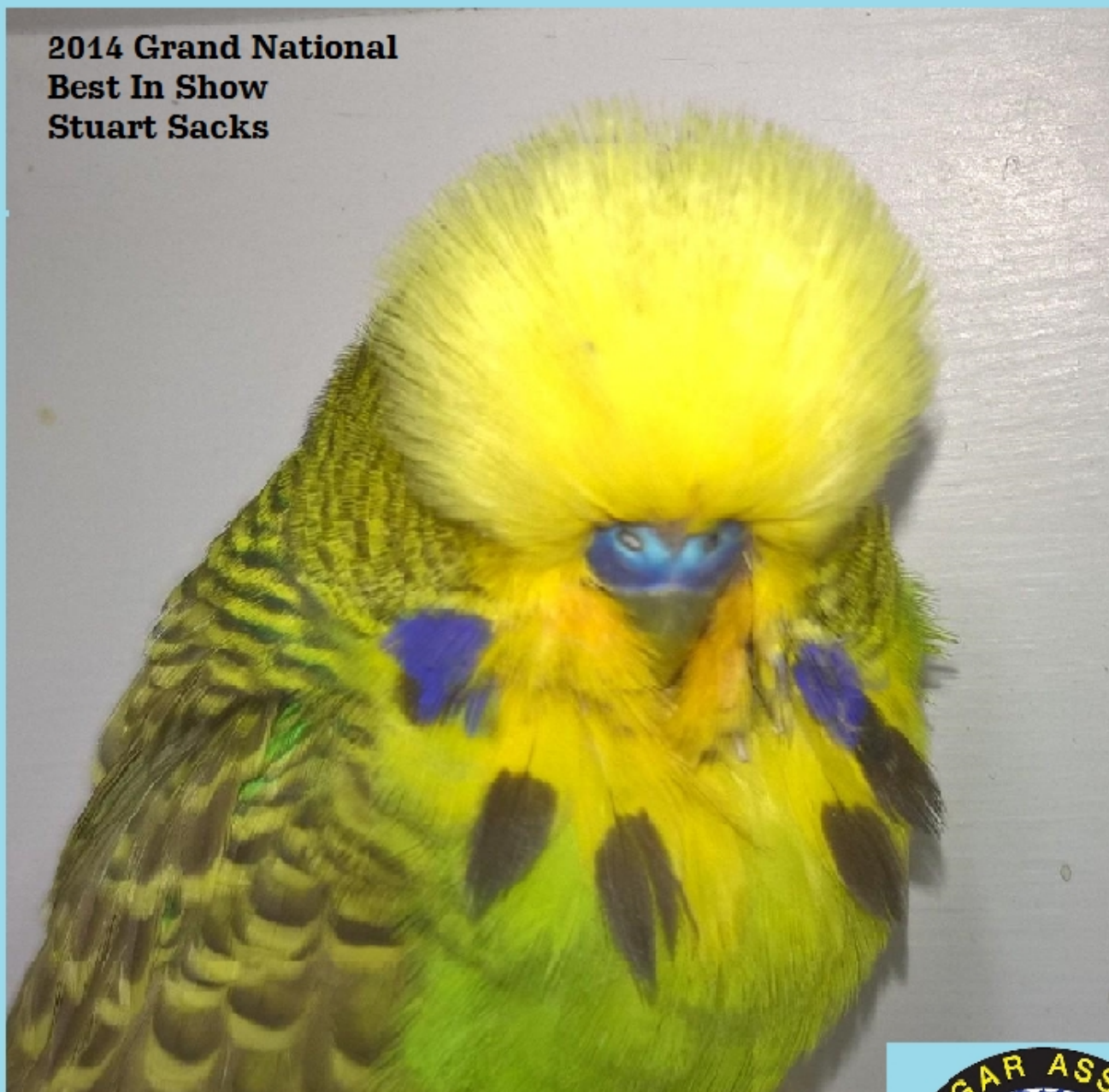


BUDGERIGAR JOURNAL

The Official Publication of The Budgerigar Association of America

**2014 Grand National
Best In Show
Stuart Sacks**



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Budgerigar Journal

The Magazine of the Budgerigar
Association of America.

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Positions needed:

Journal Editor

Advertisement Administor

Website Administrator



Chairman's Message

Greetings!

BAA is alive and well! Over the next several months I believe that you will notice some slight changes with BAA. The first coming to mind is the journal. While searching for a new editor and putting together this journal, I have been faced with several options. It was decided at the annual meeting that the journal would become quarterly instead of bi-monthly. The next challenge was the method of distribution. Moving forward, several options were considered such as an online journals, delivery by email, or old fashioned print and mailed. I very much understand that printed material is a thing of the past but I'm still reluctant to leave the printed format. Mainly because of a personal preference and to be able to hand printed materials to prospective members. Several other things will also happen over the next few months such as ways to reduce the cost of some of fees. The goal would be to have each item become self-sufficient instead of having to charge extra on some things such as bands and memberships to supplement other things. First, with the journal, we have automatically reduced the overall cost by dropping two issues per year. I also would like to reduce the advertising rates in hope of increasing the number of advertisers for an overall gain while also providing them with continuous web presence on our website. Our bylaws also state that four pages of the journal should be on education. Several will be asked to submit articles. It takes an effort of a group to make anything within an organization a success. I would like to say thanks to Julie Willis, Bob Wilson, Virgil Oliphant, Debbie Lownsdale, Jim Fleeker, and Josh Anthony for their contributions with compiling this journal. I have contact one member who is considering becoming the editor but I'm reserving that name until they have officially agree to do so. Since my last letter outlining vacancies, Debbie Lownsdale has agreed to fill the position of Journal Advertising until a replacement can be found. All ad correspondence, breeder directory listings, and other sponsorships should be sent to her at address listed in Board of Directors. In saying this, all ads in the journal have expired. Breeder Directory listing can be renewed through Debbie for \$30 annually. If you were listed previously, you can either keep the listing as is or send a new business card size ad to her. If you need help in designing a listing, there are several that have volunteered to help you, so contact me if you need help.

