



Bird Chatterings



**Issue 7 Volume 6
July 2004**

The Newsletter of the North Shore Cage Bird Club

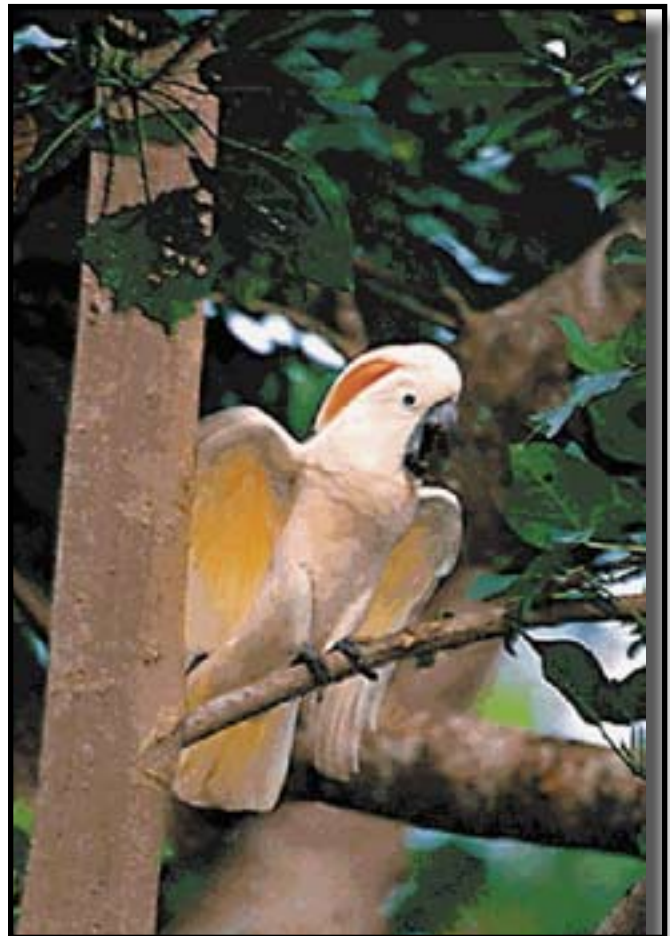
Meetings at the Sunnynook Community Centre,
148 Sycamore Drive, Sunnynook.
8pm, 4th Thursday of each month excluding
December.

Show Season

Is all but over. Congratulations to those that won
and better luck next time for those that are still
on their way.

Breeding Season

Is here and there's an article on inbreeding, later
in this issue.



Moluccan Cockatoo

**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>

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 June 04 Attendance; 8

Apologies; Ariya Nissen. Moved Gordon McGibbon; Maurice Donnell.

Minutes, as read in News Letter Moved. Jim Middleton ; Gordon McGibbon
 Mail In
 1. Federation Minutes.
 2. Border Canary Soc Complaint about not receiving show results
 3. Funding application declined from Mad Dogs and Englishmen

Mail Out Nil Moved. Robyn Clark ; Bill Bates

Finance; Savings account. \$ 4293.65
 Cheque \$ 271.06
 Petty Cash \$ 56.85

Moved. Gordon McGibbon; Maurice Donnell
 General Business.

1. Proposal from Northland Cage Bird to swap show dates North Shores new date being 18/19 June 2005 Moved. Mark Nissen; Dave Burn
2. Questionnaire Results; A) Annual Show to stay on the North Shore
 B) Agreement reached to formally invite other pet societies
3. Members to consider alternative show venues, if non found suitable by next meeting, then Wiarau Intermediate to be booked again.
4. Master Pet have invited NSCBC to hold its young bird show @ their annual Pet Show, Akld Show Grounds 19 & 20th Feb 2005.
5. Out standing show issues as minuted in May a of great concern to all members !! President to establish status, if issues have not been dealt with then all show correspondence MUST be secured no later than 28th May.
6. Annual Tax Return to be submitted with a zero rating.
7. A correspondent from Belgium has made contact, he is requesting a club badge for his collection of over 500 bird club badges. Member agreed to send free of charge.

Meeting closed 9:15pm



Parson Finches

Next meeting
 To be held in the
 Sunny Nook
 Community Centre

148 Sycamore Drive,
 Sunnynook.

On the 22.07.04 (4th
 Thursday of each month
 excl December)



Cuban finches

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

Shows, Sales, Events

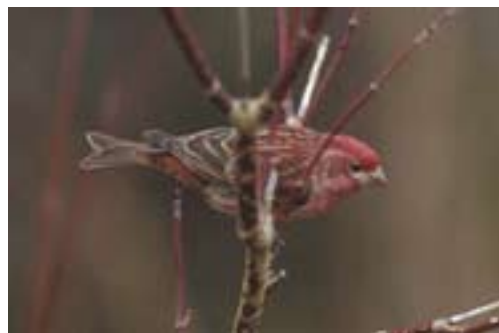
Kihikihi Bird Sale 22 August Ph (07) 883 6822

Shows,

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



Lizard Canaries



Purple Finch

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/>

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.

