



FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



NOTICE RE GENERAL MEETING 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

GROWING CONCERN FOR SMALL BIRDS

BIRDS CREATE FAKE ENTRANCES TO NESTS

WHAT IS CHRONIC EGG LAYING

NZ SMALLEST BIRD MAY BE MISSING LINK

BABY BIRD DEVELOPMENT HARMED BY TRAFFIC NOISE

WHY DO BIRDS TAP ON WINDOWS

WHY DO PARROTS EAT CLAY

BUSH TURKEYS ATTACK CHICKENS

TWEET THE YELLOW TAILED BLACK COCKATOO

INDONESIAN BLACK CHICKEN



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Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

MEETING DATES 2024

General Meetings 6th November

AGM 5th March 2025

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm

NOTE: Meetings at Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield
Zoom meetings will be confirmed (or advised) in advance

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

RE: CCBFA DELEGATES' MEETING

4 September 2024

Regrettably the delegates meeting scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, 4th Sept., had to be cancelled at the last minute. Unfortunately, this was necessary because we only received notification at 4:00 pm on Friday beforehand that our meeting venue would not be available, because the club required it for inhouse training. In addition the logistics of a Zoom only meeting was too difficult and inconvenient for the hosting operator.

The following is a summary of the main items for discussion.

1. NSW NPWS Species List Advisory Committee.

The president has advised that there has been no further activity, communication or meetings.

2. Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

We trust that all clubs have initiated their interest., if so you would have received the following email communication from The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Australian Government conducted a first round of public consultation on the renewal of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) from 8 March to 8 July 2024.

A thematic analysis of the stakeholder feedback received through this consultation process has been published at:-

www.agriculture.gov.au/haveyoursay/aaws.

This consultation was the first step in an extensive stakeholder engagement process that will take place over the next 3 years.

Feedback received through this first round of consultation has provided valuable information to inform the development process and will help shape the renewed AAWS.

Continued next page.....

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Subscribe to stay informed about the progress of the renewed AAWS and future engagement opportunities, or visit the Renewal of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy webpage:-

www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws

We encourage you to visit the web page for further information on the renewed AAWS: Renewal of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) - DAFF (agriculture.gov.au)

3. INSURANCE.

As previously advised affiliates are requested to advise CCBFA by the 30th of September 2024 should they not require cover for the ensuing year, failure to do so will necessitate being charged.

4. 2025 Ring Orders.

Clubs requiring rings for distribution by the 1st January 2025 are requested to submit orders by the 30th September 2024. The orders for the 2nd consolidation for 2025 rings should be finalised by the 1st of March 2025, ETA late April.

Thanking you for your understanding and look forward to catching up in November.

Best regards,

Ron Robertson

Secretary

Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

PO Box 230, Frenchs Forest, NSW 1640

Notice of the Next General Meeting.

Wednesday 6th November 2024

at Ashfield RSL Liverpool Rd Ashfield,

the Meeting will commence DST at 8:00 pm via ZOOM and in person

UK APPEAL TO STOP DYEING BIRDS

An animal sanctuary is asking people not to dye birds for use in gender reveal celebrations after taking in a bright pink pigeon.

Polly, a pigeon whose wings and feet had been dyed pink and yellow for what is believed to have been a gender reveal, was taken to Pudz Animal Sanctuary in South Killingholme this week.

Sanctuary founder Shena Fairless said birds who are dyed are not only at risk from harmful chemicals in the dye, but are also more vulnerable to predators.



She said: "It's just for a few minutes of entertainment, then the bird has to live with that for the rest of its life".

Ms Fairless said the dyeing was "just not a nice thing for it to go through" and added "you just don't know what might happen".

Despite Polly's ordeal, Ms Fairless said she is settling in well at the sanctuary, adding: "She's made some friends, she's eating well, and she's trying to fly.

"She's safe, so we'll see how she goes."

The RSPCA also issued a similar warning about using birds in gender reveals earlier this year.

A spokesperson for the charity said they feared "social media trends could be fuelling" incidents, and said dyeing or painting their feathers could make it so birds are no longer able to fly.



Gender reveal celebrations are a way for expectant parents to announce whether their baby will be a boy or a girl and have grown in popularity over the last few years.

