

Budgie Interp Binder



Table of Contents:

Interpretive Cart Guidelines.....	Page 2
Budgie Talking Points.....	Page 4

Budgie Interp Binder

Budgie Interpretive Station Guidelines:

When staffing the budgie interpretive station:

1. Find all of the materials (watch/timer and this binder) that you will need and place them into a box for transportation.
2. Bring the box down with you to the budgie exhibit.
3. **KEEP AN EYE ON MATERIALS AT ALL TIMES.**
4. Follow the talking point outline in the binder.
5. Make sure that you and all guest are following the rules while visiting the budgies:
 - a. Guests should always stay on the path.
 - b. They should feed over the gravel.
 - c. They should watch their step at all times.
 - d. They should never try to grab a bird; the bird could bite or be harmed.
 - e. Quiet voices should be used at all times.
 - f. One set of doors should be closed at all times (no propping doors open at any time!)
 - g. Watch for hitchhikers (check hoodies and pockets before leaving the aviary).
 - h. No strollers or scooters inside the aviary (wheelchairs are welcome).
 - i. No service animals are allowed into the aviary.
 - j. Be sure to wash hands after contact with animals and make sure guest know to do so as well.
 - k. No food and drinks are allowed in the aviary.
 - l. No sharing/splitting feed sticks.
6. Visitor services should make sure that the area is cleaned daily, but if for some reason it is not:
 - a. Be sure there are no feed sticks (or feed) on the aviary path. If so, pick up and sweep. Sweeping should be done continually throughout the day as guests drop sticks. This is to ensure the safety of the birds, as they are known to come down to feed. This could result in a bird being stepped on.

Budgie Interp Binder

7. What to do if a guest complains that the budgies did not eat their stick? (in order of priority):
 - a. Be sure to provide proper instructions to help better their chances of feeding taking place- remind them to place their stick next to the bird(s) on a branch versus simply waiving the stick in the air; using quiet voices and helping guests find a good location will also be helpful.
 - b. If this does not work, direct them to the visitor services attendant at the aviary entrance.
8. If you find an injured budgie, please radio the keeper immediately and let them handle the situation as these birds can and will bite. If the bird is in immediate danger and you feel it is necessary to grab the bird yourself, please do so.
9. If you have to leave, put everything away in the box and take it back to DC. Do not leave anything unattended.
10. **Reminder: Zooteens must always travel in pairs, unless stated otherwise!**
11. **At the end of the day, put EVERYTHING** back in the box and pack it back up to DC.
12. Record each topic discussed during your shift in the binder.
13. Return biofacts and binder to the docent area where they were found.



Budgie Interp Binder

Outline of Talking Points:

Habitat:

1. Budgies live in the scrubland, woodland, and grassland areas of Australia

Physical Characteristics:

2. Discuss the coloration of wild budgies vs. the color morphs humans have bred.
 - a. Wild budgies are light green in color, with black mantle (band and wing coverts) markings that are edged in yellow undulations.
 - i. In adults, the forehead and face are yellow. Juveniles around 3-4 months of age have blackish stripes down to the cere (nose).
 - b. Wild budgies have cobalt tails with flashes of yellow.
 - c. Their wings have greenish-black flight feathers and black coverts with yellow fringes that are only visible when in flight or wings are outstretched.
 - d. Bills are olive grey and their legs are a blueish grey, with zygodactyl toes.



- i. The color of the cere is different between the sexes. Males have bright blue ceres, where females have pale white, to white, or brown. Juveniles of both sexes have pink ceres. (Male-left, Female-right)



Budgie Interp Binder

- e. Discuss some of the color morphs that we have and engage them by trying to find certain colors.
 - i. Example: “Can you find a white budgie? How about a blue one?”

Diet:

3. The diet of budgies consists of seeds, vegetation, fruits, and berries.

Reproduction:

4. Budgies in northern Australia usually breed between June and September, while those in the south breed between August and January.
 - a. Although, Budgies are opportunistic breeders, meaning they will breed when resources are available.
 - i. They tend to respond with breeding when it rains and grass seeds become most abundant.
 - b. Nests are made in holes in trees, fence posts, or logs lying on the ground.
 - i. Once eggs are laid, it is about 18-21 days before they hatch and babies are fledging about 30 days after hatching.

Longevity:

5. Budgies live for about 5-8 years.

HBM and Respiratory Rate:

6. Have guests compare their own heartbeats per minute and respiration rates with that of budgies. You will then use this to discuss why air pollution is much more detrimental to these birds and many other bird species.
 - a. Steps for Heart Beat Per Minute:
 - i. Instruct guests on how to measure their own heart beat per minute.
 1. They can do this by placing their index and middle finger against the pulse point on their neck or wrist and counting the number of beats.
 2. Have them count for 20 seconds and then multiply that number by three.
 3. Or just have them count for the full minute.
 - a. What was their HBPM?
 - b. HBPM of a Budgie= 300 beats per minute
 2. Steps for Respiration Rate:
 - a. Simply have guests count how many breaths they take in a minute.
 - b. Again, you can count how many they take for 20 seconds and then multiply it by 3.
 - c. What was their respiration rate?
 - d. The respiration rate of a budgie= 65-85 times per minute
 3. Because birds have a higher respiration rate, they are exposed to particulate matter (airborne particles/pollution) a lot more than humans.

Budgie Interp Binder

- a. This means that they are much more sensitive to changes in air quality.
- b. All of the pollutants that are being put into the air impacts birds quicker and at a higher level than humans.
 - i. Birds that have long-term exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (toxic chemicals released from the burning of gasoline, wood, etc.) show a decrease in fertility and growth.
 1. On top of that, the increase in nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides are increasing the acidity in the soil and water. Which, in turn, is decreasing the amount of nutrients in their food.
- c. How can you help?
 - i. Carpool when possible.
 - ii. Don't leave your car running.
 - iii. Turn off lights when they are not needed.