Inbreeding, line breeding, back crossing, what-have-you.

Mark Nissen. 30/6/2004.

It doesn't matter what you call it, the process of improving livestock through selective breeding has been with us for a long time, many hundreds of years in the case of cattle. Man has, with great success, turned many species of animals, birds and plants into forms that are completely different to the original ancestral stock.

In the cage bird fancy, selective breeding is a process that has been used to develop birds to conform to a standard and to create new varieties from sports.

This article is a brief but hopefully clear look, at this science or art. And whilst I am no expert on these matters I hope to illustrate the process and encourage it's use.

The aim is to improve one's stock, and it does not matter what species we apply the process to, the principles are simple and valid.

To begin in the beginning, we may wish to improve our stock in only one aspect, say, large size. Even though the characteristics that make up a bird are many and when combined with the same characteristics of the potential mate, offer a potentially confusing soup of possible outcomes, let's just concentrate on size at first. And for size you can substitute any other single characteristic, like colour or feather quality.

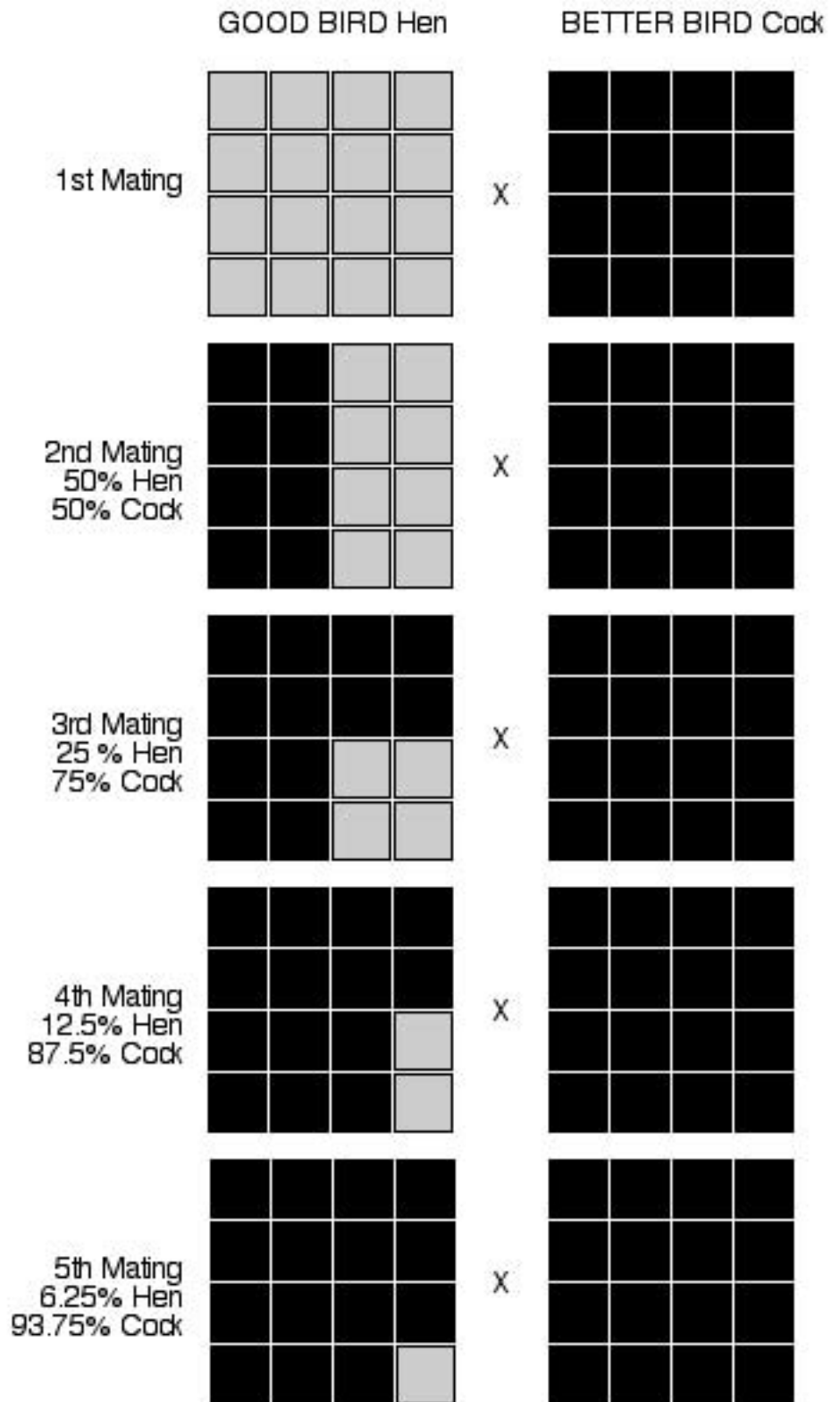
If we were to take 100 pairs of birds and just choose the potential mates on the basis of size and size alone, after many generations the overall size of the birds would improve. At the end of the process there would be large birds, but we would still get small birds amongst the young, as there would have been no "weeding" of the genetics of the birds. even though big birds would be more common, the genetics still would exist for the smaller birds.

