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- The editor welcomes contributions, but retains the right to amend articles and reports accordingly.
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- Articles may be copied from *Feathered World* Magazine, providing the author and magazine are acknowledged appropriately.

# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

## MEETING DATES 2019

**General Meetings**      4th September & 6th November

**AGM**                      4th March 2020

**Meeting commences at 8:00 pm**

**Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield**

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The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc now have a Facebook page!!

The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/CCBFA>

*All information printed in Feathered World is believed to be correct at time of printing. If there are any corrections required, please send them through to the editor.*

*If you have any stories you feel would be of interest to the readers, please send them through to the editor.*

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## Vale. LEN DONOHUE

To all canary breeders Australia wide we regretfully advise the passing on morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> May aged 91 years, the day of the Sydney Specialist Canary Annual Shows.

Len was the Secretary and driving force behind the Gloster Club from 1984 to 1990 and a judge, delegate to CCBFA. He was also Secretary of the Border Fancy Canary Club of Australia and the Auburn District Cage Bird Club.

In his later years was the Secretary of the Sydney / NSW National Cage Bird Committee and attended interstate National Cage Bird Exhibitions. We extend our deepest and sincere sympathy to Cecelia and all the families.

Sadly, we will miss him. Gone but not forgotten!

### 2020 SHOW – SALE - AUCTION DATES

As you are aware each year we collate a schedule of the show / sale dates from the various states for publication in our journal Feathered World and also on our Web. [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au)

Your early support and co-operation would be appreciated, please email the secretary the details. It is understood that confirmation of the venue may be in abeyance, however we request the tentative / projected dates be advised. Email: [birdclubs@aapt.net.au](mailto:birdclubs@aapt.net.au)

If possible please advise a contact name, phone number and the location. All bird shows can be included, include Agricultural shows which include a section for aviary birds.

If they are not presently confirmed, could you please advise those you have and note others (TBC) and advise / confirm the others when available.



### Public & Products Liability Insurance for 2020

As advised with the covering letters sent with the invoices and the insurance CoC's for 2019.

**It is important to note that you have a requirement to give advanced notice of cancellation if you do not require the insurance for 2020.**

**All affiliates are requested to advise CCBFA by the 30th September 2019 should you not require cover for the ensuing year. Failure to do so will necessitate being charged.**

## WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PIGEONS

They peck at the pavement; they coo overhead; they swoop in hundreds across town squares: Pigeons have become such a permanent fixture in our urban landscapes that cities would seem oddly vacant without them.

But while many people harbor resentment for these ubiquitous creatures — labeling them "rats with wings" — few of us stop to ponder how pigeons became so numerous in the first place, and what our own role in their urban colonization might be.

Today, in fact, there are more than 400 million pigeons worldwide, most of which live in cities. But that wasn't always the case. The city pigeons we know today are actually descended from a wild creature known as the rock dove (*Columba livia*): As its name suggests, this bird prefers a rocky coastal cliff habitat to the conveniences of city life.

But going as far back as 10,000 years ago, written and fossil records show that people living in ancient Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) and Egypt began coaxing these doves with food into human-inhabited areas, encouraging them to roost and breed on their land. "Back then, we brought rock doves into cities to eat as livestock," Steve Portugal, a comparative ecophysiologicalist who studies bird flight and behavior, told Live Science. The plump, young birds especially — known as "squabs" — became a prized source of protein and fat. People then began domesticating and breeding the birds for food, creating subspecies that led to the diversity of urban pigeons known today.

Along the way, humans began to realize that pigeons were useful for much more than their meat. As the birds grew more popular in the Middle East, North Africa and Western Europe in the ensuing centuries, people began to tap into their innate talent for navigation — the same skill that makes homing pigeons famous today. Ancient records show that Mediterranean sailors used the birds to point floundering ships toward land. In cities, they became increasingly valuable as airborne messengers that could deliver important information across large distances.

From there, humanity's appreciation for the animals only grew: Although pigeons were initially domesticated as a food source, "as other poultry became more popular, pigeons fell out of favor for eating and people began breeding them as a hobby," said Elizabeth Carlen, a doctoral student at Fordham University in New York City who studies the evolution of urban pigeons.

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By the 1600s, rock doves — non-native to the United States — had reached North America, transported by ships in the thousands. Rather than being a food source, it's most likely that the birds were brought across from Europe to satiate the growing pigeon-breeding trend among hobbyists, said Michael Habib, a paleontologist in the Dinosaur Institute at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, and the University of Southern California.

Inevitably, birds escaped captivity, and began to breed freely in American cities. "We created this novel [urban] habitat and then we basically engineered an animal that does very well in that novel habitat," Habib told Live Science. "They were successful in cities because we engineered them to be comfortable living around humans."

Cities became the perfect backdrop for the pioneering pigeons' success. "Pigeons are naturally cliff-dwellers and tall buildings do a pretty great job at mimicking cliffs," Carlen told Live Science. "Ornate facing, window sills and air-conditioning units provide fantastic perches for pigeons, similar to the crevices found on the side of a cliff."

Another trait that makes pigeons more adaptable is their appetite. While other bird species have to rely on supplies of berries, seeds and insects, pigeons can eat just about anything that humans toss in the trash. "Other species are specialists and pigeons are the ultimate generalists," Portugal said. "And the food is endless: I don't think too many pigeons go to bed hungry!"



The pigeon's unusual breeding biology seals the deal: Both parents rear their chicks on a diet of special protein- and fat-rich milk produced in a throat pouch called the crop. So, instead of having to rely on insects, worms and seeds to keep their young alive — resources that would be scarcer in cities — pigeons can provide for their offspring no matter what, worms

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and seeds to keep their young alive — resources that would be scarcer in cities — pigeons can provide for their offspring no matter what, Portugal says: "As long as the adults can eat, they can feed their babies, too."

