



FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



MINUTES, GENERAL MEETING 19TH JULY

WHAT IS CHRONIC EGG LAYING

WHAT IS A CATALINA MACAW

RINGO STARR OF BIRDS ENDANGERED

SISKIN X CANARY MATINGS

\$10,000 SEARCH FOR NZ'S ENDANGERED BIRD

ENVIRONMENTALIST'S CONCERN FOR GOULDIAN FINCHES

ROLE OF DAYLIGHT FOR CANARIES

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BIRD FLU

AVICULTURALIST'S HELP ENDANGERED BIRDS

TRAIN PLATFORM MYSTERY EXPLAINED



VOLUME 55 NUMBER 4
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2023

Nectar Pellets

Lorikeet Diet



COMPLETE LOW-SUGAR DIET FOR LORIS AND LORIKEETS



UNIQUELY EXTRUDED

To unlock natural flavours, improve digestibility and ensure food safety.



REAL INGREDIENTS

Made with fresh Australian ingredients and low sugar. No artificial colours.



NATURE AND SCIENCE

Nutrition inspired by nature, formulated by avian vets and nutritionists.

NEW
PACKAGING!

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

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: samdavis64@icloud.com

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Ron Robertson
PO Box 230
Frenchs Forest, NSW 1640
Phone: 0402 888 291
Email: ccbfa@aapt.net.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

FW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ron Robertson
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.

ZOOM MEETING DATES 2023

General Meetings 27th September & 2nd November

AGM 6th March 2024

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm

NOTE: Meetings at Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield
Will be confirmed in advance at previous Zoom Meeting

Table of Contents

Minutes, General Meeting 19th July.....	Page 4
What is Chronic Egg Laying.....	Page 11
What is a Catalina Macaw.....	Page 12
Ringo starr of birds endangered.....	Page 14
Siskin x canary matings.....	Page..17
\$10,000 search for NZ's endangered bird.....	Page..18
Environmentalist's concern for Gouldian finches.....	Page..22
Role of daylight for canaries.....	Page..24
5 things to know about bird flu.....	Page..27
Aviculturalist's help endangered birds.....	Page..26
Train platform Mystery explained.....	Page..28

FEDERATION STATIONERY SALE		
(Prices for Affiliated & Insured Clubs)		
<i>Show Cage Stickers</i>		\$10 for 600
<i>Judge's Slips</i>	<i>[1-6 Placings]</i>	\$3 per100
<i>Special Slips</i>	<i>[Used in conjunction with 1-6]</i>	\$2 per 50
<i>Judge's Slips</i>	<i>[1-3 Placings , incl Specials]</i>	\$3 per100
<i>Judge's Slips</i>	<i>[1-6 Placings , incl Specials]</i>	\$3 per100
<i>Entry Forms</i>		\$6 per 50
<i>Show Schedule/Show Rules</i>		\$2 each
<i>Ring Register Cards</i>		\$2 per 100
<i>Membership ID Card</i>		\$2 per 100
<i>Show Schedule and Rules</i>		\$2 each
<i>Bird Room Registers</i>		\$2 each
Plus Postage and Packaging		
<i>From: John Walsh—Phone: 0421 011 107 / (02) 9451 0911 email: ktwsh@optusnet.com.au</i>		
NOTE: Ensure Club Name, delivery address & phone number of order person is included		

Copyright Information: Permission must be obtained from the Federation Secretary to publish any part of these lists of sales, shows and directory entries. Information should be appropriately acknowledged stating the full and correct name of Federation and cite this **Feathered World** edition.

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.

Notifications should be on club's letterhead or if required a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Office Bearers' 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 0402 888 291; Email: federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au

2024 RING ORDERS

Clubs requiring rings for distribution by the 1st January 2024 are requested to submit orders by the 30th September 2023.

Canary clubs, although we have not commenced the 2023 breeding season may also consider placing their orders early, with this first consolidation.

Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2024, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary.

The orders for the 2nd consolidation for **2024 canary rings** [if required for distribution at the specialist Annual shows at the end of May] should be finalised by the 1st of March 2024, ETA late April.

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



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.

THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Minutes of the ZOOM GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 19th July 2023.

The President opened the meeting at 8:05 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance, and asked for a minute silence in memory of a past delegate Keith Edwards who was a delegate for many years and Eric Rayner from Lithgow who passed 5 weeks short of his 100th birthday, Eric was the Guest of Honour at the 2019 dinner.

ATTENDANCE:

There were 17 delegates in attendance including, S. Davis, R. Robertson, C. Gruntar, B. Barnes, J. Forrest, B. Whiting, M. Cameron, G. Fitt, M. Surace, M. McPherson, D. Nicholls, R. Hemsley, B. Lloyd, N. Love, J. Norriss, B. Reid, B. Goleby,

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from W. Wilson, I Ward, T. DeGraaff, J. Tadgell – moved G. Fitt, and seconded, B. Whiting apologies be accepted - Carried.

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

The minutes for the 3rd May General Meeting of Federation had been published and received on a motion from G. Fitt and seconded M. Cameron 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.*

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Affiliated clubs, notification of office bearers and delegate. One being the new ANBC Secretary/Treasurer as of the 1st of July 2023 Neal Love, tacking the role of the ANBC Delegate to the CCBFA who will circulate any correspondence received from the CCBFA to all ANBC Zones
- Affiliated clubs, requesting assistance with matters regarding insurance.
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of supplementary 2023 ring orders.
- Affiliated clubs, payments for ring orders from various affiliates.
- Australian National Pekin Club request for affiliation and insurance, with payment.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to communication with Federal Government and States Govt. Departments.