Source: [/www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2vv3z5q435o](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2vv3z5q435o)



GROWING CONCERNS FOR SMALL BUSH BIRDS

Sean Dooley, National Public Affairs Manager at BirdLife Australia, addressed these concerns, telling *Better Homes and Gardens*: "The primary threat to small bush birds lies in habitat loss and degradation."

"Expanding suburbs encroach upon bush and grassland habitats, while urban development reduces green spaces, exacerbating the decline of these avian species."

Furthermore, habitat fragmentation isolates bird populations, hindering their ability to connect and disperse effectively. This isolation, coupled with the presence of predatory animals like feral and domestic cats, poses additional challenges to the survival of native birds.



So, how can you help small bush birds?

Sean highlights some proactive steps people can take to support native bird populations.

"While creating a bird-friendly garden with diverse layers of native plants and nest boxes for hollow-loving species are great long term improvements for birds, the best possible thing that people can do for native birds in the immediate term is to provide water. Particularly in the hot summer but even throughout the year, birds use the water to bathe as much as they drink.

"As long as the water source is regularly cleaned to prevent the spread of disease (birds are not particularly tidy house guests) and is not too deep or has a rock, log, stick or another exit point to allow birds that fall into clamber out, then the birds will love it!"

Source: *Birdlife Australia*



DID YOU KNOW....

Superb fairy-wren fathers will often sing to their eggs before they hatch. It's believed they do this to make their chicks more attentive.



PENGUINS HAVE FEELINGS TOO!



Photographer Tobias Baumgaertner captured this image of two widowed Fairy penguins looking over the Melbourne skyline. It has won an award in Oceanographic magazine's Ocean Photography Awards 2020.

The lighter penguin is an elderly female whose partner died this year.

The darker one is a younger male who lost his partner two years ago.

Biologists have followed them as they meet every night to comfort each other. They stand for hours together watching the lights.

Source: Facebook



DID YOU KNOW...

In 2021, Songs of Disappearance, a recording featuring 53 of Australia's most threatened bird species, outperformed Christmas classics from the likes of Mariah Carey and Michael Bublé to make it into the top-5 of music charts in Australia.

One featured species was the forty-spotted pardalote, restricted to a small range only in Tasmania.

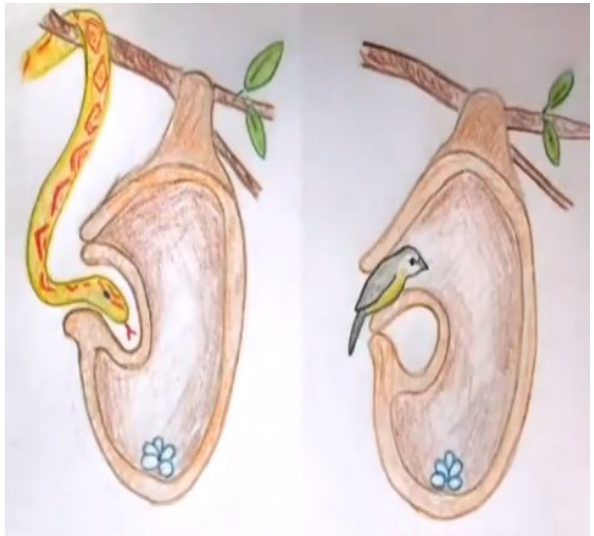


THIS BIRD CREATES A FAKE ENTRANCE TO ITS NEST TO TRICK PREDATORS

The Penduline Tits (*Remiz pendulinus*) construct amazingly ingenious nests. The name 'penduline' refers to the hanging bag nests that the bird builds for its eggs. While the shape and form of the nest are impressive on their own, it also features a very unique and important defense mechanism: a hidden entrance.

Penduline tits' nest has an important defense mechanism: a hidden entrance.

Penduline tits primarily inhabit Eurasia, Africa, and North America. They typically measure between 3 to 4.3 inches (7.5 to 11 centimeters) in length and are characterized by a brown back, gray head, and a distinctive black mask. The markings of some subspecies may also include additional colors. For instance, the European penduline tit exhibits black and chestnut markings.



