

Chatter

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PRESIDENT:

Troy Holmes – Kensington Gardens
president@bcsa.com.au

VICE PRESIDENT:

Michael Smith – Paralowie
cars19852003@yahoo.com.au

SECRETARY:

Chris Murphy – Coromandel Valley
cmurphy68@msn.com

TREASURER:

Ian Wise – Hallett Cove
ianwise1@hotmail.com

RING STEWARD:

Nigel Tonkin – Blackwood
nigeltonkin50@gmail.com

SHOW MANAGER:

Ian Wise – Hallett Cove
ianwise1@hotmail.com

WEB MASTER:

Troy Holmes – Kensington Gardens
president@bcsa.com.au

AUDITOR:

Matthew Worrell, Worrell & Co Accountants
matthew@worrellco.com.au

CHATTER EDITOR:

Troy Holmes – Kensington Gardens
president@bcsa.com.au

BCSA DELEGATES:

Chris Murphy – Coromandel Valley – BSSA
cmurphy68@msn.com

Ken Harris – Fulham Gardens – BSSA
ken.harris5@bigpond.com

Troy Holmes – Kensington Gardens – BSSA
president@bcsa.com.au

Danny Brill – Woodcroft – BSSA
dannybrill@hotmail.com

Larry Jeffries – Crystal Brook – Port Pirie Club
jeffers2@bigpond.com

Graham McCallum – Boolaroo Centre – Port
Pirie Club cathgra21@bigpond.com

Michael Smith – Paralowie – Port Pirie Club
cars19852003@yahoo.com.au

Doug Lange – Maitland – Port Pirie Club
drlange@internode.on.net

Ian Wise – Hallett Cove – North East
Budgerigar Society ianwise1@hotmail.com

Nigel Tonkin – Blackwood – North East
Budgerigar Society nigeltonkin50@gmail.com

John Mulley – Firlie – North East Budgerigar
Society jmulley@bigpond.net.au

Shiralee Reardon – Para Hills –
North East Budgerigar Society
shiraleereardon@gmail.com

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Letter from the President

I am going to begin by saying how immensely proud I am of all your efforts at both the State and National titles, whether it be as an exhibitor, or as a judge. Three National wins, to three different exhibitors, is outstanding, and although we fell millimeters short of our goal of third place, it was a monumental effort that came down to the very last class. In the week's leading up to the Nationals, we also managed to have three BCSA judges become Major Award judges, and two trainee judges become official BCSA judges, as well as a third waiting to move to Open before they can be officially certified.

Walking away from Launceston, I think its fair to say there is a buzz around budgerigars. Across the course of the National weekend, there was close to 20 interviews across radio, print and television, as well as numerous State based interactions in the lead up, which serve to normalise the conversation around keeping and breeding budgerigars. Fanciers were saying how friends and neighbours were having conversations with them about budgies, and how so many people who aren't in the hobby were sharing stories of how they had a budgie when they were younger. Weekend Sunrise opened with budgerigars on Saturday morning, and completed a live cross to the event in Launceston, which catapulted this hobby we love so much into living rooms across Australia. The event was featured regionally on Friday night across the WIN news regional network, and has continued this week, with several interviews still happening. In South Australia, we saw an uptick in website traffic, as well as several enquiries from people who have decided they want to venture into breeding budgerigars. Nothing short of a great



Team	Live Total
Victoria	603
New South Wales	552
South Queensland	470
South Australia	464
Nth & Central Queensland	349
Western Australia	289
Tasmania	208

outcome for the hobby. The challenge now, is to harness that momentum, and keep budgies in the media cycle, which means we need to be present every 6 weeks in the news cycle. Our good friends at Media Stable have been doing an outstanding job in doing just that, and we thank them for their support of this quintessential Aussie bird we are all so passionate about.

Between our last Chatter magazine in February and now, we've had some fantastic developments in Budgerigars here in South Australia. We've announced Budgie Fest 2024, which will happen on Saturday October 26th, featuring a juvenile (2024 rung) bird show, in lieu of a nest feather show. We are fortunate that we've had some brilliant support from Sponsors, who have facilitated this event, and allowed us to make it bigger than the inaugural event in 2023. As a council, we are extremely excited to announce we have a Budgerigar World Champion in Richard Miller, from the partnership R & M Miller, in the UK, joining Peter Thurn and Gary Gazzard as judges of this year's event. We are working through the finer



details of a dinner and feature presentation, to be held on the Friday night (October 25th), where Richard will share his breeding experiences with the audience – an event not to be missed. It's not often that we can bring an international judge out, so please make sure you block out that weekend for the Festival of the Budgerigar.

In April, we also featured the North East's 50th birthday celebrations. This spectacular event showcased everything from the founding of the club, through all that has happened in South Australia during that time, headlined by Adelaide Icon Graeme Goodings. Graeme captivated the crowd, in what will be remembered as one of the most memorable North East meetings.

Shifting gears, this time last year, we took a deep dive into the class results from the Nationals. We set ourselves the task of analysing the data, which pointed to the fact that we needed to strengthen our Normal Greens, Spangle Double Factors, Lacewings, Crested, Golden Face, Dark Eyed Clear, Yellow faces and Violet. Some of those classes answered the call – in fact, we went so far as to win a Logie in Normal Green class, finishing 1st, 2nd and 4th. And as a whole, we've certainly improved, falling only 6 points short of South Queensland in overall points score for third place. We've gone from 41 birds on the top bench in 2022, to 45 in 2023, and to 47 in 2024, so we are trending upwards. We had 31 exhibitors at the Logan, up on last year, so more people are making their birds available, and our grass roots membership is increasing, 11% last year, and on track for 20% this year. Our scores, and standing, are a reflection of the growing calibre of birds in this state, and the investment of our breeders into these specific varieties, as well as the renewed media interest in the hobby. That being said, our battles continue to be Violet, Yellowface, Crested and Spangle Double Factor. I would implore you, if its within your wheelhouse, to consider taking on one of these varieties, or focusing on them if you have them already, for the greater benefit of South Australia. While some varieties aren't for everyone,



*ANBC Winning Greywing -
Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer*



*ANBC Winning Light Green -
Dennis Lomman*



*ANBC Winning Crested -
Holmes Family*

they're a great opportunity for you to get a bird in the State team. Case in point - only 3 violets were benched at the State Show, 6 normal yellow faces, and 8 crests were available for state selection. If we could amass 6 breeders, who were willing to commit four pairs to one of these varieties, it is likely that the result could have well and truly been different. You may already be a Spangle breeder for instance, so putting some pairings down that are Spangle to Spangle, or Spangle to Spangle Double Factor, will possibly produce some more of these birds to help South Australia compete at next year's Nationals.

Speaking of Nationals, Cairns beckons in May 2025. Those who attended, or watched the live stream, will know the difference between their stock, and the calibre of bird winning at the National level. For some of you, it may be just a feature or two away. For others, it's about making a commitment to represent South Australia. We have some incredible fanciers in South Australia, and it would be wonderful to bench a full-strength team, to showcase the birds we are seeing win at the local shows that aren't being made available for National selection. This is a State of Origin for budgerigars, and it's a wonderful opportunity to represent your State with pride. I can reassure you that the bird carers treat these birds as if they

were their own – they are in the very best of hands. Expressions of interest for Cairns are now open, and the event promises to capture all of the buzz of Launceston, and build on it. Be a part of it, and get amongst the buzz that is budgerigars.



Finally, in closing, I would like to congratulate Doug and Ruth Lange, who were made life members of the BCSA recently. Doug and Ruth have worked tirelessly for the BCSA, and their efforts culminated in a BCSA life membership being awarded at On The Perch at the Meet and Greet in Launceston. Fittingly, Doug is retiring after 22 years as a bird carer for South Australia, so what better place to deliver the news than amongst his peers at the Nationals, where he has represented South Australia with his heart on his sleeve for so many years. Thank you to you both for giving your heart to this hobby, and in particular the BCSA, for so many years. The bird carers look forward to being able to return the favour, by preparing your birds with the same vigour and enthusiasm you have for all South Australians, for many years to come.

