



Volume 53 Number 4 August/September 2021

SICK BIRD SURVIVAL

When dealing with sick birds we all know that time is of the essence, however early signs of illness in birds are frequently not recognised by the bird owner.

Did you know?

As a survival tactic in the wild, a sick bird will attempt to maintain a normal appearance for as long as possible, this means that by the time any signs of illness are apparent, the bird may have been ill for some time.

The bird that dies "suddenly" may be the result of the owner's failure to make distinctions in the appearance or behaviour of the bird prior to that time. To help identify a problem before it gets out of hand, there are some key warning signals that we can look out for in our birds.



SIGNS OF ILLNESS

The following symptoms may indicate a serious health problem and veterinary assistance should be sought at once!

Change in attitude, personality or behaviour - decreased activity, decreased talking and singing, increased sleeping, no response to stimuli.

Change in appearance or posture - ruffled feathers, weakness, inability to stand, staying on the bottom of the cage, sitting low on the perch, drooping wings, convulsions.

Discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth

Decreased or excessive food or water consumption.

Change in weight or general body condition as determined by a gram scale, or by handling; a prominent breast bone due to loss of breast muscle tissue is serious!

Vomiting or regurgitation.

Change in character of the droppings.

Sick Bird

Change in character of respiration - any noticeable breathing movement (e.g. tail bobbing) while resting, heavy breathing after exertion, change in quality of voice, respiratory sounds such as sneezing, wheezing or clicking.

Injury, bleeding, enlargement or swelling of the body.

If any of the above symptoms are detected in your birds the safest course of action is to get the bird to your preferred vet - ASAP. If this is not an immediate option, the next step is to hospitalise, monitor and administer first aid if necessary, until you are able to have them seen to.

A broad spectrum antibiotic can be used in some situations where vet help is not available, but this can be a very hit and miss (administering a tetracycline antibiotic to a bird with a tumour is useless!).

For more info contact the Vetafarm Team or you can watch our short and valuable walk through of basic first aid in birds, featuring Avian Vet Dr Tony Gestier. Just jump onto www.youtube.com/Vetafarm

PH: (02) 6933 0400
Email: sales@vetafarm.com.au
www.vetafarm.com.au

Watch The Video



EVALUATION OF DROPPINGS

Normal pet bird droppings consist of 3 parts:

1. **FAECES** are food waste material from the digestive tract. Normal faeces can vary somewhat in colour and consistency, depending on the diet. Diets with a high seed content usually produce homogeneous black or dark green faeces. Birds on formulated diets (pellets) normally exhibit softer, brownish faeces.

2. **URINE**, the liquid portion, is normally clear. A diet high in vegetable and fruit matter may increase the urine component.

3. **URATES**, or creamy white waste from the kidney, are often suspended in the liquid urine or appear to wrap around the faeces.

Observation of droppings is a simple method of monitoring your bird's health. Paper towels, newspaper or other smooth surfaces can be used to line the cage bottom so that the number, volume, colour and consistency of the droppings can be noted daily.

A sick bird may exhibit:

- Decrease in the total number or volume of droppings
- Change in the colour of the URATES or URINE
- An increase in the water content of the FAECES (diarrhoea)
- Decrease in the FAECES volume with increased URATES
- Increase in the URINE portion (polyuria)



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Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

MEETING DATES 2021

General Meetings 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*

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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>
Like our page to stay updated with current avicultural events.

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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readers,

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.

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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

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From: John Walsh—

Phone: (02) 9451 0911 or 0421 011 107 email: ktwsh@optusnet.com.au

ADANI'S OWN COUNT OF ENDANGERED BIRD AT MINE SHOWS 'SHOCKING' DROP

Official counts of the black-throated finch at the Carmichael coal mine site recorded an 82 per cent drop between 2019 and 2020, according to the first official survey conducted for Adani.

The small bird proved to be the one of the biggest hurdles to the mine's approval, with Adani's management plan for the finch finally getting the green light in 2019.

The Black-throated Finch Management Plan 2020 annual report, produced by Red Hill-based Woongal Environmental Services last July and obtained by *Brisbane Times* this week, shows the in first official count of endangered black-throated finch at the Carmichael



coal mine the number of the endangered birds in the surveyed region dropped from 1026 in 2018 to just 185 in 2019.

The region around the Carmichael mine is home to the world's largest population of the endangered finch, which was a key reason the mine's approval was opposed by conservationists.

But some departmental officers who spoke with *Brisbane Times* on the condition of anonymity were shocked at the results of the count.

University of Queensland research fellow April Reside, a member of Bird-life Australia and co-chair of the Black-throated Finch Recovery Team, said she was "absolutely horrified" to learn of the decline in numbers.

"The thing is that site has reliably always had a high number of black-throated finch in it," Dr Reside said. "But that figure is shocking. This is the biggest population of an endangered species. It is just frightening to hear this is going on."

Woongal Environmental Services referred all questions to Bravus.

Although Adani lost a Federal Court decision about drawing 12.5 billion litres of water from the Suttor River to wash coal and suppress dust at the Carmichael mine, but the company said it had arranged alternative sources of water. The Carmichael mine is located about 160 kilometres north-west of Clermont and 320 kilometres west of Rockhampton in the Galilee Basin.