Their nests incorporate a fake entrance right above the real opening

They construct pear-shaped nests on the branches of willow or birch trees. Initially, the male initiates nest construction by attaching plant fibers and fluffy seeds to the twigs and branches. Subsequently, aided by the female, they weave other materials such as spiderwebs, wool, animal hair, and soft plant material to complete the pouch-like nest. The end result is an elaborate nest suspended from the tree.

Thanks to this clever design, penduline tits protect their eggs and themselves. The false entrance leads to an empty chamber, while the real nesting chamber is accessed through a hidden door. This door, partly composed of sticky spider webs, allows the birds to easily close it from the inside after entering or leaving the nest. When a predator attempts to enter the penduline tit's nest, it will find itself in an empty pouch.

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.



NZ'S SMALLEST BIRD MAY BE 'MISSING LINK' IN BIRDSONG EVOLUTION

New Zealand's smallest bird may be a "missing link" in the evolution of vocal mimicry in songbirds.

Scientists used to think birds were divided into two groups: those that learn or copied sounds from their environment, such as parrots and songbirds, and those whose tweets and cheeps were simply innate.

But the titipounamu or rifleman (*Acanthisitta chloris*), a New Zealand wren that weighs no more than two teaspoons of sugar, bridges the two. The rifleman is one of the country's two surviving native wren species.



According to a study published in the journal *Communications Biology*, the tiny wren can mimic its nestmates' chittering, but only on a rudimentary level.

University of Auckland wildlife biologist Ines Moran, who led the study, said the work added to a growing body of evidence that suggests the ability to imitate and learn sounds from the environment — known as "vocal learning" — is not all or nothing in birds, but exists on a spectrum.

New Zealand wrens are the closest living relatives of the earliest Passeriformes, commonly known as songbirds, and share a common ancestor with parrots.

Parrots can learn to imitate human speech with great accuracy, while songbirds such as lyrebirds can imitate "all types of random sounds", Dr Moran said.

"But what about all these other species that we haven't explored yet that may be vocal learners, at least rudimentary learners, or have some type of ability but it's more subtle?"

Prior to her study, biologists didn't know whether the rifleman had any type of vocal learning ability, she added.

"In fact, in this field, these birds are not really well studied at all. It is a little sad because they are a key lineage in order to understand vocal learning evolution."

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To find out if riflemen did indeed have the ability to copy calls, Dr Moran and her colleagues had to find the birds and record their calls. It was a task easier said than done.

The diminutive green wrens typically live high up in the canopy of native forests, making them hard to distinguish among the leaves.

"It felt like we were looking for a needle in a haystack," Dr Moran said.

"Their nesting grounds are very diverse; they can nest in tree holes, high up in the trees, or sometimes underneath the leaves on the ground."

But their spotting skills and patience paid off. The team closely monitored rifleman nests over three summers near North Island's Hawke Bay, recording more than 6,800 calls routinely made by adult birds bringing food to the young nestlings.

They also analysed the birds' DNA to establish which adults were parents of the nestlings, and which were unrelated "helpers" that also delivered meals to the chicks.

The researchers wanted to know if the wrens' calls were innate and already written in their genes, or a learned behaviour influenced by their social environment.

Similar to humans and other animals, each rifleman has a unique vocal signature — a distinct voice. By analysing riflemen "voiceprints", researchers found the birds changed their vocalisations to sound more like the birds they associated with. In other words, they shared a "nest vocal signature".

Dr Moran said the helper birds' voiceprints were more similar to those of their unrelated nestmates compared to their close relatives living far away.

This behaviour is known as vocal convergence.

"It's a vocal modulation, where it's not an exact copy of the sound, but some features are more similar to one another altogether," she said.

This means New Zealand wren calls are strongly shaped by their social environment, rather than genetics, similar to other vocal learners such as zebra finches.

In human linguistics, this is called vocal accommodation, where people tend to adjust their ways of speaking in different social settings, or adopt accents from those around them. <

BABY BIRD DEVELOPMENT HARMED BY TRAFFIC NOISE

A new study has proven that traffic noise interferes with bird development, and that the noise is detrimental to the young, even when the mother isn't exposed. As the bird embryo develops in the egg, outside the mother, it is possible to manipulate an embryo's experience without affecting the mother.

