



Volume 53

Number 3

June/July 2021



Designed by Vets...
VETAFARM
...Perfect for Pets



Leaders in the avian industry.



See our full range online!

www.vetafarm.com.au

Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

PRESIDENT

Sam Davis
PO Box 26
Douglas Park, NSW 2569
Mobile: 0411 253 512
Email: president@ccbfa.org.au

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Ron Robertson
PO Box 230
Frenchs Forest, NSW 1640
Phone: (02) 9452 2396
Email: secretary@ccbfa.org.au

NOTE: The above positions are ex-officio on all committees

*Feathered
World*

The Official Magazine of The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.
Published bimonthly.

EDITOR

Jamie Norriss
60 Cordyline Drive
Reedy Creek, QLD 4227
Phone: 0416 023 343
Email: Jamie@dmsworld.net

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ron Robertson
Warren Wilson
Sam Davis
Jamie Norriss

- The editor welcomes contributions, but retains the right to amend articles and reports accordingly.
- The opinions expressed by the authors are their own and not necessarily those of Federation or the editor.
- Articles may be copied from *Feathered World* Magazine, providing the author and magazine are acknowledged appropriately.

Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

MEETING DATES 2021

General Meetings 7th July, 1st September & 3rd November

*Meetings commence at 8:00 pm EST via ZOOM and subject to notice at
Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield*

IMPORTANT NOTICES!

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.

Ron Robertson, Secretary, The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. PO Box 230, Frenchs Forest ,NSW 1640 ; Phone: 02 9452 2396 ;Email: federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au

2021 RING ORDERS

Supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2021.

Clubs requiring an order form should contact the Secretary / Ring Officer at::

Email: CCBFA@aapt.net.au

FEDERATION STATIONERY SALE

Show Cage Stickers	\$10 for 600
Judge's Slips [1-3 Placings]	\$3 per100
Special Slips	\$2 per 50
Judge's Slips [1-6 Placings]	\$3 per100
Entry Forms	\$4 per 50
Show Schedule/Show Rules	\$2 each
Ring Register Cards	\$2 per 100
Bird Room Registers	\$2 each
Membership ID Card	\$2 per 100

Plus Postage and Packaging

*From: **John Walsh**—Phone: (02) 9451 0911 email: ktwsh@optusnet.com.au*



The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc now have a Facebook page!!
The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/CCBFA>
Like our page to stay updated with current avicultural events.

Guests of Honour

Don Price & Peter Southgate

Where?

Panarama House at Stanwell Tops

When?

11:30am to 3:30pm Saturday 17th July 2021

Cost?

\$40 per head, discuss special dietary requirements on booking

Payment required with booking

Bookings for final numbers required 9th July 2021



Bookings

Christine Grunter, M: 0418 239 507, E: clissy@ozemail.com.au

Payment: Border Fancy Canary Club of Aust. Inc.

Commonwealth Bank A/C: 280 20494

BSB: 062 121

Please ensure your name is noted in the reference

John Walker M: 0417 044 654 E: whiskyjc@optusnet.com.au

Payment: Wollongong & District Avicultural Society Inc.

Horizon Credit Union A/C: 1000 76343

BSB: 802 124

An à la carte meal not including drinks.
Bar service available.
Private reception room
Easy parking

Federation Dinner 2021

THE ARCAINE WORLD OF WORKING-CLASS CANARY BREEDING IN VICTORIAN BRITAIN *By Mike Huggins*

When I was a boy, quite a few coal miners in the pit rows of County Durham kept canaries. Canaries had been taken down the pits from circa 1913 as they were affected by carbon monoxide or methane gas before the pitmen and so gave early warning to those below.

But the working-class links to canary-keeping and breeding go back before that date. The Victorians took canary-keeping to new heights. Canaries were engaging in manner, active, and easy to keep. They were quickly domesticated. By the 1850s the birds could be found in a variety of colours and shapes, including golden-orange Belgians, yellow Norfolks, Yorkshire spangles, and London fancies. As Britain shifted from a predominantly rural to a more urban world, one way that people, men, women or children, could retain a little piece of country in the town was through keeping of a cherished caged canary in their parlour, as an affectionate pet. In a wide range of cultural texts they were depicted as willing captives, excellent singers, and charming and cheerful companions. They were claimed as helping to guide domestic behaviour. Children watching their canary, thought one writer, would learn invaluable lessons of kindness, love and patience, and would help turn potentially socially and morally adults into proper citizens.



Initially the more commercial world of the bird fancier, whether of poultry, pigeons or canaries was largely that of the small trader operating in weekly markets in the mid-nineteenth century. These people sometimes imported birds. German canaries were more valued because their song was much sweeter, though in reality German breeders, largely based in Tyrol and the Hartz, knowing that canaries mimicked songs, taught their birds to sing before exporting them.

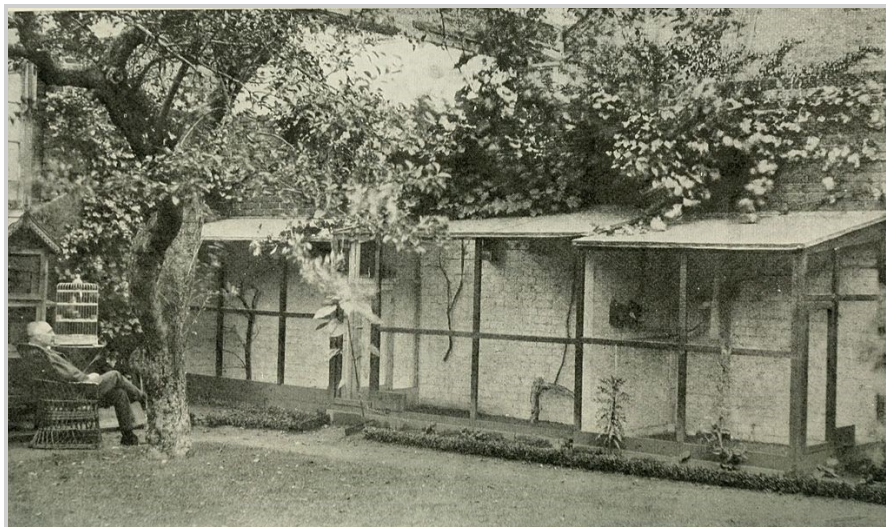
But by the 1860s, as the fashion spread in Britain, artisans, small tradesmen, weavers, hairdressers, cottage gardeners, and others in more sedentary occupations working from their own premises began doing some amateur breeding to augment their earnings, keeping one or two breeding cages, sited to catch the morning sun. Canaries laid three to five eggs per brood from spring onwards. Caring for the birds was a relief from the monotony of