I hope that everyone has many 'chicks' and I'm excited to see them on the bench's across the states.

Al Horton

Chairman

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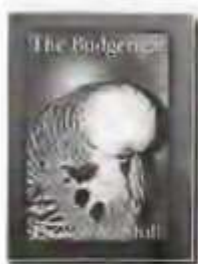
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THE BUDGERIGAR

by Dr. Rob Marshall's B.V.Sc., M.A.C.V.Sc. (Bird Health)

Written by world leader in avian health and renowned avian vet Dr. Rob Marshall, *The Budgerigar* provides extensive genetic details on primary and combination mutations bred worldwide. This title presents 415 pages, Hard Cover with 31 chapters including 2000 photographs & illustrations. Every pertinent topic is covered, including those regarding behavior, environment, nutrition, exhibition, breeding success, health and disease.

With no clear breeding plan, the quality and size of exhibition Budgerigars disappear within two breeding seasons. Of great interest to all levels of breeders has been Chapter Sixteen, "Developing a Plan for Breeding the Ideal and Beyond", which describes the background information needed to introduce and secure new features across a stud.

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When Only the Best Will Do

Ranking and Advancement

Julie Willis

Greetings everyone! I'm very excited about the new format for the Journal. In this section I'll be updating the point and CC standings as well as listing any advancements. The rules for advancement and means for calculating points will be included once each year, so be sure to keep this issue to refer to. Feel free to use my email from the Board of Directors page to let me know what you think.

Rules for Advancement

Section 15.01. Definition of Junior Exhibitor. In order for a breeder to exhibit in the Junior division, that exhibitor must be at least seven years of age. This age limitation is based on the widely accepted premise that the person should be an active participant in the care and breeding of the birds. Junior members who are under the age of seven and have been exhibiting birds prior to the 2009 show season are grandfathered as Junior. A Junior who wins either Best Junior Best Junior Opposite Sex, or Best Junior Young three times with three different birds shall advance to the Novice ranking the following year provided there are at least 2 exhibitors at each show when these wins are achieved. If they do not achieve the three wins while a Junior, they must move to the Novice Division the show season following their seventeenth birthday

Section 15.02. Advancing from Novice to Intermediate. Novice breeders who win Best Novice, Best Novice Opposite Sex, or Best Novice Young with three different birds at three different shows shall then advance the following year to Intermediate as long as one win is Best Novice. Each win must be at a show where there are at least three Novice breeders showing. If they have shown at the Novice level for at least three years and do not have the wins, they may select to move into the Intermediate ranks the following show season if they so desire. Once a Novice breeder receives their wins they shall advance to the Intermediate division the next show season. A Novice wishing to move to Intermediate without their wins may do so, but they may not move back to Novice.

Section 15.03. Advancing from Intermediate to Champion. Intermediate breeders must win six Challenge Certificates, in any color sections, with 6 different birds. There must be a minimum of five birds from three exhibitors in the section and there must be five Champion breeders exhibiting in the show, with a minimum of twenty-five champion birds entered for the wins to count. In addition, the Intermediate exhibitor must win one of the best in show awards (Best, Best Opposite Sex, Best Young, or Best Young Opposite Sex) and place one bird in the top six best in show. For these wins to count there must be a minimum of three champion exhibitors entered in the show and 25 champion birds shown.

Section 15.04. Recognition of ABS wins and Ranking. All exhibitor wins at ABS shows shall be recognized under the BAA system. Exhibitors must show in the same division in BAA and ABS.

2014 Point and CC Standings

Champion

1	Stuart Sacks	8042
2	Julie Willis	6598
3	Francom/Rodabough	3774
4	Bob Rees	3574
5	David Eberst	3342
6	Herb & Margie Doucet	1870
7	Whitham/DiBernardo	1567
8	Pam & Dave Collier	1527
9	Jaguar Aviaries	1263
10	Bob Wilson	979

Intermediate

1	Al Maldonado	1753
2	Pauline Domenge	1642
3	Debbie Lynch	1174
4	David Elrod	1158
5	Debbie Lownsdale	1120
6	George Hollingsworth	689
7	Tony League	581
8	James Owens	522
9	Kevin Smith	406
10	Kim Vandermeiden	359

Novice

1	Slav & Mike Shcherbakov	1125
2	Joshua Anthony	1070
3	Gary Olsen	954
4	C & D Cole	638
5	Bernice O'Steen	479
6	Shawn Romano	394
7	Benito Ortiz	282
8	Rod Bales	277
9	Mike Jacob	269
10	Sophie Floyd	253

