



FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



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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.
- Articles may be copied from *Feathered World* Magazine, providing the author and magazine are acknowledged appropriately.

Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

MEETING DATES 2026

General Meetings 5th November

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm

NOTE: All meetings will be by Zoom only unless otherwise advised

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FEDERATION STATIONERY SALE

(Prices for Affiliated & Insured Clubs)

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From: John Walsh - Phone 0421 011 107 - Email: ktwsh075@gmail.com

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

THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM GENERAL MEETING HELD THURSDAY 3rd September 2026.

The president opened the meeting at 8:05 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

ATTENDANCE: There were 12 delegates in attendance, including B. Barnes, R. Law, C. Isbister, B. Wright, J. Tadgell, P. Haramis, B. Whiting, B. Kerr, A. Trent, M. MacPherson, A. Alessandrino, C. Piniatidis.

APOLOGIES were received from: R. Robertson, J. Walsh, J. Forrest, B. Read, M. Cameron – moved C. Isbister and seconded M. MacPherson apologies be accepted - Carried.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the 4th June General Meeting were also published in Feathered World and uploaded on the web site and displayed at the meeting. It was moved C. Isbister and seconded J. Tadgell 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.*

In-coming correspondence as follows:

- Affiliated clubs. Notification of office bearers and delegate
- Affiliated clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding insurance.
- Parrot Keepers & Exhibitors Society NSW Inc. advises they will not proceed with the insurance claim resulting in injury to a financial club member at the Fairfield sale on the 3rd of May 2026.
- Gloster Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc. Request for affiliation and insurance, followed by EFT on receipt of the invoice.
- Parrot Keepers & Exhibitors Society NSW Inc. completed ERA for Hawkesbury Bird Expo 12th July'26

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- Hervey Bay Bird Club Inc. completed ERA for Bird Expo 2nd August'26
- FCA of Qld – Rhode Island Club of Australia - Qld Branch Request for affiliation and insurance, followed by EFT on receipt of the invoice.
- ACA, seeking our support for their submission aiming to ensure the Cook Park aviary in Orange remains and is not demolished.
- Gloster Fancy Canary Club of NSW Inc., concerning the name of the newly established Gloster Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc. advising members are concerned the use of the word 'Australia' gives the wrong impression of the type of Gloster this club is seeking to breed (the UK/European type), as well as provides the impression that this new club is the governing body of the Gloster Fancy in Australia, which it is not. Re. CCBFA affiliation As CCBFA acknowledges the GFNSW and GFVIC as being the specialist clubs and governing bodies for the Gloster Fancy in Australia, the GFNSW asks that any request by the CCBFA for CCBFA affiliation and insurance is subject to the following: 1. The GFCCA change its name by removing 'Australia' and clearly indicating in its name that it is a UK-European standard/type Gloster Fancy club. 2. That GFCCA birds entered into CCBFA affiliated shows be entered under the AOV category, as this type of Gloster canary does not adhere to the accepted pictorial standards as approved by the GFNSW, GFVIC and CCBFA for the Gloster Fancy canary in Australia
- Lake Macquarie Zebra Finch Society Inc. completed ERA for Hosting the Federation of Zebra Finch Societies National Show and meetings.
- BirdKeeper P/L, copy of Sam Davies submission to Minister for the Environment & Water and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry Regarding the proposed importation of psittacine birds.
- Wangaratta Homing Pigeon Club Inc Request for affiliation and insurance, followed by EFT on receipt of the invoice.
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of ring orders for 2026 and 2027
- Affiliated clubs, payments for ring orders for 2026 from various affiliates.

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- Gloster Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc, initial telephone conversation follows up with an email, clarifying various issue circulating, stating the name Australian on their logo reflecting that the club is the Australia representative of the international organisation (GFCCI) and the club welcomes members from all the states. The club breed standard is not the Australian standard, they are working towards the UK standard (which will not happen overnight) At combined canary shows they are happy to exhibit their birds under AOV under the name GCI Closter, their show cages will be Green not Blue, following the international guidelines. Requesting Federation to email Victorian clubs that conduct combined canary shows of their exhibition criteria.

