



# Central California Cage Bird Club



## Buy Sell and Trade a Big Success Members Ask for More

Fun was had by all at the meeting last month when we had our annual Buy Sell and Trade event. Lots of birds, cages, and bird paraphernalia was offered and everyone enjoyed themselves. Most everything went to a new home and lots of smiles all around.

We stuck to our guns and nobody was allowed to buy or sell til the stroke of 1:00. I think by 1:05 half the birds had been sold or traded!

We had **47 members and guests attend!!** And made \$73 on the raffle. The food as usual, was delicious and was enjoyed by everyone.

It has been suggested that we do the BST twice a year but no firm plans made yet.

Remember we have our sale table at every meeting where you can put a cage or two of whatever you're selling. You know us bird people...no self restraint when it comes to a bird we absolutely must have! Plenty of opportunities to sell and buy throughout the year. We've also issued phone lists to all members of all members, so call Jimmy (at 209 869 5066 ) if you need one.

Terese Davis, Editor

## CCCBC Established in 1933

This year we're having a full blown, all out, no-holds-barred **membership drive!** There are hundreds of bird people out here who need us! Who want to be a part of the bird community. Our mission is to find 'em and sign 'em up!

Remember it's \$20 for a family membership. We're thinking of giving extra brownie points for bringing in kids, from elementary to high school age.

We have packets to pass out with applications and info. Get yours from Jimmy. Be sure to put your name as referring when you give it out!

We're keeping track and will start keeping score in future newsletters. If you've brought anyone in in 2011, make sure we gave you credit.

The club is totally behind this and will gladly mail out newsletters that you can promise people .. Just call Terese or Jimmy with an address.

**Prizes for top 3 recruiters at the end of the year!** You can transfer your recruits if you want.

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Volume 3

Newsletter Date **MAR 2011**



**Dr. Brandon Barrett will be at the Meeting Sunday to answer your Bird Questions.**

## THE EGG - A Small Treasure by Jim Clever

A bird's egg is nature's way of reproducing the species and contains all the essential nutrients for life. All the required nutrients are packed into the yolk and albumen (egg white) before it is laid, since the egg is a sealed unit. A fertile egg must contain the exact amount of water, protein, carbohydrates, minerals, vitamins and fats which are needed, since any deficiency will reduce the embryo's ability to grow, hatch and survive. The female gamete, the ovum, is the largest cell known to science; but the male cell (gamete), the spermatozoon, is truly microscopic. However, the nucleus of the ovum is a tiny white 'speck', smaller than a pinhead, found on top of the egg-yolk; this is where the sperm (the male gamete) must 'drill' into the ovum and combine its DNA with that of the female gamete to form the new living embryo.

The delicate structures of the egg are 'assembled' in four precise stages:

1. First the yolk and ovum develop in the ovary, among a 'grape-like' cluster of similar ovules, or miniature yolks. The yolk, together with its unfertilised blastoderm, (the ovum), matures in the ovary until it is released into the 'infundibulum' (the upper funnel) of the oviduct, where it encounters the male sperm and is fertilized.
2. The fertilised egg with its microscopic embryo now passes down to the 'magnum' (the upper middle section of the oviduct), where a layer of watery albumen (the egg-white) envelops the yolk in a thin sack. At opposite ends of the yolk, thin strands of albumen become twisted to form the rope-like 'chalaza'; these two cords suspend the yolk centrally in a floating 'hammock' as it travels down the oviduct; the chalaza prevent the yolk from rising to bruise itself against the shell membranes. Before the yolk leaves the 'magnum' the remaining

The Egg (*Continued*)

volume of watery albumen is wrapped around it.

3. The developing egg then enters the 'isthmus' (the lower mid-section of the oviduct) where the yolk and albumen are completely encapsulated in two loose-fitting shell membranes.
4. The egg then passes on to the 'uterus', where the final stage of egg formation occurs. About 80% of the egg's development is spent in the uterus; here the shell membranes tighten around the yolk and albumen, and the outer eggshell is finally secreted.

Once the shell has hardened, the finished egg passes down to the cloaca and is laid. This whole process takes about 24 hours.

The hen lays one egg per day, until she has a clutch of 3 to 6 eggs, depending on the breed of canary. She then incubates them for 13 days, and our 'small treasures' hatch into the next generation of "show winners"!