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Dr Reside said she doubted the seasonal rise and fall in the finch population would be so dramatic and demanded an explanation from the Queensland government.

An Environment Department spokeswoman said excavation for the mine had not occurred on the bird's habitat, so it was not "seen as a cause for variation in the bird's numbers".

"There have been fluctuations in the bird's numbers since 2012, likely due to factors like those mentioned in Adani's [Black-throated Finch Management Plan] annual report, including climate variation and its effects on the bird's food sources," she said.

The spokeswoman said the government expected to receive the results of the 2020 count by July.

Source: Article by Tony Moore at www.brisbanetimes.com.au



MENTORING YOUNG BIRD BREEDERS

Of all the people who keep birds, most if not all were first introduced to birdkeeping by somebody more familiar with the pleasures these small beauties can bring into a human's life. They took the time and effort to see that our first introduction was a fulfilling one, and they made themselves available for the inevitable spate of questions and learning which follows.

Many of us feel that it is up to us to, in our turn, pass on the legacy we were so freely given – it can be done in any number of ways, but the goal remains the same; to share with others that love of birdkeeping which was first so generously shared with us.

The following comments are one canary breeder's point of view about, and experiences with..."mentoring young bird breeders"

I have been involved in the breeding of canaries since 1994 when my sister-in-law Joyce, a longtime canary breeder, decided that I needed a canary in my life.



I steadfastly refused ownership previously to that because I felt I had never been successful with birds, although I admired them and their beautiful song. During a visit to her Chicago home, she led me into her bird room, and I instantly fell in love with the beauty, the song and the gorgeous colors of her canaries.

I knew I was 'hooked' because even the smell of the bird seed was intoxicating to me! I could stay in her bird room for hours at a time.

I left Chicago accompanied by my new canary, 'Pavoratti,' and brought him home to Missouri. On a subsequent trip, Joyce decided for me that I needed to be a canary breeder since I loved my bird so much. I returned from that trip with three hens.

Over the years I have several times increased or decreased the size of my flock – but I am currently 'owned' by about a hundred and forty-five canaries.

I called my mentor (Joyce) countless times with question after question as the years passed, and she never failed to share her full knowledge of the birds with me. In turn, I put questions that neither of us could answer to other breeders, usually through the various canary e-mail groups I belonged to. We both learned a lot from those answers.

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The long and short of it all is that I became a canary breeder because Joyce loved her birds so much that she wanted to share them with others who would love them and nurture them as much as she did. In my turn, I found myself wanting to also become somebody's mentor – I needed to share my love of the canary, learned from her, with someone else.

Repaying The Kindness

Since she had shared her knowledge and love of canaries with me, I felt that I owed it to someone else to repay the kindness and possibly bring another quality breeder into the Canary Fancy at some time in the future.



When a young neighbor moved in next door and visited my bird room, I saw a light in her eyes and a tenderness in her heart for the birds and realized that at some point in time, she would make an impact in the bird world. We became good friends, and I found that I had a student-in-birds!

She now comes over every Saturday morning for two hours to assist in canary related chores. One year her birthday gift from me was a male canary she had fallen in love with, who she called "Blackie." He sings and cheeps and provides a lot of fun for their family – and I know he has a wonderful home. Isn't that what we all want for our carefully nurtured youngsters?

Working Together

Each week I have a list of chores which needs to be done for the Canaries. Each week the list is different.

Melissa and I check over the list of chores, and then we pick what needs to be done. We have both learned a lot together, and we talk over the more unusual jobs so we can both learn more.

She has taught me as much as I have taught her. She is capable of taking over in my bird room at any given moment because she has chosen to learn and also because I have chosen to share.

I truly enjoy our time spent together. We have discussed pasty vents and fixed what we could; we have dispensed couscous and watch the results on the birds, we have bathed birds, changed papers and done thousands of seed cups together.

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I don't know how many toenails this girl has shorn in her time with me, but I can assure you that she is good. She knows the why's, the where-fores and the what-ever's of any chore done for or to the Canaries. The dexterity of her youth allows her to catch a bird quicker than I can. I think it is wonderful since the bird is usually less traumatized than when my clumsy hands attempt to grab it.

There is a particular joy for me in sharing what I know with a younger person. I hope that someday she will be very involved in the world of animals in whatever capacity she chooses. Yet I know that whatever her choice, she will do it in a kindly and knowledgeable way. I hope to be one of those people who she remembers took some time with her so she can become all she is capable of.

Someday I truly believe that she and I will compete with a canary judge's bench. It would make me proud to know that she was talented enough to produce good birds and be a competitor, but also to know that she did well and had championship canaries to introduce to the bird world.

Pass The Torch

If you have or know of a young person who shows an interest in your birds, of whatever kind, please take the time to share your knowledge with them. Bird-keeping will only continue to grow if we share ourselves with upcoming generations.