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

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

- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter May'23
- PET Industry News. Feb-April'23 & Newsletters May, June, July'23
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter May, June, July'23
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales April, May, June'23
- Far North Queensland Bird Breeders March/April & May & June'23
- Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society Inc. June'23 Newsletter.
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier May, June, July'23
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chitterings May, June & July'23
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc July- Aug'23 NCSA News.
- Thuringowa Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Winglet July'23
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc May / June'23
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW May -June'23

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 invoicing and dispatching of ring orders on receipt of payment.
- Canberra Budgerigar Club Inc. forwarding the insurance CoC and covering letter.
- Shepparton & Goulburn Valley Poultry Society Inc. forwarding the insurance CoC, covering letter.
- Sympathy card to Steve Edwards and families on the passing of their father Keith.
- Invoices to the Feathered World advertisers, for period from 1st July'23 to 30th.June'24
- Australian National Pekin Club advising Details of affiliation and insurance, including an invoice and Office Bearers form to be completed, on receipt forwarding the covering letter and CoC.
- 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*

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

Moved M. Surace and seconded D. Nicholls that application for affiliation and insurance be accepted for Australian National Pekin Club: - carried.

It was moved by B. Barnes and seconded by C. Gruntar that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

TREASURERS REPORT:

The accounts were submitted for endorsement.

It was moved by B. Barnes and seconded by M. Surace that the payments and the Treasurers' actions be endorsed – Carried.

REPORTS:

President Sam Davis presented the following detailed report.

Update on meetings with Ministers, Shadow Ministers and other MPs

Michael Donnelly (ACA President), Karri Nadazy (ACA Horse Rep) and I met with the Minister for Agriculture Tara Moriarty in her Martin Place office on 6/6/2023. ACA has a commitment from Tara to consult with ACA on all animal welfare issues, in particular once the draft Animal Welfare Bill is formulated.

There are a number of concerns we're already working on with the Minister, many a consequence of animal rights amendments passed in the dying moments of the previous government. If anyone hears of anyone receiving a penalty infringement notice or charge from the RSPCA in NSW please get in touch asap as the consequence of even minor infringements can be substantial given the crazy amendments passed in November 2022.

ACA representatives met with Emma Hurst (Animal Justice Party - AJP MP) to discuss a range of matters. There are some matters, such as allowing pets in rentals where we agree, however ultimately the AJP is an animal rights based organisation who opposes all captive animals including birds.

This Friday 21/7/23 Michael Donnelly (ACA President) and I are meeting with the Shadow Environment Minister Kellie Sloane in her Double Bay offices. The intent of the meeting is to form a relationship and initiate discussion on the review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. We will point out the openness, accountability and transparency concerns we have with NSW NPWS rather than address the detail of the native licensing matter.

Aviculture's work and the work of reptile keepers in the threatened species space will also be discussed. You may be interested to hear that the charity Australian Society for Avian Preservation Limited (ASAP) of which I am a Director has recently had some excellent information regarding an unknown Southern Black-throated Finch population in NSW. To be confirmed by the ASAP ecologist in early August but we are quietly confident. Note that Black-throated finches are currently classified as extinct in NSW.

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

ACA is also engaged with Ministers in other states, in particular Victoria primarily regarding animal welfare. ACA's Dog rep resides in Victoria so is often the one who attends meetings on our behalf.

Parrot Imports.

The ENVIRONMENT department in Canberra is proposing to REMOVE most parrots (including budgies, cockatiels, and peach-faced lovebirds) from the live import list. If successful, this proposal would hold up imports for many more years.

There are 2 federal departments involved in imports. To import, you need approval from both Ag (Quarantine/biosecurity) and Environment (Biodiversity) departments. The group at the Ag department is looking at issues for ALL psittacines, whilst Environment manages the "Live import list" specifying individual species. It is the Environment department who is proposing to remove most parrot species from the current live import list, NOT the Ag department.

We have slow but steady progress with the Ag department, and a good relationship with them. We have 2 representatives (and likely 3) on their team finalising the Biosecurity Import Risk Assessment (BIRA) for Psittacines process within the Ag department in Canberra.

It appears to me that the team at the Ag department is looking at similar issues for ALL psittacines as the "Live import list" addresses for individual species. In my view, it is ridiculous to have 2 departments essentially assessing the same issues, and by the look of it, currently at odds with each other. I will speak with Peter (Ag) again this week.

It is clear to me there are outside parties/influences, who either do not understand aviculture, wish to create a monopoly or who oppose aviculture that are stifling all attempts to open up legal import and export for hobbyists. Frustrating and overregulating legal avenues for import/export just encourages smuggling.

CCBFA has written a submission which is now on our website www.ccbfa.org.au.

WA Licensing review update

Via ACA we have now reopened dialogue regarding licensing concerns with the Manager Wildlife Protection Branch at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in WA. The following excerpt makes it clear this process will take time.

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

Apologies for the delay in responding and unfortunately, I cannot provide much by way of an update other than to say that work on the data collation and review of the petkeeping licences is still ongoing, albeit at a pace that would ideally be faster if not for the volume of work afoot. I need to ask for more patience on you and your members behalf as there are many competing demands for the resources, I have been able to identify to support licensing development.