All these traits give pigeons a competitive edge compared with other species that might attempt survival in cities. Combined with the pigeon's prolific breeding habits (parents can produce up to 10 chicks a year), it's easy to see why these birds have become so populous around the world.

Not everyone appreciates the urban phenomenon that these birds have become — hence the "rat with wings" moniker. That's understandable to some extent: Pigeons can spread diseases, and the mounds of guano they splatter across buildings can be cumbersome and costly to clean.

Despite this, Portugal sees a benefit to their presence in our urban environments. "They're actually one of the few bits of wildlife that people get to interact with in cities now," he said. What's more, "they're super-adaptable and super-successful; they're the ultimate survivors. Actually, we can learn a lot from them."

*Originally published on [Live Science](#).*



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## LADY LYREBIRDS HAVE A VOICE, TOO

Male Superb Lyrebirds are the Bruno Mars of the avian world—handsome, with --smooth moves and a love-song library that turns heads. As they perform on the forest floor, these talented Australians mix mimicked sounds with self-composed songs. Want to hear some kookaburra calls? No problem. What about a whistled original? Coming right up. While the pheasant-size fellas croon, they spread their tail feathers lyre-like, stepping and shaking under their own feathery canopies.

Females look on silently during this dramatic courtship display, judging whether the opposite sex is mate-worthy. Like juvenile lyrebirds, they have dark brown plumage and less elaborate tails. But their voices are astoundingly complex—a fact that scientists and birders have long missed, focusing instead on the attention-hogging males.



For a while, Anastasia Dalziell fell into that camp; her research started with the male Superb Lyrebird. As one of the largest songbirds on the planet, it offered a unique window into acoustic ecology and environmental soundscapes. In fact, the ornithologist from Australia's University of Wollongong calls it a "holy grail species" because of how it melds her love for music and biology. (That, and its ability to imitate other birds—and objects.) But while out in the field in 2014, Dalziell noticed the males had stopped singing earlier than expected. Soon after, she heard a string of distinct lyrebird calls, which she traced back to the females. The ladies, Dalziell notes, could be distinguished by their tails, which were bent from sitting on nests for hours.

To Dalziell, whose background is in music and biology, the sounds were striking. The female, she decided, deserved its own spotlight. Four years later, she and her collaborators are still uncovering the elements in the lady lyrebird's vocalizations. Though research is still preliminary, their results suggest that females can mimic up to 20 alarm calls and 19 different avian species, and produce their own songs in specific situations. (Males, meanwhile, are known to ape 80 percent of their tunes with calls from up to 25 different species.) "We recorded females out foraging and at the nest, and we were blown away," Dalziell says. "The songs were

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more lyrical than we expected.”Some of the sounds they reproduce aren’t even vocal. Dalziell has heard, for example, females imitate the beating of bird wings, and what she thinks is the sound of tree branches rubbing together.

And it may be that unlike males, who are thought to use their talents mostly to woo mates, lady lyrebirds sing for their offspring’s wellbeing: While sitting on their single-egg clutch, Dalziell has recorded them imitating local predators like Grey Goshawks to keep other females from encroaching. The birds, she’s discovered, are quite territorial. When foraging away from the nest, they’re more apt to sing a distinct whistling tune. This, Dalziell speculates, may also help mark their range.

The lyrebird isn’t the only avian songstress. More than 660 species have ladies that are known to harmonize, according to the Female Birdsong Project, a collaboration between ornithologists from the United States, Europe, and Australia. And there are thousands more that scientists have yet to decipher. The male-centric focus in past research could be chalked up to geographic bias: Birdsong research has largely taken place in North America and in northwestern Europe, where males more commonly belt their hearts out.

Katharina Riebel, assistant professor at Leiden University in the Netherlands and lead investigator of the project, believes that female birdsong is an ancestral trait that’s been lost in some species over time. The pattern seems to be particularly strong in birds residing in northern temperate zones, she says, though it’s not clear why. Lyrebirds, however, have retained the trait—possibly because they’ve gone through fewer evolutionary shakeups than other songbirds.

Riebel and Dalziell agree that much remains to be learned about imitation among birds. But for the time being, Dalziell has a more superb mystery on her hands. “Is the lyrebird also using mimicry in the same way as the [species it copies]?” she asks. Or is it simply adopting the sounds for its personal devices? Either way, it’s clear that the lady lyrebird sings its own song, proving the male isn’t the only voice worth hearing.



## BABY NIGHT PARROT IN DROUGHT-RIDDEN OUTBACK QUEENSLAND PUZZLES RESEARCHERS

*The sighting of a newly-hatched night parrot in drought-ridden western Queensland has surprised researchers, raising more questions than answers.*

The bird, thought to be two to three months old in December, was photographed on Bush Heritage's Pullen Pullen reserve by PhD candidate Nicolas Leseberg, who has been studying the elusive species for the past two years.

*"It's really interesting that even though it had been a really dry year that this desert bird was still willing to keep breeding," Mr Leseberg said. "Based on its age we can tell that it was born around September and in the area there'd been no serious rain for seven, eight or even nine months. That was the first time a baby had ever been photographed and that was fascinating but that was sort of expected,"*

Baby night parrots were last sighted in

November 2016 after the area had received extensive winter rain.

The night parrot was considered extinct for more than 75 years but in 2013 it was rediscovered at Pullen Pullen nature reserve, a location that has been kept secret.

The 56,000-hectare property in western Queensland has been designated specifically for the purpose of protecting the parrot.

There have been several sightings of the bird since this discovery, but Mr Leseberg said the latest picture was the only sighting of a baby night parrot since the landscape had dried out.

"We know now that the birds were trying to breed fairly persistently throughout 2016 and 2017," he said.

"2016 was obviously in response to the really good conditions but even though there was no rain they were continuing to try to breed throughout 2017."

Mr Leseberg said while the birds were consistently trying to breed in the



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past years, they were not often successful bringing the babies to adulthood.

