

AUCKLAND METRO BIRD CLUB

May 2013

AMBC

ANNUAL

BIRD

SHOW

Ormiston Senior College, 275 Ormiston Road, Flatbush, Auckland

Saturday 29th June – Sunday 30th June 2013

**Meeting Tuesday 21st May, 7.30pm, Panmure Community Rooms,
Pilkington Road, Panmure.**

Guest speaker Terry Patten.

President's Chirp & Squawk!

It's full steam ahead for our upcoming show which is the 103rd Annual Show for this club; quite an achievement! As with anything of this nature, a good deal of work has been put in by a relatively small number of people so far. The proof of the strength of any club is when the members step forward 'on-the-day' to help out in any way possible. AMBC members have never disappointed us with regard to our show in the past and I know this year will be the same! Now is the obvious time to remind you of your raffle tickets. Those who receive their newsletter by post, will have them enclosed but a number who were at our last meeting will already have theirs so if you have sold them, please bring them to the meeting on Tuesday 21 May or post them back to the Treasurer: Derek Lourens, 11 Ballydonegan Rise, Dannemora, Auckland 2013. Remember, by law, we are required to account for every ticket whether sold or unsold. ALL tickets issued to members MUST be returned by midday Sunday 30 June as the draw will be made shortly after at the prizegiving. It is annoying and time consuming chasing up the few who do not return them or bother to reply to messages left!

Please help to market the show by spreading the word; more posters and supermarket cards will be at this Tuesday's meeting and do tell your friends, family and neighbours to come along. The venue at Ormiston Senior College is ideal for our Show with plenty of parking and is light and airy for the birds. We really do want to see more members, especially families, joining up, so do your bit by marketing the Show as widely as possible, even by putting up your own notices in your local supermarket or vet, shops etc. We will be offering discounted 'family membership' at the Show and your committee is considering a gift for the member who introduces the most new members till the end of the year.

JOBS! Yes, the show always has jobs available. Those who have already volunteered for duty....much appreciated, but we still need more people to help with setting up the benching on Friday 28 June at Ormiston Senior College 275 Ormiston Road, Flatbush (not far past the hospital) from 3.40pm on. Benching starts from around 5pm and this can be a hectic job if there aren't enough to help out. The birds are received, recorded, watered and placed in order in their relevant section. We even have someone sleep-over for security purposes and in case the birds are spooked at night. Any sales birds can be brought in on Friday night or on Saturday before 9am BUT NOT WHILE JUDGING is on in the main hall. Cages must be clean, uncrowded and with the type of bird, sex and price clearly displayed. Kitchen helpers, floor/seed sweepers and 'general hands' are always required. On Sunday, following prize-giving, we will need helpers to 'de-bench' and to clean up. Again, your committee really does appreciate any help given.

We are very lucky to have a great team speaking at this Tuesday's meeting, Terry & Linda Patten. Some show quality Budgies will be brought along and their good and bad aspects will be pointed out by Linda in her judging capacity. This will be an ideal opportunity for all members to find out some valuable tips and of particular interest to our Budgie people as Terry & Linda have so much experience & knowledge to pass on. You are welcome to bring your own Budgies for an appraisal! So do come along, volunteer for some show job if you haven't already and don't forget, we always have time for bird chat over supper! *Dave*

Annual Show – 29-30 June, 2013

This is the one time of the year when we respectfully ask ALL MEMBERS to help out. There is a lot of work that goes in to the hosting of the Show and even though a lot is done beforehand, to make things run smoothly, we need as many as possible to help out over the course of the weekend, even if only for a couple of hours.

Helpers still required for:

- 1) Setting up benching & benching birds from 3.40pm Friday 28 June at Ormiston Senior College, 275 Ormiston Rd, Flatbush. Show Managers, Vince & Taco would particularly appreciate this!
- 2) Front Door public entry and raffle sales Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning
- 3) Enquiries/New Members Desk Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning
- 4) Sweepers/General Helpers onward going both days
- 5) Helpers for de-benching, carrying birds to exhibitors' cars from 1.30pm, Sunday afternoon
- 6) Clean-up duties Sunday afternoon (probably 1.45-2.45pm)

If you can help, please see or contact the following:

Benching, de-benching, any bird related matters in the main hall: Vince 534 4988; Taco 266 6798

Bird Sales: Roy 266 6179

Enquiries Desk/New Members: Rae 269 4226

Kitchen:

Front Door/Public/Raffle Sales: Dave 576 2535

Stewards! A very important and enjoyable job where you can find out so much about birds. We try to match a steward with their own interest area but sometimes this is not always possible. At our June meeting, we will run through the duties of the Steward and do a rehearsal; should be lots of fun! Please let me know asap if you would like to steward & for which section as below with the respective judges:

Yorkshire Canaries, Robin Archer; Border Canaries, Jim Middleton; Norwich Canaries, Frank Petterd; Colour & Non Colour Fed Canaries, Marion Merrin; Gloster & Lizard Canaries, Don Birch; Roller Canaries, Trevor Lyon; Budgies Champ, Jason Walker; Budgies Novice, Phil Hill; British/Mules/Hybrids, Foreign & Cockatiels, Murray Luxford; Lovebirds, Jim Newton; Zebra Finches & Bengalese, Colin Green.

Stewards will need to be at the Show venue at about 8.30am Saturday 29 June & will be provided with morning tea and lunch with duties finishing around 1pm.

Our 16th April Meeting.....Our Bird Sale Night

This was successful in that 7 new members/families joined up on the night, a number of birds were sold and contacts were made for the future. It was a very enjoyable atmosphere with lots of chatting and an enjoyable supper. Members & visitors present included:

Taco van der Voorn, Vince & Lynne Huston, Roy Stone, Dave Nicholson, Ray & Margaret Absalom, Rae & Carol Miller, Jeff Callister, Terry Patten, Bob Cranston, Derek & Esme Lourens, Delia Leckey, Jackie Clements, Colin & Eric Green, Wendy Williams, Mark Dulabh, Barrie & Ngaire Madden, Carla Taylor, Elaine Turner, Lyn Howard, Ken & Craig Hughes, Don Hutching, Katie & George Beeson, Graham Quayle, Brian Southee, Sam Baker, Ray Webber, Dave Evans, Chris Agius, Allan & Carol Catley, John & Sue Quedley, Ian Bell, Nick Klaassen, Keith & Mardie Howarth, Adrian Butcher, Gary & Tracy Gurney, Xenia Christie, Grant Wilson, Stephen Lightfoot, Fred & Janice Mead, Alan Frear, Dave Allen, Eddie Groody, Tudor Jones, Mark Harris, Michael McCarthy.

The Show Season

Once again, it is pleasing to see members of the AMBC travelling to other Shows to support them. Alan & Carol Catley, Derek & Esme Lourens, Bernard Rheinen, Frank Petterd & Dave Nicholson all had varying degrees of success at Rotorua & I know that these members and others have entered in Te Awamutu's Show. Remember that we encourage members to exhibit their birds and the more experienced members are only too happy to help in this respect. If you need help in filling out the entry forms or with borrowing showcages, please let a member of the committee know. Showing your birds can be great fun and it is another rung on the ladder in terms of gaining further knowledge in birdkeeping and opens things up to lots more contacts too.

The NZ Federation Info, AGM and National in Napier

All nominations for the NZ Federation committee must be in by 31 May. Currently, Dave Nicholson, who produces the NZ Federation Newsletter, is on the committee & is prepared to stand again. All remits must be in by the same date, so if you have any you wish to submit, please bring them along to the next meeting or contact a member of our committee. One issue that causes a few problems is the lack of judges in certain areas or in certain types of birds. A remit could be that all Clubs must formally invite judges between 1 August & 30 August, with judges replying from 1-30 September. This makes planning for all concerned far better & puts every club on an even playing field. The 2013 Yearbooks sold out, so if you missed out on one, be sure to order in plenty of time later this year. Remember that only officially issued rings from the Specialist bodies can be used in NZ Federated Shows for birds to gain CYCR BBE awards. Accommodation for this year's East Coast North Island Combined Club's National in Napier is still available & the awards dinner & the bus trip of Napier highlights look tremendous. A number of Show Schedules including the National have been downloaded on www.birdclubs.org.nz. If you want access to the members' pages, contact Graham at grammar@netaccess.co.nz giving him your parent club (ie Auckland Metro) your log in email & your password.

GROCERIES OR VOUCHERS NEEDED FOR OUR ANNUAL SHOW RAFFLE. IF YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE BRING THEM ALONG TO THE MEETING THIS WEEK!

WANTED_Budgie show cage drinkers, contact - nicholasklaassen@gmail .com

Feather plucking can be mostly avoided

Feather plucking is a well-known problem to many canary breeders and it concerns many fanciers each year. One may experience it more frequently than another but we all have had some instances of feather plucking, I am sure. Why is this and what can we do about it?

Feather plucking can arise for a number of reasons each with a different cause and requiring a different remedy but has to be applied promptly.