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

- ANBC Budgerigar Gazette July, Aug & Sept'26
- PET Industry News. Nov/Dec'24 March, April, May, June'26
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter July, Aug & Sept'26
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales July'26
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier July, Aug & Sept'26
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings July & Sept'26
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc May/June, July/Aug'26
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW May-June & July-Aug'26
- Gold Coast Aviary Birds News July / Aug'26 & Sept / Oct'26
- Animal Care Australia ACE quarterly update August'26
- Down Bird Breeders Assoc. Inc. Sept'26

Out-going correspondence as follows:

- Affiliated clubs' assistance with insurance matters requesting information, forwarding amended certificates.
- Northern Budgerigar Association of New South Wales Inc, forwarding the clubs insurance certificate and covering letter.
- Signed petition for 'Protect Bird Keeping in Victoria. Stop New Wildlife Act Restrictions'

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- Marsh Insurance. on behalf of the Parrot Keepers & Exhibitors Society NSW Inc. advising they will not proceed with the claim.
- Gloster Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc. Advising details of affiliation and insurance with covering letter and invoice, followed by insurance certificate and covering letter on receipt of payment.
- Affiliate Clubs, CGU endorsed amended certificates 'Interest Noted' forwarded with cover letter to Parrot Keepers & Exhibitors Society NSW Inc., Hervey Bay Bird Club Inc.
- FCA of Qld – Rhode Island Club of Australia - Qld Branch forwarding invoice for affiliation and insurance together with covering letter, followed by insurance certificate and covering letter on receipt of payment.
- ACA, advising CCBFA, support and fully endorse the submission to ensure the Cook Park aviary in Orange remains.
- Wangaratta Homing Pigeon Club Inc. Advising details of affiliation and insurance with covering letter and invoice, followed by insurance certificate and covering letter on receipt of payment.
- Coditech, placement of new supplementary ring orders for 2026.
- Affiliated clubs, notification for first ring consolidation for 2027, requiring rings for distribution by the 1st January 2027 are requested to submit orders by the 30th September 2026. The orders for the 2nd consolidation for 2027, should be finalised by the 1st March 2027, ETA late April. Supplementary orders can be placed during 2027, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary.

Matters arising out of correspondence:

Moved by the President and seconded C. Isbister that application for affiliation and insurance be accepted for Gloster Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc.,

FCA of Qld – Rhode Island Club of Australia - Qld Branch, Wangaratta Homing Pigeon Club Inc

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A Alessandrino (President of GFCCA) and C. Piniatidis (Secretary of GFCCA) spoke on their intentions for the new Gloster Club of Australia. The President B. Barnes advised we were concerned about the inevitable confusion that would arise with two different stands for the "Gloster". A good discussion ensued and A Alessandrino and C. Piniatidis agreed to revisit the Club name.

A. Alessandrino also agreed to clarify his Facebook page to emphasise to visitors that it did not Represent our Australian standard. I thanked them for the openness and willingness to resolve these issues.

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

TREASURERS REPORT

1. Term deposit Westpac \$145,000.00
2. Cheque account balance 3rd September'26 \$13,114.70
3. The following accounts were submitted for endorsement:
4. Editor of Feathered World August / September issues \$150.00, Luminary renewal for 2 years to 3rd September 2029, of domain name *federationbirdclubs.org.au*, GoH dinner expenses, three dinners, Roll engraving, cards & certificates, cake for desert \$226.08. Secretary USB \$21.95, Ring postage, 10 Satchels & PP Signature \$146.99

It was moved by C. Isbister and seconded by M. MacPherson that the payments and the Treasurers' actions be endorsed

REPORTS:

H5N1 Virus: ACA - Quarterly updates August'26

Animal Care Australia will continue to monitor the progression of this virus and any changes in protocols.

We have consulted with the Office of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer and are in the ongoing process of consulting with state-based offices.

With the 'mass death event' this past week involving Silver Gull (commonly known simply as the seagull) in South Australia we have

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With this in mind Animal Care Australia now recommends that aviculturists in South Australia cover their aviaries with a solid, impermeable roof to reduce the risk of contamination from wild bird droppings.

