



## **FROM MATT'S PERCH**

By Matt Russell

The longevity of our hobby depends on two main factors:

1. The availability of birds.
2. The up most important the availability of aviculturist that are skilled enough to be able to breed these birds in a sustainable manner.

We all know that we need new blood in our aviaries to maintain strong breeding results, this is the same for aviculture. We need new people taking up the hobby with the desire to not just keep birds, but to breed birds in such numbers that they can supply the market. The sad reality of aviculture is that the majority of breeders are creeping up on there best before date. I ask you this, who will take over from them?

It is good to see there have been a number of new faces coming to meetings over the last six months. A fair number of these are just getting into the hobby and some are just kids.

Put yourself in one of our new members shoes, you have not kept birds before or for a long time, you come out to a meeting, get chatting to someone that has had great success breeding a particular bird that you are interested in, they let you in on a few secrets of breeding this bird and even give you a good deal on some new stock. If some one did that for me I know it would invigorate my avicultural urge more so than trying to find my way on my own.

Over my time here I have heard many stories of great breeding results some people have had with particular birds. But more often than not people are very standoffish and cliquey with new people. I think it is necessary for this to change if the art of aviculture is to evolve with the times.

There are a few young kids coming to meetings at present. I think it would be nice to see some members that may have some spare stock pass some on to these youngsters, the potential avicultural leaders of the future.

Are you willing to encourage these kids? Let me have your thoughts on this matter. You can e-mail me at: [tara\\_matt@hotmail.com](mailto:tara_matt@hotmail.com).

Cheers,

*Matt*