

MACKAY CITY BUDGERIGAR SOC. INC.

Presidents report:

Doug would like to welcome all the members back in 2011 with our first meeting 03.02.2011. Hoping everyone had a good Christmas break. Also the club has show cages for sale if anyone is interested and there is still come amprolium available as well. Doug was interviewed recently by ABC tropical north about his budgies. To watch it just go to link below

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/videos/2011/01/25/3121074.htm?site=tropic>

Break up Party

Thank you to Ross Garrett and Greg Shepherd for cooking the sausages. Steak and onions on the BBQ to perfection they were delicious. Thank you to Patsy Macgregor for supplying and cooking the fish once again. It was amazing and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the girls who helped in the kitchen cutting tomatoes and onions and getting the nibbles prepared for us. Thank you to Annette Swan for organising all the cent sale prizes. There were excellent prizes and everyone enjoyed themselves, even Robbo. Also thank you to Josie Bugejia for organising all the tickets for the cent sale. Thank you to Doug Wales, Paul Gill, Ross Garrett, Patsy Macgregor and Michael Pace for getting the auction running smoothly and helping it go so well. Thank you to Annette Swan and Patsy Macgregor for their efforts selling raffle tickets which was won by Raelene Macgregor. Most of all thank you to everyone who came along and had an enjoyable Christmas break up party.

Auction:

The Auction was a great way to start off the break up party. About 80 birds were auctioned with \$2600 being spent on the birds, which meant a tidy sum of \$260 going into the club. Most birds were purchased went to the youngsters or novices in the front row. Great to see the young ones getting in and getting some nice birds and hopefully they go well for you guys. It was very interesting when Greg Shepherd purchased a pair of budgies from the auction to go with his canaries. Is he seeing the light? Also we had a good response from advertising the auction with Glen Westman and Michael Grienke attending the auction and showing interest in joining our club.

Show Preparations:

A big thank you to Debbie and Gavin Milton to coming down from Townsville to show us how to prepare our birds for shows. The Birds looked amazing afterwards with Matt and Nic Grant, Shannon Baillie, Bob Robinson, David Furness and Patsy Macgregor getting in and having a go. If you missed out there will be a copy of Debbie Milton's notes with this newsletter.

Reminder that memberships are rings are now due.

ALL 2012 RINGS MUST BE ORDERED BY 28TH FEBRUARY 2011.

CONTACT PATSY ON 49524465 OR PETER 49546457 AND LET THEM KNOW HOW MANY YOU NEED FOR 2012

Coded Rings \$50 per 100

Club Rings \$48 per 100

Problems in the breeding season by Ian McEwen:

REFUSING TO LAY

The simplest reason for this condition is one (or both) of the birds is out of condition. If this is the reason, change partners again, the hen might be too young – as a general rule I don't pair up hens until they are at least nine months old. The same can be said for the cock. If after three weeks the hen still hasn't laid and none of the above conditions apply then in all probability the hen is an internal layer that is she doesn't physically pass an egg in this situation all you can do is try another hen.

LAYING SOFT SHELLED EGGS

This is a very annoying condition when the hen lays eggs without the shell. In some instances it's only the first and perhaps the second egg that is soft shelled the remainder being normal. I don't worry about this situation and allow the hen to brood and raise her clutch in the normal way. Exceptionally in a hen can lay an entire clutch of soft shelled eggs. In this situation, action must be taken as the calcium producing gland is not functioning properly. I separate the hen from the cock and put her in a stock cage and introduce powdered calcium boroglutonate into the drinking water for one week at one teaspoon into a large drinking fountain. This usually does the trick and after a period of a few weeks rest, I put her back again in the breeding pen.

LAYING CLEAR EGGS

This is a really annoying occurrence especially if the entire clutch is clear. There is no one single reason for it, its only a combination of things like: immature cock/hen, old/barren hen, cock/hen out of condition, unsteady perches, box bound hen, timid cock ect. However if it is the hens first breeding season and she lays a clutch of clear eggs, I personally usually put some full eggs underneath her from another hen and let her raise the chicks. This is very often results in the hen laying full eggs in her second round

ADDLED EGGS

Addled eggs can occur for a variety of reason probably the most comment being due to the hen staying off for too long period and letting the eggs get excessively cold, This can happen overnight especially if no night lights are in operation in the aviary and the hen cannot find her way back into the nest box. Another reason can be disturbance by mice. So keep them out if you can.

REFUSING TO FEED YOUNG CHICKS

This problem is nearly always confirmed to young hens in the first breeding season. The most usual way to combat it is to put the unfed chicks under a hen, which is feeding. Mark the chick for later identification or if a red eye, put it in a black eye nest box or visa versa. Then put a three or four days old chick under a hen and this is usually forces the hen to feed. Another method that i use, especially in the case of very valuable clutch of eggs, is to put a just hatched chick from another nest together with the discarded eggshells underneath the hen. On returning after an hour or so, I can then observe whether the hen is a non feeder or not. If not, I then transfer the chick and put a three or four day old chick under the hen as described above. I use this manoeuvre to identify hens which i suspect might be non feeders and thus minimise the potential number of losses for them.