Bird keepers in all other states and territories should begin planning to cover their aviaries should H5N1 continue to spread. Ensuring water bowls are not exposed to wild birds would be a good start.

NSW Wildlife Licensing Update:

Animal Care Australia has been advised that the (NSW) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has secured funding to commence the development of a new online records and licensing system. There will also be some consultations commencing in the coming months to update regulatory licensing aspects. We have no further information at this point, and will advise the member associations when those consultations commence.

Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) DAFF website:
www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws

Throughout 2026, the AAWS project team within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will continue to work closely with State and Territory governments, and other government agencies with animal welfare responsibility, to develop the AAWS and its 6 animal group chapters.

Welfare of birds, hobbyist, shows, exhibitions, sales, auctions. Concern for good standing of hobby of aviculture. Compliance with legislative requirements, both State and Federal.

Event operates under CCBFA Code of Practice. The code documents Standards & Guidelines to facilitate robust self-regulation

Moved C. Isbister and seconded by M. MacPherson that the reports be accepted and thanked – Carried.

BUSINESS: GENERAL

- **2026 Ring Orders.** Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2026, delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary.

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- **2027 Ring Orders. Clubs** requiring rings for distribution by the 1st January 2027 are requested to submit orders by the 30th September 2026. The orders for the 2nd consolidation for 2027, should be finalised by the 1st March 2027, ETA late April. Supplementary orders can be placed during 2027, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary.
- **Show and Sale dates – for 2026 and 2027** Clubs are requested to email **Matt McKenzie any updates** to that recorded Email clubs@ccbfa.org.au
- **INSURANCE.** CCBFA is legally required to maintain an updated record of all clubs' office bearers and the club's official postal and email address. **The Underwriters have stated for CCBFA and affiliate clubs to maintain proof of membership**, by maintaining a membership register. **It is also important to note that we have a requirement that all affiliates give advanced notice of cancellation of insurance. Hence affiliates are requested to advise Federation by the 30th of September should they not require cover for the ensuing year. Failure to do so will necessitate being charged.**
- **INSURANCE – EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT.** CGU underwriter has advised that they have implemented a new requirement, (an EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT) for when events have more than 500 people attending, or the event goes over more than one day.
 - ◇ *CGU have provided a template to assist if the club does not have a risk assessment template. This template lists a number of risks, which may or may not apply to the insured's events. Using the CGU template, you can delete or write N/A in the corresponding fields.*
 - ◇ *The intention of the risk assessment is to show that the affiliates are considering the risks and mitigating/preventing them. Assessing the risks will mean you will know how to respond, if/when an incident occurs.*
 - ◇ *Regarding the number of people attending events, this information is to understand the size and exposure of each which will better help understand the risk as a whole.*
 - ◇ *The insurance policy cover is not changing only the underwriter's requirement for the information.*

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- ◇ We presently require notification of the event (name, dates, venue/ address, where known) to be received by the end of October for the following year events.
 - ◇ On receipt of club's payment for the renewal of affiliation and insurance, a "General" insurance certificate will be issued (as we currently do) to enable the affiliates to initiate bookings.
 - ◇ *For all shows, sales, auctions, conventions and other events with more than the 500 attendees or are more than a one-day event an "Event Risk Assessment" must be submitted to the CCBFA secretary, for the event / venue (as soon as the venue name / address, dates are known). If using the same venue in subsequent years, you will only be required to advise the date and estimate number of people attending.*
 - ◇ **After the affiliate has submitted an "Event Risk Assessment" for the event / venue, an amended insurance certificate will be issued, endorsing the details of the event. Only then will the event be insured.**
 - ◇ **ERA Notation following on from the last item, in the first column HAZARD / RISKS note Welfare of birds, Concern for good standing of hobby of aviculture. Compliance with legislative requirements. Then in the second column CONTROLS / ACTIONS state Event operates under CCBFA Code of Practice (if a show / exhibition CCBFA Show Rules) . The code documents Standards & Guidelines to facilitate robust self-regulation. In the third column RISK RATING, state Low**
- **Guest of Honour Dinner:** a very enjoyable luncheon was held on Sunday 2nd August at Merrylands Bowling Club for this year's two Guests of honour Greg Gingell and Christine Gruntar
- The President thanked Bob Wright for facilitating the Zoom meeting for tonight and thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.

