

American Cockatiel Society



April, May, June 2019
Volume 45, Number 2



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A.C.S. covers the complete field of Cockatiels, from the pet owner to the champion breeder, with our informative quarterly magazine, our web site at www.acstiels.com and through our online chat group.

A.C.S. encourages close banding, selective breeding and record keeping. Color-coded, traceable bands are available to members. The American Cockatiel Society Magazine is published quarterly. The magazine is mailed during the first week of the first month appearing on the cover. The magazine is mailed via first class mail. Please advise acs.membership.bands@gmail.com of any address changes. We are unable to resend magazines that are returned due to expired forwarding orders.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



Presidents Message	5
Board of Directors	7
Regional Directors & State Representatives	8
Judges Panel	10
The American Cockatiel Society Beginning	11
So, Why Do You Want a Cockatiel	14
Get Acquainted with the Luscious Lutino	16
My Cage is My Home	18
Suggestions for Surviving Reproductive Behavior	20
Let's Talk Rares—The Fallow Cockatiel	24
When Your Cockatiel is Aging	27
Line Breeding Explained	29
Ask Noodles	30
Cockatiel Sounds Explained	32
How to Host a Successful Bird Show	34
Breeding Quality Cockatiels	37
Preparing for Show . . . Novice Exhibitors	38
First Aid and Emergency Care	40
Macrorhabdus Ornithogaster	42
Show Calendar	43
So You Think You Want to Show Your Bird	44
Breeders' Listing	46
ACS Affiliated Clubs	47
Band Order Form	48
ACS Membership Application	49
ACS Advertising Rates	50

President's Message

Hello everyone...Spring is officially upon us and breeding season is in full swing for many of you. In reviewing the Facebook posts, it looks like many of you have some very nice babies this year and it will be fun to see them at the shows! Speaking of shows, there was a great show mid-March in Murfreesboro and everyone had a great time. I know there's a lot of excitement building over the Nashville shows in mid-April. Jaimie and Rich Boyles have been working very hard to put this together and I applaud them...it is no small task. Shows are a great way to meet other cockatiel folks and to learn more about our favorite bird in person. Making these shows happen takes a lot of time, effort and money. Most people hosting shows ask for sponsorships to help defray some of the costs. I would challenge each of you to consider sponsoring a section or division when asked. It means a lot to those putting the show together and the more we support these efforts, the more shows we will have.

And while we're talking about shows, there are opportunities to attend them virtually every month, with most of these being either dual or quad shows. Check out the ACS website for a current listing, but right now I know of Tennessee in April, Rhode Island in May, Texas in July, Florida in August, Missouri and Virginia in September, Rhode Island and Texas in October, capped off with the ACS Specialty Show in Kentucky during November!

As we look ahead to summer, think about attending the AFA Conference which will be held at Disneyworld August 8-10, 2019. ACS is a member of AFA and I encourage each of you to join individually and come to the conference. The conference is always fun and is a great opportunity to learn about aviculture in general.

Wishing all of you the best!

Tiel later,

Bert McFulay

ACS President



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If you'd like to become a Regional or State Representative, please feel free to contact a Board of Director's Member for information.



Are your dues current? Check the label on the mailing envelope for this magazine; it reflects your renewal date. If your dues have expired or will expire soon, a membership renewal form may be found on page 36. As always, you may renew online at www.acstiels.com.

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The American Cockatiel Society Beginning

by Max Kennedy

Note: This article was written by Max Kennedy and originally published in the show catalog from the First National Show of the American Cockatiel Society that was held in Atlanta, Georgia on November 16-19, 1978.

The question from Tom Squyres to me was why isn't there an organization for cockatiel breeders? After much thought I really didn't have the answer. Then I gave some thought to why he would ask this question. Then realizing Tom and Dee owned a pet shop and their number one selling item was the cockatiels that alone had to stir an interest in their mind for such an organization. So we talked on. Tom wanted to know what it would take to organize such a club. My reply was very little know-how and a whole bunch of hard work by someone interested in such an organization. Tom said if you'll supply the very little know how Dee and I would like to do the hard work. Agreed, then A.C.S. had its beginning. First a small patronage ad in A.F.A.'s "Watchbird" brought 35 inquiries. We answered these inquiries with a questionnaire type application for membership in the American Cockatiel Society. (To finance this Tom and I paid our first years dues.) While waiting for replies to the inquiries we made a presentation to our home Fort Worth Bird Club. Seventeen of our friends joined A.C.S. that night. This was the incentive we needed to move on out with confidence in our labors. We only received 10 replies to our 35 inquiries. Four or five took a wait and see attitude, one was not inter-ested, and the rest sent checks for membership. Discouraging to say the least, but then came one that said sounds like this is for real, enclosed is a check for my dues and \$50.00 extra to be used at your discretion to promote "The American Cockatiel Society". Little did Nancy Reed know how much that meant to us. Now it was obvious that we needed to let all the nation's breeders know of the new "American Cockatiel Society". Subsequent patronage ads in national publications, and articles by inter-ested people such as Nancy Reeds' article in A.C.B.M. presentation to local and state clubs, and new club members inviting others has brought a steady flow of applications. From the off set it was decided that the first 100 members would be charter members and these members would be issued a permanent plastic laminated membership card. These charter members would also elect the first slate of officers of A.C.S. This was accomplished in eight months from March 1977 to November 1977. It was decided that American Cockatiel Society should sponsor trophies in the cockatiel division of the National Cage Bird Show to be held in Dallas late in November of 1977. This was granted by the Dallas Bird Club and National Cage Bird Organization.

It was here we had our first general meeting and at this meeting Mr. Ray Johnson invited the American Cockatiel Society to have our first specialty show in conjunction with their National Show to--be held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 1978. As you know we accepted and today many A.C.S. members are planning on attending this first Cockatiel Specialty Show. Today the American Cockatiel Society has a membership of 640 members. Now as I look back a year and half I am reminded of some memories that we won't forget that was a part of "Blazing the Trail" for the American Cockatiel Society. For instance the formulating of our first questionnaire application. The art work and the wording that was to be on the membership card, our first newsletter to let people know we were for real. Reading the application and comments by interested people, then came our first bulletin and it was along here that Tom and Dee Squyres found out about that work that I mentioned in the beginning, many, many hours. The encouragement offered by many and also the discouraging remarks by others, and many more to numerous to mention. It has been good to watch The American Cockatiel Society from conception, infancy, growth and now maturity. So really let us say thank you to the entire membership for their input, belief, and confidence in those who were in the beginning. You have helped in the beginning of the American Cockatiel Society,



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Contact: Josh Perkins

perkinstiels@gmail.com

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So, Why Do You Want a Cockatiel?

By Joshua Mitchell

It all started when I was at our local pet store getting fish for our aquarium and I noticed parakeets next to the aquariums. I've always had an interest in birds and have seen many cool videos, especially with cockatiels. I saw some cockatiel literature near the birds and grabbed everything they had on cockatiels. I read about caring for cockatiels and it seemed like it wasn't too much more involved than taking care of a parakeet. While I like parakeets, it seemed like cockatiels were a bit more intelligent and a bit more interactive and that's what I wanted. To convince mom and dad, I needed to know everything about cockatiels because I know they are going to ask me. I "googled" everything about cockatiels for a couple of days and printed out important stuff.

Today was the day. I was going to ask if I could have a cockatiel. I was ready for their question. I knew it was coming. "Hey mom, gotta minute? I asked. "So, I was thinking... I need a cockatiel." Mom looked at me funny as she sat up in her chair. "You need a what?" she asked. "Okay, I would like to have a cockatiel." I replied as I remembered not to be too demanding. "Go get your dad and ask him to join the conversation." So, I got my dad and he asked, "Okay, I'm here. What's up?" I started again with "I would like to have a cockatiel." Wait for it... "So, son, why do you want a cockatiel?" I rambled off so many reasons and told them all about caring for cockatiels. I said I would do all the work and even help pay. I think I did a good job. Then dad said, "We'll see..." That usually means mom and dad need to talk about it. And, sometimes, that means "no".

