



# **CAPRICORNIA BUDGERIGAR**

## **SOCIETY INC.**

The Secretary –  
CBS Inc.  
PO Box 5451  
CQMC  
Rockhampton  
Queensland 4701

Webpage: [www.capbuds.org](http://www.capbuds.org)

April 2020

Dear Member,

We as aviculturists face many problems and setbacks in this interesting and enjoyable hobby of ours. In just the last twelve to eighteen months we have had droughts causing poor breeding and hatchability rates, extreme heat causing out of season moults and dropping off of the birds condition and a severe lack of quality seed. Along with the usual problems of different ailments that always seem to arise when least expected.

Now another cloud hangs over us in the form of a coronavirus (COVID19) and although it does not affect our birds it causes disruption to our hobby by way of causing the cancellation of all meetings, shows and auctions until at least the 14<sup>th</sup> of June and in all probability much longer. For most the biggest disappointment is the cancellation of the ANBC National Show for this year. This is the pinnacle of the show season and most members look forward to seeing what birds are winning as well as some people attending the show and using it as their annual holiday.

But in every cloud, there is a silver lining. So instead of holding those promising young birds back for the Nationals, now is the time to put them in a breeding cabinet and breed even better youngsters for next year. Also don't forget to still stay in social contact with fellow members, get on the phone and talk to one another. Ask are you OK and discuss how your birds are going and what you are doing with them. Look after yourself and family and stay healthy.

We were unsuccessful with our application for funding of communication equipment from the Community Gambling Benefit Fund but will try again in the next round of funding.

As there are no results or show schedule to include in this newsletter I have instead included a couple of articles rather than just one as is normal. I hope you all get something of value from these articles. Differing views on our hobby is a great way to learn more and can only improve our birds in the long run.

Cheers,  
Russell Ogden  
(Newsletter Editor, CBS Inc.) [ogdenrc@bigpond.com](mailto:ogdenrc@bigpond.com)

## MEMBERS INFORMATION PAGE

- **Committee Members:** Confirmed at AGM

- 

President:	Tom Bartlem	0457 255 639
Vice-President:	Darryl Fisher	07 4926 2489
Treasurer:	Scott Eriksen	0419 776 837
Secretary:	Scott Eriksen	0419 776 837
Member:	John Agnew	07 4938 1762

- EMAIL Addresses: To allow for more efficient distribution of newsletters and other Club information, please forward a test email or your email address to [ogdenrc@bigpond.com](mailto:ogdenrc@bigpond.com) **Thanks to all those who have forwarded these details previously.**
- **SHOW & WIN!!!!!!!** Starting at our 2019 Breeders Show, you will become eligible to win a \$200 Credit at our Annual Auction by showing at the 3 Major Shows (Breeders 2019, Annual 2020, Young Bird Show 2020). You will receive one ticket for showing 1 to 10 birds, 2 tickets for 11 to 20 entries, etc. After the Young Bird Selection Show in 2020, the winner will be drawn. The more you show, the better chance you have to win. It is only open to CBS Inc members. You must show at all 3 shows unless you are judging the show or are genuinely ill or have a family emergency. The aim of this incentive is to encourage members to show consistently at all 3 shows. If you have missed out for this year, you can still be in it next year.
- Services Section: The new Club Shirt is now being worn by many members. If you want to purchase one, contact Qing Wu 0455 237 367 Qing will also have a supply of 2020 rings, (60 cents each and sold in lots of 25, postage is extra \$5.00) and show cages and cage fronts if anyone needs some.
- Future CBS Variety of the Year are as follows: 2020 :- Australian White Caps 2021:- Lutino and 2022 :- Normal Green. These are judged at the Annual Show each year.

## A point of discussion.

I saw that in South Africa they use wire show cages which actually are very useful because it gives the judge a 360-degree view of the bird. What do you think about these cages? And should they be used in Australia?

The BSSA has approved a new Wire Show Cage for use on the show bench at shows.

This is a total shift from the traditional wooden box show cages which has served the Society for a very long time. Due to birds getting bigger the wooden cages tend to make some birds hunch up at the back of the show cage due to the roof design.

The new Wire Show Cages are the same size as the previous show cage but the roof is now straight across and not slanted.

The new Show Cage also has one perch instead of two. This is a great improvement as birds cannot jump from perch to perch. If the judge wants to view the other side the cage is simply turned around.

