

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

## **MEETING DATES 2019**

**General Meetings** 3rd July 4th September & 6th November

**AGM** 4th March 2020

*Meeting commences at 8:00 pm*  
*Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield*

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The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc now have a Facebook page!!

The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/CCBFA>

*All information printed in Feathered World is believed to be correct at time of printing. If there are any corrections required, please send them through to the editor.*

*If you have any stories you feel would be of interest to the readers, please send them through to the editor.*

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## WILDLIFE AT HOME IN THE HOLLOW

*People walking through the Flagstaff Gardens or Royal Park in Melbourne might be lucky enough to see birds enjoying new, human-made tree hollows.*

Mature trees provide vital nesting spots and food sources for wildlife, so as some trees succumb to age, and as the city rapidly grows, the City of Melbourne council is working hard to protect their feathered and furry neighbours.

Late last year, they sent out 200 volunteers armed with binoculars to study birds nesting in tree hollows at five parks across the municipality.

While the City of Melbourne is home to many hollow-nesting birds, the study found only a few species nesting in parks. It was suspected that this is due to a lack of suitably-sized hollows, so they've started to create new, human-made hollows in existing trees.

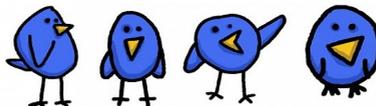
They will see which species move in thanks to motion-detecting cameras.

Stephen Griffiths from LaTrobe University is one of the advisors for this project. He said hollows can take more than 100 years to form naturally, but urban environments can provide great opportunities for innovative tree management and people-led conservation strategies.

'Hollow-dependent birds and mammals are facing localised population declines in many areas across Australia where mature native trees have been removed from the landscape,' Stephen said.

'Mechanical creation of cavities within living trees has great potential as supplementary habitats for native hollow-dependent birds and mammals.

'As there are still many questions to be answered, this is an exciting time to be working on this type of collaborative and proactive conservation project.'



## WIPING HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON BILL LENGTH AND SHAPE.

If you've spent much time observing birds—you clicked on this nerdy story, so that feels like a safe bet—you probably have noticed them wiping their bills on a tree branch or fencepost, or whatever else they're perched on. And you might have wondered: What's going on there?

A few things, it turns out. Bill-wiping is not the hottest topic in ornithology, but curiosity has drawn the occasional researcher to the behavior over the years. Although they haven't arrived at a definite, universal explanation, we can summarize their reports on the role of bill-wiping this way: It definitely acts like a napkin, probably as a file, and maybe even as a cologne spritzer.



The first scientific paper to focus on the behavior, it seems, was a 1970 review by ornithologist George A. Clark, Jr. “Bill-wiping typically involves rapid withdrawal of the side of the beak from base to tip closely adjacent to a foreign surface such as a branch or the ground,” he wrote. “I have seen passerines wipe on rope clothesline, fence wire, the edge of a metal birdbath, and the rim of a metal incinerator.” While it often involves just a few swipes here and there, Clark cited one report of a finch wiping its beak 90 times in a few minutes. His research turned up more than 90 species known to engage in the activity, and he surmised that all birds do it, with the possible exceptions of hummingbirds and waterfowl.

The napkin principle—that birds wipe their bills primarily to clean them—is generally agreed upon, based on logic and observation. “As widely noted, birds frequently bill-wipe after eating messy foods such as suet, fruits, or juicy insects,” Clark wrote. It just makes sense; you know how it is when you're eating juicy insects. To make sure, though, researchers in the U.K. did an experiment and confirmed in a 1992 study that European Starlings wiped their bills more often after eating sticky food than dry food.

A larger goal of that study, however, was to test the file hypothesis—the idea that birds wipe their bills in part to shape them. It was prompted by a student who saw a starling wipe its bill and asked lead researcher Innes Cuthill the reason for the behavior. Cuthill didn't know the answer,

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so he searched a library and found that no one had studied the question in a lab. "I reasoned it was probably like cats sharpening their claws, or rodents chewing to keep their teeth down, so that led to the experiment," Cuthill, an ecologist at the University of Bristol, said in an email.

Like fingernails or hair, the outer portion of a bird's beak is made of the protein keratin and grows nonstop. Foraging and feeding wears this outer layer, giving the bill its shape. Starlings and other species, Cuthill and colleagues noted, shift their diets at different times of year, eating mainly bugs and worms during breeding, but switching to lots of fruits and seeds in fall and winter. They wondered if bill-wiping might help birds hone their beaks into shapes that work best for grabbing whatever type of food they're focused on.

