

WYNNUM REDLANDS BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY INC.



Newsletter, AUGUST 2017

The Club's Web Page is : www.wrbsinc.com

The Newsletter Editor email

Wynnum Redlands Budgerigar Society Inc. would like to state, that its objective in reporting various articles & advice in our Newsletter & communication, both verbal and written, is merely to disseminate information, and not to make recommendations or directives. Wynnum Redlands Budgerigar Society Inc, would like to state, that the views expressed therein are not necessarily those of Wynnum Redlands Budgerigar Society Inc

Next GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 15th AUGUST 2017 at 7.30 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly General Meeting. TUESDAY 15 August 7.30 pm @ Cleveland Hall.

Guest speaker will be Keith Gough with a slide show presentation from this year's Nationals

Varieties for the Tableshow are:

- Class 1 Clearwing
- Class 2 Greywing
- Class 3 Dominant Pied
- Class 4 Any Other Standard Variety

6 AUGUST **WRBS Selling, Trading and Swapping Day**

Open day at Cleveland Hall (Smith Street) from 8 am to 1 pm

Contact Bill (33968732) if you require a table to trade your birds or goods

7-9 SEPTEMBER REDFEST (Strawberry Festival) Keep an eye out for the show schedule

If you can come along and give a hand you need to let Pat know so a gate pass can be organized Call on 33968732

29 OCTOBER Wynnum Redlands Annual Show

RESULTS OF JULY TABLESHOW

(16 entries)

Lutino

Nestfeather 1st Cedric D'Costa

Albino

Old Bird 1st Cedric D'Costa

Young Bird 1st Cedric D'Costa

Nest Feather 1st Cedric D'Costa

Any Other Standard Variety

Nestfeathers 1st & 4th Trevor Broadbent

2nd, 3rd & 5th Cedric D'Costa

TABLESHOW PROGRESSIVE POINTS TALLY

177 Cedric D'Costa (O)

146 David Pendergast (N)

44 Ray Saunders

12 Terry Procter

10 Kerri Potts

7 Trevor Broadbent

QUEENSLAND YOUNG BIRD SHOW

Our club hosted the Queensland Champion Young Bird Show at the Cleveland hall on Sunday 9 July. It was a highly successful show conducted smoothly with the assistance of our members and exhibitors from our co-hosts Surfers Paradise and ABS and visitors from other clubs. The major awards were spread across the three clubs, total cost was minimal and the food fantastic. Another great day in our hobby!

Improving the Breeding Season by Getting Rid of Common Breeding Problems
By Richard Radlein (reprinted from Budgerigar World Nov 2000)

Egg abnormalities

The detection of an egg-bound hen can be rather disturbing. Often, these hens will be seen trying to expel the egg on the cage floor or huddled in the corner of the nest box. A hen in this condition is obviously in a very distressed condition. Hard shell and soft-shell eggs are the two forms of this condition or ailment. Soft-shelled eggs are invariably the worst though both cases will quickly prove fatal if not dealt with immediately. Added warmth or a light massage with mineral oil in the vent area will hopefully aid the hen toward expelling the egg. If successful, the hen should be removed from the breeding unit and allowed a lengthy rest period in order to recover. I cannot recommend using such hens for future breeding because the chances are equally great of this occurring again. Other common causes of egg binding are:

- 1 The use of immature, weakling or old hen.
- 2 Too high or low a temperature in the breeding room.
- 3 Too little calcium in the diet.
- 4 A chill or sudden illness.
- 5 A disturbance during the laying period etc.

In most cases, pointed toenails on either the cock or hen cause punctured eggs. This can be remedied by trimming or filing the nails. Other causes might also include the hen being hastily chased and frightened from the nest, causing her to scatter the eggs, or activity of any youngsters still in the nest. To prevent the hen from such a hasty departure from the nest of eggs, the obvious solution is to gently tap the nest box to forewarn her of your impending inspection.

Addled eggs

Addled eggs are generally caused by improper sitting by the hen, careless handling of the eggs by the breeder, the scattering of eggs, or excessive activity within the nest box, or some genetic deficiency. The best way to counter this would be to try to determine the cause. Nothing can be done to save an addled egg, though one can try to prevent any future occurrences.

