Border Canaries, Roller Canaries, Parrots, Lovebirds, Finches, Bengalese, Zebra Finches, Foreign Birds, Doves,
Colour Canaries, Quail, British Birds, Other (please note)

Subscription: Single Adult \$20.00 : Partnership: \$25.00 : Junior: \$5.00 : Junior Partnership \$10.00 :
Pensioner: \$12.00 : Pensioner Partnership: \$15.00 : Late renewal: add 10% after 1 November.

Total \$..... Date...../...../.....

Note: Please send before 31 October in order to be included in The New Zealand Federation Of Cage Bird Clubs Inc
Year Book.

Send with remittance to
47 Lysander Crescent, Beach Haven, Auckland

Please feel free to photocopy this, or a PDF file is available at the website <http://CageBirds.areCool.net>

Beaconclore

Seed Suppliers. 490 Don Buck Road, Massey, Auckland 8.
Ph 09 833 6179

We are merchants for Top Flight Seed.
These seeds are NZ grown where possible.

Hours: 9 am – 4 pm Saturday and Sunday
For Prices and Enquiries Please Phone 09 833 6179

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Monthly Meeting May 04
Attendance; 12

- Apologies; Carol Ziarno; John Longworth; Mark Thompson.
Moved Paul Hughes; Morris Donnell.
Minutes, as read in News Letter
Moved. Jim Middleton ; Morris Donnell
Mail In 1. Federation Minutes.
2. Akld Met Show Schedule
3. Piako Show Schedule
4. Whakatane Show Schedule.
Mail Out Year Book sent to Desnee Harris
Correspondence To Trevor Humphries.
Moved. Morris Donnell ; Paul Hughes
Finance; Savings account. \$ 4266.55
Cheque \$ 240.11
Petty Cash \$ 27.30
Annual Show \$448.05 Loss
Moved. Gordon McGibbon; Paul Hughes
General Business.
1. Top Flight Seed Supplies, now available from Jim Ziarno Tel 09 4443024
2. **Outstanding Issues from the annual show**
A) Not all prize money has been distributed
B) Frank Peterd missing a Rosette
C) Trophies still to be engraved and distributed.
D) Complaints regarding prize money in the Gloster Canary section.
3. The club would like to welcome its newest member Andy Fry.
4. A debate took place regarding the appointment of judges for sections in decline, namely Roller Canaries and Love Birds
5. A letter to be drafted and sent to the Norwich Society explaining the change of judges to this section.
6. A questionnaire to be drafted and sent out to members to determine the viability of;
A) Our annual show being held on the other side of the bridge
B) A combined show
7. Auckland Budgie Club have extended a welcome to North Shore members to attend a talk by a vet on disease in birds.
Meeting closed 9:10pm

Market Place

Bird Equipment:

Maurice Donnell has a variety of excess bird equipment of all kinds suitable for Canaries and Finches. Young bird keepers will get a very good deal. Ph 410 4140

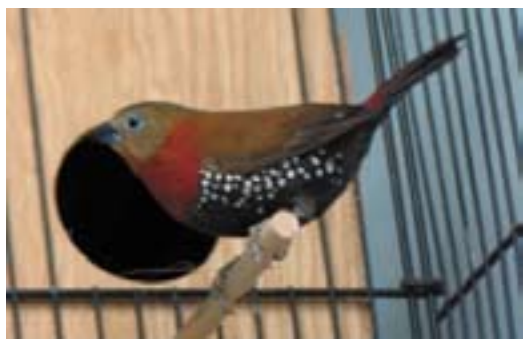
Budgerigar Show

Cages: unpainted boxes with hinges etc available from
Colin Punter. Ph 837 1091

Wanted: Corona Gloster Hen Canary, please phone Murray on 410 3244.