2014 Point and CC Standings

Junior

1	Haley Brock	1024
2	Cade Neumann	460
3	Skylar Neumann	427
4	Alec Joiner	335
5	Alecia Joiner	285
6	Jazmine Gallardo	111
7	Jillian Johnson	108
8	Alina Ortiz	80
9	Victoria Halbert	56
10	Payton Hawkins	32

Rare

1	Maureen Broderick	1424
2	David Eberst	1310
3	Capi/Spier	825
4	Del O'Connell	450
5	Francom/Rodabough	423
6	Al Horton	382
7	Dewayne Weldon	372
8	George Hollingsworth	319
9	Legend Aviary	224
10	Haley Brock	221

CCs

1	Maureen Broderick	72
2	Julie Willis	61
3	Francom/Rodabough	40
4	David Eberst	37
4	Stuart Sacks	37
6	Al Horton	21
6	Bob Rees	21
8	Jaguar Aviaries	18
9	Herb & Margie Doucet	17
10	Whitham/DiBernardo	16

CC Breeder of the Year

Section 14.02. CC Breeder of the year. The exhibitor accumulating the Most CCs at BAA Shows during the show season shall be named the CC Breeder of the Year. The show season runs from January 1 through December 31. Exhibitors with the most CCs in each individual section shall also be recognized. For CCs to count for CC Exhibitor of the Year awards, a minimum of two exhibitors must exhibit two birds, or the bird must place in the top 10 in show in the regular sections. In the rare sections, a minimum of two exhibitors must exhibit two birds, or the bird must place in the top 10 in the Rare Division. CCs earned by exhibitors at shows specifically for current year banded birds only will also count towards CC Breeder of the Year, as long as the show is judged by an accredited judge.

Calculating Points for Breeder of the Year

The number of points an individual receives will be based on the number Of birds their entry has placed above, plus itself, in the normal and rare divisions. Rare entries will receive points based on the number of rare birds, plus itself, that it has placed above. In addition, for each division, points will be awarded for Best in Division (25), Best Opposite Sex in Division (20), Best Young in Division (15), and Best Young Opposite Sex in Division (10).

Example #1: Novice Breeder Sherry placed third best Novice and Best Opposite Sex Novice with her sky Hen. There were 26 Novice birds in the regular sections, plus 5 Novice birds in the rare sections, so her points will be based on 31 birds. Sherry's bird placed above 28 birds plus 1 for itself which makes 29 points. Adding 20 more points for Best Opposite Sex will give Sherry a total of 49 points for her sky Hen.

Example #2: Intermediate breeder Andy had a very good day. His young light green cock won Best Intermediate and was Fourth Best and Best Young Opposite Sex in Show. There were 45 Intermediate birds in the Regular sections, and 7 Intermediate birds in the Rare sections. This makes 51 birds Andy's light green placed above in the Intermediate Division, plus itself for a total of 52. It really doesn't matter though since Andy's bird was Fourth Best in Show. There were 268 total birds entered. Andy's bird placed above 264 birds plus itself for 265 points. In addition, since this was a young bird, it was automatically Best Young Intermediate. Since the "Best "points are awarded for the Division placing, Andy's bird gets more points for Best (25) and Best Young (15) Intermediate in Division. This makes a grand total of 305 points.

Always remember, the point calculations are only as good as the show reports. Exhibitors, please remind your show secretary of the importance of including the number of Rare birds for each division. If this information is not listed, you will be shorted points. Also remember – I'm perfectly capable of making mistakes. If you have questions about your points, ask me! I'm more than happy to go over them with you. Good luck!

CCs by Section – 2014

Section 1	Light Green	Julie Willis	4
Section 2	Dark Green	Al Maldonado	4
Section 3	Sky	Julie Willis	7
Section 4	Cobalt	Stuart Sacks	3
Section 5	Grey Green	Julie Willis	4
Section 6	Grey	Stuart Sacks	10
Section 7	Opaline Green	Virgil Oliphant	4
Section 8	Opaline Blue	Al Horton	6
Section 9	Cinnamon Green	Stuart Sacks	3
Section 10	Cinnamon Blue	Bob Rees	5
Section 11	Opaline Cinnamon	Julie Willis	4
Section 12	Lutino	Ken Saxion	5
Section 13	Albino	David Eberst	4
Section 14	Lacewing	David Eberst	4
		Tony League	4
Section 15	Spangle	David Eberst	5
Section 16	Double Factor Spangle	Slav & Mike Shcherbakov	3
Section 17	Dominant Pied	Julie Willis	7
Section 18	Recessive Pied	Haley Brock	4
		Jaguar Aviaries	4
Section 19	Yellowface	Herb & Margie Doucet	8
Section 20	Greywing	Bill Mitton	2
		Maureen Broderick	2
Section 21	Texas Clearbody	David Eberst	6
Section 22	Yellow	Julie Willis	11
Section 23	White	Julie Willis	5
Section 24	Olive/Mauve	Carroll Myers	3
Section 25	Violet	Al Horton	3
		Francom/Rodabough	3
		Julie Willis	3
Section 30	Crest	Maureen Broderick	6
Section 31	Clearwing	Capi/Spier	5
Section 32	Full Body Color Greywing	Capi/Spier	3
Section 33	Rainbow	Legend Aviary	2
Section 34	Double factor Anthracite	Maureen Broderick	15
Section 35	Fallow	Dewayne Weldon	5
Section 36	Slate	Maureen Broderick	13
Section 37	Rare Pied	David Eberst	11
Section 38	Dark Eyed Clear	Haley Brock	7
Section 39	Easley Clearbody	Maureen Broderick	13
Section 40	All Other Rare Varieties	Maureen Broderick	10

Advancements

Congratulations to the following exhibitors who are moving up. Please let me know if you are advancing and your name isn't listed.