Provided the correct measures are taken feather plucking can almost be entirely eliminated.

The reasons for feather plucking are various.

1. Overcrowding of aviaries or cages
2. Perches not correctly made, placed or mounted
3. A lack of amino acids or other nutritional elements in diet
4. Birds with bloodied feathers not separated immediately
5. A lack of suitable nesting material
6. Pastel and or ivory birds placed with other colour varieties
7. Boredom and insufficient distraction for the birds
8. Placing birds of different ages in one aviary or cage
9. A hereditary factor

As you can see there are a number of causes that may give rise to feather plucking.

What preventative measures can be taken?

1. Overcrowding

With overcrowding, birds lack flying space and place to perch, resulting in fighting with loss of feathers and pin feathers. Once birds develop a taste of blood, fighting will increase even further and this may involve the whole population of the aviary. In a short period of time show birds may become worthless as their feathers may be permanently damaged and may no longer grow normally. Therefore ensure that your birds have sufficient room and separate any plucked bird as soon as possible.

2. Perches not correctly made, placed or mounted

Chances of feather plucking are greater when perches are not convenient to sit on for the birds, check the diameter of the perches. Perches must be properly mounted and located in breeding cages so that each bird can have its own spot and the perches are sufficiently apart to prevent birds from reaching each other.

Also place the perches as high as possible. Birds prefer to sit high in the aviary or cage.

3. A lack of amino acids or other nutritional elements in the diet

Feather plucking is much less likely where a balanced diet and natural vitamins are provided. Pinfeathers contain amino acids which are sweet tasting and appeal greatly to canaries. This is the number one reason why feather plucking with all its consequences can so quickly get out of hand. Provide a varied diet and adequate vitamins regularly and put once a week half an onion in your aviary. Onions are a rich source of amino acids. Also a parboiled potato cut in half may be helpful to alleviate the problem.

4. Birds with bloodied feathers not separated promptly

As mentioned above the problem multiplies quickly if affected birds are not removed immediately from the healthy ones.

5. A lack of suitable nesting material

Normally the parent birds commence building their new nest when the young ones are about to leave the nest when they are nicely attired with a nice coat of feathers. When there is a lack of suitable nesting material available the young birds will be quickly robbed from their down feathers and unless action is taken, flight and tail feathers disappear as well. Therefore provide plenty of different nesting material so they can choose their favourite material to make their nest at the right time.

Normally the hen will cease plucking the young ones after she has laid her first egg. If you have a breeding cage with a baby cage will make it even easier to avoid the problem all together. Also we can take the cock bird away as soon as the second egg has been laid. Another solution to the problem is to place the nest with young in a larger cage with say about 5 hens that will serve as foster mothers. They will raise and feed the young most effectively.

6. Pastel, ivory and crested birds

Many breeders are aware that some canary varieties are more prone to being feather plucked than others.

Ivory, pastel and to a lesser degree the browns and the crested ones. I do not know the reason for this but I would recommend that these varieties be kept separate and not mixed with other colour varieties in the aviary.

If anyone knows the reason why these varieties are more prone to plucking, your input would be greatly appreciated.

7. Boredom

This particular cause is really part of point 1. With adequate and proper nutrition, cuttlefish bone, shell grit, natural vitamins an onion weekly, some millet sprays, a piece of rope, feather plucking will essentially be prevented.

8. Placing birds of different ages in one cage or aviary

When older and younger independent birds are put together and the older birds want to make a nest but nesting material is not available they will start pulling the feathers off the young birds. It is always better to keep birds from different ages separated but definitely keep them apart during the breeding season.

9. Hereditary factors

In spite of what has been written above I believe that feather plucking to a large degree is inherited. It is therefore essential to record feather pluckers in your stock book and dispose of them if feather plucking has indeed become a frequent occurrence. By doing this you will have largely eradicated a troublesome problem.

I trust that by implementing the above measures feather plucking will be a thing of the past for you. If it still persists you can be rest assured that you are dealing with a hereditary factor.

Wout van Gils, Translated by Bernard Reinen

Parrot Society NZ

PARROT SALE

Sunday 2nd June 2013

Mangere War Memorial Hall

Domain road, Mangere, Auckland.

10am – 2pm

Benching starts at 9am

Opportunity to pair up spare birds before breeding season starts.

Parrots on show and for sale.

Parrot accessories and commercial vendors on site..

Canteen food available.

Conditions of sale and directions to venue go to www.parrot.co.nz

Contact Mark Davies on 027 282 1640 or Mary-Lee Sloan on 027 448 7816