\*\*\*\*\*

### *The Miracle of the Hatching Egg* by Jim Clever

As the embryo of the fertile canary egg develops, the chick gradually transfers its head from the egg's 'pointed' end, toward the air chamber in the 'blunt' end, and tucks its head under its right wing. Since the unhatched egg is a 'closed' system, there is little exchange of gases between the embryo and the external environment. As the chick grows, blood, gases and nutrients circulate in the allantoid, a membranous sac that develops from the posterior part of the alimentary canal in the embryos of mammals, birds, and reptiles. But as the chick grows, the exchange of gases within the allantoid, eventually fail to meet the needs of the developing chick. The rising level of carbon dioxide within the egg eventually triggers spasms in the neck muscles of the embryo, causing the chick's head to 'jerk' until its beak ruptures the membrane of the air chamber at the broad end of the egg.

Continued on next page

Miracle (Continued)

The chick takes its first breath and its lungs begin to function as it breathes the air within this chamber. At this time the left-right cardio-vascular shunt in the embryo's immature heart closes and the heart-lung system begins to function normally. The elevated carbon dioxide levels also cause the abdominal muscles to contract, pulling the external yolk sac within the abdominal cavity, where it is slowly absorbed.

As the chick consumes the oxygen in the air chamber, the carbon dioxide level rises again, to as much as 10%, triggering contractions in the neck muscles. During one of these spasms, the 'egg tooth' on the chick's beak chips through the egg shell, forming a 'pip' hole, which allows fresh oxygen to enter the air chamber.

Now, the chick begins to struggle for its life. Muscle spasms of the neck, back, and abdomen, force the chick to wriggle and rotate its position from the first 'pip' hole, ever so slightly. The neck muscle contracts again and another 'chip' is made alongside the first. These small perforations, or 'pips' are always made in a counter-clockwise direction. The chick rotates its position, a muscle spasm occurs, another chip in the shell is made, and so on, until a ring of perforations girdles the shell. Eventually, the chick has chipped away enough of the shell to loosen this 'cap', and it begins to kick with its legs, levering away the cap to escape from the prison of the egg.

In a small species, like the canary, the entire process from breaking into the air chamber and pipping the shell takes about three hours. The interval from pipping to kicking free from the egg can take as little as 30 minutes, if conditions are right.

However, a number of 'fatal flaws' can occur during the final hours of the chick's development and hatching; three that result in 'dead-in-shell' are described here:

1. It often happens, if an egg is more rounded than oval in shape, that the chick ends up with its head at the wrong end of the egg, away from the air chamber. This is lethal in most cases because the chick

The Miracle (Continued)

cannot penetrate the air chamber to obtain its first breath and suffocates.

2. Similarly, if the chick's head becomes trapped under its left wing, rather than its right wing, this will be fatal in nearly all cases. The chick is genetically 'programmed' to turn counter-clockwise as it pips the shell, but if the head is locked beneath the left wing, its body gets in the way and 'pipping' cannot take place.

3. Finally, if the chick's feet are positioned above its head, this will also be lethal, since it will be unable to kick free of the shell. \*

So, once again nature gives us a 'little gift' of a newly hatched canary. But the true miracle is that this frail little bundle of life hatches at all!

\* References:

1). Olsen GH, Duval F: Commonly Encountered Hatching Problems, 'Proceedings of the Association of Avian Veterinarians, 1994, pp379-385.  
2). Richie BW, Harrison GL, Harrison LR, editors: Avian Medicine: Principles and Applications, Lake Worth, FL, 1994, pp457-478.

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Next Page, read about  
**The Inside of the Hatching Egg**  
by *Jim Cleaver*



Janna Place

**Treasurer's Report**  
**FEB., 2011**



Full Report Will be delivered at the  
**MAR 20th, 2011 Meeting for FEB 2011**

Janna

## **Inside the Incredible Egg**

### **"The Chronology of Embryonic Development"**

**by Jim Clever**

Temperature is the most critical factor for the development of the embryo inside a canary egg. If the temperature rises above or falls below the optimum incubation range, life ends. Believe it or not, this optimum temperature falls within a very narrowly defined range of just half a degree, from 99.5°F - 100°F (37.5°C - 37.78°C) for ALL species of birds. The body temperature of an incubating chicken is 107°F, while that of a sitting canary hen may reach 110°F, but the temperature inside the eggs of both species must never exceed 100°F. The hen achieves this by constantly turning and re-arranging her clutch. The surface of the egg

may be warmer in direct contact with the hen's 'brood patch', but she carefully turns and rotates her eggs so that the interior of the egg remains a nearly constant 100°F.\*