Researchers at Deakin University took advantage of this by playing sounds to the eggs of the zebra finch. They discovered that - under otherwise optimal incubation conditions - eggs are less likely to hatch when exposed to traffic noise for five days before hatching, than when exposed to the species native song.

Both the traffic noise and the song were played at the same moderate amplitude - 65 decibels, which is similar to a conversation level - but something about the acoustic characteristics of the noise caused embryonic death.

After hatching, the chicks were reared normally by the zebra finch parents. However, to expose the nestlings to noise, without exposing the parents, researchers took the babies away during the night, and exposed them to sound in the absence of the parents.

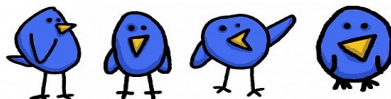
Nestlings exposed to noise rather than song were slower to grow and showed more severe signs of cellular damage. These negative effects were the result of both previous noise exposure before hatching and current exposure during the nestling stage.

Once the chicks had left the nest, they were reared together in an aviary and not exposed to any playback. One month after the end of exposure, the juveniles were measured again. The noise-exposed chicks were no longer smaller than their song-exposed siblings, but the impact on their physiology had worsened. A year later, once the birds were adults, the cellular impact of noise was still clearly visible.

Once the birds were adults, the researchers gave them the opportunity to breed freely in aviaries, to see who was most successful.

Under the same standard conditions, birds exposed to noise pre and postnatally produced only half as many young as birds that had never experienced traffic noise. This was seen in young adults for their first breeding season, but also later in life, once they were experienced parents.

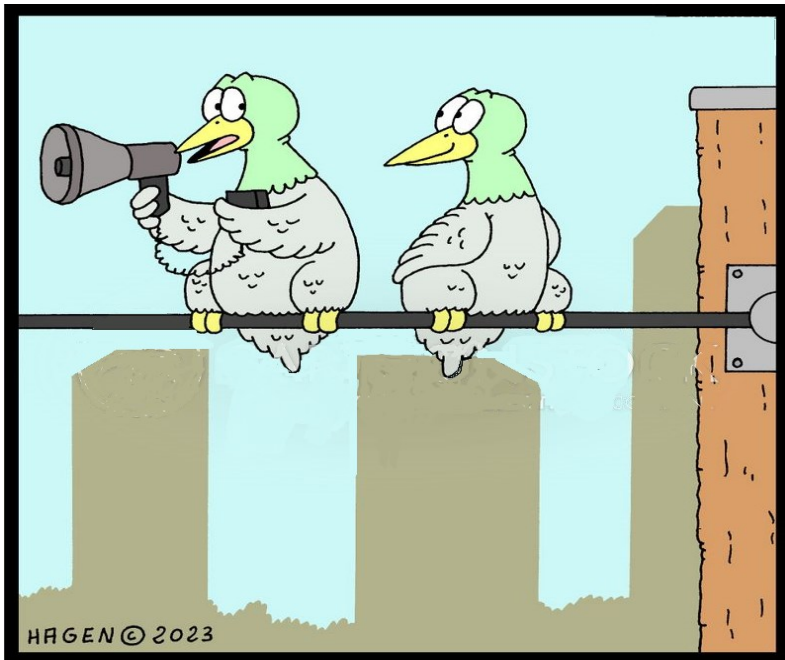
Source: Deakin University



BUDGERIGAR BLACKFACE MUTATION

The Blackface mutation is a recent mutation. It is a genetic variation that alters the distribution of melanin, the pigment responsible for coloration in birds and caused by an excess of melanin.

It is characterised by a darkening of the face and throat area of the budgie. The feathers in these areas appear black or very dark brown, hence the name "Blackface." The intensity of the black coloration can vary between individuals, ranging from a deep black to a lighter shade of gray.



Now, I need a megaphone just so that my mating call can be heard above the traffic noise...