Notice of the next General Meeting, Zoom only

Thursday 5th November 2026

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm

t



Australian Government

Keep your birds safe

A serious strain of H5 avian influenza (bird flu) has spread quickly overseas due to migrating wild birds. Act now to protect your backyard poultry and kept birds.



Keep wild birds away from your birds
by using housing and netting

Keep bird feed and water in an area that
wild birds can't access



Keep poultry coops, aviaries and
equipment clean

Keep new birds quarantined before
integrating them with your flock



Keep up your hand hygiene -
wash hands with soap before and after
handling birds and eggs.

Keep watch for signs of sick birds. Report groups of sick or dead birds to your local vet or the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888.



Be prepared **birdflu.gov.au**

MAN KILLED BY 'WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS BIRD' KEPT AS A PET

Passionate about preserving the 'most dangerous' bird species on Earth, a man became the second person in recorded history to be fatally attacked by them.

A man's decision to keep exotic animals led to his tragic death when one of his birds attacked him in what police described as a "tragic" accident.

75-year-old Marvin Hajos lived in Alachua, a city in northern Florida, and reportedly kept exotic animals for years.

Among those animals were cassowaries, flightless birds that resemble emus and are considered the most dangerous of their kind.



Equipped with dagger-like, five-inch-long claws, cassowaries can weigh more than 100 lb (45 kg) and run up to 30 mph, meaning attacks from such birds can prove fatal.

According to friend Jim Glynn, Hajos had a love for birds that began when he worked at the Bronx Zoo as a child. 65 years later, he held a permit to care for cassowaries and a passion for preserving the species.

One of the females - of the two breeding pairs kept at the house - was protecting her eggs from males of the species, which are known to try to smash them, particularly as they become more aggressive around breeding season.

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Hajos tried to retrieve the eggs and put them away safely in an incubator when one of the birds launched at him.

Lieutenant Brett Rhodenizer, from the County Sheriff Department, said of the attack: “We believe he went in there to recover that egg and then at some point the bird was able to make its attack,” as he fell to the floor in a vulnerable position.

Hajos went on to call for his daughter’s help, but there was little she could do. The man had to be taken to the hospital, where he subsequently tragically died from his injuries. His partner told police the family’s tragedy happened while Hajos was “doing what he loved”.

Hajos was known for his love of cassowaries and was a notable figure in the field, often invited to speak at universities about the species.

After the attack, the cassowary bird that attacked Hajos remained at the property for a period before the family said they had no plans to keep the birds at their property - a decision that proved hard for the family, since they “knew how much [Hajos] loved his birds.”

Even though they are known as the world’s deadliest bird due to a combination of dangerous factors (such as razor-sharp claws, powerful kicks and speed), Hajos was only the second human in recorded history to be killed by one.

The only other time was almost a hundred years earlier, when, in 1926, an Australian teenager was killed after he and his friends struck a cassowary with a club.

DID YOU KNOW....

Cassowary helmets glow in the dark: In 2026, scientists discovered that the casque—the prominent, horn-like helmet on top of a cassowary’s head—glows under ultraviolet (UV) light.

While different cassowary species glow in similar colours, they each display completely distinct visual patterns across their helmets



ARE BLACK COCKATOOS THE MAFIA?

Funny article by Renee Mckay of East Gippsland. In Facebook June 18

I have come to the conclusion that my Black Cockatoos are not actually birds. They are a highly organised criminal syndicate operating under the guise of being endangered Australian wildlife.

Every morning I walk outside with food, fresh water and good intentions.

Every morning they look at me like I've arrived three hours late for a board meeting.

The male sits there looking like a gothic rock star who hasn't smiled since 1987, while the female supervises every single thing I do with the judgement of a disappointed school principal. I've spent thousands building a beautiful aviary. Strong steel. Quality mesh. Perches. Enrichment toys. Their response? "Excellent. Now remove all of that and give us the zip tie you dropped."