"They certainly get some through but it's maybe not as successful as we thought. That's interesting because we know they're keen to breed and they can do it when conditions aren't that good," he said.

"But the flipside of that question is if they're so keen to breed and they can do it apparently when conditions aren't that good, why are they still so rare?"

While the bird is becoming more extensively researched, Mr Leseberg said it was unknown why it bird had become so endangered.

"That's the \$64 million question and the one that I spend most of my time thinking about," he said.

"We know that it's not probably any one factor, it's a lot of things and we think that one of the most important for these animals is predation by things like cats and foxes.

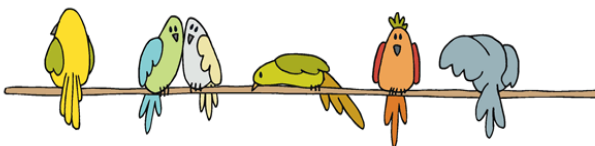
"These are not predators that Australian native animals grew up with and suddenly there's this brutally efficient predator there that was able to knock them off easily."



Mr Leseberg said a changed fire regime was also a major factor.

"Night parrots particularly are really dependent on spinifex which burns really well and they need their spinifex to be really old and with new fire regimes it doesn't get as old," he said.

"Whether they can recover? They're doing their bit and trying to breed and raise young ones. It's just up to us to see if we can control some of those threats



# Guests of Honour

## Eric Rayner & Jim Flood

### Luncheon details

---

#### *Where?*

Merrylands Bowling Club  
Dining room [allocated section]  
Newman Street Merrylands  
[Entrance in Oxford Street]



#### *When?*

Sunday 8th September 2019  
11.30am to 2.30pm



#### *Cost?*

\$25 per head, payable at dining room on arrival.  
Drinks extra. Bar service available

#### *Bookings essential*

Christine Gruntar by 2nd September  
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Federation Luncheon 2019

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## AUSTRALIA'S 'MOST IMPORTANT BIRD' TAKES A STEP BACK FROM EXTINCTION

The plains-wanderer, Australia's "most important bird" – and one whose conservation some scientists consider the most urgent of any bird in the world is found only in south-eastern Australia. It is ranked No. 1 in the world on the Zoological Society of London's Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered bird list and has just taken a significant step back from the brink of extinction.

The critically endangered plains-wanderer once roamed the grasslands surrounding Melbourne. So it is fitting that on these volcanic plains, for the first time in Victoria, the bird has been bred in captivity.

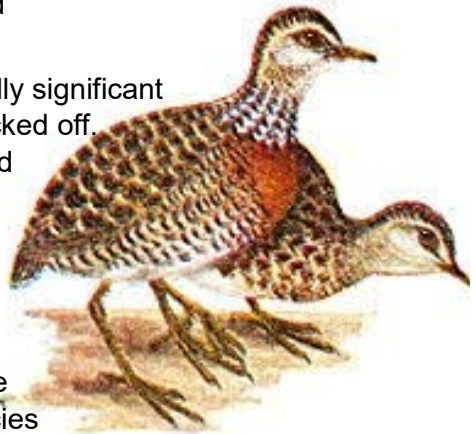
It can be revealed that on November 4 last, four healthy plains-wanderer chicks hatched at the Werribee Open Range Zoo. Their names: Quagmire, Jane, Ramble and Clinton. Once widespread across the grasslands of south-eastern Australia, there are now fewer than 1000 mature birds left in the wild. With a population in decline, these four fluffy little bundles represent a milestone in the fight to stop the species dying out. Should that fight fail, Australia would lose to extinction the only living member of the *Pedionomidae* family.

To put that in perspective, there are eight living species in the *Hominidae* – or great ape – family, to which humans belong. Which means that, taxonomically speaking, we are closer to chimpanzees and gorillas than plains-wanderers are to any other bird in the world.

Were they to become extinct, a globally significant branch of the tree of life would be hacked off.

Werribee Open Range Zoo threatened species keeper Yvette Pauligk said Victorians should be proud to live alongside a creature of such international scientific interest.

"It used to be widespread across Williamstown, Werribee, all across the plains out there," she said. "This species should be in our backyard."



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Unlike most other birds, female wanderers are considerably bigger, more aggressive, territorial and better looking than their mates.

While he is tawny coloured and timid, she has a band of black and white feathers wrapped scarf-like around her neck. It is the father who raises the chicks until they are ready to, metaphorically, fly the coop.

"Her being the more attractive one, she is more dominant - she definitely calls the shots," Ms Pauligk said.

If all goes well, chicks like the newborns will one day be released into the wild. The breeding effort is part of a national emergency plan hatched in 2016 in response to the fact that the bird's decline has steadily increased since the turn of the century.

A major factor is that so much of its habitat is being swallowed up by suburban sprawl, grazing and crop land. Once widespread, the plains-wanderer's dwindling population is now largely restricted to its last strongholds in Victoria's northern plains and the NSW Riverina.

For now, the chicks will form part of an emerging insurance population. While Ms Pauligk is over the moon with Werribee's four new arrivals, she is realistic about the species' future.

"This is a huge step for the captive breeding program ... but at the end of the day, this isn't going to save the species," she said. "If there is not suitable habitat, we can't release them anywhere."