Over the next few weeks, I kept asking for an answer and was told, "We are still discussing this." "Dang!" I thought. Little did I know, mom and dad were doing the same research I crammed into a few days. They're just slower at it than I am. As it turned out, we had to "go to the store" and when we got to the flea market – it really was a bunch of stores, not just one – they told me we were there to pick up a cage since we were going to look at a cockatiel the next day. "Wahoo!" I was so excited. Mom and dad did do lots of research and even found a local cockatiel breeder. "How cool!"

The next day we went to the breeders house. The breeder had so many birds, but we were there only to see one. He's a grey cockatiel and very handsome. I knew he would be perfect and he was. Then came a second surprise. The breeder offered a second bird, he was a six year old show cockatiel with orange around his eyes. I read that cockatiels don't need a friend but it's usually better if they have buddy. I looked and mom and dad for approval. Dad gave his usual nod and mom smiled. "Double WaHoo!" Best Day Ever!

And here's the second Best Day Ever!



I earned Darwin's trust...

Third Best Day Ever!



Einstein gave in to peer pressure...

So it's been about two weeks, maybe three, since we picked up the "boys". Einstein and Darwin are doing well and have adjusted to their new home with us. Mom and dad like the "boys" too. We are still focusing on trusting each other. Hope to be teaching a few tricks and songs over the next few months.

And finally... A BIG shout out to Susan Ansley, the breeder at Shady Oaks Cockatiels, for sharing her birds with us. After meeting Ms. Ansley, I knew immediately why mom and dad liked her.

She was so knowledgeable about her birds and even showed us a few nests with babies on the way. I know if I ever have a question I can't answer that I can call her anytime.

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Get Acquainted with The Luscious Lutino

By Julie Mitchell

The Lutino Mutation (**Ino**, Albino, Moonbeam, Primrose, Yellows) first showed up in 1958 in the aviary of Mr. Cliff Barringer of Miami, Florida. Mr. Barringer bred a pair of Normal cockatiels and he got one baby with red eyes. This baby would become the beginning foundation to the Lutino Mutation. Mr. Barringer continued to work to breed Lutinos by crossing offspring back to the original parents.

Mr. Barringer sold his Lutino stock to Mrs. E. L. Moon, once the curator of the Florida Parrot Jungle. Mrs. Moon called her birds “moonbeams”.

In the beginning, due to the intense in-breeding, Lutinos were known to have a huge bald spot behind the crest. This did not affect the bird other than in appearance. Lutinos are known as sex-linked (meaning the color is linked directly to the parents' sex) recessive. For example, a Lutino Male paired to a non-Lutino Female can only produce Lutino Female offspring. In order to produce a male offspring, you would need the male to carry the Lutino gene as a split and the female to be a visual Lutino.

Lutinos lack melanin, otherwise known as pigment. Even though we see nice birds that are mostly white to a light-yellow with an orange cheek patch and red eyes, this was considered a cockatiel's form of “albinoism.” Lutino babies hatch with yellow down and closed red eyes. As with any irregular gene, there can be problems with Lutinos. Some of the problems that I have encountered with aging Lutinos, are cataracts, which lead to limited eyesight and blindness. The other abnormality with Lutinos is that they easily night fright. I don't know that I find that to always be true in my own aviary.

The Lutino mutation governs the production of black, grey and brown pigments (grey-family pigments). The Lutino mutation doesn't delete all grey-family pigments, it acts more like a sieve in some species including the cockatiel. Therefore, when the Lutino mutation is combined with Cinnamon, some of the cinnamon or brown pigments still come through. In fact, some Lutino cocks produce a cinnamon-like wash or overlay on their back and wings when they mature. This does not mean that the bird contains cinnamon and in fact, if you compare a Lutino with a mature cinnamon-like wash with a Lutino Cinnamon, you can clearly see that the difference. The Lutino Cinnamon has a much darker cinnamon color.

Being devoid of grey-family pigments, a Lutino can ONLY show white, yellow, orange and red. All dark body areas (feet, nails, and beak) revert to a pinkish-white color. As stated above, the Lutino can show some cinnamon-like color, however this looks more like a dirty Lutino. A lot of people confuse a Pied or Pearl-

Pied or Cinnamon-Pearl-Pied as being a Lutino. A good rule of thumb is if your bird shows ANY grey/brown/black markings or colored areas then it is NOT a Lutino. Breeding Lutino mutations to either Normal or Pied improves and strengthens the gene pool to improve the traits that were bred in the earlier birds. Breeding Lutinos to other Lutinos, Cinnamon, Fallow, Recessive Silver, and Dominant Silver risks abnormal coloration and weakens the gene pool. When breeding Lutino, it is best to stay away from cross breeding to Pearl. Pearl can bring back the bald spot in lines that have had past histories of good head feathering. Pied is the best to pair with Lutino.

Breeders/Exhibitors have been working to improve the Lutino Mutation for many years. The main objective being to breed out the tell-tale bald spot. The bald spot has not been eliminated as it will occasionally show up in Lutino offspring; breeding the birds back to Normal-type Cockatiels have strengthened the gene pool so there are less bald Lutinos than there have been in the past.



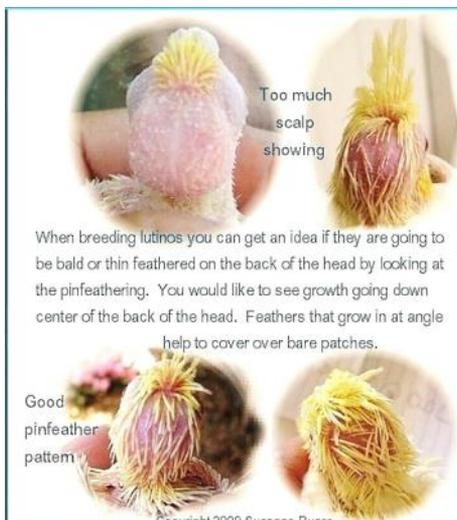
Lutino



Lutino Pearl



Lutino Cinnamon



MY CAGE IS MY HOME

By Lisa McManus

I don't know about you, but when my little friends have been out and are ready to go back in their cage, I always ask them if they are ready to back to their house. It seems when you think of a birdcage in this way it takes on a new meaning. I'd like to discuss how to make a cage a home.

Architecture

One of the most important aspects of a home is the architecture. What is the cage made of? If it's painted, the paint must be non-toxic. Horizontal bars allow easy climbing; however birds do seem to enjoy sliding down the vertical bars like little monkeys. Bar spacing is important. If the bird can get its head between the bars it's too wide. 5/8" to 1" is a preferable bar spacing for most conures. Make sure the wires do not come together in tight spaces where wings and feet might get caught. Some of the fancy designs are attractive for us to look at, but have hidden dangers. Round cages are not preferable. Besides being difficult to hang toys in, they are not designed for a bird's comfort. Birds like to have corners for security. Feeder cups need to be easily accessible to both you and your friend, and they need to be big enough to hold the necessary amount of food and water. A pull out tray is a must for easier cleaning. Some people prefer not to use grates. A lot of my little guys love to play on the bottom of their house, and grates just aren't fun to roll around on. They also love to play hide and seek under the papers. Of course, this means you need to change the papers more often. Size is important! At the very least, birds need to be able to comfortably spread and flap their wings. Conures in particular love to play and are little acrobats; they need, and love, to climb. And you will want to have plenty of space to hang toys and treats. Being the clowns conures are, they love their toys. Door size is another important consideration. It needs to be large enough for your friend to easily go in and out, and an adequate latch is necessary to keep all those Houdini's at home! Cage location can also make a happy conure. They love to see you and be where the action is. They are stimulated by the sights and sounds of family interaction, and need to be included. Being near a window is fun, too, to be able to watch all those outside critters and get needed sunshine. Be careful that there is always shade provided to keep from overheating our little buddies. Some people provide more than one house. These are places known as "bed and breakfast", the "fun house", the "vacation house". If you place a house outside, make sure it is safe from predators and direct sunlight, and latches securely.