Birds On The Top Bench, & Logan shield Entries

#	Variety	2024	2023	New Status	Previous	State Show Entries	Comment
1	Normal Green	3	1	Strong	Opportunity	22	
2	Normal Grey Green	2	2	Strong		28	
3	Normal Blue	0	3	Opportunity	Strong	29	
4	Normal Violet	0	1	Opportunity	Opportunity	4	More Numbers Required
5	Normal Grey	1	3		Strong	28	
6	Yellowface	1	0	Opportunity	Opportunity	6	More Numbers Required
7	Goldenface	3	1	Strong	Opportunity	11	
8	Black Eyed Self	2	1			6	
9	Dilute	1	3		Strong	15	
10	Lutino	1	2			14	
11	Albino	1	1	Opportunity		14	More Numbers Required
12	Dark Eyed Clear	2	1		Opportunity	5	
13	Clearwing	2	3	Strong	Strong	6	
14	Greywing	3	2	Strong		11	
15	Cinnamonwing	3	3	Strong	Strong	29	
16	Spangle DF	1	0	Opportunity	Opportunity	10	More Numbers Required
17	Opaline	3	1	Strong		20	
18	Opaline AOSV	2	0			11	
19	Clearbody	2	1			7	
20	Lacewing	2	1		Opportunity	9	
21	Fallow	2	2	Strong		17	
22	Spangle	1	2			19	
23	Spangle AOSV	2	2	Strong		16	
24	Dominant Pied	1	2			29	
25	Recessive Pied	2	2	Strong	Strong	16	
26	Crested	1	1	Opportunity	Opportunity	8	More Numbers Required
27	Aust White Cap	2	3	Strong		13	
28	Hens	1	1	Opportunity		24	
		47	45				



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George England

George England moved to Adelaide in 1988, and established himself in the inner city suburb of Parkside almost 30 years ago. He is married to Rebecca and together they have three sons aged 24, 20, and 19. An Open Breeder, and recently elevated to Major Awards Judge status, George loves a game of golf with his mates and has a recreational pilots license. He's been a member of the BSSA since 2012 and is currently serving as their Show Manager, as well as fulfilling the important role of bird carer for South Australia's National team.

When did you catch the bug for this wonderful hobby?

I was about 11, living in Canberra, and a friend gave me some budgies. I set up a small aviary in the garage at home. My first birds were an Albino hen and a Sky cock. With a few more hand me downs from my friend, the population soon swelled to about 20 or 30 birds. Eventually I had to give the birds back to my friend after a year or so, only because I ended up going to boarding school for a couple of years. By the time I returned to Canberra from my stint at boarding school, the budgies were a thing of the past. It wasn't until my youngest son Oscar, who was about 8 at the time, asked for a budgie for Christmas that budgies became front of mind, and I remembered my own passion for them as a kid. I made some enquiries, initially speaking to Wayne Weidenhofer, before getting a Lacewing yellow hen and a Sky cock from Chris Murphy, and then a few more birds from Sue Adams. I made a small flight and knocked up four breeding cages out of a small unused cabinet. Unfortunately, Oscar's passion subsided pretty quickly, but mine was reignited, so I joined my local Club, the BSSA, and started my journey again.

Where did your initial stock come from?

Many of my initial birds came from Sue Adams. One that comes to mind was a Grey Green split Lacewing cock which didn't grow a tail but had a beautiful head. He was a prolific breeder for me and produced some nice Lacewings. Two years in, and Wayne Weidenhofer approached me about helping out with the Nationals in 2014, which gave me an insight into what was required to produce a good budgie. The following year, I was fortunate enough to get a couple of birds into the state team, a Dominant Pied Opaline and a Dilute Sky. I've had birds in the state team every year since.

Very early on in the process, I had the opportunity to acquire Jim Tolsen's birds. Jim was an Intermediate breeder and a retired vet. Unfortunately for Jim, he was unable to look after the birds the way he wanted to, and approached me about taking on a few birds. It ended up that he gave me everything, including his birds, his breeding set up and about 25 show cages. So my set up went from a small flight with 20 or 30 birds and 4 breeding cages, to about 200 birds and 28 breeding cages very quickly.

Tell us more about your setup.

Now my aviary is set up in the back shed and consists of two flights and 36 breeding cabinets and I generally breed around 150 – 200 birds per year. I try to pair up towards the end of winter, depending when the birds are coming into condition. If a pair is breeding well and not under any stress, I'll let them continue as long as practical. I think as breeders of exhibition budgerigars, we are always looking for the ideal formula and I've come to realise that there isn't one. I think that you need to keep an eye on your birds and notice the signs when your birds are coming into condition. I consider myself to be a feature breeder and don't really pay too much attention to bloodlines.

That being said, I do have some bloodlines that



Picture of
Opaline Grey
Green Hen



Opaline Grey Cock

run through most of my birds which include local breeders like Sue Adams, M & K Murphy, Weidenhofer, and Holmes. My birds have been influenced with blood from interstate too, including Gazzard, Appleton, and Thurn to name a few.

Over time I have received great advice from many breeders and still do. Initially, Sue Adams was a big help with advice, encouragement, and generously providing birds. I try to focus on producing a quality bird without worrying too much about the variety and then try to consolidate those features and put them on some of my lesser varieties. I've recently started with Recessive Pieds.

Tell us about your favourite moments in the hobby.

My favorite moments have been personally experiencing the success of our South Australian breeders on the show bench at National level. I was fortunate enough to be sitting in the crowd at the Nationals held in Ballarat last year, watching the Dominant Pieds being judged while on the phone to Ken Harris. Ken and Janet were back in Adelaide, and I was relaying the progress of their hen, which went on to win the class. I was thrilled for Ken and Janet, knowing how much effort they'd put in to get across the line. In a weird sort of way, I feel a bit of personal accomplishment when a South Australian exhibitor

wins. Maybe it's just a competitive nature, or a pride of a South Australia thing, but I want South Australia to win at the National titles.

Tell us about your best bird

I'm not sure that I have a "best" bird because they evolve every year. I'm pretty keen on an Opaline hen that I have at the moment, she's a blue ringer and I can't wait to breed with her to see what she can produce. I also have an Opaline Grey cock that is two years old and I think he's just coming into his prime, so I'm really looking forward to what he can do for me and I have a number of Dominant Pieds that I'm really happy with as well.

Do you routinely use medications?

I try not to be too reliant on medications, I make sure that all of the birds get supplements and a variety of seed. Prevention is always better than cure so as a rule I treat the birds with doxycycline and I also give them a drop of Ivermectin on the back of the neck every year leading up to the breeding season. This has the added benefit of giving me a chance to handle all of my birds and check their condition. I have a couple of hospital cages with a heat source for any birds that do present a bit light or fluffed

up and I'm not scared about taking an important bird to the vet if needed. I also see this as a learning opportunity, especially if you have access to a good vet. I believe that generally speaking, by the time you notice a sick bird, many times it's too late and most sick birds never fully recover to be significant in a breeding program, so it's super important to be aware of signs that there might be something wrong. A noisy aviary is generally a healthy aviary. Look for vibrancy and activity amongst your birds.

How can we make this hobby even better?

As the BSSA show manager I really want to see as many members as possible get involved in showing their birds. There are many advantages to showing but at a novice level it's really about training your eye. By attending shows you will start to recognize quality and learn to spot the differences that, if worked on, will take your birds forward. You will look at the birds in your flights and pick some that you think are good show quality but when you show them up against their peers they might not come up to the same level. This is a good thing because it gives you a benchmark. This is important at each level, branch, state, and especially at National level where even the most minor fault can elevate or eliminate a quality bird from the rest.

I also think we need to improve the depth of our birds at all levels of our shows. This is happening slowly at the BSSA with increased membership at our Novice levels. We need to keep this trend going and support our Novices by educating them about the show process including how to correctly identify different varieties and basic preparation of their birds for a show. I think that this is starting to evolve at the BSSA and it's pleasing to see our Novice members showing in greater numbers. But it would also be great to see more participation from our Open breeders. We need to stop the mentality of "my birds are not good enough" or "they're not in condition" and build a mentality of "I'm a member of a club, there's a show coming up, I need to get my birds prepared for it. I'm

going to use every show cage that I own, and borrow extra ones if I don't have enough. This will help me as a breeder and help the club to grow."

What is the best advice you can offer someone?

I think that the best piece of advice that I can give to a beginner is to get involved in the club, support the club, and learn from as many people as you can. The internet is a great source of information in the first instance, but nothing can build your knowledge like speaking to experienced breeders and learning about their processes.

For all breeders the most important thing is to care for your birds and that should be our number one goal. Beyond that, for me, being successful on the show bench is a recognition of your efforts with the pinnacle being an ANBC National title which is something that I hope to achieve down the track. I get a great deal of pleasure in my capacity as a judge and definitely want to continue down that path and become a national judge at some stage. I'd encourage others that want to progress down that path to speak to some judges and get the ball rolling.

I'd like to finish up by saying that we are involved in a great hobby. It's a privilege to be able to look after an animal and budgies are such an interesting little bird, there are so many varieties and the influence that genetics has over the whole process seems endless. Just when you think you've seen it all, something else pops up. At the moment the National judges are looking at the Melanistic Spangle and I can tell you that the variations of this variety are astounding.

Good luck to all with your breeding plans and I look forward to seeing your birds on the show bench.

The Genetics of Flecking & Ticking in Budgerigars is Complex

John Mulley

Flecking can only be managed by understanding its complex inheritance. The simple colour and variety traits that define the classes in show schedules are controlled by single genes. In contrast, the phenotypic continuity displayed by exhibition traits such as body conformation, size, balance, head qualities, mask, and spots are determined by complex inheritance. This involves the inheritance of variation of small effect at each of multiple genes taken together that contribute to the trait. Faults such as flecking when the Standard describes none are also determined by variation at multiple genes.