The germinal disc, the blastoderm, of a fertilized egg begins to develop even before the egg leaves the warm confines of the hen's body. Within two hours of fertilisation, the newly formed cell, containing half the DNA of each parent, divides to form two cells. Cell-division continues so that by the time the egg is laid, a ball of undifferentiated cells sits on the upper surface of the egg yolk, where it will soon become the embryo. When the egg is laid in the nest, the internal temperature falls below 80°F (26.7°C), cell-division stops and the egg becomes dormant. (This is why it is so important, if you 'pull' eggs, that you store them in a cool area between 50 - 65°F.) Storing eggs at 80°F or above will cause a slow growth of these cells which results in the eventual weakening and death of the embryonic cells. Eggs kept at temperatures below 40°F (4.4°C) will also kill these fertile cells.

Once the canary hen begins incubating her eggs, and they reach the correct internal temperature, a number of events occur in rapid succession. This sequence is remarkable!

#### **On the First Day:**

- 10th hour - minute canary embryo is visible
- 11th hour - alimentary (digestive) tract appears
- 12th hour - vertebral column starts to develop
- 13th hour - head begins to form
- 15th hour - heart and eyes begin to form
- 21st hour - ear formation begins

#### **Second Day**

- heart begins beating
- legs and wings begin to grow
- tongue and nostrils start to form

#### **Third Day**

- formation of reproductive organs and differentiation of sex

#### **Fourth Day**

- beak begins to form

#### **Fifth Day**

- down and feather follicles begin to form

#### **Sixth Day**

- beak begins to harden

#### **Seventh Day**

- the halfway point to hatching! All the above tissues and organs continue to grow and develop.

#### **Eighth Day**

- appearance of leg scales and toenails

#### **Ninth Day**

- a critical event, the embryo changes position so that its head and shoulders are at the 'blunt' end of the egg.

#### **Tenth Day**

- Scales, toenails, and beak firm and harden
- beak turns toward the air chamber

#### **Eleventh Day**

- the yolk sac starts to be absorbed into the body cavity

#### **Twelfth Day**

- canary chick fills all the space in the egg except the air chamber

#### **Thirteenth Day**

- neck spasms triggered by rising carbon dioxide levels within the egg, cause chick to break into the air chamber and take its first breath. Carbon dioxide levels begin to rise again as the chick consumes the oxygen in the air chamber. Abdominal contractions suck the yolk sac into the chick's body. Neck, abdominal, and back-muscle spasms occur causing the chick to 'pip' a hole in the egg and the hatching process begins.

#### **Fourteenth Day**

- a new canary chick \*

The development of the canary embryo is a progressive, systematic, 'step by step' process. There is a definite timetable for the development of each part of the chick's body. So, keep those canary hens content and quiet with minimal disturbance; supply them with adequate food and water, and they will reward you with a clutch of tiny, bobbing heads, gaping mouths, and your next generation of potential 'show winners'.

#### **\*References**

Stromberg, J., A Guide to Better Hatching, Stromberg Publishing Co., Fort Dodge, IA 1975 Cornell Extension Bulletin 205, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

## Birds of a Different Feather

I know we're a cage bird club, but we do have some members who also have chickens and pheasants and other game birds. I happen to love chickens. We stopped at a little nursery and kind of an animal farm up near Sebastopol. They had fat black chickens with feathers all down their legs and very fluffy. They had every kind of chicken you've ever seen. They keep the friendly ones up in the garden area and let the kids play with them. They also have a beautiful aviary which is what caught my eye. The chickens roam around during the day and will eat out of your hand. The guy said he'd had a few not-so-nice roosters that had to go back to the feed store to find a new home. You can't have bullies around with kids. I've had that myself. I had some banties when I lived out in the country. I had one black rooster with a white crest that started flying right at me and screaming. I batted his ass outta the air and sent him flying in another direction. Darn if he didn't pick himself up and fly at me again! I batted him harder this time and he bounced when he hit. He did it again! Then he went back to the feed store.

It was great for the kids to have baby chicks and raise them. If you're ever living where you can, try a few chickens. These were all banties, too. Small chickens. I had Silkies which were white and very much like their black feathered leg ones. I don't know what they were all called but he sure had some unusual ones...and one of each kind. Only a few were alike. They were all beautiful and we chatted with the people and birds. They were cleaning up from the winter and getting ready to open March 1<sup>st</sup>. That area makes an excellent weekend (especially in the middle of the week) trip. Up just outside Sebastopol and *Rose and Thorn* is the name. It's a garden shop and cool garden stuff and bird stuff and local artists and plants. And chickens. Their email is [roseandthorn1@comcast.net](mailto:roseandthorn1@comcast.net) and address is 10050 Bodega Hwy., Sebastopol, CA 95472.



