



FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



MINUTES, GENERAL MEETING 27 SEPTEMBER

NIGHT PARROT FOUND IN W.A

2023 BIRD OF THE YEAR POLL

RARE BIRD'S LONG JOURNEY

USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SEARCH ENGINE

PARROTS THE NEW PIGEONS

CALCIUM BLOCKS FOR WATER BOWLS

GLOSSY BLACK COCKATOOS ON NSW NORTH COAST

SPIX MACAWS FLY FREE AGAIN

WEDGE TAILED EAGLE WIPE OUT IN TASMANIA

BIRD HUMMING—GOOD OR BAD

CAN BIRDS EAT ZUCCHINI



VOLUME 55 NUMBER 5
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2023

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Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

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World*

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- 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.
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Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

MEETING DATES 2023/24

General Meetings 1st November 2023

2024:- 1st May, 3rd July, 4th September, 6th 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**

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FEDERATION STATIONERY SALE

(Prices for Affiliated & Insured Clubs)

Show Cage Stickers	\$10 for 600
Judge's Slips [1-6 Placings]	\$3 per100
Special Slips [Used in conjunction with 1-6]	\$2 per 50
Judge's Slips [1-3 Placings , incl Specials]	\$3 per100
Judge's Slips [1-6 Placings , incl Specials]	\$3 per100
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Show Schedule/Show Rules	\$2 each
Ring Register Cards	\$2 per 100
Membership ID Card	\$2 per 100
Show Schedule and Rules	\$2 each
Bird Room Registers	\$2 each

Plus Postage and Packaging

From: **John Walsh**—Phone: 0421 011 107 / (02) 9451 0911 email; ktwsh@optusnet.com.au

NOTE: Ensure Club Name, delivery address & phone number of order person is included

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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

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.

Clubs requiring an order form which must be completed, should contact:-

Secretary, Ron Robertson,

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.

General Meeting 27th September 2023

Venue Hudson Hotel Seven Hills Face to Face and ZOOM.

The President opened the meeting at 8:11 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

ATTENDANCE:

There were 20 delegates in attendance at the venue namely, S. Davis, R. Robertson, B. Barnes, C. Gruntar, M. McPherson, B. Lloyd, P. Inglis, J. Palmano, J. Baker, S. Wackwitz, G. Gingell, M. Fogarty, S. Hatcher, J. Flood, J. Chirop, B. Prior, W. Doule, P. Doule, C. Isbister, B. Holdsworth.

A further 12 delegates were on Zoom, namely M. Cameron, G. Fitt, M. Surace, B. Whiting, B. Goleby, N. Love, M. Godwell, B. Read, I. Brown, R. Law, M. Gallagher, B. Kerr.

VISITORS: D. Brincat, A. Brincat, E. Brincat, S. Degenhard, M. Donnelly.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from W. Wilson, I Ward, T. DeGraaff, J. Tadgell, J. Forrest, J. Norriss, S. Lloyd, D. Reynolds – moved M. Fogarty, and seconded, S. Wackwitz apologies be accepted - Carried.

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

The minutes for the 19th July 2023 General Meeting of Federation had been published and received on a motion from B. Barnes and seconded N. Love that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the July 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.
- Affiliated clubs, requesting assistance with matters regarding insurance.
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of 2024 ring orders.
- Yorkshire Canary Club of Aust. Inc. Requesting 1. delegates meetings be live & Zoom. 2. Recommence Guest of Honour Dinners, 3. Stating disapproval of the President boosting prior to state elections.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to communication with Federal Government and States Govt. Departments

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

- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter Aug. & Sept'23
- PET Industry News. Feb-April'23 & Newsletters July, Aug, Sept'23
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter Aug & Sept'23
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales July, Aug. & Sept'23
- Far North Queensland Bird Breeders July Aug.'23
- Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society Inc. Sept'23 Newsletter.
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier Aug. Sept. Oct'23
- Bundaberg Canary & Caged Bird Society Inc. Newsletter July/ Aug./ Sept'23
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings Aug & Sept'23
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc Sept-Dec'23 NCSA News.
- Thuringowa Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Winglet Sept'23
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc July Aug.& Sept Oct'23
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW July-Aug'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.
- Placement of 20,560 rings for 2024 orders, first consolidation.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication with Federal Government States Govt. Departments

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The accounts were submitted for endorsement.

It was moved by G. Gingell and seconded by N. Love that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed – Carried.

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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 of March 2024, ETA late April.
- **Ring register and club membership cards**, at the July meeting the President stated as he had the logo, he volunteered to attend to the reorder of 4000 ring cards and 2000 membership cards, with CCBFA Logo and web address on the reverse side. Since the meeting Sam has retracted his offer, also including the printing of 14 copies of Feathered World. The Secretary to proceed with placing an order with a printer.
- **Public & Products Liability Insurance for 2024** - It is important to note that all affiliates have a requirement to give advanced notice if they do not require the insurance for 2024. All affiliates are requested to advise the Secretary by the 30th September 2023 should you not require cover for the ensuing year. Failure to do so will necessitate being charged. **Clubs / Councils / Zones, who are hosting events in 2024, State, National shows and exhibitions, conferences are requested to advise the Secretary by the 31st October 2023 (email: ccbfa@aapt.net.au), the event dates, event name and detail of venue with the address.**

Subject matter for discussion

"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?"

The Presidents email re Facebook boosting post of 5 June 2023, **clearly states '...respond back to CCBFA prior to our September meeting...**

The President and vice President presented their statement which the President had previously emailed to clubs.

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Mike Fogarty spoke from the floor denigrating the President for using his position to promote a political party without the endorsement of the Federation affiliates. In his view this constituted an infringement of the constitution of Federation, he offered a vote of no confidence in the President and requested him to resign his position.

The meeting was then open to questions from the floor and (zoom attendees. M Surace [Shoalhaven], G Fitt [NFSA], i. Brown (NFSA) S Denenhard), two from the floor M McPherson [AviNSW], and C Isbester, their comments supported the motion.

A question from N Love (ANBC) followed I. Brown (NFSA) on Zoom inquired as to the methodology of voting on this motion and if it was detailed in the constitution. The president responded that each club was permitted only one vote, whatever the number of financial and voting members.