Continued next page

Continued from previous page....

work, and the selling of a pair of birds or more could be profitable. But breeding could be risky. There were setting-up costs: breeding cages were not cheap, and feed such as millet, hemp, or pieces of apple needed regular purchase. It took space, since breeding cages were often somewhere round four feet by three feet. So breeding taught some self-denial, using money that could have been spent in other ways. There were dangers: illness, parasites, or attacks by cats or rats if they could gain access.

Quite quickly, however, as demand grew some men became more involved in breeding for show, or breeding to sell. Those breeding for show for exhibitions were more concerned with appearance, and 'improving the breed'. Some shows would stipulate a specific model standard beforehand with breeders breeding to it. In the 1870s at the general ornithological shows taking place in larger cities like Glasgow, canaries were playing a larger role. In 1873 at the ornithological show at London's Crystal Palace at Sydenham thirty-five out of the seventy-seven classes were for canaries. With the British fondness for associativity, clubs such as the Huddersfield Canary Breeders Society quickly began to form and this further encouraged numbers of canary breeders. By the 1880s these clubs and societies were particularly



popular in the midlands at larger towns such as Derby, Nottingham, Derby, Coventry or Northampton, in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and in West Scottish towns like Glasgow or Paisley. Specialist canary shows soon followed. At these 'amateur' shows, prizes were often symbolic, silver cups or watches,

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

but also sometimes small amounts of money, perhaps a pound or ten shillings. So winning gained some pecuniary reward, but also gained local and sometimes national status. Newspaper reports suggest some were less than honest, plucking feathers or dyeing plumage to improve appearance.

Publicans, always alert for profit, played a leading role in encouraging these canary clubs. They would offer small prizes for a Sunday show, but ensure that the birds were kept there for two or three days, attracting custom. They would offer free premises for monthly meetings, but demand some sort of minimum spend on food and drink. One Norfolk publican, Henry Spelman, getting involved himself in the 1870s through to the 1890s, expanded his breeding and needed ever-larger space for his cages, buying and selling birds, and competing at leading competitions, as well as holding annual competitions at his inn.

There appear to have been relatively few large-scale breeders. London was a large market, with much demand for birds. Because of the high status of the Norfolk breed, Norwich and its surrounding villages and hamlets was the most important location for commercial canary breeding, with many thousands of small breeders, and, from 1873 onwards, annual exhibitions like the Norwich Alliance and East Anglian Ornithological Association. With Norwich being this key canary breeding centre, it perhaps was only natural that the town's football club became known as "The Canaries". By the 1880s Messrs Yallop and the Mackley brothers had become leading figures, operating from Norfolk on a large scale across Britain, exhibiting successfully at major competitions, and importing and exporting birds with breeders in Germany and Belgium.

At this level top-quality birds bought to breed from or for exhibition were expensive, though prices varied with fashion and changes in demand, within a range from perhaps £8 to a pound or two. Some artisans were happy to pay these prices. But pet birds were much cheaper, just a few shillings for perhaps ten years of companionship and pleasure. Canary-keeping has been an overlooked part of working-class cultural life, and its wider social and economic impact is yet to be explored.

Source: www.playingpasts.co.uk



DON'T DISTURB THE COCKATOOS ON YOUR LAWN, THEY'RE PROBABLY DOING ALL YOUR WEEDING FOR FREE

Australians have a love-hate relationship with Sulphur-crested cockatoos, *Cacatua galerita*. For some, the noisy parrots are pests that destroy crops or the garden, damage homes and pull up turf at sports ovals.

For others, they're a bunch of larrikins who love to play and are quintessentially Australian.

Along with other scientists, I had a unique opportunity during the COVID-19 lockdowns to study things that had intrigued me closer to home, perhaps for years. While isolating in the suburbs of Melbourne, I wanted to find out why cockatoos return to the same places, and what they're after.

The answer? Onion grass, reams of it.



Onion grass is a significant weed, and I estimated in a recent paper that one bird gorges on about 200 plants per hour. A flock of about 50 birds can consume 20,000 plants in a couple of hours.

This significantly reduces the weed level and may make expensive herbicide use unnecessary. So if you have a large amount of onion grass on your property and are regularly visited by sulphur-crested cockatoos, it would be wise to let them do their weeding first.

When play verges on vandalism

Most of us see cockies whether we live in rural communities or major cities, but how much do you really know about them?

In late winter and early spring in many parts of Australia, flocks of sulphur-crested cockatoos can be seen grazing on the ground. They're usually found close to water, nesting in woodlands with old hollow trees, such

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

Where these forests and trees are being cleared, the number of cockies falls. But they are resilient and adaptable birds, and have spread their range to cities and the urban fringe, where numbers are increasing.

The birds are known to play with fruits, hang upside down on branches or perform flying cartwheels by holding a small branch or powerline with their feet, flapping their wings as they do loop after loop.

Sometimes their play verges on vandalism as they follow tree planters, deftly pulling up just-planted trees and laying them neatly beside the hole.