Selection improves our stock from one generation to the next by enriching for desirable genetic variation across multiple genes for exhibition traits. Selection for flecking by breeding with flecked birds, rather than selection against flecking by not breeding with flecked birds, means that we will never eliminate flecking. That needs to change and the key to reducing and eventually eliminating flecking on the show bench in Australia is to direct breeders toward gradual improvement by reducing the level of flecking presented in the reference bird that is shown in the Penalty and Disqualification clauses in the national budgerigar Standard.



Introduction

Melanin is a ubiquitous animal pigment that scientists have extensively investigated in birds for many years. However, there does not appear to be any study on how and why melanin can be expressed as flecking or ticking in the caps of exhibition budgerigars. Neither the native bush budgie nor the ideal exhibition budgerigar depicted in the Australian Standard are flecked or ticked, so it's a breeder induced abnormality that arguably destroys the appearance of the budgerigar. It has been created and maintained by selection in the breeding room, and in Australia there appears to be ongoing acceptance by the State and Zone governing bodies of some level of flecking on the show bench.

Flecking is the presence of black melanin **spots** in the cap of the budgerigar. Opalines are especially prone to flecking. **Ticking** is melanin expressed as short black anterior to posterior **striped flecks** in the cap. This is now a common feature in exhibition budgerigars, even in Normals where once it was taboo. A study describing the distribution of melanin expressed as flecking and ticking in relation to feather morphology might be useful for a more complete understanding.

Above are two Dominant Pied Grey Green brothers with consecutive ring numbers from the same nest:

The bird on the left is more heavily flecked with melanin dots than in either of his parents. The bird on the right has less ticking than seen in either parent. There was a range of flecking and



ticking in the nest with these two representing the extremes. That can be easily explained by a genetic model of complex inheritance involving multiple genes each of small effect.

Above are the parents of the two brothers shown above, a Normal Grey Green cock and Dominant Pied Grey Green hen. Flecking is intermediate compared with their two chicks shown above.

Transverse melanin stripes or **Striations** are



often seen on the caps of Recessive Pies. This head patterning appears to be expressed independently of the heavy melanised wing markings seen in some Recessive Pies, especially hens. There are Recessive Pies with clear caps and heavy melanin markings over the entire

surface of their wing. Conversely, there are Recessive Pies with heavy melanised head striations but melanin wing area markings within the normal 10-20% range. So, the distribution of these abnormalities in Recessive Pies appears to be independent.

Penalty and Disqualification on the Show Bench

Henceforth the abnormal head markings will collectively be referred to as flecking. Prior to 2020 flecking was penalised as part of the 40% of points allocated for colour and markings, even though it is an abnormality not part of the natural markings of the budgerigar. Reference photos were then introduced into the Penalty and Disqualification (P & D) clauses of the national Standard from 2020 onwards, recognising that it needed to be treated separately from being considered entirely within the 40% of the mark for colour and markings.

Since 2020 and up until 2023 the judge's decision to penalise or disqualify a flecked bird was based on visual comparison against the cap in the three reference birds in the P & D clauses. The intensity, density and shape of the flecking can vary continuously, so a bird with flecking deemed to be the same as or greater than the reference birds was disqualified. Flecking on a bird deemed to be less than the reference birds was penalised. The rule was and still is the heavier the flecking the greater the penalty with the upper end of the allowable flecking to be heavily penalised, though strict universal enforcement of that might be arguable. The dense distribution of pale flecking is also deemed to be heavy flecking.

A motion was submitted in 2023 to the national judges panel proposing a new reference bird with a stepwise reduction in the level of flecking. That was rejected in favour of retaining just one of the three previous reference photos, the one that had greatest utility, and subsequently endorsed overwhelmingly by all State and Zone governing bodies. This takes effect for shows from 2024 onwards. The retained reference bird for 2024 onwards remains as follows:



Quantitative Genetic Variation underlying Continuously varying Traits

Prescribed reading for students of animal breeding in the 1960's was the textbook "Introduction to Quantitative Genetics" by D. S. Falconer. The principles conveyed in that text remain relevant today: the inheritance of quantitative or continuously varying differences between individuals relates to differences in degree rather than discrete differences in kind.

Inheritance of differences in kind refers to the Mendelian inheritance of the colour and variety phenotypes in budgerigars, for example. These differences are 100% correlated with single mutations of large effect and their Mendelian inheritance can be easily tracked through families and their segregation can be observed in progenies.

Although the effects of each of the multiple genes responsible for continuously varying features are individually too weak to track through families, their genetic variants do follow Mendelian principles of inheritance for each individual gene in the mix. However, their individual segregation ratios are not discernible in single nests.

The head marking in the cap of budgerigars varies continuously from no markings to varying intensity, density, and shape of the flecking. There are no demarcated groups apart from the transition zones between no head markings, ticking to varying extent, and flecking to varying extent. This continuity of expression is consistent with control by multiple genes, otherwise known as polygenic inheritance. The effect of genetic variation within each of the genes that additively contribute to flecking is too weak to enable the tracking of their individual small effect contributions through families. These are susceptibility genes since each alone are unable to express the abnormal phenotype but can contribute additively to the phenotype when working in concert with other genes with similar effect.

There can be an additional environmental component, such as diet or medication, so the term complex inheritance is the usual descriptor for the inheritance associated with continuously varying quantitative traits with underlying polygenic inheritance modifiable by the environment.

Exhibition features in budgerigars, such as body conformation, size, balance, head qualities, mask, and spots are examples of traits in budgerigars that are determined by complex inheritance. Traits such as carcass weight and growth rate in breeds of commercial livestock are also governed by complex inheritance with much current research activity aimed at determining the number and identity of their contributing genes. Milk production in dairy cattle and egg production in poultry are examples with established commercial relevance.

Genome-wide association studies have been carried out and remain in progress to uncover the number and identity of small effect genes involved in production traits for poultry and other livestock. That has commercial relevance since knowledge of the actual genes involved can direct selection more precisely at the molecular level for desirable genetic variants in breeding programs. However, determining the number and identity of genes involved in flecking in budgerigars has no commercial value so is not a scientific priority.

In budgerigars, the best we can do to improve a quantitative trait such as level of flecking is to apply selection based on what we can see or measure at the phenotype level (the appearance of the bird). Phenotype is strongly associated with genotype (the underlying genetic content). To improve a trait determined by complex inheritance, we need to change the frequencies of alternative and desirable gene variations across multiple genes associated with that trait.

The breeder applies selection to a continuously varying quantitative trait based on what they can see or measure in the parents, to bring about gradual improvement for that trait in the offspring, and hence the population of birds in the aviary. The unit of study then becomes the population, a grouping that comprises many progenies, rather than single families. Study is then based on the appearance or measurement of a feature within the population rather than its definitive classification as to kind (colour and variety as examples of kind).

The level of flecking can be changed by selection since the underlying genetic architecture is the same as for the desired exhibition features. We can select against flecking by only using clear headed birds, or we can select for flecking by using flecked birds.

Concept of Thresholds

Since there is considerable continuous variation in the appearance of flecking, and we know that selection can change the amount of flecking, there must be considerable naturally occurring genetic variation underlying flecking. The genes involved can have direct effects on biosynthetic pathways through variations in their protein coding regions, or indirectly through variations in heritable gene regulatory regions.

A threshold model for flecking can be envisaged based on the combined effect size of transmissible genetic variants from across the susceptibility spectrum of genes involved in the deposition and distribution of melanin. The number of susceptibility variants transmitted from the range of flecking associated genes determines the level of flecking.

Budgerigars with clear caps do not carry sufficient susceptibility variants to cross the threshold for the expression of flecking. The reality is more complicated since effect sizes of each of the different susceptibility variants will not be equal. We do not even know how many genes are involved. Such a model must be adopted to understand the basis for flecking until or if a different and better model can be discovered to better describe the observations.

A Simple Analogy to explain the concept of Thresholds

Consider the hypothetical situation of 30 genes involved in the biosynthetic pathways that affect the intensity, density, and distribution of flecking. That can be simulated by 30 coins representing a hypothetical number of flecking susceptibility genes, with heads painted black on 10 of the coins, and tails painted black on another 10 coins. By tossing up each of the 30 coins at once they can land as heads (the variant received from the cock) or tails (the variant received from the hen). If the threshold for flecking is hypothetically 10 black sides when the coins land, then less than 10 black coin sides are associated with clear headed budgerigars and 10 or more black coin sides are associated with flecking. The more coins that land beyond the threshold of 10 black sides, the heavier the flecking.

That is obviously an extremely simplistic simulation, but adequately conveys the concept. The multiple flecking susceptibility genes in budgerigars would be spread across the budgerigar genome, including the autosomes and possibly a few on the Z sex chromosome.

Relationship between Breeding Observations and Quantitative Genetics

Breeders sometimes refer to “the flecking gene”. There is no one large effect flecking gene with variation that can be tracked through families since flecking is a continuously varying feature caused

by multiple flecking genes with small effect flecking susceptibility variants. We need to stop thinking in terms of a flecking gene, when likely there are many small effect susceptibility genes for flecking.