*** Al Maldonado ***

Intermediate to Champion

Debbie Lownsdale

Intermediate to Champion

Slav & Mike Shcherbakov

Novice to Intermediate

Blast from the Past

2006

Top 10 Champion

1	Rose & Joe Lastella	2984
2	Henry Timmes	2629
3	Mike Rankin	2130
4	Swell Budgies	
	(Dewayne Weldon)	1984
5	Whitham/DiBernardo	1393
6	Mike Blair	1297
7	Gary Hicken	1173
8	Francom/Rodabough	1104
9	Roy Millican	930
10	Carroll Myers	892

Top 10 Intermediate

1	Jim Neddo	4071
2	Dennis Sang	886
3	Ken & Velma Saxion	817
4	Tony & Sarah League	350
4	Rodney Breeden	350
6	Kerry Laverty	327
7	Bob Oren	312
8	Jeff Hall	268
9	Martha Griner	163
10	Marsha Halbert	155

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BAA Budgie Club



Mentor/Mentee Program



MENTOR: Jane Seymour
MENTEE: JOHN DOE

The purpose of a mentor program is to not only pass on knowledge, but to make sure that all members, new and those not new, feel as though they are part of the club.

What is Mentoring?

A. Mentoring creates an environment where individuals feel valued and motivated to excel.

B. Mentoring is an avenue for more experienced budgie fanciers to share their experiences with novices to the hobby.

C. Mentoring is an ongoing process designed to help individuals reach their optimal potential in the breeding of exhibition budgerigars. A mentoring culture allows those who participate to benefit directly from the experiences of others through mentoring and modeling.

D. Mentoring provides relationships that foster free communications between protégé's and their mentors concerning breeding and exhibiting of Budgies.

Mentors

What is a mentor?

- A mentor is one that is willing to help, assist, and train novice and/or intermediate bird club personnel that need or want help.
- A mentor should initiate conversations with their mentee.
- A mentor should be available for questions.
- A mentor should impart knowledge transfer through words and actions:
 - Don't just tell the mentee how to do something – show them. Then let them try with you watching.
- Be patient, not everyone learns quickly or is comfortable doing things on their own.
- A mentor should teach the mentee how to make the correct decisions when pairing birds, so that once they make champion they can maintain the level needed to be competitive.
- A mentor should walk the mentee through stages. Don't try to train them in everything all at once (things that took you years to learn). Train a little, and then help them put that training into practice. Once mastered, train some more etc. etc.
- Help the mentee in locating equipment, who and/or where equipment can be purchased.
- Help the mentee with how and where to sell the stock they are not keeping.

What a mentor is not:

- A mentor **IS NOT** a source for free birds.
- A mentor is not intended to be a quick avenue to becoming a Champion.

Mentee

What is a mentee?

- A mentee is one that is still learning the art of raising exhibition budgies.
- A mentee should be willing to do their own research (through reading or trial and error)
- A mentee should be willing to ask questions. The mentor/mentee relationship is a two way street. It is not up to the mentor to initiate all actions.
- A mentee should be striving to learn enough to stand on their own.

What a mentee is not:

- A dumping ground for poor quality birds.

Remember – this is a voluntary program. If we do not treat each other with respect, the Fancy will die and with it, many years of knowledge.

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BUDGERIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

GRAND NATIONAL 2014

Board Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Spier at 1:30 PM on Friday, October 10th, 2014. Members present were: Mike Blair, Maureen Broderick, Marsha Conley, Alan Horton, Carroll Myers, Virgil Oliphant, Dewayne Weldon, Julie Willis, attending by call: Bill Mitton, Chuck Romano, Bob Wilson. Voting by proxy from Herb Doucet, Steve Higgins, Robert Marshall, Ken Saxion, Dan Scholtes, and Henry Timmes.

Minutes were previously reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Marsha reported that funds were in good standing and sufficient to cover the next fiscal year's expenses.

Judges Panel: There is a motion from the judges' panel to have a closed meeting until the executive committee opens, then any BAA members can attend. The motion passed.

Advertising: Only have 3 commercial advertisers at this time, need to make advertising more appealing to increase advertisers because our numbers are so small. We need more breeders to support our Breeders Directory Ads, only 7 members are doing so at this time. The suggestion has been made to sell sponsorships on the BAA website as another source of revenue.

Web Site Report: The website is averaging 700 hits per month. There are about 15 inquiries a month and hits are coming from 13 countries.

Affiliations Report: 20 clubs have affiliated for 2014

Advancement Report: No report. New discussion on advancement: Recommendation to change the advancement procedure from Intermediate to Champion exhibitor: Exhibitor cannot advance from Intermediate to Champion without meeting all requirements. The motion passed.

Discussion of local control by local shows regarding whether a club will have a Rare Division or not and if it should follow the BAA Schedule of Classes. Further clarification of "local control" is needed.