I have listened to countless stories from seniors who talk of their parents or grandparents who raised birds to provide extra income for their families. They loved the song, they loved the beauty of the bird, but somehow it got lost over the years with changes in the family structure.

I hope that we can begin to reintroduce these beauties back into our cultures and traditions, where they fit so well.

Whenever we have a question about our birds, we refer back to our books, check the questions and answers in our e-mail lists about canaries, or dicker back and forth, trying out various possibilities and ideas. We experiment for the betterment of our birds, and as we learn, we learn to be successful most of the time.

We learn and grow from each new situation – and isn't that what life and bird-keeping are supposed to be all about?

Canaryingly Yours, Nina

Source: <https://crestedcanary.com/mentoring-young-bird-breeders/>

SPINACH — GOOD OR BAD FOR BIRDS

One 'old wives tale' advised to NEVER feed spinach to birds. The claim was that the oxalic acid in the spinach would bind with the calcium in foods and that this would prevent the absorption of this essential mineral.

It is correct that oxalic acid does bind with calcium, preventing the body from absorbing it and so 'old school' aviculturists stopped right there. However it appears no one had ever bothered to check into the details and did research at the biochemical level to compare the amounts of oxalic acid in spinach with the levels of calcium.



In fact in 10 gms of spinach there is about 97 to 99 mgs of calcium and 97 mgs of oxalic acid. Understanding the relationship between these two nutrients in spinach is essential to understand the benefits of spinach plus all the other amazingly important nutrients that spinach contains which were being entirely ignored. These include Vitamin K, C, and E as well as high amounts of minerals such as folic acid.

Spinach is also a very fibrous vegetable, so it does great things for the digestive tract.



With these amounts being fairly equal I began wondering how calcium binds to the oxalic acid. Edward Garfield Mahin's book, "Quantitate Analysis," provided me with the answer. "In biochemical processes one molecule of calcium binds to one molecule of oxalic acid." This means

that the calcium and oxalic acid bind to each other cancelling each other out. No calcium is absorbed, and the oxalic acid does not affect bodily processes.

Oxalic acid may reduce some calcium in foods eaten at the same time. But this only occurs if there is more oxalic acid than calcium in the spinach. Additional research has shown that the oxalic acid in spinach will not leach minerals out of the body.

Source: Leslie Moran, <https://www.bestbirdfoodever.com> (main)

TASMANIAN DEVILS WIPE OUT 6000 PENGUINS ON AUSTRALIAN ISLAND

The Tasmanian devil has had a rough time in the past 30 years, with their population having been pushed to the brink by the spread of a contagious form of cancer known as devil facial tumor disease (DFT). Multiple approaches have been taken to try and conserve the species, but, according to Wionews, a recent report from BirdLife Tasmania appears to reveal that one technique has caused devastation for an entirely different animal.

In an effort to establish a reserve population geographically isolated from DFT, Tasmanian devils were introduced to Maria Island, a small habitat that sits to the east of Tasmania. The tiny island was a haven for little penguins (*Eudyptula minor*), ground-dwelling and nesting birds that are the smallest penguins on Earth. Unfortunately, it seems their small stature



and limited defenses made them easy pickings for the island's new residents, and it's thought that the Tasmanian devils have now wiped out the breeding population of around 6,000 little penguins.

The worrying trend has been observed since the devils' introduction in 2012, but a recent survey conducted by BirdLife Tasmania states that the penguins have now completely disappeared.

"Every time humans have deliberately or accidentally introduced mammals to oceanic islands, there's always been the same outcome... a catastrophic impact on one or more bird species," said Dr Eric Woehler, the convenor of BirdLife Tasmania to the Guardian. "Losing 3,000 pairs of penguins from an island that is a national park that should be a refuge for this species basically is a major blow."

The devils' behavior is only natural, but it's bad news for small, ground-nesting birds.

Little penguins are found on the shores of Australia and New Zealand, two regions of the globe that are uncomfortably familiar with the devastating potential of introduced species, as countries that are home to ground-nesting birds. In New Zealand, possums were introduced deliberately in 1837 with hopes of establishing a fur trade, but despite naive hopes their presence might enrich the country's biodiversity, instead it



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preyed upon native species including the iconic kiwi and competed for burrows with little penguins.

In the case of the Tasmanian devils, the threat these animals pose to little penguins is worse even than that of possums and domestic cats who are also partial to bothering these little birds. According to Woehler, it's not just the penguins who are suffering as a result of the devils' human-aided arrival.

"We're getting reports of geese trying to nest in trees to avoid devil predation," he said. "It's very clear that the devils have had a catastrophic ecological impact on the bird fauna on Maria Island."

Source: www.iflscience.com.au



CORELLA FLOCKS DESCEND ON COASTAL AREAS

Bird experts are seeking answers as to why the playful, mischievous yet destructive corella — or native white cockatoo — is making its presence felt in such large numbers across coastal towns and cities.

Gisella Kaplan, a professor of Animal Behaviour at the University of New England, said the migration pattern of the "brightest bird in the world", originally from inland Australia, was intriguing.

She said the highly-evolved birds formed loving, life-long partnerships with each other.