Flecked, ticked and clear-headed chicks can all appear in the same nest. Such phenotypic variation is easily explained by a polygenic model. For each chick, using the coin analogy, by chance a different number of black sided coins have landed. The fertilisation of each egg that develops into a chick is an independent event. A nest can contain chicks that are more flecked, or less flecked, than a parent. Chicks can be flecked similarly to a parent or anywhere between the levels of flecking carried by each of the parents.

The term “doubling up” on faults when used by budgerigar breeders means mating together two budgerigars with the same fault, leading to fixation of undesirable genetic traits in the family. The “same fault” in the context of flecking (and many other faults) is controlled by multiple genes. Mating two flecked budgerigars together means that the chicks are enriched for susceptibility variants from each parent by “doubling up” across multiple contributing genes. The message is don’t mate two flecked birds together.

Two clear headed birds (each carrying less than 10 black sided coins, in the coin analogy) can produce a flecked chick (by transmission of 10 or more black sided coins, combined from both parents, in the coin analogy). Hence, flecking can spontaneously arise from the additive effects of concealed susceptibility variation carried by each clear-headed parent. Progress against flecking depends upon reducing by selection the number of flecking susceptibility variants (number of black faces on the “coins”) in the aviary population.

Some breeders regard flecking as being controlled by a dominant gene. Heavily flecked birds are more likely to transmit more flecking susceptibility variants (black sided coins in the coin analogy) so are more likely to simulate dominance by preferentially breeding flecked birds. That is not dominance, since dominance applies to single genes.

Flecking has even been described as a sex-linked gene inherited the same way as Opaline and Cinnamonwing. There is no published segregation data to support that. Since hens are hemizygous with only one Z sex chromosome it is conceivable that any recessive flecking susceptibility variants that might be on the Z chromosome could express unhindered in the hen to increase susceptibility to flecking in hens. Since cocks have two Z sex chromosomes the second Z chromosome could conceal a recessive flecking variant if heterozygous. Likely the multiple genes involved in flecking are spread across the budgerigar genome rather than all located on the Z sex linked chromosome, meaning that the inheritance of flecking is not the same as Opaline and Cinnamonwing.

Should we learn to live with flecking? We only need to live with flecking if we purposely breed for it using flecked birds, thinking that we need flecked birds in the breeding team. Any need for flecked birds only applies if the susceptibility variations that cause flecking act pleiotropically (regulate more than one trait, including traits for desirable exhibition features). The following pictures show that Opalines do not need to rely on any hypothetical pleiotropic effects that might be bestowed upon them by flecking to look like Champions.

These three birds are a credit to their breeders and argue against the myth that we need to live with flecking. Breeding exhibition budgerigars is a hobby based on genetics and prudent selection, so we can control what we breed.

Stock Birds and Show Birds

Opinions on flecking vary among breeders. Some think it destroys the appearance of the exhibition budgerigar and should not be allowed on the show bench. Clearly that is not the view of the majority since the governing bodies in all Australian States and Zones recently voted unanimously to retain flecking on the show bench at its existing level.

Judges need to abide by that when applying the P & D clauses in a show setting. However, an individual breeder with an understanding of



Opaline Light Green that won the Opaline class at the 2019 national show. The head is clear despite being atop an Opaline.



Opaline Cinnamonwing Green in the top three Opaline AOSVs at the 2019 national show.



Spangle Opaline Dark Green in the top three Spangle AOSVs at the 2019 national show.

complex inheritance can work on their stock to clean up the caps through selection.

Making sure that one member of a pair has a clear cap may be one strategy for managing flecking, and perhaps the only one given that flecking is now so widespread. But a stepwise reduction of the amount of flecking in the reference bird in the P & D clauses is also required to drive an improvement in the amount of flecking on the show bench. Since two clear headed birds can produce a flecked or ticked chick, we can't eliminate flecking in one step by only using clear headed birds, even if we could find enough of those. The genetic background will always contain some naturally occurring susceptibility variants for flecking even in clear headed birds.

What we can do is relegate flecked birds with the same or greater flecking than depicted in the reference bird in the P & D clauses to the status of stock birds rather than show birds. Progress would depend on gradually reducing the flecking on the reference bird in the P & D clauses. It would then be up to breeders to self-regulate the number of flecked birds they think they can accommodate in their breeding team while maintaining a reasonable proportion of show birds with flecking less (preferably much less) than in the reference bird.

While ever flecked birds win classes right up to national level breeders will continue to breed with them, and show them, and continue to buy them from auctions. Progressive reduction of the level

of flecking in the reference bird is key to eventually rescuing the appearance of our exhibition budgerigar.

Conclusion

We can envisage melanogenesis in budgerigars as a complex process with aspects involving melanoblast distribution, migration and differentiation, and variation in melanosome structure, melanin biosynthesis, and transfer of melanin from melanocytes to feathers, with all of that and whatever else we have not thought of, under complex genetic control determined by many genes. There is a long way to go to unravel all of that, especially how budgerigars in our care have acquired the expression of melanised flecking in their caps. But all we need to know for managing flecking in our aviaries and in shows is understanding the underlying genetic mechanism of complex inheritance. Based on that, progress toward less flecking can be made if that is what we want.

FURTHER READING ON MELANIN IN BIRDS

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Marcel Buhler visits the South African Molkentin Stud

Marcel Buhler

Our last big trip with my partner to Africa took place early March 2024. This time we had scheduled a trip to Zambia, Botswana and South Africa.

First, we flew via Johannesburg to Livingston in Zambia, where we spent a few days directly on the Zambezi River right next to the Victoria Falls. The boat trips on the Zambezi River, the countless Hippos and, above all, the fantastic Victoria Falls will always remain in our memories.

Next, we traveled almost 100 km along the Zambezi River to Kasane in Botswana where we spent a few days with safaris in the Chobe national park either by boat or by car. An open river landscape with large parades of elephants and thunder of hippos characterizes the Chobe National Park. Furthermore, we encountered such a wide variety of birds on the boat tours which we had never experienced before. My personal highlights were the various bee-eaters these “flying gems”, as well as close-range sighting of various kingfishers.

For the third leg we took the plane from Kasane back to Johannesburg and then drove by rental



car to Sun City, where we spent a few days in the Pilanesberg National Park. Here it is permitted to do self-drive safaris on your own. That's what I love, because it's the only way to follow your own schedule and spend time on what often one group finds interesting whilst others might not. Just stop somewhere and enjoy nature and wildlife for as long as you want, fantastic!

From the Pilanesberg National Park it is approx. a 2 hours drive to Tierpoort and this trip has been part of our “standard program” for the last few

years: Visiting our good friends Holger, Christine and Jutta Molkentin.

We had an excellent lunch on the terrace when we discovered an unexpected visitor, an over 2 meters long *Naja nigricollis* (black-necked spitting cobra) had quietly crept right next to the dining table. Luckily the dogs started barking and Holger was able to put the “uninvited guest” to flight with a seat cushion. I’ve always wanted to see a cobra, but not necessarily that close. The picture was taken by Holger a few days later...

After I had calmed down again, Holger and I made our way to the breeding aviary.

Once more it was overwhelming as 224 breeding cages and +/- 1,000 show budgies are not something you see every day and that is exactly what prompted me to put together a few of my impressions for the readers of Chatter Magazine.

Feeding



Budgie food mixes as we know them in Europe are also available in South Africa. However, they are quite dear or, if reasonably priced do not meet the quality requirements.

For this reason, Holger has opted for basic mixture with various types of millet. At the same time, he mixes his own high quality and nutritious soft food, whose base consists of boiled rice.



A few years ago, I adopted the rice for my own breeding food and have had very good experiences with it. Cooked wild rice is very popular with both budgies and Bourke’s parakeets.



In addition, Holger adds soaked oats, some sunflower seeds, grated beetroot and carrots, as well as fresh, home-grown alfalfa, rosemary, peppermint to complete the mixture. He feeds



this soft-food twice a day, which makes good sense as temperatures are often over 30 degrees Celsius. For the same reason, the drinking water in the aviaries is changed three times a day and medication is never administered via the drinking water.

The birds’ need for minerals is covered by self-produced limestone. In addition, sand on the flooring in the breeding boxes and in the 7 large aviaries as well as silica and large salt licks are always at the disposal to the budgerigars in the aviaries.

Breeding Boxes / Aviaries

Almost without exception, solid wire cages are used for breeding. On the one hand, they have significantly better air circulation than our European plastic breeding boxes, highly important at the high temperature in South Africa and on the other hand they are also much easier to clean, which quickly saves a significant amount of cleaning time for the numerous breeding cages.

The “box in the box” nest boxes are attached to the outside of the cages, which ensures a simple and efficient handling.

All of the 7 large aviaries are placed directly in front of the windows. As these are most of the time open a good ventilation in the aviaries is ensured, which the budgies really appreciate, especially in the hot summer months.

As the birds use the large open water bowls in the aviaries also often for bathing the water gets unfortunately dirty very quickly. Therefore, the water bowls are thoroughly cleaned each time before being refilled with clean drinking water.