Now it's time to decorate. You know how your feet get tired from standing in the same shoes, in the same place for a long period of time? Our birds need to exercise their feet to keep them in shape. This can be accomplished with different size perches and different textures. Rope perches are a good example of interesting texture and differing size. These perches give the feet a good exercise with the smaller and larger diameter of the coiled rope. Branches collected from your trees are great for differing texture and size. Just make sure the trees have not been sprayed with an insecticide, which could be harmful to your bird. If you prefer to use the normal dowel perch, use a couple of different diameters. You can also sand or file these to add texture. Perches need to give ready access to food and water bowls, being careful not to place any over the bowls. Concrete perches are good for grooming nails, but not for a central perch. Can you imagine standing on grainy concrete all day?

Most birds need to have a security roost for nighttime. Usually this is in an upper corner of the house. Your little guy may prefer an enclosed space such as a tent-like structure or a sleeping bag hung in the cage. Some prefer to sleep under the stars, and some like to have the whole house covered.

Next are the accents. Conures are playful critters. Most of them love to swing, climb and chew. Providing them with plenty of toys will keep them happy and entertained. Just like our human kids, our feathered kids get bored with the same thing day after day. You might want to have a toy box with extra toys to change monthly or weekly. Toys don't have to be expensive, just safe. A paper towel can give an hour of shredding fun. Paper egg cartons can be cut apart into little hats and bowl shapes. "Wow, I can throw these and roll with them and chew on them!!" Chewing is a natural instinct, and conures need to be able to chew and shred. Wood toys are a necessity, and variety is essential. Most conures love colorful and chewable toys. Acrylic toys are fun and virtually indestructible. Once again, differing textures are stimulating. Conures are intelligent and curious and love to investigate and figure things out. Their toys can encourage this. I've taken to shopping thrift stores for bags of baby toys. I've found wood blocks and plastic toys that I keep in a basket and let them choose what interests them at the moment. Of course, I always thoroughly wash these toys first and make sure they are safe. If the home is happy, safe and fun, your conure will enjoy spending time there. This will encourage independence and the ability to entertain themselves. None of us knows what the future holds, and we can't guarantee that our lifestyle won't change. And if ours changes, so does our birds. Maybe we won't have as much time, or they will have to be adopted by someone else. If they are happy and secure in their houses, adjustments will be much easier. But, of course they will always look forward to their time with you!

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SUGGESTIONS FOR SURVIVING REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOR

Jeannine Miesle, M.A., M. Ed. , April, 2018

It's spring! Hormones are pumping—your bird is screaming, biting, and being absolutely obnoxious. What do you do? We're fighting Mother Nature here, and "She" generally wins. Medically speaking, there are Lupron injections, which may or may not work, Deslorelin implants which may or may not work, and if the bird is constantly laying, one might consider a salpingohysterectomy. With this surgery, only the lowest part of the oviduct, the "uterus," is removed, simply because the surgeon cannot safely go any higher into the oviduct. Because the bird still has her ovary (birds only have one ovary), her body will continue to put out the hormones, so the reproductive behavior and temperamental difficulties that accompany it will continue. They exhibit mating behavior, constant contact calls, attempts to copulate, and they seek nest spots wherever they can find them. Some intact hens will begin to lay eggs during this time, and there does not need to be a male or even another bird in the picture. If the eggs are not fertile, what do you do? Do you leave the eggs in there? Pull them? My avian veterinarian suggests leaving the eggs there for at least two weeks; if she sees they are gone, she will continue to lay until she has a clutch, which for most small birds is 4-5 eggs. (Large birds lay fewer, often only one or two.) So if they are pulled, the hen could continue laying indefinitely, thus threatening her health and even her life. If she doesn't lay any more after that, and ignores the one she lays, he advises pulling them after two weeks. Most of the time she gets bored with the whole thing because no chicks have hatched, and she loses interest. If the eggs are damaged, one can purchase "dummy" eggs which look the same and are the same size as the natural egg. Be sure to get the right size for the bird, though, or she will ignore them. The wrong-sized eggs will not deter her from continuing to lay. On ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, so the saying goes. There are a few things that owners can do to help keep the hormone levels down, but these need to be started at the first sign of hormonal behavior. The levels increase quickly, and so does the breeding behavior. For birds kept in a constant environment, year-round, breeding season can happen anytime. Spring and fall are typically the more intense times, but birds can become hormonal at any time. There are certain triggers that alert the birds that it is time to start preparing a nest, finding a mate, and laying eggs. You can cut down on the triggers by making some changes in their environment and daily routines:

1. Change the bird's cage around frequently. Change the position and placing of the cage; move the cage to a different room or different place in the room. Keep the male in a different cage, and move his cage away from the female's. change the perches, toys, and food cup placement in the cage; take out any snuggle huts—anything to keep her from feeling safe in her environment. Change things around often; they will not lay if they don't think they have a constant, safe environment.

You may have to place the two birds in separate rooms; sometimes they get so intense with the contact calls that they gets the others engaged in it, and this stimulates the females to display reproductive behavior. The female will back into a corner, lift her tail, separate her feet, and make little chortling sounds. Stop this immediately by distracting her; otherwise, this will lead to egg-laying. I have even had to move the male to the second floor, close all the doors in-between, and put a radio on—and they can still hear each other! Keep the male out of the female's cage. If you see him chasing her around, return him to his cage to calm down.

2. Cut light hours down to eight a day by putting the bird on a schedule: up at 8, down for a 2-3-hour nap at noon, bedtime at 7. It works. Light is the most important trigger because it controls circadian rhythms. Cover the cage, darken the room, and put on soft music to encourage sleep—and don't interrupt the nap. I even turn off the phone. Schedule noisy activities around this arrangement. Provide a strict 8 hours of daylight per day for a period recommended by your avian veterinarian, usually for two to three weeks. A drastic reduction in photoperiod is often helpful, particularly in the cockatiel. Adherence to this short photoperiod must be strict. If extra light exposure occurs during this time, such as through a window or under a door crack, halting of egg laying will not occur.

3. Give the bird fewer and shorter showers. The advent of spring rains is another huge trigger for birds. It means there will soon be an abundance of food in the area—perfect for feeding babies. One shower a week is plenty during this time.

4. Take away anything that can be considered nesting material. Paper towels or newspaper on the bottom of the cage are the perfect material—you will see her chew them up and bundle them in the corner. You may have to put the paper towels under the grid for a while, in the tray. If she insists on staying on the bottom of the cage, get her out more often and try to keep her off the bottom.

5. Keep towels and fabrics out of reach. Don't let them chew on towels, paper, cloth—anything that she can tear up and make into nest material, or hurt herself with. This is natural, nest-building behavior. Birds will ingest these fibers, and crop stasis and bacterial infections result.

6. Cut back on soft foods, especially things like scrambled eggs and anything mashed. They look for these types of foods to feed their babies with when they regurgitate.