"They are charming, family loving, solidly cooperative, highly intelligent and long-lived. "They, and our other cockatoos, are about the pinnacle in bird evolution."

They also loved to play, according to Birdlife Australia's Sean Dooley.

"They get their fill quickly in the day from their food and have a lot of time for working out their social hierarchy and play and getting up to mischief," he said. And perhaps it is that tendency for mischief which has many neighbourhoods unhappy with the corellas moving in.

Once an inland bird, the corellas may be smart and playful, but they can also be destructive. There have been calls for them to be culled in one area in South Australia and a priest on Western Australia's mid-west coast suggested birth control for the birds to stop them damaging an historically-significant cathedral.

Mr Dooley said it was a problem across many areas.



"Where they have expanded into [an area] they are occurring in super abundance," he said. "It's actually creating a lot of issues for farmers and people in urban areas and also the ecology of areas.

"We know for a fact in some areas some less aggressive parrots are being out muscled by the corellas, including a species of black cockatoo, regent parrots in South Australia, rosellas and smaller parrots."

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So why have some corellas made a sea change?

Mr Dooley said corellas had an ability to adapt to different food sources and landscapes and because the birds had expanded their range over the years, they often headed to coastal and urban areas in search of habitat, food and water.

"We do know especially with the little corellas, and the long-billed corellas, that they are expanding their range and numbers. The corellas have gone into areas that corellas have never set foot before, like the galahs before them".

"Galahs were essentially an inland bird, as was the little corella, and galahs reached the coast earlier in places like Sydney and Adelaide in the '50s and '60s, but the corellas were a bit slower to do it."



"Once the corellas have arrived on the coast, which has generally been from the late '90s onwards, we think in some ways associated with the millennium drought which pushed them out of their normal range, they have just boomed in numbers and never left."

Pet corellas contribute to 'super flocks

Mr Dooley said escaped pet corellas had compounded the issue.

"We also think there may be some mixing of escaped pet birds ... so we find in areas where corellas never existed there's now feral flocks of corellas and in some places they seem to be mingling with the refugees from the inland, so we get these 'super flocks' of corellas," he said.

Professor Kaplan from the University of New England said the assumption that flocks of corellas equated to an abundance of the birds was misleading.

"Corellas prefer to move in small flocks of 20 or 30, but what we have seen in the last [few] years in Western Australia and South Australia and occasionally in Sydney, is huge flocks of thousands, but that doesn't necessarily mean that their numbers have increased," she said.

"It can mean that they have all fled from somewhere and flocked together ... in most cases, it happens when there is a dire shortage of food and water or the heat gets so bad they have to flee the inland.. We need to help them survive because in some cases it could be that the huge flock may be the sum total of all the birds that exist in that state and that entire huge region."

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What are the solutions?

Professor Kaplan said it was wise to look beyond culling corellas.

"They bond and have a partnership very much like a marriage for life. Blindly shooting or destroying them can mean years of loving relationships broken and really doing damage to the species as a whole.



Loving relationships!

"There can be thoughts of doing something constructive, setting up sanctuary areas, where the corellas can live and roost and start planting vegetation and creating corridors for them."

"Blindly shooting or destroying them can mean years of loving relationships broken and really doing damage to the species as a whole. There can be thoughts of doing something constructive, setting up sanctuary areas, where the corellas can live and roost and start planting vegetation and creating corridors for them."

She said the introduction of controlled birds of prey could be beneficial.

"In England and the United States, they commission licensed falconers at military sites and airports, and if there are sudden flocks of birds interfering with exercises or flight paths, they get a bird of prey in and it disperses the birds quickly," she said.

In South Australia, the Department for Environment and Water said it was leading the co-design of a South Australian Little Corella Management Strategy, due for release in coming months, to "strategically and humanely deal with little corella impacts for the long-term".

Source: www.abc.net.au/news

Have you updated your club details?

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

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OSTRICHES ROAM THE OUTBACK AFTER FAILED ATTEMPTS TO FARM THE FLIGHTLESS BIRDS

A number of ostrich, a native of Africa, where it lives in groups across the continent, also call outback South Australia home although it's estimated that only a very few of the large birds, which can grow to be almost three metres tall, still roam the red centre.

The birds were first introduced into South Australia in the 1890s, and then again in the 1970s, when attempts were made to farm them for feathers and meat. However, most farms failed, and the flightless birds were released into the wild, where they have survived.

Since then there have been ostrich sightings along the Birdsville Track between Marree and Mungeranie Station.

"One of the problems ostriches had in Australia was actually breeding well — they had a lot of infertility problems with the eggs," said SA Arid Lands' manager of scientific services Rob Brandle.

"Because they're quite a long-lived bird, they do survive in areas for a fair while and they're quite mobile as well."

Mr Brandle said the remaining ostriches that roam the outback are likely the same ostriches that were released from farms in the 1970s and 1980s.



He said the ostrich was able to survive in the Australian outback because the climate is similar to Africa's.

"Maybe we're a bit drier here overall, which is maybe why they don't do as well as something like emus," Mr Brandle said.

Australia's loneliest bird?