Take aways

- Holger's own breeding mix based on boiled rice and fresh vegetables and herbs ensures that the budgies get high quality food at an affordable price
- The South African high temperature of over 30°C means good hygiene is even more essential. Therefore, the budgies get fed 2 times a day and given fresh water 3 times a day.
- Handling such a large number of birds necessitates an easy and practical handling e.g. using wire cages and box-in-box nest boxes.



Feeding Your Pet Budgie

Tips and Guidelines for Feeding Your Budgie

When feeding your budgerigar, it is important to give consideration to the fact that they are small, active birds that require a balanced and nutritious diet to stay healthy. In this article, we'll explore some tips and guidelines for feeding your budgie.

Basic Nutritional Needs in Feeding Your Budgie

Budgerigars require a diet that is high in protein, low in fat, and rich in vitamins and minerals. A balanced diet should include a variety of foods, including seeds, grains, fruits, and vegetables. It's essential to offer your budgies a diverse range of foods to ensure that they are receiving all of the nutrients they need to stay healthy when considering feeding your budgerigar.

Seed Mixes

Seed mixes are a popular staple food for budgies. However, it's important to choose a high-quality seed mix that contains a variety of seeds, including millet, canary seed, and sunflower

seed. Avoid seed mixes that contain a high % of oil-rich seeds, such as sunflower seeds, as these can lead to obesity and other health problems. When considering feeding your budgerigar, it is important that the seed mix is fresh and clean.

Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits and veggies are an essential part of a balanced diet for birds. When feeding your budgerigar, offer your bird a variety of fresh produce. Include dark leafy greens, carrots, sweet potatoes, and berries. Avoid feeding your bird avocado, which can be toxic to birds. Furthermore, limit the amount of high-sugar fruits such as bananas.

Supplements for Feeding Your Budgie

In addition to a balanced diet, budgies may benefit from the addition of vitamin and mineral supplements. However, it's essential to consult with your veterinarian before adding any supplements to your bird's diet, as some supplements may be harmful if not used correctly. This is an important consideration when feeding your budgerigar.

Feeding Guidelines for your Budgie

When feeding your budgerigar, it's important to offer a variety of foods and to avoid overfeeding. Provide your bird with a mix of seed, fruits, and veggies. In addition, monitor their weight to ensure that they are not becoming overweight. Thirdly, offer fresh food and water daily. Finally, clean and disinfect food and water bowls regularly to prevent the buildup of bacteria and other harmful substances.

In conclusion, feeding budgies requires careful planning and attention to their nutritional needs. Providing a balanced and varied diet, along with fresh water and regular vet care, can help ensure that your bird stays healthy and happy for years to come.

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Preparing Birds for Success

Preparing budgerigars for exhibition is a comprehensive process that starts from the early stages of a bird's life and continues up to the moment it is presented at the show. Below is a detailed article on how to prepare budgerigars for exhibition based on expert practices outlined in the provided material.

1. Early Life Handling

• NEST INTERACTION:

Regularly handle chicks in the nest to not only remove encrusted food from their beaks that might interfere with feeding but to acclimate them to human contact. They need to be really comfortable with you.

• NURSERY CAGES:

Keep young birds in nursery cages located in high-traffic areas such as a busy area in the breeding room to further their comfort with human presence.

2. Prep Begins 10 to 12 Weeks Out

• DIET ADJUSTMENT:

In preparation for the National titles at the end of May, one approach is to start on March 1st by suddenly changing the diet of budgerigars to a different seed mix, such as 100% Japanese millet. This strategic dietary adjustment can synchronise the moulting process across all birds. The synchronisation can assist all birds to undergo and complete their moulting phase uniformly, well in advance of the exhibition season. This uniformity in moulting is critical for achieving optimal feather condition and appearance. The birds remain on this special diet for anywhere

from 10 days, all the way through to 31 days, after which time they are returned to their regular feed. The primary aim of this regimen is to ensure that all birds have completed their regular April moult before the onset of the shows, thus presenting them in their best possible feather condition for exhibition.

• ALLOWING NEW TAIL FEATHERS TO GROW:

A major disappointment for budgerigar exhibitors is when the tail feathers of their prime bird fall out just before a show. To manage this and ensure the tail feathers are in prime condition for exhibition, a specific preparation schedule is recommended. Starting 12 weeks before the show, their two primary tail feathers can be cut halfway along their quills. Then, at 9 weeks out, the previously cut tail feathers need to be pulled out. It is crucial that the feather is completely dead at this point to prevent any damage to the feather follicle, ensuring that the new growth is healthy and the tail appears perfect for the show. It takes around 8 weeks for the tail feathers to fully regrow. A tail feather nearing the end of the secondary tail feathers grows at a rate of around 1 cm/week, until it is fully grown.

• WORMING AND INSECT CONTROL:

To ensure the health and readiness of your budgerigars for exhibition, and to protect budgerigars belonging to other exhibitors, a rigorous pest and parasite management routine is crucial. Initially, birds can be sprayed with either Coopex residual insecticide or Vetafarm Avian Insect Liquidator to eliminate external parasites. New birds can be treated with Vetafarm Avimec before being introduced into the aviary, ensuring they do not bring in any blood sucking parasites such as mites or lice. Additionally, at the end of the breeding season, all birds can be wormed with moxidectin to clear any internal parasites. Concurrently, their legs are checked for tight rings, which if

unattended can lead to the need to cut off the ring before losing the leg. Following each worming and any antibiotic treatment, a probiotic is administered to help maintain a healthy gut flora, crucial for their overall health and condition.

- **BIRD CHECKS & MAINTENANCE:**

Before investing 10 to 12 weeks into preparing budgerigars for exhibition, careful attention must be paid to their physical condition to ensure they meet the high standards required for showing. It's crucial to check that the bird does not have a leg thrown out to one side when gripping the perch, as this could indicate a hip dislocation, which would disqualify the bird from competition (DQ). Similarly, the wings should not be cocked up, which could suggest a dislocated wing joint, a healed broken wing, or a hip dislocation. Additionally, the appearance of the bird's plumage is vital; specifically, flecking should be minimal. The amount of flecking should be less than that of a reference bird, ideally with no flecking at all, as the more pronounced the flecking, the heavier the penalty the bird will incur during judging. These standards help ensure that only the healthiest and most aesthetically pleasing budgerigars are presented at shows. If the bird has any of these faults or problems, it would be a futile investment of time and effort into show preparation for them.

4. Show Training

- **CAGE FAMILIARISATION:**

Introduce birds to show cages well in advance of the event, such as using show cages with treats that are connected to the nursery and holding cages that allow gradual adaptation. Closer to the show, actual show cage training is crucial. For birds reluctant to perch training includes techniques like blocking cage fronts below the line of sight under the perch to encourage perching. To further encourage perching, several other strategies can be used.

Some put ping-pong balls into the bottom of the show cage, so that the only place to stand is on the perch. Others put water into the bottom of the cage, although this doesn't fair well with the MDF used in manufacturing some show cages (it will swell). The other thing to do is create some triangular pieces under the perches, in the hope of encouraging the bird to perch. Failing that, invert the show cage, so it is upside down – the existing angled roof will discourage the bird from sitting on the floor. In an ideal world, a good amount of training would go into the better birds, which are a chance to win. One might consider night shows also as an option, to accustom the birds to travel in the show cage.

Another point of note here from those who have done these strategies for many years – if you're going to use a show cage attached to a regular cage, open this for several hours a day, but not all day, or alternatively, only open it a week prior to the show. The reason for this is that hens might take up residence in the show cage using it as a nesting box.

While in the holding cage, watch for incompatible hens, or cocks squabbling over a single hen. This problem can be reduced, simply by flying the cocks and hens together prior to caging. Whilst in the cages, cages with only a wire front are often preferred over all-wire holding cages, as birds can shred their tails on the wire. Perches need to be spaced so that tails can't be nipped by birds on the perch behind.

- **HANDLING:**

Regular handling and training sessions help birds remain calm and steady on their perch during the show.

5. Condition Enhancement

- **FEATHER CARE:**

Regularly spray birds with water to enhance feather condition, tapering off just before the show to ensure birds are dry and in peak



form. Some breeders like to lightly spray twice a day, every day, in the lead up to the show. Spraying should be done mid-morning, when the temperatures are moderate, and not too late in the day that the birds catch a chill. Preference is water that is around 35 to 38 degrees C at the outlet, so above luke warm, but not too hot. The birds seem to really enjoy the warm spray. Where birds are dirty, add Johnson's Baby Shampoo to the water. To improve the sheen on the feathers, products such as Alpha Keri Oil Baby Shampoo can be added to the water, however it would typically be 5 drops to a small spray bottle of water, and no more than 1 mL/L. More than this, and some varieties you can see a tinge of what appears to be "rust" colouration on the very tips of the plumage. Another product often used is Glycerin, at a rate of 1 mL/L of water. Again, this can improve the plumage, but a similar staining can occur at the end of the feathers if the concentration is too high.

If you have a bird that is dirty, use the mixture of shampoo and water, along with a tooth brush, and brush in the direction of the feather

– this will often help to clean it, although don't expect it all to be removed in one session. A small dedicated sprayer can be used, with an adjustable nozzle, for larger groups of birds.