So this is where we should think about selective breeding that concentrates on removing the unwanted characteristics and reinforcing the positive attributes. By simply choosing big birds, we are not refining the genome (a bird's genetic makeup). We could be mating big birds that are genetically half small bird, together and not removing the small bird influence.

Inbreeding can solve this problem.

In diagram 1, you can see that we'd like to produce more birds that are like the cock bird (black) and fewer birds that are like the hen (grey). By mating a young hen of each generation back to the original cock, we can eventually remove the influence of the first hen in the stock. If the black colour represents a large bird and the grey colour represents a small bird, you can see that before too long the small bird genes will be gone, or at least so diluted as to be unimportant. But if we use the black and grey colours to represent other characteristics such as feather quality, you can see how this can be improved as well.

There are factors that complicate the above, simple view, of this process. These can be: sex linked characteristics (where a factor behaves differently depending on the sex of the bird), pre-potency (where one bird's factors seems to have an unexpectedly strong effect on the young), the compounding of 'bad' factors along with the 'good', and mutations and throwbacks



(where some long forgotten, or completely new, factor makes an appearance). And not least, the reality that each bird is made up of many factors, (most species of birds have 29 pairs of chromosomes) the combination of which requires real skill to manage in the breeding process in order to achieve a satisfactory result. But if it was really simple it wouldn't be interesting or fun!

Charles Darwin, in the book 'The Origin of Species' wrote, 'we follow pigeons on down to the days of that most skillful breeder Sir John Sebright, who used to say, with respect to pigeons, that - he would produce any given feather in three years, but it would take him six years to produce beak and head'.

And this I think, is what we aim to do, by the processes of selection and by being able to concentrate good factors and remove the bad ones. Inbreeding is essential to accomplish these aims in a realistic time frame.

In the budgerigar fancy, there has been some talk about the gene pool being too small, or that good birds from elsewhere are required to improve the type. With the techniques described above, there should be no issue with breeding the required bird one's self. And if we take Sir John Sebright's words at face value, six years would see the improvement required.

Also from Charles Darwin, in the book 'The Origin of Species' the following passage describes the selection of sheep, very much what we do with our birds today. 'In Saxony the importance of the principle of selection in regard to merino sheep is so fully recognized, that men follow it as a trade: the sheep are placed on a table and are studied, like a picture by a connoisseur; this is done three times at intervals of months, and the sheep are each time marked and classed, so that the very best may ultimately be selected for breeding.'

One of the disadvantages of inbreeding that may become apparent, is that the birds become less fecund and more difficult to breed. This could be because the selection process that the stud is under, has a too narrow focus on the physical aspects of the birds and takes no account of virility. When selecting one's birds, the whole of the bird must be taken into account, factors such as fertility, feather plucking, steadiness and attitude must be judged along with the more obvious attributes of type.

Eventually, for any number of reasons, an out cross will be considered desirable. It is important to take the progeny of this out cross and inbreed them back to the original line, retaining the factors for which the out cross was brought in. Otherwise you may

dilute your stock with factors about which you know little and that may be detrimental to your stud.

A further enhancement to the process of inbreeding, is to allow a small number of good birds to dominate the breeding season by taking say, five of the best cocks and letting them mate with two or more hens, indeed four or five hens may be used for each cock and two rounds may be taken from each hen (foster the first and also the second if needed). This does mean that you could have twenty hens, twenty or more foster pairs and forty clutches to keep track of, so accurate records that track lineage and progeny are essential.

Once again, I am no expert in these matters, but I hope that others may benefit from the research I have done and written about above. Happy inbreeding!

A magician on board a Sea Cruise Liner performed tricks each day for the passengers in the saloon.

There was a resident parrot in a cage in the saloon. Every time the magician performed a trick the parrot always gave the game away by saying things like:

It's up his sleeve!"

He put it in his pocket!

It's sticking out at the back of his hand!"

Then one day there was a storm and the Liner sank. The magician and the parrot found themselves in the same lifeboat.

The lifeboat drifted for three days and the parrot was completely silent.

Finally, on the fourth day the parrot said, "All right then! What did you do with the bloody boat!"