It is not impossible to save the cool or chilled eggs of the hen that has become ill or has stopped sitting for whatever reason. Even though the eggs may have been cold for an hour or two, the chick can survive if warmed and immediately placed under a foster hen. The only set back might be the eggs take a little extra time to hatch after becoming chilled during incubation. Never give up on these eggs, unless there is no place to go with them or they have been left to chill for too many hours. The same hold true for abandoned chicks, even if they appear to be lifeless. Warming and a solid meal from a reliable foster hen can revive and do wonders for such chicks.

Broken or eaten eggs can be the fault of either bird. This a habit very hard, if not impossible, to correct. Once such a discovery is made the best solution is to split up the pair or try to be present immediately after the hen lays each egg so that you can rescue and foster it in time. Furthermore I never use such known offenders for breeding at any time in the future. Such bad habits are not worth the trouble.

Raising the young

Observation of newly hatched young is critical of one is to be assured of their survival. The most observant one becomes, the more one will learn and the better equipped one will be at reorganising and solving any problems. Eggs are usually laid around midday and they tend to hatch during the morning, thus allowing the hen enough time to feed the youngsters with rich crop milk by early afternoon. If there is no evidence that the hen had started to feed her newly-hatched chick by nightfall, replace it with a chick from another hen that is three or four days old, and foster the newly-hatched youngster with a reliable foster hen. The older chick will be stronger, have a larger beak, and usually demands to be fed by the inexperienced hen. If the hen still will not feed this older chick, return it to the original nest. Good parents will always have the crops of their young full by nightfall. Hungry chicks will forever be begging for food and generally less vigorous.

Try to leave a few clear eggs with the hen after the young have hatched; at least until they are five days old. This should prevent the chicks from being squashed or smothered by tightly sitting hens. These eggs will act as a type of support for these fragile chicks.

It is not unusual for a chick to die and the hen to leave it where it is, so the other chicks simply sit around on it. This is one of many reasons why one should continue to regularly inspect the nest boxes, especially after the eggs are starting to hatch. When necessary, this is when one should clean the nest boxes and feet of the chicks, and beware of any abnormalities that might develop.

Not every hen appreciates a clean house. Some keep the box and their nestlings clean, whereas others are content to allow the nest box to wallow in filth. The latter being the case, one should definitely intervene and clean the house. If wood shavings are to be used, generally to offer a soft cushion for the eggs and chicks and to absorb moisture and unpleasant odours, be certain to use them in the nest box starting from day one. Never expect a hen with a clutch of eggs or chicks in the nest to accept this new introduction at your own discretion. Few hens will tolerate such an intrusion, and they have been known to abandon the nest, eggs and even chicks of various ages.

Wood chips

Wood shavings are wonderful for helping keep the nest box cleaner, but only if the hen has been given plenty of time prior to laying to get accustomed to such material. Never believe for a moment that you can gradually sneak in even a small handful of wood chips without the hen noticing. Especially after the hen (h)as commenced with her breeding and laying cycle. She cannot comprehend or appreciate your reasons for intruding upon and altering her private domain!

Reliable breeding pairs can be allowed to raise how many young they can successfully feed and maintain, and this will only be determined by close observation. I strongly advise against allowing them to raise less than two young as the adult birds often become complacent and bo(red), in which time brutal habits or neglect may develop. Three or four chicks per nest is the most ideal scenario because the pair should not become over-taxed, providing a generous

supply of nutritious food is provided at all times. A large clutch of rapidly growing youngsters is too much of a burden for even the healthiest and most active pair.

Frequently, a hen rearing a clutch of chicks will start laying a second clutch while the chicks are still in the nest box. This can be very disagreeable, as the eggs as a rule will get soiled. Also, active young cannot be responsible for any accidents, such as breaking or scattering the eggs. This can frustrate even the most passive hen, as she must contend with trying to incubate her eggs plus feed her always hungry brood. The best solution for this situation, at least in regards to saving any fertile and vital eggs, is to swap them with clear eggs. A foster hen can continue to incubate these second-clutch eggs while the original producer finishes raising young. Once finished and all the chicks are successfully weaned, the good fostered eggs can be placed back with the original hen. These eggs should then hatch on schedule without the hen aware that any switch was ever made.

Often a hen that has started a second clutch may become aggressive towards the young still in the nest, thus making the removal of the chicks necessary. Placing them outside the nest box into the breeding cage usually signals to the cock that it is up to him to finishing raising the young so that the hen can concentrate on sitting on her new clutch of eggs.

