FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Minutes: General Meeting, 5th November 2026

Mule Management: Finding a place for Hybrids

The Christmas Turkey

Should Australia Try to Eradicate Mynas

Crows Decision Making Skills

Female Budgies Prefer Males with Brains

Regent Parrot: A Tale of two Populations

Dandelion Plants: Superfood for Parrots

VOLUME 58 NUMBER 5

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2026

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Feathered World

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- 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.

MEETING DATES 2027

General Meetings:

4 March, 6 May, 1 July, 2 September, 4 November

AGM: 4 March

Meetings commence at 08:00PM

NOTE: All meetings will be Zoom only unless otherwise advised

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THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM GENERAL MEETING

HELD THURSDAY 5th November 2026.

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

ATTENDANCE: 9 delegates in attendance, including B. Barnes, R.Robertson, B. Read, R. Law, C. Isbister, B. Wright, B. Whiting, J.Norriss, C. Gruntar.

APOLOGIES were received from: J. Walsh, J Forrest, M. Macpherson, John Tadgell – moved R. Law and seconded C. Isbister apologies be accepted - Carried.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the 3rd September General Meeting were published in Feathered World, uploaded to the website, and displayed at the meeting. It was moved R. Law and seconded C. Isbister that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the September 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.
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of ring orders for 2026 and 2027
- Affiliated clubs, payments for ring orders for 2026 and 2027 from various affiliates.
- SKS Insurance forwarding the Public Liability and Marine insurance Declaration to be completed for the 2027 renewals.
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society, email advising they will not need insurance cover for 2027

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- Westpac Banking, notification of phasing out cheque payments. From **30 June 2028**, cheques of any kind can no longer be issued. Any cheques written after this date will not be accepted, and no payment will be made. From **30 September 2029**, cheques can no longer be deposited by banks and financial institutions. Australia's cheque system will be closed.

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

- ANBC Budgerigar Oct & Nov'26 Gazette
- Downs Bird Breeders Association, Inc. Newsletter Sept & Oct'26
- PET Industry News. Sept / Oct'26
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter Sept, Oct'26
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Newsletter Sept & Oct'26
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Finch Fancier Sept, Oct & Nov'26
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chitterings Oct'26
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc Sept. / Oct'26
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW July-Aug & Sept-Oct'26
- Gold Coast Aviary Birds News Nov'26

Out-going correspondence as follows:

- Affiliated clubs' assistance with insurance matters requesting information, forwarding amended certificates.
- 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 transhipment will vary.
- Various affiliates invoicing ring orders for 2027.

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- Various affiliates emails, texts and phone calls following up their club requirement for public liability insurance in 2027.
- Coditech, placement of orders for 37,260 rings for 2027, first consolidation delivery in November.
- SKS Insurance, forwarding completed declaration and renewal schedule for 250 affiliates requiring cover for 2027, noting special events, hosting events, location of venues and dates, interested parties, and estimates of attendee's numbers for those advised.

Matters arising out of correspondence:

Following the notification from Westpac, of phasing out cheque payments, the Secretary / Treasurer moved that CCBFA initiate this policy hence forth for all future affiliate receipts and payments, seconded by C. Isbister - carried

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

TREASURERS REPORT

Term deposit Westpac $145,000.00

It was moved C. Isbister and seconded B. Whiting that the Secretary / Treasurer and President are authorized to determine the sum and renewal term for the Term Deposit.

Cheque account balance 5th November'26 $23,767.35

The following accounts were submitted for endorsement:
Editor of Feathered World Oct. / Nov.26 issues $150.00**,** Secretaries email service provider 12 months cost for two addresses $179.98, Rings postage $165.49, Stationary $35.28, Donation to the Children's Cancer Institute $200.00. Coditech, invoice pending for first 2027 ring consolidation and the 2026 supplementary orders $12,864.30, C.O.M. Affiliation membership 2026/27 Euro 250.00, (Pending receipt of invoice from C.O.M)
It was moved by B. Barnes and seconded by R. Law that the payments and the Treasurers' actions be endorsed - Carried.

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REPORTS:

BIRD FLU H5NI



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

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

Advise public consultation on the draft Australian Animal Welfare Strategy is now open.

The draft strategy reflects themes and evidence collected through a range of consultation activities conducted since 2024. Stakeholders across all animal groups have provided their views on earlier iterations to shape the current draft.