A motion was made to establish a committee to review the BAA by laws and make recommendations as to establishing separate bylaws and policy. The motion was passed. Nomination was made for Holger Moeller to chair the committee with recommendation the all geographic areas be included on committee, possibly using Chuck and Stuart to help cover the area.

Motion was made to reduce the number of BAA Journal issues to quarterly. Motion passed. Bill Novickas volunteered to chair a committee to look into the journal content/website exposure as they relate to income from advertisements.

Band Report: The number of bands being sold has been decreasing. As have the number of memberships. The previous price change was to cover the last postage increase. Now the price of bands is increasing by 2 cents per band. A motion was presented to leave band prices at 25 for \$21.00 and raise the price on other quantities. The motion unanimously passed.

Membership Report: Total number of members for 2014 is 134. This is 2 less than 2013. There were 31 new members and 33 old members that did not renew. Robert Hofstetter will assist Virgil in contacting the non-renewals.

Ranking: No changes

Registration: Only 1 new bird was registered in 2014. There is a need to promote the registration of birds and aviaries. Suggestion was made to hold a special class for registered birds at the Grand National. This would encompass all varieties. Motion was made and seconded to ahead this.

Patronage: All sent out to date.

Special Committee on Schedule of Classes: Report has been tabled until the next meeting.

New Business:

Challenge Certificate – Breeder of the Year: Motion was made to change CC qualification to be 2 birds and 2 exhibitors for each CC. Motion was approved.

Discussion was presented regarding including Rare Division in the Schedule of Classes at the Grand National. Motion was made that the club asking to host the Grand National should submit the following: date of show, revenue and room costs, and schedule of classes and divisions to be shown. The motion passed.

Partnerships – each member must pay dues. This rule already exists and should have already been in effect.

Motion that at BAA approved shows the club will follow the approved BAA schedule of classes or points will not count. Motion was passed.

***** This motion was rescinded after the Grand National meeting by an email vote.**

2015 Grand National will be hosted October 23 thru 25, 2015 by Dallas Fort Worth Budgerigar Society. It will be held at the South Fork Hotel in Plano, Texas; Rooms will be \$82.00/night; All Sections and Variety Classifications will be available; the judge will be Richard Miller. Friday night party will be held at the South Fork Ranch. Motion to approve passed.

Vote was held for Chairman of Board: nominees were Bill Novickas and Alan Horton. Al Horton was elected Chairman.

The growing number of Board Members was discussed. Mike Blair is going to help with condensing the number of members.

Motion was made for Marsha Conley, Treasurer, to make sure BAA is in good standing with IRS and State of Texas. Motion Passed.

The need for Directors & Officers Liability was discussed, Marsha Conley was asked to get a quote.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting of the Judge's Association
BUDGERIGAR ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
GRAND NATIONAL 2014

Minutes

Julie Willis called the 2014 Meeting of the Judge's Association to order at 11:00 AM Friday, October 10, 2014 in Palm Springs, California. Judges present were: Fred DiBernardo, Holger Moeller, Carroll Myers, Virgil Oliphant, Rodney Silva, Dewayne Weldon, Julie Willis, Mike Blair and Bill Novickas , with Bill Mitton and Bob Wilson via conference call.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Meeting began by asking non- judges to leave the room for a closed executive session, to discuss Item #8. Motion was made and approved that after the executive session the meeting would again be open to membership.

Item #13 – Motion was made and passed that Judge Trainee Applicants must be in good standing with their organization.

Item #3 – Having met all the requirements, Trainee Applicants will need 80% approval vote of the Judges Board to be accepted, and 2) there will be no “waiver” of any of the Judge Trainee requirements, Motion passed.

Item #4 - Only BAA wins will count toward qualification as Judge Trainee Applicant - Motion passed.

Item #5 – Judges in good standing with other organizations will need 80% approval from the Judges Panel after doing a walk through (training session). Motion passed.

Meeting was opened to the members.

Item #6 – If a trainee passes his training sessions and the three judges test at the Grand National it is not necessary for a further vote of acceptance by the Judges Panel. Motion Passed

Item #7 – Motion was made to qualify “wins in a four year period (48 months)” applies to the most recent past 4 years. Motion passed.

Motion to allow Judge testing to be held at shows other than the Grand National – motion failed.

Items #1 & #2 – changing the Schedule of Classes was tabled for further investigation.

Item #9 – a placing during the judging of a show will be considered final after it is written on the show tag, with the exception of clerical errors. Motion passed.

Item #10 – Code of conduct for Stewards – a committee consisting of Fred DiBernardo, Bill Mitton, and Rodney Silva was formed to further look into the need.

Item #11 – Approval of the WBO Budgie of Color was presented and explained by Dewayne Weldon. Motion Passed.

Item #12 – Color Standard – discussion as to the judges educating themselves on the variances among colors. Everyone was encouraged to obtain a copy of the Color Standard if they don't already have one.

Item #13 – no new judge trainee applicants; Judge Trainee Rick Spier is in attendance to take his test, John Joiner may not make it.

Item #14 – Judges assigned to administer the judging test for Rick Spier were: Dewayne Weldon, Holger Moeller, and Carroll Myers.

Item #15 – Motion was made to not repeat any motions for a period of 3 years. This motion failed.

Item #16 – If a judge is inactive and wants to come back his must go through a walk through (training session) before being re-activated. Motion passed.