Maintenance is also greatly improved in that the plastic bottom is clipped loose and sprayed down together with the wire section.

Another advantage is that these cages take up a fraction of the space when transporting them to a show. It is estimated that at least 5 times the number of show cages can now be transported in the same space as the wooden show cages.

The birds are also much more comfortable in these cages and are much more relaxed.

These cages are an evolution and not just a simply an upgrade on what was previously used.





***I just know I'm going to get into trouble for this one.***

A Sunday School Teacher says "Fred, can you tell me what you call a lady that has died?"

Fred replies "An Angel"

Teacher "very good, now how about a group of women that have died?"

Fred replies "A flock of Angels"

Teacher "Very good, now what if all the women in the world have died?"

Fred replies "Peace on earth"

This article is by Peter Thurn who is a leading Budgerigar breeder from Victoria. He is in the ANBC Hall of Fame and is an ANBC National Judge. Peter is also a Geneticist by profession.

## Genetic Progress Theory and Budgerigar Breeding by Peter Thurn

Much is written about pairing practices in the budgerigar world and most breeders would have an idea of the direction they wish to take their stud. We use visual assessment of our birds and pedigrees to determine appropriate pairings and we do so with the standard in our mind as this is our breeding goal, but few would think of their breeding program in the terms that are outlined here. A breeding program is just a gathering of pairings if it is not put in context and is framed by an achievable breeding goal. Irrespective of what you are breeding, genetic progress can be defined by the following equation:

$$\Delta G = (A \cdot i \cdot \sigma g) / I$$

where:  $\Delta G$  – Rate of Genetic Gain A – Selection Accuracy i – Selection Intensity  $\sigma g$  – Genetic Variance I – Generation Interval (length)

This equation is often referred to as the “breeder’s equation”. In most commercial livestock breeding programs, the breeder is assisted by the provision of breeding values such as BreedPlan for beef cattle, Lambplan for sheep breeders and ABVs for Dairy Cattle. These breeding values are based on phenotypic (visual) measurements, their variance from their contemporaries (herd or flock mates of the same age) and the historical performance of relatives. In the world of budgerigar breeding, we do not have the luxury of breeding values and are therefore left with phenotypic (visual) assessment of our birds and knowledge of their ancestry and family history/performance via pedigree. Where tools such as breeding values are not available for the breeder, the equation for genetic gain changes slightly to:

$$\Delta G = (h^2 \cdot i \cdot \sigma p) / I$$

where:  $\Delta G$  – Rate of Genetic Gain  $h^2$  – Heritability i – Selection Intensity  $\sigma p$  – Phenotypic Variance I – Generation Interval (length)

Heritability replaces selection accuracy and phenotypic (observed) variance replaces genetic variance. So what are these things?

$h^2$  – Heritability. There are a number of ways of describing heritability. The definition I like is “the proportion of the variance between individuals that can be attributed to genetics”. If you google heritability you will find a range of ways of describing it. The trick is to find the one that you understand. They all describe the same thing – just in different ways. In this instance we are talking about the relationship between how the bird appears and how it breeds, i.e. how closely do the offspring resemble the parents.

i – Selection Intensity. Is exactly what it says. It is about how intensive your selection is. Breeders who do not try and breed as many chicks as possible are sacrificing selection intensity. The more birds that are bred and the less selected to be the parents of the next generation, the greater the selection intensity. Breeders who run a

superior cock over a number of hens are increasing selection intensity. Selection intensity is about maximising the number offspring of your best birds. It is also about your focus on your breeding goal. Using birds in your program that do not display, or are not bred from birds that displayed the characteristics you are selecting for, is an indication of lowered selection intensity.

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$\sigma_p$  – Phenotypic Variance. What we are talking about here is the observed differences between birds. In situations where breeders have breeding values to work with, the differences between individuals can be assessed on a genetic basis. In the absence of breeding values we need to rely on our eye and our assessment of birds in relation to the similarity or otherwise to “the Standard”. Variance in a population is a vital component of breeding. You cannot select for a trait if the trait does not exist or appear in you stud. If you want to breed for directional feather but do not possess birds that display directional feather, then your task will be difficult if not impossible. If you want a characteristic or trait in you stud and you cannot see it in your birds, you will most likely need to acquire it from elsewhere.