Remove the hen

Should a hen start showing signs of laying again and you want to break-up the pair to end their breeding season, remove the hen to another cage. If the cock is left to finish raising the chicks (never too young and unflighted), regularly check to see that he continues to properly feed the young. If not, the hen must be returned, in which time the nest box can be removed if the young are big enough.

Refrain from allowing your pair to raise a third clutch if they have already raised two complete nests. This practice is most certain to overtax the pair, especially the hen, which had already laid several eggs in addition to raising several chicks. Many breeders are apt to forget that the breeding season is a severe strain on the cock too. It is the cock, which feeds the hen as long as she is breeding and, more often than not, helps raise the chicks as well. Occasionally, cocks will become ill or die from sheer exhaustion. For this reason a clutch should be limited in size as well as kept to a maximum of two per breeding season. Well-nourished chicks will turn into stronger and better developed birds and, hopefully, your valuable breeding pair can be called into action again the following season.

Before returning the parent birds to the flight after all the chicks are weaned, allow them several days of rest, and never be tempted to set-up any pair again before they have had several months of recuperation and rest in the open flight. Allow a similar rest period for those birds subjected to any type of demanding show schedule.

Youngsters generally leave the nest box voluntarily between the age of four and five weeks. They definitely should be able to crack and eat seed by themselves before they are removed from the parents and weaned. Many problems can be avoided if chicks are fostered around so that each nest contains youngsters that are all about the same stage of development. The advantage of this method is that a nest of chicks are all ready to leave the nest within a few days of each other. This alleviates the problem of late-hatching chicks who have been left far behind in their development because they have been forced from the nest prematurely.

Foster parents

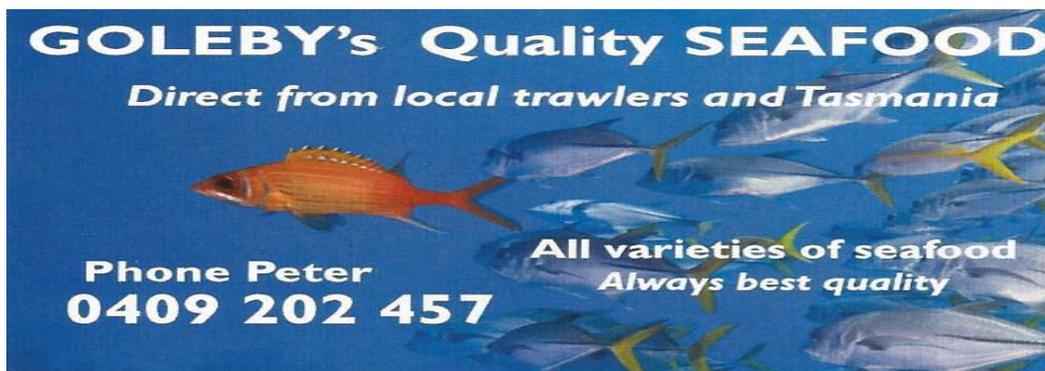
Many budgerigars are very admirable, reliable and invaluable as foster parents. They will rarely refuse to adopt a chick or eggs from another nest, but obviously only if undergoing the same breeding cycle schedule. Foster parents can be specially paired each breeding season for the purpose of helping rear young from a valuable pair, large clutch, or if one is faced with any number of breeding and rearing problems previously mentioned. These include illness, egg breaking, injury, inadequate feeding of young, chicks subjected to feather plucking etc. Pairs whose eggs are infertile can still be used as fosters by placing fertile eggs from another hen under this hen. Better results will be obtained this way than if one resorts to removing the hen's infertile eggs and has her re-lay soon after.

The general practice I apply here is to set up at least one known reliable foster pair for each quality pair set up. This procedure comes in handy especially if a certain pair is inexperienced or has shown signs in the past of being unreliable. Many more chicks can be saved if one plans ahead and adopts what I refer to as the "foster parent programme". Such birds can prove to be as valuable to the breeding programme as any of those top quality birds!

In conclusion, continued success does not come easy, especially if unwilling to devote plenty of time and energy to your birds, breeding programme and hobby. Learn from your mistakes and try to avoid making them again. Invest valuable time, energy and common sense with your budgie family so that life can be genuinely happy, healthy, rewarding and successful to all concerned.

2017 WRBS Committee

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