As I'm sure you are aware, the pet keeping licences and those aligned to it (dealer for instance) are a handful of the almost 30 different types that DBCA administers under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2018. As these licences are the largest in terms of volume, they were prioritised for development into the online systems, but I am attempting to transition many of our other licenses to the same framework which requires the attention of the finite staff I have with this skill set. These same staff are also the only resource I can draw upon to interrogate returns and develop reporting tools needed inform the review. This is not an excuse, and I hope it is received in the manner I intend to simply relay some of the competing demands at the moment.

ACT Licensing update

CCBFA has received correspondence from the new ACT Conservator of Flora and Fauna thanking us and the Canberra Finch Club for our work some time ago on licensing and indicating the work remains a work in progress this year.

Clubs maybe interested to note the Diamond Firetail is now listed as Vulnerable in both NSW and federally. As it is Canberra Finch Club's logo, they are looking at a range of options to assist wild populations including breed and release.

Council submissions

We recently made submissions to Snowy Valleys Council and Hilltops Council regarding their draft Keeping of Domestic Animals Policies. Both submissions are on our website www.ccbfa.org.au.

If any clubs become aware of councils reviewing their animal policies, please send me an email. ACA is working on model policies to suit legislation in most states.

Many thanks to those committee members who have assisted with submissions in a range of areas. It is a significant task preparing submissions and liaising with government, so as always, any assistance is eagerly sought.

Moved G. Fitt and seconded by B. Lloyd that the Reports be accepted, and the President thanked – Carried

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **2024 Ring Orders** Clubs requiring rings for distribution by the 1st January 2024 are requested to submit orders by the 30th September 2023. *Canary clubs, although we have not commenced the 2023 breeding season may also consider placing their orders early, with this first consolidation.* Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2024, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary. The orders for the 2nd consolidation for **2024 canary rings** [if required for distribution at the specialist Annual shows at the end of May] should be finalised by the 1st March 2024, ETA late April.
- **Ring register and club membership cards**, reorder same as previously 3000 ring cards and 2000 membership cards, reprint with CCBFA Logo and web address on the reverse side.
- **Should CCBFA boost or otherwise distribute social media posts to the general public in the final weeks prior to elections that point out that animal rights based political parties, such as the Animal Justice Party (AJP), oppose the keeping of animals including caged birds?**

Clubs have submitted diametrically opposing views regarding the above matter, as a consequence the July CCBFA meeting resolved as follows...

1. The 27 September 2023 meeting to be dedicated to this matter.
2. The meeting to be both in-person and via Zoom.
3. An independent facilitator to be enrolled at a maximum cost of \$1000.
4. The meeting to be recorded so it can be shared with member clubs.
5. A summary of each side to be prepared (up to 2 pages each) for distribution to clubs well in advance of the meeting.
6. The format of the meeting to be as follows...
 - a. 20 minutes each for each side to present..
 - b. 40 minutes of questions from the floor.
 - c. 30 minutes to discuss a way forward.
7. Decision to be delayed until the November meeting or later.

Moved: Mark Surace, Seconded: Neale Love, Carried unanimously.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business closed the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Notice of the General Meeting

Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 8:00 pm

CAREFUL WHO YOU KNOWS YOUR PASSWORD

The other day a man came home from work and his son told him he had bid successfully on e-bay for something. He said he had gone ahead and logged onto Paypal and made payment.

The father asked how he had gained access to the pass word protected area and he replied "Oh, Tweets told me." He said he had been trying to get onto the site and using all the phrases he thought his father would use. No luck.

Then the bird climbed up on his shoulder and started chattering a phrase. Realizing what the bird was saying, he entered that phrase and bingo, he was in. The father then realized that the bird is usually on his shoulder when on the computer and that he must say the phrase when logging onto Paypal.

Wanna know your
password? It's
BigBlueBird#12



The bird had made the connection between the screen image and what he said and then ratted on him. Little stinker.

The father has now changed the password and will be more careful in future not to use it around 'The Green Mouth that Tells'.

Source: Jeannie @ <http://www.birdhotline.com/stories.htm>



DID YOU KNOW....

The Red-faced Parrot finch gains its name not from the fact that it is supposed to resemble a parrot, but because in its native New Caledonia, it follows small parrots around and eats the remains of the fruit left after these parrots have used their strong beaks to open the fruit in the area. The finches would not be able to open the fruit by themselves.



WHAT IS CHRONIC EGG LAYING

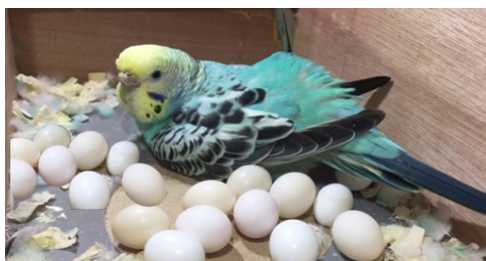
It is normal for female birds to lay occasional clutches of eggs each year or two. Chronic egg laying occurs when a female bird lays more than the normal number of eggs (this is more than 7 eggs in most species) or more commonly has repeated clutches of eggs, especially in the absence of a mate. Chronic egg laying can deplete the bird's calcium level and cause other nutritional problems.

Are certain birds prone to becoming chronic egg layers?