$I$  – Generation Interval (length). One of the key drivers of genetic progress is Generation Interval. If you think of Heritability, Selection Intensity and Phenotypic Variance of the cogs of the machine, then Generation Interval is the handle that turns the cogs. The more often you turn the handle, the more progress you make. If you get the top line components of the equation wrong and maximise generation interval, then you will be sent down the wrong track faster. But, if you get them right and manipulate generation interval in your favour, you will make good progress. So how do you minimise (shorten) generation interval? Minimising generation interval is all about using your youngest birds. You need to identify the best birds early and integrate them into your breeding program. As we breed these birds to show, we are faced with the predicament do I show the bird or do I breed with it? That becomes the choice of the breeder. The key is to understand the trade off you are making. If I show the bird and delay breeding with it, then I lengthen the generation interval. It becomes a choice! In essence all of these factors need to be balanced in a breeding program. Maximising any one of these elements will not deliver the desired result. To maximise accuracy of selection (heritability) we compromise generation interval. This is done because the accuracy of our selections increases with breeding knowledge. Does the bird breed “truly” (like itself) or does it breed better or worse. The only way to assess this

is over time by evaluating the bird’s offspring. So there is a trade off between accuracy of selection (heritability) and generation interval. Similarly, if we maximise selection intensity and only use the very best we have available (e.g. one cock over five hens) then we limit genetic and phenotypic variation. We start to restrict the pedigree (gene) base of the stud. We make the stud more related, and we potentially limit genetic and phenotypic variation. We start to restrict the pedigree (gene) base of the stud. We make the stud more related, and we potentially limit some of the characteristics that might be lying “inert” in the birds we have chosen not to breed with.

A word on inbreeding. Inbreeding in most modern livestock breeding programs is avoided. This is because the architects of these programs have tools such as breeding values that allow you to better identify the genetics of the animals you are working with. Inbreeding allows you to “recreate characteristics within your stud” by

combining the genes and gene sequences that lead to the appearance of the characteristics in the first place. By “doubling up” on birds in a pedigree that display the desired characteristics, you increase the chance of the characteristics re-appearing. Inbreeding is not a tool that allows you to progress. It only allows you to recreate. It is a great tool for cementing a characteristic within your stud. But it does not allow you to introduce the characteristics to your stud that you may be lacking.

Budgie breeders rely on pedigrees, visual assessment and scrutiny of breeding performance when making pairing decisions. Inbreeding is a great tool for establishing a “line” however for that line to progress, new “blood” needs to be introduced. Inbreeding has a down side. Loss of vigour, fertility, disease resistance and size are all consequences of inbreeding. These phenomena are well documented in other species. Budgies are no different.

Balance is the key. As budgerigar breeders, we need to find the balance between the components of the breeder’s equation as well as the balance between inbreeding and out crossing.

Good luck with your breeding!

## Building a Budgerigar stud.

Col Flanagan

In the beginning Bruce Shepard & Colin Flanagan showed separately. It was not until the importation of the birds from the UK that they formed the partnership and began to work much closer, although for a long time earlier birds were exchanged regularly at the time of pairing.

The limited numbers of birds that came in from the UK really restricted the flexibility for the two as you divide some nine birds into two separate sheds there is not a lot to work with.

Fortunately a few of the imported birds were prolific breeders, consistently producing strong shouldered birds, with great length of body, exceptional head feather and deep mask that were full of large spots.

Something that was plentiful in those early days was smaller type “cobby” hens. They exhibited really good conformation with no real faults other than being a little smaller.

*And Colin believes that here lies one of the great secrets of the bird game.*

The hen described in the last paragraph is a breeding type of hen, she is a hen that is bomb proof, will breed no matter what cock she is paired too, if you are to be successful first and foremost you must have birds that will breed for you no matter what the circumstances. You must have a line of hens that are full strong on fertility, feeding, nurturing and weaning.