While cockatoos feed on the fruits and seed of native species, they've adapted very quickly to the introduction of exotic species, such as onion grass from South Africa, which is plentiful and easy to harvest.

I observed flocks ranging from nine to 63 cockatoos at seven sites along the Maribyrnong River in Keilor last July and August. Onion grass was the only item on their menu.

A pest for humans, a feast for birds

Onion grass (*Romulea rosea*) is small and usually inconspicuous with grass-like leaves. It's typically only noticed when it flowers in spring, producing pretty, pink and yellow-throated flowers.

Onion grass can be a **serious weed** that's very difficult to control. It's not only a problem for agricultural land, but also for recreational turf and native grasslands.

In some areas, there are nearly 5,000 onion grass plants per square metre. This is a massive number requiring costly control measures, such as spraying or scraping away the upper layer of top soil.

Onion grass gets its name from its onion-like leaves. At the base is a small bulb, which works — as a modified underground stem called a “corm”. The corm is what cockatoos will travel many kilometres for, to dig up and return to for days on end.



Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

Their super weeding effort

Like other native parrots, sulphur-crested cockatoos are famously **left-footed**. So it was interesting to observe them primarily use their powerful beaks to pull onion grass plants from the ground and dig up. The cockatoos fed for between 30 minutes and two and a half hours. At each feed, one or two sentry (or sentinel) birds, depending on the flock size, would keep watch and give raucous warning should danger threaten.

The cockies could remove a plant and corm from the ground in as little as six seconds, but sometimes it could take up to 30 seconds. They then removed and consumed a corm every 14 seconds on average in wet soil and every 18 seconds from harder, dry soil.

This means a flock of 63 birds could remove more than 35,400 onion grass plants in a feeding session lasting two and half hours. This is a super weeding effort by any standard!

Future partnerships

My further investigation revealed most of the corms were within 20 millimetres of the soil surface, so the holes left in the soil by the birds extracting the onion grass were shallow and quite small. This shouldn't give seeds from onion grass any great advantage.

And they're very efficient: the birds eat over 87% of the corms they lift, which then won't get a chance to generate in future years. So, if we're going to try to eradicate onion grass, it may be better to let the cockies do their work first before we humans take a turn.

We have a lot to learn about how our native species interact with introduced weeds, and more research might reveal some very useful future partnerships. They might be birdbrains, but sulphur-crested cockatoos really know their onions when it comes to, well, onion grass.

Source: <https://theconversation.com/dont-disturb-the-cockatoos-on-your-lawn-theyre-probably-doing-all-your-weeding-for-free-154265>



THE NICOTINE CONNECTION

There seems to be a higher incidence among bird owners who smoke who have problems with their birds respiratory systems and eyes (from second-hand smoke, no doubt). But another, more insidious connection has been implicated between smokers and birds having problems with itchy feet and/or feather-picking.

The nicotine residue on a smoker's hands may be enough to cause absorption through the bird's skin, resulting in birds that chew on the skin of their feet, and may pick at their feathers and act itchy. The birds may develop pododermatitis, with scabs, picking their feet, and secondary infections.

Macaws may also develop a similar irritation to the facial skin following repeated contact with smoker's hands. Some feather-picking in birds will resolve itself when the bird is removed from the presence of cigarette smoke. It is therefore very important that all cigarette smokers wash their hands prior to handling their birds, and birds should never be exposed to any type of smoke (legal or otherwise).



"We don't care if your boss says it's okay.
We're sick and tired of your secondhand smoke".

RAIL CHAOS A SWAN SONG

A swan mourning the death of its companion on a German railway rack held up 23 trains for almost an hour and had to be removed by firefighters using special equipment, police said.

The two birds had strayed on to the track area of the high-speed line between Kassel and Gottingen in central Germany but one of the birds died, possibly after getting caught in the overhead power cables. Its companion then sat beside the body in mourning, resisting efforts by officials to lure it away and forcing the line to be closed to traffic.

Firefighters with special equipment were eventually called in to lift the dead swan and its companion clear.



DID YOU KNOW....

Canaries helped inspire linguistic research

The infamous 1950 cartoon short, Canary Row, that introduced perhaps the most iconic yellow canary, Tweety Bird, inspired linguistics research around the globe. The gesticulations and nonverbal communication within the short film helped researchers glean information about how people communicate and operate within language in tandem with spontaneous physical movements, and these concepts are explored in Dr. David McNeill's 1992 seminal text Hand and Mind: What Gestures Reveal about Thought.



INVASIVE BIRD SPECIES NEED SUITABLE CLIMATES AND OTHER ALIENS TO FLOURISH

Aliens do well around other aliens, according to new research that suggests that invasive bird species such as the common myna are more likely to thrive if there are other introduced species in the area.

And aliens — or introduced species — also do better if the climate is similar to the one they came from.

These are the findings of a large international study, published today in the journal [Nature](#), that looked at more than 4,000 instances where birds had been introduced around the globe.

The researchers studied 700 different bird species including the common or Indian myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) and another species Australians love to hate: the common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).



"Nobody's ever attempted anything of this kind of scale and detail," said co-author Tim Blackburn, an ecologist from University College London. "I never thought it was even going to be possible."

The team looked at a variety of factors in their analysis, from how many birds were introduced on each occasion, where they were being introduced, the size of their clutches, through to the relative brain sizes of different species.

"All of these different types of characteristics are important," Professor Blackburn said. But overall, he said, environmental factors played the biggest part. Introduced species did better if the climate was similar to the one they came from.

"If you try to introduce parrots to the Arctic you know they're going to have a bad time," Professor Blackburn said.

And introduced birds were more likely to succeed if there were already other types of aliens — not just bird species — present at the same location.



Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

"That's obviously a worry because what it's suggesting is there's something about the presence of aliens that's facilitating more aliens arriving," Professor Blackburn said.

While the exact cause of this phenomenon is unclear, it can lead to something called an invasion meltdown where essentially the area just becomes an environment of aliens, Professor Blackburn said.