*Source: By Joe Hinchliffe*



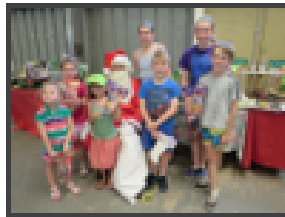
#### **NOTICE TO ALL AFFILIATES**

**For legal and insurance requirements, affiliates are requested to notify the Federation Secretary of changes in office bearers, public officer and delegates, also changes of the club's meeting location, email and postal address.**

**Notification should be on club's letterhead or if required a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Office Bearer's Information and Privacy Provision Consent Form* is available from the Secretary.**

# 2019 SYDNEY ANNUAL LAWN SHOW

## “ALL WELCOME” CASUAL PICNIC DAY

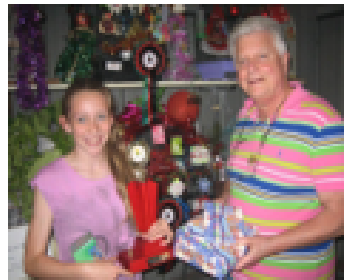


BIRD SALES, LAWN SHOW, PICNIC LUNCH  
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07/06/2019

## **Synopsis of meeting with ACT office of Conservator of Flora and Fauna**

Time: 2pm 4/6/19

Venue: Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street Dickson

### **Background**

The following two documents were publicly released on 20 May 2019 for public consultation until 10 July 2019 via the URL <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/managing-invasive-animals> and raised much concern throughout the avicultural community.

1. Changes to Licences for Keeping Non-native Animals under the Nature Conservation Act 2014. Information Paper. <https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.act-yoursay.files/5015/5833/2523/Non-Native-Animals-Information-Paper-ACCESS.pdf>
2. Proposed Amendments to the Pest Plants and Animals (Prest Animals) Declaration. Discussion Paper. May 2019. <https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.act-yoursay.files/3115/5807/4536/Proposed-Amendments-to-the-Pest-Plants-and-Animals-Declaration-ACCESS-3.pdf>

In summary, the first paper informs the public that 77 species of non-native birds, including numerous common avicultural species, have been removed from the exempt list such that a licence to keep these species is now required. The second paper is less onerous, it proposes addition of some avicultural species to the pest lists with no additional restrictions on keeping, although it is possible public submissions may promote prohibition.

### **Synopsis**

On Tuesday 4/6/19 Sam Davis (President CCBFA), Alan Southgate (Canberra Finch Club), Mick Logan (Canberra Bird Breeders Club, Canberra Walk-in Aviary) and Adam FitzGerald (Aviculturist) met in Canberra with representatives of the ACT government, Ian Walker (Conservator), Alison McInnes, Kathryn Tracy and Johannes Botha to begin discussions on the ACT government's concerning changes to licencing of birds.

We thank the office of the Conservator for scheduling a meeting at such short notice and we welcome the opportunity to consult and work through the issues.

The meeting commenced with introductions, including a brief overview of aviculture, it's extent, work with threatened species and conservation. Government officials outlined their roles and the legislation overseeing the two documents.

Those representing aviculture explained how current licensing is ineffective and may be counter-productive to achieving the main aim of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* - to protect wild species, environments and ecosystems. A range of issues were presented including, non-compliance with no funding for monitoring/enforcement, ACT going against other states who are reducing regulation in favour of education, desire of aviculture to work with government, etc. It was pleasing to see all government officers engaged and understanding of our position.

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Government officials confirmed that much of the evidence for removing the 77 avian species from the exempt declaration was based on the Vertebrate Pest Committee (VPC) 2007 listing, albeit with some additional and more local escapee evidence. Aviculture representatives distributed copies of the "Canberra Finch Club Initial Thoughts" (attached) which makes clear the trivial risk of aviary escapees establishing wild populations. Alan Southgate and Adam FitzGerald made the point that most aviary escapees succumb to predation within minutes or hours and the remainder are ill equipped to locate food so soon die of starvation.

Ian Walker, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, accepted that birds in aviaries are not the issue, it is preventing their escape and the establishment of wild populations that needs to be addressed. Some thought of a process for identifying and swiftly reacting to escaped birds was discussed. Sam Davis was pleased to hear from the Conservator, Ian Walker, that in the ACT rapid response to feral incursions by officials was indeed possible and does occur (unlike in other larger jurisdictions). Alison McInnes indicated an email to [EPSDInvasiveAnimals@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDInvasiveAnimals@act.gov.au) is the best way to notify the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate of escaped birds. Aviculture is open to working with government to notify escapes, assist with recapture and report feral incursions from NSW. Education is key in this area.

Sam Davis presented his document on the misuse of "The Bomford Model" (attached), making it clear the evidence upon which the risk assessments that informed the removal of 77 species from the exempt list is erroneous due to these species being essentially domesticated since the cessation of wild avian imports in 1949. This argument has been accepted in a range of other jurisdictions in recent years. Alison McInnes will present a copy of Sam Davis' article to the current National Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC) who are currently working on an update to the Vertebrate Pest Committee (VPC) 2007 document.

### **Commitments**

1. The Conservator and other officials apologised for not identifying all avicultural clubs earlier as major stakeholders and committed to ensure continued consultation.
2. The Conservator has agreed to reassess the exempt list taking into consideration feedback from aviculture. He made it clear the *Nature Conservation (Exempt Animals) Declaration 2019* could certainly be amended in good time as a consequence.
3. Government officers have encouraged avicultural feedback on both documents and are also interested to consider proposals that may require changes to the Act.
4. Avicultural representatives will work together to produce an evidence-based submission that tables and recommends non-native avian species for the exempt list.

On behalf of all aviculturists in the ACT we thank the ACT government officers present for a very productive meeting and look forward to further engagement on these matters.

All present have approved this synopsis.