To learn more and share your feedback, head to our Have Your Say page. Your input will help shape the final strategy, expected to be finalized in 2027.

Consultation will remain open until 5pm (AEDT) on Friday, 13 November 2026

Moved B. Wright and seconded by R. Law that the reports be accepted and thanked – Carried.

BUSINESS: GENERAL

1. **2027 Ring Orders.** 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 transhipment will vary.

2. **Show and Sale dates – for 2027** Clubs are requested to email **Matt McKenzie at clubs@ccbfa.org.au** updates to that recorded on the web site, **https://www.ccbfa.org.au** (Cc – ccbfa@aapt.net.au)

3. **Feathered World**, going forward? The editor, Jamie Norriss, advised the meeting that support for the software he has used to produce the publication had been discontinued as of the 26th October (Microsoft software "Publisher") Jamie had been able to convert some the data

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to a word document, for the final issue Oct – Nov'26. With other personal issues he is facing, he will be unable to continue in 2027. A general discussion was had and it was suggested that we could consider using it as a means of communication to affiliates, in addition to the delegates meeting minutes, to include other matters confronting aviculture and encourage affiliates to forward articles in an acceptable format (word docs) To be discussed further at the AGM in March'27

4 **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.

5. **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 .*

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- The insurance policy cover is not changing only the underwriter's requirement for the information.
- 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**

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 8:47p.m.

<u>Notice of the next AGM and General Meeting, Zoom only</u>

Thursday 4th March 2027

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm

MULE" MANAGEMENT: FINDING A PLACE FOR HYBRIDS

For generations of bird keepers, the mention of a **hybrid bird**—or the classic "mule"—has sparked lively debate over the club tea table. Within the hobbyist community, our avicultural societies have long held a unique, dual relationship with these birds. We celebrate them on the showbench, yet we fiercely guard the genetic purity of our aviaries.

As breeding techniques and genetics become more sophisticated, the role of hybrid birds in hobbyist clubs is evolving. Here is a look at how modern bird societies view, judge, and manage these fascinating crosses.



The Darling of the Showbench

In the exhibition hall, hybrids are often treated as marvels of avicultural skill. Whether it is a classic Goldfinch-Canary cross or a striking mutation parrot hybrid, domestic societies have traditionally welcomed these birds with open arms under strict competitive categories.

Showbench Recognition: Major avicultural societies provide dedicated classes specifically for hybrids. Instead of being penalised for not matching a wild species standard, they are judged on their flawless conformation, vibrant, unique plumage, and overall health.

- ***Vocal Virtuosity:*** *In* singing bird circles, hybrids are highly prized. Crossing certain species often results in a bird with the stamina of a canary but the complex, melodic repertoire of a wild finch.

The Aviary Line: Strict Breeding Boundaries

While a hybrid might win Best in Show, the attitude toward them changes the moment they leave the judging cage. Hobbyist societies maintain rigid boundaries when it comes to integrating hybrids into broader breeding programs. October

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- **The Dead-End Safeguard:** Because many first-generation (F1) hybrids are sterile—particularly among finches—they naturally act as a genetic dead-end. Societies generally encourage keeping these birds purely for exhibition or companionship, ensuring they do not disrupt active breeding lines.
- **Protecting Pure Bloodlines:** The primary mission of any reputable bird club is the preservation of pure species. Breeders are strongly discouraged from backcrossing fertile hybrids into established strains, as this can permanently muddy the genetic waters of a club's collective stock.

An Evolving Acceptance

Ultimately, hobbyist bird societies view hybrids not as a threat, but as a testament to a breeder's dedication and patience. By keeping a clear distinction between **exhibition appreciation** and **responsible stud management**, our clubs continue to enjoy the best of both worlds: celebrating the stunning diversity of hybrid birds while ensuring the



THE CHRISTMAS TURKEY

The turkey on nearly every festive table belongs to a breed so heavily engineered for a large breast that the birds can no longer physically mate, which means every commercial turkey alive is the product of artificial insemination, and the entire commercial breed now depends on fourteen hands to reproduce a bird.

A century of selective breeding transformed the turkey into a bird so grotesquely oversized that nature's tool became obsolete.

The turkey you're going to buy for your Christmas dinner this year is almost certainly a Broad Breasted White. It's the breed that accounts for something like 90 per cent of the commercial turkey market in Europe, North America, and most of the rest of the world.