The common myna isn't our biggest problem

The study has done an amazing job of synthesising a huge amount of data and showing the complexity of the issue, said Australian Museum ornithologist Richard Major, who was not involved in the research.

However, the impacts of invasive birds in Australia are trivial, he said.

"Invasive birds in Australia are really a very minor problem in terms of biodiversity, compared with habitat loss," Dr Major said. It's the loss and modification of habitat that is historically what has led to extinctions in Australian fauna, he said, and that trend is likely to continue.

But that hasn't stopped the common myna from getting a bad rap.



"The common myna is really the most hated bird in Australia," Dr Major said. "People don't like them and this is really because they cohabit so much with people—they live in the places where people do, so we have a lot of contact with them around houses."

Dr Major said there's been a big expansion in the range of the common mynas in Australia in the past few decades, so while their impact on biodiversity is limited now there is the possibility they will have more of an effect in the future.

But, he said, the myna's native doppelganger, the noisy miner (*Manorina melanoccephala*) has a much bigger impact on biodiversity loss within Australian bird communities.

This superabundant species has been able to exploit the changes humans have made to the environment. And it's also very aggressive and competitive with other native species.

Ironically, this aggression could protect Australia from having even more invasive birds, said conservation scientist Salit Kark from the University of Queensland, and a co-author on the paper.

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

"We think that the aggressiveness of our native species, at least in some areas, helps our native species," she said. "However there are very specific species that are native and very aggressive, and those would be the more successful ones."

An invading species doesn't have to be from another country to cause problems.

"We have our very own species like the kookaburra which are native to Australia, but invade other parts of Australia like Tasmania and they have huge impacts," Dr Kark said.

"They are invasive species because they invaded an area that is not part of their native range."



"Every year we're getting hundreds of new populations of alien species being established around the world," Professor Blackburn said.

A lot of that is due to the large numbers of goods we're moving around the globe, providing ample opportunities for species to hitchhike. There are also the species we're moving deliberately because we're trading them.

The best way to prevent successful invasions is to stop alien species getting into new environments in the first place, Professor Blackburn said, which is why strict biosecurity laws like we have in Australia are so important.

"The more species you put into the environment, essentially the more opportunities you have to find a species that matches that environment," he said. "You're going to hit the jackpot."

And once an alien bird species has established a population it's very hard to eradicate them. Australia's size and huge range of climates also increases the potential for many alien species to establish themselves here, Dr Kark said.

"Invasive birds should receive far more attention, in management and in biosecurity," she said. "We have a huge responsibility because many of our native species, and of our threatened species, are endemic species so if we lose them they're lost."

Have you updated your club details?

Please send in any club detail changes, including changes of position to the secretary asap. Thank you.

Cannon & Ball

VETERINARY SURGEONS

your family pet & exotic animal vet



Dr Mike Cannon, Dr Kim Fryer and Associates

461 Crown Street

West Wollongong

NSW 2500

Ph 02 4229 8888

admin@cbvets.com.au

Website: www.cbvets.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com.cannonballvets

For friendly, compassionate and affordable
advice, diagnosis and treatment of
Birds, Reptiles, Rabbits, Rodents, Ferrets,
Cats and Dogs.

Surgical sexing of birds performed by
Dr Mike Cannon and Dr Gail McDowell



Members of the Association of Avian Veterinarians

www.aavac.com.au

BLACK WING BUDGIES (A NEW MUTATION)

The 'Black wings' mutation surfaced in Venezuela in 2002, when Edixon Laya, from Aviary Violetera, discovered them by accident at a woman's house and bought them. After some time and several unsuccessful attempts to breed more he sold them. They subsequently passed through the hands of several breeders, until they were acquired by the Venezuelan national champion Alejandro Álvarez, who through his experience managed to fix the mutation feature of the black wings with a variety of other mutations and budgie characteristics.

According to a study by biologist, Miguel Agra 'blackwings' are defined as follows;

The mutation is autosomal recessive but curiously presents a certain sexual dimorphism. In females there is greater penetration of the mutation, increasing the concentration in the dorsal area. The behavior of the mutation seems to alter the distribution of melanin, the feathers displaying an accumulation of melanin in the cortex and lacking psittacine, resulting in totally black feathers. At the ventral level the behavior is totally different with a lack of medullary melanin resulting in yellow feathers with the peculiarity of having a black rim, especially in the females pearls in the caudal area.

The Blackwing variety is now being bred in Europe and the UK. As reported in the *Cage and Aviary Birds* magazine in the UK a specialist budgie breeder from Edinburgh achieved the first UK import and breeding of this mutation – the Venezuelan blackwing.

In January, 2019 colour budgie breeder Don Dickson brought home several Venezuelan blackwings from Europe and bred the first four chicks at the beginning of March that year.



Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

Using three pairs and two hens, Mr Dickson produced a total of 16 pure blackwings and 19 split-for-blackwing with other nests still due to hatch, most of which will be Blackwings and some split.

He explained how it felt when the first chick hatched: "I was ecstatic, absolutely delighted. When I brought the birds back from Europe, one of the females (who was the mum of the first chicks) laid an egg the day after arriving in the UK. I hadn't provided a nest-box as she had just spent five days travelling, so the egg smashed on the bottom of the cage. She was obviously very keen to breed."

As the Venezuelan blackwing mutation gene is recessive, Mr Dickson paired blackwings to Black-wings, Blackwings to split and Blackwings to normal birds to bring in other colours and genes. The colours he has bred are: normal green; normal skyblue; opaline skyblue; normal yellowface sky; and opaline yellowface sky blackwing.

Interestingly the Blackwing may have existed in Australia before the appearance in Venezuela given the following comment in an article in ***Budgie News Victoria***, 4th Quarter 2017.

