

# Eastern District Budgerigar Club Newsletter

## December 2021



Hello Members

December means Christmas and holidays. But if you keep birds then you don't stop, so keep up the good work. Our Beginner's and Christmas breakup night in November went well. Congratulations Jo Seip for taking home the Beginner baby budgie raffle prizes.

### New Members

Welcome Deborah Hare. We hope you enjoy your hobby, and we see you at club meetings next year.

### Next Year's Programs

You should have a copy of the club's 2022 syllabus attached to this email. The BCV has finalized the State and National show calendar, also attached. It is not yet on their website but I expect that will happen fairly soon.

### November meeting competition winners

Young Birds	Best Intermediate	S&N Hunt
Young Birds	Best Beginner	Rob McLean
UBC	Best Intermediate	S&N Hunt
UBC	Best Beginner	Penny Gillespie
Best Beginner spangle (one off award)		Rob McLean
Best New Beginner		Jo Seip

### Aggregate Points 20210

Points are awarded for places at State and National Shows, any Club Shields as well as general club night competitions. Note that no points were awarded for the recent November club night.

Breeder Name	Status	Total 2021
Bader & Turnbull	Champion	73
Jamie Macafee	Intermediate	69
Lloyd Richardson	Champion	69
Roger Watson	Intermediate	36
Mitch Parr	Intermediate	34
S&N Hunt	Intermediate	29
Mark Brennand	Open	25
Penny Gillespie	Beginner	10
Michael O'Connell	Beginner	10
T&S Appleton	Champion	9
Alistair Bennallack	Intermediate	8
Garry Stagg	Open	8
Vince Carro	Champion	6
Brian Abbott	Intermediate	5
Other Members	All	0

## David Charlton Auction

Our snap auction went well with about 35 participating bidders on the day, raising significant club funds for next year. Mitch thanks everyone who helped in anyway at all on the day, committee members and non- committee members. Everything you did meant that others did not have to, so thank you.

## Tips for Beginners

### Managing your birds during hot weather.

Adapted from [www.betterpetsandgardens.com.au/pet-care/birds-and-poultry/keeping-your-bird-cool/](http://www.betterpetsandgardens.com.au/pet-care/birds-and-poultry/keeping-your-bird-cool/)

Heat stress is a serious problem during the summer months especially when cages or aviaries have inadequate ventilation or are in an enclosed building where the sun beats down on an unshaded roof all day. The combination of high heat and humidity are particularly dangerous.

Birds have no sweat glands. They cool themselves by rapid breathing with their mouths open and by holding their wings out slightly from their bodies. The underneath of a bird's wing has no feathers and the main wing artery is in that region. Other signs of heat stress include rapid vibrations of the muscles and bones under the throat which also helps to cool the bird.

### Dealing with heat stressed birds

A bird with symptoms of heat stress needs to be immediately cooled down with a gentle spray of water or damping with a cool sponge under its wings, feet and beak. It may need a visit to an avian veterinarian.

In mild cases of stress or just to cool a bird down where misting hasn't worked, take a clean sponge, dipping it into cool water and squeezing it onto the skin under each wing. Do this several times on each side and let the cool cloth sit there for a few minutes between fresh rinses. If the bird relaxes and begins to show signs of enjoying it, use the wet rag to dampen down his bottom half including his chest, feet and belly. Allow the bird to drip dry in a cool, well-ventilated area. Air movement is important to allow the bird to continue to cool down but don't let the breeze blow directly on to him.

### Keeping your birds cool

Birds kept in smaller cages love being sprayed with a fine hand mister of cool water. For those with large aviaries, installing a fogger to mist the entire area will have a massive cooling effect. Available at hardware stores, they are easily installed and attached to a garden tap. If they are put on a simple tap timer, they can be programmed to come on periodically in the middle of the day for a few minutes. It is surprising how little water these systems use.

Another option is to hang hessian from the roof of the aviary to hang over the sides. These can be hosed down and will act like a Coolgardie Safe as the breeze blows through the damp fabric.

Like all animals, birds require fresh water that is changed daily, however on hot days the water can easily become warm. Birds just won't drink warm water and will not be able to rehydrate themselves. Change the water a couple of times in the day so that it is always cool and consider asking the neighbour to pop in to do this also if no one is home throughout the day.

Remember, warmer conditions create a breeding ground for parasites and bacteria. Clean and disinfect bird cages and water regularly.

*The EDBS committee wishes all its member, friends and their families are very Merry Christmas.*