Item #17 – Advancement from 1 division to another – rulings stand as they are except for moving from Intermediate to Champion. Exhibitor must complete all necessary steps to move up. Motion passed.

Item #18 – Rare Division – falls under "Local Control" for normal shows.

Meeting was adjourned.

What Has Worked For Me: Perspective of a Small Hobby Breeder

I once heard a well-known judge and exhibitor say that breeding show budgies was breeding by the pound – it was a numbers game. I have a different perspective and here is what's worked for me.

Starting out

I started raising English Budgies late in 2009 after having spent close to a year learning more about them and talking with a few local Budgie breeders. In looking back, I realized I was extremely fortunate to have met the late Mike Rankin who became my mentor. Mike organized and ran the Fort Worth Bird Mart in Texas with his wife Ann for many years, and it was there I met Mike and several other local Budgie breeders. These were some of my favorite times back then - getting to know Mike, Ann and others, and also learning more about keeping and breeding birds which was very new to me.

Space Limitations

Like many people starting out, having been bitten by the "Budgie Bug", I was tempted to buy every bird I saw because of all the beautiful color varieties. Space limitations kept me from letting this get out of control and taking things too fast. My current aviary set up is a 12' x 12' building in my back yard that has electricity, heating and cooling. The building was almost finished when I purchased the house, and one of the first orders of business (even before unpacking my home) was to finish out the bird house walls, floors and ceiling. I added extra overhead lighting and an extractor fan to help with the air quality.

After the first breeding season I decided to go with the breeding cage system Mike Rankin used by hanging the cages on hooks that were attached to wood blocks screwed into the walls, which made it easy for cleaning as well as saving precious floor space. I added two stackable square aluminum tubing flight cages from Corners Limited, and finished the bird room off by building a 4' x 7' walk in flight cage. While this took up a lot of critical space, it also kept my ambitions in check to limit the number of birds I have at around fifty. I think going over this number of birds increases the potential for health problems and stress from overcrowding..

Culling/Adding Birds to Your Program

With a small stud of birds it is not only critical to continuously evaluate and cull birds at key times in the year, but you must also bring in birds that will improve your stud. I have read stories from many breeders saying to sell your lesser birds and use this money to purchase a few better ones. This is sound advice that I have taken myself over the years. My advice is to not get too caught up with color and how pretty a bird is, but look at the size, structure, head qualities and feather in choosing your birds. The old adage of "you have to build your house before you paint it" applies to breeding English budgies as well. The overall *quality* of birds will help a breeder advance their breeding program, not color.

When I bring birds in to my breeding program, they have to be better than my own birds in at least a few ways - be it size, directional feather, feather, etc. I also try to bring in birds (at least for the first 3-4 years) that are from the lines I started with. Buying birds from several breeders when you have a small breeding program may prove to be a mistake as some lines don't "click" with yours and may take years of further breeding into your base lines to start seeing improvement in your overall stud.

You want to strike a balance between improving quality every year and inbreeding too much. Make thoughtful outcrosses to your base stud. You should go to shows, ask questions from other successful

exhibitors about what crosses have worked well for them, and listen to what they say. Perhaps you will find out that another breeder's birds click with your foundation lines. You will only learn this by talking with your mentor and other breeders.

Develop Friendships/Alliances

Another suggestion for the small hobbyist breeder is to have a close friend or two that you can team up with and share experiences and birds. By choosing these partners carefully you effectively double or triple the amount of birds available to you. By sharing your best birds in this kind of partnership, you all benefit from your hard work and also keep your gene pool more diverse and costs down by not always having to buy outcross birds every year. My two partners have normal colors they raise and show, but they also specialize in some of the rare varieties as well. We share our best amongst ourselves and if none of us wants a bird that we are willing to part with, then we sell it to other hobbyists.

Showing Your Birds

Showing budgies for me isn't about campaigning for a national win or points, it is more of a gauge to tell me if my efforts at breeding and improving these birds is on track. While showing your birds can be fun, you should strike a healthy balance to avoid overly stressing them. A note of caution is to not over show your birds, as this can impact their willingness to breed and their overall health. I have seen some breeders who focus so much on campaigning their birds and showing the mostly the same team over the entire show season, and then scratch their heads when they have such terrible results during the breeding season..... Showing does stress birds. Period. You have to really gauge how they react to it and make sure to give them a rest between shows. My preference is to not show a bird more than 3 or 4 times in a show season and to give them a good rest between shows of at least a month.

Final Advice

The first few years of raising and showing English Budgies are spent understanding this breed and their optimal care requirements and needs. You learn a lot about breeding them and how to handle crisis that develop during the breeding season and how to reduce or eliminate the risk of these problems from happening again. Some of it is by pure luck, while other lessons can be learned by studying - reading books on them, talking to experienced breeders, etc. You won't learn everything in the first few years, or even in several years. The neat thing about raising these birds is this is a lifetime of education and occasionally having to relearn some of the basics.

So my overall advice to the newcomers to our hobby is to take it slow, don't buy every bird you see, keep your numbers down at least for a few years. Study the breed and their needs for optimal environment and nutrition. Spend a lot of time in your bird room to understand how they interact, and learn some of the initial signs of trouble whether it is health related or breeding season issues. Find a mentor who is willing to take the time to share their knowledge and experience with you. Consider going into a partnership with a close friend or two you trust and have similar goals and beliefs. But most of all **enjoy** the times you get to spend with other English Budgie enthusiasts whether it's at a bird show, a friend's aviary, or a bird mart.