### **Well-designed Bird Room and Aviaries are essential**

There are literally a hundred matters to consider when constructing a bird room and aviaries, Bruce and Colin have gone down different paths here, Bruce has changed little of the bird room over the last forty years while Colin has relocated many times due to work commitments and has been continually building new bird rooms and aviaries every time he relocated. They both said the key considerations are:

- Face aviaries eastwards, so that birds can capture the morning sun daily
- Insulate the bird room against both the summer heat and the winter cold
- Clear roof panels can be painted white to reflect the heat and still allow light in, this has significantly reduced the sun from heating up the bird room
- It is essential that a bird room has good ventilation





- Aviary floors must never be permitted to get wet, they must remain dry
- Aviary lofts are a great way to feed vegetable and citrus foods that are damp and will be discarded and fall outside and not mix with droppings, this is now a common design feature for all of their aviaries
- Take care in the bird room layout to ensure efficient daily routines, otherwise the routine will take time away from your birds and desire to improve the stud
- Fresh and clean drinking water must be convenient
- Cages and breeding boxes must be large and well ventilated
- Extending daylight utilising timers is essential for both the birds and the carer.
- Provide a 24 hour night light (15W pilot lamp) allowing birds to find the breeding box if disturbed at night
- A radio that provides a constant background of noise so that other bumps in the night are less of a threat
- A well sealed bird room will prevent mice from disrupting the breeding season and seed storage must be kept clear of fouling from mice etc.
- Hawks need to be kept from the outside wire, this can be easily achieved with shade cloth
- Vacuum aviaries weekly and clean bird room floors daily to keep the dust down
- Water and seed daily,

### **Feeding and maintaining our birds is critical**

Feeding of quality budgerigars is a science according to Bruce and Colin, they both have a strong ethic in this area which has been developed over decades, they expect that their programs will continue to develop as more is understood.

- Seed, Premium Budgie, Daily
- A large variety of other seeds are provided on a regular basis
- Multi vitamins are a regular additive
- Soft food is not feed
- A wide range of vegetables and fruits are fed on a regular basis, offering something daily
- Clean Water Daily or more often in the summer months, Bruce prefers large drinkers in the loft, while Colin prefers large glass bowls on the floor.

### **The Breeding season**

Management of the pairs during breeding season is very important if you are to maximise your opportunities and in turn produce more and more each season.

- Bruce and Colin refer to themselves as traditional breeders, that is they pair up on the Queens Birthday weekend in June, take two rounds, and in turn empty and clean out the bird room by the Christmas break
- Checking pairs twice a day is a minimum during the Breeding season
- Establishing foster pairs early, when you recognise some pairs are not feeding well enough, or too many chicks in the same nest the same age, or more than 4 chicks per pair, you need to start moving chicks to save them don't hesitate.
- A strong culture of accurate record keeping is essential,
- You must repeat the same pairing each year if they continue to breed you great chicks or even a National winner each time, it may seem simple enough, but many breeders feel they can do better and change the pair?
- Trim feathers from both the Cock and Hen and if need be then in between rounds is equally important.

### **The real priorities in building a competitive Budgerigar**

- Right back from the days of importation it was clear that the main feature of this stud was going to be strength of shoulder, and this key feature remains the highest priority for the partnership today.
- The bird must fill the cage and literally be a hand full,
- Mask and spot are very important and again need to be presented on the wide shoulders to catch their eye

- Birds must be truly representative of their respective variety
- Bruce & Colin consider that flecking has its place in the stud, and ticked birds are often shown when birds of the same quality but clean are not available, so flecking is very acceptable and can in fact be an advantage if managed well
- It is important to be ruthless with hens that do not perform, the hen is so important for the number of and size of eggs, fertility and feeding, you need to be able to trust the hen that you are about to put with your best Cock Bird. You also need to trust her with fledgling chicks while you are at work during the day.

**A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."  
His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all of his beer.**

# **CBS Inc.---Calendar of Events---2020**

Note that some Friday Night meetings have been changed to follow a Show or Club event.

Sunday Jan 12	ABS Inc Auction	Eagleby, Brisbane		
Saturday Jan 18	Committee Meeting	D Fisher's residence	2.00 pm	
Friday Feb 07	General Meeting  Judges Meeting to follow.	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & NF  <u>FEATURE:</u> Faults in Birds  Open discussion
Friday March	General Meeting	To be held after the annual show		
Monday March 16	Entries close for Annual show	Entries close at 9.00 pm with the Show Secretary		
Saturday March 21	Annual Show and General Meeting		Benching by 9.15am	A/A & Y/B & NF  Judging commences 9:30am
Friday April	General Meeting	No meeting in April		
Saturday April 4 CBS Inc. ANNUAL AUCTION ENTRIES DUE TODAY!!!!!!! And Wynnum Auction				
Easter - 10 <sup>th</sup> April to 13 <sup>th</sup> April				
Saturday April 18	Committee Meeting  Committee meeting to discuss Zone & ANBC Agenda Items.	D. Fisher's residence	2.00pm	