Many authors of books and articles on budgie varieties have dreamed of and predicted the white-faced green. This turned out to be a very smart prediction. But sometimes these fantasy varieties already existed. In his book Exhibition Budgerigars in 1951 Dr Armour featured an R A Vowles painting of "a laced Yellow, (which, he said) is a possible bird of the future". This was a Blackwing Yellow which had existed in Australia since the early 1930s. These were the world's first Clearbodies and they were so good that, in 1962 or 1963 a Blackwing Yellow won Champion of Show at the New South Wales State (Town Hall) show. This remains perhaps the greatest ever win by an obscure budgie variety in Australia....by Frank Amos...and yes I was there - well done Frank!

Sources: Cage and Aviary Birds & Facebook Page: Black Wing Budgies



'INVASIVE' MYNA BIRDS SET OFF ALARM BELLS IN DARWIN

Darwin Airport was dealing with COVID-19 risks, mercy flights, constantly changing rules and grappling with masks when Linus Ninham spotted a new threat outside his office.

It was a common or Indian myna bird, something not seen in the city before.

"Alarm bells started ringing," the airport worker said. "Eventually, I saw a pair of them, and I became very worried. I think this would become a very serious problem if they breed."



Common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*) were introduced to Australia in 1862 to control pests but have had a significant impact on native birds, agriculture and gardens. Populations have established in eastern and south-eastern Australia.

Fortunately, Mr Ninham has a degree in applied science and natural resource management and was able to identify the bird, which had made a home under the hustle and bustle of one of the aerobridges.

The sighting in November was confirmed by NT Parks and Wildlife. There have since been a total of six sightings of two birds, with an outside chance of three birds. It is believed they arrived in a plane or ship container.

BirdLife Australia editor Sean Dooley said there were many reasons for the species' unpopularity.

"They're one of the most invasive species of birds in the world," he said. "They are very aggressive species, and they're hollow nesting and when they're doing that, they will turf out whatever native birds are in there. They can also kill them and their chicks in the nest."

Airport environmental sustainability manager Nick Fewster said shooting mynas would be a last resort for safety and ethical reasons.

"They've been in very challenging positions and very noisy environments near aircraft, and up the top of 30-metre light poles, so it's been a real challenge to try and manage these pests," he said. "It's hard to know if the couple is still around."

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

The airport's strategy is to lure mynas with food and water in the dry season. "And then look at strategies to eliminate the mynas," Mr Fewster said. "So things like [giving] potentially sedatives in food or water, and then monitoring to see if we're picking the myna up. Shotgun activity is really not applicable or appropriate around the terminal and aircraft. They're very cunning. And we haven't been successful thus far, but we're committed to trying to manage this issue."

The airport manages a high level of wildlife compared to other facilities as there is a risk to aircraft safety. Bats, magpie geese, curlews and plovers are normally the problem so Airside safety officer Alicia Jones keeps a box of tricks in her four-wheel drive "office", which includes gas cannons, pyrotechnics, lights, sirens and alarms to scare wildlife from planes.

"Sometimes we have to hold up the flights before they can leave to get rid of the birds," she said. "People probably don't really understand why until they look out the window. That sheds a different light."

Operations manager Mike Clancy's wildlife responsibilities normally stop at simply keeping wildlife and planes separate 24 hours a day.

"[Mynas] are not something that would generally cause a problem to aviation safety," he said. "I guess it was a bit of a distraction."

On behalf of Nick and others and the wildlife community, we started monitoring and trying to record where and when this bird was sighted."

RSPCA Australia senior scientific officer Di Evans acknowledged the public safety aspect to controlling mynas.

"We would recommend humane, non-lethal options such as noise deterrents, which have been used at other airports," she said. "Poison baits are often not humane and can be a risk to other species, and shooting is relatively ineffective as new birds enter the territory."

Mr Fewster said when dealing with the birds, he had his airport safety cap and environmental hat on together.

"I'm really committed to the environmental outcomes at the airport, but we all need to travel safely as well. "We make sure that anything we do is safe and ethical and in conjunction with NT Parks."

Birdlife Top End convenor Amanda Lilleyman said Darwin was the only capital city without feral birds therefore we need everyone to be on the lookout and report additional sightings immediately, she said.

Source: www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-18/common-indian-myna-bird-pests

HOW AN ENDANGERED AUSTRALIAN SONGBIRD IS FORGETTING ITS LOVE SONGS

What happens to a species if the music starts to die, or when their songs become corrupted or their singers have never heard the original tunes?

A new study has found that a loss of melody and song could be a bad sign for one of Australia's rarest songbirds – the Regent Honeyeater.

Once seen in flocks of hundreds across south-eastern Australia, there are now thought to be only a few hundred of the songbirds left in the wild.

The birds are known to imitate the songs of other species, such as friar-birds, currawongs and cuckoo shrikes, but there was no clear theory for why they did it.

The study has found that this mimicry might not be a male's show of skill that would be attractive to a female, but could instead be a symptom of a "loss of vocal culture" that could make it harder for the birds to find a mate.

Populations have reached such low numbers that young males are not getting a chance to learn mating calls from other adults, according to Dr Ross Crates, an ecologist at the Fenner school of environment and society at the Australian National University.



"The poor birds are not getting the chance to learn what they should be singing," Crates said.

When regent honeyeaters emerge as chicks, the males stay relatively quiet to avoid attracting attention to their newborn. This means it is not until later that the juveniles learn the mating songs from adult males.

But if there aren't enough of those around, according to Crates, then they will just pick up the calls of other birds. And those calls are not what female regent honeyeaters are listening out for.

Crates' study, in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, suggests that these birds that don't learn to sing their usual song are less likely to find a partner.

Dean Ingwersen is the woodland bird program leader at BirdLife Australia .

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

and also coordinates a national recovery program for the regent honeyeater. He said the regent honeyeater's talent for imitation was always considered to be a deliberate ploy, with "one working theory" that they mimicked other birds to blend in "so that maybe they didn't get their heads beaten in as much".