- **DIET TWEAKS:**

Adjust feeding practices before the show to control weight and ensure clean, non-sloppy droppings. This might include reducing green feeds or sprouting seeds. If your birds are in holding cages, it is quite possible that they will have reduced access to flight, and because they're not feeding young, they are particularly susceptible to obesity. Therefore, dietary tweaks may be necessary. Be aware that during the show preparation time, some greens, or beetroot, can obviously cause staining around the beak and mask area – actively avoid these.

6. Final Touches

- **VISUAL CHECKS:**

Before the show, perform thorough visual checks for any dislocations, feather imperfections, or signs of ill health. Ensure that

the birds' physical appearance meets the class standards of the exhibition. Don't take a bird to a show with no weight on the keel bone, as its likely only to stress the bird out more.

- **CLEANING AND GROOMING:**

Use grooming techniques such as dabbing baby oil on beaks and feet for shine, and cleaning feathers with baby shampoo and water, using a toothbrush.

- **PIN FEATHERS:**

In the cap, identify any pin feathers. The sheath surrounding the feather can be crushed using a pair of tweezers. When blood has leaked from broken blood feathers a small amount of baby powder sprinkled on the cap can help conceal the feather discoloration.

- **SPOTTING BIRDS:**

Spotting birds is an art and is best done using tweezers or nail scissors. It is typically done over multiple sessions. If using nail scissors, cutting the spot back towards the start of the follicle allows the mask to hold its shape better but be sure that no evidence of cutting is visible. Spotting is best done over two or three sessions in the days leading up to the show.

- **DIPPING TAILS AND FLIGHTS:** Dip ragged tail feathers (and ragged flights if needed) into hot water before putting the bird into the show cage. Stroke the tail (or primary flight feathers) between forefinger and thumb to reconnect the feather barbs and restore normal feather appearance when it dries.

7. Travel and Post-Show Care

- **TRAVEL PREPARATIONS:**

If long distance travel is involved, such as interstate travel to the national event, use glucose and electrolytes (e.g., Vetafarm Spark) in the drinking water immediately prior to travel to keep them hydrated and energetic. This will help offset any possible complications with travel. It is advised

to give it to them before and after travel, but not immediately prior to the day of exhibiting, as the birds may appear restless in the show cage.

- **RECOVERY:**

After the show, allow birds to recover in a clean, quiet environment while maintaining enhanced nutritional support to restore condition. Hulled oats can be used to restore condition.

8. Continuous Improvement

- **FEEDBACK AND ADJUSTMENT:**

After each show, assess the performance and condition of each bird, and adjust your preparation routine to address any identified issues.

9. Ethical Considerations

- **BIRD WELFARE:**

Always prioritize the health and well-being of the birds over competitive success. Ensure all practices are humane and contribute positively to the birds' overall quality of life.

Conclusion

Preparing budgerigars for exhibition requires a detailed, attentive approach that balances the birds' health, appearance, and behaviour. Through meticulous preparation and care, exhibitors can present their birds in the best possible condition, maximizing their chances for success while ensuring the birds are happy and healthy. In summary, attempt to synchronize the autumn moult by changing the diet some months prior to the show season March.



National Judging 2024 – Launceston Tasmania

Nigel Tonkin

To be invited to judge at any National event is a privilege.

All things were going to work well with planning as I was to head to China with my partner Tracy at the end of the event. Flights were booked and paid for and what could change?

Tracy is an agent for exporting of timber or timber products into China from a variable of countries.

Suddenly the programme for the trip to China changed, initially we were to fly out after the Nationals but Tracy's clients from New Zealand had to change their meeting date in China for personal reasons thus the customers had to change to accommodate as well, as did Tracy so instead of the 28th to 30th of May for the meetings/tours these became 21st to 23rd May thus flight bookings needed to be changed, a costly but necessary exercise.

Travel home was very tight arriving the day of Meet and Greet. Not a great prerequisite for a judging appointment. My spine was challenged during and after the flight (previous surgery), which was very disappointing, then a headache presented when judging with James who kindly found some tablets to calm things down, the pain impacted thus lost all confidence in talking as the voice potentially would go. Other judges support in this area was excellent and they encouraged me to sit during their reporting of the class just judged to at least give the back some respite.

I apologise to all for not fulfilling that obligation.

There were some high-quality budgerigars on show, some sadly fell short of where they might have been placed for a variable of reasons, a disqualification if their 2 x primary tail feathers had dropped or they had dropped the 3 outer flight feathers on one wing or a penalty in the case of a Spangle Double Factor that had damage to the outer part of one of her eyes possibly caused by one of her teammates, she was marked to 8th. This bird to me was one outstanding budgerigar, likely the best I saw of the birds that I had the privilege to judge with other judging partners over the weekend. Sad to see such a strong bird potentially miss a Logie because of such an issue.

One topic that has been debated for a long period of time (and is likely to continue) is the amount and the severity of flecking that was being shown. To my pleasant surprise, and I mentioned this at my debrief to the ANBC Judges meeting, that the severity of flecking had minimized from what I had witnessed some years back. Yes, there is still some flecking at various degrees on a cross section of varieties but on the two that seem to present most concern, the Opaline and Opaline AOSV, the degree of flecking was down. I agree that a couple were disqualified for being in excess but generally a great improvement, something that should be continually worked on to try and minimize further as time progresses.

At the judges meeting I mentioned the Penalty and Disqualification photo of the bird as the example to be disqualified (and this comment was put forward a little time back by someone from Queensland I believe) does not truly represent what the judge, regardless of judging at a table show through to the nationals, should be comparing. To the credit of the Judges committee and supported by the ANBC, this is being worked on and will be rectified in that a picture will be presented, I assume A4 sized, to the proportion of the pictorial and is to be shared with all.

Another item that I discussed at the ANBC judges meeting (refer below) was the issue with wings and this is now going to be addressed through all States and Zones and passed down to all levels for immediate attention. The ANBC Judges committee fully agreed with my commentary.

A massive disappointment to me since seeing birds at my previous national event that I attended a few years back, was the amount of wing issues with the birds, long and broad secondary coverts, long secondaries, long flights, dropped wings and backline issues, likely all related when attempting to build size into the birds. At a previous national event that I judged with Stephen Mow in Adelaide, one exhibitor was disappointed with some of his results, and he was advised that the backline and wing issues needed to be sorted to transition the birds to being show exhibits. Jeffrey Leong was that exhibitor and took the criticism well and has transformed his birds to reflect the criticism given. There were some birds that potentially could have been hit harder with these faults but all things being considered the end results reflect what was seen on the day.

Another matter I did mention in the debrief to the ANBC Judge panel is that we all need to understand that there are 2 people judging that might not fully agree on what each is seeing thus Judge 'A' might see a bird that in his or her view might be placed 2nd and Judge 'B' might see the same bird placed 6th for a different reason and by compromise the bird might end up at 4th. This



fact must be understood noting though mostly there is agreement overall with the placings.

Peter Glassenbury was given a great review at the ANBC Judges panel meeting following the announcement of his resignation from all judging and his advice in many aspects of the fancy will continue to be sought.

A couple of birds that were impressive right from the start of judging through to the conclusion were the winning Crest and the winning Greywing, both these classes was especially pleasing to see given the massive improvements they have made over time. The winning birds just had and gave their all from start to finish and were a pleasure to judge. 5 of the first 6 Greywings were hens. The winning Greywing bird was exhibited by J & W Weidenhofer. The Crest was exhibited by the Holmes Family.

There is a great vibe around the budgerigar fancy at the present time from the National level down and the event just concluded in Tasmania is a testament to that. With the driving force of Troy Holmes supported by the enthusiasm of a variable of States and Zones greater things should follow.

One highlight for me was seeing the reaction of Doug Lange accepting Life Membership on the live feed of 'On the Perch' for both he and Ruth (so deserved) to the Budgerigar Council of South Australia. Tears flowed, and not just from Doug.



Port Pirie Budgerigar Club

Harry Johnston Young Stock Show was held on Sunday May 12th. Judges for the day were John Mulley and Ian Marshall. Grand Champion was won by Geoff Edwards with a Cinnamon cock, and Champion Opposite Sex also by Geoff Edwards, with a Cinnamon hen. 175 birds were entered, with 138 benched by 11 exhibitors (6 Open, 4 Intermediate, and 1 Novice), and a great day was had by all.