- * Cockatiels, lovebirds, and budgerigars. Hand raised birds who use their owner as mate substitutes commonly develop problems. However, it can occur in any species of bird.

What causes chronic egg laying?

- * A failure of the bird's hormones to switch off laying when it's inappropriate for a bird to be laying. This may be due to:
- * Inappropriate day length
- * Stimulation caused by perceived/real partner or mate, such as their owner or objects in the cage (e.g. cuddly toys).
- * The presence and shedding of nesting material (e.g. paper).
- * High fat diets
- * Diseases associated with the reproductive organs



Are there any health problems associated with chronic egg laying?

- * Chronic egg laying stresses the bird nutritionally. For birds eating a calcium deficient diet, especially all seeds, hypocalcaemia (low blood calcium) may result. This can cause egg binding, seizures or death. Prolapses, in which the oviduct is expelled from the body, may also occur.



WHAT IS A CATALINA MACAW?

The Catalina Macaw is a popular hybrid that has been successfully bred for many years and has two very popular types of macaws as its parents. The Scarlet Macaw, one of the most highly favoured, is described as "beautiful and striking" and has been the best known South American parrot for over 100 years. The other parent, the Blue and Gold Macaw, has been one of the most popular pet birds in the trade, renowned not only for its beauty but for its gentle, amiable nature.

Because of the availabilities of female Blue and Gold Macaws rather than female Scarlet Macaws, the mother is often a Blue and Gold with the father being the Scarlet. With the father's dominant gene, the Catalina usually has yellowish to orangish red on the chest and some on the back. The top of the head and wings has some green moving down into blue greens. They are similar in appearance to Harlequin Macaws, but with the long tapering tail of the Scarlet.

This is a hybrid and it used to be that hybrid macaws were generally not bred, however the breeding of hybrids for colour is becoming more common. The Catalina Macaws are a first generation hybrid macaw, though today there are second generation Catalina Macaws whose parents are both Catalinas. Because they are a mixture of more than one type of macaw, the offspring are influenced by the traits and characteristics of both of its parents. Father's have the dominant gene, so this will generally influence the offspring's coloration and overall appearance. The Catalina inherits its gorgeous coloring from these two striking parents with no visible differences in the sexes.

The behavior and temperament of hybrid macaws are more unpredictable and uncertain than the coloration. The personality of a Scarlet is such that it requires good socialization and a firm consistent hand in training, especially as it matures. The Catalina can have these characteristics, but it can also have the gentle nature and the speaking ability of the Blue and Gold Macaw



Continued next page.....

Continued from previous

mixed in. It can be a very affectionate, inquisitive, and fun pet that is beautiful.

Catalina Macaws are typical macaws and are among the most colorful of the Macaws. They are a full size Macaw and can learn to talk with a general vocabulary of about 15 or more words or expressions.

They can however be cranky at times and may even be a one person bird or only like men or women unless well socialized. To have a well rounded bird that enjoys more than one person, make sure it is well socialized with lots of folks.



THE 'RINGO STARR' OF BIRDS IS NOW ENDANGERED:

"Here's how we can still save our drum-playing Palm cockatoos"

Australia's largest parrot, the palm cockatoo, is justifiably famous as the only non-human animal to craft tools for sound. They create drumsticks to make a rhythmic beat. Sadly, the "Ringo Starr" of the bird world is now threatened with extinction – just as many other parrots are around the world.



This week, the Queensland government moved this species – also known as the goliath cockatoo – onto the endangered list, due to our research on palm cockatoo populations over more than 20 years.

Our analysis predicts a severe decline from 47% to as high as 95% over the next half-century. Given the current population is estimated at just 3,000 birds, it is likely to drop to as low as 150 birds. They could all but disappear from Australia in our lifetimes.

Is it too late? Not yet. There are concrete ways to protect these magnificent, elusive birds by conserving habitat and their all-important breeding hollow trees, by reintroducing cool burns (including unburnt areas), and finding out more about these special parrots.

So why are palm cockatoos in trouble?

Palmies, as we call these charismatic birds, hail from an ancient lineage on the parrot evolutionary tree. In Australia they only live on the Cape York Peninsula in far north Queensland, where they face a perfect storm of threats and vulnerability.

They're losing habitat due to poor fire management and ongoing land-clearing, but they also have extremely low breeding rates, with females laying a single egg every two years.

Of the offspring, only 23% of their chicks live until they fledge. On average, this means each breeding pair successfully raises just one chick every 10 years. And who knows if that fledgling will make it to sexual maturity at five or more years old?

One challenge in studying these birds is the difficulty in identifying individual birds over time. To date there has been no successful capture of palmies to mark them via leg bands or GPS trackers. Without knowing who's who, major problems with breeding success could be masked by an ageing population, given their life expectancy is up to 60 years.

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

Our research on palm cockatoo genetics and vocal dialects reveals their three major populations on the peninsula are poorly connected, meaning little movement of birds between groups.

Each group has developed “cultural” traits which have not spread between the populations. For example, the famous drumming display mainly occurs in the eastern population, where the birds also make distinctive calls including a unique human-like “hello”.

The downside is that if one population is in trouble, the others are unable to pick up the slack and provide breeding reinforcements.

Palmies are in real trouble. Saving them from extinction will take a concerted effort. How do we save them?