The amount of destruction these two can achieve with a beak should be studied by engineers. If Black Cockatoos ever learn how to use power tools, Australia is finished. And don't let their beauty fool you.



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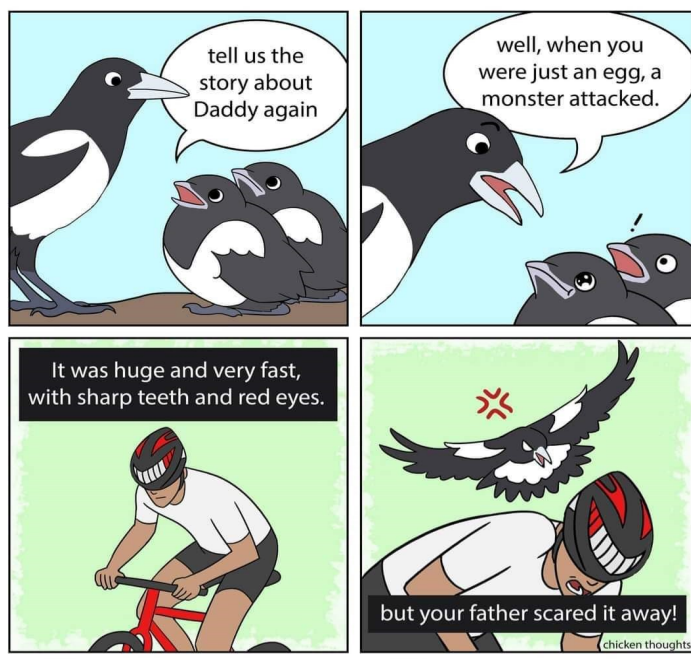
Visitors see them and say things like: "Oh wow, they're so majestic!" Majestic? Mate, I watched one spend twenty minutes trying to unscrew a bolt while the other stood nearby acting as a lookout.

The worst part is they're smarter than me. I know they're smarter than me because every time I enter the aviary they immediately identify the exact thing I don't want them touching and make a beeline for it. New water bowl? Attack it. Expensive toy? Destroy it. Fresh branch for enrichment? Reduce it to mulch before lunch. Meanwhile

I'm standing there paying the feed bill wondering how I somehow became employed by two giant feathered goths who contribute absolutely nothing to the household except property damage and emotional manipulation.

Would I change it? Absolutely not. Because every now and then they look at me with those big dark eyes and I remember they're magnificent Australian icons... ..right before they rip another piece off something that cost me money.

Anyone else own pets that are equal parts beautiful, intelligent and an ongoing financial emergency?



FROM GLOBAL STANDARDS TO LOCAL SUCCESS:

How CCBAV Leveraged COM Membership for Australian Breeders

The future of the bird fancy in Australia relies on our ability to modernise, connect, and elevate our standards. For the Canary and Cage Bird Association of Victoria (CCBAV), the path forward became clear through Australia's affiliation with the Confédération Ornithologique Mondiale (COM). Over the past two years, our specialist colour-canary club has actively integrated COM's international framework into our local operations, transforming a global affiliation into highly practical, club-level benefits.



There is an important distinction to make regarding the digital systems we now use: the software platform itself is not a product supplied by COM. Instead, the system was developed entirely in-house within CCBAV by Nathan. What COM provided was the vital foundation—the international framework, standards, and judging data—which we seamlessly incorporated into our club's custom systems and processes.

Establishing an International Foundation

For any specialist club, developing judging criteria, class structures, and show procedures from scratch is an monumental task. COM membership completely eliminates the need to reinvent the wheel. By tapping into this global network, CCBAV gained access to an internationally recognised framework. This allowed us to align our colour-canary classes, judging education, and show procedures directly against established international benchmarks.

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To date, CCBAV has achieved several key milestones by leveraging these resources:

- **Full Variety Recognition:** We have now recognised the full range of COM colour -canary varieties within our official club show structure.
- **Judges' Accreditation:** We adopted COM standards and educational material as the core foundation for a brand-new judges' education and accreditation platform.
- **Digital Show Management:** Alongside these structural updates, we moved our entire show management ecosystem online. CCBAV now handles online entries, show administration, judging, and live results recording digitally.