Mr Brandle said, because of their sporadic and limited population, ostriches were unlikely to survive in the long-term. It could be a lonely life for an ostrich in the Australian outback.

"[There's] not a viable population, so I don't think they're going to breed up and go feral," he said. "Nonetheless there could be occasional successful breeding of them — the adult birds lay a lot of eggs."

Source: www.abc.net.au

IN SYDNEY, THE CITY LANDSCAPE IS FOR THE BIRDS

Generations ago, the capital didn't have nearly as much avian diversity as it does today, the reason for its popularity has been the subject of international study, writes Damien Cave

The bushy pair of laughing kookaburras that used to show up outside my daughter's bedroom window disappeared a few months ago. The birds simply vanished – after rudely waking us every morning with their maniacal “koo-koo-kah-KAH-KAH” call, after my kids named them Ferrari and Lamborghini, after we learned that kookaburras mate for life. And here's the odd thing: I miss them.

This is not normal, at least not for me, but Sydney has a rare superpower: it turns urbanites into bird people, and birds into urbanites. Few other cities of its size (5 million and counting) can even come close to matching Sydney's still-growing population of bold, adaptable and brightly coloured squawkers.

“We've got a lot of large conspicuous native birds that are doing well and that is very unusual globally,” says Richard Major, the principal research scientist in ornithology for the Australian Museum in Sydney. “It's quite different in other cities around the world.”

The reasons – some natural, others man-made – are fascinating, and we'll get to them. But lest anyone doubt Major's assertion, at a time when the bird population of North America is suffering a steep decline, compare a typical day of avian interactions in

Sydney with anywhere else. Morning here begins with a chorus.

Relentlessly chirpy, the noisy miner blasts the alarm before dawn alongside the screeching and flapping of rainbow lorikeets, parrots brighter than Magic Markers and that argue like toddlers.

And of course, there are the kookaburras, with their cackles carrying across neighbourhoods declaring: “This is MY territory!”



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A walk to the car or train may require dodging attacking magpies – in spring, they swoop down on your head to protect their young – and rarely does a week go by without seeing a sulphur-crested cockatoo, or a dozen, spinning on a wire like an escaped circus act. Even the local scavenger is extraordinary. As grubby as any New York pigeon but much grander, the white ibis, known here as a “bin chicken”, is a hefty, prehistoric-looking creature with a curved beak. It’s a remarkable mix.



Even as ornithologists point out that some small birds are struggling in the city, they note that a generation or two ago, Sydney didn’t have nearly as much avian diversity as it does today, nor as many flocks of birds that have mastered what city living requires: competitiveness, an obsession with real estate and the ability to adapt.

Why so many birds are thriving here is increasingly a subject of international study. Scientists believe it is due in part to how Sydney was settled – relatively recently, compared with many global cities, with less intrusion into wildlife habitats. The luck of local terrain has helped. Sydney’s rocky coastline didn’t lend itself to clearing land for agriculture, which slowed development and left lots of native plants untouched. Australia’s early leaders also set up large national parks near Sydney, protecting bushland for animals of all kinds. But making the city a bird capital was probably not on their agenda. The British colonialists in charge hated the sound of Sydney’s birds enough to import songbirds like common starlings to soothe their tender ears.

Today, some early examples of those imports, from the 1860s, are stuffed and tagged in the Australian Museum’s collection room. When I stop by one morning, Leah Tsang, the museum’s ornithology collection manager, sifts through the white metal cabinets containing the taxidermy archives to show me the supposed improvement sent from Europe. The juvenile starlings in the tray looked small, dark and ... dull. A few cabinets over, Tsang shows me her own favourite bird – the princess parrot, a lovely Australian specimen of soft pastels, in pink, blue and green.

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If the young starling's feathers evoked the lackluster mood of a Benjamin Disraeli portrait, the princess parrot was Elton John. "I had one as a pet when I was a kid," says Tsang, who sported some bold plumage herself, a shock of electric blue hair in a ponytail. "Its name was Cheeky." She tells me she came to birds late in life, at least as a career. She worked in technology for nearly a decade before ditching it for the birds. "You want to do something that fulfils you and makes you happy," she says, standing near a display of little penguins (yes, balmy Sydney has penguins, too). She pauses, and later tells me she was worried about sounding like a cliché.

But there's no need to be ashamed of bird-loving. Not in Sydney.

That afternoon, I go for a walk in the city's Centennial Parklands with John Martin, an ornithologist with the University of New South Wales who is working on a project looking at how Sydney's cockatoos have adapted, learning to open garbage bins and knock on windows to ask people for food.

We stop near a wetland in the park's centre. In less than an hour, we see 20 species of birds – and old friends, Ann Birrell and Carol Bunton, who are park regulars. They surprise me with their knowledge of not just kinds of birds, but individual ones – two owls that had nested in an oak; a tawny frogmouth they had gotten to know; and the corellas flying overhead, pecking, wrestling and mating in the trees.



"There are ménage à troises," observes Bunton, a retiree walking with a cane, nodding towards the corellas. "We're interested in their behaviour."