For the study, researchers recorded birds in the wild and in captivity, and analysed recordings going back to 1986. Ingwersen, who is a co-author of the study, said over time the complexity of the songs appeared to be diminishing.

Crates and his colleagues are putting their discovery to the test at captive breeding programs run by Taronga Conservation Society. For years, juveniles have been played recordings of regent honeyeater calls from speakers inside their aviaries.

The team have now placed two wild-caught adults in neighbouring aviaries to see if this can also help the young males to learn the right song before they're released into the wild.

Michael Shiels, the supervisor of the bird department at the conservation society, said keepers would try anything to give the birds the best chance of thriving when they're released.

"Could those birds have done better if they had sang better? Possibly," he said. "The breeding program has been pretty successful but it can't hurt to make sure we're doing the right thing."

DID YOU KNOW

Mugger crocodiles have been recorded balancing twigs on their nose whilst pretending to be a log to tempt birds into collecting them to build their nests.

It is believed that this is the first known example of tool use in reptiles.



THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ASHFIELD RSL WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021.

The President opened the meeting at 8:04 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

ATTENDANCE:

There were 24 delegates in attendance including, S. Davis, R. Robertson, G Roberts, J. Flood, C. Gruntar, J. Palmano, B. Lloyd, C. Isbister, B. Barnes, I. Cindric, J. Forrest, B. Goleby, T. Hartung, T. Keogh, G. Brandon, M. Gallagher, J. Tadgell, M. MacPherson, N. Love, N. Lawler, W. Robinson, J. Norriss, B. Whiting, G. Fitt.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from L. Hendry – moved G. Roberts and seconded C. Gruntar apologies be accepted - Carried.

MINUTES: All minutes published in *Feathered World* and on our web, ccbfa.org.au/journals

The minutes for the March AGM were distributed and received on a motion from J. Flood and seconded by J. Forrest - carried. The minutes for the 3rd March General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by the delegates. It was moved C. Gruntar and seconded G. Roberts 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 and delegate
- Affiliated clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance.
- Affiliated clubs receipt of 2021 ring orders and payments from various affiliates.
- Clubs requesting details of affiliation and insurance.
- Coditech, receipt of ring orders.
- 2021 updates of show, sale and auction dates.
- Aust Gov. Dept Agriculture W & E, Minister for the Environment, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, re the KPMG Review, the Dept welcomes your willingness to engage on traceability and the CCBFA will be given an opportunity in the future when the recommendation is addressed.
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Expressing concerns clubs were not consulted re letter tabled in February re KPMG Review, stating the letter has a one-sided view and can only breakdown relationships with other groups

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to communication with Federal Government and States Govt. Departments.

Newsletters / Journals – Received from various clubs, with notification of club events for insurance:

- Animal Care Australia March'21 edition online :<https://online.fliphtml5.com/zfmwx/yiwn/>
- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter March & April'21
- PET Industry News. Vol 2 No 2 April / May 2021 & Autumn News Vol 31 #1
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter March'21
- Newcastle Budgerigar Club Inc. April'21
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales March & April'21
- Far North Queensland Bird Breeders March April 2021
- Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society Inc. April'21 Newsletter.
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier April'21
- Gold Coast Aviary Birds News March April'21
- Bundaberg Canary & Caged Bird Society Inc. Newsletter April / June'21
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings # 270 & 271 March, April'21
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc. May / June 2021 NCSA News.
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc Vol.43-2 March April'21
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW March – April'21

Out-going correspondence as follows:

- Change of Office Bearers and Privacy forms sent to various clubs.
- Details of affiliation and insurance provided to clubs requesting information.
- Coditech, communication for shipping arrangements and payment
- Various affiliates dispatch of ring orders on receipt of payment.
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Advising their letter will be tabled at the next Delegates meeting and suggesting their delegate would like to air the club's concerns, advising that the aim of the letter was to reinforce the CCBFA motion... Asking which other groups are working with the Dept? as we have not received any notification of any such relationship.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication with Federal Government States Govt. Departments

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

It was moved by C. Isbister and seconded by J. Palmano that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

TREASURERS REPORT

The accounts were submitted for endorsement:

It was moved by B. Lloyd and seconded by G. Roberts that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed - Carried

REPORTS:

RSPCA NSW compliance audits

The RSPCA NSW inspectorate was tasked by Minister for Agriculture, Adam Marshall to crackdown on puppy factories. Overreach by RSPCA NSW Inspectorate resulted in potentially illegal compliance audits of anyone who had bred a puppy, including entry to private property without consent or evidence of cruelty. ACA has been working to resolve the matter.

Shooters Fishers Farmers Party (SFFP) MP Mark Banasiak moved an amendment in the upper house during the session commencing March 16 2021 to resolve the matter by redefining "animal trade" within POCTAA. Sadly, this amendment was defeated.

ACA President Michael Donnelly and I (as VP of ACA) met with Minister Adam Marshall in Parliament House on March 16 2021. It is clear the Minister opposes the current audits with particular concerns regarding right of entry to private property. Unfortunately, a clear distinction between hobbyists and businesses (which determines an animal trade) is difficult to define. The Minister committed to find resolution as part of the current POCTAA review.

We understand compliance audits have for the time being ceased.

Wollondilly council DA for hobbyist animal breeders' matter

Overzealous council officers were wishing to interpret the term commercial too broadly such that any animal breeder (including birds) must obtain development approval. I spoke on behalf of all animal keepers at the public forum on March 9 2021 along with Hugh Gent, President of ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council) at Wollondilly Council Chambers.

Discussion expanded to encompass the RSPCA compliance audits situation.

Council unanimously moved to support animal keeping and breeding in the shire. Council also support and will advocate for a clearer distinction between hobby and business breeders to resolve the POCTAA animal trade issue.