Ron Mcilwain is disposing of a number of budgies

Call on 09 483 8351



Peter's Twinspot Hen

Next meeting
To be held in the
Sunny Nook
Community Centre

148 Sycamore Drive,
Sunnynook.

On the 24.06.04 (4th
Thursday of each month
excl December)



Peter's Twinspot Cock

Information

Pied Budgerigar Society Web Site
<http://PiedBudgies.areCool.net>

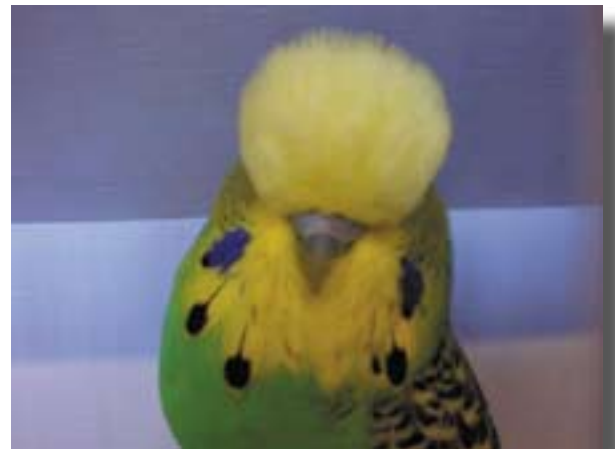
World Budgerigar Organisation

BUDGERIGAR COLOUR GUIDE

A field study was carried out in seven member countries (Australia, Belgium, Germany, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the U.S.A.) involving many fanciers, to establish a WBO Budgerigar Colour Guide for the basic budgerigar primary colours using the Pantone Colour Chart.

Many budgerigar samples were used in those countries and it was eventually agreed that the WBO Budgerigar Colour Guide (using Pantone charts) should be as follows:

Light Green	375
Skyblue	310
Dark Green	369
Cobalt	2915
Olive Green	371
Mauve	535
Grey Green	398
Grey	428
Lutino	102
Violet	2727



Shows, Sales, Events

Kihikihi Bird Sale 22 August Ph (07) 883 6822

Shows, May 2004

June 2004

12th & 13th Piako, Wellington Porirua, Christchurch
19th & 20th Hawera, Auckland Metro, Marlborough
26th & 27th North Taranaki, Whakatane, Dunedin

July 2004

3rd & 4th Te Awamutu Hamilton Tokoroa
10th & 11th Levin, Poverty Bay, Timaru

72nd Grand National Show
30th & 31st July & 1st August Invercargill

Notices

Jim Ziarno is now the "Seed Guy" next orders can be placed by ringing him on 09 444 3024.

Dilpomas for Novices moving to Champion and equivalent in fancies that don't have this system were proposed and passed by popular proclamation.

These will be awarded to those deserving individuals in a Ceremonial Manner at Annual Show, AGM of other significant meeting.

New Zealand Finch Breeders Association website may be found at:

<http://www.nzfba.orcon.net.nz/>



Forbes Parrot Finch



Gouldian Finches

Canary Hatching

From - <http://www.colorbreeds.com/photo.htm>



Zebra Finches

MASSEY PETS & AQUARIUM CENTRE
Marjorie and Dennis.
406 DON BUCK ROAD, MASSEY, AUCKLAND. PH 09 833 5577.
GOLDFISH, TROPICAL FISH & TURTLES. SMALL ANIMALS. RABBITS, GUINEA PIGS & BIRDS. GREAT SELECTION OF CAGES & FISH TANK SET-UPS. STOCKIST OF NATURE'S RECIPE, IAMS & EUKANUBA PREMIUM FOODS.
DIFFERENT INSTORE SPECIALS WEEKLY.
SPONSORS OF OUR CLUB RAFFLE.

Getting birds to eat new foods

by Carol Heesen

We all know that good nutrition is crucial to our birds health. Getting the birds to eat it can sometimes be a challenge! Lady Gouldians, in particular, can be very resistant to trying new foods. There are a couple of tricks you can use to encourage your birds to try the foods they need to maintain optimal health.

The fastest and easiest method is to introduce a "teacher" bird into the flight. Societies and Zebra finches are used most commonly as they are very curious birds who normally accept and eat any new foods offered. As the goulds watch the teacher birds eating, they are often encouraged to try new foods.

Try serving small amounts of the new food over the old, familiar feed.