It weighs somewhere between fifteen and forty pounds depending on age and sex at slaughter, has almost no dark meat by volume, has been genetically selected across roughly seventy years of continuous breeding for exactly the qualities that a supermarket carcass photograph wants, and cannot, physically, mate with another turkey. This last fact is not widely advertised in the marketing material.



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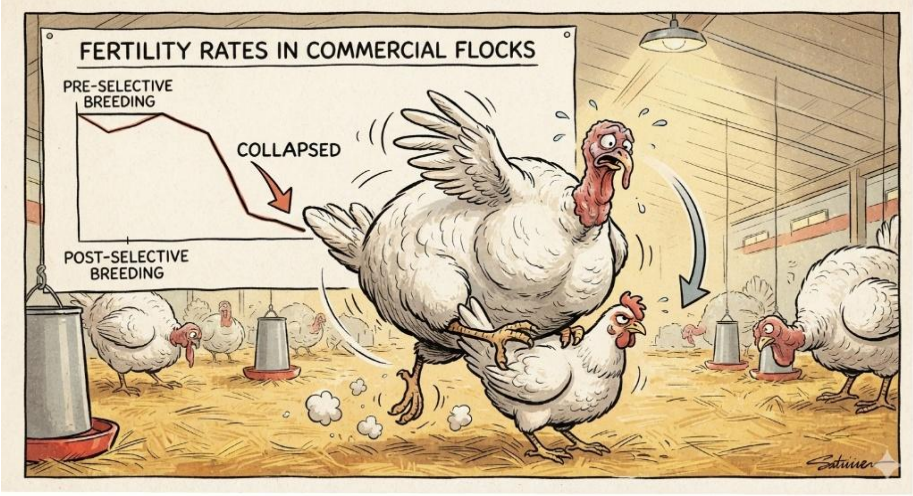
How the modern turkey got so big

According to the Livestock Conservancy's own definitional history of the heritage turkey the modern commercial turkey is the end result of an intentional breeding programme that started in the 1920s and accelerated through the middle of the twentieth century.

The initial goal was straightforward. Breeders wanted turkeys with more breast meat, because breast meat was what customers were willing to pay the most for. The traits selected included wider chests, deeper keel bones, shorter legs, and faster growth. Over successive generations the birds got progressively larger and progressively more heavily muscled across the front of the body. By the late 1930s, a Mrs. H. P. Griffin had coined the commercial term "Broad Breasted Bronze" to describe the result.

Why it can't mate

The problem became apparent in the 1950s. As the breeders continued selecting for wider and heavier breasts, the anatomy of the birds shifted in a way that made physical reproduction increasingly difficult.



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The tom, or male, has to mount the hen from behind and above in order to successfully deliver semen. The commercial toms had by that point become so top-heavy across the chest, and so short in the legs and keel bone relative to their overall mass, that they couldn't reliably manage the manoeuvre. They fell off. They couldn't balance. When they did manage to stay on, the specific angles of their bodies made successful contact with the hens' reproductive tract effectively impossible. Fertility rates in commercial flocks collapsed.

The Livestock Conservancy timeline notes plainly that "broad-breasted conformation brings with it a shorter keel bone and shorter shanks in addition to the bulkier muscle mass on the breast" and that this configuration "prevents males from effectively mounting females."

How the reproduction actually happens now

The commercial turkey industry's response, worked out through the 1950s and standardised by the 1960s, was to bypass natural mating entirely. According to a 2011 explainer for VICE by science writer Sam McDougle, drawing on standard poultry-science literature, every commercial turkey now alive is the product of artificial insemination performed by human technicians.

Semen is collected from the toms by trained handlers who physically stimulate the birds until they produce, in a process the industry euphemistically calls "milking." The collected semen is then loaded into a syringe-like applicator, and each hen is inseminated individually, by hand, on a schedule that maintains her egg production across the laying season. The hens' fertility is monitored. The offspring are hatched in incubators. None of the birds involved in the process have ever mated naturally, and none of them ever will.

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The heritage remainder

What has kept the wider species intact through all of this is the survival of the older, non-commercial turkey breeds, collectively known now as heritage breeds. These are the Bronze, Bourbon Red, Narragansett, Royal Palm, Slate, Black, Beltsville Small White, and White Holland varieties, all of which trace their bloodlines back to the pre-Broad-Breasted era of the early twentieth century. All of them can and do mate naturally. All of them can and do produce fertile eggs without human intervention.