This is the big Kahuna. The Rooster. He keeps everyone in line. All chickens must be friendly around children and get along together, or they might have to go back to the feed store.

*Continued on the next page*

## Birds of a Different Feather *(Continued)*



**Here's an Avery shape that you don't see every day, I had to stop !!**

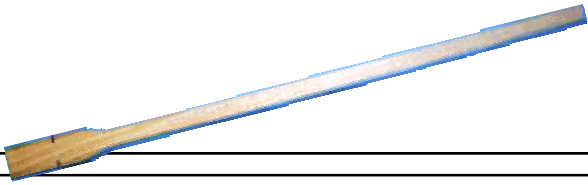
Terese Davis, Editor

# Personal Ads

PERSONAL ADS NOW APPEAR ON OUR CLASSIFIED PAGE ON THE WEB AT [WWW.MYCCCBC.COM/CLASSIFIEDS](http://WWW.MYCCCBC.COM/CLASSIFIEDS)



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## Newsletter Ads

Fees for newsletter ads (except the personal ads) are due by **February 15**. If we don't hear from you, we will contact you about renewing your ad. We are only putting business cards in the paper newsletter, although full page ads will run on the website. Larger ads will be put into the Show Catalog and also on the website. This is because of postage prices. Now is a good time to put in a for a business card ad. Got a catchy ad phrase for 2011? or send us your sketch and we'll put together a card for you or send a business card. Business card fees **are \$5 per year for members, and \$10 for non-members.**

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## 2011 Event Calendar—Bird Mart and Bird Show Events