R Law rendered a concluding statement that all clubs should receive a notice to which each should reply with a vote in favour [YES] of the motion or in opposition [NO], the statement seconded / carried.

The President concluding the meeting with a final statement "I have now stood down immediately from all roles with CCBFA" statements followed from vice President Mark Cameron standing down and Ben Lloyd resigning from the Management Committee.

Sam wished CCBFA well and encouraged clubs and individuals to consider joining Animal Care Australia where he will remain in the roles of VP and Bird representative, stating he intend to continue to carry on **my** activities at all levels of government in all states through ACA.

CCBFA clubs had almost four months to consider and respond to the question of 5 June, providing ample opportunity to voice their opinion — either for or against — on this topic

Even though the date for voting has expired prior to this September meeting, if your club has yet to vote on this question but still want to, can you please send your vote — either YES or NO — to CCBFA Secretary Ron Robertson at CCBFA@aapt.net.au by 25 October, 2023.

CCBFA thanks the many clubs that took the time to respond to CCBFA on this question.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 10:06 p.m.

Notice of the General Meeting

Wednesday 1st November 2023

at Ashfield RSL & Zoom 8:00 pm

Continued next page.....

THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

General Meeting 1st November 2023

Venue Ashfield RSL Face – to - Face and Zoom

The Vice President Bob Barnes opened the meeting at 8:15 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

ATTENDANCE:

There were 9 delegates in attendance at the venue namely, B. Barnes, R. Robertson, W. Wilson, C. Gruntar, G. Gingell, J. Flood, C. Isbister, J. Forrest, J. Palmano.

A further 10 delegates were on Zoom, namely M. Cameron, B. Whiting, J. Tadgell, M. Godwell, R. Law, M. Gallagher, B. Kerr, M. McPherson, T. Hartung, D. Reynolds,

VISITORS: Bob Wright - we appreciated his assistance with the Zoom operation.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from, I Ward, J. Norriss, T. DeGraaff, G. Fitt, M. Fogarty, N. Love: – moved W. Wilson, and seconded, C. Isbister apologies be accepted - Carried.

MINUTES:

All minutes published in Feathered World and distributed to attendees who attended the September meeting via Zoom.

The minutes for the 27th of September 2023 General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by those in attendance and received on a motion from J. Palmano and seconded G. Gingell that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the September General meeting – Carried.

Matters arising out of the minutes: Mark Cameron and Murray MacPherson, both stated that the wording in reference to Mike Fogarty, was potentially misleading, as these were Mike Fogarty's views, and no motion was actually called for or voted on at the meeting. Accordingly, it was recorded that the following wording should be deleted in the September minutes: "he offered a vote of no confidence in the President and requested him to resign his position".

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CORRESPONDENCE:

Incoming correspondence as follows:

- Affiliated clubs, notification of office bearers and delegates.
- Affiliated clubs, requesting assistance with matters regarding insurance.
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of 2024 ring orders.
- Wanneroo Racing Pigeon Club. request for affiliation and insurance, with payment.
- Blacktown and District Caged Birds Society, notification of change of name to Blacktown Exhibition Birds Society.
- Affiliates cancellation for 2024 insurance renewals; Association of Specialist Budgerigar Societies, Ryde District Canary & Cage Bird Society Inc, Seymour Poultry Club, Young & District Cage Bird Society.
- Receipt of the Insurance Renewal forms, Declaration and Financial Services Guide.
- Affiliated clubs, notification of 2024 updates of show, sale and auction dates.
- Coditech confirmation of ring orders and arrangement of means of shipment.
- BCV. Request to affiliate and insure the Pheonix Budgerigar Society Inc., with the BCV renewal.
- **Newsletters / Journals** – Received from various clubs, with notification of club events for insurance:
 - Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter Oct'23
 - Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter Oct'23
 - Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales Sept & Oct'23
 - Far North Queensland Bird Breeders Sept / Oct'23
 - Gloster Fancy Canary Club of NSW Inc. Oct / Nov'23
 - Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier Nov'23
 - Bundaberg Canary & Caged Bird Society Inc. Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec'23
 - Colour Canary Breeders Association of Victoria. Newsletter Oct & Nov'23
 - FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW Sept/Oct'23

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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.
- Placement of a further 9,140 rings for 2024 orders, first consolidation 29,700 rings.
- Feathered World, 2024 invoice renewals sent to current subscribers.
- Wanneroo Racing Pigeon Club. advising Details for affiliation and insurance, including a invoice and Office Bearers form to be completed, on receipt forwarding the covering letter and CoC
- Reply with completed insurance Renewal forms and schedule of affiliates requiring cover for 2024, noting special events, hosting events, location of venues and dates, together with request of interested parties.
- Various affiliates emails, texts and phone calls following up their club requirement for public liability insurance in 2024.
- Confédération Ornithologique Mondiale (COM) requesting consideration for CCBFA to become the Australian Member Country of the COM, giving our affiliates the option to use the COM standards.

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

It was moved G. Gingell and seconded J. Flood that the applications for affiliation and insurance be accepted for Wanneroo Racing Pigeon Club, and the Pheonix Budgerigar Society Inc.:- carried.

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

TREASURERS REPORT:

The accounts were submitted for endorsement.

It was moved by J. Palmano and seconded by G. Gingell that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed – Carried.

REPORTS:

The Chair asked for reports to be presented. In the absence of any speaking, we carried on to general business.

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GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Boosting vote: The Secretary received-,16 (Yes) votes in favour of the motion and 37 against (No) -the motion. Based on the votes received, - the motion to boost has failed. CCBFA thanks the many clubs that took the time to respond to CCBFA on this question.
- 2024 Ring Orders Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2024, however delivery time frame and costs for transshipments will vary. The orders for the 2nd consolidation for 2024 rings should be finalised by the 1st of March 2024, ETA late April.
- Show and Sale dates for 2024 – Clubs are requested to email Matt McKenzie the dates for their 2024 shows, sales, and auctions, including phone number of the contact person and venue details. It is understood that confirmation of the venue may be in abeyance / pending, however, we request the tentative / projected dates be advised. Please email clubs@ccbfa.org.au
- RAS – Greg Davie has confirmed the show dates for the Cage Bird show at the 2024 Royal Easter Show will be Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March 2024. Benching will be Tuesday 26th from 6pm, Judging 27th March. Entries will open early January and close on the 31st of January. C. Isbister advised that Georgina Hawkins was in charge of the aviary birds' exhibition and display at the RAS.
- The Secretary asked the meeting to approve the donation to the Children's Cancer Institute. It was moved by J. Palmano and seconded M. Gallagher that we continue to donate \$200.00. – carried.
- The Vice President mentioned that he had been requested to bring to the meeting a request to consider holding the meetings of a weekend to allow some of the elderly members, who do not like driving of an evening, the opportunity to attend, and also to consider a change of venue. After a brief discussion it was moved by W. Wilson and seconded C. Isbister that we continue to hold the meetings face – to- face and via Zoom at Ashfield RSL.
- The Vice President also expressed a vote of thanks and appreciation to Bob Wright for assisting with the operation of Zoom for the meeting.
- The Vice President thanked delegates for attending the meeting. As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9:10 p.m.

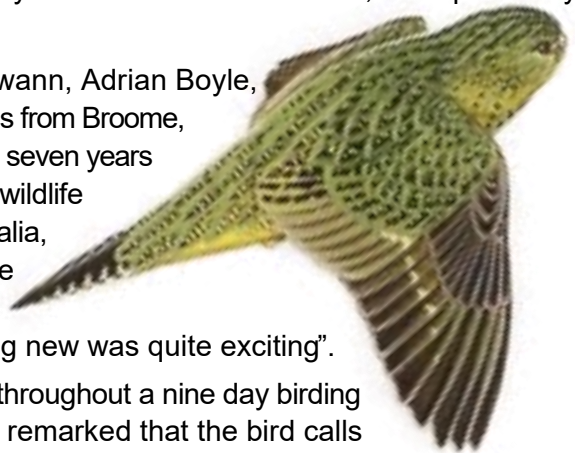
Notice of the AGM & General Meeting
Wednesday 6th March 2024
at Ashfield RSL & Zoom 8:00 pm

A NIGHT PARROT, CONSIDERED EXTINCT FOR THE PAST CENTURY, HAS BEEN SPOTTED IN WA !

The number of extinct species has been growing steadily over the past few decades, but recent rediscoveries of animals like the Night Parrot have been met with the celebration on social media.

Species thought to be extinct for 100 years were photographed for the first time in Western Queensland's Pullen Pullen Reserve. The beautiful photographs taken, reportedly left birdwatchers "elated", as reported by the Guardian.

Bruce Greatwich, George Swann, Adrian Boyle, and Nigel Jackett, four friends from Broome, made the discovery. They had seven years of expertise in tracking down wildlife birds. Telling Guardian Australia, Bruce Greatwich said "We are quite experienced in these habitats so to hear something new was quite exciting".



The group found the species throughout a nine day birding excursion. Bruce Greatwich remarked that the bird calls they heard on a salt lake in the interior were "very interesting", standing out from the calls of other species. They were elated but they were also wary.

The following morning George Swann, one of the team members, was greeted by a Night Parrot with green, yellow and black feathers. He felt a wide range of emotions in response to the striking appearance. He immediately notified the others, and upon arriving they witnessed it take flight. They had taken images of the bird before because they always had cameras.

"We were elated, as excited as could be to have something happen that we have worked towards for a long time and lots of people have tried to achieve. "We were clearly very excited" shared George Swann.

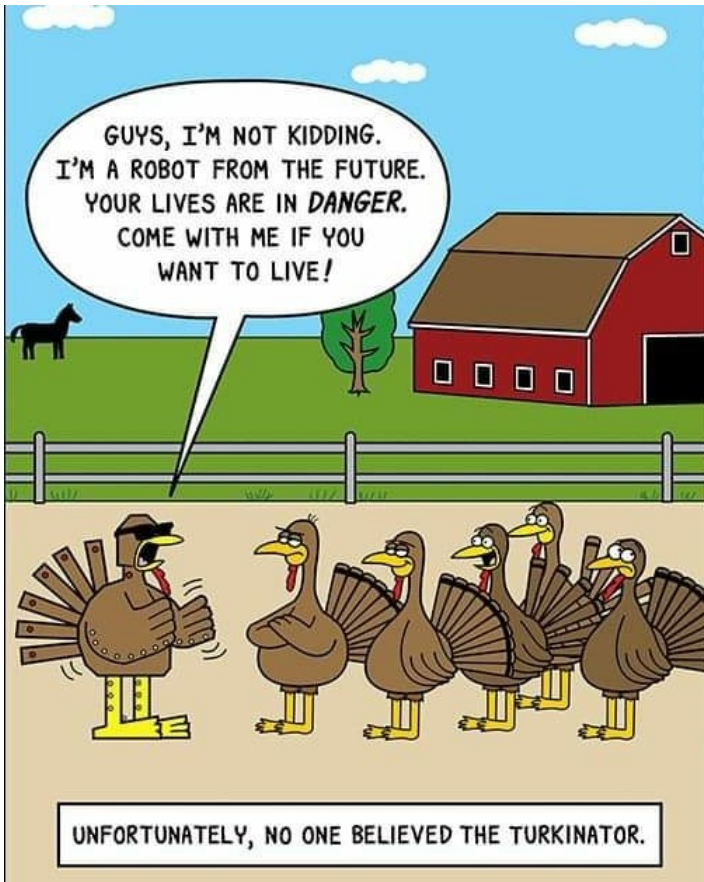
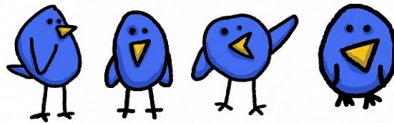
The Australian Night Parrot is a critically endangered species. Researchers believe this mottled brown, black and yellow bird to be the world's most mysterious species. Unfortunately, no living examples of this species have been captured on camera in over a decade. The recovery of these

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four individuals is a major milestone for the evolution of the species and the State of Washington's mining industry.

Rohan Clarke, Head of Research Ecology, claimed, "We know that Night Parrots do occur in Western Australia now. Mining companies and the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Parks and Water will have to place a lot more import into reported sightings now or in the future when making an assessments around potential developments or habitat destruction in the area."



THREATENED SPECIES TRIUMPH IN THE 2023 BIRD OF THE YEAR POLL.

With a grand total of **11,171 votes**, the Critically Endangered Swift Parrot is the winner of the 2023 BirdLife Australia X Guardian Australia Bird of the Year competition – the first time Swifties have taken out the title.

With less than 500 votes between them, the Tawny Frogmouth once again finished in second place despite leading for much of the competition. With **10,729 votes**, it's the Tawny's third time in a row as runner-up! And in third place, it's the Endangered Gang-gang Cockatoo with 7,190 votes.

Your 2023 Bird of the Year, the Swift Parrot

After a nail-biting finish, the Swift Parrot surged ahead to take the crown following a successful online campaign by conservationists to draw attention to its plight.

The Critically Endangered Swift Parrot is one of only three species of migratory parrots in the world.

Twice a year, these remarkable birds brave crossing one of the world's most dangerous bodies of water – Bass Strait – as they migrate from their Tasmanian breeding grounds to the mainland to feed on flowering gums and lerp in south-eastern Australia. With fewer than 750 birds left in the wild, it's a win for threatened species everywhere.

But it's also an important reminder of what we stand to lose.

Sadly, Swifties are rushing towards extinction – threatened by habitat destruction and predation by introduced Sugar Gliders in Tasmania. Still, logging of their forest habitat continues in NSW and Tasmania – and experts predict that fewer than 100 birds will remain by 2031 if their current rate of decline continues.

Alongside the Regent Honeyeater, the Swift Parrot has long been the face of woodland bird conservation in south-eastern Australia – and for decades, BirdLife Australia has been working closely with this Critically Endangered species to help their population recover. We're dedicated to preventing their extinction – campaigning against logging in Swift Parrot habitat on both sides of Bass Strait, tracking their mainland movements, filling knowledge gaps critical to their conservation and more.



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Everyone's favourite runner-up, the Tawny Frogmouth

Dubbed the world's most Instagrammable bird, the Tawny Frogmouth is a master of disguise and is well-known for its expressive face and ability to mimic a tree branch with startling accuracy.

To camouflage themselves during the day, the Tawny Frogmouth perches in a tree and strikes a stiff and stock-still pose, stretching its body and head upwards to resemble a broken branch. With their silvery-grey and streaky plumage – similar in colour and texture to tree bark – they usually go unnoticed by passersby.

While they're nocturnal and often confused for owls, Tawnies are actually more closely related to nightjars and hummingbirds! They're found throughout Australia, including in suburban parks and gardens, and their varied diet includes insects, rodents, reptiles and frogs.

While Tawnies are common and widespread across the country, they face growing threats like habitat clearing and poisoning from rodenticides.



Bronze for the Gang-gang Gang

One of Australia's 56 species of parrots, the much-loved Gang-gang Cockatoo is the bird emblem of the ACT and is well-known for its distinctive creaky call. Males are unmistakable with their wispy red crests and faces, while both sexes have slate grey bodies and barred plumage.

While they're found across much of south-eastern Australia, these small and charismatic cockies are in trouble. Their population has declined by 70% in the last few decades alone – and Gang-gangs were recently uplisted



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to nationally Endangered after the Black Summer bushfires burnt 30% of their habitat.

In the summer months, Gang-gangs move to higher elevations to breed and nest in tree hollows in tall mountain forests and woodlands. They flock to warmer lowland areas and suburban gardens in winter, where they feast on the seeds of native and introduced trees and shrubs, especially eucalypts, wattles and hawthorn berries.

Gang-gangs are the least studied of Australia's cockatoo species, which is why participants in our free, online Gang-gang Cockatoo Edu-Action course learn how to collect important data on Gang-gangs across their range – while developing their own Action Plan to help their local Gang-gang population recover.

Source; Birdlife Australia



RARE BIRD'S LONG JOURNEY

A critically endangered bird is a record breaker after flying 350km in just three months.

The Regent Honeyeater nicknamed “OG-Bling” smashed the previous record for his species, which is thought to be around 40km in three months , OG-Bling was spotted near Coffs

Harbour on the NSW North Coast in late July, having last been seen near Newcastle in the state's Hunter Region in April.

“Never before has a Regent Honeyeater been recorded flying so far so far in a short time. This bird has blown the record out of the water”, BirdLife Australia NSW woodland bird program manager Mick Roderick said.

Scientists estimate there may be as few as 250 Regent Honeyeaters left in the wild.

OG-Bling was one of 50 released in the Lower Hunter Valley in November 2022.



USING THE NEW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SEARCH ENGINE

As anyone who has edited a club magazine will know it is difficult to find or come up with interesting, and current, articles for each magazine so I thought I would test the AI capabilities of BING the MicroSoft search engine.

Hello, this is Bing! I'm the new AI-powered chat mode of Microsoft Bing that can help you quickly get summarized answers and creative inspiration.

So I opened up the search engine and asked it the following question as a test.

"why aren't brown coloured finches popular?"

The response was as follows: -



There is no definitive answer to why brown coloured finches are not popular, but it may depend on the preferences of bird watchers, breeders, or pet owners. Some possible factors are:

- Brown coloured finches may be less noticeable or attractive than other finches with brighter colours or patterns¹².
- Brown coloured finches may have smaller populations or more restricted ranges than other finches, making them harder to find or observe³⁴.
- Brown coloured finches may have different behaviours or habitats than other finches, making them less appealing or suitable for certain purposes³⁴.

What are you interested in learning more about brown coloured finches?

The sources for the answer were given as :-

- seabirdsanctuary.org/types-of-finches/
- www.birdsandblossoms.com/birding/bird-species/finches-and-buntings/finch-bird/
- abcbirds.org/blog21/finch-species-united-states/
- www.australiaswonderfulbirds.com.au/finches

Regrettably it was not much help...so back to the old way! Of course club member help is always welcomed.....

PARAKEETS ARE THE NEW PIGEONS – AND THEY'RE ON COURSE FOR GLOBAL DOMINATION

Love them or hate them, ring-necked parakeets have invaded Europe and they're here to stay. Already a staple of many urban parks and gardens around the UK, some of these charismatic bright green birds are now so comfortable in their new surroundings that they will happily sit and feed from your hand.

Parakeets are Britain's fastest growing bird population and are on a trajectory to global domination. Outside of their native southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, breeding populations are now established in at least 65 cities around Europe, and more than 30 countries across five continents.

Such non-native, or "invasive" species are one of the biggest causes of biodiversity loss in the world today, and can cause severe economic damage. Understanding these species is incredibly useful for any attempt to design environment policy and prevent further invasions. Populations of invasive ring-necked parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) provide an excellent case study, owing to their patterns of rapid growth and spread.



These parakeets were introduced into the UK in the late 1960s and now number well over 32,000 birds. They were originally concentrated around Greater London and nearby Kent, but these areas are now saturated which has resulted in parakeets spreading around the country, reaching as far north as Inverness in Scotland.

Many popular stories exist to explain how these exotic parakeets came to live in the UK, including their escape from the film set of the African Queen, and my personal favourite: their deliberate release by Jimi Hendrix to inject some psychedelic colour into the streets of London. More likely it is a result of the popularity of keeping ring-necked parakeets as pets.

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The global transportation of wild ring-necked parakeets in addition to in-country breeding, has led to their successful establishment outside their native range. Between 1984 and 2007 a staggering 146,539 ring-necked parakeets were imported to Europe, before an EU ban on the trade of wild birds. The UK alone imported more than 16,000.

We know how they got to Europe's cities, but what makes ring-necked parakeets so good at adapting to new environments? The climate is likely to play a strong role in their ability to survive outside of their native range. Despite their incredibly large native range, spanning two continents, the parakeets found across Britain and Europe originate predominately from across the colder foothills of the Himalayas, largely in Pakistan.

The distinct lack of parakeets from warmer areas in Africa suggests similarities in temperature and rainfall between the native and invasive ranges made life easy for them. It seems the parakeets were already well adapted to survive in northern Europe.

Interestingly, back in the late 1800s wild ring-necked parakeets were observed in the UK, but they failed to survive. So what's different now? Perhaps warmer winters due to climate change, in combination with our love of feeding birds thus giving them a year-round supply of energy, have provided ideal conditions for parakeets to thrive around the country.

Let's also not overlook the lack of natural predators outside their native range. Unsurprisingly, Asian black eagles aren't a concern in London's parks. However, it seems Britain's urban peregrines and sparrow hawks have now started to notice the exotic new meat on the menu. Yet despite native falcons' success at preying on wild parakeets, they're unlikely to make a dent on the growing numbers of invasive parakeets.

Despite parakeets being well established in the UK, we still don't fully understand their potential impact, good or bad. Do they affect native wildlife by competing for nest holes and food? Preliminary reports show some level of competition for nest sites with European native nuthatches, and that they displace garden birds from bird feeders. Back in Asia and Africa ring-necked parakeets are severe crop pests, but we don't yet know if they'll damage British fruit crops and cause economic damage.

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Many scientists are also curious about the impact they are having on people. Does living near large roosts cause noise pollution? Does seeing exotic parakeets in parks and gardens around the UK improve human wellbeing? These are just some of the questions we're aiming to answer through ParrotNet, a pan-European group of researchers dedicated to understanding the challenge of invasive parrots (ring-necked parakeets are just one of 13 species of parrot established across Europe).

Despite their abundance, surprisingly, many British people remain unaware that wild parakeets are living among them. As these vibrant birds are now spreading around the country, in time they will become commonplace in all the UK's urban areas. While we may still regard these colourful and exotic parakeets as something of an exciting novelty, I suspect our children and their children may simply consider them no more exciting than a common pigeon

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Source: [www.https://theconversation.com/](https://theconversation.com/)



CALCIUM BLOCKS TO PLACE IN WATER BOWLS IN BREEDING SEASON

Ingredients:

- 1 part Plaster of Paris (Cement Australia Brand is best) Available from Bunnings
- 1 part Agricultural Lime (ground limestone available from produce store)
- 1 part Calcium Carbonate (available from produce store, or a stock feed store)

Method:

Place glad wrap over patty cake trays and place aside while mixing the ingredients. Place all ingredients into a container. (I use an empty 4-litre ice cream container). Add water in small amounts while stirring to a smooth paste. The consistency should be about equal to stiff dough. Pour into glad wrap covered patty cake tray and stand aside to set. These small blocks should take 1 – 2 days to set.

The small blocks can then be placed individually into the bird drinking bowls. When you fill your bowls with the water it will go cloudy as calcium is released from the blocks. As birds usually drink soon after fresh water is given to them they will receive a dose of calcium. Over the day this cloudiness will eventually settle to the bottom of the bowls. Leave blocks in the drinking water bowl where eventually they will dissolve away as the water is replaced each day.

Alternatively larger blocks can be made, by placing the mixture in plastic cups. Wire can then be placed in the mixture while it sets. When dry the blocks can be hung up.



DID YOU KNOW...

That some dinosaurs evolved to lose their teeth as they got older and sprouted a small beak. Over time, this process happened earlier and earlier until eventually the animals emerged from their eggs with a fully formed beak.



RARE GLOSSY BLACK COCKATOO NESTS DISCOVERED ON NSW MID NORTH COAST

Conservationists are celebrating the rare discovery of nests of one of Australia's most-threatened cockatoos.

For the first time in more than 20 years, glossy black cockatoo nests have been discovered on the New South Wales' Mid North Coast. NSW Department of Planning and Environment senior threatened species officer Brian Hawkins said it was an amazing find after almost half of the glossy black cockatoo habitat in the region was burnt in the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.



"It's a massive step forward ... glossy black cockatoos are among the most-threatened species of cockatoos in Australia and are listed as vulnerable in NSW" Dr Hawkins said. "When their habitat burns, their feed trees — which are she-oaks — often get killed, which means the birds have a lot less food available, and the hollow-bearing trees where they like to nest often get knocked down in fires as well.

"Finding nests means we can learn whether the birds are breeding successfully. It's a great foundation that will help us study the bird and work out the best way to conserve them."

Three nests were found in community-led discoveries by the efforts of citizen scientists involved in a project called Glossy Squad, with a focus on the Nambucca, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour and Clarence Valley local government areas.

The Glossy Squad is a component of a broader collaborative conservation project, led by the NSW government's Saving our Species program, called Biliirrgan, which is the Gumbaynggirr word for glossy black cockatoo.

"The project area covers Gumbaynggirr, Bundjalung and Yaegl country in northern NSW, but most of it is in Gumbaynggirr country," Dr Hawkins said. The nests had been found in three separate locations after tip-offs from people who suspected glossy black cockatoos were breeding near where they lived.

He said reports from residents contributed significantly to the conservation of the iconic species.

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"It's really hard to find them and the only way to do it is to have ears and eyes on the ground, a network of community members and citizen scientists who love the birds and pay attention to what the birds are doing on the ground," he said.

"[The discovery] is the culmination of over 1,000 hours of volunteer time from more than 60 citizen scientists."

Glossy black cockatoos, sometimes confused with their larger counterpart, the yellow-tailed black cockatoo, are mostly found in eastern Australia, and pairs mate for life.

Dr Hawkins said the recently discovered nests were monitored using acoustic recorders, which were placed close to the nest hollows.

He said analysis of the audio recordings confirmed that two of the nests, at Kalang and Dundurrabin, resulted in a successful fledgling, which was a "huge win".

No fledgling was confirmed for the third nest located at Sawtell.

"We leave the sound recording devices there for three or four months and then listen to the sound files," Dr Hawkins said. "From the calls of the birds, we can work out whether or not there's a chick in the nest and whether or not that chick grew and got to the point where it took its first flight from the nest."

"On some of these recordings we think we can hear the moment at which the chick leaves the hollow and takes its first flight, with its parents egging it on and encouraging it noisily, which is a pretty amazing thing to hear."

In the future, cameras will also be installed to monitor birds in the nest and the trees themselves, with work to protect breeding areas.

'Eyes on the ground' are needed and Dr Hawkins said people were encouraged to continue reporting any sightings of glossy black cockatoos.

The birds come in to drink water each evening and can be seen at watering holes, dams or other fresh water sources at dusk.

"There's not many of them and they move around a lot. We think our part of the world is a real stronghold for the birds," he said.

Source: www.abc.net.au, ABC Mid North Coast, / By Emma Siossian

SPIX'S LITTLE BLUE MACAWS FLY FREE AGAIN AFTER DECADES IN CAGES

Article From Forbes Magazine by by GrrrScientist , Evolutionary & behavioural ecologist, ornithologist & science writer

If you're like me, you've been eagerly anticipating the release of captive-bred Spix's little blue macaws, *Cyanopsitta spixii*, back into their ancestral home in Brazil. These parrots are amongst the very rarest birds in the world, with a captive population that hovers around 250 or so. Although this species has been formally listed as Extinct-in-the-Wild for the past 22 years, there now are eight captive-bred Spix's little blue macaws flying around in the wild. These eight individuals were recently released on 11 June 2022 into the caatinga (more [here](#)) and another 12 are scheduled to be released in December. Since then, everyone has been asking me: how are they doing? Are they all still alive?

I finally got an update from the team in Brazil and I have great news for you: yes, they are all alive! The parrots are flocking together, flying strongly, and evading flying predators with breathtaking aerial maneuvers. They return daily to the large aviary at the Spix's Macaw Release Center where they stayed for many months whilst being prepared for



their entry into the wild. These macaws also regularly visit the breeding center to check on their captive siblings and flockmates to see how they are doing.

On-the-ground naturalists and observers are closely monitoring the newly-released macaws and are following them through the caatinga using GPS tracking devices that were given to each parrot two days prior to its release. These observers are watching the macaws as they learn how to live in their ancestral homelands from a group of eight Illiger's blue-winged macaws, *Primolius maracana*. The blue-winged macaws were wild-caught in the area specifically so they could accompany the captive-bred Spix's little blue macaws on their journey from captivity and into the wild and to act as their teachers.

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Illiger's blue-winged macaws are quite common around the release site. For example, 23 of these macaws were recently spotted hanging out together near the pre-release training flight. The newly-released Spix's little blue macaws observe their wild blue-winged cousins closely, imitate their behaviors and follow them around as they forage.

"They are acting as a flock; they are staying in the vicinity of their release and they are beginning to sample local vegetation", Thomas White told *The Current* guest host Duncan McCue. Dr White is a wildlife biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service who heads the Puerto Rican parrot recovery program and is a technical adviser for this release project.



They are doing well, considering they have a lot of catching up to do. For example, if these Spix's little blue macaws were wild-born, they would spend the first year of their lives being cared for by their parents and learning by example from their parents and flockmates how to live as a wild parrot. But after living in cages for decades, captive-bred Spix's little blue macaws do not have any wild conspecifics with this essential cultural knowledge to share for how to live in the wild: where to forage for food or to find water as the seasons change in this semi-arid environment, how to avoid (or evade) aerial and terrestrial predators, nor how to communicate with their flock. So these young captive-bred macaws are basically enrolled in a "crash course" in how to be a proper wild parrot with their eight wild blue-winged cousins as instructors.

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Learning what is edible, how to eat it, when it is in season and where to find it is — especially from the air — one of the first skills a captive-bred parrot must master if they are to thrive in the wild. Unlike urban-dwelling parrots, which consume mostly pre-packaged seed mixes provided by garden bird-feeders, these macaws are starting their lives off from scratch.

“Eating wild food is crucial”, veterinarian Cromwell Purchase said in a statement. Dr Purchase is the director of ACTP in Brazil and is the manager of the Spix’s Macaw Release Center.

At this time, the macaws’ human observers report that the newly released parrots are actively seeking out at least four different plants and are eating their fruits, seeds or blossoms. Although the macaws were fed a variety of wild foods and branches with edible fruit and seeds were placed in their aviaries during their training for release, the birds are still learning a lot about foraging in the wild. Additionally, their human observers have also watched the macaws eating tree blossoms, which were never offered to them before.

“We are impressed and overwhelmed by the incredible success story we are witnessing, with the Illiger’s macaw as a teacher species for the naive Spix’s macaws”, Dr Purchase said.

This will be a long-term effort that is currently predicted to last decades. Releases of the macaws will continue for at least 20 years, and basic support in the form of food, water and veterinary care, will be ongoing for decades as well.