We urgently need a better understanding of why they have such trouble breeding, to figure out if it’s similarly bad across all three populations, and to work out how palmies use the landscape.

At the same time, we have to get better at managing the landscape they need to survive. What does that look like? It means cool burns to prevent extreme bushfires burning down their ancient nesting trees – plus avoiding any further felling of these priceless trees.

These trees are a key part of the puzzle. Palmies are picky breeders. For these birds, not just any tree hollow will do. They require large, old hollow-bearing trees to breed in, which can be up to 300 years old.

The hollowing process typically starts with a small burn at the base, giving termites access to the insides of the trunk. Eventually, these trees resemble vertical hollow pipes. The palmies then spend months splintering sticks and bringing them to the hollow to make a nesting platform up to a metre deep – the only parrot to do in the entire world.

Unfortunately, these “piped” trees are especially vulnerable to big fires, which also lower termite populations and reduce the chances of future hollows being formed.

To help protect their habitat we’ve found using a brush cutter and rake to clear the grass and debris for three metres around nesting trees is enough to save them from fires. This is of course labour intensive.

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

A longer-term strategy is to manage fire better. The frequency and intensity of bushfires in tropical Australia has changed for the worse since Europeans started managing the landscape. A return to the traditional cool burns employed by indigenous people from the Uutaalnganu, Kanthanampu and Kuuku Ya'u language groups could largely resolve this problem.

Land clearing also reduces habitat. Though long saved by distance, Cape York is now seeing strip-mining, road building, and quarrying, which all contribute to habitat loss. We can reduce the damage done if skilled ecologists survey proposed clearance areas ahead of time.

Another vital step towards keeping this species alive is to broadly assess and protect as much as possible of the remaining palm cockatoo breeding habitat on Cape York.

We also need better ways of detecting their nest hollows. We've researched these birds for over two decades, and can confidently say that birds don't come any harder to study than palmies.

Hunting for their nests is time consuming and expensive because palmies can lay their egg any day in an eight month breeding season, with pairs often switching among several hollows on their territories. This spreads our survey teams thin.

We've also found that palmies go quiet during nesting and are super wary of humans, making finding their nesting hollows especially difficult.

Despite all the challenges in saving them, it is worthwhile. Even after watching them for 20 years, we have not tired of their company. They're magnificent birds with unique behaviour and a surprising number of parallels with humans, such as drumming, blushing, tool-making, and their "Hello" call.

To bring them back from the edge, we must work quickly to figure out why and where their breeding survival rates are so low, improve how we use fire, and protect their habitat and the all-important old trees

Source: <https://science.anu.edu.au/>



SISKIN X CANARY COLOUR MATINGS

The Black-hooded (Red) Siskin is the source of the Orange color in a canary which is obtained by crossing these two species. The original canary of the first cross should be either a clear yellow or a white. It matters little which color it is though some breeders claim the White hen will give a better result. However owing to the dominant dark native color of the siskin it takes a few generations of selective breeding of the hybrid progeny of clear color before clear orange color and canary song are definitely established to prepotent condition.



These clear birds which have inherited the Orange factor range in color tone from a pale pink tint to deep red orange. All are classified as "Red-factor" canaries.

These birds react and vary as do normal canaries which vary in shade. In the darker varieties of "Red-factor" canaries there are colors of Copper (which come from a combination of Cinnamon and Orange) and Bronze Birds which are a cross between Copper color and Green.

The Copper birds will also vary in color tone, especially in their early strain condition of color. These birds must be established into a strain by consanguineous* matings. The Bronze birds are no exception to all other varieties in their inclination to vary and can be handsome specimens when they inherit a full measure of orange color genes. The Red-factor whites come in very interesting degrees of pink and are often ticked with red-orange. Such birds are fraught with many possibilities and if bred with some of the clear coppers there should be a lifetime of pleasure producing new pastel colors of red-factor influence.

In canaries, Buff means the same as Frost in Red Factor birds, and Yellow is the same as Hard Feather in Red Factor birds. Frosting or Buff is when there is white tipping on all the feathers. Hard Feather, or Yellow, means no white tipping, but color all the way to the ends of the feathers. In breeding canaries, always breed yellow, or hard feather with buff or frost. If you continue to breed hard feather to hard feather, the birds get smaller or slimmer, or snake-headed, as they are sometimes called, very unattractive birds.

**Consanguineous means, of the same blood i.e. descended from the same ancestry, etc.*



'WANTED, PREFERABLY ALIVE': THE \$10,000 SEARCH FOR NEW ZEALAND'S 'GHOST' BIRD

Many believe the South Island kōkako to be extinct – but the recovery of its North Island relative has given conservationists hope

There are few good news stories in conservation, but a group of committed volunteers in New Zealand is hoping for something better – a miracle.

Spurred on by the successful recovery of the North Island kōkako – a large, long-legged songbird with a blue wattle and haunting call – they are searching the South Island for its close relative, though many already believe it to be lost.

Kōkako were widespread in New Zealand's ancient forests and known for their squirrel-like movement, hopping and leaping between trees. But their numbers plummeted after human settlement due to predation by introduced species.

Now the North Island kōkako survives in low (if increasing) numbers while the South Island species – almost identical but for its orange wattle – is widely assumed extinct. But one band of devotees is refusing to give up hope.