FEEDING THE WRONG CROP MILK

If the crop milk into a young (up to eight days) is not a creamy consistence but contains whole or partially grains of seed, the chances are the chick will die unless corrective action is taken Usually this is to transfer a chick to a hen which is feeding properly

FEATHER PLUCKING

A most annoying complaint usually, but not always carried out by the hen. Many diverse remedies have been advocated from smearing the chick with cream to placing iodine nibbles in the nest box to distract the offending parent. If neither works, transfer the chick if possible (don't forget to rub excreta of the nest box of the foster parent the chick to ensure its acceptance) or if the chicks are too big to be transferred place them in a small card board box on the floor of the breeding cage. The cock will find them and nearly in every case feed them.

ATTACKING CHICKS

Usually happens because the cock/hen is frustrated and wants to start another round of eggs. Transfer the chicks, or if too big place them in a small card board box on the floor of the breeding cage. The cock will find them and nearly in every case feed them.

THE SECOND ROUND

Don't think hat once the first round is over the chicks are out and flying in the stock cage, that all is well. It often happens that for some inexplicable reason that hens which were exemplary in the first round should display all sorts of bad characteristics in the second round. Added to this possibility that the hen will commence laying her second round clutch when chicks are still in the nest. Vigilance is needed at all times! Also the determination to succeed no matter what our delightful feathered friends do.

STUNTED CHICKS

I conclude this article by point out that no matter how careful we are, Mother Nature has other nasty tricks up her sleeve, One of them is the inexplicable fact that for some unknown reason, a chick will suddenly stop growing and become stunted. Very occasionally transferring the chick will start growing again, but usually the youngest eventually dies.

However despite these set backs, press on as it is a great hobby and well worth putting a lot of effort into to.

ANNUAL SHOW:

Bruce Schuster is the judge for the Mackay annual show on 15.15.2011. Fingers crossed for a National winner from Mackay this year.

PREPARING THE BIRDS SHEET FROM DEBBIE MILTON

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF BIRDS FOR SHOWS

- Look at your birds about 6 to 8 weeks before the show and start to make a choice based on the condition of the bird, i.e. is it coming into condition or has it already peaked?
- Does it have a tail, or is it starting to grow one (some grow quicker than others) has it just dropped its primary tail feathers? (it can take up to 10 weeks for new ones to grow, once again some are quicker) Keeping in mind that the primary tail feathers will need to be longer than the secondaries for the show bench.
- If its head is full of pin feathers this is a good indication that it is coming out of its moult.
- Put all birds chosen in a wire cage and place them in a safe position in the yard (I prefer a nice sunny spot out of the breeze – especially if it's a bit cool). Turn your hose nozzle to a very fine mist and saturate all the birds. Allow them to dry in the sun, but if it's a really hot day then use your discretion and move them to half shade.
- The following week dip them in a solution of AIL or similar to ensure they are free of mites etc.; allow them to dry as above.
- Wash them once a week for the coming weeks – this will tighten their feathers and help them get into good condition, you will notice that once they have been washed a couple of times the feathers will not take so long to dry – this indicates the condition is improving. I usually stop washing the week or two before the show, they should be right by then – see spraying below.
- If a bird is particularly grubby, I use Fido's White and Bright pet shampoo, beware the white bird might look a bit purple, but rinse properly and once dry it'll be fine.
- Put your bird in a show cage and check that it's all ok for showing, ie. its feet are doing the correct thing and that it has all its toes, it's beak and wings are ok etc. – there's no point wasting time preparing a bird that you can't bench.

Two Weeks From The Show:-

- Start despotting, use good quality tweezers, and a pair of small, sharp nail scissors. It is best to despot over a period of time thus allowing the spots to settle so that you can see which ones you need to remove, never be in a hurry as that's when things go wrong.
- Using a spray bottle, filled with fairly hot water and glycerine (or many use sweet sherry), on a fine mist setting, gently spray birds daily to improve feather quality.
- It's better to err on the side of caution and leave one behind if it's just coming through, that way you can wait until the last minute to decide if it's in the right place or not.
- Gently brush the feathers in the cap forward, with a small, soft toothbrush, to help remove the outer casing on the pinfeathers. Always be very gentle as this often causes

one to bleed. If it does, don't panic, have a small dish of cold milk and a cotton bud handy, dip this in the milk and gently apply to the blood until it stops. Keep dabbing up any excess milk with a tissue or it'll make a mess. Very carefully rinse off milk with cool water and allow bird to dry.

- On the morning of the show – gently brush cap forward, sprinkle baby powder into the cap and brush out excess.
- Dip cotton bud in dish of baby oil and apply carefully to cere, beak and feet, being careful not to overdo it or the oil will get on the feathers or seed will stick to it.

Sympathy:

Deepest Sympathy is extended to Gavin and Julie Moller on their loss before Christmas. John Moller was well known to all the Q.R employees.

For Sale:

Breeding cages for budgies. 1 block consisting of a set of 4 breeding cages, complete with breeding boxes and wooden inserts and removable cleaning trays, plus water bottles \$160 a set of 4 (1 block)

3 x training cages, 1 with divided partition, can be used for breeding cage \$60 each.
All cages made of 1" x 1/2" mesh. Some accessories available at assorted prices
Phone 0437348762

Hope to see you all at the next Meeting.
Raelene