7. Increase the bird's activity. Get him/her out of the cage and running around on the floor or flying around the house. Play ball with the bird. Provide new toys they can destroy, both in and out of the cage, and change the toys often. Get the bird outside for walkabouts on nice days. This keeps the birds busy and distracts them throughout this time. Make sure the bird has plenty of wood to chew and destroy. For the smaller birds, there are many balsa toys out there you can purchase, and places like Hobby Lobby have it in bulk and in packages. You can put holes in small pieces and tie them to the side of the cage with twist ties. You can also put holes in them and string them on thick string. For the larger bird, you can purchase white wood or pine at places like Home Depot. Get 1"x4"x6 feet or whatever length they have. They will make one cut for free so you can get it in your car. Then cut it into 3" pieces. The bird can chew this on a chair or floor, and you can drill holes in the pieces and string them with 100% cotton rope. You can drill small holes in the wood and press pine nuts into them. Cockatoos love this.

8. Be careful when handling the birds. In general, handle them less, and when you do, only touch the head area. Petting the back, belly or tail is stimulating to both males and females. It simulates copulatory behavior. If you see the male mounting the female, stop it immediately. Avoid interacting with your pet in ways that may stimulate reproductive activity, such as rubbing over the back, under the wings, or around the vent as these areas are sexually charged places in birds. Also, avoid encircling the body or playfully wrestling with the beak.

9. Some people may not think it's necessary or even helpful, but doing some extra grooming during this time does have its advantages. Make sure nails are trimmed and wings are given a trim—not severe, just so you are not having to chase them around the house for hours at a time. Trim back the first two primaries on both sides and see how they fly. Trim under the coverts, please, and be careful not to trim blood feathers back too far. See the article and video in the files on wing-trimming.)Trim one more on each side until the bird can coast down without crashing. It's amazing how they calm down after losing some of that power. Ask your vet or a trusted bird person to do this if you don't feel comfortable with it. Better yet, have the person show you how to do it properly. Don't let anyone do a straight-across cut on them, cutting across the primaries and secondaries. That's the worst kind of cut. And remember, they do grow back! Hopefully, by that time breeding season has passed.

10. Birds who are in reproductive mode will allopreen and allofeed. This means preening each other and feeding each other. Stop that behavior and return one of the birds to its cage. Remove any object, dish, etc. that the birds are using to masturbate on. (See the paper in the files on masturbation.) Males in particular will do this to the point they can injure themselves.

11. Reduce the amount of time the favorite person spends with the bird. That person is his “mate” and stands in the place of a bird mate for only birds or birds without mates. Lower the voice and don’t speak in “baby talk,” that high-pitched voice owners use. Avoid eye-contact. When we do these things the birds are confused; they can’t understand why the person is teasing them. On the one hand, he is encouraging a close bond and mating behavior, then he pushes the bird away. The bird is very frustrated. This leads to nasty bites and aggressive behavior from the bird out of sexual frustration. Remember, these are wild animals. Do not place your bird (male or female) on your shoulders during reproductive or broody periods. Any urges to protect its mate or its territory may result in acts of aggression, and a bird placed on a shoulder has great access to the face.

12. Consider getting the birds (either or both) a Lupron/progesterone injection. It usually works, at least for a short time. This shuts down the hormone production. There are also Deslorelin implants. These are very expensive and sometimes they work and sometimes they don’t. The Lupron may or may not work, too, but it isn’t nearly as expensive. You need to know your bird well enough to discover quickly what works and what doesn’t and to try something else. No matter what you do, there will still be rough days, but you can minimize these times with some planning and preparation. At the very least, you will be able to make this difficult time more tolerable. Happy Spring!

“Easy Cornbread” Recepte

This recipe helped us convert our cockatiels to pellets.

- 1 package cornbread mix (try to get one low in sugar)
- 2 eggs, shell included
- 1/2 cup seed mix
- 1/2 cup pellets (any brand you prefer)
- 1 cup mixed vegetables.

Mix ingredients together per package instructions and adding the extra ingredients above. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35 minutes.

LET'S TALK RARE'S

The Fallow Cockatiel

By Julie Mitchell

The Fallow (**Bronze Fallow**, Brown fallow Non Sex-Linked Lutino) cockatiel is a Recessive (Autosomal) bird. It is the sixth established mutation. The Fallow mutation originated in 1971 in the aviary of Mrs. Irma Vowels.



Photo: Tame Tiels Aviary

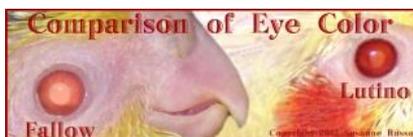
The Fallow is a red eyed bird. At first hatch the eyes appear pale pink and the pupils will look like they glow from within. As they age the eye color can darken slightly, though the eyes will still appear a lighter shade of red/pink than a lutino pied. If the Fallow is also pied the eyes tend to remain a brighter pinkish red color. The eye will appear to be a solid pink-red with very little color variance of the pupil and iris, whereas a Lutino will have a darker ruby pupil with a slightly lighter red/ruby iris. The body plumage can vary from a Lutino appearing bird with very pale warm beige wash to a soft light milk chocolate shade, with a deep yellow suffusion to the face and

chest of both sexes.

Like the Lutino, the Fallow was inbred early on resulting in the same tell-tale bald spot. Many breeders of these mutations, through communication with each other, have learned to avoid introducing Pearl to Fallow when breeding because pearl tends to enhance an existing problem with balding. Even so, the fallow pearl is an attractive bird, and the pearl does help in increasing size to this mutation. Once this is obtained a breeder can breed the pearl out from the mutation. Good quality Fallows with no splits are uncommon and hard to find.

If a Fallow is crossed with a Cinnamon the Cinnamon will mask the Fallow color of the offspring. This results in a bird that looks like a Lutino. The color can range from a pale cream with a beige wash to a bright yellow bird. Cinnamon Fallow or Lutino Fallow are names used descriptively, but genetically the bird is a Fallow. Visually a Cinnamon Fallow (Lutino Fallow) can be mistaken for a Lutino Cinnamon, or if the bird is bright yellow, a Lutino Pied. It can be hard to determine visually which mutation you see.

As a result, there are many cockatiels sold as Fallows, by inexperienced breeders.



Breeding Fallow to other Fallows is not a good idea, nor is breeding them to Lutino, Recessive Silver, Dominant Silver, Cinnamon and Emerald. You want to build good strong foundation stock to work with in your aviary. Staying away from mutations that muddy the Fallow coloration is my best advice.



This applies to any mutation you are trying to get rid of baldness

GOOD

FYI

Baldness CAN be selectively bred out of the lutino mutation

Step 2

Step 1

MAYBE

POOR

1...Where it all begins
Select and hold back the babies with the most dense pinfeathers on the head. When the bird matures pair it with a bird with good head feathering

2...Getting closer...
Select a bird that has thick fern-like crest feathers. Pair it with the bird you held back. These birds will be your 'working stock' to pair with lutino. Pair with lutino to breed for split to lutino cocks, and/or visual lutino hens.

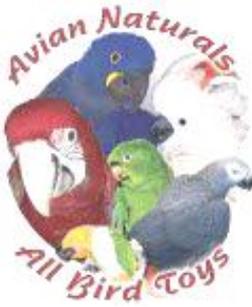
3...Going for the home run
You are on your way to lutinos free from balding when these are paired with lutino

SRTIELS

Breed Responsibly

Fern-like Crest feathers

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When Your Cockatiel is Aging

by Lisa Helderman

I recently wrote an article about my first cockatiel that started me in the wonderful world of raising these fabulous birds.

His name is Poco. He is 20 plus years old. This past winter was hard on him. He went through one of the worst molts I have ever seen him have. For this first time, I saw his age. It is heartbreaking to think, that one day, he will not be part of our family.