The Livestock Conservancy's formal definition of a "heritage turkey" requires exactly this: naturally mating pairs of grandparent and parent stock, expected fertility rates of 70 to 80 per cent, breeding hens productive for five to seven years, and a growth rate slow enough to reach market weight in about 28 weeks rather than the sixteen or eighteen of a commercial bird. In 1997, when the Livestock Conservancy first surveyed the surviving population, there were only 1,335

Source: https://spacedaily.com/k-the-turkey-on-nearly-every-festive-table



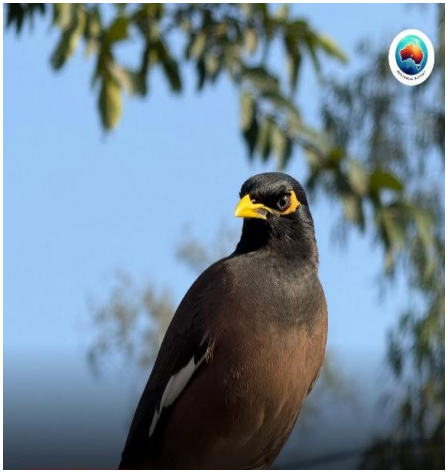
HANDY HINT

Never have more aviaries or cages than your partner can easily look after.



SHOULD AUSTRALIA TRY TO ERADICATE MYNAS

Australia is facing renewed debate over whether introduced common mynas should be eradicated to protect native wildlife. Originally from South and Central Asia, these birds have spread across parts of Australia and are criticised for competing with native species for food and nesting spaces.



However, environmental historian Simon Farley argues that eradicating common mynas may be unrealistic in many areas. He also warns that reducing their numbers alone may not solve the wider challenges facing native birds, including competition from noisy miners and habitat loss.

The debate continues over whether Australia should expand trapping programs or focus on targeted conservation measures to protect vulnerable native species



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 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!

THE SANDGROUSE: A MASTERPIECE OF NATURES ENGINEERING

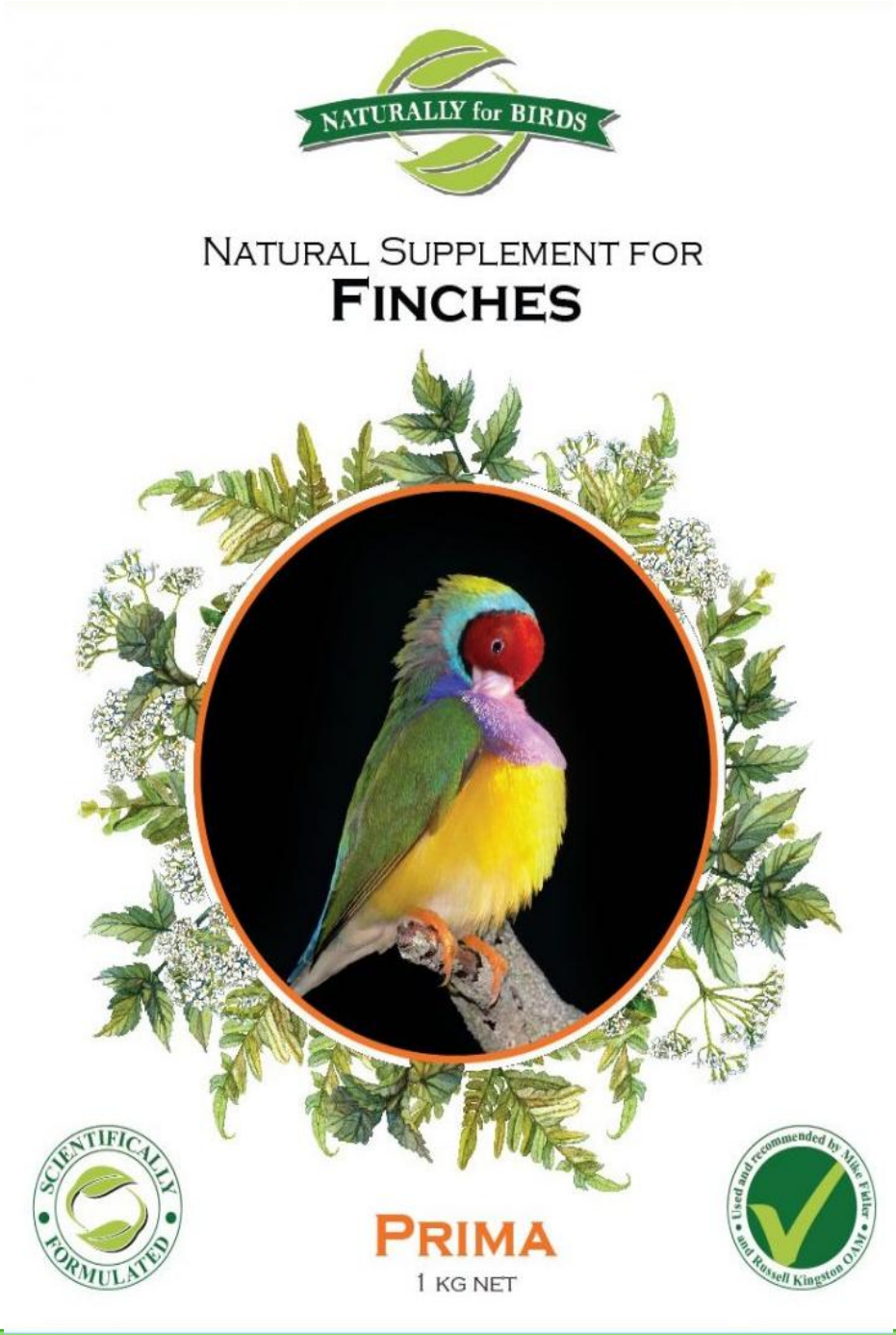
In the harsh, unforgiving expanse of the world's dry, sandy deserts, survival requires more than just endurance—it demands extraordinary design. Among the most remarkable inhabitants of these arid landscapes is the sandgrouse, a ground-dwelling bird that stands as a true testament to natures engineering.



