

AUCKLAND METRO BIRD CLUB

January 2014



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Your Club needs you !!

Sausage sizzle February 22nd and 23rd Bunnings, Ti Raku Drive, Botany Downs.

All sponsorship/donations are appreciated for our Annual Show 19th/20th July 2014

MEETING

**Tuesday 21st January 7.30pm Panmure Community Rooms, Pilkington
Road, Panmure**

President's Chirp & Squawk!

On behalf of the AMBC Committee, I would like to wish all members, their families & their birds a happy, healthy & successful year ahead!

So, how was your breeding season? For some Budgie and especially Finch breeders, it will be continuing, but for Canary breeders, it should basically be complete. Following a disastrous season last year when I lost something like 70% of my breeding stock and chicks, I am extremely happy (and relieved!) to say I have had an exceptionally good breeding season with very good numbers of Rollers and New colour and a pleasing number of Glosters. Following the moult, I will be working out which ones to keep for showing and which can be sold.

Hens dying suddenly or squashing/deserting their chicks or the young dying for no apparent reason, can be so disheartening & that is why I encourage members to 'stick-at-it' and to share your highs and lows on meeting nights. I would like to see more members coming along on the third Tuesday of each month, encouraging newer members and getting in to support the club in every way possible. Remember, we are hosting the National at the end of July 2015, so we need the support and input of ALL current members!

Thanks to those 'FEW' who once again helped out at the sausage sizzle fundraiser at Bunnings in Botany Downs on 11th & 12th January BUT.....a club is only as strong as its contributing members! This area of Auckland is where we hold our Annual Show, so it doubles as an excellent PR opportunity. I know members come from all over Auckland and 'the Shore,' so if you find it difficult to get out south-east to help at such fundraising/PR events, perhaps you could club together with others in the AMBC who live near you and run some sort of fundraiser yourselves. We have another sausage sizzle fundraiser at Bunnings, Ti Rakau Drive, Botany Downs on Sat. 22nd & Sun. 23 February, so if you couldn't volunteer for the January one, this is your chance! Please make Lynne Huston's organisational task easier by phoning her to offer your help in advance on 534 4988.

At our two planned bird sale evenings, we are hoping that some members will donate a bird or two for club funds. If you have any other ideas about fundraising or have 'contacts' in the business/corporate world, please do let us know!

We only have meetings 11 times a year and we want these to be informative, friendly and stimulating for all members. That's why we try to keep all the so-called 'boring stuff (finances, minutes, remits etc) to a minimum and largely dealt with by the committee before the main meeting. However, if you have a topic you would like put on the meeting agenda, or would like to speak on your chosen topic, or can suggest a speaker, please let me know (Dave: 576 2535) We are hoping to continue breaking up for some part of the meeting into smaller groups so that you can talk with others who keep the same type of birds as you do.

Mark Dullabh, our Patron is usually present & with a day or two's notice, can bring along your seed order to the meeting. (Mark : 09 426 3021; 021 617 093; info@qualitybirdsupplies.co.nz)

At this Tuesday's meeting, we will have a panel on building/designing your own aviary/bird room, so that should prove interesting to all as it will be practical and informative and bound to throw up a few good ideas. Also, bring along some stories of your own breeding season and in February or March, we encourage members to bring along some of their birds so that the more experienced members can run their eye over them and pass on some good advice. We will have our usual raffle and supper as well, so let's make 2014 a positive Auckland Metro Bird year in every way!
Dave Nicholson

FOR SALE

Two Canary cages, Finch magazines, feeders etc contact Ken Musgrove 09 277 4518

1 Java Sparrow Sex unknown, \$20. Contact Ray Absalom 5339015 anytime.

COMMITTEE FOR 2014

Patron Mark Dullabh - Quality Bird Supplies (09)426 3021 / 021 617 093

Pres Dave Nicholson 09 576 2535/021 2370 453, e-mail d.nic@xtra.co.nz

VPs: Chris Agius 09 5376464, e-mail cja1509@hotmail.com

Wayne Huang 021 982 828 e-mail fionaxa@hotmail.com

Sec: Vince Huston 09 534 4988, e-mail vinceandlynneh@vodafone.co.nz

Treas: Derek Lourens 09 271 3774/027 3372657, e-mail derek.esme@xtra.co.nz

Committee: Lynne Huston, Esme Lourens, Ngaire Madden 09 838 6413

Show Sec: Bob Cranston 09 817 3808/027 247 8484, e-mail robert.cranston@xtra.co.nz

Show Managers: Vince Huston, Taco van der Voorn

Newsletter editor: Taco van der Voorn 09 2666 798, e-mail octopusss@xtra.co.nz

BIRD CALENDAR

It is true that birds and the weather have a mind of their own, but the following may be useful as a guide to what could/should be happening with your birds or in your aviary/bird room over the year.

January: Breeding should be coming to a close, especially since some birds often go into an early moult. A good time to clean and air all breeding cages, nest boxes/pans. Keep a close eye for any 'fighters or feather pluckers' when you bring your birds together from their breeding situation.

February, March: Moult Months! Ensure birds have fresh water for drinking AND to bathe, along with sand baths as these help feather replacement. Linseed is a good seed for improving feather quality.