I decided, it was time to make sure to preserve his memory. I took my phone and made several videos of him singing, and one where he was screaming at me for placing a new toy in his cage. Did I mention, he is rather set in his ways? New toys are not always well received.

I additionally took several pictures of him and plan to make a quilt, by transferring these pictures to fabric. Additional I plan to frame several of the photos as well.

I recently noticed, he is no longer fond of bigger seeds, so I have adjusted his diet as well. He still enjoys his treat of air popped popcorn with mommy. Poco has never liked fresh greens, once again screams at them. However, Mommy has found a way to camouflage greens in birdy bread. He seems to really enjoy his birdy bread. Stem millet is also a moment for scolding me, while he enjoys eating it.

Yes he is spoiled! I would not have him any other way. I tried scrambled eggs yesterday....yep screamed until I removed them.

Poco is my precious boy and for as long as he lives, will always be spoiled rotten. I continue to enjoy every day we have.

Take time to enjoy your cockatiel, they are a fabulous addition to your family. Even when they are old and their needs change, find ways to meet their needs. Even when they scold you! It is more than worth it.



*Greater Houston Bird Breeders & Exhibitors
Invites you to their First Show!*

July 27, 2019

**ACS Judges:
Bert McAulay & Rick Solis**

***Conroe Civic Center
Conroe, Texas***

**Contact: Craig Novak
craignovak@rocketmail.com
Phone: 281-900-7060**

**Show will be held in conjunction with
the Bird Events of Texas Bird Mart**

Welcome New Members

Chase Hall	TX	15195
Samuel Marshall	LA	15196
Deborah Lacy	OH	15197
Joshua Mitchell	FL	15198
Salena Haas	PA	15199
Gabriella Melnick	NY	15200
Kaitlin McMahan	TN	15201
Trinity Breeze	KS	15202
Lara Young	KS	15203
Shara Breeze	KS	15204
Susanne Russo	NM	13420
Bluegrass Bird Breeders	KY	90033

LINE BREEDING EXPLAINED

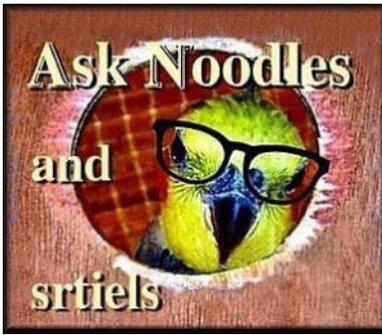
Rick Solis

LINE BREEDING is one of the most useful and misunderstood techniques used in consistently breeding high quality birds. In a real way, you can think of line breeding as GENE Collecting. Genes always come in pairs, except inside egg and sperm cells, where they've been separated forever from their partner gene. The reason for this is so that when an egg is fertilized by a sperm, the newly formed embryo ends up with one half from the mother and one half from the father. It is important to understand that the embryo did not inherit half of the genes of each parent. Those genes are lost forever and obviously cannot be passed on to future generations.

When making decisions you need to decide what you want to keep and improve and what you want to breed out. Say that you want your birds to be tall and longer. If you have mixed clutches of short and tall babies, exclude any short bird from future breeding. Then using the two tallest birds at hand, repeat the breeding and culling process. At this point you should have tall offspring due to the fact that you have successfully collected only "tall genes" in them. Since there are no short genes to be passed on, the tall trait is said to be "set". As long as you breed only to other birds that lack the short gene, you can only produce tall birds. One way to maintain this over generations is to use related birds such as cousins (share 12% of their genes) or half siblings (share 25%). When you breed this way, you have an excellent chance of successfully selecting for many traits at once thereby excluding undesirable genes from entering back into your Line from unrelated birds from unknown pedigrees.

There are a couple of things you must keep in mind in the game of gene collecting. First is the possibility that at the same time you get two great copies of a gene for one trait, you'll unintentionally set two undesirable copies of a gene in one chick. Depending on what they control, the result could be lethal. The other danger is to reach a genetic bottleneck caused by lack of genetic diversity. To prevent this, it's wise to keep two or three parallel bloodlines that you can breed together.

If you would like to discuss this or any other topic, join our American Cockatiel Society group on Facebook for great conversation. Everyone is welcome from newbie pet owners to master breeders!



If you have a question you would like to ask Noodles you can contact him at: ask.noodles@outlook.com

Hmm...how can I encourage my cockatiel to try new foods? Firstly keep in mind that cockatiels are social/flock birds and will want to be included in what you do. With that said, they will try to mimic what they see. You might want to try eating in front of them. Many tiels will be curious enough to try what you are eating. If this fails I have heard of some new owners placing a mirror inside the cage in front of a plate of veggies. The tiel will see the other bird and come closer to the food. If it takes a bite it will also see the bird in the mirror eat too and copy what it does.

Once your bird is familiar with various veggies/fruit you might try wedging them through the cage bars near where the bird perches.

One of the biggest problems many new bird/pet owners say is their bird will not eat greens. First off look at the info on the illustration. Next, if the bird is not eating them the greens will be unmarked and untouched. If you see any holes check to see where they are at. If you look closely you will see veins in the leaf. These veins are rich in nutrients, thus most birds instinctively go for this first, and the rest is waste.

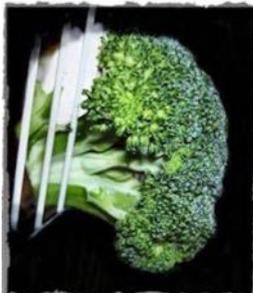


Wedge between cage bars

If you have a picky eater, try being creative on how you offer new foods



Clip with clothespins



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Cockatiel Sounds Explained

Courtesy of Lafeber

A random chirp, a warble repeated over and over, a long, drawn-out wolf whistle, a piercing squawk, intermittent chirps, an elaborate whistle serenade, a soft cheep while napping — these are all sounds pet cockatiels make.

Like other parrots, cockatiels are natural-born communicators. In their native Australia, cockatiels live in flocks, where contact calls are crucial to alerting others in the flock if a predator is too close for comfort. No doubt, there are many other vocalizations going on in a wild cockatiel flock — from happy foraging sounds to “Yes, you can perch here,” and “Did you hear that?” chirps and squawks.

Parrots typically are most vocal at sunrise and sunset, including cockatiels. However, that doesn't mean a pet cockatiel will not vocalize intermittently throughout the day. In fact, a happy, playful cockatiel will not check the clock to see if it is chirp or whistle time. Male cockatiels, in particular, are inclined to burst into a whistle song when the mood hits them, especially if they spy their reflection in a mirror or other reflective object like a lacquered vase; but that doesn't mean they won't whistle a song to just themselves or to you. Below are some common cockatiel sounds and a brief explanation of what cockatiel noises mean.

The Cockatiel Contact Call: “Where'd you go?!”

A pet cockatiel will most likely attempt to keep household members' movements in check with contact calls. When you leave the room, your cockatiel responds with a chirp or sequence of chirps, as if to say, “Where are you going, and when will you be back?” A cockatiel's contact calling isn't strictly reserved for people the bird is affectionately bonded to. Even a “hands-off” cockatiel is inclined to send out a contact call from its perch spot in the cage when you leave the room. You can help put your cockatiel at ease by answering its contact call with a quick whistle back when you turn a corner out of its sight.

The Cockatiel Alarm Call: “Attention! Attention!”

A pet cockatiel might sound an alarm call if something startles it. This call is a louder, more intense chirp that continues until the bird calms down. Just about any sudden sound or movement, such as a truck rumbling down the street, a crow flying past the window, or a dog being walked on the sidewalk outside,

can result in an alarm call. Inside the home, there are even more sights and sounds your cockatiel might feel the need to vocally comment on, such as when you move a chair across the room, sweep the floor, drop a dish, or the phone rings.