If this method is unsuccessful, try changing the presentation of the food - chop smaller, serve whole, mix with other foods. Presentation is crucial in getting birds to try new foods. For instance, I have found many goulds to be resistant to eating hard boiled egg that is mashed with a fork. Run the same hard boiled egg through a grater so it looks like small white worms and the birds devour it! Use your imagination and creativity in finding the presentation that is best accepted by your birds. And take heart, chicks raised in your facility will readily accept the foods you offer - they grew up on them and are familiar with them.

If the above method is unsuccessful, more drastic means are called for. The goal in this second method is to use hunger to motivate the birds to try the new foods without causing unhealthy weight lose. I have found the following method to be quite successful:

- Remove all food one half hour before lights out. Leave the water receptacles in the cage.
- At first light in the morning, present the new food stuff. This motivates the birds to try the new foods while they are most hungry.
- one hour after lights on, return the familiar, accepted food items to the flight.

Repeat daily until the new food stuffs are being consumed. Most birds will accept the new foods within 2-5 days.

<http://birds2grow.com/art-newfoods.html>

Sprouting seed

by Carol Heesen

Sprouted seed is an intricate part of the feeding routine in our aviaries. Sprouted seed is highly nutritious and easily digested. There are many different techniques in sprouting seed. Here, I have described the methods used in our aviary.

Each morning I fill a quart jar (or pint jar depending on how much you need in a day) I fill it ½ full of white millet seed. I use white millet seed because it is cheaper but also because the slightly larger seed allows more air movement around the seed. More air movement means less bacterial and fungal growth. Using a single kind of seed rather than a mixture allows all the seed to germinate at about the same rate. I cover the seed with warm water and then go out to feed my birds. A half hour later, I rinse the seed well and refill the jar with water plus 0.5ml of Aviclens. (used to inhibit bacterial growth) I rinse the seed again that night and again the next morning.

The second day after the morning rinse, I drain off all the water and lay the jar on its side to maximize air circulation around the seed. I then rinse the seed thoroughly each morning and night until small roots just begin to emerge from the seed. It is at this point that the seed has the most nutritional value. The roots usually appear the second or third night depending on the weather. I use a jar each day and start a new jar each day so I usually have 2-3 jars of seed sprouting on the window sill at any given time.

I use a vegetable sprayer that comes standard on many kitchen sinks to vigorously rinse the seed all the way to the bottom of the jar. You could also dump the seed into a colander to rinse. The object is to rinse the seed very well until the water runs clear.

I add the small amount of aviclens after the first half hour soak the first day because it helps inhibit bacterial growth. Bacteria and fungus release toxins when they multiply that can not be rinsed away but are absorbed into the seed. By using the aviclens in the first long soak, I prevent or minimize the toxins formed.

When my seed has just started to sprout, I mix it with a teaspoon of powdered bird vitamins and a teaspoon of crushed cuttlebone before serving. If I am feeding the seed to birds feeding chicks or juvenile goulds who need extra protein to speed the adult molt, I also add 1 tsp. of my Pro-Min powder and a grated hard boiled egg. Any leftover mixture is stored in the refrigerator until the next feeding.

Finches love sprouted seed and I have had no problems with bacterial or fungal infections in my birds since I started preparing their seed in this way. I have also seen an increase in chick survival and faster molting into adult feather. To me, this is a lot of benefit for a routine that takes about 5 minutes a day.

<http://birds2grow.com/art-Sprouting-seed.html>

Egg Binding

Isn't it interesting how your perceptions change with time! Once upon a time, when treating egg bound birds my first consideration was to get the egg out of the bird - the reasoning being that the egg was the cause of the problem and once removed the problem disappeared.

During many years of treating egg bound birds I have come to realise that the egg is not the only consideration when dealing with these birds. The first thing to assess when you find a "bound bird" is whether it is actually egg bound! Often people jump to conclusions when they find a hen on the floor with a swollen abdomen - not all these are egg bound. You should be able to feel the hard egg in the lower abdomen.