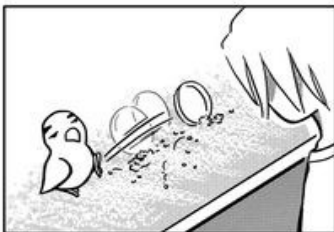
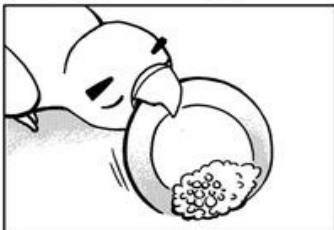
HOW TO CONVERT YOUR BIRD TO PELLETS

The following are some simple strategies:-

1. Mix a handful of pellets and a handful of seed together in a container. Add enough hot water to make the mix sticky. Mould the mix into a rissole shape and press firmly. Place the freshly made "rissole" in the bird's normal feeding container. The birds will initially pick through the rissole looking for seed. Repeat the process daily while slowly reducing the amount of seed and increasing the portion of pellets.
2. A similar process can be used with soaked seed, which is especially useful when the hen is rearing chicks, as she will tend to take food very easily.
3. A blend of dry seed and pellets can be used in the normal dish. This is a slower method and acceptance will vary between individual birds.
4. The least preferred method is by "cold turkey" where the seed is removed and replaced by pellets. In this instance the birds should have access to fruit and vegetables at all times so they have some form of nutrition while learning what pellets are.
5. Birds that are hand tame can be offered pellets smeared with fruit or peanut butter from your hand until they get used to the taste. Although the conversion process may be a little tedious, once it is done the advantages of pellet feeding are obvious. Chicks that have been reared by adults on pellets will automatically go to the pellets when they are weaned. Birds that have been reared on the pellets will convert back to seed easily, especially if they have had access to some soaked seeds in fruit and vegetables.

Pepe and Pellets

Look, Pepe! These are called pellets. All birds in the west eat them. Go try some!



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Pellet Eating Habits

Interestingly, parrots do not swallow the pellets in pieces! They tend to chew them first into a fine powder before they eat them. It is important that you do not throw out the powder in the bowls (provided it is not spoilt) because the birds will do this in time. If the feed bowls are kept clean and dry you will find the birds will not waste any pellets.

Other Things You Should Feed Your Birds

Birds like variety just as people do. It is always worthwhile feeding your birds fruits, vegetables, cooked meats, nuts and bread etc. Birds can actually eat anything that we as humans eat. You will not need to feed these extras excessively but you will find that birds appreciate the changing diet. Remember to be careful to remove these foods before they spoil and always feed the "extras" in a separate dish to the one used for pellets.

Obviously fresh water should be available to all birds. When feeding your birds pellets, they will consume more water than when eating seed. Be sure your water dishes and supply are adequate.



PITY THE POOR JUDGES

An exhibitor entered a canary in a bird show and wanted to know why it had not won.

"Because it has one leg" explained the judge.

"But I have studied the allocation of points," argued the exhibitor, "and the rules say that there are only five points for legs, feet and claws. As my bird has one leg, the most you could have deducted was two and a half points."

The judge spent the rest of the day lying down in a darkened room!



PROTECTIVE DADS

A ranger is reminding dog walkers to keep their distance from emus as their numbers bounce back after years of drought.

Emu dads are known for their dedication to raising their chicks, and it is this dedication that can often lead to attacks.

In the latter half of winter, emu couples split, having spent five months together.



After that, the chicks spend the next two years learning from their dad.

"The young generally reach sexual maturity at about 18 months," Mr Norris said.

"So even after they are fully-fledged adults the father can still look after them for six months thereafter."

Emu chicks are easy prey, especially when they are freshly hatched. So, it is all on dad to keep them safe.

"When they're chicks, they're susceptible to things like foxes and eagles and goannas ... so they grow up pretty quickly," he said.

The sight of emus so close to Broken Hill was ultimately really good news, he added.

The region's population had come dangerously close to being wiped out by years of devastating drought.

"It's taken a couple of years for them to get to the state where they're building up those numbers [again]," Mr Norris said.

WHY BIRDS TAP ON WINDOWS

A Swedish woman found herself puzzled when a bird repeatedly tapped on her window. She captured the behavior on film and sent it to a Swedish nature site, seeking answers to her question: Why do birds knock on windows?

"I have a bird, I think it's a Hawfinch, that sits and pecks at my window every day. It has been doing this for about two weeks now. He's beautiful to look at, but not as beautiful when he wakes me up on weekends at 8:00 AM," wrote Ina Alvö.