Living in environments where water is scarce and temperatures are extreme, the sandgrouse has evolved breathtaking adaptations to thrive where most creatures would perish. While they spend much of their time camouflaged beautifully against the desert floor, their most miraculous feat lies in how they care for their young.

Male sand grouses possess uniquely structured belly feathers that act like a biological sponge. To bring water back to their chicks, these birds will fly up to 30 kilometres to a watering hole, soak their breast feathers, and fly all the way back across the burning desert. The feathers are so perfectly engineered that they retain the water through the long, windy flight, allowing the chicks to drink directly from their father's plumage upon arrival.

From their specialized plumage to their incredible navigational instincts, these birds are far more than mere desert survivors. The sandgrouse reminds us that even in the barrenest corners of the earth, life is sculpted with marvelous precision, purpose, and care.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TWO CROWS' DECISION-MAKING SKILLS LEFT HUMANS IN THE DUST.

Two male crows have performed better than humans and monkeys in a classic psychology task designed to test how the brain makes decisions based on what it sees. In prior experiments, corvids (a family of birds that includes crows, ravens, rooks, jackdaws, and jays) have shown a range of remarkable mental abilities once thought unique to primates.

New Caledonian crows build compound tools and plan three steps ahead; western scrub jays have episodic-like memories; ravens are "smart enough to be paranoid".



Now, two neurobiologists from the University of Tübingen in Germany have tested the decision-making prowess of carrion crows (Corvus corone), and the results kind of leave our primate brains in the dust.

The researchers Philipp Schmidbauer and Andreas Nieder are not only interested in demonstrating crows' intelligence. They want to understand how the birds manage such intellectual feats with such fundamentally different brains from ours.

"Such behavioural flexibility might seem unexpected because a layered cerebral cortex, the highest integration centre in the mammalian brain, does not exist in birds," Nieder wrote in a paper almost a decade ago.

Instead of layers, he explained, bird brains rely on circuits that originate from a different part of the pallium. Their brains are smaller than ours, but so are their neurons, which means less distance for information to travel, and more processing power per square inch.

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"With this independently evolved endbrain design, the corvid brain affords twice as many neurons as a primate brain of equal mass, adding up to enormous processing powers in a small and densely packed 'birdbrain'," he added. The new experiments demonstrate just how powerful those 'birdbrains' can be.

Two male adult crows were put to the test. That's a very small sample size, which makes it impossible to know if the results can tell us much about crows in general. But it's a start.

