

ORANA AVICULTURAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Photo By Mark Hawke Dubbo



**CINNAMON GREY GREEN
SPANGLE HEN**

ISSUE 1

**Meeting held on the second Tuesday
Of Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept & Nov.**

At the Dubbo RSL Club

Brisbane Street

Dubbo NSW 2830

Hope to see you there!

The Orana Avicultural Society was formed in 1974 to get bird keepers interested in keeping and breeding all types of caged birds within the area to exchange information, skills and knowledge to further the field of aviculture.

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Firstly I'd like to apologise for the delay in getting the newsletter published and sent out to our members, to say that the times have been trying would be understatement and given the last year things have been a bit touch and go. But, hopefully this year I hope we can get things rolling and get a few services out to our members to show that it is worthwhile being members of the Orana Avicultural Society. You may notice that the newsletter is a bit smaller than usual this is for a few reasons, one is that hopefully that it is easier to get out to members on a regular basis and to save time and costs for the club and hopefully once the newsletter gets a bit more traction more sections will be added and members will receive full benefits. That being said the newsletter will be released bi-monthly in accordance with the meetings so members can be kept up to date with club happenings.

As an added benefit to members and with the easing of the covid-19 restrictions the club would like to start holding Aviary Tours, Table Shows as well as bus tours to other clubs.

The Orana Avicultural Society Annual Show was held on the 6-6-2021 after having the previous year off it was great to hold the show again even though it was a last minute decision things went pretty well with the club receiving over 500 birds entered. It was a great and it was even better to catch up with people who you would usually see outside of the shows.

I'd like to thank and congratulate a few people. Firstly I'd like to thank Brendan Cashen if it wasn't for him looking after the computer side of the show there's a good chance it would had run as well as it did. I'd also like to thank the judges to travelled on short notice to attend the event, Peter Trow travelled from Glen Innes to judge Zebra Finches, Bill Sewell who did an excellent job in judging Parrots, Terry Bevan who did a great job judging Budgerigars, Steve Edwards did a great job judging Canaries, Steve has judged at Armidale Show, Gulgong show, Dubbo Show, Bathurst Show and probably a few more of which I wasn't able to attend his willingness to judge this many shows should be commended. Gary Phillips judged Finches on the day and did a great job with a high degree of professionalism, this is the first

time in over 6 years that Gary has been able to attend our show due to other judging commitments so it was great having him there.

I'd like to thank the stewards on the day Wayne Cusack, Lynne MacKander, Trent Hazell, James Barker and Andrew Cusack without you the day would not have run as well as it did.

I'd like to congratulate the Grand Champion Winners of the day

Steve Draper - Grand Champion Budgerigar with a Cinnamon Grey Green Spangle Hen

Tony Smith – Grand Champion Parrot with a King Parrot Cock

Wheeler Family – Grand Champion Finch with a St Helena Cock

Athol Morrison – Grand Champion Canary with a Clear Buff Yorkshire Cock

Trevor Weal – Grand Champion Zebra Finch with a Grey Zebra Hen

Thank you to everyone who came along and contributed to the day especially to those who volunteer each year to cook and run the BBQ, and our other volunteers who help out throughout the day. Thank you to Stewart Williams from Bird Boxes Galore who travels each year to support our show by donating prizes for grand champions and donations towards the raffles.

Last but not least I'd like to tanks our sponsors of the event who donated money and other items towards the show; their support does not go unnoticed.



WHY SHOW?

Fanciers who never exhibit their birds are missing out on half the hobby. It is at shows that the rewards are gained for the efforts made during the year. Even if no prizes are won, the experience is beneficial and helps in planning the coming breeding season. The varieties and the quality of the birds that you breed become known to other breeders/ fanciers. This helps in selling birds in the future as most breeders buy birds from those who are well known at the shows. If you regularly show birds there should be no problems in the disposal of excess stock. There are a number of shows held throughout Australia, ranging from mixed club shows to specialty shows. Shows in Australia are slowly declining due to a number of factors ranging from lack of interest from younger generations to the dwindling numbers of older exhibitors this in turn means that the clubs are slowly losing support to hold and encourage local shows. So it is now more important than ever to support mixed and specialty shows so that younger generations can enjoy them for years to come and reap the rewards that shows offer.

SELECTING BIRDS FOR SHOW

In order to be able to select a bird for show it is important to obtain a copy of that bird's show standard, birds such as Budgerigars, Canaries, some Finches and Parrots have show standards; these standards can be obtained from your local club. The show standards can be framed and hung on the bird room wall for easy access throughout the year. A good show bird is one that you have bred that has little show faults and is as close to the standard as possible. It is important to note that if you are just starting your show career your birds may show considerable faults, however through selective breeding, attending shows and obtaining the best possible birds available your birds will slowly start to resemble something that looks like the standard. Remember it is a marathon NOT a sprint.

TRAINING

Once your birds have been selected it is now time to start training. Training your birds is important as it teaches them to stand in the right position and present themselves with poise especially when in front of the judge, as a well-trained bird will do considerably better than a wild/ flighty bird.

There are a number of ways in which you can train your birds for show:

1. Attach a training cage to the outside/ or inside of your flights or aviaries and place a treat seed or some greens in the cage to encourage the bird to get used to being inside the box.
2. Once the bird has become accustomed to the box it is important to ensure that the bird does not spend all of its time on the floor, as a bird that this cannot be properly judged. To overcome this Ping Pong Balls or scrunched up pieces of paper can be placed on the floor of the cage to encourage the bird to spend more time on the perch.
3. 30 minutes is all that is needed for the birds first training session over the next few weeks the youngster can be left in the show cage for increasing lengths of time.
4. Another trick to getting a bird to sit on the perch is to place it high up in the bird room this will encourage it to sit up so its able to see out of the box.
5. A very flighty bird needs to become use to people walking past its cage, to achieve this place the bird in a high traffic are of the bird room.
6. For a lot of people time is a limiting factor in training a bird for show, to overcome this, the breeder can employ a few techniques such as: Having your breeding cages/ Flights the same colour as the show boxes. Use perches in the aviary or flights that are of the same diameter as the show box. Employing these techniques can partly familiarise your birds to the conditions without putting them in the show cage.
7. For breeders with skittish birds purchase a wire cage the approximate size of the show cage the bird will be exhibited in. Place the wire cage with the bird inside in a high traffic area. It is amazing how less skittish the bird becomes in these situations.

The following is a excerpt from the Australian Canary Handbook that I thought would be interesting to include. Different breeds of canaries need distinct show cage training. The Yorkshire Canary is required to 'Stand at Attention' during judging. The Border Canary is required to work the perches and move slowly from perch to perch, pausing at each perch as is the same for Gloster Canaries and Colour Canaries. The Norwich Canary and Australian Plainhead are required to be steady and stand low over the perches. The Yorkshire Canary can be trained to stand erect by placing a cloth around the cage so that

the bird has to stand up to see over. If a Norwich Canary stands too high raise the perches within the show cage, so keeping the bird low over the perches.

Training your birds is a very important part of showing and should not be overlooked by any breeder. It is one of the crucial factors in obtaining success on show day. In later issues of the magazine I will be looking at other important factor of showing such as preparation of the bird for show and preparations of the show cage as well as many more important factors. So stay tuned!

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Direct to the Public

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