Martin walks us over to one of the ponds where ducks and other birds gather. He points out a white ibis with a yellow plastic number tag on its wing. "That's Lennie," he says. Lennie has been tagged as part of a study aiming to understand why Sydney seemed to have so many of these so-called bin chickens. The public sees them as a nuisance, but according to Major at the Australian Museum, they only started to appear in Sydney in the 1970s.



WESTERN GROUND PARROTS RELOCATED EAST OF ALBANY IN BID TO SAVE WA'S RAREST BIRD

A “bold step” to save the critically endangered western ground parrot is showing early signs of success after a group of birds were relocated to historic habitat east of Albany in a bid to grow a new population of WA’s rarest bird.

The parrots were once found along the coast from Geraldton to Esperance but rapid species decline — especially over the past 20 years — has seen the population plummet to less than 150 in Cape Arid National Park and Nuytsland Nature Reserve near Esperance.

Parks and Wildlife Service regional ecologist Sarah Comer said bushfires and feral predators posed an ongoing threat.

In a bid to conserve the species, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions staff, community group Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, Birdlife WA and other volunteers recently completed the first translocation of seven parrots to an area east of Albany.

Five years of intensive monitoring and preparation went into the selection site and protection of the source, including feral animal control and fire management by DBCA staff, and climate modelling to ensure the best chance of establishing a new mainland population.

The birds will be monitored using radio transmitters for about 12 weeks before switching to acoustic monitoring.



“The initial stages have been successful,”

Ms Comer said. “The birds have been caught, translocated, released and they are still surviving. If we can demonstrate the birds have survived and that there is scope to release more birds then we would be looking at ongoing translocations in year two and three. The ultimate goal is to have a self-sustaining, breeding population.”

Ms Comer said translocations had been “incredibly successful” for species like the noisy scrub bird and the Gilbert’s potoroo.

“But with a critically endangered species you have to take risks and it is pretty tricky business with parrots,” she said. “Translocation is not without risk, but there is also the risk of just leaving all the birds in one location. We have to remain optimistic, and this is about conservation of a species that is a pretty amazing, unique bird.”

Source:www.albanyadvertiser.com.au/news/

EPA CONFIRMS GALAHS KILLED BY BAIT

An investigation by the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has confirmed numerous bird deaths in western New South Wales were caused by the consumption of mouse bait.

The finding follows reports of native birds suspected to have been poisoned in the Central West. Toxicology results found some native and introduced species around Forbes, Parkes, Dubbo, Narromine, Condobolin and the Riverina were poisoned.

Kelly Lacey, the WIRES bird coordinator from Parkes, found up to 100 dead galahs at the town's cemetery.

"Seeing the dead bodies and picking them up was just truly heartbreaking," Ms Lacey said. When she arrived there were only two left alive — barely and said one had blood in its faeces, which made her suspect their deaths were a result of internal bleeding from eating bait.

"I feel stronger poisons are going to have a great impact on our wildlife," Ms Lacey said.



DID YOU KNOW....

In the wild, Budgerigars are green with yellow, with black stripes and markings, and dark blue-green-black flight and tail feathers. Captive breeding programs, however, have produced Budgies in almost every color of the rainbow, except red and pink.

These are divided into two basic series of colors:

- *white-based (includes skyblue, cobalt, mauve, gray, violet, and white), and*
- *yellow-based (includes light-green, dark-green, gray-green, olive, and yellow).*

Green (yellow base) is dominant and blue (white base) is recessive.



There are also at least 32 primary mutations in the budgerigar, enabling hundreds of possible secondary mutations and color varieties!



MYSTERY AS 5,000 HOMING PIGEONS VANISH INTO THIN AIR

Pigeon fanciers in the UK are trying to work out how around 5,000 birds have disappeared into a “Bermuda triangle” in a single race in what is being called one of the worst days ever for the sport.

A race from Peterborough to the North East saw 9,000 pigeons taking part in what would normally be a three-hour competition but more than half have yet to arrive.

An estimated 300 birds from lofts in Skinningrove alone have disappeared during the race which pigeon fanciers believe has possibly been due to freak weather conditions with atmospheric conditions being the only explanation that has been put forward so far..

Skinningrove pigeon fancier Richard Sayers shared an appeal on his social media channels urging people to look out for them and giving advice on what to do if a lost racing bird lands in your garden.

Racing pigeons are recognisable by the tags around their legs. If they are fed and watered, he says, the tired homing birds will eventually return to their lofts.

"It's been a really bad weekend racing not just here in the North East, it's right across the UK. At present people are very unsure what has happened there are still lots and lots of pigeons still missing in action," said Richard.

Roughly between 30% and 40% of the Skinningrove birds are missing, around 300 birds, he said. In the East Cleveland Federation the figure is estimated to be 1,000. Across the North East section, the estimate is between 3,500 and 5,500.

Source: www.walesonline.co.uk



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.....

Whenever I mess up a project I just think of what a pigeon considers a successful nest



THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Minutes of the ZOOM GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 7th July 2021.