The answer, their findings suggest, is yes. Wiping had a significant impact on bill length and shape, they found. Birds that were assigned to smooth perches wiped their beaks more often than those with rough ones, apparently compensating for the lack of abrasion. And birds with rough perches to rub against turned out to be faster at picking up food than those with smooth ones. "This lends support to the idea that wiping frequency may be strategically adjusted to tune bill shape to current diet," the team wrote.



Along with cleaning and honing, scientists have noticed that bill-wiping seems to happen a lot in social interactions between birds. Back in 1970, Clark's paper characterized it in those situations as probably a "displacement activity." That's a term for behavior like fidgeting or head-scratching that arises unconsciously when you're frustrated or conflicted, and it's a concept that's lost currency among scientists. "We don't really accept those kinds of explanations for animal behavior anymore," says Danielle Whittaker, an evolutionary biologist at Michigan State University. "We look to see if there's anything functional."

Which brings us to the cologne hypothesis. Whittaker is fascinated by smells and how they play into animal reproduction. Her research has shown that preen oil, which birds produce through a gland and use to maintain and waterproof their feathers, contains odors and chemical signals that play a role in mate choice. So when she became aware of

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bill-wiping, Whittaker wondered if birds might be slathering preen oil on nearby surfaces to release those smells and lure a mate.

To find out, she conducted what she calls “a fun little experiment” with Dark-eyed Juncos in Grand Teton National Park. It involved placing a caged junco—sometimes a male, sometimes a female—in the middle of a wild junco’s range, paired accordingly with a recording of a female’s come-hither trill or a male’s courtship or territorial songs. Whittaker and team videotaped the wild bird so they could count its bill-wiping, and, in 2014, reported evidence that the behavior plays a part in junco courtship. “I didn’t see it very often in response to another male,” she says, “but I did see it very reliably in response to a female.”

These findings suggest that, routine and subtle as it seems, bill-wiping may have a meaningful role in the most essential aspects of avian life. Like pretty much everything about birds, its fascination deepens the more you learn.



### ***DID YOU KNOW....***

*There are 13 birds classified as ‘Endangered’ in Queensland. They are:*

*Black-throated finch (white-rumped subspecies)*

*Capricorn Yellow chat (Dawson)*

*Coxen’s fig parrot*

*Crimson finch (white-bellied subspecies)*

*Eastern bristlebird*

*Golden-shouldered parrot*

*Gouldian finch*

*Night parrot*

*Red goshawk*

*Regent honeyeater*

*Southern cassowary (southern population)*



*Ken Gilliland*

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## HOW GOOD IS A PARROT'S LONG-TERM MEMORY?

A question often asked, particularly in regards to parrots that have been or are being re-homed....will they forget previous situations or will their behavior be a constant challenge to a new owner? The answer is not at all simple, and no controlled scientific experiments have actually studied long-term memory in parrots.

In the laboratory, few studies examine avian memory beyond that of a few days' time, at the most; the majority examine delays of only seconds or minutes. Some research on ravens, however, suggest they can remember the calls of various individuals for at least three years; pigeons have been tested for only up to about six months on memory for objects - but no one knows how long their memories might really last.



Certainly, there are plenty of reasons to believe that parrots' memories are as good as ours. A number of research papers now demonstrate that these birds have brain areas that function in ways very similar to the human cortex, that they have extremely high neural densities that enable advanced cognitive processing (which requires good memory; and that even genomic similarities exist between parrot and human brains. An ongoing study in my lab suggests that a Grey parrot has a visual working memory that outperforms that of young children and is mostly equivalent to that of adult humans.

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Furthermore, many anecdotes exist claiming that parrots can remember situations, other parrots, and people over the course of their long lives. If you do an internet search, you will find many such instances. These instances can, just as for humans, be positive or negative. Thus there are heart-warming stories of parrots that have been reunited with owners after long-term separations

### *Why Parrots Need to Remember*

In the wild, parrots need to remember the location and navigational paths to food sources that may be available only once a year; thus the need for some form of long-term memory is clear. We also know that parrots that have been abused suffer from PTSD-like symptoms, and respond negatively to whatever situations or objects remind them of the abusive instances. Like humans, these birds can be de-sensitized with appropriate training and care over time. In the wild, memories for triggers such as rare predators could be life-saving; thus the evolutionary reasons for this form of memory are obvious.

Source: <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/how-good-is-a-parrots-long-term->



## **FINCH PUTS BITE ON REX**

Tyrannosaurus Rex was just a little nipper compared with a bird from the Galapagos islands that weights 33 grams, research has revealed.

Pound-for-pound, the bite of the Galapagos large ground

finch is 320 times more powerful than that of its eight-tonne distant

dinosaur cousin. Scientists made the discovery

after using super computers to analyse the bites of 434 living and dead species, with the finch having the strongest bite of all.