"It's an interesting observation of the Hawfinch. It looks like a classic case of a wild animal, not accustomed to seeing its reflection, reacting as if it sees another member of its species. There are many videos online where people have set up mirrors in the wild with hidden cameras that recorded how species like gorillas and leopards react, similar to how the Hawfinch behaves. The Hawfinch in the video appears to be a male and is probably motivated to peck



at the window to drive away a rival. Observations like this are not uncommon, where, for example, Blue Tits and Wagtails attack car rear-view mirrors, but Hawfinches lead a more secretive life which makes this kind of observation rarer with the Hawfinch."

Ina also wondered if there was anything she could do to make it stop.

"If you want to get rid of the problem, assuming the mirror interpretation above is correct, it should resolve if you put something on the outside of the lower part of the window so the Hawfinch no longer sees its reflection when it sits on the windowsill."

This curious incident sheds light on the fascinating ways in which wildlife interacts with our human-made environments, and how simple solutions can sometimes mitigate unintended conflicts between humans and nature.

Source: [Why Birds Tap on Windows \(dagens.com\)](http://dagens.com)

WHY DO PARROTS EAT CLAY?

The parrots of Southeastern Peru crave an earthy delicacy: dirt.

At the Colorado clay lick, a cliff face rising above the Tambopata River in the western Amazon Basin, parrots, often hundreds at a time from up to 18 species, gather each day to feast on sun-hardened clay.



Results from over 20,000 hours of parrot observations stretched over 13 years. The findings suggest that clay may give parrots the nutritional boost they need to rear their young.

There are two main hypotheses for why Peruvian parrots practice geophagy—the intentional consumption of soil. The first is that clay is a natural detox treatment. When food is limited and safer plants are in short supply, clay could help birds eat the more toxic plants that remain. Indeed, some laboratory experiments have shown that clay could bind to toxins, keeping them out of a parrot's bloodstream.

The other hypothesis is that clay contributes vital minerals that a parrot's plant-based diet lacks. Parrot geophagy is concentrated in moist tropical forests where sodium is quickly washed from the ecosystem, except where it's stored in hard clay.

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Sodium is an essential nutrient that helps the body maintain the proper balance between water and electrolytes, and it supports proper nerve function and muscle contraction. Amazonian clay lick soils typically contain levels of sodium 40 times greater than the parrots' plant foods.

In contrast to animal-based foods, which are sodium-rich, plant foods are rich in potassium. Not only does potassium interfere with the uptake of sodium, but it also increases sodium excretion, thereby intensifying sodium deprivation. The birds that eat clay are usually ones with basically no insect or other animal protein in the diet.

Another reason the clay may attract parrots is its high pH level. The rain-forest ecosystem is delicate and diverse, and one of its main components is fungus. Although fungi are vital for breaking down the leaf litter that sits in the darkest areas of the forest, unpenetrated by sunshine, just like every relationship in nature there is give and take. The high

acidity of the fungus can affect fruiting plants, and thus the main food source of the parrots. A high level of acid can cause liver damage, weaken the immune system, and impact egg development. To counteract these problems, the high pH – or alkaline – clay can be eaten to neutralise the overall pH within the parrot's body and mitigate some of the potential health risks.

To test the hypotheses, a team studied how the clay-eating observation data matched up with other long-term data sets on food availability and breeding times. The team found no evidence to support the toxin protection hypothesis, as parrots actually ate clay more often when food was plentiful.

But the analysis did support the idea that clay works as a nutrient supplement for the birds. For every one of the nine parrot species studied, clay eating peaked during the breeding season, and was especially prominent as parents fed new hatchlings. The mothers need more energy to produce eggs and enough nutrients to feed both their chicks and themselves. Sodium is one thing that is missing from their diet, so in a time of stress, they may need more of that.

Many other animals, including elephants, bats and primates, also eat dirt. There are also reports of humans eating dirt. Specifically, pregnant women from Tanzania and Iran to Mexico and the United States.

Source: various

BRUSH TURKEYS ARE ATTACKING CHICKENS

Residents who turned to backyard chooks for eggs during the coronavirus pandemic are encountering a serious problem but are powerless to stop it under Queensland law. It's breeding season for brush turkeys and the protected native birds have set their sights on domestic hens.