By: Jim Fleeker, Champion Breeder

Budgies In The Land Of The Pharaohs

... Bob Wilson Reporting

It was a pleasant surprise when I was invited to judge the First National Budgerigar Show in Egypt, certainly an honor and a privilege. I must admit there was initial hesitation based on what we see and here on the news but any fears soon faded as plans began to take shape for my visit to Cairo and I talked to others who had visited.

The invitation was extended by Moheb Nabil who well known for his passion for Crested and Japanese (Hogamo) Crested Budgerigars and his active group "Budgie & Exhibition Budgies" on facebook that has over 15,000 members and grows daily. I soon learned that Moheb was part of a small team dedicated to bring our hobby the forefront and hosting top level shows in Egypt. The show was to be part of the Annual Aleet's Pet Expo run by Ahmad Soliman El Aggan, a successful local businessman who also publishes the only pet magazine in Egypt under the same name.

The exhibition budgerigar hobby in Egypt is in its infancy, but thriving, with people from most segments of society and religions working together to grow and enjoy our hobby. As this was to be their first show there was plenty of planning to do... Schedule of Classes, Judging Procedures, Show Cages, Staging, Trophies and Awards, Educational Seminars.. and much more. During the coming months plans came together thanks to the untiring efforts and daily communications with "The Show Team" which also included Dr Mohamed Hegab a top Cairo veterinarian, Abu Gamela a lovebird & budgie breeder and author, ex-boxer Ahmed Abd Elmaksoud, and his breeder friend Shahir Mahmoud

As few breeders in Egypt use traceable closed bands, and the show would be held in February, we decided all birds in this first show would be shown in Adult Classes.... and used a Schedule of Classes similar to used at many USA shows, with a few modifications to accommodate varieties popular in Egypt. Sections varied by variety with separate classes for cocks and hens...and section winners earning Challenge Certificates.

There were three "shows or divisions" within the main show. Regular Exhibition Varieties, Crests and Japanese (Hagoromo) Crests. All breeders were to show in the same division. Show cages posed a challenge as nobody had traditional box-style budgie show cages in numbers... Lovebird show cages were considered but again numbers proved a problem. After lengthy discussion we decided to experiment with a small wire cage of similar overall dimensions to our show cages. A sample was made and accepted and within 24 hours 300 cages were ordered.

Special staging was constructed with compartments to hold each wire show cage to guard against cross contamination. Painted white the staging gave the appearance we see with our show cages when the wire cages were placed inside.

The day finally arrived and I drove through snow to the Kansas City Airport... and after three long flights finally landed in Cairo 21 hours later Wednesday evening and 55 degrees F... a

welcome break from our frigid winter and show. The five locals who were inside to greet me did not share my feelings and were all rugged up in overcoats, scarves and caps...LOL..

“The Team” certainly made me feel welcome... Off to try Egyptian coffee, then to a roadside restaurant to sample the local food... and soon the conversation turned to budgies and within a few minutes you would swear we had all known each other for years. Amazing how our hobby brings folks together.

Leading up to the show my home was the elegant LeMeridien Heliopolis Hotel only minutes from the airport and bustling downtown Cairo. During this time we met several times to review plans, visit the venue, and discuss judging procedures and aspects of the event.

Friday the Pet Expo opened to a big crowd at the Cairo Convention Center, around 3000 the first day and 10,000 projected over Friday and Saturday. Very impressive venue... Certainly the nicest location I have seen for a budgie show. There was a very professional layout of booths with big name vendors promoting their products and services. The “Show Team” also met for a final check of plans for the show.. Everybody seemed excited but a little anxious about what tomorrow would bring.

Any concerns soon faded next morning. When we arrived at the venue there was a long line of breeders checking in birds. Breeders came from all over the city by car, bus, subway and taxis with their birds in small travel cages frequently carried in shopping bags. Once at check-in the birds were inspected by a vet for signs of scaleyface or illness, transferred to a wire show cage with entry number attached, then placed in schedule order on the staging.

As entries grew so did the number of exhibitors milling around to watch and taking photos. I do not recall seeing so much excitement at a show in years.

Judging commenced around 10AM, and all the upfront planning and discussions paid off. The stewards did a fantastic job.... Rather amazing for their first shows. The birds were brought to the judging table by class and section. As we could not raise the cages to eye level I chose to sit while judging for a better view. That worked fine (but suggestion added to the list for future shows). Winners were selected and Challenge Certificates awarded.

We used colored dots to identify placings... making it easy for stewards to identify cages that would return for further competition or to be returned later to compete for top 10 awards. First “show/division” judged was the Regular Exhibition Varieties. I was pleasantly surprised at the overall quality. The best birds would certainly compete at shows in USA and even in UK... A compliment to the ability of some Egyptian breeders as imports have been banned for many years and they have to use their skills in breeding and enhancing desired features.