What drove this iconic parrot to extinction in the wild? Its distinctive blue color made it a popular target for poachers and private collectors around the world. In addition to illegal trade, the locals added insult to injury by destroying the macaws’ unique habitat with their livestock, especially goats. The goats ate all the vegetation and this led to erosion of the waterways that the macaws rely upon. The combination of these factors caused the Spix’s little blue macaw population to decline steadily into the 1980s and 1990s until just one wild bird remained..

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Nonetheless, it was hoped that this captive population could provide enough youngsters to support a release effort in the macaw's native lands in Brazil's northeastern state of Bahia. Bolstering this effort, then-president of Brazil, Michel Temer, signed a decree establishing a macaw wildlife refuge in the caatinga in 2018, and an on-the-ground breeding effort was also initiated with the goal of releasing the blue parrots into the wild.

"That loss in numbers had a very unfortunate secondary effect," Dr White said. "As soon as an animal becomes endangered, collectors want to have one. And that is what happened to the Spix's macaw. They became rare and, as a result, unscrupulous individuals decided to try to take the few that remained in the wild for their private collections."

Ten years later, this last remaining wild Spix's little blue macaw disappeared and the species was officially declared Extinct-In-The-Wild by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The captive population had dwindled too, and numbered an estimated 55 individuals. Undaunted, the Spix's macaw conservation team located and obtained as many of the remaining captive macaws as they could from private collectors and zoos around the world, eventually moving them to a breeding facility in Germany, and worked intensively on breeding a healthy captive population. With a founder population of just 12 individuals, the situation looked dire for these macaws because their gene pool was simply too small to maintain a genetically healthy population

Although these newly-released parrots are young, they are all of breeding age. There are already several cavities — both natural and artificial — in the area that are suitable for nesting, and it is hoped that the newly released Spix's little blue macaws will begin breeding next spring.

"In a nutshell, this first release has been successful beyond our wildest dreams", Dr Purchase said. "We couldn't have asked for a better wild start for the species."



WEDGE-TAIL WIPEOUT: TASMANIAN WIND FARMS THREATEN EAGLE EXTINCTION

Cars, cats and skyscrapers don't kill Eagles, but 60 m wind turbine blades with their tips travelling at 350 Kph routinely smash them out of existence. In Australia's designated National Park, Tasmania, its peculiar species of Wedge-Tailed Eagle is both rare and endangered.

Now it faces the existential threat of ever more and even larger giant industrial wind turbines.

Climate cultists claim to be in a rebellion against extinctions and, yet, continue to exhort us that the solution to the annihilation of species is an all wind powered future.

Well, in Tasmania it looks as if they'll get their wish, as vast tracts of the Apple Isle get carpeted in hundreds more of these giant whirling wonders. However, those that actually give a fig about nature aren't so happy with the idea of critically endangered species being wiped off the planet before our very eyes. A Tasmanian wind farm has killed three eagles in the past few months, and 37 eagles across its wider operations since 2002, amid fears 10 new wind farms planned for the island will cause extinctions.



Woolnorth Wind Farms Holdings' two sites in Tasmania's far northwest have recorded the recent deaths of two endangered Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagles and one white-bellied sea eagle. These sites, within 5km of each other, as well as the company's larger facility at Musselroe, in the northeast, have killed a combined 32 wedge-tailed eagles, and five sea eagles, since the first site began operations in 2002-04.

The recent deaths are a concerning development for Woolnorth, a joint venture between China's Shenhua Group and state-owned Hydro Tasmania, which had not reported eagle fatalities at either northwest site for about a decade. They will heighten concerns about plans by Hong Kong-based UPC Renewables to build the southern hemisphere's largest wind farm less than 25km away, at Robbins Island.

Bird experts warned the latest deaths raised concerns about the survival of threatened bird species as the island state braced for a wind farm boom.

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"It's very, very, very scary — wind farms are just bird mincers, eagle killers," said Craig Webb, who runs a raptor refuge at Kettering, in southern Tasmania. "We have to do something to get on top of this.

"(An injured) wedge-tailed eagle that came down from ... Woolnorth (wind farm) was euthanased about five days ago. They put their hands up to killing 32 eagles at Woolnorth to date, but we know it's much, much higher."

Woolnorth said the recent eagle deaths had been reported to authorities and the company had a range of "offsets" to compensate for such incidents.

"Protecting Tasmania's environment, including endangered wildlife, is extremely important to Woolnorth and we work hard to minimise the impact of our operations," a spokesman said.

At least 10 new wind farms are proposed or under construction in Tasmania, bringing at least another 500 turbines to coastal and highland areas, many of which are important for threatened birds, ranging from raptors to the orange-bellied parrot.

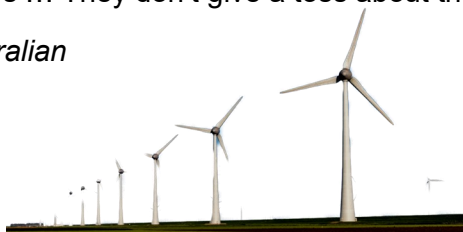
BirdLife Tasmania is demanding urgent adoption of "no-go zones" and holistic planning controls to avert an ecological disaster. Vast transmission lines associated with wind farms and other power infrastructure are killing significant numbers of -eagles through collisions and electrocution.

Powerlines kill about 30 wedge-tail eagles each year, official data indicates. "The real number is way, way higher," said Mr Webb, who has reached an agreement with TasNetworks to try to address the issue.

There are an estimated 350 breeding pairs of the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle remaining. Experts fear the wind farm expansion could drive the species close to extinction.

"It is already knocking on the door (of extinction) and with more pressure from powerlines and wind farms, it's bleak," said Mr Webb. "It's big industry, big Chinese dollars ... They don't give a toss about the birds."

Source: The Australian



QUEENSLAND HEALTH PATIENT COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 1950s

Broken Hill Barrier Miner , September 1950

Brisbane-A woman sends, carrier pigeons each day from Brisbane General . Hospital to carry bulletins of her sick mother's condition to relatives at Scarborough.



