

# North Shore Cage Bird Cub



May 2003

Volume 3

Issue 8

Meetings at the Sunnynook  
Community Centre,  
148 Sycamore Drive,  
Sunnynook.

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month  
excluding December.

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## Bird Chatterings the N.S.C.B.C. Newsletter



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No minutes available from April.

The NZCBC website is going well 706 people having visited since it's inception. That's an average of 54 a month.

Summary		Period: 279 Days	
Daily Unique:		Totals:	
Today	1 / 15 May, Thu, 2003	Unique Visitors	706 - 89.87%
Yesterday	2 / 14 May, Wed, 2003	Visits Incl. Reloads	873
Average	2	Reloads	167 - 18.12%
Highest Day	8 / 10 Nov, Sun, 2002	Visitors via Referrers	570 - 80.73%
Weekly Unique:		Website Referrers	75
Current Week	6 / Wk 20, 2003	Javascript Enabled	675 - 95.60%
Last Week	14 / Wk 15, 2003		
Average	12	Most accessed:	
Highest Week	29 / Wk 02, 2003	Browser	MSE 6
Monthly Unique:		Operating System	Windows 98
Current Month	28 / May, 2003	Screen Resolution	800x600
Last Month	84 / Apr, 2003	Screen Color	18 Bit (65K)
Average	54	Searchengine	Google
Highest Month	88 / Mar, 2003	Keyword	bird
Highest Hour of the Day	20:00 - 20:59	Domain/Country	.nz / New Zealand
Highest Day of the Week	Monday	Continent	Australia

### Recycle and Scrap Metal

please give to Jim Ziarno who is kindly collecting for club funds



## Market Place and Notice Board

**Bird Equipment:** Maurice Donnell has a variety of excess bird equipment of all kinds suitable for Canaries and Finches. Young bird keepers will get a very good deal. Ph 410 4140

**Budgerigar Show Cages:** unpainted boxes with hinges etc available from Colin Punter. Ph 837 1091

**Budgerigar Show Cage Fronts:** are available for \$15 from Rick Staal. Ph 476 9155

**Budgies:** various colours from \$15, Mark Nissen. Ph 48 234 71

**Northland and Taranaki Shows:** There'll be a trailer going to these shows to take birds from our club for those who cannot make it themselves. (*see Rick for details*)

**Advertising:**  
rates are \$20 per advertisement, per annum.



## Membership and Renewal

**This newsletter, past issues, membership forms, and other resources and information are on the web at:**

<http://cagebirds.arecool.net>

Surname.....First Name/s.....

Surname.....First Name/s.....

Street.....Suburb.....

Town.....Post Code.....

Phone.....D.O.B if < 16 yrs.....

Status.....Parent Club.....yes/no.....

Interests (circle those that apply): Budgerigars, Yorkshire Canaries, Gloster Canaries, Norwich Canaries, Border Canaries, Roller Canaries, Parrots, Lovebirds, Finches, Bengalese, Zebra Finches, Foreign Birds, Doves, Colour Canaries, Quail, British Birds, Other (please specify).....

Subscription: Single Adult \$20, Partnership \$25, Junior \$5, Junior Partnership \$10, Pensioner \$12, Pensioner Partnership \$15. Late renewal: add 10% after 1 November.

To be included in the NZ Federation yearbook subs must be paid before 31 October the year prior to publication.

Please send with remittance to J. Ziarno, 18 Stanley Road, Glenfield, Auckland 1310.

## Beaconclore

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**There's very little surviving published information on Frilled Canary origins.**



<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/donald.canaris/origins.htm>

The origins and development of the earliest Canary breeds are, for the most part, scarce, often obscure, and usually not very helpful. What little there may be is generally unclear, uncertain or even wildly contradictory between the few sources, especially for the very oldest of the Canary's developing forms.



Moreover, a good deal of what can be found was written at least a century or two after the period in question (late 1600s to mid 1700s), primarily relying on hearsay -or, like Hervieux, expounds on color variations alone as if they were breeds.

Since little or no solid documentation exists, and since even the ex-

perts haven't reached any consensus on the overall picture, let alone on it's details, it's necessary to resort to some suppositions to bridge the gaps.