Summary of Results

Grand Champion – Geoff Edwards, Cinnamon Cock

Best Opposite Sex – Geoff Edwards, Cinnamon Hen

2nd Champ cock – Geoff Edwards, Normal Grey cock

2nd Champ hen – Geoff Edwards, Spangle Hen

3rd Champ cock – Geoff Edwards,
Normal Grey Green Cock

3rd Champ hen – Bob Simpson, Dominant Pied Hen

4th Champ cock – Bob Simpson, Dominant Pied Cock

4th Champ hen – Bob Simpson,
Normal Grey Green Hen

5th Champ cock – Graeme McCallum, Albino Cock

5th Champ hen – D & R Lange, White Cap Hen



Best of Variety Awards

Normal Green - Bob Simpson

Grey Green - Geoff Edwards

Normal Blue - Geoff Edwards

Normal Violet - Graeme McCallum

Normal Grey - Geoff Edwards

Yellow Faced - Graeme McCallum

Golden Face - Jeffries Family

Albino - Graeme McCallum

Lutino - Longbottom Family

Cinnamonwing - Geoff Edwards

Spangle Double Factor - Bob Simpson

Opaline - Graeme McCallum

Fallow - K Smith

Spangle - Geoff Edwards

Spangle AOSV - T Russell

Dominant Pied - Bob Simpson

Rec Pied - K. Smith

White Cap - D & R Lange

Crested - D & R Lange

Our members can now buy tickets in the Community Lottery

Final date for ticket sales is 25th July. This is the link to the PPBS ticket sales page. https://www.communitylottery.com.au/products/port-pirie-budgerigar-society-inc?_pos=1&_sid=65939c40a&_ss=r



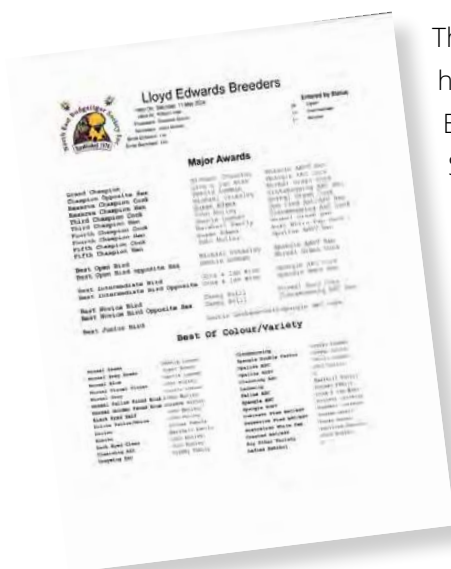
**North East
Budgerigar
Society**

North East Budgerigar Society

The North East featured its 50th birthday celebrations recently, with Graeme Goodings hosting the event. The turn out was spectacular, and a great night was had by all.



The North East also held their Lloyd Edwards Breeder Show. Thanks to Wayne Weidenhofer who was the Major Awards Judge, ably supported by Ken Harris and George England as floor judges.





The BSSA has held the Murphy Classic & Ron Norman Show

The Murphy Classic saw Andrew Swift, Kev Back (Back Family) and Ian & Gina Wise, who benched the Grand Champions in the Novice and Intermediate Show.

Over 200 birds were benched from 17 exhibitors, which shows the strength of the Novice and Intermediate exhibitors, and your support of the Future Champions Show is greatly appreciated by the Club. Also, a well done to Wayne Weidenhofer on his first Major Award appointment. Wayne was ably assisted by Ken Harris, George England, Troy Holmes & Ian Wise.



Stan Watson Breeders Show – 5 May 2024

Grand Champion – Andrew Swift
– Black Eye Self Cock

Reserve Champion Cock – Marie & Kerry Murphy
– Spangle Cock

Reserve Champion Hen – Marie & Kerry Murphy
– Cinnamon Blue Hen

Third Champion Cock – Ken & Janet Harris
– Grey Green Cock

Third Champion Hen – Trevor Goodenough
– Spangle Hen

Fourth Champion Cock – Mike Crossley
– Spangle Cock

Fourth Champion Hen – George England
– Opaline Hen

Champion Intermediate – Ian & Gina Wise
– Normal Spangle Cock

Reserve Intermediate Cock – Jane Kelb
– Dominant Pied Cock

Reserve Intermediate Hen – Ian & Gina Wise –
Cinnamon Green Hen

Champion Novice – Andrew Swift

– Black Eye Self Cock

Reserve Novice Cock – Danny Brill – Grey Cock

Reserve Novice Hen – Trevor Goodenough
– Spangle Hen

Best Junior – Darcie Osobase-Kelb

Novice Award for most accumulated points
Andrew Swift with 31 points.

BEST OF COLOUR & VARIETY AWARDS

Best Normal Light Green – Sue Adams

Best Normal Dark Factor Green
– Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer

Best Normal Grey Green – Ken & Janet Harris

Best Normal Skyblue – Tom Sismey

Best Normal Dark Factor Blue –
George England

Best Normal Visual Violet – No Entry

Best Normal Grey – George England

Best Yellow Faced Blue
– Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer

Best Black Eyed Self – Andrew Swift

Best Dilute – Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer

Best Lutino – Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer



- Best Albino** – Wayne Bandt
- Best Clearwing** – Marie & Kerry Murphy
- Best Greywing** – Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer
- Best Cinnamonwing** – Marie & Kerry Murphy
- Best Double Factor Spangle** – Steve Wharton
- Best Opaline** – George England
- Best Opaline AOSV** – Marie & Kerry Murphy
- Best Clearbody** – Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer
- Best Lacewing** – Chris Murphy
- Best Fallow** – Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer
- Best Spangle** – Marie & Kerry Murphy
- Best Spangle AOSV** – Marie & Kerry Murphy
- Best Dominant Pied** – George England
- Best Recessive Pied** – Marie & Kerry Murphy
- Best Crested** – Shiralee Reardon
- Best Australian Whitecap** – Sue Adams
- Best AOSV/NSV** – Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer
- Best Yellow Face AOSV** – Danny Brill

Note - no entries in Visual Violet, Dark Eyed Clear & Rainbow classes

BSSA PERPETUAL TROPHIES

Stan Watson Patron Trophy

– Grand Champion – 2024 – Andrew Swift

Roy & Evelyn Deslandes – Light Green – 2024

– Sue Adams

Ron Norman – Grey Green – 2024

– Ken & Janet Harris

Stan Watson – Skyblue – 2024 – Tom Sismey

Trevor Weckert – Violet – 2024 – no entry

Bob Hancock – Grey – 2024 – George England

Gordon Lowe – Yellow Face Blue – 2024

– Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer

Wayne Weidenhofer – Golden Face Blue – 2024

– Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer

Kelwyn Kakoschke – Lutino – 2024

– Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer

Frank Jackson – Clearwing – 2024

– Marie & Kerry Murphy

Jack Coombe – Greywing – 2024

– Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer

Keith Wing – Cinnamon Wing Green – 2024

– Marie & Kerry Murphy

John Laidlaw – Cinnamon Wing Blue – 2024

– Marie & Kerry Murphy

Glenn Stearnes – Opaline – 2024

– George England

John Fisher – Opaline AOSV – 2024

– Marie & Kerry Murphy

Deane Trevellion – Fallow – 2024

– Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer

Stephen Elliott – Spangle – 2024

– Marie & Kerry Murphy

Geoff Smith – Dominant Pied – 2024

– George England

Marie & Kerry Murphy – Recessive Pied – 2024

– Marie & Kerry Murphy



Logan Shield

31 Exhibitors participated in the Logan Shield, with 19 exhibitors forming the nucleus of the South Australian team to go on and compete at the National level.

Congratulations to Andrew Swift who won Grand Champion and Best Novice bird, to Dennis Lomman who won Best Open Bird, and Gina & Ian Wise who won Best Intermediate Bird.

Well done to the BSSA for their outstanding victory, securing the Shield with 1242 points, followed by NEBS with 378 points and Port Pirie with 323 points.

Top 3 Class results are below.



#	Class	Exhibitor	Ring No.
1	Normal Green	Dennis Lomman	SA NE 1058
	Normal Green	Holmes Family	SA HOL 058
	Normal Green	Holmes Family	SA HOL 165
2	Normal Grey Green	Ken & Janet Harris	SA KJH 067
	Normal Grey Green	Ken & Janet Harris	SA KJH 068
	Normal Grey Green	Holmes Family	SA HOL 047
3	Normal Blue	Malcolm Loveridge	SA PP 434
	Normal Blue	Holmes Family	SA HOL 109
	Normal Blue	Holmes Family	SA HOL 297
4	Normal Violet	Holmes Family	SA HOL 294
	Normal Violet	Holmes Family	SA HOL 089
	Normal Violet	John Mulley	SA JM 030
5	Normal Grey	Holmes Family	SA HOL 084
	Normal Grey	George England	SA BSSA 203
	Normal Grey	Ken & Janet Harris	SA KJH 076
6	Yellow Faced Blue	Holmes Family	SA HOL 161
	Yellow Faced Blue	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA JW2 136
	Yellow Faced Blue	John Mulley	SA JM 018