Each crow was placed in front of a touch-sensitive screen. In each session, the screen displays many dots, and then some move in one direction, left or right. The crow indicates which direction the dots are moving by pecking at a target on the corresponding side of the touch screen.

A correct response is rewarded with a tasty mealworm.

The task is self-paced: the crows were given a wide window of time to choose their response because the idea is that the animals express their decision once they are confident in their choice, not just for the sake of speed.

Researchers trained both crows across more than 100 sessions each before collecting the real data, to make sure they had it down.

Humans and monkeys have previously demonstrated their perceptual decision-making via this random-dot motion discrimination task, but this is the first time crows have been tested. The birds made deliberate decisions "with unprecedented speed, reporting choices in approximately 235 milliseconds on average, which is roughly twice as fast as has been observed in monkeys or humans," Schmidbauer and Nieder report.

Source: The research is published in Science.

FEMALE BUDGIES PREFER MALES WITH BRAINS

Bird brains get mocked a lot. Rather unfairly, too. Birds are, in the words of Gizmodo, "freakishly smart." Crows, in particular, are famously intelligent, but even outside the Corvidae family, our avian pals are constantly surprising us with their cognitive abilities. And it turns out we aren't the only ones who are charmed by their intellect.

A new study from a team of researchers from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Leiden University in the Netherlands suggests that birds themselves prefer the company of brainier buddies. Their results are published in Science.



Budgerigars, are nomadic birds in Australia where their natural habitats are the grasslands and open woodlands and where you can find them nestled inside the hollows of eucalyptus trees. Their neon green and blue plumage is unmistakable. Budgies travel in flocks of 100s and can be seen soaring across the countryside skies. The famous ornithologist and artist John Gould described them as "the most animated, cheerful little creatures you can imagine," even though he also ate them.

Budgerigars belong to the Psittaciformes order, members of which are renowned for their intelligence. These birds are capable of vocal learning, mimicking, and can be trained to open boxes. With this innate brain power in mind, the team put their theory to the test.

"The idea that sexual selection might play a role [in the evolution of such as that males are better at learning a task," says Dr. Carel ten Cate, one of

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the study's authors, in an email. "However, whether direct observation of a 'smart' behaviour could affect mate choice had not been studied," he adds. "So we worked out a way of how this might be tested."

Thirty-four male budgies were paired to 17 female counterparts. The researchers placed the birds together with the female in a two-choice cage. The bird she spent the most time around was deemed more desirable.

After allowing the female bird to choose her preferred partner, the researchers then taught the non-desirable bird how to open two devices containing food, a petri dish and a three-step box—a bird-box if you will, although the budgies weren't blindfolded.

Each male bird was then placed in a cage, along with the box and petri dish, facing the female budgie. The females then watched as the formerly less desirable males successfully solved both puzzles to get food, while the more desirable birds, who did not receive any training, struggled. After this brainy display, the two males were placed back together, and the female budgie had to choose again.

In almost every instance, the female bird spent more time next to the previously undesirable budgie. However, when these less desirable birds had free access to food and did not need to solve a problem, the females opted for the males they were more attracted to from the onset, even though the preferred birds had no food.

This suggested that it was the ability to solve problems, and not access to food, that mattered to the female birds.

However, there are other ways of interpreting the behaviour of the female budgies.



Gee, you're brainy!

According to Dr. Georg Striedter of the University of California, Irvine, who published an analysis of the study in the same issue of Science, the female birds could have been attracted to the strength of the males.

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"We pointed out that the females may not have realised that the males were solving a complex problem," writes Striedter in an email. "Maybe the females just thought the males were very strong (i.e., brawny)."

Female budgerigars incubate, brood, and feed their young after hatching, while males take care of foraging and bringing back food, hence why solving a problem for food was so attractive. The seeds that budgies eat are plentiful across their range and throughout their habitat. However, if rain becomes scarce, seeds could become a rarity requiring some unique foraging skills to obtain them.

"If droughts in their natural habitats last long, such seeds are depleted and they search for other foods in other environments," says Cate. "This may require exploring and extracting hidden foods. The abilities that budgies may have to cope with such critical bottlenecks in their life will then determine their survival." While birds have evolved over time to strut, pose, and show off the goods to attract mates, the ability to bring home the seeds can be just as attractive and life-saving as a dreamy plumage.