Isaac Regional Council Queensland Issue

A member of a CCBFA club is experiencing difficulties due to inappropriate local laws and their application to his situation. The matter is a consequence of a complaint from a neighbour. I am acting for the aviculturist and have put two possible legal methods of resolution which will solve the matter amicably - council officers are investigating currently.

The larger issue is the way local laws are created and passed, including the model local laws upon which they are based. This leads to some inexplicable laws restricting keeping to low numbers and then a permit for higher numbers. In some cases, the permit fees are exorbitant. In cases like Isaac Regional Council, there is no permit system, hence no simple way to have more than a few birds, 15 in this case. This applies to all of Queensland and a similar system is in place in Victoria.

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

CCBFA will look to have the model local laws at the state level include more reasonable conditions for keeping birds and that when a permit is issued it should be a single application fee with the permit lasting in perpetuity.

Victoria Review of the Wildlife Act 1975 - Native Animal Licensing

It is now Victoria's turn to review native bird licensing.

The government has appointed an Independent expert advisory panel which includes a range of academics led by Dr Deborah Peterson. The panel recently released an "Issues paper" and are asking for submissions by 9/6/21.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/independent-review-victorias-wildlife-act-1975>

CCBFA have been asked to contribute as a key stakeholder via a "possession and trade sector forum" meeting. We will also make a formal submission.

CCBFA looks forward to working on this issue in close consultation with our Victorian clubs including the VAC.

This is the start of what will likely be a long process. We intend our initial submission to largely parallel recent changes in Qld, and those soon to occur in NSW and ACT.

Given time constraints, a draft will be circulated via email to Victorian clubs for comment prior to submission.

Victorian Animal Welfare legislation review

An "Engagement report" was recently released which essentially summarises the submissions in response to the "Directions Paper" released last year.

Our CCBFA submission to this process is here...

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CCBFA-Vic-Directions-Paper-Submission.pdf>

Both the "Directions Paper" and the "Engagement Report" are here...

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/new-animal-welfare-act-victoria>

CCBFA will continue to engage in this process, as will ACA. There are concerns that stakeholders with extreme animal rights agendas will have unreasonable influence on this process, and perhaps on the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975 (native bird licensing review) described above.

NSW Native Animal Licensing

CCBFA (with ACA assistance) submitted the following questions to SFFP MP Mark Banasiak to put to Minister for Energy and Environment, Matt Kean during 2021 budget estimates.

Questions regarding- The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. (CCBFA) represents some 250 bird keeping clubs nationally, with around 100 throughout NSW. CCBFA is a member of Animal Care Australia (ACA) representing hundreds of thousands of animal keepers including bird and reptile keepers.

December 2014 saw the release of the Final Report of the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel led by Dr Neil Byron. The coalition government accepted all recommendations, including "Adoption of a tiered and risk-based approach to the regulation of wildlife management in NSW"

(Recommendation 27).

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

CCBFA and other stakeholders (animal keeping associations) have been consulting, meeting, advising, assisting and negotiating with OEH and NPWS for six years; working to successfully develop a reform package to implement their part of the above-mentioned report. Hundreds of hours of work for volunteers, department staff and contractors - millions of dollars of taxpayer's money, yet still no implementation.

13. The final proposal of the consultation process led by contractor Robert Oliver's team remains under lock and key we believe in Executive Director, Atticus Flemings' office. Minister, why hasn't this proposal been released, and will you release it now?

(a) Your office facilitated a meeting with Atticus Fleming in June 2020 with Animal Care Australia and CCBFA representatives. A simplified proposal for bird keepers mirroring recently implemented systems in Queensland was put to the Executive Director. He is yet to respond despite numerous promises. Minister, please explain why your Executive Director is not keeping his promise to ACA, CCBFA and for that matter why he has delayed the progress of this proposal and the recommendations made by Mr Oliver's team?

(b) ACA and CCBFA have asked to meet with you on numerous occasions to explain and resolve the matter. This matter affects tens of thousands of NSW animal keepers. Will you commit to meet with ACA and CCBFA?

. Answers were as follows...

13. Atticus Fleming is the Deputy Secretary of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). I am advised that Robert Oliver was employed as an NPWS staff member, not as a contractor.

I acknowledge and thank these groups for the time invested during the consultation for the licensing reforms. The licensing reforms proposal has experienced delays, which is due to several factors. I am advised that NPWS remains committed to delivering these reforms once all outstanding matters have been resolved.

(a) At the June 2020 meeting, Mr Fleming undertook that NPWS would investigate opportunities to progress less-complex components of the broader wildlife licensing reform package, such as bird licensing. This is currently underway.

(b) Members of my staff have previously met with the ACA and CCBFA and continue to correspond on a regular basis. Both my office and NPWS are aware of the ACA and CCBFA position on this matter.

In summary, the Minister is indicating the reforms will go ahead, the question is when?

In response to the above answers (which do not provide clear dates) ACA initiated a GIPA request (the equivalent of a federal freedom of information request). In response we now have the final document produced by Robert Oliver's team designed for Ministerial approval. This document confirms the recommendation to :-

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

1. remove most commonly kept bird species from licensing, and
2. recommends the continuation of the Native Animal Keeper's Consultative Committee (amongst other things).

These are the main recommendations made to Deputy Secretary, Atticus Fleming by CCBFA (and ACA) back on 8/5/2020 and described in the following meeting synopsis. CCBFA has not yet received a substantive response to the 8/5/2020 meeting.

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ccbfa-atticus-synopsis-080520-meeting-final.pdf>

Minister Kean's Chief of Staff has indicated the matter is being worked on – again no dates provided.

NSW Bird Sale CoP Second Draft

A second draft was discussed and is now available on our website www.ccbfa.org.au for comment by clubs.

The main changes from the first draft are as follows.