Shared Resources for All Disciplines

While CCBAV is a specialist colour-canary club, the resources available through COM span the entire avicultural spectrum. The international framework offers comprehensive guidelines, Order of Canary Judges (OMJ) regulations, and standards across a vast array of disciplines, including:

- Colour, posture, and singing canaries
- Finches and exotic birds
- Budgerigars and psittacines



Our experience demonstrates exactly how any specialist Australian club—regardless of the specific bird species they focus on—can take these international assets and turn them into practical, administrative benefits. For clubs interested in exploring these standards, a wealth of information is readily available through official COM channels, including current class sections, OMJ judging regulations, and global member-country data.

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Looking to the Future

The potential for international collaboration in the digital age is immense, as highlighted by milestones like Tim Hartung's success with the 2025 World Online Zebra Finch Show. Showcasing Australian birds on a digital world stage proves that our geographical isolation is no longer a barrier to global connection. CCBAV is eager to develop further contacts and share operational insights with other Australian clubs working across all COM disciplines.

CCBAV strongly supports Australia's continued membership of COM. We hope our journey serves as a practical blueprint for the wider Australian bird fancy, illustrating how global standards can modernise our clubs, inspire our breeders, and safeguard the future of our hobby.





NATURAL SUPPLEMENT FOR **FINCHES**



PRIMA
1 KG NET



BIRD NESTS OF FIBRE-OPTIC CABLES SHOW WAR'S IMPACT ON UKRAINE

Woven from fibre-optic cable and grass, a small bird's nest found near the front line of the war in Ukraine shows how the more than four-year-old conflict is reshaping the natural environment, researchers say.

Areas along the 1,200-km (746-mile) front line are covered with ultra-thin fibre-optic cables, which are used by Ukrainian and Russian troops to guide aerial attack drones to make them impervious to electronic jamming.



The cables, which can stretch for 20 km, lie tangled in trees and scattered across fields and on the rooftops of towns in Ukraine's frontline regions, glistening in the sunlight like giant spider webs

Birds have begun repurposing the discarded cables to weave their nests, says Yana Hryenko, a senior researcher at Kyiv's War Museum, cautiously examining two delicate nests which the armed forces sent to the museum from the front line.

"Objects such as bird nests with fragments of optic fibre demonstrate the change in the nature of war," said Hryenko. "This is just one of dozens of manifestations of how nature survives in the flames of war."

Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 with tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery. Trying to counter Russia's advantage in such conventional equipment, Ukraine has poured resources into developing aerial drones. Drones now dominate the battlefield.

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Hrynko said researchers did not know which birds made the nests nor how they had gathered the long cables. "The first nest mainly contains dry grass and fibre-optic cable. And it's □ pretty tightly twisted," she said.

Reuters spoke to several Ukrainian servicemen in the frontline regions of Donetsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia who had found such nests and posted their pictures and videos online.

One of the two nests will remain in Kyiv as a part of the War Museum's war collection, and the other will be sent for study in the Netherlands and later □ returned, researchers said.

Auke-Florian Hiemstra, a 33-year-old biologist based in the Dutch city of Leiden who specialises in artificial nest materials, said Ukraine had rich avian biodiversity and there were many species that could have built the nests.

"We're going to look for DNA traces still □ in a nest to determine who actually made the nest," she said. "I have never seen nests like this before - and I have seen many, many bird nests."

The impact of the fibre-optic on birds could be mixed, Hiemstra said. It □ could cause harm as the birds could become entangled but it could also benefit them by helping them make a strong nest.

"And by documenting this nest, we're also documenting the impact of war on nature in Ukraine," Hiemstra said.

DID YOU KNOW?....

Unlike most parrots that carry nesting material in their beaks, female Peach-faced Lovebirds tuck strips of bark, leaves, or paper directly into their lower back and rump feathers to transport them.

They essentially turn their own bodies into a flying lumberyard, managing to keep the materials secure during flight before shaking them out back at the nest cavity!