In 1977, ecologist Rhys Buckingham heard a “staggeringly beautiful” bird call in Fiordland that he was certain was that of the South Island kōkako – sparking a 40-plus year mission. With fellow conversationists Ron Nilsson and Nigel Babbage, in 2010 Buckingham co-founded the South Island Kōkako Charitable Trust to expand the search.

Today, the trust organises increasingly hi-tech field missions through the native forests of the South Island and Stewart Island, hoping to prove the species exists so that it might be conserved. Though many report having seen or heard the bird over the decades, as yet there has been no definitive proof.

The most recent accepted sighting of a South Island kōkako was in 2007, near Reefton, and prior to that, at Mt Aspiring in 1967. That led the Department of Conservation (DOC) to reclassify the species from extinct to “data deficient” in 2013, bringing new energy to the effort – but the government has so far declined to contribute funding.

Still without certainty, the trust has found sponsorship to offer a substantial reward: \$10,000 (£5,122) for conclusive evidence that the bird exists.

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

Its wild west-style posters show the South Island kōkako in profile, looking every bit a masked bandit beneath the woodcut font: "Wanted: Preferably alive". These are displayed in DOC-managed visitor centres and huts, rural shops and pubs, tramping and hunting clubs, and conservation groups.

"Almost everybody has heard about our \$10,000 reward," says Inger Perkins, a former DOC ranger and the trust's manager, at home in Hokitika on the West Coast. The aim is to involve "the whole country in the search for this bird," says Perkins. "Eyes on the ground, basically."



In the past four years, nearly 260 possible "encounters" – be it alleged sightings or calls – have been reported to the trust. Each is logged on an interactive map and given an expert rating for credibility, with roughly a quarter considered probable – though verification is a "huge challenge," says Perkins. "They may or may not be our bird.. We haven't got the evidence."

In 1967 there was a sighting of a South Island kōkako at Mount Aspiring. The search has been enhanced by tech, with artificial intelligence used to identify individual species from photos and sound recordings of possible habitat.

From a speaker, solar panel, bike battery and smartphone ("a Heath Robinson get-up," says Perkins), one trustee built a device that plays the call of the North Island bird at dawn and dusk, and records any response. It has been planted in the Grey Valley, south of Reefton in the South Island– a hotspot for reports.

Most recently, the trust has worked with the same researchers who used environmental DNA testing to establish the biodiversity of Loch Ness (and, crucially, the absence of the monster). Samples have already been tested from two creeks near Reefton, with plans for more elsewhere.

No kōkako have been found yet, but Perkins remains hopeful. "Some of the sightings and reports, you think – well, what else could it be?"

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

Many of those who have reported sightings or believe in the species' survival are ornithologists and conservationists with extensive experience of New Zealand's forests and fauna, she adds. "It's really exciting to be part of such a positive team: they're really optimistic, and striving to take the last chance to find it before it's lost."

But beyond this committed group, more believe it is already too late for the South Island kōkako. "There are some people who believe they are still out there, or that they have seen one themselves – and there are others who are highly sceptical," says Michael Szabo, editor of the Ornithology Society's quarterly magazine *Birds New Zealand*.

He emphasises that there has been "no accepted, verified physical evidence" – whether that be clear footage, feathers or droppings, or a live bird or nest – of the species for over a century. "There have been a few distant, poor quality sound recordings but, to date, none of these have been accepted as evidence that the species still survives," says Szabo.

Payout of the trust's \$10,000 reward is tied to confirmation from the Ornithology Society's rare birds committee and DOC. "Then that's the start of the real hard work," says Perkins: to conserve the species. Even if an individual was found, she says, "it might be the last one."

New Zealand is internationally renowned for its success in bringing species back from the brink of extinction – notably the takahē (rediscovered in 1948), Chatham Islands black robin and New Zealand storm petrel.

The South Island Kōkako Trust has a recovery plan ready. But the seemingly slim chance of even finding a South Island kōkako, plus the many other indigenous birds in need of help, does raise the question as to whether efforts might be better directed elsewhere.

'Many of the South Island Kōkako trustees are also involved with efforts to conserve other threatened species – such as the yellow-eyed penguin, orange-fronted parakeet or the kea, the world's only alpine parrot – where there is potential to make a more immediate difference.



Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

The point has been made within the trust, and it is “very logical,” says Perkins. “But our group doesn’t want to walk away ... While there is still a chance and no one else is taking that chance – we’re it.”

Decades without sightings add to the urgency, she argues: “Every year that goes past when we don’t confirm that it’s there, and we don’t do the conservation, it’s another year closer to being extinct.”

Half of New Zealand’s birdlife has been lost since human settlement. “We don’t want to have another bird added to that list,” says Perkins.

In that way, the fight for the South Island kōkako aligns with other conservation goals, such as raising awareness of losses to extinction, protecting and growing native forest, and DOC’s aim to be predator-free by 2050. “If we’re looking after our forests, those birds are going to thrive ... It’s extending the conversation about conservation.”

In the meantime, spirits have been boosted by the recovery of the North Island kōkako. In 1999, there were thought to be only around 1,000 birds left; today conservationists are celebrating 2,000 breeding pairs. “It gives us hope,” says Perkins.

A painstaking team effort by DOC, iwi and volunteer groups, taking in pest control and captive breeding programmes, has successfully reversed the North Island species’ decline. At some sites, numbers have increased by up to 50% each year.

“It’s an amazing achievement,” says Ilse Corkery, a technical adviser with the DOC recovery group.

