

DID YOU KNOW...

that if you've eaten chicken, you've eaten dinosaur?

that birds evolved from small meat-eating dinosaurs around 150 million years ago?

that the earliest undisputed bird is *Archaeopteryx lithographica* known from 145 million year old rocks in southern Germany?

that Hummingbirds have to eat once every ten minutes to keep up their energy supply, and that they eat twice their own body weight each day?

that a bird's heart beats 400 times a minute when resting and up to 1000 times per minute when in flight?

that a bird's normal body temperature is 5-7 degrees higher than a humans, and that up to three-quarters of the air a bird breaths is used for cooling as they are unable to sweat?

that a feather is made of protein and is produced at a papilla, a projection in the epidermis or outer layer of skin. When fully grown, it is composed entirely of keratin, a tough protein containing sulphur, with a large number of dead cells filled with air?

that possibly the largest bird of all time was *Dromornis stirtoni*, known from 15 million year old sites in Central Australia, and that some estimates suggest it weighed as much as 450kg?

that the only truly wingless bird in the world is the Kiwi?

THE GOULDIAN FINCH A COUPLE OF HINTS FROM THE PAST (from early editions of BIRD KEEPING IN AUSTRALIA)

Is it advisable to have a spare hen in with two or three pairs in the same aviary, or is it better to have a spare cock?

It is hardly likely that any gain will result by including a spare hen. It is much better to include a spare cock bird, as some hens are inclined to be a little lazy and show little interest in settling down seriously to nesting. The addition of an extra cock will eliminate this habit, and results accordingly will improve considerably.

Do Gouldians breed well in cabinets like Budgies?

It is possible to breed them in this manner, and some fanciers have enjoyed reasonable success using this method. This method is most usually adopted in areas where the climate is not favourable to Gouldians. However, under this system the mortality of young birds after being removed to another cage has generally been high, particularly amongst completely uncoloured young. Possibly the mortality rate could be reduced if they were allowed to remain in the breeding cabinets until they are fully coloured. It is generally considered that the South Australian climate is such that his method of breeding is unnecessary.