April: A busy month; moult should be finishing and you could even start a first cull for sale and show purposes and future breeding stock. Do call on others in the Club to help assess your stock. Make sure all breeding cages have been cleaned and/or re-painted and that show cages are in top condition. Start show cage training and plan your shows and chat to other AMBC exhibitors to 'car-pool' to these.

May, June, July: Show months. Don't exhaust your birds with too many shows; ensure they and the cage are at their best with good food, perhaps some vitamins and try to keep them separated from your other birds on their

return. Hygiene and keeping a close eye on your birds' health during this time is essential. If buying birds at shows, quarantine them when you get home.

August: Final cull for your breeding purposes may be necessary. Draw up a breeding plan & keep accurate records. Your rings, ordered earlier, should have arrived by now. Check that breeding cages/boxes/pans are clean & do a final mite spray/dust, especially in corners/cracks & ends of perches.

September, October, November: Days are getting longer & warmer, both determiners of your birds readiness for breeding. Don't disturb sitting hens too much and get into a regular routine for feeding & cleaning. Watch for mite, blowflies (usually indicate a fatality!) or hens deserting young (if canaries, try to put two lots of nest eggs back at the same time so that fostering/swaps can occur if needed) Soft food should be fed daily with fresh greens supplied regularly.

December: The last month for most breeding birds. Try to have a weaning cage and observe the behavior patterns of the young, especially when you start bringing the different nests or species together. Birds like to bathe at this time or will enjoy a light spraying in the morning.

METHODS OF BREEDING BIRDS

Colony Breeding

Colony breeding is essentially breeding your birds all together in one flight. This is a typical view of a colony style setup for breeding budgies.

Advantages

The main one obviously being time to setup the breeding campaign. Essentially you leave the birds to their own devices and just put up some nest boxes. The birds will breed as and when they are ready. One tip with colony breeding is to make sure all the nest boxes are at the same height. Dominant birds will always fight for the highest nest box so to stop fighting in a colony aviary it pays to set all you boxes at the same height.

Disadvantages

The main disadvantage is the ability to control pairs of birds that breed. If you are looking to produce specific colour it is almost impossible in a colony situation. This is due to multiple cock birds treading multiple hens as a result you can never be assured who the father is. This can also lead to further complications with size and deformity later in the hatching stage as related birds will breed causing further complications.

The number of times I have spoken to breeders of birds who have spent a significant amount of money buying that albino cockatiel or violet budgie with the desire to recreate specific colours, and never being able to reproduce as they cannot control the mating process in a colony system.

The time saved in setting up this system is outweighed in my opinion with the quality or the colours that are produced.

Selective Breeding

Selective breeding is separating single pairs of birds for a breeding cycle into individual cages or flights.

Advantages

You have the ability to control the pairings. This directly effects quality and colour, breeding to two small birds will produce small birds. Breeding specific mutations or colour will produce specific outcomes. If you have a desire to breed specific mutations or colours this is the only way to go.

Disadvantages

This method requires you to be a lot more organised. You have to ensure you have individual cages or flights to breed in. This as a result increases the time you spend feeding each pair and the as a result the overall amount of time required. It also requires you to keep adequate records of the breeding season. Who paired with what and what was produced. This can be managed with breeding cards (see below). There are also multiple software application available out there that new bird breeders are utilising to help them overcome these disadvantages.

I have bred birds for a number of years and even if the outcome is for hand-reared pets or show quality birds I have always used the Selective Breeding method where a specific outcome has been required e.g. Lutino hens or Violet budgies. I have tended to use the colony method where I require volume e.g. breeding finches in bulk. A well balanced approach of both methods normally suits most breeders.

Article – Birdkeeper .co.nz

EasyZoo is a relatively inexpensive piece of software that takes care of all your breeding requirements with minimal effort. There are multiple other applications available and some are free of charge. The benefits of managing stock in a controlled way like this become evident the following year when you come round to pairing last years young. For more information on EasyZoo visit www.easyzoo.com

ARTICLES and PHOTOS are always wanted for the AMBC Newsletter.

We would like to do a club member profile each month.

While you are reading this why not take a few minutes and write down your thoughts and send them to Taco/Troy at octopusss@xtra.co.nz or call me on (09)2666 798

Why did you join the AMBC?

What type of birds do you keep?

How did you get involved in birds?

How can we make the meetings more appealing to new and younger members ?

What other subjects can we discuss that are related to the bird world?

What do you think are the advantages of belonging to a club?

Are you interested in visiting other aviaries?

AUCKLAND METRO BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Name.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Home Phone.....Mobile Phone.....Email.....

(Would you prefer to receive your newsletter by email? Yes – No)

What Birds do you keep?.....

Will this be your Parent Club? Yes – No Novice or Champion (please circle)

Please circle: Single: \$20; Partnership: \$20; Family: \$25; Junior or Pensioner: \$12.50

Junior Partnership or Pensioner Partnership: \$15

Yearbook: \$10 AMBC Polo Shirt: \$35 AMBC Pen: \$2 Donation:

Amount enclosed..... (please make cheques out to Auckland Metro Bird Club)

Signed..... Date.....

Please return to: The Secretary, Esme Lourens, 11 Ballydonegan Rise, Dannemora, Auckland 2013

Ph: 09) 271 3774; M: 027 337 2657; E: derek.esme@xtra.co.nz

NB: The Auckland Metro Bird Club meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Panmure Community Rooms, 1 Pilkington Road, Panmure (by the Library)

www.birdclubs.org.nz