A Happy And Content Cockatiel

The sound of beak grinding is a telltale sign that a cockatiel is happy and relaxed. This is often accompanied by facial feathers that are fanned out over its beak and relaxed, fluffed body feathers. A sleepy cockatiel might grind its beak shortly before falling asleep.

The Cockatiel “Leave Me Alone!” Noise

An uptight cockatiel will have an uptight look — the feathers will be held tightly in — and it might also let out a quick hiss to show its disdain. One sound you don’t want to hear from your cockatiel is “hissing.” A cockatiel that feels threatened might retreat to a corner of its cage or travel carrier and hiss like a snake. This is sometimes the case with cockatiels that are not used to interacting with people, such as an unsocialized cockatiel being brought from the pet store into a new home. It is especially important to not force interaction if the cockatiel is frightened. Instead, allow the cockatiel time to adjust to its new environment.

Cockatiel “Ready For Bed” Signal

A cockatiel might send out a bedtime call, such as some attention-grabbing chirps, when it is ready for some shuteye. It is your cockatiel’s way of reminding you to go to bed, too.

Cockatiel Inquisitive Chirp

A cockatiel that is unsure of something might emit a single “What was that?” chirp, as if it is not quite sure what to make of the situation. This might be your cockatiel’s way of asking, “What do you think of that sound?”

Talking ‘Tiels

Like most parrots, cockatiels are also capable of talking. A cockatiel’s vocabulary is generally not as extensive as other parrots, such as African greys and Amazon parrots, but some can be taught to say a few words or phrases, such as “Hello,” “Pretty bird,” “I’m a good bird,” etc. Male cockatiels are more inclined to speak than females. The key to getting a cockatiel to talk is to repeat a specific word or phrase and then moving on to another word/phrase once it masters it.

(continued on page 36)

How to Host a Successful Bird Show

An Overview

For Novice Exhibitors

By: Joan D. Redondo, VP-Exhibition

Intro:

There are few things more exciting than hosting your own successful bird show(s). Plan on having a successful show or shows. At least 2 shows or more will assist in enticing exhibitors and birds to come to the show(s).

In every society it is necessary to be affiliate your club. In ACS you may affiliate at the beginning of the calendar year. The cost is \$25 and you may have as many shows as you like during the year! You may also advertise your show for free in the ACS magazine and on the ACS website. Contact VP-Exhibition with your information. Write up the show and send to the magazine editor and webmaster as early as you can.

Obtain the show hall and date of the proposed show(s). A motel with a meeting room is ideal due to convenience. Your show hall could also be: in a church meeting room, club house, etc. A bird fair is a great place also as there is a lot of public there and it is a chance to show how much fun exhibiting can be. Of course you want a good price for the show hall so it pays to shop around.

Next obtain the judges that you would like to have. Variety is a really good tactic as people need to obtain points from a variety of judges. They may drive or fly (check prices on that), you will pay for their room, feed them and perhaps a fee.

Try not to interfere with other clubs dates as we each need to be considerate of each other. Be flexible. You will need exhibitors, judges and entries. 50 birds are required for a major ACS show, along with at least 4 exhibitors. Invite personally every single person you think may be interested and able to attend. Some other forms of advertisement may be local news stations, local newspapers and flyers. Many offer free advertisement.

Financing:

There are several ways to finance a show. In Florida it is generally \$3.50 per bird/per show for entries. So for 10 birds per show it would be \$35.00. Any birds the exhibitor wants to exhibit above that is included in the \$35.00. Some clubs ask for sponsorships. If you are trying this method, give something in return for the sponsorship (advertisement in the show catalog for example.) Also remember that if you are asking for sponsorships, don't forget to repay the favor.

Another one of my favorite ways to finance is to have a raffle. Well in advance of the show start gathering items that bird lovers will like. You may find things at flea markets, garage sales, etc. My family assists in this manner and finds some really nice things for the raffle, along with making some pretty baskets with several items included in them. Bird lovers also love art, books, and kitchen items, just think what you would like to win! Ask for donations; scan your own house for things that you are not using, for example: bird cages, nest boxes, show boxes, decorative items for the home, food baskets and wine baskets are very popular. One of my favorite items is the North Carolina sweet potatoes that April Blazich brings!!!! (Thanks April!) Make it a habit to also take something for other clubs show raffles.

Show team:

You will need a show team and a show bench. Sometimes an exhibitor will be able to bring a show bench. But it's a good idea to have your own. I know that Al Mitchell is always happy to give advice on building a good strong bench. It is a plus to have a classifier, someone that looks at the birds and makes sure they are classified correctly before the paperwork is handed to the secretary.

Your show team will be the ACS Judge, a secretary (or two), at least one head steward, extra stewards are a plus, an awards hanger. Quite a few exhibitors are also able to fill the jobs in your show team as they understand it isn't always easy to fill these jobs. Don't be afraid to ask!!

Don't forget some snacks for the secretary table! Plus always have some bottled water there for everyone.

Show box:

Yvonne Weir made up my first show box (thanks Yvonne). It's dedicated to keeping the paperwork needed to put on a successful show. It should always be kept up and ready. It would include: pencils, pens, staplers, staples, numbered tags, class sheets to enter the birds, class stickers (1st, 2nd, 3rd) (stickers and entry forms may be obtained from Higgins) scotch tape, duct tape, show rules, 1st aid kit (should contain a band cutter), scissors. After each show make sure to resupply and be ready for the next one. You may obtain other show awards from VP exhibition, Wendy LaBanca, for example, plaques, certificates, many things can be used for awards. There should be at least one award for best novice and one for best in show (minimal) and more may be given per your choice.

Raffle box:

If you plan on having raffles it will help to have a box with supplies. Well in advance of the shows gather items for the raffle. Choose a special person to be in charge of this table. A friendly, outgoing salesperson type will fit the bill. My box contains raffle tickets, something to place the tickets in (cups with lids are good). And something to be able to mix the tickets well, for example I keep a big coffee can with a lid.

Make up signs that show the price and times the raffle will be held. Usually it's done at the end of judging. However, when at a bird fair it is advantageous to hold smaller raffles approximately every 1-2 hours depending on how many items you have.

This article is meant to be an overview and to help assist a club that wants to have some shows. I started sponsoring shows when I was a **NOVICE!!!** and have been doing it ever since. I really enjoy having shows, the camaraderie (we always try to go to dinner together), seeing friends and the excitement of the shows.

Try it! You'll like it. If you need any more advice, ask and we will assist!!

COCKATIEL SOUNDS (Continued)

Your cockatiel vocalizes to communicate with you. Just as you would check to see why the dog is barking, you should also check to see why your cockatiel is squawking, especially if it sounds urgent. Is there a cat outside the window? Did something fall near its cage? And if your cockatiel is by itself in another room, its chirps might be its way of reminding you, "Hey, I'm over here ... talk to me!"

PREPARING FOR SHOWS (Continued)

never ever indicate which birds are yours. You can also ask your neighbor sitting next to you anything you want to know. They are happy you're there and are glad to help

Volunteering at shows is a good chance to learn. Some examples: putting stickers on tags for class and section. 1,2,3. You're standing next to the judge and can hear and see what he/she is seeing. Another first job for learning is stewarding. The head steward will welcome you and teach you. You might be assistant secretary to learn the format there. We have a computer program and also paper program (hand written) on the ACS website

I hope this article gives you some ideas! Hope to see you at shows! I still love the shows after 29 years and go to everyone I possibly can. If you have any questions email me and I'll be glad to help (joanredondo@yahoo.com)

BREEDING QUALITY COCKATIELS

Chris Orowitz

Our desire, as dedicated breeders, is to reach a level of quality in a breeding program that will consistently produce birds that are correct in type, even and friendly temperments, and in accordance to the ACS standard and are undeniably unique to your own vision of the breed.

Reputable breeders are dedicated to leaving a solid foundation for the next generation of breeders to build on. That foundation encompasses developing an established line of quality birds that to her breeders gain benefit from using and making an impact on the next generation of breeders through mentoring. It is through this time honored tradition that all reputable breeders are connected to one another in an unbroken chain of shared knowledge and experience. It is also how exception birds are produced—birds that are able to pass all of the outstanding qualities they possess onto their offspring

When you look at the pedigrees of successful birds today, you will find a lineage of greatness that beautifully combined with each new generation to carry on exceptional traits. This is not by accident but by a studied, inspired and artful selection of breeding pairs by knowledgeable breeders that knew what they were doing.



PREPARING FOR SHOWS

NOVICE EXHIBITORS

By: Joan D. Redondo, VP-exhibition

Some tips for novice exhibitors:

Health: Make sure to feed your birds' good healthy food and clean water daily. It helps with health and longevity. It certainly helps them on the show bench by keeping them in great condition. It is best to show your own birds with your own ACS band number so that your bird gets the credit. If you want to show birds that you purchased from an advance exhibitor be sure to put them in the advance division.

Spraying: When the weather is good and you are able spraying with a mist is enjoyed by your birds and helps to bring them into good condition

Tails: A lot of times the babies are just a little goofy as kids will be and they bang up their tail feathers. If it is one or more needs to be pulled straight out so the new feather can come in (at least 8 weeks before show).

Again baby boys sometimes have spats. Try to stop this by splitting them up so they don't mess themselves up (usually tails and crests (over preening). Try to put compatible birds together and keep them together when you come back from the shows.

Pins: A lot of times coming out of a moult you will have pin feathers. This counts off on condition. So always carry a soft tooth brush with you in a show bag in case you need it. Check each one when putting into the show box.

Show Boxes: Take good care of and keep your show boxes clean. Wash before and after the show. Fill appropriate amount of seed in the bottom. Approx. an inch or a little more to cover the bottom. Mine are stored in large garbage bags after a show. You will need waterers of some sort in the cage. You may put a piece of paper with tape on the top of your cage with bird type and band number. This comes in very handy at the show when you fill in your paperwork. Advanced exhibitors will help you with this task. (When I got started Roger Heroux and John Franchak helped me so much.)

Always be early to the show so that you have plenty of time. Speaking from experience being a novice exhibitor is a great opportunity to learn the ropes! Listen to the judges' comments. (I used to take notes.) Sit by a judge that's in the galley or an advanced exhibitor. You may ask questions from the presiding ACS judge but .

Continued on Page 36



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HagenBirdCare

FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY CARE:

Minor Wound Care, Burns, Fractures, Trauma, and Nail Bleeding
J. Miesle, Nov., 2017

Occasionally a bird will require some first aid for a minor wound. Perhaps he has some skin or foot irritation that at the time doesn't seem serious enough to require veterinary care. Or perhaps you are unable to get the bird to the vet right away and need to take care of the problem until you can get him there. And sometimes a nail clip is too short and you need to stop the bleeding. Even if the bird does need to see the veterinarian, there are things you can do to care for him till you get him there.

There are several products which every bird owner should have in his or her first aid kit. Place these products in your avian First Aid Kit and Keep them updated.

- “Domeboro” astringent packets
- “Super Clot” blood-stop liquid for skin and feathers
- “Quick Stop” blood-stop powder for nails and beaks
- Quinsana anti-fungal powder for blood-stopping
- Aloe Vera Gel for Sensitive Skin, from Walgreens
- Cohesive bandaging/tape, such as Kroger’s “Tender Tape” or Vetrap.
- Triple antibiotic ointment
- ◆ Cotton balls and Q-tip swabs

Domeboro may be found at any drug store, either on the shelf or behind the counter. It's an astringent, so it really is effective in stopping the itching and irritation. It works well for humans, too, for scratches, insect bites, any skin irritation. If used on humans or other pets, you can mix it with less water if desired. Domeboro comes in a box of little packets, and each packet is added to two and a half cups of warm water so it dissolves well. It must be shaken or stirred well before each use. You will apply this with a cotton ball or swab and hold it on the wound for as long as the bird will tolerate it, at least 30 seconds if possible. You may have to start with a few seconds and build up to longer periods. The box's instructions are for people, but I dilute it much more for the birds. Remember, their epidermis is only 3 cell layers thick, and the dermis only 10. So we have to be very careful when using anything on the skin. You can use this several times a day as long as the skin is red and sore. Hydrogen peroxide may be used in a pinch if Domeboro is not available; however, you will need to dilute it with water at a 1-10 ratio. It must be very weak. After it dries, apply the Aloe Vera lightly. Alternate the Domeboro and Aloe Vera.

Aloe Vera gel for Sensitive Skin may be purchased at Walgreen's drug store. It is out on the shelves by the skin care area. It is the Walgreen's brand. It is a human product and may be used on other animals as well

Put a little of Aloe Vera into a small container and mix it with distilled water to form a thin liquid. As the skin begins to heal, use it fewer times per day. When the wound is no longer sore, stop using the Domeboro and just use the Aloe Vera. If the tissue becomes red again, use the Domeboro again. Be sure anything you put in a closed area, such as under the wing, is dry before you let the bird go. Any moisture in that area will easily lead to fungal growth. Another really good product to have on hand is Quinsana anti-fungal powder, available from CVS pharmacy or on-line. This powder is very beneficial. It does a good job stopping bleeding on the skin (Never use Quick Stop or other gritty powders on the skin and feathers.). It works well to keep skin areas dry and prevent fungal spores from developing, especially in hidden places, such as the underside of the wings and on the sides of the bird which are covered by the wings (axial areas). I sometimes use it on the wound area after the Aloe Vera has had a chance to work to keep the area dry.

Nail Bleeding: You can use Quick Stop on nails and beaks. Do not use it on skin or feathers. You can use flour, corn starch or Quinsana (CVS) on the skin and feathers. There's another product that works when all else fails called Super Clot. You can get it on the internet. My Safe Bird Store carries it also. It is very thick and sticky, so it's a good idea to have some paper towels and a bowl of water handy to clean your hands up so you don't get it on the rest of the bird. If the bleeding cannot be stopped, get the bird to the vet immediately.

Burns: What to do before you take the bird to the vet. First, hold the affected area (usually the feet) under cool/cold water (not excessively cold) for at least five minutes. Sometimes, if the burn is bad, it will need 15 minutes. This will reduce pain, inflammation, and swelling. It will also reduce the risk of infection. Then place triple antibiotic ointment on the burned area to seal the wound. Finally, wrap the wound very carefully and loosely in a Tefla pad and wrap some bandaging material around it to hold it in place. Cohesive bandaging, such as Kroger's "Tender Tape" is a good choice. Get the bird to the vet IMMEDIATELY. This is an emergency situation.

Fractures: Wrap the broken bone, from the joint above the break to the joint below it, very gently in bandaging material such as cohesive tape mentioned above, and get the bird to the veterinarian immediately. This is an emergency.

Head Trauma: Wrap the bird gently in a towel, keep him warm, and get him to the avian veterinarian immediately. This is an emergency.

In all cases, keep the bird warm but not hot. Place him in a bin lined with towels instead of a cage to reduce activity. If you use a heating pad, hold your hand on the towels to make sure it is just a little warm. The bird's body will add to the warm. Continue to layer towels until you get that minimal warmth. Do not handle the bird more than necessary. If it's not an emergency that requires veterinary care, place the bird in its cage or a bin and let him calm down before treating him further; over-handling can make the bleeding or other trauma worse.

Macrorhabdus Ornithogaster

Sandy Warren

This article is an attempt to spread a little information about Avian Gastric Yeast (not crop yeast) called *Macrorhabdus Ornithogaster*. You may see articles where it is called AGY or Megabacterium.

Macrorhabdus Ornithogaster is a well known cause of proventriculitis or “going light” in birds. It is not a bacteria. It is an anamorphic ascomycetous yeast, an infectious fungus usually found in the digestive systems of birds. It is also a problem that many of us that raise birds may have and not realize we have. Clinical signs may include sudden death, chronic wasting or going light. Diarrhea or enteritis may also be present. Affected birds typically have progressive weight loss over months in spite of a good diet. They may eventually waste away and die from malnourishment related complications. Some deaths can be more sudden as a result of choking or vomiting. And here’s the not so much fun part: some birds may not pass the fungus all the way through the digestive system so inspection of the birds stool could give you a false negative detection. Research has indicated that *Macrorhabdus Ornithogaster* is actually present in the normal gastrointestinal flora of some psitticine birds. Subclinical infections have been found present in a large number of budgerigars without any signs of disease. The mode of infection is fecal-oral, but there may be genetic factors involved as well. This may need to lead us back to the drawing board.

In the past, treatment has been primarily amphotericin B, Nystatin, and ketoconazole. Amphotericin B is very effective in cockatiels if given in water or orally. Unfortunately it is also very expensive for a whole flock. However, a new treatment regimen which has been successful in budgies is Sodium Benzoate. And yes, you have probably heard of that before because it is a preservative used in jams, sodas, and makeups. Proposed by Dr. David Phalen in Australia, Sodium Benzoate is a bactericidal and fungicidal, water soluble and inexpensive. Studies done at the Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center confirmed that Sodium Benzoate was an effective treatment. This stuff is quite bitter so treatment must begin slowly and be monitored closely. Overdoses can result in death. Be sure to work closely with your veterinarian for safe doses.

Much of the information for this article came from another article by Sharman Hoppes, DVM, DAVP (Avian) an associate professor of Zoological Medicine at Texas A&M University’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

SHOW CALENDAR

APRIL 13 & 14, 2019

Nashville Fairgrounds

NASHVILLE, TN

Music City Bird Show

ACS Judges: Bert McAuley & Julie Mitchell

Contact: Jamie Boyles, musiccitybirdshow@gmail.com

May 25 & 26, 2019

WARWICK, RI

New England Cockatiel Breeders & Exhibitors

Greenwood Fire Company

ACS Judges: Rick Solis & Joan Redondo

Contact: Pat Tucker, TuckersTiels@verizon.net

June 22 & 23, 2019

LOUISVILLE, KY

Bluegrass Bird Breeders

ACS Judges: Wendy LaBanca & TBD

Contact: Josh Perkins, perkinstiels@gmail.com

July 27, 2019

CONROE, TX

Greater Houston Bird Breeders & Exhibitors

Conroe Civic Center

ACS Judges: Bert McAuley & Rick Solis

Contact: Craig Novak, craignovak@rocketmail.com

September 21, 2019

GRANDVIEW, KS

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

Judges: Julie Mitchell & TBD

Contact: Donna Pierce, dlpteah@outlook.com

September 28, 2019

VIRGINIA

Peninsula Cages Bird Society

ACS Judges: Bert McAuley & TBD

Contact: Julie Mitchell

November 9 & 10,, 2019

LOUISVILLE, KY

ACS Specialty Show

Judge: Rick Solis

Contact: Julie Mitchell, jbmitchell123@gmail.com

So You think you want to show your cockatiel? *Well, be prepared to have a lot of fun and meet new friends!* **Chris Orowitz**

I attended my first cockatiel show (2007) quite by accident last September in Cleveland, TN. There I met Julie Mitchell who was kind enough to look at some DYC babies I had brought along. I was inquiring if any of them were good enough to possibly show. Julie then suggested if I had time to come and watch the show. Well, I did and I have been “hooked” ever since. Julie was kind enough to sit and explain everything that was going on. Of course my brain was in overload, which at my age doesn’t take much, so I only retained part of what she was telling me. Oh well, I was hooked anyway! I couldn’t wait to go home and look at my birds.

Two weeks later I attended the Nashville Bird Fair and Show. There I purchased some cockatiels from Sandy Warren who had been nothing short of fantastic in helping me along in this venture. At a later date I purchased more birds from Sandy and she was kind enough to deliver them to my house and also give me an evaluation of the birds I had in my flock. I was very encouraged by what she had to say.

I decided that I would make my debut at the Mid-West Bird Breeders & Exhibitors’ triple show, in Terre Haute, IN. That would give me the time to decide what to show and also to get them ready. As the time neared I was becoming more and more nervous and even thought about not going but I hung in there and am glad I did. I borrowed some show boxes from Sandy and began show training the birds I was going to take. I have to say it went a lot easier than I thought it would. Two weeks before the show I started misting them every day and about a week before the show I stopped feeding anything that I thought would stain their feathers.

We arrived in Terre Haute on Friday and to my surprise who in the hotel room next to mine – Julie and Al Mitchell! I got a chance to see their Whiteface cock-bird, “Baxter”, which was a thrill. He is a great bird! Julie once again helped me through a lot of questions. She showed me how to fill out the entry form and show tags and always made time to answer any questions I had during the weekend even though she was busy being the show secretary.

It was a three show weekend and I did a lot better than I ever imagined I would. I can’t say enough about the judge. He really took a lot of time explaining things to the Novice exhibitors. I learned a lot by being able to look at the birds while he was critiquing them.

If you have any thoughts about showing please give it a try. I can’t begin to explain the amount of fun and learning you get from it, not to mention the friends you’ll make. Everyone I have met so far has

been more than helpful and will answer just about any question you have. I showed dogs for over 25 years and am a very competitive person. While I don't have dogs anymore I really missed the showing. I can honestly say showing cockatiels has been very enjoyable.

Aside from the actual show don't forget to visit the hospitality room whenever it may be. The topics covered vary greatly but I can say all are very interesting!

In closing I would like to make the following statements:

1. Don't be afraid, there is nothing to fear
2. Don't worry if you have lots of questions, someone is always there to answer them for you.
3. If you can, join the Yahoo Tiel-chatter or Showtiel lists. That way you can ask questions and get answers before you go to the show
4. If possible, find a mentor. Mine have been the most awesome people ever.
5. Don't have a show-box, no worry, you can rent them at the show
6. Not sure about the quality of your birds? Pick what you think are your best and see how they compare.
7. Don't get discouraged if at first you don't do well. All judges have different likes and dislikes. Before making any decisions show under a few different judges to see how your birds do.

Showing Cockatiels should come with a warning! It's addicting!!

Hope to meet you at a show soon!



First time exhibitor Kaitlin McMahan and
her Novice Bird
Murfreesboro, TN
Her bird placed well on the Novice Bench

BREEDERS' LIST

<p><i>FLORIDA</i></p> <p>Sue Ansley Sebastian, FL ansleysusan@gmail.com</p>	<p><i>KENTUCKY</i></p> <p>Chris Orowitz Rineyville, KY chrisbirdsnthings@gmail.com</p>
<p><i>TEXAS</i></p> <p>Bert McAulay Houston, TX (281) 384-5505</p>	<p><i>TEXAS</i></p> <p>Jan Johnson Eddy, TX (254) 546-2252</p>
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Deltona, FL 32738

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Bluegrass Bird Breeders (BBB)

Contact: Josh Perkins - 502-741-6767

Louisville, KY 40291

perkinstiels@gmail.com

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Contact: Wendy LaBanca - 401-286-0270

Warwick, RI 02886

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Contact: Julie Mitchell - 757-869-6997

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If you have any question about your bands, please email me at
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