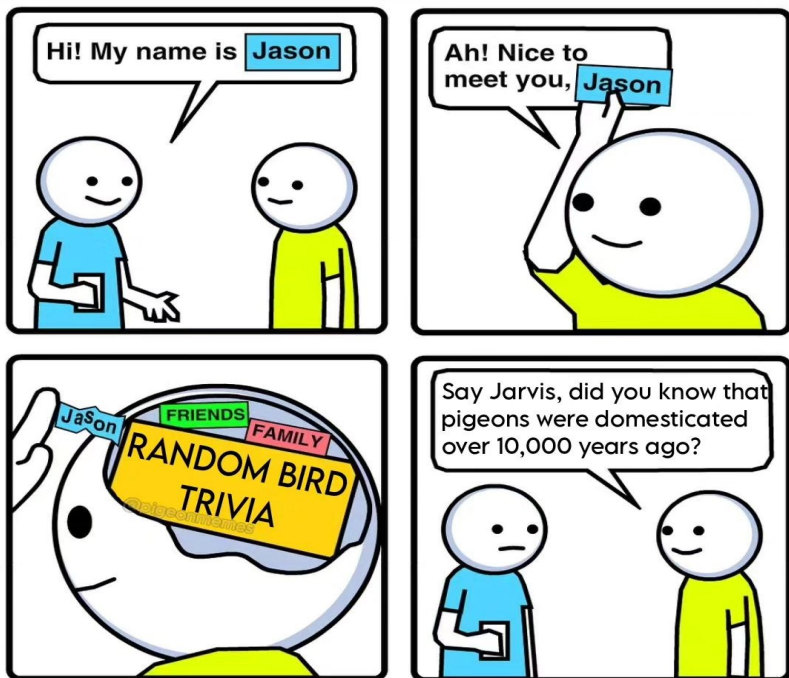
She is Mrs. C. Pointon, of Hobbs Street, Scarborough.

She claims that the pigeon's deliver the messages more quickly than she can make a trunk line telephone call.

Scarborough is 24 road miles from Brisbane and the birds take from 20 to 30 minutes to reach their loft. Mrs Pointon says it takes her about three quarters of an hour to make a trunk line call.

She said: "Sometimes I release six pigeons a day. I have been 'releasing the birds for a week now and will do so until Mum is better. The birds carry despatches to my husband at our home and he relays the messages to near by relatives."

Mr. Pointon is a pigeon-fancier and has 200 birds.



THEJENKINSCOMIC

BIRD HUMPING. GOOD OR BAD?

While birds are known for their graceful flight and delicate song, not their sexual antics birds do engage in humping. In fact, all types regardless of their gender, engage in this behavior.

Believe it or not, birds are just as frisky as people. In fact, they share a lot of the same mating behaviors, including courtship rituals, pair bonding, and yes, even humping.

Bird Humping is a behavior of stroking or rubbing their cloaca (sexual organs) on anything that causes masturbation. This behavior is often seen in captive birds, especially parrots. So what do birds use to hump with?

There's no specific things birds hump with. Actually, birds hump and rub their cloaca on their toy, perch, clothes, sofa or even your arm, leg or shoulders.

To most people, bird humping may look like a harmless bit of fun. However, while there's no harm to you, most experts agree that bird humping is pretty bad for birds. Although this might seem like normal behavior, it is actually a serious risk for birds and if it continues, it may cause illness and eventually even death as birds may suffer from weakness by losing lots of energy. That means, eyes blurry sight, legs weakness, and many more.

Humping can also cause feathers to become matted and damaged. It can also be stressful for birds and may even cause them to abandon their nests. For these reasons, it is generally best to discourage bird humping. If you have a bird that regularly humps, there are a few things you can do to help prevent it.

First, make sure that your bird has enough space to move around. A cramped cage will only increase the chances of your bird feeling the need to hump. Importantly, hugging, scratching, and stroking are fine but doing it around the back and tail causes sexual desire and humping.

Second, pay attention to your bird's diet. A healthy diet will help to reduce hormones that could be causing your bird to hump.

Finally, provide your bird with plenty of toys and treats that would distract it from humping. Boredom can often lead to humping behavior, so it's important to keep your bird engaged. With a little effort, you can help prevent your bird from humping and keep your feathered friend happy and healthy.

CAN BIRDS EAT ZUCCHINI? THE SURPRISING BENEFITS TO BIRDS

Birds are known to have a diverse diet, and it's essential to provide them with a well-balanced meal that meets their nutritional needs. While seeds are a staple food for most birds, it's essential to feed them fresh fruits and vegetables to provide them with the necessary vitamins and minerals. One vegetable that many bird owners wonder about is zucchini. Can birds eat zucchini?

The good news is that zucchini is safe for most birds to eat and is a good addition to any bird's diet. It is packed with nutrients that can help boost your bird's immune system and keep them healthy. Zucchini is a low-calorie vegetable rich in vitamins and minerals and some of the benefits of zucchini to birds are;

- It is rich in Vitamin A which helps maintain good vision and healthy skin.
- It contains Vitamin C which helps boost the immune system and promotes healing.
- It is high in potassium which helps regulate blood pressure and heart rate.
- The vegetable also contains magnesium which aids in muscle contraction and relaxation as well as calcium absorption for strong bones and teeth.



Zucchini also provides dietary fiber which helps keep your bird's digestive system running smoothly.

Zucchini is also a great source of water, which can help keep your bird hydrated. It's important to note that zucchini . You can also add other fruits and vegetables to the mix for added variety.

However, it is important to note that birds should not be fed zucchini that has been cooked or seasoned with salt or other spices and should be served raw or lightly cooked in order to preserve its nutritional value. Additionally, it is best to feed zucchini to birds in moderation, as excessive consumption could cause digestive issues.

Birds can also eat the zucchini leaves and flowers and many types of birds, such as parrots, enjoy eating these. Zucchini leaves and flowers are a great way to diversify a bird's diet and provide them with essential nutrients. Lovebirds in particular benefit from the addition of zucchini leaves and flowers to their diet.



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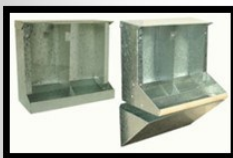
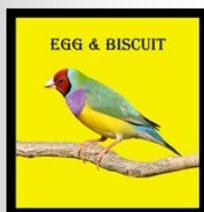
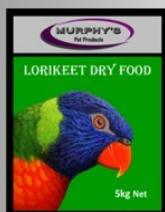
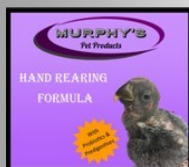
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