THE REGENT PARROT: A TALE OF TWO POPULATIONS

The **Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*)** is one of Australia's most vibrant and captivating bush parrots. Instantly recognisable for its striking yellow plumage, dark wings, and long, elegant tail, this beautiful species holds a special place in Australian bird enthusiasts' hearts. However, what makes this bird truly fascinating is its unique distribution, existing as two entirely separate populations isolated by thousands of kilometres of arid country.

The Western Subspecies

In the west, the **Western Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus anthopeplus*)** occupies the southwest corner of Western Australia. Although land clearing initially impacted their habitat, this resilient population has expanded its range into parts of the wheatbelt, often using agricultural landscapes alongside native woodland remnants.

The Eastern Subspecies

On the other side of the continent lies the **Eastern Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides*)**. This population is much more restricted and faces significant conservation challenges. Their habitat spans the Murray-Darling basin, stretching across parts of south-eastern New South Wales, north-west Victoria, and into the Murray Mallee and Riverland regions of South Australia. Unlike their western counterparts, the eastern subspecies relies heavily on mature River Red Gums for nesting hollows and nearby Mallee woodlands for foraging, making them highly vulnerable to habitat fragmentation.



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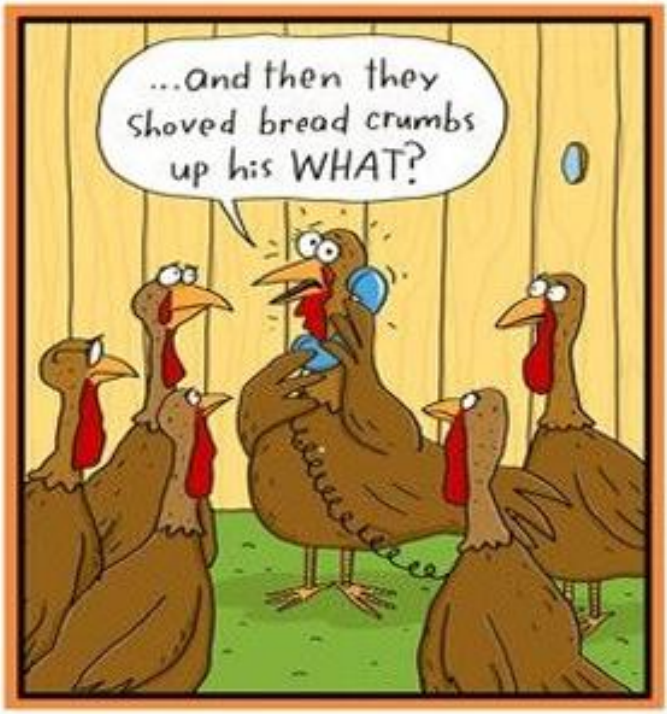
Why the Regent Parrot Project Matters

Because the eastern subspecies is threatened, dedicated conservation and monitoring efforts—often encapsulated in regional **Regent Parrot Projects**—are vital. These initiatives focus on mapping critical nesting sites, protecting old-growth hollows, and restoring the native flight corridors the birds use to travel between their nesting and feeding grounds.

For bird lovers and club members, keeping an eye out for these magnificent birds and supporting local habitat restoration is a fantastic way to ensure the Regent Parrot continues to flash its brilliant yellow wings across the Australian skies for generations to come.

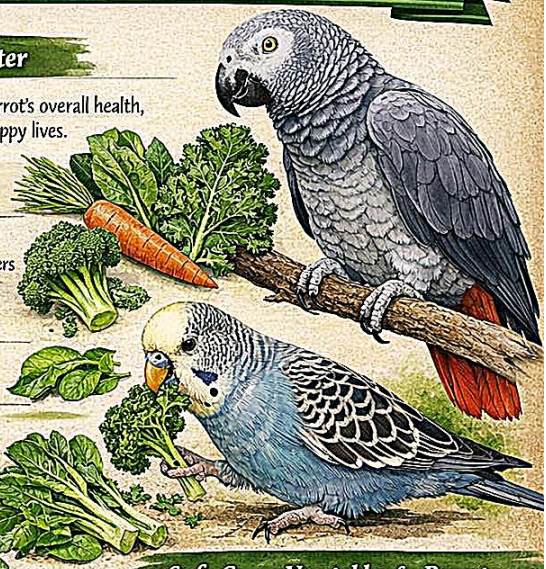


Tom's family receives the horrible news

The Health Benefits of Adding Green Vegetables to Your Bird's Diet

Why Green Vegetables Matter

Green vegetables are essential for your parrot's overall health, providing vital nutrients that support long, happy lives.