## FRESH FOODS FOR CANARIES AND OTHER SEED EATERS

Seed eating birds often don't! For many avian species, this can be compared to the hardtack survival diet that sailors used on voyages before the invention of refrigeration. This is easily observed by anyone who feeds the wild birds all year 'round. During the colder months of winter when nothing else is available, hard-billed birds seek out dry seed to survive. As soon as spring arrives in full, far fewer outdoor birds visit the feeder. Once nature's salad bar of milky fresh seed, fruits, greens, and insects again is again well stocked, our feathered neighbors prefer those items.

This article outlines some things that we can use for canaries and finches to try to replace the fresh foods that birds find in the wild during the best months of the year. Also,



as these dietary items are sold for human consumption, we can have at least some confidence in the quality. Products sold for animals receive much less scrutiny in terms of inspections. Indeed, some ingredients in feed are actually condemned for people.

Canaries enjoy canned or (defrosted) frozen peas or corn. Fresh corn on the cob is great when in season. They also are very fond of cooked lentils, whole, and cooked and then grated chickpeas and lima beans.

Whole wheat bread ground in a blender or a food processor is very good. For variety, a little peanut butter might be spread on the bread before grating. You also can grind peanuts, cashews, Brazil nuts, almonds, or walnuts with the bread and/or a small amount of nearly any fruit or vegetable that you eat yourself, grated cooked sweet potato, regular potato, or canned or cooked fresh beet, for example. . (Don't use avocados.)

Tofu, tempeh or soy yogurt are healthy supplements to be mixed with the ground whole wheat bread. These foods are high in protein. The tempeh and soy yogurt contain Lactobacillus that aids in maintaining a healthy microbiome and helping to prevent gastrointestinal disease.

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Canaries and finches prefer a granular consistency to doughy. For this reasons, the whole wheat bread and anything added to it should be finely ground. Only small amounts of moist items can be added, as too much will turn the bread crumbs from mealy to mushy. First toasting the whole wheat bread helps in maintaining the right texture when adding ingredients with a high water or oil content.

From time to time, you also can grate raisins, dried figs or dates and then mix it with the whole wheat bread meal. The birds enjoy sweet dried fruit, but I feed it just as a treat.

Canaries also will eat cooked brown rice. Adding a little pancake syrup to the rice is a good idea. A small amount of olive oil and a dash of salt can be mixed with the rice instead of the syrup. The olive oil and salt also goes well with the corn and peas.

Fresh foods can spoil and should be prepared each day. Only give the birds as much as they will eat in an hour or so, especially in warm weather. Remove and discard any uneaten portion.

*Source: Article by Anthony Olszewski at <http://canaryandfinch.com>*



***Some of the crowd at the recent Easter Bird Show Stand***

## WHY ARE SOME BIRD SPECIES SO SUCCESSFUL IN CITIES?

Life in the city can be stressful – for birds just as much as people. For humans, cities are expressly designed to put roofs over heads and food within easy reach, but the opposite can be true for many urban birds. They can find food and shelter harder to come by in the concrete jungle – with some notable exceptions.

For any species in any habitat, survival is about problem-solving and adapting to the environment. So what street smarts do city birds need? And why do some species, such as lorikeets, crows and ravens, seem to dominate our urban landscapes?

In general, urban birds must be bolder than those that remain in natural habitats, as can be seen by the boldness (or “habituation”) with which some species will forage for food with people nearby. But they also need to be able to avoid or retreat from unfamiliar objects or situations if they seem dangerous.

City birds also need to withstand exposure to a wide range of pathogens. A study of birds in Barbados found that urban birds have enhanced immune systems relative to their country counterparts.

While we have changed the environment in which some birds live, reducing resources in terms of food and shelter and increasing the number of pathogens that may impact their health, some birds have largely benefited from the new way of life.

### Winners and losers

Within the urban ecosystem, there are winners and losers in the bird world. The suburban landscape, for example, now provides more nectar from flowers than native vegetation due to the gardens that people have established. This is a big help to nectar-feeding parrots such as Rainbow Lorikeets.



A recent study in Sydney found that the lorikeets benefit from the increased abundance of flowers in urban areas, and their numbers were higher in the leafy suburbs than in bushland.

But if urban areas are such a rich source of nectar, why are some nectar-feeding species declining?

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But if urban areas are such a rich source of nectar, why are some nectar-feeding species declining?

The **Regent Honeyeater** feeds mainly on nectar and other plant sugars. It has been seen in orchards and urban gardens, but is listed as **critically endangered** by the federal government.

This is partly because widespread clearance of woodland habitat has led to the increase of the aggressive **Noisy Miner** and **Red Wattlebird**. These species find it easy to “bully” other birds in open habitats. Noisy Miners have been observed pulling apart Regent Honeyeaters’ nests as they were being built.



Regent Honeyeaters, in contrast, are less adaptable to changed landscapes, because they are migratory and rely on detailed knowledge of existing food sources. If these resources are changed or removed, they may not have enough interconnected patches of habitat to move safely towards new resources – potentially leaving them vulnerable to cats, foxes and aggression from other birds.

Habitat loss can threaten some bird species or even leave them at risk of dying out if they do not locate alternative resources. The ability to find new food sources therefore becomes a valuable survival skill.

### **What’s more useful: flexibility or intelligence?**

For some bird species, flexibility in finding food is crucial in making a successful switch to urban environments. One example is the **Grey-crowned Babbler**, which is **endangered** in Victoria, but my colleagues and I have documented it living in a suburban area in Dubbo, New South Wales.

This species usually nests in coniferous woodland and forages in the leaf litter beneath the trees. But in Dubbo, we saw these birds feeding on lawns, in playgrounds and even in leaf litter along a train track at the back of urban housing, sometimes visiting backyards along the way. This suggests that these birds can survive the loss of their woodland habitat by being sufficiently adaptable to life in the suburbs – as long as they can continue to find enough food, disperse between nearby groups and have access to native nesting trees.

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For other species, such as crows and ravens, intelligence seems to be the key. These species can survive anywhere in the urban sprawl, including places where trees are scarce but rubbish bins are everywhere. Crows and ravens can literally pull food out of a bin and eat it – clearly a learned behaviour that has resulted from problem-solving.

These birds are highly opportunistic and social, allowing them to learn new ways of adapting to the almost complete removal of their natural environment.

### **Survive and thrive**

What we can deduce from these examples is that some birds, like Rainbow Lorikeets and Grey-crowned Babblers, can adapt successfully to the urban sprawl as long as some characteristics of their habitat still remain. Other species, such as crows, have gone a step further and worked out how to survive purely on urban resources – effectively making a living in an environment that is completely unnatural to them.

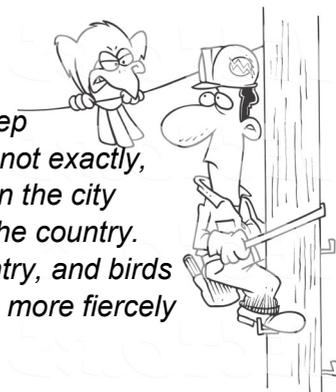
This suggests that the more we urbanise an area without natural aspects, the less bird diversity we will have – and the more our urban areas will come to be dominated by those few species that are hardy, clever or adaptable enough to thrive.

Luckily, some councils in Australia and cities throughout the world are bringing the natural aspects of the forest back into the concrete jungle, so that a wider range of birds might survive here. More research is needed to work out exactly what each species will need, but planting more native plants is always a good start.



### ***DID YOU KNOW.....***

*Birds are meaner when they live in the city. Yep, city birds get road rage and have a deep hatred of tourists on the subway too. Okay, not exactly, but research has shown that birds that live in the city are more aggressive than birds that live in the country. Cities tend to have more food than the country, and birds there know it—they defend these resources more fiercely than birds in the country.*



## DANDELION AND DANDELION-TYPE PLANTS: SUPERFOODS FOR PARROTS

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is a very common garden weed; and also considered by many to be a “super food” for both birds and humans.

Before you go digging up those dandelion looking weeds from your garden and disposing of them, or worse; spraying them with herbicides, consider them a welcome free food that your parrots will love.

Beyond just enrichment, they can also have significant health benefits.

Even birds who do not usually take to greens with much enthusiasm will often take interest in dandelions, even if it's just to play with or tear into pieces to start with.



You can also grow these plants in an aviary if you have a natural floor. Collecting the seedheads of the dandelion once it reaches the familiar white fluffy seed head stage after flowering allows you to have a continual source of this plant.

Being a weed means that Dandelion grows well in almost any conditions. This site has a good step by step guide to growing dandelions from seed.

Dandelion is well known for its benefits to the health of the liver and its ability to remove toxins from the body. With liver disease and liver related ailments being so common in captive parrots, dandelion should be at or near the top of the list for healthy foods that can help combat and prevent a parrot from developing potentially fatal liver related health problems which can come about as a result of a poor diet and weight gain due to limited physical activity (lack of flying). This is of course not an alternative to seeking veterinary advice and treatment – but including Dandelion as part of the diet can only add to overall liver health in any bird.

Along with Dandelion itself, there are several Dandelion lookalike plants that can spontaneously pop up in gardens as so called weeds. Some of these are also edible and beneficial, which means you don't always have to stress about whether you have picked a Dandelion or what can be known as a “false dandelion”, amongst other names.

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### **Cat's Ear / Flatweed / False Dandelion – (*Hypochoeris radicata*)**

A very similar looking plant to Dandelion and one that is easy to confuse, is Cat's Ear or Catsears. Other names for this weed that are often used are Flatweed or not surprisingly, False Dandelion. That's because the plant when not in flower looks very much like a Dandelion and you'll have to look closely to distinguish the two. The good news is that Flatweed is also edible so it doesn't matter if you've misidentified it as a dandelion.

When in flower, cat's ear is easily distinguished from real dandelions because it has multiple flower stems coming out of the centre of the plant while a dandelion always has just a single flower. Both have similar looking yellow flowers. There are other differences to look for when there are no flowers: Dandelion leaves are more sharply angled, but false dandelion have more rounded leaves. Flatweed has hairy leaves. The multiple flower stems of Flatweed are not hollow. The single flower stem of a Dandelion is hollow.



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## FEMALE BUDGIES PREFER MALES WITH BRAINS

Bird brains get mocked a lot. Rather unfairly, too. Birds are, in the words of Gizmodo, “freakishly smart.” Crows, in particular, are famously intelligent, but even outside the Corvidae family, our avian pals are constantly surprising us with their cognitive abilities.

And it turns out we aren't the only ones who are charmed by their intellect. A new study from a team of researchers from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Leiden University in the Netherlands suggests that birds themselves prefer the company of brainier buddies. Their results are published in Science.

Budgerigars, are nomadic birds in Australia where their natural habitats are the grasslands and open woodlands and where you can find them nestled inside the hollows of eucalyptus trees. Their neon green and blue plumage is unmistakable.

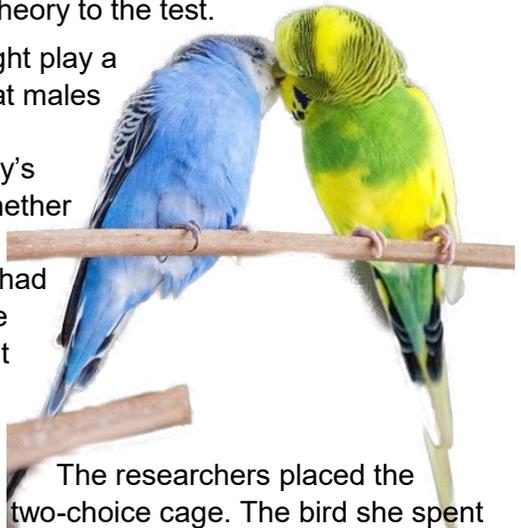
Budgies travel in flocks of 100s and can be seen soaring across the countryside skies. The famous ornithologist and artist John Gould described them as, “the most animated, cheerful little creatures you can possibly imagine,” even though he also ate them.

Budgerigars belong to the Psittaciformes order, members of which are renowned for their intelligence. These birds are capable of vocal learning, mimicking, and can be trained to open boxes. With this innate brain power in mind, the team put their theory to the test.

“The idea that sexual selection might play a role [in the evolution of such as that males are better at learning a task,” says Dr. Carel ten Cate, one of the study's authors, in an email. “However, whether direct observation of a ‘smart’ behavior could affect mate choice had not been studied,” he adds. “So we worked out a way of how this might be tested.”

Thirty-four male budgies were paired to 17 female counterparts.

The birds together with the female in a two-choice cage. The bird she spent the most time around was deemed more desirable.



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After allowing the female bird to choose her preferred partner, the researchers then taught the non-desirable bird how to open two devices containing food, a petri dish and a three-step box—a bird-box if you will, although the budgies weren't blindfolded.

Each male bird was then placed in a cage, along with the box and petri dish, facing the female budgie. The females then watched as the formerly less desirable males successfully solved both puzzles to get food, while the more desirable birds, who did not receive any training, struggled. After this brainy display, the two males were placed back together and the female budgie had to choose again.

In almost every instance, the female bird spent more time next to the previously undesirable budgie.

However, when these less desirable birds had free access to food and did not need to solve a problem, the females opted for the males they were more attracted to from the onset, even though the preferred birds had no food.



**Gee, you're brainy!**

This suggested that it was the ability to solve problems, and not access to food, that mattered to the female birds.

However, there are other ways of interpreting the behavior of the female budgies. According to Dr. Georg Striedter of the University of California, Irvine, who published an analysis of the study in the same issue of *Science*, the female birds could have been attracted to the strength of the males.

“We pointed out that the females may not have realized that the males were solving a complex problem,” writes Striedter in an email. “Maybe the females just thought the males were very strong (i.e., brawny).”

Female budgerigars incubate, brood, and feed their young after hatching, while males take care of foraging and bringing back food, hence why solving a problem for food was so attractive. The seeds that budgies eat are plentiful across their range and throughout their habitat. However, if rain becomes scarce, seeds could become a rarity requiring some unique foraging skills to obtain them.

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“If droughts in their natural habitats last long, such seeds are depleted and they search for other foods in other environments,” says Cate. “This may require exploring and extracting hidden foods. The abilities that budgies may have to cope with such critical bottlenecks in their life will then determine their survival.”

While birds have evolved over time to strut, pose, and show off the goods to attract mates, the ability to bring home the seeds can be just as attractive and life-saving as a dreamy plumage.



## Ring Specification

### Colour Sequence & Code

Change the Pastel Green to Pantone Green and Orange to Pantone Dark Brown, coming into effect in 2020 and 2022.

Colour	Pantone Code	RAL	Year	Year
Red	1797 U	3002	2018	2024
Black	Black 2U2X	8005	2019	2025
Pantone Green	3292U	6026	2020	2026
Violet	249 U	4008	2021	2027
Pantone Dark Brown	1535U	8003	2022	2028
Dark Blue	301 U	5019	2023	2029



### **NOTICE TO ALL AFFILIATES**

For legal and insurance requirements, affiliates are requested to notify the Federation Secretary of changes in office bearers, public officer and delegates, also changes of the club's meeting location, email and postal address.

Notification should be on club's letterhead or if required a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Office Bearer's Information and Privacy Provision Consent Form* is available from the Secretary.

## THE NIGHT PARROT: A DREAMTIME STORY

In the middle of the Little Sandy Desert, an old man sits with a strong cup of tea and a story to tell. Here, he's called Ullala Boss; in the English-speaking parts of Australia he's known as Geoffrey Stewart.

He's one of very few people in the world who has seen a night parrot alive — he flushed one burning a patch of spinifex. But this story is much older. He is telling the night parrot Dreaming story.

Two ancestral beings, he says, were gathering the animals together and naming them.

"You gotta go right back to that Dreamtime they wanted to get him, have a look at him, name him, so he could be among the rest of the birds," elder and traditional owner Rita Cutter translates from Manyjilyjarra. "But this little bird seen them and just disappeared, never to be mentioned or looked at." A hand movement off into the bushes.



"And they really wanted to get a hold him. They woulda had a little talk together — and that two beings, they woulda put him in amongst all the rest of the birds.

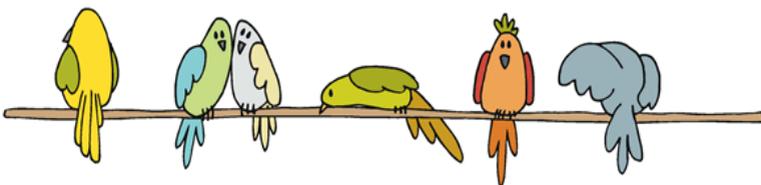
'You can join in, mix in, have fun and do whatever you want, as long as you're with your families, in the right surroundings,'" Ms Cutter translates, slipping into the voice of those elder beings.

"But as soon as he seen them two — he just disappeared. They looked, looked, lifted [the grasses] and nothing.

"They tried to get him out of that big jumpy [spinifex]. "Flooding it, hail stones, caused all that big rain to come to try to get him out.

"No. He didn't move."

The parrot remained aloof from the family of birds, mysterious and unseen. Even in the Dreaming, the night parrot was a loner, and the ancestors of humans were chasing him.





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# A Taste of the Royal Easter Bird Show



## THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW AND BIRD SHOW—2019

The Royal Easter Show overlapped with the school holidays this year helping to set attendance records with over 900,000 visitors to the Show.

The Pet Pavilion at Hall 3 was also breaking records with an estimated 750,000 people over the 12 days flocking to view the two Aviary bird displays, one holding over 30 mutations of Black Mask and Fisher Love Birds (a feature breed for the Aviary Birds at the show this year) and a second aviary featuring a Great Australian Arid theme of Bush Budgies, Scarlet Parrots, Zebra and Painted Finches



along with Diamond Doves. The birds were so content in their new environment that they began breeding with nests made and eggs laid in the first week at the show.

The Bird Exhibition had a great display of cage birds – Lovebirds, Parrots, Budgerigars, Finches and Canaries. A special Info desks set up with seed and nesting displays was well patronized. 'The Pet of the Day' sessions in the Pet Expo Arena together with the tamed parrots were a huge hit in their session ensuring aviculture was alive and well with many people enquiring about the birds on display, Threatened species info and help on bird issues that they might have. Our floor space of 24 x 4 meters was utilised to its maximum to get the Aviculture word out to the public.

The public are always amazed by the variety and colour of the finch species on display in the aviaries which were set up with Tuff Grass flooring, Bottle Brush Branches & shrubs adding to the aesthetic appeal with great lighting to enhance the birds plumage. Both parents and kids stood in amazement watching the birds fly around & make their unique calls to the pleasure of the crowd watching them. Another great draw were the tamed hand reared parrots on display and available for the crowds to handle with queues of people sometimes 10 deep waiting to handle these beautiful birds. Jessie the Blue & Gold Macaw along with Charlie the Eclectus Parrot from Andrew & Debbie Brincat and family from Andrew's Bird Palace were great hits with the crowd & Renee Buxton and her mum from Ace Colony's wonderful Galah - Dennis. and Ian Sheffield with his parrots.

Seeing the amazement of all the kids fascination with birds along with older folk reminiscing of keeping birds & bird enthusiasts of today, made it a great experience for all the volunteers on hand to pass on their knowledge and assistance. Ivan Cindric deserves a special mention as the show steward organising this great event and organising all the logistical demands. On yeah Ivan !

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Special thanks to all the volunteers from The Finch Society of Australia & Avicultural Society of NSW, for setting up, offering your time over the show and bump out - Great work folks!!

Our thanks to Rebecca Cavallo and Karen Parker-Dolan from the RAS of NSW for their help and cooperation leading up to and during the show.

Many thanks to our sponsors – Col Western Sheds for supplying and installing the aviaries, Ace Colony Birds, Bio Supplies, Central Pets & Aquariums, Enviroprint, Kellyville Pets, Laucke Mills, On the Perch Bird Park, and Wombaroo. Your generosity is much appreciated!

A huge thanks to our exhibitors because they make the display the great success that it is. We would love to see a few new exhibitors join us in 2020 so please give it some consideration. It's not only a very enjoyable experience but you'll be doing your bit to promote our great hobby!

Thanks also to all the judges and stewards and to Ben Lloyd and Sam Davis for setting up the aviaries, Richard Allen Landscapes for all the plants for the Aviary's, Maddy Fish for her work in the arena, Murray MacPherson for coordinating sponsorship for the finch section.

***Let's make the 2020 Royal Aviary Bird Show even better!***

In conclusion a special thanks to Ivan Cindric and Con Tsintarakis for drafting the notes for me to compile this report.

*Many thanks Jamie Norriss: Editor*

PS: For more details, check out the Show results link

- <https://www.myras.com.au/res/Results/ResultsSearch.aspx?Type=6>

***And the  
crowds  
kept  
coming  
.....***



## THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

The President opened the meeting at 8:05 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

**ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES** as per attendance register.

### MINUTES:

The minutes for the March AGM were distributed and received on a motion from B. Lloyd and seconded by J. Forest - carried. The minutes for the 6<sup>th</sup> March General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by the delegates. It was moved J. Palmano and seconded J. Flood that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the March General meeting – Carried

**Matters arising out of the minutes:** *None other than matters that can be held over for Reports and General Business.*

### CORRESPONDENCE:

#### In-coming correspondence as follows:

- Affiliated clubs. Notification of office bearers duly elected at their AGM's, clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance, clubs 2019 ring orders and payments from various affiliates notification of change to show, sale and auction dates for 2019.
- Coditech. Receipt of rings orders for various clubs.
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Notification in newsletter that Neville Higgins is the clubs delegate to CCBFA.
- Hunter Valley Avicultural Society Inc. Notification of Avicultural Convention *WINGS 2019* 17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> August 2019 for bookings email via their Facebook page on the convention email wings.hvas@hotmail.com
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to their communication with, NSW OEH / NPWS, NSW BC ACT 2016, - Wildlife Licensing submission, NSW DPI - Animal Welfare Action Plan, Keeper / Dealer Stakeholder Consultative Group meeting – ACA animal welfare alliance, W.A. DPAW Biodiversity Conservation Regulations.
- Newsletters / Journals – Received from various clubs, with notification of club events for insurance:

#### Out-going correspondence as follows:

- Coditech. Placement of various club ring orders for 2019.
- President, notification to all affiliates advising two ways to access Feathered World. 1. On our website [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au) and click on the Journals tab. And the second via the following URL - <http://online.fliphtml5.com/anwr/biqn/>
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, in response to their communication with, NSW OEH / NPWS, Wildlife Licensing submission, NSW DPI - Animal Welfare Action Plan, Keeper / Dealer Stakeholder Consultative Group meeting – ACA animal welfare alliance, TSC updates, detail to members of group, Qld. Dept Environment and Science – Wildlife Licensing Review, W.A. DPAW Biodiversity Conservation Regulations.

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**Matters arising out of correspondence:** *None other than matters that can be held over for Reports and General Business.*

It was moved by J. Flood and seconded by W. Wilson that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

The accounts were submitted for endorsement. It was moved by C. Isbister and seconded by C. Tsintarakis that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed - Carried

## **REPORTS:**

President Sam Davis presented reported on:

### **NSW Native Animal Licensing Update.**

Risk-based proposal update.

The proposal to move to a new risk-based approach to NSW wildlife licensing is still with the new Minister for the Environment Matthew Kean who is the state MP for Hornsby. We are currently looking to schedule a meeting with Minister Kean to progress this and related matters.

Officers in charge of the reform process remain confident the reforms will be approved. A further stakeholder meeting is scheduled in Parramatta on May 10<sup>th</sup> Sam Davis, Brian Read and also Debbie Brincat will attend. Debbie is representing the interests of bird retailers/dealers as licensing conditions for dealers will be considered at this meeting.

The OEH meeting on Friday 8/3/2019 was largely an exercise in futility given the imminent election and the reality that the Minister has not yet considered or approved the reform package. We made it clear that licensing of sales and shows was totally unacceptable and would be strenuously opposed with the usual reasons put forward once again.

Expert Advisory Panel to assess changes and additions to species lists.

The Expert panel meet April 30<sup>th</sup> to finalise addition of species to the list which includes all the new species included within our submission to OEH dated 24/7/2018. The panel will need to reconvene to consider movement of species between code-based and licensed lists once the Minister approves the new system.

### **Western Australia - formation of Aviculture Consultative Committee**

Minister Dawson has replied to our letter with encouraging words indicating the committee will be formed shortly. We have had ongoing email discussion with the WA Manager Wildlife Protection Branch, which has been fruitful. This is great news as it was beginning to look like the department was trying to avoid forming the committee. Ratifying/finalising the Terms of Reference for the committee will be the first item of business.

Some of the issues for the committee to resolve currently include...

1. Identifying species at the border when 2 departments are involved.

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2. Renewal/conditions of licences for species held that are not on the basic or advanced lists.
3. Inconsistencies with species lists, and for some species not on lists that need to be resolved.

### **Animal Care Australia (ACA) and Animal Justice Party (AJP) Update.**

ACA has hosted the lead NSW upper house candidate Emma Hurst from the Animal Justice Party at their 11/3/2019 meeting. Many of their policies are extremely concerning, in particular...

*"Birds in cages are unacceptable, aviaries can be used only where release is inhumane."*

In effect AJP does not want any animals in captivity whatsoever, no matter the reason. That is their end game.

In response, ACA ran a social media campaign with a table detailing animal welfare policies for all major parties along with a rolling sequence of memes and media release. These posts were viewed by hundreds of thousands of people.

Emma Hurst MLC was subsequently elected as member of the upper house in NSW (she just scraped in). This means the AJP now has two members in the NSW upper house and one member in the Victorian upper house. They are running a heap of candidates in the upcoming federal election. ACA is preparing a similar campaign for the federal election.

We encourage all clubs to join ACA at their earliest convenience. Membership forms can be downloaded from <http://animalcareaustralia.org.au/files/aca-membership-application.pdf> and my letter date 20/10/2018 regarding ACA can be found under the submissions tab on the [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au) website.

Moved C. Isbister and seconded by J. Flood that the Reports be accepted and Reporters thanked – Carried

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **Sydney Royal Show update.** In the absence of I. Cindric due to work commitments the President, C. Tanakis and C. Isbister all spoke on different aspects of the show, all stating the it was a great success. A date for a follow up and review meeting with the RAS was to be established.
- **2019 Ring Orders** supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2019

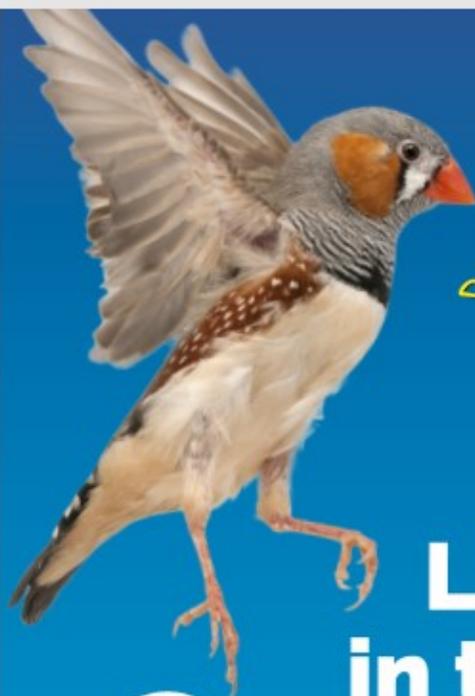
**Notice of the next**

**General Meeting**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

at 8:00 pm

Ashfield R.S.L. Liverpool Rd. Ashfield



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