#	Class	Exhibitor	Ring No.	
7	Aust. Golden Faced Blue	Graeme Alchin	SA	NE 907
	Aust. Golden Faced Blue	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 125
	Aust. Golden Faced Blue	John Mulley	SA	JM 041
8	Black Eyed Self	Andrew Swift	SA	BSSA 1105
	Black Eyed Self	Michael Smith	SA	MS85 044
	Black Eyed Self	John Mulley	SA	JM 071
9	Dilute	George England	SA	BSSA 226
	Dilute	George England	SA	BSSA 261
	Dilute	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA	JW2 109
10	Lutino	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 207
	Lutino	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA	JW2 187
	Lutino	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 242
11	Albino	Graham McCallum	SA	GM 218
	Albino	Marshall Family	SA	NE 1236
	Albino	Wayne Bandt	SA	WJB 3018
12	Dark Eyed Clear	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 124
	Dark Eyed Clear	John Mulley	SA	JM 181
	Dark Eyed Clear	John Mulley	SA	JM 111
13	Clearwing	Kelwyn Kakoschke	SA	NE 187
	Clearwing	Kelwyn Kakoschke	SA	NE 188
	Clearwing	Kelwyn Kakoschke	SA	NE 048
14	Greywing	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA	JW2 019
	Greywing	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA	JW2 106
	Greywing	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 133
15	Cinnamonwing	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 163
	Cinnamonwing	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 101
	Cinnamonwing	Dennis Lomman	SA	NE 1031
16	Spangle Double Factor	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 103
	Spangle Double Factor	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 097
	Spangle Double Factor	Graeme Alchin	SA	NE 911
17	Opaline	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 275
	Opaline	Dennis Lomman	SA	NE 1016
	Opaline	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 085
18	Opaline AOSV	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 044
	Opaline AOSV	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 137
	Opaline AOSV	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 162

#	Class	Exhibitor	Ring No.	
19	Clearbody	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA	JW2 072
	Clearbody	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA	JW2 053
	Clearbody	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA	JW2 081
20	Lacewing	Marshall Family	SA	NE 1232
	Lacewing	Marshall Family	SA	NE 1208
	Lacewing	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 086
21	Fallow	Kelwyn Kakoschke	SA	NE 200
	Fallow	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 149
	Fallow	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 134
22	Spangle	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA	JW2 061
	Spangle	Dennis Lomman	SA	NE 1043
	Spangle	Ian & Gina Wise	SA	GIW 013
23	Spangle AOSV	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 202
	Spangle AOSV	Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer	SA	JW2 003
	Spangle AOSV	Sue Adams	SA	BSSA 060
24	Dominant Pied	George England	SA	BSSA 244
	Dominant Pied	Bob Simpson	SA	PP240
	Dominant Pied	John Mulley	SA	JM 016
25	Recessive Pied	Malcolm Loveridge	SA	PP 424
	Recessive Pied	Malcolm Loveridge	SA	PP 425
	Recessive Pied	Malcolm Loveridge	SA	PP 506
26	Crest	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 112
	Crest	John Mulley	SA	JM 191
	Crest	Doug & Ruth Lange	SA	DRL 951
27	Aust White Cap	Sue Adams	SA	BSSA 013
	Aust White Cap	John Mulley	SA	JM 103
	Aust White Cap	Doug & Ruth Lange	SA	DRL 939
28	Hen	Michael Crossley	SA	MC 026
	Hen	Malcolm Loveridge	SA	PP 416
	Hen	Holmes Family	SA	HOL 039

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Senior Judges Panel

NATIONALLY ACCREDITED JUDGES



John Mulley

0488 224 446 jmulley@bigpond.net.au



Shiralee Reardon

0427 095 566 shiraleereardon@gmail.com



Nigel Tonkin

0407 976 790 nigeltonkin50@gmail.com

JUDGES



Troy Holmes

0419 526 753 president@bcsa.com.au



Graeme Alchin

0437 099 455 tgalchin@bigpond.com

JUDGES EXECUTIVE



Nigel Tonkin

0407 976 790 nigeltonkin50@gmail.com



Shiralee Reardon

0427 095 566 shiraleereardon@gmail.com



John Mulley

0488 224 446 jmulley@bigpond.net.au

JUDGES REPRESENTATIVE & SECRETARY



John Mulley

0488 224 446 jmulley@bigpond.net.au

RETIRED MAJOR AWARD JUDGES

Roy Deslandes (Deceased)
George Duffield (Deceased)
John Fisher (Deceased)
Gordon Lowe (Deceased)
Stan Watson (Deceased)
Trevor Weckert
Bruce Stafford
Glenn Stearns
John Rice
Peter Glassenbury

MAJOR AWARD JUDGES



Larry Jeffries

0457 707 482 jeffers2@bigpond.com



Kelwyn Kakoschke

(08) 8278 3514



Malcolm Loveridge

(Retired National Accreditation)
(08) 8825 3939 mjloveridge@bigpond.com



Ian Marshall

0413 257 495 ianmarshall68@gmail.com



Kerry Murphy

0431 412 720 kerrymurphy@ozemail.com.au



Shiralee Reardon

0427 095 566 shiraleereardon@gmail.com



Nigel Tonkin

0407 976 790 nigeltonkin50@gmail.com



John Mulley

0488 224 446 | jmulley@bigpond.net.au



Wayne Weidenhofer

0435 032 125 wayneweedo@tpg.com.au



George England

0418 819 705 gendland8@bigpond.com



Wayne Bandt

0409 099 582 bandt@internode.on.net



Ken Harris

0456 160 553 ken.harris5@bigpond.com

ANY CORRESPONDENCE FOR JUDGES & STANDARDS CAN BE DIRECTED TO:

Judges Representative & Secretary - John Mulley 0488 224 446 jmulley@bigpond.net.au

BCSA Hall of Fame - ANBC Class Winners

Since the inception of the BCSA in 1996, the following BCSA members have won classes at the ANBC National Titles

Kakoschke & Rice - 12 Wins
Normal Green - 2005
Clearwing - 2005, 2010, 2015, 2016
Opaline - 2011, 2019
Opaline AOSV - 2010, 2015
Crested - 2003, 2005
Grey Green - 2016
J & W Weidenhofer - 5 Wins
Clearbody - 2015, 2018
Dilute - 2022, 2023
Greywing - 2024
Holmes Family - 4 Wins
Grey Green - 2018
Normal Blue - 2022
White Cap - 2023
Crested - 2024
John Mulley - 2 Wins
Opaline AOSV - 2000
Blackeyed Self - 2003
Marshall Family - 2 Wins
Albino - 2007
Recessive Pied - 2014
Doug & Ruth Lange - 2 Wins
Normal Green - 2009
Crested - 2014
Ray Slade - 2 Wins
Blackeyed Self - 2016, 2017

Dennis Lomman - 2 Wins
Violet - 2014
Normal Green, 2024
Helen Brooks - 1 Win
Fallow - 1996
Ron Norman - 1 Win
Hens Class - 1996
Rob McKie - 1 Win
Opaline - 1997
M & R Rafferty - 1 Win
Opaline AOSV - 2001
Michael Crossley - 1 Win
Yellowfaced Blue - 2002
Sue & Colin Norris - 1 Win
Dominant Pied - 2002
Peter Glassenbury - 1 Win
Blackeyed Self - 2009
Peter Simic - 1 Win
Recessive Pied - 2010
Ken & Janet Harris - 1 Win
Dominant Pied - 2023
Kelwyn Kakoschke - 1 Win
Clearwing - 2023

OBJECTS & PURPOSE

The specific aims and objectives of the BCSA are:

- To promote, encourage and stimulate the breeding and exhibiting of budgerigars, including the improvement of existing varieties, and the development of new.
- To serve as the State Council for Budgerigars in South Australia (including Broken Hill).
- To cooperate with other governing bodies interested in budgerigars, here in Australia, and abroad.
- To affiliate with and act as the South Australian member body of the Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC).
- To invite and encourage membership of Affiliate and Associate Organisations interested in the breeding and exhibiting of budgerigars.
- To use the Standard of Perfection for the exhibition budgerigar as set by the ANBC.
- To establish, maintain and recommend uniform rules for all shows and exhibitions held by the Council and its Affiliate and Associate Organisations.
- To establish a panel of judges who are able to judge these shows.
- To accept a code of ethics for judges.
- To ratify recommendations received from the panel of judges.
- To recommend and / or co-ordinate on any matter deemed to be of common interest to Affiliate and Associate Organisations.
- To obtain direction and/or instruction from Affiliate and Associate Organisations on ANBC matters through their BCSA delegates.
- To hold an annual pre-selection show to select a team to represent South Australia at the ANBC Championship Show.
- To host the ANBC Championship Show when required.
- To compile annually a register of show and meeting dates of all participating Affiliate and Associate Organisations.
- To establish and maintain an exhibitor status register for all financial individual members or partnerships.
- To do all such other things as may be incidental to the attainment of such objects.

LIFE MEMBERS

- 2016 – Mr Graham Bell
- 2016 – Mrs Doreece Brunton
- 2016 – Mr Peter Glassenbury
- 2016 – Mr John Mulley
- 2016 – Mr Nigel Tonkin
- 2023 – Mr Kelwyn Kakoschke
- 2023 – Mr Dennis Lomman
- 2024 – Mr Doug Lange
- 2024 – Mrs Ruth Lange





Budgerigar Society of South Australia

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For more information, contact BSSA President Chris Murphy cmurphy68@msn.com
or BSSA Webmaster Danny Brill dannybrill@hotmail.com | www.bssainc.org.au



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To find out more visit
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For further information
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membership or events
please contact

BCSA President, Troy Holmes
on president@bcsa.com.au

