PROMPT SERVICE • HIGH QUALITY
ORDER 1980 BANDS
Coded Parakeet Closed Bands.
Regular Initial Type Bands, not coded,
in choice of colors, open or closed.
Plastic Family Identification Bands
for keets or canary, choice of colors.
Leg Band Cutters. Bird Claw Scissors.
SEND SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED
ENVELOPE FOR COMPLETE PRICE LIST.

RED BIRD
PRODUCTS, INC.
2786 Fruittidge Road
P.O. Box 20004 (Dept. A.F.A.)
Sacramento, CA. 95820

The Ideal
by Alf Ormerod

Whilst on my visit to the States and at the "All American" at Conn. I was naturally
brought into a number of discussions regarding the proposed change of a new
drawing of an "Ideal" budgerigar. As a
member of ABS I was fully aware of the
situation through the monthly Bulletins
and letters I receive from ABS members,
most of whom are closely linked with this
matter as judges, directors, etc.

The object of an "Ideal" drawing is to
give newcomers to the fancy an idea of
what a top class budgerigar should look
like and for judges to use as a guide line. I
say a guide line as you cannot depict on a
flat sheet of paper the living object as it is
in a show cage and judges can only judge
what comes before them good or bad.

We must also bear in mind that the
drawing should be something that could
be achieved but if that came to pass the
bird would still be able to fly and
reproduce, as otherwise it would be a
waste of time and effort.

It is generally agreed that fertility has
depended over the years as we get farther
and farther away from nature and the wild
budgerigars that are the ancestors of our
birds today.

To make a drawing is no easy task. You
can ask a painter or an artist to put on
paper a village scene or a landscape and he
or she can produce what they see before
them and the same person if they had a
budgerigar before them would produce a
good likeness but when you tell them:"Now
I want this but more frontal rise and more
backskull and a thicker neck," they are lost
because they are not budgerigar fanciers
with years of experience behind them.
They may not know that when you alter
one thing you have to alter many other
things so that you retain balance and poise
in the depicted bird. I have had a lot of ex-
perience in this field (not that I can draw or
paint) but when I was on the staff of a large
Polytechnic College I had access to the
Arts Dept. and the head of the department
was a particular friend.

When the English B.S. decided to have a
new ideal picture made, I was one of the
committee chosen to bring it about. I
sought help from my friend and other
members of his staff but soon realized that
without the general knowledge of breeding
and exhibiting budgerigars they were not
able to achieve what was wanted. At this
time I came in contact with Eric Peake
who was an art teacher, a good
photographer and his friend, so combining
all his knowledge with what I had in mind
we finally, after months of work, came up
with what was a good drawing. He did a
front view, side view and back view all to
the same scale of 8½" in length. The front
and side views looked good but you
wouldn't have thought the back view was
the same bird yet all measurements were
correct. Have you ever looked closely at a
budgie from the back and noticed how
poor the best bird can look?

In the early days when budgerigars were
shown as "Foreign Birds" there was no ideal
drawing for judges to work to but even
then it was recognized by a judge that
head quality was one of the main features
to be considered; a small headed bird
always looked swastic in appearance even
thought the overall shape was more like a
pencil compared to our modern day exhibi-
tion birds.

I believe it was just before the last war
that we had our first pictorial ideal. Then
as today there was the same problem of
how to depict on a flat sheet of paper the
living thing, but it was something to
work on.

The shape and size of our birds improv-
The "Ideal" was Best in Show twice in succession at the B.S. World Show at Leicester in 1975 and 1976. It is the only bird to date to win the title twice. Eric H. Peake, one of Britain's foremost bird artists, painted this picture from a number of photographs and slides.
ed so rapidly that in 1951 another ideal was adopted as by that time the head, neck and throat had really surpassed those of the pictorial ideal but were still in keeping with the written standard and I feel one must always remember the written word when looking at the pictorial. This reads as follows "Head, large round wide and symmetrical when viewed from any angle, curvature of skull commencing at cere to lift outward and upward continuing over the top and to base of head in one graceful sweep". As birds continued to improve and more and more birds were appearing on the show bench to match the ideal especially in head, the picture was again altered (in 1968) in these respects but still maintained the overall balance, and this is still in operation today.