Catching up birds that are in the process of laying may actually cause the egg to stop moving and then they become bound!! Be careful that you do not overly interfere with the egg laying process. The next important consideration is the well being of the hen. If the bird has been bound for some time she may well be in a critical condition because of changes to blood flow to the kidneys. Birds that are bright and happy, but have an egg stuck should be treated conservatively (that's vet speak for do nothing). Many of these birds will pass the egg in due course. Often the larger the bird the more tolerant they are of egg binding.

Many of the Ostrich we dealt with in the past few years would have a uterus full of old eggs that did not pass yet they appeared very normal, yet a finch that is truly egg bound is an emergency. Once the egg is removed the bird may not necessarily be cured. Many of these birds have underlying conditions that need treatment if the bird is to breed again (and that is generally the aim). Getting the Egg Out Removing the egg may be difficult or at worst life threatening to the bird. Applying oil to the vent is about as useful as applying it to the birds left ear. The egg will be lodged in the uterus or shell gland, oil on the vent only makes you feel better it does nothing for the bird apart from give it an oily vent!

The general approach is:

- Get the bird in a warm environment - about 28 - 30 OC
- Raise the humidity to greater than 80% relative humidity
- Crop needle the bird with a dose of Poly Aid Plus with some Calcivet added
- Keep Spark Electrovet in the drinking water.
- Monitor the bird for 24 hours. If there is no improvement then get help.

When we have the egg out we must then think about what else could be happening in those birds. Often they have a severe uterine infection. Proving this in the live bird is difficult, so you should treat them all as if they have an infection. Give them either injectable antibiotics (Psittavet) or twice daily doses of Amtyl for three days.

Eliminating uterine infections will improve the birds chance of laying normally. The other medical problem these birds suffer is acute, severe inflammation of the uterus or shell gland. This may lead to scar or adhesion formation. I always give a large dose of potent anti inflammatory (Avigesic) when treating these birds. Prevention is always more economical than treatment.

Be prepared to change things in your aviary (or for individual hens) if you have a recurrent problem.

1 - over fat hens will bind more frequently than fit hens.

2 - birds that lack adequate calcium or Vitamin D3 will bind because their muscles are not strong enough to expel the egg. A bird that binds with a soft shelled egg generally has a calcium/D3 deficiency. Breeders should be on a Calcium /Vit D3 supplement (Calcivet) during the egg laying period.

3 - a multitude of diet factors can cause egg laying problems. Reassess your diet with someone who has knowledge of avian nutritional needs.

4 - recurrent infections (misshapen, malformed eggs are often due to uterine infections) - you need veterinary advice. Just as "oils ain't oils", antibiotics ain't antibiotics, some are better at penetrating into the uterus than others.

5 - if a hen egg binds in two successive seasons, she should be culled from your breeding programme.

Bird Jokes

What do you call a minor bird accident?

A feather bender.

Why did the duck go ring-ring?

He got a phone bill.

What did the little bird say to the big bird?

Peck on someone your own size.

What do you call a formal dance for ducks?

A fowl ball.

What kind of ducks rob banks?

Safe quackers.

Why was the duck unhappy?

His bill was in the mail.

Why did the pigeon need to get out?

He was cooped up at home all week.

Which bird does construction work?

The crane!

Which birds work underground?

Myna (miner) birds.

What kind of doctor treats a duck?

A quack doctor!

What kind of weather excites a pet duck?

Fowl weather, of course!

What holiday is strictly observed by all birds?

Feather's Day!

Short Survey - tick boxes and write as appropriate.

Please take the time to answer the following questions and return in the enclosed envelope.

You may state your name, but there is no need to do so if you'd like to remain anonymous.

1. Annual Show. Should our next Annual Show be held:

- at Sunnynook Intermediate, as we do presently?
- at a venue (to be determined) in the central city area?
- at a venue (to be determined) in the west city area?
- at a venue (to be determined) in the north shore area, but with better public traffic?
- other?

2. Combined Annual Show. Should we combine with other bird and animal clubs to make our Annual Show a larger and more public - friendly event?

- Yes
 - No
-

Comment. Please feel free to add any other comments you may wish to:
