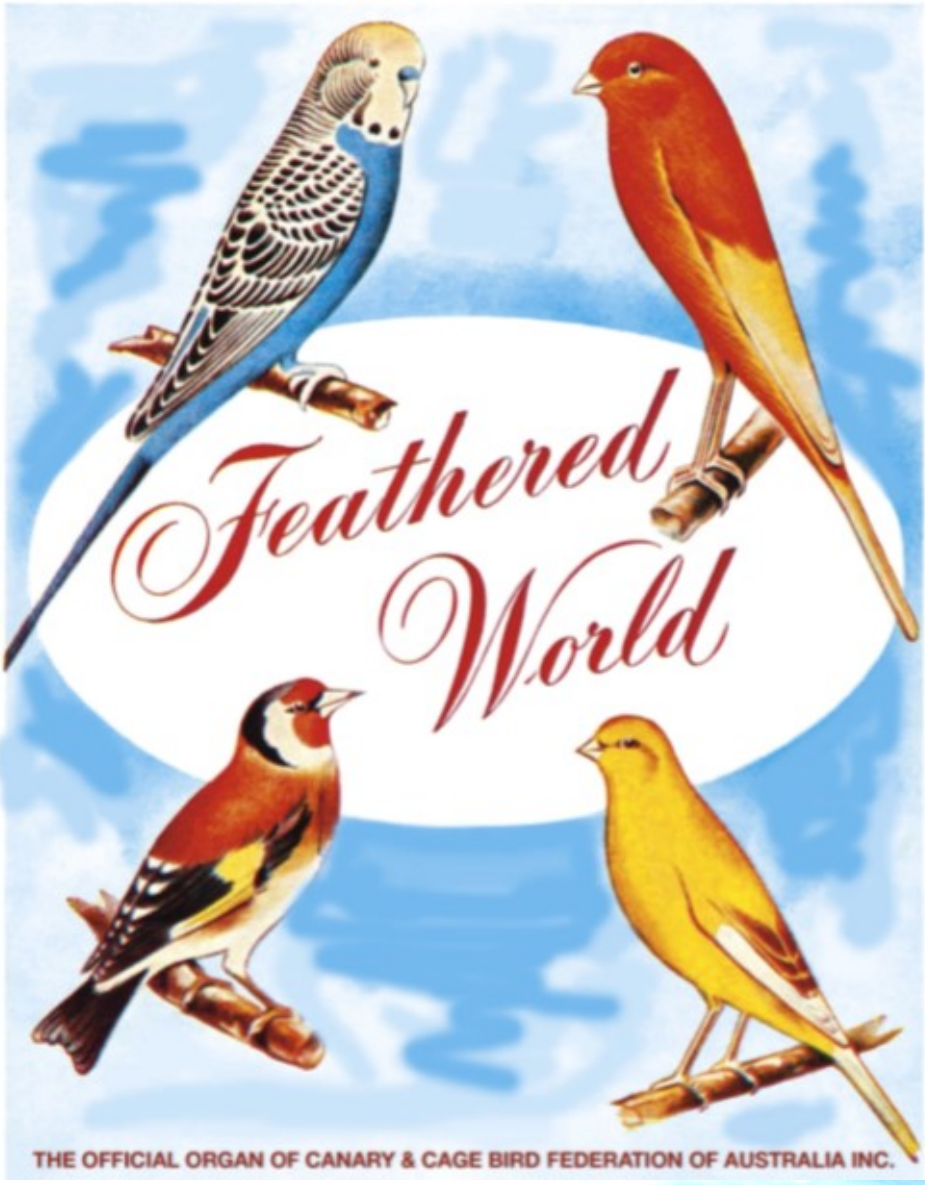

Volume 52 Number 3 June / July 2020


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Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

MEETING DATES 2020

General Meetings: 1st July, 2nd September & 4th November

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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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.

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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

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HOT, BOTHERED, AND PARASITE-FREE: WHY BIRDS SUN THEMSELVES

Many birders have encountered what can be a weird-looking sight: a bird on the ground or perched, wings spread wide, basking in the warm sunlight. If the temperature is hot enough, the bird might even have its mouth open, panting like a dog.

This behavior is called sunbathing, or "sunning," and has been noted by ornithologists since at least 1831, when John James Audubon described a Great White Heron that "will sometimes drop its wings several inches as if they were dislocated." The bird was extending its feathers in the sun's warmth, he understood, but he wasn't sure why.

Today, scientists know that birds from more than 50 families sunbathe. These families include birds of prey, rails, doves, larks, swallows, thrushes, finches, buntings, and more, though they are all liable to sun at different times and for different reasons. On cold mornings, for instance, Turkey Vultures might fly up into a perch and spread their wings to the sun, allowing the day's first rays to blast away the chill of night. And when mousebirds, native to sub-Saharan Africa, are looking to dry their cold, damp plumage after rain or heavy dew, they will often sun themselves communally, like wet swimmers lying poolside.

While birds often sun for these practical reasons of warmth and dryness, a growing body of research now points to one largely understudied purpose: to rid themselves of pesky parasites living on their skin and feathers.

"Sunning seems like a pretty valid way of controlling ectoparasites," says biologist Jennifer Koop of the University of Northern Illinois. "We've come a long way in at least looking at it from 'this is a rare and strange behavior' to 'you know, this is actually a somewhat common behavior that probably has a lot of different functions.'"

Birds devote about 9 percent of their time to so-called maintenance-behaviors. They use their bills to pick dirt, mud, and other impurities out

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of their feathers, and also use them as weapons to hunt for unwanted hitchhikers—parasites, such as feather lice. A feather louse is only about 1 millimeter long, and made of keratin, the same material

found in bird feathers as well as human hair and nails. Feather lice are so skilled at hiding amid a bird's feathers that they can be hard to remove by preening alone. The presence of lice isn't just a hygiene issue—it can make it harder for birds to find mates, possibly due to duller plumage or the need for more frequent preening.

Scientists only started studying how sunning dovetails with parasite prevention relatively recently. In 1993, researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University sprayed a sampling of wild Violet-green Swallows with a pesticide used to treat mite and louse infestations in caged birds. Then, they waited to see how much time the birds spent at their favorite sunbathing spot—the shiny, aluminum roof of the research laboratory. They found that the swallows sprayed with pesticide spent less time sunning themselves than those that were clean, suggesting that the birds probably sunbathe to control their lice.

Exactly how sunlight might kill lice remains unclear, but scientists now believe that short blasts of heat, UV radiation, or some combination of both from the sun's rays is likely the cause. In a study published a few years after the swallow experiment, a pair of scientists tested this idea out by building a pair of model bird wings, outfitted with real Black Noddy feathers, and infested them with a single louse. The researchers found that even a relatively short time in direct sunlight—around 10 minutes—heated the wings to 60 to 70 degrees Celsius. That far exceeds the temperatures required to kill bedbugs, for example, which die at around 49 degrees. Of the 12 trials, the louse died in six, and it died in six of seven trials where feather temperature surpassed 60 degrees.

This finding—that short bursts of sunlight can work as a non-chemical pesticide—was bolstered by new work published in December. A group of Spanish researchers were in Guinea-Bissau, a country on West Africa’s Atlantic coast, when they saw critically endangered Hooded Vultures panting in a clearing with their wings spread wide, almost touching the scorching sand underneath. They weren’t sure what to make of this behavior, but closer inspection revealed the scruffy birds to be sunning.

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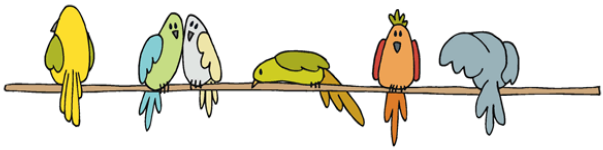
After the researchers captured four Hooded Vultures, they discovered lice in the birds' feathers. "They were full of them, they had hundreds of lice, especially under the wing covers," says lead author Jorge Gutiérrez, an avian ecologist from the University of Extremadura in Badajoz, Spain. "They were full of eggs, too. That was something completely unexpected." The discovery of so many lice and eggs made the team curious how the hot sun might be helping the birds keep the parasites under control.

To investigate, they harvested 41 lice from the captured vultures, and placed them on feathers in petri dishes. To start, the scientists placed 10 lice in the shade for 20 hours, where only one died. Then, the rest of the lice were exposed to direct sunlight that reached 140 degrees Fahrenheit for three minutes—a treatment that killed 26, or 84 percent, of the parasites. The lice that survived were subsequently subjected to 158 degree heat, at which point they finally perished. These findings, according to Gutiérrez, strongly suggest that short periods of sunning can effectively kill lice.

In addition to killing the lice, researchers think high temperatures might cause individual lice to move from their hiding spots before death, making them easier for birds to preen. But further research is needed.

For Gutiérrez, better understanding sunning could be beneficial beyond untangling an unusual avian behavior—it could also aid in conservation efforts. A bird that suns often might have more lice, for example, and ectoparasites have been linked to a decrease in host fitness and the transmission of infectious diseases. "We know how birds respond to parasite and environmental conditions," he says, "and by looking at how birds change their behavior, we can also understand the health of the birds." In Hooded Vultures, a species particularly vulnerable to forms of avian flu from eating dead poultry, knowing which birds are more susceptible to spreading disease—or dying from it—is valuable information for researchers.



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WESTERN GROUND PARROT RECOVERY PLAN UNDERFUNDED SAY SUPPORTERS

The western ground parrot is so rare that in the 17 years since a supporter group formed, only one or two of its members have ever seen it.

Instead, Friends of the Western Ground Parrot see the bird in the parrot-shaped biscuits, watercolours, and T-shirts they sell to raise funds and advocate for its survival.

"They're incredibly cryptic; they move largely before sunrise and after sunset [and] the chances of seeing them is extremely remote," chairman of the group Paul Wettin said.

But there is another reason the plump green birds are near-to-impossible to see — it is estimated less than 150 western ground parrots remain in the world.

Extinction could be imminent

Like so many species, the population of the flightless parrot has steadily declined due to land clearing and introduced European predators.