Griffith University professor Darryl Jones said between September and December, brush turkeys — also known as scrub or bush turkeys — were searching for mates, as well as the perfect place for a nest, or "mound".

Dr Jones said the turkeys were attracted to backyards and could be violent in their interactions with hens.

"They often get attracted to the chook food that's being put out for the chickens," Dr Jones said.



When the pandemic hit earlier this year, demand for backyard chickens skyrocketed as panicked shoppers emptied supermarket shelves of eggs and other staples.

Dr Jones said it could be upsetting for owners to see their chickens injured or traumatised, but there was little to no chance of the different species successfully mating.

"It can be fairly distressing for the birds because they're much smaller," he said. "It's a really nasty interaction."

Because they are a native species, brush turkeys can only be relocated by licensed operators.

Private animal controller Julieanne Ransby said she had received many requests for help.

"Some of our techs are getting more calls up at the Sunshine Coast," she said. "Then there's Brisbane and we've got the Gold Coast as well."

Ms Ransby said despite reported attacks, she had also witnessed chickens and turkeys living in relative harmony, particularly if the birds had grown up together in the area.

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Ms Ransby said people sometimes took matters into their own hands because they were reluctant to pay for a solution. But, by doing that, they were putting the turkeys in danger.

"They don't know what they're doing," she said. "They don't know where they can relocate these birds."

Under Queensland law, it is illegal to move, injure or interfere with native wildlife, including the brush turkey.

The environment department warned that the penalty for taking or killing a brush turkey ranged from \$667 to a maximum \$133,000, or one year in prison.

In New South Wales, those caught harming protected wildlife, including the turkeys, can face a fine of up to \$22,000.

University of Sydney brush turkey researcher Matthew Hall has been studying how and why the turkeys are able to thrive in urban areas. He said they were hunted close to extinction as a source of food during the Great Depression, but had since exploded in number.

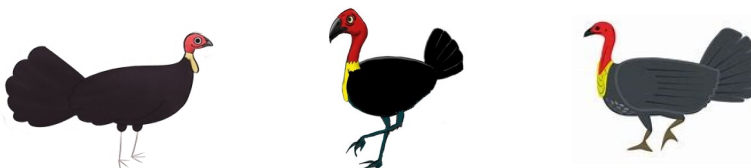
"They've just become really well adapted to urban areas," Mr Hall said. "It seems the brush turkeys that live in cities have just really gotten used to people and aren't afraid of them anymore."

Dr Jones said the increasingly fearless birds were frustrating for many people, but were also "extraordinary". He said they were the only birds to emerge from their shells that do not receive support from parents.

"There's no-one to look after them, they have no parental care of any sort, no-one to tell them what a predator looks like or what food is or anything," Dr Jones said. "They go off alone into the unknown world."

"They're a massive conflict bird — they've destroyed lots of wonderful gardens. But they are still extraordinarily interesting because of all the different things they do."

Source: www.abc.net.au/news



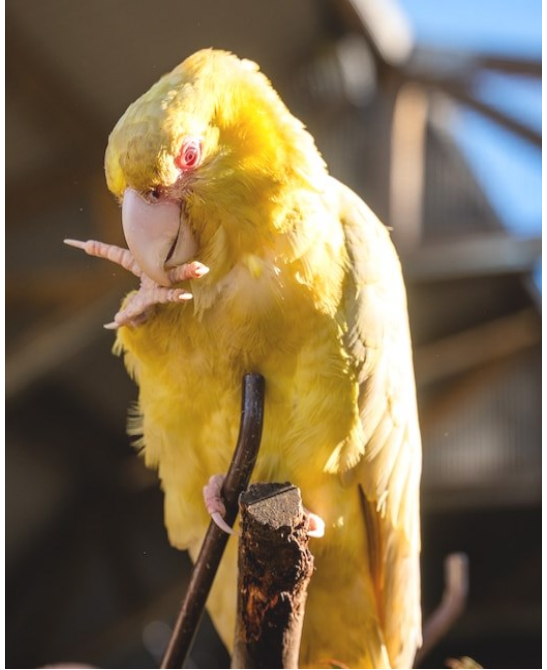
TWEETY THE YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO AT RISK OF BIRD COLLECTORS

A valuable and rare yellow-tailed black cockatoo born completely yellow has been rescued from the side of the road by a Tasmanian wildlife sanctuary.

