



# Letters to the Editor

*Having the dubious honour of being the member with probably the longest term of membership allows me to say I have received our magazine since its inception and have enjoyed each and every edition and have to admit that I have accepted all of the benefits and done very little in return.*

*I have the utmost praise for every editor including the present incumbent who has exhibited a degree of excellence which has taken the magazine to a new height. Not having a computer I cannot understand how he can possibly produce it in its entirety and I hope to receive many more editions. I would like to see more personal information as I find I know few other members now.*

*I also have to say I admire Matt for the valiant effort he is making to engender more enthusiasm. He reminds me of Bob McKechnie but is on a much smaller playing field. I would suggest to him that more emphasis be placed on Australian birds rather than exotics and colony breeding not be encouraged as I find much better results are obtained from single pairs.*

*Whilst at the Bird Place some time ago I introduced myself to another visitor only to be told that his name was Peter and he already knew me as he had obtained Yellow-rumps from me fifty years ago. He described my aviaries so I have to accept this but I simply cannot recall him.*

*I thought I would contact Peter again to see if he now could let me have some Yellow-rumps but was unable to trace his name in the phone book so rang Richard to see if he could assist only to be told that of course I would know him, as Peter and I (Richard that is) would get on our bikes every weekend (fifty odd years ago Ed.) and visit all the bird keepers in your area. I recognised this pattern as I would have been doing the same thing and he told me how to contact Peter.*

*There are several other things I would like to mention and these are mutations and pet birds.*

*It is an offence to hybridise protected, birds not that I would think anyone would attempt to. The only hybrid I ever bred was between a Cutthroat and an Aberdeen and was entirely accidental. On my part at any rate, but I don't know about the Cutthroat.*

*The Eastern Rosella is one of our most beautiful birds and yet I read of red and black ones advertised at astronomical prices. We already have the Crimson Rosella which hardly needs any improvement and as for a black Eastern, what's wrong with a crow?*

*What I would suggest is that mutations should be treated the same as hybrids.*

*I have no objection to disabled birds being treated as pets but most birds advertised for sale now seem to be described as hand-reared and evidently for the pet trade. Alexandrines and Eclectus seem to figure prominently in this category. I can think of no worse fate.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Jack Marshall*

November 2010

BIRD KEEPING IN AUSTRALIA