The wire show cages proved excellent. Easy to view each bird, and compare one bird against the next. And, as the cages had only one perch in the center they all perched and stayed in position most of the day. No flitting from perch to perch or unruly birds hiding behind the front rail like we see in box-style cages. I can only recall a couple of birds all day that needed a

judging stick to get them up on the perch.... Could have been that the one perch had an impact.. or maybe most Egyptian breeders spend more time handling and training their birds. Next came the Crests, with similar number of entries to the "Regular Exhibition" Show. Most were good size, good feather, and excellent full circular crests. Again the better entries would be competitive in other countries, and would challenge the best I have seen in Australia and UK. Final group to be judged were the Japanese (Hogoromo) Crests and again a good number. It was the first time I had seen or judged this variety but with a little advice from head stewards it was relatively easy to evaluate the overall bird and the uniformity of "feather flowers" required on both wings. This variety would be the rage with rare breeders if we could get a few to other countries.

Judging the Japanese really highlighted another benefit of the wire show cage where the entire bird could be viewed without moving the birds from perch to perch and forcing it to turn on the perch.

Finally the best ten in each Division were compared for Best In Show and Top Bench (Best Ten Birds In Show). Not surprisingly the "Regular Varieties" ruled the day.

Best In Show went to an excellent Normal Skyblue Cock exhibited by Shahir Mahmoud. A good size bird, well prepared, with directional feather and good deep mask. Second and Best Opposite Sex was a magnificent Opaline Skyblue Hen bred by Ahmed Abd Elmaksoud. Well balanced with a super top end, directional feather and blow. One of the nicest hens I have seen in years.. One I would love to have in my breeding room. Unfortunately I had to penalize her for some minor flecking, otherwise she would have taken the top award. Third Best In Show was an outstanding Recessive Pied Cock. Well balanced bird just lacked a little overall compared to the first two. This cock would win CCs in USA and UK. The Best Crest moved up to eighth Best In Show, again showing the quality of this variety.

As soon as the awards were presented the crowds again gathered around the staging to view the winners, ask questions, and take more photos. (Now I know how movie stars feel about the paparazzi).

Following the judging there were several Seminars/Lectures held in a conference room downstairs that held around 200 people. Most seats were filled when Dr Mohamed Hegab gave an excellent presentation on common budgie ailments, diseases, and good aviary practices. Excellent presentation. The breeders here are certainly lucky to have a well-known and respected vet so involved in the hobby.

For my two programs, first on "The Standard, Features & Faults, and Judging Procedures"... and a second "How To Build A Winning Stud" ... we had a translator for the few who were not fluent in English... and they resulted in plenty of very intelligent and thought provoking questions from the audience which included breeders who flew in from Yemen and other countries in the region to attend the show and lectures.

Following the seminars it was time for another interview. This time with National Geographic who also exhibited to the Pet Expo to promote and secure new subscribers. Earlier there were interviews with Cairo television, radio, newspapers and Reuters. These guys really know how to work facebook and the media to promote and follow-up after their show.

The invitation and the privilege of judging the First National Show in Egypt is certainly something I will always remember and treasure... The locals say they learned a lot from my visit, but I know I learned much more. Not only about the wonderful country and its history, their people and customs.... But also how our hobby helps break through all country, race and religious barriers and can get us all working together for common goals. The passion and excitement I saw in the Egyptian breeders is a great sign for the hobby in The Middle East. I hope those in other countries will follow their lead.

After the show I stayed in an apartment for a week to experience local life, food and customs. Absolutely Amazing. My hosts gave me many "insider tours" of Old Cairo, Giza and The Pyramids, The Nile, Sacred Mosques and Cathedrals, and other places I am sure tourists never see. Must admit it was hard to say good-bye to these wonderful friends.





2015 Shows

March 22	Mid America Cage Bird	Des Moines, IA
March 28	Arizona Budgie Society Futurity Show	Mesa, AZ
April 25, 26	Arizona Budgie Society Futurity Spring Show	Chandler, AZ
May 9	Houston Budgie Society Early Bird Show	College Station, TX
May 30	Maryland Budgie Society	Alexandria, VA
June 13, 4	Carolina United Budgie Society	Fayetteville, NC
June 13	Sequoia Budgerigar Society	Sonora, CA
June 27	Dallas Ft Worth Exhibition Budgie Club	Richland Hills, TX
June 27	Arizona Budgie Society Summer Show	Mesa, AZ
July 11	New Orleans Budgie Society	Pearl River, LA
July 12	Mid-Southern Budgie Society	Pearl River, LA
July 25, 26	Treasure Coast Budgie Society	Port St. Lucie, FL
Aug. 1	Southwest Budgie Club	Richland Hills, TX
Aug, 15, 16	Tri State Budgie Society	East Brunswick, NJ
Sept. 5, 6	Houston Budgie Society Labor Day Show	College Station, TX
Sept. 19	Ft Worth Bird Club	Cleburne, TX
Sept. 26, 27	Great Southern Budgerigar Society	Monroe, GA
Oct. 17	Greater Kansas City Aviculture Society	Grandview, MO
Oct. 22-25	BAA Grand National	Plano, TX
Nov. 7	Texas Bird Breeders and Finch Society	Temple, TX
Nov, 7	Utah Budgie Society	Washington, UT

2015 BAA Grand National

Will be held at the Southfork Hotel, Plano Texas on October 22-25.

Rooms will be \$82 per not plus tax (single or double) and suites are \$102.

The hosting club will sponsor a “chuck wagon” dinner Friday evening on the grounds of Southfork Ranch the filming location of the hit TV series “DALLAS”.

Start planning now as more information will soon follow.

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