The cockatoo — named Tweety — is so rare that the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary said offers in the tens of thousands of dollars have been flying in from people wanting to breed or sell it.

Tweety was born with a rare genetic mutation called leucism, which affects the pigmentation of the bird's feathers, causing them to turn completely yellow.

Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary director Greg Irons said he has "never seen anything like this before".



"It was a really odd thing to get my head around. It was like a cartoon character, which is where (the name) Tweety came from," he said. "It's simply a rare mutation, but not a positive one to have if you are in the wild and not wanting to attract predators and things that might eat you, being bright yellow is not how you want to dress.

Tweety was found in poor condition on the side of the road in May after being abandoned by its flock, which meant it was never shown how to eat properly.

"He was very close to death. We are actually quite surprised he survived ... he wasn't doing well in the wild on his own," Mr Irons said.

Despite a rocky start to life, another yellow-tailed black cockatoo has taken Tweety under its wing in the Bonorong aviary.

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Bird ecologist Eric Woehler said in his 45-year career "this is the first time I've seen a yellow-tailed black cockatoo that's missing the black".

"It's quite a remarkable bird," he said.

He said it was unclear how rare these mutations are — but added there was little doubt Tweety would be at risk if set free.

"This bird would certainly be a Target for collectors or breeders if let loose and if it were in the wild. You'd have people going out and looking forward trying to catch it either for breeding or for selling overseas somewhere."

"It's a sad reflection that you still have people that put a dollar value on wildlife, rather than appreciating it for its intrinsic value."

Earlier this month, federal investigators seized a collection of more than 3,000 bird eggs from a property in Hobart after a tip-off.

"It's sad but not surprising there is this interest in the bird," Dr Woehler said.

Mr Irons said Tweety could live to "50, 60 or even 80 years".

Source:: www.abc.net.au/news/2024



DID YOU KNOW...

The crimson rosella may have more photopigments than other animals. Photopigments are special proteins in the eye that allow detection of light and color.

One study did genetic sequencing on crimson rosellas and found that they have two extra photopigments that have never been seen before in other species.

Since the crimson rosella is so brightly colored, these extra photopigments may help them to better pick out family members and mates.



THE INDONESIAN BLACK CHICKEN

One of the most sought-after, in-demand breeds of chicken in the world is the Indonesian black chicken, a jet-black breed called Ayam Cemani. It is the strangest, most expensive and rarest breed of chicken in the world. Often nicknamed “goth chicken” or “Lamborghini chicken”, the price of its eggs can reach USD 2500 dollars. and it is very delicious.

Native to Java, Indonesia, this chicken is inky-black all over — not just its feathers, but also its beak, eyes, feet, bones and internal organs. With even black tissue beneath its feathers, the Ayam Cemani gives a whole new meaning to the term “dark meat.”

The word “cemani” is Sanskrit for “jet black,” and it’s no wonder that these birds also go by the nickname “goth chickens.”



A label like that might imply that Ayam Cemani chickens are frightening. In fact these birds are said to be friendly, docile and hardy, with low maintenance requirements — but they only lay an egg a week, and may also stop laying for months at a time.

Leif Andersson, a geneticist at Uppsala University in Sweden, told National Geographic that the black color is the result of a genetic mutation called fibromelanosis, which can be traced back to a single bird from hundreds or even thousands of years ago.

“The mutation underlying fibromelanosis is very peculiar, so we are sure that it occurred once,” Andersson told the publication.

In regular chickens, only certain cells express the gene that controls skin color (endolin 3). In these hyperpigmented chickens, though, almost all the cells express the gene. So, these chickens have 10 times more melanin than most other chicken breeds, though it should be noted that their blood is red. And they do lay cream-colored eggs.



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 trans-shipment will vary.

Clubs requiring an order form to be completed, should contact the Secretary.

2025 RING ORDERS

Clubs requiring rings for distribution by the 1st January 2025 are requested to submit orders by the 30th September 2024.

The orders for the second consolidation for 2025 rings should be finalised by the 1st March 2025, ETA late April.



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.

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