It has gone from occupying swathes of south coast Western Australia to occupying one known place on the state's eastern fringe — and now that is threatened by fire. In the past four years, successive bushfires have ripped through the coastal scrub the bird calls home.

"We've had about 80 per cent of their natural habitat destroyed by fires [so] it's a real issue for us," WA's Environment Minister Stephen Dawson said.

"There are about 14,000 hectares left of habitat."

At any time another fire event could eliminate the population entirely and if that were to occur, the seven birds currently held at Perth Zoo would be the sole survivors of the species.

"That would be incredibly sad because they would have almost no future whatsoever," Mr Wettin said.

Perth Zoo acquired the birds in the hope it could establish a captive breeding program but so far, no western ground parrots have reproduced.

"If you allow it to continue, what is the world around us going to be like," Mr Wettin asked.

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Recovery plan underfunded?

This week Mr Dawson announced an emergency recovery plan for the parrot after the most recent bushfire was contained earlier in January.

Aerial baiting and ground trapping has begun to protect the bird from feral cats. Other actions were identified by the Minister but no delivery date was given.

These include the replacement of audio recording units damaged in the fires and the development of a translocation plan. The audio recorders capture parrot calls and are used to locate the birds and estimate how many have survived.

Friends of the Western Ground Parrot are raising money to purchase additional audio recording units and said more money was needed to avoid extinction. The group claims the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) recovery plan for the parrot is underfunded.

DBCA would not say how much money was allocated to the parrot's recovery plan but a spokesperson for the department said it had invested "significant funds on conservation activities at a landscape scale".

'At risk of being forgotten'

The parrot was not included in the recently released list of 250 threatened species hit by bushfire on a technicality: less than 10 per cent of its habitat burnt in the most recent fire.

This list will inform how a $50 million wildlife recovery package is delivered but a spokesperson at the Federal Department of Environment said the parrot would be considered by the expert panel advising how to deliver the recovery package.

"The Department is aware that other fires in recent years have affected the habitat of the western ground parrot and the cumulative impact of these fires has been substantial," the statement read.

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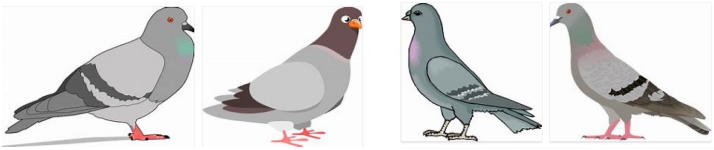
As well as the fires around Cape Arid which have impacted the parrot, bushfires have devastated the Great Western Woodland and the Stirling Ranges.

"There are some really critical conservation issues happening in our part of the world that clearly aren't getting the notice that is happening in the Eastern states," Mr Wettin said.

While he does worry the parrot is at risk of being forgotten because it is West Australian, he has not yet lost hope.

"We have a belief that the birds can avoid extinction and if we didn't believe that was the case, we'd probably find another cause," he said.

He said the slippery slope towards widespread species extinction must be halted no matter the economic cost.



DID YOU KNOW…

Birds, especially seabirds keep coral reefs alive *by playing a key role in cycling nutrients and helping to fertilise marine ecosystems such as coral reefs.*

Seabirds travel hundreds of kilometres to feed out in the ocean – and when they return, they deposit layers of highly pungent guano (seabird droppings) at their colonies. This guano leaches into the ocean and fertilises nearby communities such as coral reefs.

A study on the Chagos Islands shows what happens when this process is disrupted. On islands free of invasive seabird predators, coral reefs thrived, with fish growing larger and faster for their age, compared to rat-infested islands.

WORLD'S LARGEST CANARY

Biologists at Lund University, together with their colleagues from Portugal and the UK, have now proven that the endangered São Tomé grosbeak is the world's largest canary -- 50 per cent larger than the runner-up.

The São Tomé grosbeak is one of the rarest birds in the world and can only be found on the island of São Tomé in the West African Gulf of Guinea. After the bird was discovered in 1888, another 101 years went by before it was spotted again by birdwatchers.

Until now, it has been categorised as Nesospiza -- "the new finch" -- but new DNA analyses, performed by the researchers, show that it is a canary or seedeater of the genus Crithagra.

The São Tomé grosbeak is distinguished by its size (20 cm long), flat head and very large beak.

The island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe has never been attached to the mainland. Its 1,000 square kilometres contain a total of 28 endemic bird species. This can be compared to the 22 endemic species found on the Galápagos, which is 100 times larger.

Because the small islands have been isolated for so long, several species have evolved rapidly and distinguished themselves from their relatives on the mainland -- a phenomenon known as the "island effect." The seclusion of an island involves an evolution by which some species develop so-called gigantism -- they become giants. The opposite evolutionary process -- that animals become smaller -- is also common.

São Tomé and Príncipe have been inhabited for more than 500 years, but have remained fairly intact. In fact, there is still no documented extinction of a species on these islands, although presently some species are critically endangered.

Source: https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/06/170621103047.htm

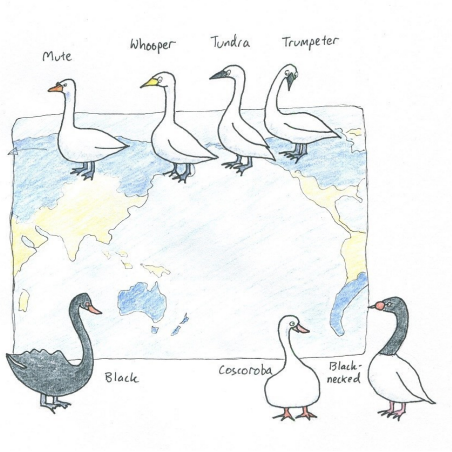
WHY ARE AUSTRALIAN SWANS BLACK?

Australian swans are black, while most swans are white. Why should this be?

When I was a child, growing up in Australia, the only swans I saw were black. At Lake Wendouree in Ballarat, or in the Botanic Gardens of Melbourne, the swans were slightly menacing in their quest for bits of bread, held out by my little-girl hand. All snakey black necks, gleaming red eyes and candy-red beaks, eager to peck and grab. I didn't see my first real white swan until much later. Of course, all of the heroic swans in stories (e.g. The Ugly Duckling, Swan Lake) were white. Back then, most of our stories were still from the old country (Britain), and we were just emerging from the 'white Australia policy'. Sadly, I don't think we've fully escaped the latter, even today… but I digress.

Globally, there are 'seven swans a-swimming': five species are white, one is white-with-a-black-neck, and one is black.

Before I go on, it's important to remember that there doesn't *need* to be an adaptive reason for everything in the living world. For example, armpits exist because of arms, not because having an armpit increases the chance of survival.* But it's fun to speculate on the reasons for things, so here we go…



The colour of animals is influenced by:

1. the need to hide from, or deter, predators
2. the need to hide from prey
3. the need to look gorgeous to the opposite sex
4. other traits that may not be visible, but increase the chance of survival, and are genetically linked to colour.

Presumably, white swans can hide well in snowy or icy landscapes which are common in the northern hemisphere, and the southern end

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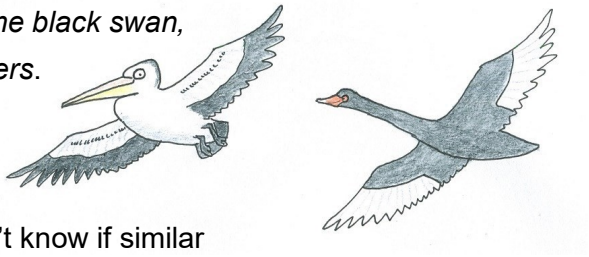
of South America, but are rare in Australia. The limited ice and snow in Australia might lessen the advantage of being white, and other colours might be better for camouflage. But why black and not some other colour? The Australian landscape is hardly black. But maybe our lake waters are darker because of higher levels of tannin. Or maybe the black swan evolved in a volcanic landscape with black lava fields and black-sand beaches (black swans are also found in New Zealand). But adult swans don't have many predators. And black swans don't need to hide from prey because they are vegetarian. For these reasons, I'm not convinced that swans are black because it provides good camouflage.

In animals, the colours brown, grey and black are created by the pigment melanin. This pigment also makes feathers stronger, and it's thought that many birds have black wing-tips because high levels of melanin protect the flight feathers from wear-and-tear. But perhaps swans didn't hear about this little secret because their flight feathers are white.



The Australian pelican and the black swan, showing off their flight feathers.

Melanin also protects the skin against the damaging effects of UV radiation. I don't know if similar protection is provided by melanin in feathers, and anyway, the skin of many swans (at least on their legs and feet) is already black.

Interestingly, some aspects of bird fitness have been correlated with the presence of melanin. Darker morphs of the tawny owl (i.e. those with more melanin) were found to have a better immune response than lighter morphs. Darker morphs of the screech owl appeared to be more stressed when exposed to cold temperatures than lighter morphs, experienced greater mortality in cold, dry winters, and were better at coping with warmer conditions. Could this also explain why the black swan is found in Australia, which has mild winters, and white swans occur where it is colder?

High levels of melanin have also been linked to reproductive success.

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reproduced more often than blue pigeons. Perhaps the first High levels of melanin have also been linked to reproductive success. Dark morphs of the feral pigeon were found to have larger testes and reproduced more often than blue pigeons. Perhaps the first dark swans to appear in Australian populations from chance mutation were carrying the same (hidden) advantages, and went on to dominate the gene pool until all Australian swans were black?

They were all strangely attracted to the dark male pigeon, but couldn't say exactly why.

However, when animals choose a mate based on colour, this can also be influenced by the colour of their favourite foods. A bit like choosing a red-headed mate if you like to eat oranges, carrots and pumpkins. For example, female guppies prefer males with orange-spotted tails, and researchers reckon this is because they also like eating orange fruits. Interestingly, many birds prefer red and black to other colours. This may explain why many plants with bird-dispersed seeds package them up in red or black fruits, and why more bird poop ends up on red and black cars. So maybe the Australian swan ended up black with red eyes and a red beak simply because these colours were irresistible to the opposite sex?

Well after all that, I still don't know why black swans are black. My brief, but fairly wide-ranging literature review has provided lots of ideas, but no definite answers. Even for our most familiar animals there's still much we don't know, and many theories that have never been tested.