The President opened the meeting at 8:06 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

ATTENDANCE:

There were 20 delegates in attendance including, S. Davis, R. Robertson, C. Gruntar, B. Barnes, J. Forrest, B. Goleby, T. Keogh, G. Brandon, M. Gallagher, J. Tadgell, M. MacPherson, N. Love, W. Robinson, J. Norriss, B. Whiting, G. Fitt, D. Renshaw, M. Reynolds, M. Godwell, J. Habib.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from J. Palmano, B. Lloyd, T. Hartung, L. Hendry – moved B. Barnes and seconded B. Goleby apologies be accepted - Carried.

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

The minutes for the 5th May General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by the delegates. It was moved B. Goleby and seconded J. Norris that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the May General meeting – Carried

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

In-coming correspondence as follows:

- Affiliated clubs. Notification of office bearers and delegate
- Affiliated clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance.
- Affiliate clubs ordering supplementary rings for 2021.
- Coditech confirmation of ring orders and arrangement of means of shipment.
- Affiliated clubs payments for ring orders from various affiliates.
- Clubs requesting details of affiliation and insurance.
- Canberra Budgerigar Club Inc., request for affiliation and insurance with completion of the application and Privacy forms, together with payment.
- 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 ACE June 21 issue 10.
- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter May & June'21
- PET Industry News. Vol 31 #2 & Newsletters May, June, July 2021
- Newcastle Budgerigar Club Inc. June'21
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales May & June'21
- Far North Queensland Bird Breeders May 2021
- Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society Inc. June'21 Newsletter.

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- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier May, June & July'21
- Gold Coast Aviary Birds News May June' & July August'21
- Bundaberg Canary & Caged Bird Society Inc. Newsletter July / Sept'21
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc. June July 2021 NCSA News.
- The Parrot Society of Australia (NSW) Inc. May-June 2021 Newsletter.
- Thuringowa Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Wings June 2021.
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc May June'21
- Queensland Bird Breeders Club Inc. Issue #3 May'21
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW May-June'21
- Yorkshire Canary Club of Victoria, June 2

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.
- Various affiliates dispatch of ring orders on receipt of payment.
- Coditech, placement of supplementary ring order via the online ordering system.
- Clubs invoiced and dispatch of rings on receipt of payment.
- Canberra Budgerigar Club Inc. Forwarding their copy of the CoC together with the covering letter detailing the policy requirements.
- Invoices to the Feathered World advertisers, for period from 1st July'21 to 30th. June'22.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication with Federal Government States Govt. Departments

Matters arising out of correspondence:

Moved B. Barnes and seconded B. Whiting that application for affiliation and insurance be accepted for Canberra Budgerigar Club Inc., :- carried

It was moved by B. Goleby and seconded by W. Robinson that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

TREASURERS REPORT

The accounts were submitted for endorsement It was moved by N. Love and seconded by B. Whiting that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed - Carried

REPORTS: President Sam Davis presented reported on:

Queensland Council's bird and other animal numbers issue

ACA will draft model local law tables and then lobby Qld state government to have these included in the model local law documents. The aim is to correct the issue for all Qld councils. Currently many councils have local laws restricting keeping of a range of species (not just birds) to ridiculously low numbers and then a permit for higher numbers - in some cases the permit fees are exorbitant.

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Victoria Review of the Wildlife Act 1975 - Native Animal Licensing

An initial meeting with some of the expert panel was held on 28/5/2021 via video conference. Was great to have a number of bird representative bodies present including NFSA, VAC and CCBFA. The meeting was very positive, I'm confident the panel heard and will consider our situation.

The 3 main points we are pushing are as follows.

1. Remove all common species from licensing as has occurred in Qld and will occur in NSW and ACT.
2. Create an avicultural advisory/consultative committee.
3. Ensure animal welfare matters are dealt with by animal welfare Victoria, and hence are excluded from the Wildlife Act review process.

Our full submission is on our website at the following link. Many thanks to all who contributed and supplied feedback.

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ccbfa-vic-wildlife-act-1975-submission.pdf>

NSW Native Animal Licensing

On 28/5/21 we were given a commitment by the NSW NPWS Director of Conservation that an update would be provided within 2 weeks. No update was forthcoming. On 30/6/21 I emailed the Director again requesting the update and included the Minister's Chief of Staff in the email. In this email I requested the Minister proceed with the regulation change to remove common species from licence as has been agreed by all parties, as follows.

This means the following AGREED 32 species move to the exempt list in Reg 2.22 here - http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_reg/bcr2017400/s2.22.html

CCBFA is in contact with the vast majority of affected class 1 licence holders and we are more than happy to inform the bird keeping (and wider community) the change has occurred - there is no need for NPWS to incur any costs whatsoever.