To this end some sources for verification have come from biographical encyclopedias and history books. Actually, the Duchesse de Berry didn't introduce the Frills to France. The French Revolution did. The most distinctive and identifiable of the "Old Dutch Frills" was on the scene by about 1785.

It was a variable form that became known as the Trombettierre de RÈ (the King's Buglar) or the Trompeter, so named because its frilled plumage bore a fancied similarity to the decorative braiding and epulates on the uniforms of the king of Holland's ceremonial army buglars.

The larger and more heavily frilled of these birds which had developed the then recently evolved mantle frilling were christened the "Lord Mayor."

During the French Revolution (1789-1799), especially during the chaos of the Reign of Terror (1793-1794), some of the French nobility, along with their entourages of servants, staff and birdkeepers, fled the ill-fated Paris court of Louis XVI and took refuge for a few years in the rela-

tive peace and safety of northern France, French Flanders and the European Low Countries.



There they were introduced to the various Belgian Gantese- types and the Dutch Frills, becoming very taken with the grace and oddities of the various forms and postures. Most of all, they became enamored by the utter uniqueness of the frilled feathering of the Trompeters. They made it a point of acquiring as many of the finest examples of these Frilled and Posture Canaries as they could locate and, when the danger had passed, they returned to their homeland with them.

*cont*



### **Newsletter Contributions**

**Mark Nissen**

**Phone:**

**09 482 3471**

### **Membership Enquiries**

**Jim Ziarno**

**Phone:**

**09 444 3024**

This wholesale acquiring by the French probably saved most of the frilled and postured forms from extinction for the shockwaves of the French Revolution soon engulfed this region. The rapid-fire social and political upheavals during the forming of the Batavian Republic (1795-1806), the declaration of kingdom under French rule (1806-1810), and then incorporation into the French First Empire (1810-1813) under Napoleon, followed by the swift reunification of Holland and Belgium in 1815 and then their convulsive split only fifteen years later, all served to nearly obliterate the breeding of all cage and aviary birds throughout the area.

It was these Trompeters which formed the foundation stock for the Northern Frill and the Dutch-Parisians, and then the \*Parisian Frills\* and all of their modern derivatives (Giant Italian Frill, Milano, Padovan), including numerous extinct forms (Roubaix Frill, Brabacon Frill, Munich Frill, Picardy Frill, Lille Frill). The Trompeter Frills later captured the interest of a number of Belgian fanciers. They bred them with their Bossu and, with a careful selection, by about 1850 had created still another important variety of Canary that has gone by such names as the Dutch-Belgian Frill (Belgian Hollandais) and the Humpback Frill (FrisÈ Bossu).

This bird was the primary

ancestor of all today's Postured Frills like the Southern Frill, the Swiss Frill, the Fino Sevillano, the numerous Italian Humpback Frills, the Gibber.

### **The Charm of Button Quail**

by Ginger Wolnik

First published in the Pet Companion, April 1997.

Imagine an Easter chick that never grows up, but remains small, round and fuzzy all its life. That's the best way I can describe the Button Quail, also known as the Chinese Painted Quail (/Coturnix chinensis/).

blueface



They are the smallest members of the bird family that include chickens, turkeys, peacocks and pheasants.

Button Quail are similar in shape and color to our state bird, the California Quail, but about half the size and without the head plume.

There are a variety of color mutations available,

including white, silver, reddish-brown and speckled. These adorable little ground birds can be mixed with almost any other cage birds. They won't bother other species, but can be aggressive toward their own kind.

If you choose to house more than two quail together, avoid having more than one male if there is a female with them. Unless you have a lot of room, it is best to keep just a pair, which can be mixed or the same sex.

They are mostly quiet birds, but males will occasionally "crow" like a little

red breasted



rooster, especially at dawn. If you keep them in your house, the crowing noise might startle you the first couple of mornings, but like having a grandfather clock, you will get used to it and not notice after that.

Both sexes also make a variety of soft clucks and clicking sounds that are part of their charm. Quail need their own food and fresh water on the floor where they can reach the dishes.