Health Benefits

- **Rich in Vitamins (A, K, C)**
  - Supports immune system & healthy feathers
- **Boosts Immune Function**
  - Fights infections and illness
- **Improves Feather Quality**
  - Brightens & strengthens plumage
- **Supports Vision Health**
  - Vital for Vitamin A deficiency
- **Promotes Healthy Digestion**
  - High fiber for gut health
- **Supports Bone Health**
  - Strengthens bones
- **Helps Prevent Obesity**
  - Low in fat, high in nutrients
- **Encourages Foraging Behavior**
  - Mental stimulation
- **Supports Liver Health**
  - Aids detoxification
- **Hydration Support**
  - High water content

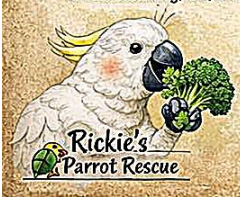


Feeding Tips

- Introduce new veggies slowly
- Chop or shred for smaller birds
- Mix with favorite foods
- Rotate veggies for variety
- Avoid seasoning, oils, or salt

Remember

A balanced diet with fresh greens helps prevent disease and keeps your parrot thriving!



Rickie's Parrot Rescue

Safe Green Vegetables for Parrots

(Always wash thoroughly and serve fresh)

- Kale
- Spinach (in moderation)
- Swiss Chard (in moderation)
- Collard Greens
- Mustard Greens
- Turnip Greens
- Dandelion Greens
- Broccoli
- Brussels Sprouts
- Green Beans
- Peas
- Zucchini
- Cucumber
- Parsley
- Cilantro
- Romaine Lettuce
- Arugula
- Endive
- Escarole



DANDELION AND DANDELION-TYPE PLANTS: SUPERFOODS FOR PARROTS

Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale) is a very common garden weed; and also considered by many to be a "super food" for both birds and humans.

Before you dig up those dandelion-looking weeds from your garden and dispose of them, or worse, spray them with herbicides, consider them a welcome, free food your parrots will love. Beyond just enrichment, they can also have significant health benefits.

Even birds who do not usually take to greens with much enthusiasm will often take interest in dandelions, even if it's just to play with or tear into pieces to start with.

You can also grow these plants in an aviary if you have a natural floor. Collecting the seedheads of the dandelion once it reaches the familiar white fluffy seed head stage after flowering allows you to have a continual source of this plant.



Being a weed means that Dandelion grows well in almost any conditions. This site has a good step by step guide to growing dandelions from seed.

Dandelion is well known for its benefits to the health of the liver and its ability to remove toxins from the body. With liver disease and liver related ailments being so common in captive parrots, dandelion should be at or near the top of the list for healthy foods that can help combat and prevent a parrot from developing potentially fatal liver related health problems which can come about as a result of a poor diet and weight gain due to limited physical activity (lack of flying). This is of course not an alternative to seeking veterinary advice and treatment – but including Dandelion as part of the diet can only add to overall liver health in any bird.

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Along with Dandelion itself, there are several Dandelion lookalike plants that can spontaneously pop up in gardens as so called weeds. Some of these are also edible and beneficial, which means you don't always have to stress about whether you have picked a Dandelion or what can be known as a "false dandelion", amongst other names.

Cat's Ear / Flatweed / False Dandelion – (Hypochoeris radicata) 7

A very similar looking plant to Dandelion and one that is easy to confuse is Cat's Ear or Catsears. Other names for this weed that are often used are Flatweed or not surprisingly, False Dandelion. That's because the plant when not in flower looks very much like a Dandelion and you'll have to look closely to distinguish the two. The good news is that Flatweed is also edible so it doesn't matter if you've misidentified it as a dandelion.

When in flower, cat's ear is easily distinguished from real dandelions because it has multiple flower stems coming out of the centre of the plant while a dandelion always has just a single flower. Both have similar looking yellow flowers. There are other differences to look for when there are no flowers: Dandelion leaves are more sharply angled, but false dandelion have more rounded leaves.Flatweed has hairy leaves. The multiple flower stems of Flatweed are not hollow. The single flower stem of a Dandelion is hollow.

IMPORTANT NOTICES!

NOTICE TO ALL AFFILLIATES

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

Orders for Clubs requiring rings 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 transhipment 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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