WILD INSTINCTS VS EXHIBITION EXCELLENCE: THE BUSH BUDGIE AND THE ENGLISH BUDGIE



Within our avicultural circles, few birds enjoy a higher global profile than the humble budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*). Yet, if you place a wild **Australian bush budgie** right next to a show-bench **English budgie**, you could easily mistake them for entirely different species. While they share the exact same genetic lineage and can freely interbreed, decades of highly focused selective breeding have created two vastly different types of birds.

For club members looking to understand the core distinctions, the differences come down to physical presence, striking aesthetic markers, and overall temperament.

Size, Weight, and Physical Structure

The most immediate and obvious distinction between the two types is their physical scale.

- **The Bush Budgie:** True to its nomadic wild ancestors, the bush budgie is a sleek, streamlined athlete. Built for rapid flight across the Australian outback, it typically measures around **15 to 18 centimetres** in length and weighs a featherlight **30 to 35 grams**.

The English Budgie: Often referred to more accurately by clubs as the "show" or "exhibition" budgie, this bird is an imposing figure. It is heavily feathered, standing up to **25 centimetres** tall, and routinely weighs between **50 to 80 grams**—often more than double the size of its wild counterpart.

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- **Aesthetic Differences and Markings**

A direct head-to-head visual overview highlights how selective breeding has fundamentally reshaped their plumage and facial features.

Temperament, Energy, and Lifespan

The physical changes engineered by breeders have also profoundly affected how these birds act and interact in the aviary.

The Wild Spark: Bush budgies are tiny powerhouses of kinetic energy. They are incredibly fast, hyper-active, highly vocal, and naturally cautious. Their high-pitched chatter reflects a bird that is constantly on the alert. Thanks to a robust and diverse natural gene pool, they are incredibly hardy, frequently living **10 to 15 years** in optimal captive conditions.

The Laidback Exhibitionist: In stark contrast, English budgies are often described as the "gentle giants" of the budgie world. Because they have been bred for generations to sit calmly on a show bench under intense scrutiny, they possess a quiet, deeply relaxed, and docile temperament. Their vocalisation is noticeably quieter and carries a deeper tone. However, this intensive selection for extreme physical traits comes with a biological cost: English budgies have a significantly reduced lifespan, typically averaging only **5 to 8 years** due to a higher susceptibility to hereditary health conditions.

Feature	Bush Budgie	English (Exhibition) Budgie
Plumage & Feathers	Tight, short, smooth, and highly aerodynamic.	Long, dense, and fluffy, especially around the crown.
Head Shape	Flat, narrow crown with fully visible eyes and beak.	Massive, domed "puffy" forehead that often obscures the beak and eyes.
Throat Spots	Small, subtle, and clean-cut half-moon black markings.	Large, heavily defined, prominent circular black spots.
Colour Mutations	Genetically pure wild types are exclusively light green and yellow .	Available in over 100 distinct colour mutations and patterns.

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Which is Right for Your Aviary?

For the dedicated club hobbyist, choosing between the two depends entirely on your breeding or exhibition goals. If your passion lies in mastering the complex genetics of the Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC) Standard of Excellence, the English budgie provides an endless, rewarding challenge. If you instead prefer a lively aviary filled with fast-paced, chatty, and incredibly active flyers that mirror the natural beauty of the outback, the classic bush budgie remains an unbeatable avicultural joy.



Great photos posted
on Facebook page

NT Field Naturalists' Club Inc

by Fiona Bond

in Darwin



DID YOU KNOW....

*Solid black kookaburras are considered **"one-in-a-billion" genetic anomalies**. They are not a distinct bird species, but rather an incredibly rare color morph of the native Australian Laughing Kookaburra*

*This striking all-black look is caused by a genetic condition called **melanism**, which triggers an extreme overproduction of dark melanin pigments in the feathers. Because this is a completely random genetic fluke, a black kookaburra is actually estimated to be **20 times rarer than an albino kookaburra***

BIRDS IN CHERNOBYL

Nearly 28 years after the 1986 nuclear disaster, the worst nuclear accident in history, several bird species are doing the seemingly impossible: flourishing inside the radioactive Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

The 2,600-square-kilometre exclusion zone spanning Ukraine and Belarus has transformed into a massive, unintended ecological laboratory. While ionizing radiation poses severe health risks, many avian species have shown a remarkable ability to adapt, evolve, and reclaim the contaminated landscape.

