



DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Nepean Budgerigar Society



PRESIDENTS REPORT FROM JOHN FREEMAN

With the New Year fast approaching, we can say goodbye to what has been a difficult time with not only the birds but with life as we knew it. We can kiss 2020 goodbye and say hello to 2021, with hopefully a new lease on life for many. We at Nepean are hoping to have our first monthly meeting for the new year in possibly February, we are just waiting to see what recommendations the Government and the BCV make in relation to Covid restrictions for meeting numbers inside. It is still unclear what is happening with bird shows so we will just have to wait and see and keep you all informed with what is relayed to us.

It's that time of the year again where the weather is starting to heat up and we need to make our birds as comfortable as possible. With most people not having elaborate cooling systems in place we just need to look at what can we do on hot days to make our birds more comfortable. We need to make sure they have a good supply of fresh air. This can be accomplished by opening windows or tuning on an oscillating fan in bird rooms. What we are trying to do here is supply free flowing air to the birds, for. For outside aviaries shade cloth works well providing shade and can be hosed upon on really hot days. Some people have misting, or sprinkler systems set up on the roof of the aviary which also works well to cool off the roof and radiant heat.

Flat shallow dishes for bird baths are also great but one of the most important things is fresh water often.

Good luck to all and have Merry Christmas and a happy new year

John Freeman

Nepean 2020 Christmas Get Together

What a great afternoon we had together. We hadn't seen many faces for such a long time, and there were some new members to meet.

Here is hoping for many more catch ups to come in 2021!





Nepean Budgerigar Society would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a safe & happy New Year.

We can't wait to catch up with all the Nepean members, as well as our friends from all the BCV clubs.

Here's to a 2021 filled with fun, laughter, time with loved ones, and of course plenty of bird shows & an abundance of babies in the nest boxes!

Monthly Chuckle...

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the pre-Christmas pressure.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her Mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where.

Then when he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the liquor.

In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen

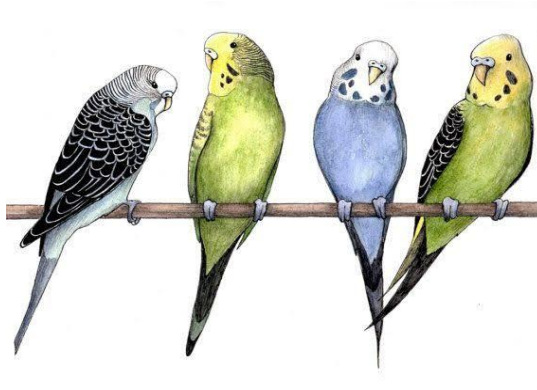


floor. He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom. Just then the doorbell rang, and an irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?"

And thus began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree





This Month's Article

Home Care for Sick and Injured Birds

By Dr Pat Macwhirter

If you are looking after a sick or a convalescent budgie it is important to recognize that there are marked differences between body temperature and metabolism of birds compared with ourselves, cats or dogs. Budgies have a normal body temperature above 41deg.C, normal heart rates of more than 300 beats/minute and they breathe 80-100 times/minute. For most mammals these values would be much lower. Sick birds are also more inclined to be adversely affected by stress.

These factors should be considered when trying to provide optimal conditions to help a sick bird recover.

Provide warmth

To prevent the bird from using up vital energy to keep warm a cage temperature of around 28-30°C is required. Still air heat is best, a hot air blower/ fan is not very satisfactory due to air movement. These temperatures can be obtained by using:

- (i) a cardboard box and a covered light globe (100w)
- (ii) a covered cage on a heating pad.
- (iii) an infrared heat lamp.

A thermometer should be used to ensure the correct temperature. After the bird improves, the temperature may be reduced gradually over 6-7 days to allow the bird to adjust. There should be no draught.

Avoid stress

Keep the dog, cat and young children away. Subdued light will induce the bird to rest and remain quiet, therefore cover the cage and disturb as little as possible. Noise should be kept to a minimum. A dimly lit quiet cage is recommended.



*The bird will often have a
'fluffed up'
appearance when unwell*

Food and Grit

A wide variety of top-quality food should be available at all times. Include seed, greens, cuttlefish and treats such as thistle and seeding grasses.

Grit should be removed from the bird's cage as sick birds sometimes develop a depraved appetite and gorge themselves on grit, resulting in impaction of the gizzard and proventriculus. Grit, unlike minerals, does not dissolve in the intestinal tract. Birds have been known to overeat grit in the excitement of returning home from the veterinary clinic. Wait at least a week after picking a bird up from a veterinary clinic before offering grit and then offer it in a separate dish. Remove the grit if the bird is observed to be eating excessive amounts.

Avoid exercise

Playing and free flying should be avoided until the bird has fully recovered. Bathing should also be avoided. Keep the bird isolated. Keep the sick bird separated from any other birds. Use separate feeding and watering containers.

Monitor stool

Keep a written record of the number of droppings and their consistency.

Medications

Administer medications carefully and in accordance with instructions

Follow the directions given with any medication carefully. It is easy and dangerous to overdose birds. If the bird has medication for its water, this water should be the only water available and should always be checked daily to see if it is being drunk. Remember birds will often camouflage signs of illness in the initial stages of a disease and their condition can deteriorate rapidly once they begin to show obvious symptoms. If there is any doubt about your bird's progress, contact your avian veterinarian. Administering appropriate treatment early in the course of disease is often critical to the bird's recovery

2021 and Beyond

We don't have our Nepean schedule ready as yet, and once we get going, it may still be a month by month process. But we will try to plan ahead as much as possible. We do know that our meeting place at the Dingley Community Centre is not available until Feb, while they make preparations to make the venue Covid compliant, and implement their Covid safe plan. We will be guided by them as to how our catch ups will operate in their centre. So please keep any eye out in your email and Facebook for our first club events, which we anticipate will be February.

2021 National Young Bird Show

The BCV have confirmed that Victoria will be hosting the 2021 National Young Bird Show. The ANBC made the decision to push back the 7 year rotation one year so Victoria did not miss out.

Nepean Market Place

We have a a member looking for some things...

John Czech is looking for show cages if anyone can help.

If you can help John out please give them a call. If you don't have his number, please message or call Mim on 0421 085 974, and it will be passed on.



Do you have anything bird related for sale you would like to advertise in our newsletter? Or are you looking for something?

Please email Mim on info@nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org with a short description, and an image if you have one. Also please feel free to email through any news, information, or tips you think may be of interest in our newsletter.

Would you like to join a family friendly budgerigar club?

Please call or email one of our club contacts.

We would love to hear from you!

Club Contacts

Emails – info@nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org

Venue – Dingley Community Centre

President: John Freeman 0419 146 911

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Secretary: Mim McQualter 0421 085 974

Treasurer: Rohan McQualter 0428 857 897

Website : www.nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org