It was felt that no useful purpose could be served by having a picture of an ideal cock and hen as we once did, and I fully agreed with this decision, as a pictorial illustration plus the written word can only be taken as a guide line and it is nature that determines which egg will contain the best-headed bird and whether it be a cock or a hen.

When judging a class of hens as a mixed section of cocks and hens for the section awards, the adjudicator can only select from what is before him. You might ask how a judge, after deciding his best of the Green series and the other sections of the well known colours, can go on to select his best rare, best clear-wing, etc. The answer is the same, the judge has to select the best from what is before him even though the birds don't generally compare with what he has judged previously but he still works on the same outline and the description of the bird.

Let us face it, when a person reaches the stage when he becomes a judge he should know what he is looking for and have a mental picture of the ideal imprinted on his mind.

Very few birds compare with our present ideal so when judging I am looking for an example cock or hen that is balanced throughout and showing no very bad points such as a dropped tail or badly crossed wings. Even if such a bird has an excellent head, mask and spots, it should never win a good class as the bad faults cancel out its good points.

One sometimes remarks that a particular bird is a cock headed hen which means that the head has more frontal rise than is usually found, but even in the days when we had the two ideals no judge would put this down as a fault if the neck, shoulders, body and the rest of the bird conformed to the recognised standard. The show points of a good hen are as written in the standard of the ideal bird so therefore it must possess a good head, face and deep mask. The beak must be well set into the face and the eye positioned well away from the front. The eye too near the cere gives a pinched-face appearance. In order to show off the head at its best, width is needed between the eyes. The neck should be short and thick and this gives desirable shoulders.

Wings must be about two fifths of the total length of the bird set well to the body and not crossed and when steady on the perch the bird should stand at approximately 30 degrees from vertical. Spots should be evenly spaced. I prefer a bird with smaller evenly spaced spots than one with big spots which touch each other with a big gap in the centre. Colour must be an even shade and not patchy, the tail straight and tight with two long feathers.

An 8½" bird is a big bird, to test it yourself put a tape measure cut at 8½" inside a show cage on the back at the angle of 30 degrees and you will soon realize what I mean.

The English top birds are recognized all over the world as the bird, and all the good birds in every country including Scotland have been bred from them.

The "Ideal" we work to is still good enough for us and it is only the odd bird that comes along as an outstanding specimen that matches up to it, one such bird was the Dark Green Cock that gained Best in Show twice in succession at the B.S. World Show at Leicester in 1975 and 1976, beating on both occasions over 4000 other exhibits, and was the only bird to date to win this coveted honour twice. Perfect drawings of this bird have been done by Eric Peake from a number of photographs and slides. What better ideal could one wish for and aim to produce?

The top breeders of the USA are still importing birds from England every year for upgrading their original stock from English lines, so the pattern must be right and I consider that the 8½" bird is really as far as we can go with all the other points in proportion, if we are not going to ruin all we have worked for.

To the committee who are working on the ABS ideal, I say think hard and long. What is the use of trying to breed a 9" bird that if achieved would not be able to fly properly or hold up its head, and what about breeding? Poor fertility is at present the major headache all over the world regarding the top size show specimens and one of the main reasons why so many newcomers are giving up this great hobby, which has for many years been the greatest ever small livestock hobby for the working man.
Silver Flight

BALANCED DIETS

serving the nutritional needs of birds

Don't Gamble on the Health of Your Birds
ACCEPT ONLY THE ORIGINAL
WRITE FOR PRICE LIST
and
NAME OF YOUR NEAREST DISTRIBUTOR

SCIENTIFICALLY BALANCED

VITAMIN FORTIFIED DIETS & BOOSTERS

Blended For

CANARIES
FINCHES
Mineralite Grit

BUDGIES
HOOK-BILLS
Mite A Mist Spray

P.O. Box 1384 Los Gatos, CA 95030
408-395-2414

15473 WINCHESTER, LOS GATOS, CA 95030
Breeders of Cockatiels, Lovebirds, and Zebra Finches

BARONA BIRD FARM

BIRDS OF ALL KINDS
and everything you need in bird supplies

• WE SHIP BIRDS •
Send stamped, self-addressed envelope for prices.

Hours:
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mon.

(714) 443-8315
12995 Old Barona Road
Lakeside, California 92040
(near San Diego)

Bracken Bird Farm

Finches
Cockatiels
Lovebirds
Parrots
Quails
Doves

WE BUY, SELL, TRADE
WHOLESALE
RETAIL

100 PLUS AVIARIES
AT THIS LOCATION

714/792-5735
10797 New Jersey Street
Redlands, CA, 92373

The Society for Preservation of
Poultry Antiquities is an organization
with the goal of doing just what its
name implies—preserving rare breeds of
poultry. The society is sponsoring a na-
tional poultry show that features a
thousand dollars in cash awards in addi-
tion to many trophies.

The show will be held the 7th, 8th,
and 9th of November 1980 at the Ohio
State Fair Grounds in Columbus, Ohio,
and will feature the largest display of
exotic poultry ever assembled in
America.

November 1, 1980
Sixth Annual All Bird Show
sponsored by the
Greater Pittsburgh
Cage Bird Society
to be held at the
Ramada Inn. Route B. off
exit 4 of Pennsylvania Turnpike
Judges:
Type Canaries . . . . Sig Larson
Color-bred Canaries . . Carl Walsch
American Singers . . . Madeline Mysliwiec
English Budgies . . . . Don Langell
Foreign Birds & Amer. Budgies
. . . . . . . . . . Conrad Meinert
for information contact:
Show Managers
Hank and Gail Glevicky
1505 Orchee St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

November 16-18, 1980
16th Annual Great Western
Budgerigar Society's
Great Western Roundup
at the
Rosemead Community Recreation Center
3936 Muscatel Ave., Rosemead, CA
for information contact:
Mrs. Valerie Sarate
1879 Redding Way
Upland, CA 91786

November 13, 14, 15, 1980
3rd National Cockatiel Society Show
held in conjunction with the
National Cage Bird Show
Hertz Skycenter Inn
Jacksonville International Airport
Jacksonville, FL
Judge: Nancy Reed
For info: contact show sec.
Dee Dee Squyres
9812 Bois D Arc Ct.
Ft. Worth, TX 76126

November 8, 1980
The Greater New England
Cage Bird Show
sponsored by
Connecticut Association
for Aviculture
at the
Ramada Inn. East Windsor, CT
Judges:
Finches & American Parakeets . Bill Parlee
Cockatiels . . . . . . Linda Rubin
Hookbills . . . . . . . Harold Yanik
All Type Canaries . . . Matty Russomano
American Singers . . . Madeline Mysliwiec
Color Bred Canaries . . . . Louie Belchoir
for information contact:
Show Secretary
Natalie Molaver
9 Euclid Ave., Waterbury, CT 06710
(203) 756-1753

October 24, 25, 1980
5th Annual Open Bird Show
sponsored by the
Suncoast Finch Society
at the
National Guard Armory
3601 38th Ave.
S. St. Petersburg, FL
for information contact:
Ken Smith
129 W. Hoover Drive
Holiday, FL 33590

October 11, 1980
N.H.C.B.A. Annual Show
sponsored by the
New Hampshire Cage
Bird Association
for information contact:
N.H.C.B.A
c/o Mr. G.R. Brisson
Box 152
Merrimack, NH 03054

November 13, 14, 15, 1980
32nd National Cage Bird Show
Hertz Skycenter Inn
Jacksonville International Airport
Jacksonville, FL
Judge: Nancy Reed
For info: contact show sec.
Dee Dee Squyres
9812 Bois D Arc Ct.
Ft. Worth, TX 76126