Regards,



Sam Davis, President – Canary and Caged Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

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### **Canberra Finch Club Initial Thoughts**

- Some points/notes from both our meeting on Tuesday and from the research and thoughts Bruce has put together. Hopefully they are useful for your meeting with ACT Parks and Conservation Service on Tuesday 4 June :
- Canberra Ornithological Group has confirmed that “Apart from the seven non-native established species, to our knowledge none of the 77 listed species have been reported or established within the local area the one exception being a report of Red-whiskered Bulbul some months ago in the Tuggeranong area which, despite active searches could not be confirmed.”
- The seven non-native species that have been established in the ACT are the Indian Myna, Common Starling, Eurasian Blackbird, Eurasian Skylark, Indian Peafowl, House Sparrow and Spotted Dove.
- The establishment of these species was not a result of aviary escapees.
- The evidence above shows that the 77 listed species was not founded on scientific evidence and to treat them as invasive is misguided.
- Canaries have been kept in the Canberra/ Goulburn region since European’s first settled in the region. There is no evidence of established wild populations as a result.
- Any finch or canary that escape dies because it can’t fend for itself and is predator unaware. They are quickly eaten by cats (which are an unregulated invasive species) or native birds such as Currawongs and Butcher birds.
- Escapees are usual singular in nature, scientific evidence has proven that a single bird will not produce offspring.
- The listed birds are expensive to purchase making owners/breeders reluctant to liberate them.
- Unlike cats/dogs, aviary birds are not left to roam outside their enclosure.
- We do have extremely environmentally dangerous species like the cat but these are not being licensed. This is a very too faced approach by government and one that puts the too hard problems into a separate pile and licks on the supposedly easier, less PR risky actions.
- With licences being introduced then the numbers who will keep birds (even if they can get a no cost license) will be very small and getting smaller so the available bird gene pool will become severely deformed.
- The use of a cane toad as a cover illustration is scare mongering, as are words like feral and invasive. Would the document have the same effect if a Cordon Bleu was used instead of a cane toad?
- If this is about raising more funds then call it what it is.
- If the government are so determined to licence exotic species then why not open up licences for native birds like the diamond, double bar and red browed finch to name a few. That way finch fanciers can move to these species and undertake breeding programs to assist native species.

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## **The Bomford Model**

*By Sam Davis*

Attempts to assess the probability of feral avian populations establishing in the wild must include all parameters of significance. Currently the risk is routinely assessed based on the model developed by Mary Bomford – known as “The Bomford Model”. This model was never intended to assess establishment probability for escaped captive bred domestic species populations. This issue is specifically acknowledged by Bomford based on the work of Carrete and Tella (2008).

*“Carrete and Tella (2008) found that for pet bird species in Spain, wild-caught birds were highly significantly ( $p < 0.0001$ ) more likely to establish wild breeding populations than captive-reared birds, even though captive-reared birds are kept in far higher numbers.” Bomford (2008)*

“The Bomford Model” was developed based on statistically extrapolating from available data recording historical release events. This source data was largely collected by acclimatisation societies operating within Australia and New Zealand and subsequently detailed in Long (1981).

The introduction to Long (1981) describes the enormous number of wild caught birds moved internationally as part of the massive caged bird industry operating prior to the 1970s. Long (1981) makes the point that the number of avicultural escapees is unknown but was no doubt significant. The evidence in Long (1981) shows acclimatisation societies released large numbers of wild caught birds in multiple locations over many years. In addition, the wild birds were protected and provided with feed to encourage establishment. In Australia, species released by acclimatisation societies did in many cases establish, whilst avicultural species failed conclusively to establish. This despite Long’s reasonable presumption of significant avicultural escapes. Perhaps this apparent anomaly is in part explained by the relatively early (by international standards) 1949 cessation of exotic avian imports into Australia. That is, avicultural escapees in Australia post-1949 are entirely limited to captive bred individuals unable to survive wild conditions.

Scientific evidence supporting the low establishment risk of escaped captive bred birds in Australia is somewhat paradoxically present in the majority of threatened species recovery efforts detailing attempts to reintroduce captive bred species back into their native habitat. The extreme difficulties encountered during such captive breeding recovery and release efforts provides ample scientific evidence as to the low risk of captive birds establishing sustainable populations.

The continuing misuse of “The Bomford Model” to assess captive bred birds has led to and continues to lead to conclusions that unreasonably restrict the movement of avicultural species between Australian jurisdictions. All captive populations present in Australia are numerous generations distant from their wild cousins and should be considered domesticated.

## **References**

- Bomford, M. (2008). Risk assessment models for establishment of exotic vertebrates in Australia and New Zealand. Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra. Pp 13
- Carrete, M. and Tella, J. L. (2008). Wild-bird trade and exotic invasions: a new link of conservation concern? *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 6: 207–211.
- Long, J. L. (1981). Introduced birds of the world. Agricultural Protection Board of Western Australia. Pp 10-13.

## CATS KILL 1 MILLION AUSTRALIAN BIRDS A DAY, STUDY SHOWS

More than 1 million native Australian birds are killed across the country by cats every day, recent research shows.

The study, published in the journal *Biological Conservation*, estimates feral cats kill 316 million birds a year and cover 99.8% of Australia, while pet cats kill 61 million birds annually. More than 99% are native.

“Everyone knows that cats kill birds, but this study shows that, at a national level, the amount of predation is staggering, and is likely to be driving the ongoing decline of many species,” said the lead researcher, Prof John Woinarski of Charles Darwin University.

Assoc Prof Sarah Legge of the Australian National University said the researchers had combined data from previous studies.

It was the first study to look at the nationwide impact cats were having on Australia’s birds, Legge said. “We also looked at the traits that were more likely to make a bird susceptible to cats.”



Small- to medium-sized birds, birds that nest and hunt on the ground, and those found on remote islands or arid areas are most at risk.

The scientists estimate there are about 11 billion native birds across the country, suggesting that cats kill about 4% of the population annually.

“We found records of cats killing 338 species of native birds, of which 71 were threatened species,” Legge said. “That’s about 60% of the threatened species in Australia.”

The acting threatened species commissioner, Sebastian Lang, said the government had already sunk more than \$30m into projects to reduce the feral threat.

“Responsible pet owners can help reduce the impact of domestic cats by

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desexing them and keeping them indoors or in a cat run,” Lang said. “These are great ways to protect our wildlife that can also improve the wellbeing of domestic cats.”