Due to lingering radiation from the 1986 meltdown of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, humans aren't allowed to live there—but the region has become an accidental ecological testing ground for scientists interested in studying the effects of radiation on wild animals.

Ionizing radiation damages living cells by producing free radicals, leading to genetic damage and, eventually, death. An animal's only hope is to neutralize those free radicals by upping its production of antioxidants.

And that's exactly what most birds in Chernobyl seem to be doing—with even better results than scientists expected. A team of ecologists used nets to capture 152 birds from 16 species inside and around the 2600-square-kilometer exclusion zone.

After assessing the birds' antioxidant levels, amount of DNA damage, and body condition, the researchers were surprised to find that most of the birds, like the hawfinch, seemed to benefit from the chronic exposure to radiation.

Birds found in areas with higher radiation levels had more antioxidants and better overall body condition, the team reports online in *Functional Ecology*. This is the first known example of wild animals adapting to chronic radiation exposure, the researchers say.



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The only two bird species negatively affected by the radiation

- the Great Tit (*Parus major*)
and
- Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

both produce large amounts of pinkish pheomelanin pigment in their feathers.

Because pheomelanin production requires lots of antioxidants, the researchers suspect these birds may not have enough left over to fight off the free radicals. In Chernobyl, it seems that fancy feathers come at a high price.

Paradoxically, while the radiation is biologically harmful, the total exit of humans has triggered a profound passive rewilding process. The lack of farming, logging, and urban development has created an ideal wilderness for apex avian predators

Large, human-sensitive forest species like the white-tailed eagle, Eurasian hobby, and the globally endangered greater spotted eagle have successfully recolonised the region. For the greater spotted eagle, which is incredibly sensitive to human disturbance, the quiet wetlands of the exclusion zone have become the only area in Europe where its population is actively expanding

Ultimately, the survival of birds in Chernobyl reveals a delicate biological trade-off. While individual birds pay a harsh physiological price to live in a radioactive environment, the collective avian community has taken advantage of a human-free sanctuary, proving that nature can find a way to



WHY ARE NOISY MINER BIRDS SO DOMINANT IN OUR SUBURBS?

“Noisy miners are adaptable, highly social birds,” explains Dr Christine Zdenek, a wildlife researcher and coordinator of the Bird Life Urban Birds program. They have a clan-like social structure that allows them to gang up on and chase away other birds. “They relentlessly harass other birds to dominate an area.”

In a natural forest setting, where food and habitat are plentiful, noisy miner bird populations are kept in check, and they have been observed to live successfully alongside other woodland birds. Things start to go wrong when trees and plants are cleared to make way for suburbs and housing developments. “This is habitat simplification. Such a landscape not only helps hundreds of noisy miners but likewise disfavours small, insect and nectar-feeding woodland birds,” says Christine.



But aren't noisy miner birds native?

You might be wondering whether it's ethical to want to keep noisy miners out of your garden they are native Australian birds. The problem is that their dominance is threatening other native Australian bird species.

“Our native woodland bird species are in trouble,” says Christine. “Forty-one woodland bird species across Australia are threatened with extinction.” One such species, the regent honeyeater, is critically endangered, and noisy miner populations have been identified as a major factor contributing to its decline. “We don't want to demonise noisy miners,” Christine warns, however. “But to keep our wrens and warblers, we need to tip the balance back and ensure there are those pockets of vegetation to support all the birds we love.”

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

2027 RING ORDERS

Clubs requiring rings for distribution by the 1st January 2027 are requested to submit orders by the 30th September 2026.

Orders for the 2nd consolidation for 2027, should be finalised by the 1st March 2027, ETA late April.

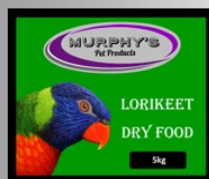
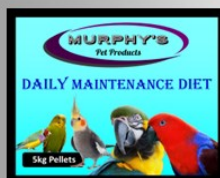
Supplementary orders can be placed during 2027, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary.

Send in reports on your club's activities and news.

Feathered World is your magazine, so contributions are welcome.

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

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