1. All wire cages are NOT permitted for species smaller than a Rainbow Lorikeet. (S4.7)
2. Existing events in open venues can continue but must relocate to an enclosed venue as soon as possible. (S2.2)

It is critical that all clubs are in agreement with the code prior to implementation. This is the way to ensure we can continue to self-regulate this aspect of aviculture thus avoiding forced regulation from government.

We ask clubs to consider this second draft now and provide feedback prior to or at our July CCBFA meeting with a view to voting to accept the code at the July meeting. The aim is for implementation in 2022.

A list of species permitted to be sold in wire cages and not permitted to be sold in wire cages will be prepared to avoid any ambiguity. This list will be on the CCBFA website and accessible via QR code. A footnote to S4.7 will direct users to this list. Mark Gallagher and Greg Brandon to assist.

Assuming the code is ratified at the July meeting, CCBFA will then...

1. Print copies of the code and distribute to clubs to distribute to their members and at sales.
2. Create a QR code for easy access to the complete code via smart phones.
3. Design and print A3 signage for club use to promote the new code at events.

Parrot Exports – DNA testing to prove parentage

Recommendation 8 of the KPMG review which aims to introduce our suggested blood spot parentage DNA tests to prove birds for export are captive bred is currently being considered by wildlife trade staff. I have had preliminary discussions regarding the matter with a view to meetings as the matter progresses

Continued next page.....

To reiterate - CCBFA acknowledges there are deficiencies in the current system of proving native birds intended for export are captive bred. To be clear, CCBFA supports the introduction of economical DNA tests using blood spots from the captive parents and from the birds to be exported. DNA testing proves parentage which proves that the birds are captive bred..

Moved B. Goleby and seconded by W. Robinson that the Reports be accepted and Reporters thanked – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **2021 Ring Orders** supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2021. Clubs requiring an order form, should contact the Secretary / Ring Officer.
- **Sydney Royal Show update.** Ivan Cindric the coordinator of the aviary / bird section for the RAS gave a brief report saying it was again a great success, there were a total of 500 entries. The tame bird Parrot display provided by “Andrews Pet Palace” and the Brincat’s and Farmer Dave was a feature attraction. Ivan received a very positive feedback from the RAS and the Public. Advising that next year will be the RAS 200th anniversary, the “feature bird” in 2022 is the Canary.
- **Feathered World** consideration to updating and changing front cover. After a brief discussion and the President showing a number of alternate samples, it was agreed that the delegates should discuss the matter at their clubs, initially asking “do we want a new cover for *Feathered World*”. And bring the matter back to the July meeting.
- **Artemis Nature Fund.** Ian Ward brought to our attention a request to support the work with clubs donating and becoming a “[Friend of Artemis](#)”. Artemis was once a strong-hold for Golden-shouldered Parrots. However, the population has crashed to about 50 birds. All the evidence suggests Artemis’ parrots will disappear completely if we don’t act now. Gary Fitt advised that he was going up there in October and would be seeing John Griffiths who has been involved with the project.
- **Wyong Community Group** seeking support to regain use of the Wyong Showground / Racecourse site. Refer “Albert Warner” project.(affiliates being the Central Coast Poultry Club, Avicultural Society of the Central Coast, BSNSW Central Coast) and numerous other groups. The President advised that he would be reviewing the matter further and if required writing a letter of support to the appropriate party.
- **Federation Guest of Honour Dinner**, for Don Price and Peter Southgate. John Palmano advised that he had discussion with John Walker (President of the Wollongong & District Avicultural Society Inc.) They had tentatively enquired with the Panorama House, Princes Highway, Bulli Tops, Bulli, for a luncheon on Saturday the 17th July. There is a requirement for 40 head booking at \$40.00 per person, individually paying for own drinks. The duration being seated at 11:30 am to 3:00 pm

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business closed the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Notice of the next ZOOM (only) General Meeting

Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 8:00 pm



info@appliednutrition.com.au • www.tummyrite.com.au

Nutritional Digestion Aids for Good Health and Wellbeing

TummyRite™



Avian Wellbeing & Health for Maintenance, Breeding and Show

An excellent mixture of nutritional herbs, enzymes, yeasts, prebiotics, amino acids, carotenoids, vitamins and trace minerals for birds of all kinds including breeding birds. Created for the individual aviculture enthusiast. Ideal for maintaining good health and wellbeing of birds and for avian fanciers preparing birds for showing and breeding.

We are looking for potential Club/Bird Society or Commercial Organisations that would be interested in becoming distributors for our TummyRite™ range of products.

**For Technical Inquiries and sales
contact Dr. Michael Evans
Principal Avian Nutritionist,
Ph 0418 659 423**

SHOP ONLINE!
www.tummyrite.com.au

MANUFACTURED BY: Applied Nutrition Pty. Ltd.
1 Seven Oaks St, Alexandra Hills, QLD 4161.
info@appliednutrition.com.au
www.appliednutrition.com.au
Ph: (07) 3206 2568 Fx: 07 3206 2657



AVICULTURE accessories

Suppliers of Quality Products to
aviculturists, clubs, shops & fauna parks

- Plain and Mixed Seeds
- Egg & Biscuit Mix • Seed & Water Hoppers
- Nest Boxes & Cabinets • Bird Cages • Bird Accessories
- Pigeon & Poultry Produce • Dog & Cat Food & Accessories
- Horse Feed & General Produce • Fish Food & Accessories
- ABK Bird & Reptile Books • BirdKeeper
- Reptile food, Supplies & Accessories

WOMBAROO

PASSWELL

Designed by Vets...
VETAFARM
...Perfect for Pets




ROUDYBUSH™
Premium Food for Your Valuable Pet




**METAL
FEEDERS**


**AVI
GRAIN**



Laucke Mills
Quality Feed Millers and Animal Nutrition Specialists

ABN: 82 615 642 254

91 Excelsior Ave, Marsden Park NSW 2765

Ph: (02) 9838-1256 Fax: (02) 9012-0285