#### Damage done by cats

- 377 million birds killed annually
- 99% of birds killed are native birds – 373 million
- 316 million birds killed by feral cats annually
- 61 million birds killed annually by domestic cats
- 338 species of native birds killed, including 71 threatened species



#### **A PARROT WITH MANY NAMES**

The Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*) is a bird of many names: it is also known as: Bauer's Parakeet, Banded Parrot, Yellow-banded Parrot, Yellow-collared Parrot, Yellow-naped Parrot, Mallee Parrot, Barnard's Parakeet, Buln Buln, Bulla Bulla, Scrub Parrot, Cloncurry Parrot, Australian Ringneck Parrot and Twenty-eight Parrot.

The name Twenty-eight Parrot comes from the subspecies' call, a three-syllable pit-tink-tink...pit-tink-tink, with the middle note higher, sounding like twenty-eight, twenty-eight.





## **PERTH AND PEEL COCKY NUMBERS STABILIZE**

Black cockatoo numbers in the Perth and Peel region were stable this year. The population freefall of WA's Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo has halted, according to the findings of the recent Great Cockey Count.

More than 750 citizen scientists took part in the event last April counting the cockatoos as they flew in to roost at sites in the south west of WA.

Birdlife Australia's Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo project coordinator Adam Peck said it was an encouraging result.

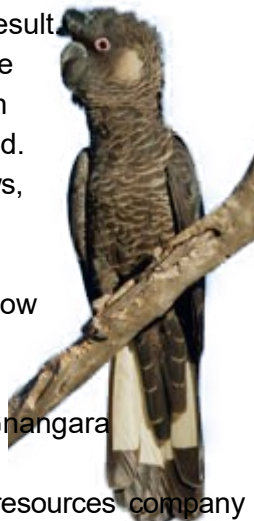
"Particularly as successive Great Cockey Counts have shown that the population of Carnaby's around Perth has declined by over 40 per cent since 2010," he said.

Mr Peck said although this year's count was good news, the community couldn't afford to rest on its laurels.

"The long-term decline is still a great concern and shows we need to protect Black-Cockatoo habitat now more than ever."

Last year's count spotted more than 10,248 Carnaby's Black Cockatoos with 3500 of those counted in the Gnarara-Pinjar pine plantation.

Recently Birdlife Australia found an unlikely ally in resources company Alcoa who pledged \$300,000 to citizen science projects. It's hoped that assistance from resources company Alcoa will help tip the scales in the right direction.



## **NATIVE TREE SEEDS SOWN USING DRONES TO RESTORE HABITAT FOR BIRDS AND BATS ON COTTON FARMS**

Drones with modified air rifles are being used to shoot native tree seeds and fertiliser into cropping country.

University of New England researcher Rhiannon Smith is leading the seeding project that's aimed at restoring habitat for birds, bats and beneficials on cotton farms on a large scale.

The drones can sow 1 hectare, about the size of a football field, in 18 minutes with "one person sitting in the ute playing on the computer".

But the specialised drones can't be used by just anyone and require trained operators.

*Source: NSW Country Hour*

## THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 3rd July 2019.

The President opened the meeting at 8:06 pm welcoming the delegates, thanking them for their attendance, and asked for a minute silence in memory of Len Donohue.

**ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES** as per attendance register.

### MINUTES:

The minutes for the 1<sup>st</sup> May General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by the delegates. It was moved J. Palmano and seconded J. Flood that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the May General meeting – Carried

**Matters arising out of the minutes:** *None other than matters that can be held over for Reports and General Business.*

### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Affiliated clubs. Notification of office bearers duly elected at their AGM's, clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance, clubs 2019 ring orders and payments from various affiliates notification of show, sale and auction dates for 2020.
- Coditech. Receipt of supplementary ring orders for various clubs.
- The Border Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc. nominating Eric Rayner from Lithgow and Jim Flood from Sydney for the 2019 Guest of Honour.
- Soft Feather Poultry Club. Request for affiliation and insurance, with completion of the application form together with payment.
- VETAFARM, Accepting sponsorship of ring register cards and placing order direct with the printer.
- Feathered World advertisers, those wishing to continue are VETAFARM (inside front cover), Aviculture Accessories ( back page cover), TummyRite (inside back page cover), Cannon & Ball, G & S Removals,
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to their communication with, NSW OEH / NPWS, NSW BC ACT 2016, - Wildlife Licensing submission, NSW DPI - Animal Welfare Action Plan, Keeper / Dealer Stakeholder Consultative Group meeting – ACA animal welfare alliance, W.A. DPAW Biodiversity Conservation Regulations, [ACT office of Conservator of Flora and Fauna](#).

**Newsletters / Journals** – Received from various clubs, with notification of club events for insurance.

### Out-going correspondence as follows:

- Coditech. Placement of various club supplementary ring orders for 2019.
- Various clubs invoice for supplementary rings and dispatch on receipt of payment.
- Soft Feather Poultry Club. Forwarding their copy of the CoC together with the covering letter detailing the policy requirements.
- President, notification to all affiliates advising two ways to access Feathered World. 3. On our website [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au) and click on the Journals tab. And the second via the following URL - <http://online.fliphtml5.com/anwr/biqn/>

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- President / Govt Liaison Officer, Sam Davis. - ongoing communication, in response to their communication with Minister for Agriculture NSW, Minister for Energy and Environment NSW, NSW OEHL / NPWS, Wildlife Licensing submission, NSW DPI - Animal Welfare Action Plan, Keeper / Dealer Stakeholder Consultative Group meeting – ACA animal welfare alliance, W.A. DPAW Biodiversity Conservation Regulations, ACT office of Conservator of Flora and Fauna .