May General Meeting	May General Meeting to follow Young Bird Show			
Monday April 27	Entries for Young Bird Show closes 9pm with Show Secretary			
Saturday May 02	CBS INC YOUNG BIRD SELECTION SHOW.  May General Meeting to follow this SHOW  Draw of CLUB REWARDS for credit of \$200 at CBS Auction	North R'ton High Performing Arts Centre (PAC) Simpson Street.	Benching by 8.45am	Y/B & NF  Judging commences 9:00am  CBS Members Raffle drawn.
Saturday May 16	N & C Q Zone: 1. Judges Panel & 2. Delegates Meeting.	Townsville		3:00 pm Judges Meeting TBC 3:30 pm Zone Delegates Meeting TBC
Sunday May 17	N & C Q ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW.	Townsville		Benching by 8am Judging starts after benching
Friday May 22 Saturday 23 Sunday 24	ANBC C'SHIP SHOW	Bendigo	See ANBC Website for information and details, e.g., Venue, times, etc.	
Monday May 25	ANBC Delegates Meeting	Bendigo		
<b>NO JUNE MEETING</b>				
Saturday June 06	Pre-Auction Dinner	Red Lion Hotel	6.30 for 7.00pm	Performing Arts Hall opened from 2-4pm for setup & birds to be dropped off.
Sunday June 07	ANNUAL WINTER AUCTION	Nth R'ton High School Performing Arts Hall.	Bench by 7.45am	View 8.00am Starts at 9:00am
13 <sup>th</sup> June Henry George Auction – Strathpine Brisbane				
Saturday July 04	General Meeting  Committee Meeting to follow GM	Mount Larcom Showgrounds	1.00pm	<u>Lawn Show</u> A/A & Y/B & NF  <u>FEATURE:</u>  Question and Answer
12 <sup>th</sup> July BRASEA Auction, STRATHPINE, Brisbane.				
Friday July 31	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  General & Judges Meetings to follow	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	No <u>Table Show</u> or <u>FEATURE</u>
Saturday Aug 8 Newcastle Auction				
August 30th	Visit to ??? Aviary To Be Confirmed  Attend Pine Rivers Annual Auction	CLUB ANNUAL EVENT	Depart early Saturday morning	

Friday Sept 04	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE:</u>  Red Eyes
Saturday Sept 19	Committee Meeting	D. Fisher's Residence	2pm	
Monday Sept 21	Entries for Young Bird Show closes 9pm with Show Secretary			
Saturday Sept 26	<b>BREEDERS SHOW</b>  <b>BIRD OF YEAR 2020</b> (Winners from All Shows from November Breeder's Show 2019 to October 2020 Table Show are eligible and will be judged at this Show)  Judge: TBA  October General Meeting to follow this Show.	North R'ton High Performing Arts Centre (PAC) Simpson Street.	Benching by 8.45am	A/A & Y/B & NF  Judging commences 9:00am
Friday Nov 06	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE:</u>  Clearwings
Sunday Nov 22	CHRISTMAS CLUB BREAKUP, including final meeting of the year. (December General Meeting).	TBA –	1.00pm 2.00pm	Lunch Meeting

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

2020

Capricornia Budgerigar Society Inc.



Forward to:

The Secretary - CBS Inc. [L] [SEP]

PO Box 5451, RED HILL-

ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4701

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (all if partnership)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*This is vital to allow prompt delivery of information to all members.

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to keep my birds in a suitable environment and use appropriate husbandry practices.**

My current exhibition status is ..... (Open, Novice, Beginner, etc.)

Applicant's Signature..... [L] [SEP]

Proposer's Name.....Proposer's Signature.....

Date.....

Please make cheques payable to: " Capricornia Budgerigar Society Inc."

**Membership Rates for 2019** [L] [SEP]

Senior : \$40.00

Partnership : \$40.00

Family: \$40.00

Memberships due by January 01 each year. Membership after June 30 will be \$20 for remainder of current year.

CBS Inc WEBPAGE: [www.capbuds.org](http://www.capbuds.org)