<b>Apr 17</b>	<p><b>San Jose Bird Mart</b>  <b>Many Prizes !</b>                  Pay &amp; Free (10th St.) Parking - ATM - Food  <a href="mailto:info@sanjosebirdmart.com">info@sanjosebirdmart.com</a>     <a href="http://www.sanjosebirdmart.com">http://www.sanjosebirdmart.com</a></p> 	<p><b>Santa Clara County Fairgrounds</b>                  344 Tully Road, San Jose  <b>Gateway Hall</b>     Sunday 9 AM to 3 PM</p>
<b>JUN ??</b>	<p><b>CCAS Central California Avian Society</b>                  RAFFLE, EDUCATIONAL BOOTH, BENEFITS AVICULTURE                  Adult admission: \$5.00 (12 and under, free)                  Additional information: (559) 228-1737</p> 	<p><b>Fresno District Fairgrounds</b>                  Industry/Commerce Building                  ENTER Gate # 6 off Kings Canyon Ave.  <a href="http://ccasbirds.org/BirdMarts.html">http://ccasbirds.org/BirdMarts.html</a></p>
<b>JULY ??</b>	<p><b>6th Annual West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show</b>  <b>1st. Day Speaker and bird sales</b>     <a href="http://www.efinch.com/show">www.efinch.com/show</a></p>	<p><b>Meet the top breeders on the west coast</b>  <b>La Quinta Downtown Sacramento</b>                  Chris Hartje, manager     916 765-6366  <a href="mailto:chrishartje@msn.com">chrishartje@msn.com</a></p> 
<b>JULY ??</b>	<p><b>5th Annual West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show,</b>                  judge: TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: yellow;"><b>Judge Unconfirmed for 2011</b></p>	
<b>AUG 14</b>	<p><b>Northern California Exotic Bird &amp; Supply Exposition</b>                  Birds, Reptiles and Supplies for sale at Great prices                  Admission: \$7.00, (10 and under, Free                  Limited Free Parking     Web: <a href="http://www.ncabird.com">www.ncabird.com</a>                  Contact: Laurene or Jim 510 785-6647</p>	<p><b>Alameda County Fairgrounds</b>                  4501 Pleasanton Ave.                  Pleasanton, CA.                  Sunday 9 AM to 4 PM</p> 
<b>OCT ??</b>	<p><b>RECBC</b>                  Redwood Empire Caged Bird Club                  Bird Mart</p> 	<p><b>Sonoma Fairgrounds Kraft Hall</b>                  1350 Bennett Valley Road.                  Santa Rosa, Ca.     Sunday ??                  Contact: Bonnie at: (707) 546-1776</p>
<b>OCT ??</b>	<p><b>CCBS Bird Mart &amp; Pet Expo</b>  <a href="http://www.capitolbird.org">www.capitolbird.org</a>                  Capitol City Bird Society                  P.O. Box 41221, Sacramento, CA. 95841-0221</p> 	<p><b>Placer County Fairground</b>                  Roseville, CA.                  info/Contact: Rosiebird at (916) 363-6777                  Sunday, 9am—4pm</p>
<b>OCT 28 Setup</b> <b>OCT 29 Show</b>	<p><b>Central California Cage Bird Club</b>                  Canary/Finch <b>58th</b> Bird show and <b>5th</b> Bird Mart                  Adults: \$2;     kids 15 and under: Free.                  Free Parking—Food                  WEB: <a href="http://www.mycccbc.org">www.mycccbc.org</a></p> 	<p><b>SOS Club,</b>                  819 Sunset Ave., Modesto     Saturday, 9am—4pm                  Contact: Terese Davis: <b>209 247 3206</b>     Bird Mart info.                  Contact: Darrell Brewer: <b>510 527 1788</b>     for Show info.                  Contact:     ?? ?? ??     American Singer Show</p>
<b>NOV ??</b>	<p><b>CCAS Central California Avian Society</b>                  RAFFLE, EDUCATIONAL BOOTH, BENEFITS AVICULTURE                  Adult admission: \$5.00 (12 and under, free)                  Additional information: (559) 228-1737</p> 	<p><b>Fresno District Fairgrounds</b>                  Industry/Commerce Building                  ENTER Gate # 6 off Kings Canyon Ave.  <a href="http://ccasbirds.org/BirdMarts.html">http://ccasbirds.org/BirdMarts.html</a></p>
<b>NOV 12 &amp; 13</b>	<p><b>Larry Waugh Memorial Quad</b>  <b>Pacific American Singers</b>  <a href="http://www.pacificamericansingers.org">http://www.pacificamericansingers.org</a>                  Annual song contest for American Singer Canaries                  Free Parking, Free Public Viewing     canaries for sale                  Contact: <a href="mailto:pacificamericansingers@yahoo.com">pacificamericansingers@yahoo.com</a></p> 	<p><b>Laurel Inn</b>                  801 W. Laurel Dr., Salinas, CA.                  Saturday and Sunday                  9am to 2pm</p>
<b>DEC 3</b>	<p><b>Santa Clara Valley Canary &amp; Exotic Bird Club</b>  <b>50th</b> Annual Cage Bird Show  <a href="http://www.santaclarabirdclub.org">http://www.santaclarabirdclub.org</a>                  Free Parking, \$3 /cage entry fee     Birds for sale                  Public admission \$5/adult; children free</p> 	<p><b>Clarion San Jose Airport</b>                  1355 N. 4th St., San Jose, CA</p>

Changes to the above files will be inserted as they are received



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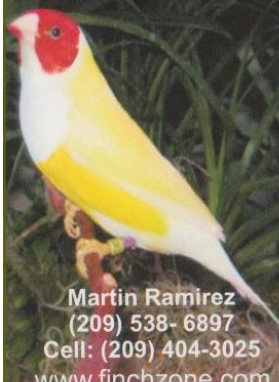
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## 2011 Meeting Schedule

JAN-16	Meeting	<b>Mancini Hall</b> 718 Tuolumne Blvd. Modesto Ca. 95351 1:PM
FEB-20	Meeting BST	
MAR-20	Meeting	
APR-17	Field Trip	Location to be determined.
MAY-15	Meeting	
JUN-12	Meeting (2nd SUN)	<b>Mancini Hall</b> 718 Tuolumne Blvd. Modesto Ca. 95351 1:PM
JUL-17	Meeting	
AUG-21	Picnic & Auction	
SEP-18	Meeting	
OCT-29	58th Bird Show & 5th Bird Mart	<b>SOS CLUB</b> 819 Sunset Blvd. Modesto Ca. 95351 9am-4pm
NOV-20	Meeting, Election	<b>Mancini Hall</b>
DEC-18	Meeting/Party	<b>Mancini Hall</b>

Any Changes to this schedule will be posted here.

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**R**emember to bring snacks for the meeting and items for the raffle table. It can be anything i.e. Goodies, bird supplies, wine, cookies, plants, yard sale finds, etc. Tickets are **3** for **\$1.00**. and we always have lots of fun with this. The money from the tickets pays for the meeting hall. Meetings begin at **1:00 PM** with introduction of members and guests followed by the club business and then the program speaker.

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