1. *Barnardius zonarius Mallee ringneck, Cloncurry parrot*
2. *Columba leucomela White-headed pigeon*
3. *Geophaps plumifera Spinifex pigeon*
4. *Geophaps scripta Squatter pigeon*
5. *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala Purple-crowned lorikeet*
6. *Glossopsitta pusilla Little lorikeet*
7. *Heteromunia pectoralis Pictorella mannikin*
8. *Lonchura castaneothorax Chestnut-breasted mannikin*
9. *Lonchura flaviprymna Yellow-rumped mannikin*
10. *Neochmia modesta Plum-headed finch*
11. *Neochmia phaeton Crimson finch*
12. *Neochmia temporalis Red-browed finch*
13. *Neophema chrysostoma Blue-winged parrot*
14. *Neophema petrophila Rock parrot*
15. *Neophema pulchella Turquoise parrot*
16. *Northiella haematogaster Blue bonnet, Naretha blue bonnet*
17. *Phaps elegans Brush bronzewing*
18. *Phaps histrionica Flock bronzewing*

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19. *Platycercus caledonicus* Green rosella
20. *Platycercus elegans* Crimson rosella
21. *Platycercus venustus* Northern rosella
22. *Poephila acuticauda* Long-tailed finch
23. *Poephila cincta* Black-throated finch
24. *Poephila personata* Masked finch
25. *Polytelis anthopeplus* Regent parrot
26. *Polytelis swainsonii* Superb parrot
27. *Psephotus chrysoterygius* Golden-shouldered parrot
28. *Psephotus varius* Mulga parrot
29. *Psittuteutes versicolor* Varied lorikeet
30. *Stagonopleura guttata* Diamond firetail
31. *Taeniopygia bichenovii* Double-barred finch
32. *Turnix melanogaster* Black-breasted button quail

Later in the afternoon of 30/6/21 I received a reply from Atticus Fleming who is the Deputy Secretary of NSW NPWS (he is in charge of NPWS). Atticus indicated a brief would be on his desk by the end of the week and with the Minister shortly after.

We await further progress.

NSW Bird Sale CoP - Vote

Clubs have now had a further 2 months to review the second draft and there has been no further edits suggested.

Motion:

That CCBFA affiliate clubs endorse the current draft as the new "NSW Bird Sale and Auctions Code of Practice (Standards and Guidelines)" with implementation from the 1st September 2022.

Moved: B. Barnes and seconded W. Robinson, the President asked for any objections, carried unanimously.

The decision for the code to come into force from September 2022 is to allow a full 12 months of sales and auctions before the new code commences. During this 12 month period copies of the code will be distributed at all events, so the vast majority of sellers and buyers will be well aware of the new code's requirements.

A list of species permitted to be sold in wire cages and not permitted to be sold in wire cages is being finalised. This list will be on the CCBFA website and accessible via QR code. A footnote to S4.7 will direct users to this list.

CCBFA will now...

Contact all clubs to determine the number of copies each requires.

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.

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USA Exports – CITES, Goldfinches and other species

The Ukraine has approached CITES to list a number of their native species under Appendix III of the convention. The only species of significance to Australia is the Goldfinch, which is currently exported in significant number from Australia to the USA.

CITES Appendix III species require a permit to be issued from the source country stating that the birds are from a legal source. No CITES documentation is required at the receiving end. We have uncovered that this is not the case for Appendix III species birds entering the USA, however there is a list of a number of our native parrots including Rosellas that are on an exempt list and therefore are able to enter the USA.

I am assisting Canberra who are speaking with their USA counterparts to resolve the matter. CCBFA is assisting as it has consequences for exporting birds more generally to the USA.

ACA update

ACA is working on a range of matters, including:

- Pets in strata – we have been meeting with policy staff as they finalise changes to the Regulations which will soon be put to NSW Parliament.
- Dog and Cats breeding code – the Chief animal welfare officer in NSW has asked and met with ACA to finalise urgent changes to the code to prevent the over-reach by RSPCA Inspectors experienced recently by hobbyist breeders.
- Lobbying WA to NOT implement puppy farm legislation like in Victoria. In Victoria this legislation has resulted in a growing black market for puppies, leading to a rehoming crisis.
- Working with politicians in Victoria to refocus their puppy rehoming task force. This task force is to deal with the problem of too many unwanted dogs, which is a problem that has arisen due to their well intentioned but flawed puppy farm legislation. Building a large rehoming industry, funded by government is a poor solution.
- Pushing to have the national horse register happen, and in a sensible way. ACA is a major stakeholder for this project, and once again, it appears the project is not progressing in a timely manner.

Moved N. Love and seconded by J. Forest 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.
- **Feathered World** the President asked the delegates for their clubs feedback for updating the front cover and stated that he had briefly discussed the subject with Secretary and proposed that if a change was to be made suggested, the plain green feathers would be keeping it species neutral and in line with the publication title of **Feathered World**. He asked that the

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delegates take the proposal back to the clubs for consideration and endorsement and bring the vote back to the September meeting. A copy of the proposed cover is on our website www.ccbfa.org.au under the documents tab.

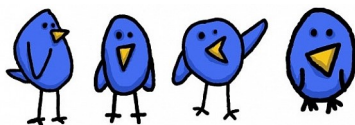
- **Dinner report**, again due to COVID the dinner is cancelled and deposit to be refunded to the CCBFA bank account.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business closed the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Notice of the next General Meeting

Wednesday 1st September 2021

at 8:00 pm



*Send in reports on your club's activities and news.
Feathered World is your magazine, so contributions are welcome.*

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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