Cockatoos are also either black (seven species) or white (11 species), with a few pink and grey ones (3 species) thrown in. Maybe they have some clues? But that's another story, for another day.

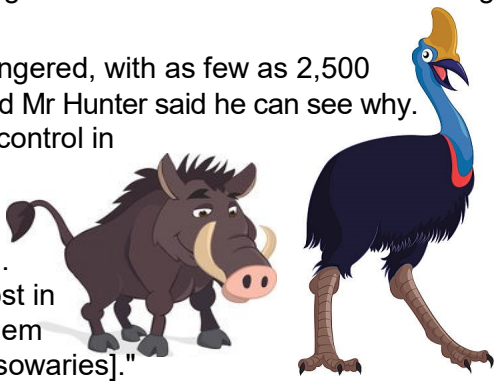
Source" Paula Peeters at www.paperbarwriters.com.

FERAL PIGS DECIMATING CASSOWARY NUMBERS IN DAINTREE RAINFOREST

A filmmaker says feral pig numbers in the world-heritage listed Daintree Rainforest in far north Queensland are out of control.

University of New South Wales doctoral student Dan Hunter has spent nine months filming cassowaries in the Cooper Creek area, north of Cairns, in what is thought to be the world's oldest surviving rainforest.

Cassowaries are listed as endangered, with as few as 2,500 believed to remain in the wild, and Mr Hunter said he can see why. "The feral pig problem is out of control in national parks," Mr Hunter said.



"They are eating the eggs and chicks as they compete for food. The pig-hunting dogs that get lost in the national park are a big problem too, they go after them [the cassowaries]."

Mr Hunter said he battled leaches and mosquitoes in his 'hide' — a canvas tent — to capture the big and potentially deadly birds for the film Dino Birds, to be screened on National Geographic. He said getting up close and personal with the birds, which can reach two metres high and weigh 80 kilograms, was an "incredible" experience.

"This one particular day they walked under a tree that was fruiting," he said. "They launched themselves about one metre into the air. It was an amazing thing to see."

He said the endangered species can also be a bit "creepy".

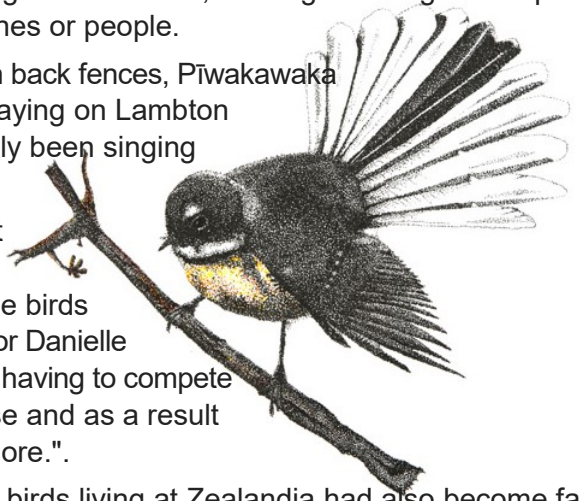
"For such a big animal they are incredibly stealthy," he said. "You can be so close to them and yet you wouldn't even know they are there. The next minute they're appearing over your shoulder."

He said one of the things he found most surprising about his time with cassowaries was how paternal they are.

"Cassowaries are one of the most incredible fathers on earth," he said. They sit on the eggs for 55 days and don't move. The chicks hatch and they escort them through the forest for the next year of their life protecting them from everything — feral pigs, dingoes, and teach them how to swim."

NZ'S NATIVE BIRDS THRIVE UNDER COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

New Zealand birds are loving this lockdown, no longer having to compete with cars, buses, trains, planes or people.



Kererū have been landing on back fences, Pīwakawaka (Fantail) have been seen playing on Lambton Quay, and Tūī have definitely been singing oudly at the crack of dawn.

"One of the main things that people are noticing at the moment is just how vocal the birds are," Zealandia centre director Danielle Shanahan said. "They're not having to compete with the constant traffic noise and as a result we're hearing them much more.".

Shanahan said some of the birds living at Zealandia had also become far more adventurous since the lockdown began. She said staff tasked with looking after Zealandia noticed that younger birds in particular were far more curious, and were following rangers around on their daily walks.

Ecologist Margaret Stanley said the increase in bird numbers may be partly due to drought conditions forcing them to look for food in people's gardens. She said it could also be that we are just noticing bird life more, now that life had slowed down.

Stanley said the birds would be enjoying the decrease in noise, light and air pollution - along with slightly messier public parks, where maintenance had been stopped. The real test would be to see if it lasted once the lockdown lifted, she said.

"Will we go back to always driving our cars? Or will people be maybe getting used to working at home, and work at home a few more days a week? Might we be more accepting of less maintenance by council around parks and gardens?"

Forest & Bird spokesperson Megan Hubscher said it was wonderful to hear birdsong in the lockdown and she hoped it would make people appreciate the environment more, but not all birds were better off.

In an open letter, the groups said economic recovery should also work

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to tackle climate change, a decline in native species, poor freshwater quality and ocean stress.

"Seabirds in particular have not fully fledged yet. We've got a lot of seabirds still in their burrows that haven't learnt to fly or leave their nest," she said. "And those seabirds like penguins, shearwater, around the country are at imminent risk of being predated because trapping isn't occuring."

MOTHER FINCHES CONTROL GENDER OUTCOME

Female parrot finches can adjust the sex of their unborn children in response to the environment where they live, according to Australian research.

The study, published in the latest Proceedings of the Royal Society B, finds that mothers exert far more control than fathers do over whether or not the couple has a son or daughter. The goal is to improve the child's survival.

"It seems likely that when there are large and predictable costs associated with producing and/or rearing either sons or daughters in a given environment, females should bias offspring sex ratios to produce the sex that will perform best in the given environment," says co-author Sarah Pryke.

"Altering offspring sex ratios in response to the quality of the local environment is likely to be highly advantageous to any species, as it should allow mothers to best match the phenotype of their offspring to the prevailing condition, and thus maximize their own fitness," adds Pryke, a researcher at the Australian National University's Research School of Biology.

Prior studies on birds, reptiles and mammals - including humans - has long suggested that this was the case, but scientists were unclear on what factors triggered the son or daughter outcome. Some researchers, for example, speculated that the overall body condition and health of the mother affected the outcome of her child's sex.

Putting it to the test

To help eliminate that possibility, Pryke and colleague Lee Rollins studied the blue-faced parrot finch (Erythrura trichroa), whose body condition appears largely insensitive to changes in nutritional quality.

After 12 weeks on the diet, the birds were weighed and underwent blood tests to measure various aspects of their health. Based on these

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tests, all of the females were in comparably good and equivalent shape both before and after the three-month study period.

However, mother birds fed the lower quality diet produced far more sons than daughters.

Sons less vulnerable

"In this case, it is adaptive for mothers to produce more sons when conditions are poor because sons are much less vulnerable to nutritional stress than daughters," says Pryke.

"For example, sons reared on poor quality diets grew faster, were healthier, fledged earlier and were much more likely to survive than daughters. Indeed, more than 51.5 per cent of daughters reared on low quality diets died before reaching parental independence compared to only 7.3 per cent of sons."

It is unclear whether or not human mothers would produce more sons or daughters when environmental conditions are poor. That will probably remain a mystery for quite a while, since, as Pryke says, "researchers can't do experimental manipulations, like in the current study" on humans.

The sex of an individual is also at least partially determined by genes, giving dads some level of indirect control over the sex outcome of their progeny.

Hormones a factor?

Yet another mystery concerns how mothers -- throughout the animal kingdom -- adjust the sex of their unborn offspring. Pryke says it's possible that hormones are involved.

Earlier research suggests that circulating levels of a potent stress hormone, corticosterone, in the female before conception or egg laying is a dominant factor.

Tim Fawcett, a research fellow at the University of Bristol's School of Biological Sciences, has studied how maternal control over the sex ratio of offspring impacts female selection of mates.

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"When mothers choose the sex of their offspring, sexual selection collapses and male courtship displays disappear," says Fawcett. "This is because females no longer find the displays attractive."

Climate change, loss of habitat and other stressors might therefore not only change sex ratios among various species, but these factors might also later subdue male sexual displays and affect female choosiness of mates.

Source: Discovery News

***DID YOU KNOW**…...*

The Rainbow lorikeet has been split into six distinct species.

Following years of debate among experts. the rainbow lorikeet—one of the most striking birds in Australia and South-East Asia—has been split into six different Species.

The birds previous known as "rainbow lorikeets" in New Guinea and eastern Indonesia are now the scarlet-breasted lorikeet, the marigold lorikeet, and the Flores lorikeet. Australia retains the rainbow lorikeet, and has added the coconut lorikeet and the red-collared lorikeet.

The changes will come as little surprise to Australian aviculture, which has long recognized that there were several different varieties of rainbow lorikeet. The name "red collared lorikeet" has been used by breeders for decades to identify the lorikeets from the topmost regions of Australia.

Interestingly, the change means that 'rainbow lorikeets' no longer exist in the north of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

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WORLD-FIRST SCARLET-CHESTED PARROT MUTATION FOR AUSTRALIA

As reported in Avicultural Hub by Paul Henry recently, Sydney Aviculturalist Murray McPherson has bred the world first cinnamon – pastel mutation in the Scarlet–chested parrot.

This was the result of combining a cinnamon mutation with a pastel mutation bird. Australia is the only country in the world with a pastel mutation in Scarlet–chested parrots. Murray was also the originator of the cinnamon mutation in Australia.

History of the development of the cinnamon mutation in Australia

In 2010, Murray Macpherson got quite a surprise when looking into a nest of Scarlet-Chested parrots to find two unusual coloured chicks, beside two normal coloured chicks.

Murray had been breeding Scarlet-chested parrots since 1977 and had maintained a family of normal coloured birds. He has rarely brought in any outside birds and then when he did, he was careful to select only normal coloured birds. The sire was bred down from his original family so the youngster must be a spontaneous mutation.

The following year, 2011, both coloured hens were paired to normal coloured cocks and bred several normal young, both cocks and hens.

The normal coloured sibling were also paired to normal coloured birds the hens only produced normal coloured birds but several of the cocks over the next year or two produced coloured hens.

At first, he thought they could be pastel coloured birds but as the bird matured their flight feathers were brown. A pastel has grey flights.

After much investigation he suspected that it could be a cinnamon mutation. There were no cinnamon Scarlet-chested mutations in Australia so the only way to be sure was to test mate the birds.

This confirmed that he had produced a sex-linked mutation. The most likely sex-linked mutation was cinnamon. An additional confirmation was when the well know European neophema breeder Hans Van Roogan visited me and I took him to Murray's to view his birds. He had no doubt that they were a cinnamon mutation.

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The Cinnamon mutation affects the colour of the normal bird by preventing the conversion of brown pigment into black pigment (incomplete melanogenesis). Cinnamon is always sex-linked in inheritance.

The one difficulty with a sex-linked mutation is that the progeny of a split cock with a normal hen are only possibly split for cinnamon. So many of the cocks produced had to be test mated to determine if they were split to cinnamon.

In 2013 I acquired two possible split cocks from Murray. After test mating, one of these cocks turned out to be split cinnamon. In the following year I acquired several more split cocks from Murray to pair to my cinnamon hens.

Over the next few years we swapped various birds to maintain genetic diversity. We also crossed cinnamon birds with blue mutation birds and bred a lovely soft coloured blue bird. Unlike the pastel blue mutation it does not darken after the first moult.

In 2016 we both bred a cinnamon cock bird. These are only produced by pairing a cinnamon hen with either a cinnamon cock or a split cinnamon cock bird.

They have been very elusive, only a few have been bred to-date.

The next challenge is to combine cinnamon with other mutations, such as fallow, violet or Khaki.

You must only look at the multiple mutations available in the humble Australia budgerigar.

Source: *https://www.aviculturehub.com.au/world-first-scarlet-chested-parrot-mutation-for-australia/*

CCBFA May 6th 2020 President Reports

(May 6th 2020 meeting cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions)

COVID-19 Update

To our knowledge all in-person club events and meetings have been cancelled. Our recommendation to do so up until 14/6/2020 remains in place -

https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ccbfa-corona-recommendation.pdf

At this time, it is unclear whether government advice will require restrictions to be extended. We will notify clubs immediately should the situation change. Thanks to all clubs for their prompt response to this situation.

Our club network is vital to the social wellbeing of many of our members, so continuing communication via newsletters and internet technologies is encouraged. It is terrific to see a range of clubs now running or intending to run meetings and other events over the internet using video conferencing and other technologies.

Our May 6th 2020 meeting has been cancelled. We will run our July 1st CCBFA meeting online using Zoom. Meeting details including a link to the meeting will be emailed to all clubs for use by their CCBFA delegate. An internet enabled computer with camera/microphone is best, however a smart phone works almost as well.

Victorian Animal Welfare legislation review

On 20/4/2020 I met via video conference with senior policy staff to discuss general directions for the Victorian review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTAA). Representatives from the Budgerigar Council of Victoria (BCV) also attended.

I did not receive a response to my 26/2/2020 email to the VAC and ASA, therefore prior to the 20/4/2020 meeting I rang VAC President Mark Godwill. The VAC was unaware of the meeting but through their President, expressed a desire to remain informed of any outcomes.

My synopsis of the 20/4/2020 meeting approved by government policy staff is on the CCBFA website - https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Vic-Animal-Welfare-200420-Meeting-Synopsis.pdf

NSW Native Animal Licensing Update.

On March 17th 2020 ACA President Michael Donnelly and I met with Minister Matt Kean's office. The delay implementing the reforms was vigorously discussed followed by further discussion afterwards with NPWS Director of Conservation Richard Kingswood.

After somewhat heated negotiations, we now have a video conference scheduled for May 8th 2020 with the head of NPWS Atticus Fleming. We aim to progress the licencing reform implementation directly through the Minister's office as internal licensing staff appear uncooperative at best.

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Review of NSW Bird Sale Code of Practice

We will postpone review of the NSW bird sale code until our July 1st 2020 meeting, which will likely be a video conference. Given interest in the matter from many affiliates in rural areas, regardless of COVID-19 restrictions, a video conference is likely the best way to progress the consultation.

In the interim, thoughts and input welcomed from all clubs. Thanks to those who have already commented.

A few points on this matter…

There is NO way the ABA should submit anything to the NSW DPI whatsoever. I have made this clear to the ABA and I believe they agree.

The ABA commenced reviewing the code some years ago and have completed some preliminary work. I spoke with ABA president Craig Jeffrey at the Orange Bird Sale who offered to send CCBFA the ABA draft. This has not been received; it is CCBFA intention for this draft to inform the process.

The current code was formulated by the ABA with CCBFA input and final ratification. The only recent 2019 change was the clause regarding insurance which CCBFA altered in its version dated 2019 and recently distributed to all clubs as part of this review process. The current version is on our website - https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/NSW-Bird-Sale-CODE-OF-PRACTICE-CCBFA-2019.pdf

CCBFA will most certainly be continuing to consult all clubs as the bird sale code is reviewed including the ABA. There will likely be a number of drafts and redrafts required to reach consensus with a final version unlikely until towards the end of 2020 hoping for implementation in 2021.