The kōkako’s status has now been downgraded, from “threatened” to “at risk”. “It was that early intervention – there was still just enough individuals left,” says Corkery. “It was probably caught in the nick of time.”

She is doubtful that the South Island species endures. “It would be *amazing* if it was – but I probably would not be holding out a huge amount of hope, to be honest.” That said, Corkery adds, if one bird was found – “there would be more effort put into finding more.”

It is that hopeful thought that keeps this small group searching, says Perkins, “and not letting go”. When the trust was first set up, its founders gave themselves five years to find definitive proof of the bird or move on. But, Perkins says: “The more reports we get, the more we feel we can’t walk away now.”

Source: www.theguardian.com

NO SIGN OF ENDANGERED GOULDIAN FINCHES IN ORD VALLEY PROMPTS ENVIRONMENTALISTS' CONCERN

When nearly 10,000 hectares of land was approved for clearing on the fertile soil of the Kimberley's Ord Valley, protecting an endangered population of tiny birds was a key government stipulation. Now, a little more than a decade on, there's no trace of any Gouldian finches in the habitat that was carved out as a refuge for them.

Western Australia's Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's 2022–23 monitoring report shows no breeding activity recorded in any of the 137 artificial nest boxes installed to replace the finches' natural hollows lost to the clearing.

It marks the third consecutive year without a sign of the small, seed-eating birds in the 11,000-hectare Weaber Plain environmental buffer.

Jaru man and environmentalist Donny Imberlong hadn't seen the environmental buffer site for years. When he returned, he was disappointed. "This habitat is slowly becoming sterile," he said. "It's evident that the country around here is becoming sick," Mr Imberlong said

He pointed to the range of introduced vines and shrubs that were dominating the native ground cover and the old trees that were losing their leaves, an indication of spray drift.

According to Gary Fitt, chief executive of Save the Gouldians, the story is different 100 kilometres north-west of Kununurra's Ord Valley, around Wyndham, where the volunteer group surveys the endangered species each year.

"Last year, we saw the biggest numbers of Gouldians that we'd seen since 2008," Dr Fitt said. "So it's surprising that there don't appear to be any in that area now. That's disappointing to see."

Up and gone?

Dr Fitt said that the birds likely migrated to a new home where they could find more suitable conditions.

"Gouldians are a highly mobile finch," he said. "They're likely responding to a combination of environmental factors."



Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

Those factors could be poor fire management, overgrazing or a weak wet season, although the last two were unlikely given the region's recent strong summer rainfall and the lack of cattle within the protected area.

Head east about 200 kilometres to Bullo River Station, where wildlife photographer Col Roberts assured ABC Radio Darwin that Gouldian Finches could be found in the thousands.

"I did a count of about 10 waterholes there and counted over 2,000 Gouldians," Mr Roberts said. "They did suffer a decline [in numbers], but they are well and truly on the way back,"

He questioned the current nature of their decades-old endangered listing under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Reworking attitudes towards conservation

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development said they would continue to monitor the nest boxes, including those that they moved in late 2022 to more desirable locations, flagging this as a potential explanation for the lack of nesting.

"Routine, ongoing buffer management measures include removal of any cattle that find their way into the buffer area, maintenance of fencing and firebreaks, weed control, and restriction of access to the buffer area," DPIRD said in a statement. But for Donny Imberlong, this effort is treating the symptom, not the cause.

"It does seem like a lot of these conservation buffers are islands in the middle of exposed farmland which, if I was a tiny little finch, I wouldn't be game to fly across to," he said. "All the farmland here is fragmenting the habitat corridors that allow the animals to move freely between the hill ranges and the connecting plains country."

Mr Imberlong believes the process of allocating land to environmental buffers, then later managing that land, needs to be reviewed.

"It's a very colonial way of looking at these conservation areas, that idea that you just lock up an area of land and let nature look after itself," he said. "Removing humans altogether from the equation isn't right, especially here where humans have been part of the environment for such a long time."



THE ROLE OF DAYLIGHT LENGTH FOR CANARIES

Most problems in canary breeding are due to errors in the manipulation of the light cycle. Canaries need a minimum of 14 to 15 hours of daylight to begin breeding (nest building and production of eggs). With this amount of light, they are also able to feed their youngsters adequately and raise them properly. The cycle of light is also a major factor in determining whether breeding is sustained. If the length of daylight is submitted to fluctuations, the birds may receive conflicting hormonal incentives and negative endocrine feedback. The result can be an early molt and the birds may cease breeding. There are two methods of manipulating the length of daylight.

Gradually Increasing Daylight Length:

Using this technique, the amount of daylight is gradually increased on a weekly basis. Depending on how quickly this is done, it may take a period of 2 months to extend the 8 to 10 hours of natural daylight to 15 hours. If a weekly addition of 30 minutes (5 additional minutes per day) is used, it will take approximately 10 weeks to obtain this result. This means that the fancier needs 2 to 3 months preparation before breeding can begin. Gradually increasing the length of the day is closest to natural stimuli and is used by more than 80% of the fanciers. Fifteen hours of daylight length appears to be ideal. Poor annual breeding results with higher chick mortality occur when the daylight length exceeds 17 hours.

Immediate Increase to Full Daylight Length:

The daylight length can also be increased suddenly from 10 to 15 hours. In this case, the birds reach breeding condition after 3 to 4 weeks, but most are unable to maintain good results throughout the full breeding season. However, some fanciers do have good results with this method. This method of sudden increase, used by approximately 10% of the breeders, often leads to poor fertilization of the first clutch, which normalizes subsequently, and higher mortality of females.

Source: <https://avianmedicine.net/>



FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BIRD FLU

Bird Flu is causing unparalleled mortality of wild birds and other animals worldwide. A new statement from the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, of which BirdLife is a member, offers key insights on the impacts this disease has on wild birds, and importantly what needs to be done about it. [Read whole report here](#)

1. We need to tackle this disease now.

Bird Flu has evolved to spread more rapidly and easily in wild bird populations. Previously, this disease spread significantly in farmed bird populations and it was quite rare for wild birds to catch it – when outbreaks did occur, they usually impacted a limited number of species and only lasted a few months. This is no longer the case. With birds under greater threat than ever before, this virulent strain of Bird Flu cannot be categorised as a natural process and left to wreak havoc.

2. Governments are not doing enough to prioritise wild birds.

Efforts to monitor the impact of this disease have been focused on farmed birds. However, understanding the impact on wild birds will help us manage the disease better as well as work towards the recovery of impacted populations.

3. We must work together.

Bird Flu affects us in many ways through its impacts on environmental health, conservation and farming. We cannot manage this disease separately, instead all sectors must strategically work together to combat all impacts of Bird Flu. The proposed 'One Health' approach tackles this disease in an integrated way across all impacted sectors.



4. Culling birds is pointless.

Protecting habitats, providing alternative places for birds to breed, and other conservation efforts can help wild birds weather the impacts of Bird Flu. Spraying disinfectant may harm the environment, while culling birds is pointless and can even be counterproductive.

5. We must change the way farmed birds are managed.

Bird Flu originates from poultry farming. Most likely caused by having too many birds in too little space, combined with poor containment of contact with wild birds. The nature and sustainability of poultry farming must be changed to prevent future disease outbreaks.



HOBBY AVICULTURISTS CAN HELP CONSERVE ENDANGERED BIRDS

Aviculturist Mark Reynolds says the little-known hobby could be key to bringing some of Australia's most endangered birds back from the brink of extinction.

Mr Reynolds, who is president of the Aviculture Society of Australia's Goulburn Valley branch, said some private breeders would like to play a greater role in rescuing the orange-bellied parrot and other threatened birds. He said there was an obvious opportunity for experienced breeders to help.

"We have the skill set to keep and breed many of these endangered birds," Mr Reynolds said. "It's happening already. There are a lot of birds that are endangered which are subject to aviculture and are being bred quite readily."

According to Birdlife Australia, almost one in six Australian birds are threatened with extinction. Aviculturists are already able to breed a number of native species.

Australia's Birdwatching Megaspots co-author Chris Farrell, who is also a vice president of the Aviculture Society of Australia, listed the golden-shouldered parrot, regent parrot, superb parrot, swift parrot along with several black cockatoo and finch species as examples.

Mr Reynolds said it showed hobbyists could help Mother Nature. "A good example would be some of our friends in Western Australia who have been breeding white-tailed black cockatoos," he said. "They are struggling in the wild but, because we have some in aviaries, we are able to give them an environment to more successfully breed."



While breeding more birds would seem an obvious solution to a lack of numbers in the wild, others involved in conservation warn a free-for-all approach could be counterproductive.

Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park co-owner Michael Johnson said his organisation was one of five accredited sanctuaries involved in a recovery plan to save the orange-bellied parrot. A former aviculturist himself, Mr Johnson agreed "hobby" breeders had a role in breed-and-release conservation projects but with strict controls.

Continued next page.....

Continued from previous page....

"It requires a lot of commitment," Mr Johnson said. "We operate under strict quarantine systems and handling protocols.

He said that was done because disease, for example, could do more damage than good.

"Aviculturists have been a great support to us," he said.

"They [the Aviculture Society of Australia] have contributed immensely in terms of donating money and we have used aviculture techniques, so there are potential opportunities in the future."

Mr Johnson said captive breeding had undoubtedly saved the orange-bellied parrot from extinction.

"They breed in Tasmania and then migrate to Victoria before returning to breed again," he said. "In 2016 they counted just 17, of which three were females.

He said that number had risen to 84 through the release of captive-bred juvenile birds and modifications to habitat.

"Without captive populations it would have certainly gone extinct," he said.

However there remain barriers to breeding threatened species at home.

A Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action spokesperson said permissions and authorisations were required under the Wildlife Act 1975 to breed threatened species.

"Conservation breeding programs for Victoria's threatened species require long-term commitment and investment by any group, both government and non-government, involved in the recovery of a species," the spokesperson said.

Source: www.abc.net.au



MYSTERY EXPLAINED

Ever wonder where the 'bumps' on train platforms disappear to?

Transport authorities have made a breakthrough after a brazen group of cockatoos were caught damaging and stealing the circular 'bumps' from a Sydney train platform.



DID YOU KNOW....

That Black Palm Cockatoos have photosensitive skin, which reacts to natural sunlight.

Native to rainforests of the South Pacific, the Panda of the Parrot World is one of the most difficult birds to breed and raise in captivity. Chicks often die around one year of age—even wild pairs have difficulty successfully rearing chicks. The causes for their reproductive troubles are still unknown but may be related to their sensitivity to the sun.





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