They will also eat spilled seed or pellets from other

birds kept with them. Most people feed them game bird crumbles, available from feed supply stores. Mine eat canary and finch pellets supplemented with meal worms and their own cuttlebone attached low in the cage for them.

tuxedo blue face



They also enjoy sand for grit and will take dust baths in the sand bowl. Button Quail may be kept in almost any tall aviary or flight cage. Of course, the more room for them to scurry around pecking and exploring, the better. When startled, they fly straight up but run out of steam quickly and flutter back down.

I recommend at least 3' of height clearance in their cage to prevent head injuries from these "helicopter flights". They do not use perches, but appreciate a covered hiding place on the floor. If you get a female, she will soon start laying eggs whether or not a male is with her. It is normal for her to lay an egg each day for several days, then rest a few days. This cycle can continue all year round and will not hurt the bird as long as she has adequate nutrition.



Most domesticated Button Quail hens have lost their nesting instincts so breeders use artificial incubators for raising the eggs. Since these birds are overabundant in captivity, I do not recommend allowing the eggs to develop unless you have a home for the chicks.

### BLUE-FACED PARROTFINCH

Thierry TEISSEIRE  
 Erythrura t.trichroa  
 Habitat - Caroline islands.  
 Size - 11 to 12 cm

Description : As for all species of the Erythrura kind, the tail area is Bordeaux red, the head is dark blue, the bill is black. The body is green, enlightened by iridescences at chest level. The great remiges have a golden yellow edging, and are a darker green than the rest of the body. The feet are dark horn-colored.

Sexing : The female is similar to the male, but the blue is less intense. However, this applies only within on subspecies, and due to hybridization, this is not longer very visible. The lower body is tinted with chamois brown, the rump, sub-tail feathers and tail are brown red. The best evidence is the song of the male, that is

*cont*



shrilling, like the canary's but shriller.

Offsprings : Duller than adults, with no blue on the head that is light green, lower part gray-green, the basis of the bill is light yellow.

In the wild : They live in forests and wet areas up to 2000 m. They are very rarely met at 500 meters. They became familiar with men, especially on the islands. They eat still green seeds, and also insects that fly near them. They live in small groups or pairs, sometimes alone in bamboo fields and bushes areas, often on the ground. The couple is always in contact, sending small calls. They nest in round nests, made of rough material. The female lay up to 6 white eggs. Both parents build the nest, but only the male carries the material. Chicks are fed during 6 weeks, and are tolerated by their father until the youth moulting. They were imported for the first time in 1886, the first raisings happened in 1887.

Sub-species : *Erythrura t. woodfordi* in Guadalcanal : face tinted mauve-blue less spread than for the *modesta*: the rump and the tail are more orange, the lower part paler than *trichroa*;

*Erythrura t. cyanofrons* in Loyauté islands : more

blue on the vertex, body bright green, *Erythrura t. clara* in Truk and Ponape : more blue on the vertex, body bright green,

prefer a quiet breeding cage, most of them being females, by the way.

Note that two males can



*Erythrura t. pelewensis* in Palaw islands : bill basis wide, lower part tinted with light blue,  
*Erythrura t. eichorni* in Bismark islands : more blue on the face, red of rump tinted with orange,  
*Erythrura t. sigillifera* (the biggest, sometimes mistaken for the *Erythrura Papuana*) in New Guinea and Australia: less golden on occiput, nape and half collar, green of body more uniform;  
*Erythrura t. pinaiae* : rump and tail more orange, in the South of Molluca as  
*Erythrura t. modesta* : face tinted with mauve-blue and  
*Erythrura t. sanfordi* in Celebes: more blue on the face, red of rump tinted with orange.

Breeding : This lively bird seems to prefer aviaries where it can frolic easily, but some birds would

not be kept together during the raising season, and that they would try to mate with any other bird. They nest in exotic nests, the female may lay up to 9 eggs, fecundated by a male, just to eager to mate. The chicks leave the nest after 3 weeks, and are fed for 3 more weeks.

Food : millet sprays, mixture for exotic with addition of canary seeds, bird food during raising season, live food can be given, but is not compulsory, apple. They therefore need crushed oyster shells or grit in seed mixtures, or in a separate plate to stay in good condition.

Mutations : Lutino, pied, sea-green (those mutations surely result from couplings with a Red-throated parrot finch)



Patron: Jim Middleton

Vice Patron: Bill McAlees

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