DID YOU KNOW…

In the 1930s a flute player released his pet Lyrebird into the bush, which was able to mimic certain phrases of the man's music. The bird has shared the music with other Lyrebirds and the same melodies are still sung by these birds today.

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
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18/3/2020

Good morning affiliated clubs and friends

RE: Corona Virus CORVID-19 outbreak recommendation

Details of the Corona Virus outbreak have progressed significantly since my last email just a few days ago, with numerous clubs across the country cancelling events and many seeking CCBFA guidance as they make decisions.

1. CCBFA believes we have to be responsible with our elderly exhibitors who according to all advice given are more susceptible.
2. Currently all large public events (500 or more) MUST be cancelled. The order for NSW is in place until 14/6/2020 with fines up to $11,000 for non-compliance. "government has now reduced from 500 to 100 which further reinforces our recommendation" https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Documents/covid-19-public-events-order-20200315.pdf
3. Government departments and businesses nationally have implemented work from home strategies. The centre of the Sydney CBD yesterday was essentially deserted as a consequence.
4. Current advice indicates CCBFA public liability insurance will NOT cover claims as a consequence of the CORVID-19 outbreak.
5. Current projections indicate May/June will see the peak of the virus.

Given the above information, CCBFA makes the following recommendation to all our affiliated clubs nationally…

ALL bird events scheduled prior to 14th June 2020, including shows, sales and club meetings should be cancelled immediately.

We encourage clubs to distribute this advice widely.

Kind regards,

Sam Davis
President - Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.
E: president@ccbfa.org.au

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Victorian Animal Welfare Law Review

CCBFA Meeting Synopsis

Teleconference with Department staff 20/4/20 4pm

[Dept] = Our understanding from Department Staff present.

[CCBFA] = Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. recommendations and comment to Dept staff.

1. A major review of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTAA). Does not include Domestic Animals Act 1994. [Dept]
2. Current timeline aims to have the new Bill passed by this parliament. That is prior to the November 2022 election. [Dept]
3. Consideration of the Animal Welfare definition as a scaffolding for the revised Act. [CCBFA] [Dept]
   - The need for a suitable environment.
   - The need for a suitable diet.
   - The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns.
   - The need to be housed with, or apart from other animals.
   - The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.
4. Consider including as an Object, or similar… [CCBFA]
   a. The human value of animal keeping to the mental, physical and social health of the community.
   a. Raising of animal welfare outcomes across the community through education and compliance/enforcement. That is, include education up front.
   b. Specifically distinguish between animal welfare and animal rights, and exclude animal rights from the Act.
5. AWAC is Minister appointed. [Dept]
   a. Therefore, AWAC political and perhaps not the most suitable forum for stakeholder consultation. [CCBFA]
   b. Include an ongoing consultative committee system within the new Act. to enable ongoing feedback from stakeholders. Other states are looking at various structures. [CCBFA]
6. Care is needed to avoid overregulation, to avoid unintended consequences, such as creating a disincentive to keep animals. For birds, we perceive few significant animal welfare concerns compared to other species groups. [CCBFA]
7. We strongly recommend a bias towards education over regulation. Aim to raise animal welfare standards across Victoria. Inordinate resources are often spent on compliance which given funding limitations would achieve better outcomes if directed to education. Currently compliance is largely in response to complaints, although these cases must be investigated, there are an unknown number of other cases undetected. [CCBFA]
8. The current Victorian "Code of Practice for the Housing of Caged Birds" (Bird Code) will be rewritten as part of this process. This is some time in the future after the Act is finalised. [Dept]
9. It is unclear at this stage whether the "Bird Code" will be in a Standards and Guidelines form. That is, it is to be decided whether the new Bird Code will include enforceable Standards or as currently where the Bird Code can be used as a legal defence. [Dept]
10. With regard to the current Bird code, CCBFA advise… [CCBFA]

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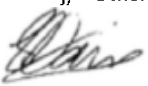
a. The current Bird Code is outdated and requires a complete rewrite.
b. Experience in other jurisdictions indicates a lack of bird welfare expertise in government.
c. Avicultural organisations already have a range of welfare codes in place that have been revised for many generations.

Therefore, we suggest Aviculture produces a draft rewrite of the code, which is reviewed initially by those agencies tasked with compliance. Department then releases for public consultation and final review.

11. Scope of a new Bird Code - Consider... [CCBFA] (Not discussed in the meeting – is fyi).

a) Private aviculturists
b) Pet or companion birds
c) Pet Shops
d) Bird sales code of conduct
e) Native birds - licensed
f) Rehab birds
g) Scientific research birds
h) Exhibited birds
i) Biosecurity
j) Others?



Sam Davis

President – CCBFA

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Community-based animal groups ARE the animal welfare experts.

The real animal welfare experts are the hundreds of community-based animal groups, along with the veterinary profession and of course farmers. All these groups have been animal welfare educators and advocates for hundreds of years. Animal welfare is central to our day-to-day existence, it is what we do, and our expertise is specialised and professional.

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