**Matters arising out of correspondence:**

Moved J. Flood and seconded G. Roberts that application for affiliation and insurance be accepted for the, Soft Feather Poultry Club – carried

It was moved by J. Forrest and seconded by W. Wilson that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

**TREASURERS REPORT**

The accounts were submitted for endorsement. It was moved by A. Laudani and seconded by C. Isbister that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed - Carried

**REPORTS:**

President / Government Liaison Officer Sam Davis presented reported on:

- **ACT Licensing Issue**

Refer to Synopsis of meeting with ACT office of Conservator of Flora and Fauna dated 7/6/2019 for full details – under the documents tab [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au) and printed in this edition of Feathered World. In summary, the ACT government HAS removed some 77 exotic species from its exempt list. This includes the majority of widely kept aviary birds which now require a licence to keep and sell. The 7/6/2019 meeting was a first step to resolving this matter. *It was moved J. Palmano and seconded J. Forrest that CCBFA support and endorse the actions of ACT aviculturists– carried.*

- **NSW Native Animal Licensing Update.**

We are still awaiting approval of the reforms package by Matt Kean, Minister for Planning Energy and Environment. Attempts to obtain a meeting via his electoral office in Hornsby have been unsuccessful. CCBFA President Sam Davis met with his local state MP Nathaniel Smith on 11/6/2019 and is assured a meeting with Minister Kean will be organised ASAP. Letter to Minister requesting this meeting tabled.

President Sam Davis was informed by the NPWS leader of the reforms that they had recently been made aware the reform package has not made its way to the Minister's office, rather it remains with NPWS' Goulburn St head office. Very disappointing and difficult to understand. Sam will investigate further via the relevant NPWS Director.

- **South Australia – new licencing system in place**

Great to confirm the new SA licensing system is now in operation. The news is on the hole very good, with most common aviary species now off licence with a few exceptions. Fantastic work by SA, in particular representatives from the UBSSA.

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- **Black-throated Finch (BTF) recovery effort**

A range of different stakeholders from aviculture are considering plans to initiate an aviculture led recovery effort. There is a broad range of stakeholders from government, universities, zoo, ecology and land holders who have shown interest. CCBFA President, Sam Davis is proposing a brainstorming meeting in Sydney for a day in August to put all ideas and projects on the table to see what floats. *Moved G. Roberts and seconded J. Forest that CCBFA in principal support a captive breeding / release project of the Southern Black Throat Finch in NSW. – carried.*

- **Begawan Foundation/Moonlit Sanctuary proposal**

The Begawan foundation is a Bali based not-for-profit working on captive breeding and release programs for the Bali Starling and Michell's Lorikeet - <http://begawanfoundation.org> These are flagship projects demonstrating what can be achieved when aviculture gets on with the job. This is possible because of the low levels of government red tape in Indonesia together with the low cost of labour. CCBFA and aviculture have much to gain by supporting the Begawan foundation. A proposal for CCBFA to support both in kind and financially was discussed. *It was agreed that we would require additional information and questions answered to the issues stated, before further consideration and financial support could be put forward to affiliates.*

Moonlit Sanctuary has recently appointed Graeme Phipps to oversee its threatened species projects, including the Bali Starling, Mitchell's Lorikeet, as well as a number of Australian natives including the Orange-bellied Parrot and Swift Parrot. This is a terrific opportunity for aviculture to foster connections and work on projects with the private zoo community.

- **Proposed NSW Agriculture Minister Meeting**

The following text was included in the request for a meeting with new NSW Ag Minister, Adam Marshall. CCBFA President, Sam Davis met with his local state MP who is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Minister to inform, discuss and obtain agreement on the following matters.

CCBFA has been engaged with the review of POCTA in earnest since the messy matter regarding an outrageous draft of the Pet Shop code of practice written by DPI animal welfare staff came to our attention early in 2018. As a consequence, we met with then Minister Niall Blair and consulted with his staff to resolve the matter. We were very happy with the outcome that subsequently resulted in the formation of the NSW Chief Animal Welfare Officer position and subsequent appointment of Kim Filmer.

We had an agreement with Niall Blair's office regarding process for writing Standards and Guidelines in preparation for the POCTA redraft. This agreement is understood by Kim Filmer, but we have doubts it is accepted by departmental officers. We also have commitments with RSPCA NSW via CEO Steve Coleman regarding this process. CCBFA has concerns regarding the influence of the Animal Justice Party upper house members on the POCTA review and have met and corresponded with Emma Hurst MLC with some initially positive commitments made. We have positive support from the Shooters, Fishers, Farmers Party members.

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- **Animal Care Australia (ACA) and Animal Justice Party (AJP) Update.**

At ACA's last meeting proposals for formalising education of hobbyists was discussed with a number of options proposed by the ACA Education Representative, Rebecca Coventry. There are concerns the government may impose similar as was suggested in the recent pet shop code that caused us so much angst in 2018. Further discussion at ACA committee and general meetings is required as some animal groups already have their own formal qualifications, for birds, there are already some internal systems for judges, stewards and the like, but not for general hobbyists. CCBFA will need to form an opinion on this matter in due course.

We encourage all clubs to join ACA at their earliest convenience. Membership forms can be downloaded from <http://animalcareaustralia.org.au/files/aca-membership-application.pdf> and my letter date 20/10/2018 regarding ACA can be found under the submissions tab on the [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au) website. *It was moved G. Roberts and seconded W. Wilson that CCBFA does not support any accreditation system for the keeping of aviary birds. – carried.*

Moved J. Flood and seconded by G. Roberts that the Reports be accepted and Reporters thanked – Carried

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **Sydney Royal Show update.** In the absence of I. Cindric due to work commitments the C. Tsintarakis and C. Isbister presented an update following the review meeting with the RAS. Stating the RAS were very impressed with the 2019 aviary display and will allocate more space and support in 2020, considering more car parking spaces, more support for media adverts, possible show bag for aviary birds. They will be calling another meeting shortly. Benching for the 2020 aviary birds will be Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> after 6:00 pm with the two day show on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April. The Feature bird in 2020 will be the Budgerigar. The aviaries will be for the duration of the show.
- **National Poultry Show 2020.** Con also advised that the National Poultry Show will be held at the RAS in 2020 on the June Queens Birthday long weekend starting from Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> for 5 days, the aviary birds will be allocated the same pavilion as in 2016 and all species are invited and encouraged to be involved. The President asked that we formulate ideas for discussion at the next delegates meeting.
- **Guest of Honour Dinner.** The meeting endorsed the nominations of Eric Rayner and Jim Flood. A lunch will be held on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> September at the Merrylands Bowling Club in the smorgasbord dining area the cost of which was \$25.00 a head, purchasing your own drinks. The meeting endorsed Johns arrangements and thanked him for organising the dinner.
- **2020 Ring Orders Finches, Budgerigars, Parrots** and any other clubs requiring rings for distribution by the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 are requested to submit orders by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to be included in first 2020 consolidation. The initial orders for **2020 canary rings** [if required for distribution at the specialist Annual shows at the end of May] should be finalised by the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Clubs requiring an order form which must be completed, should contact the Secretary, Ron Robertson by email, [Federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au](mailto:Federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au)

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- **2019 Ring Orders** supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2019
- **Show and Sale dates for 2020** – Clubs are requested to email the secretary the dates for their 2020 shows, sales and auctions. It is understood that confirmation of the venue may be in abeyance / pending, however we request the tentative / projected dates be advised. Email [birdclubs@aapt.net.au](mailto:birdclubs@aapt.net.au)
- **Public & Products Liability Insurance for 2020** - It is important to note that all affiliates have a requirement to give advanced notice if they do not require the insurance for 2020. All affiliates are requested to advise CCBFA by the 30th September 2019 should you not require cover for the ensuing year. Failure to do so will necessitate being charged.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 10:00 p.m.

### Notice of the next General Meeting

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

at 8:00 pm

Ashfield R.S.L. Liverpool Rd. Ashfield

## 45th Australian National Budgerigar Championships - 2019

| Class Score Card by Zone | DEMO: 28: AUSTRALIAN WHITE CAP |                      |                |                  |                |                |                           |                    |           |            |            |               |               |                  |                           |             |                  |               |              |            |             |                  |                   |                    |             |                     |         |                 |     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------|-----|
|                          | ZONE TOTALS                    |                      |                |                  |                |                |                           |                    |           |            |            |               |               |                  |                           |             |                  |               |              |            |             |                  |                   |                    |             |                     |         |                 |     |
|                          | 1: NORMAL GREEN                | 2: NORMAL GREY GREEN | 3: NORMAL BLUE | 4: NORMAL VOULET | 5: NORMAL GREY | 6: YELLOW FACE | 7: AUSTRALIAN GOLDEN FACE | 8: BLACK EYED SELF | 9: DILUTE | 10: LUTINO | 11: ALBINO | 12: CLEANWING | 13: GREENWING | 14: CINNAMONWING | 15: SPANGLE DOUBLE FACTOR | 16: OPALINE | 17: OPALINE AGSV | 18: CLEARBODY | 19: LACTWING | 20: FALLOW | 21: SPANGLE | 22: SPANGLE AGSV | 23: DOMINANT PIED | 24: RECESSIVE PIED | 25: CRESTED | 26: DARK EYED CLEAR | 27: HEN | 28: ZONE TOTALS |     |
| VIC                      | 22                             | 19                   | 15             | 26               | 17             | 21             | 25                        | 22                 | 27        | 16         | 21         | 22            | 23            | 21               | 19                        | 13          | 27               | 21            | 27           | 25         | 27          | 18               | 16                | 27                 | 16          | 23                  | 23      | 579             | 19  |
| NSW                      | 24                             | 13                   | 25             | 19               | 19             | 21             | 20                        | 20                 | 16        | 24         | 27         | 26            | 26            | 26               | 20                        | 25          | 19               | 22            | 23           | 21         | 5           | 27               | 17                | 23                 | 24          | 23                  | 14      | 569             | 23  |
| SthQLD                   | 19                             | 19                   | 16             | 17               | 26             | 10             | 20                        | 25                 | 21        | 26         | 14         | 15            | 11            | 16               | 27                        | 13          | 12               | 17            | 18           | 16         | 18          | 20               | 20                | 10                 | 22          | 19                  | 22      | 489             | 12  |
| QN&CZ                    | 13                             | 13                   | 10             | 14               | 17             | 22             | 9                         | 15                 | 11        | 15         | 7          | 13            | 20            | 15               | 14                        | 10          | 16               | 16            | 16           | 8          | 8           | 12               | 6                 | 9                  | 15          | 11                  | 16      | 351             | 27  |
| SA                       | 5                              | 3                    | 13             | 7                | 8              | 18             | 19                        | 9                  | 8         | 6          | 11         | 19            | 13            | 16               | 10                        | 24          | 21               | 12            | 11           | 13         | 20          | 6                | 12                | 15                 | 18          | 13                  | 10      | 340             | 12  |
| WA                       | 17                             | 25                   | 22             | 12               | 10             | 5              | 3                         | 0                  | 19        | 14         | 21         | 5             | 3             | 7                | 12                        | 13          | 3                | 11            | 5            | 19         | 19          | 16               | 27                | 4                  | 0           | 0                   | 15      | 307             | 3   |
| TAS                      | 5                              | 13                   | 4              | 10               | 8              | 8              | 9                         | 11                 | 0         | 4          | 4          | 5             | 9             | 4                | 3                         | 7           | 7                | 6             | 5            | 0          | 8           | 6                | 7                 | 17                 | 7           | 13                  | 5       | 185             | 9   |
| Class Total              | 105                            | 105                  | 105            | 105              | 105            | 105            | 105                       | 102                | 102       | 105        | 105        | 105           | 105           | 105              | 105                       | 105         | 105              | 105           | 105          | 102        | 105         | 105              | 105               | 105                | 102         | 105                 | 105     | 2820            | 105 |



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