



## SEED ORDER

Seed orders can be lodged with the Secretary at the October General Meeting, or by mail order, with accompanying money, no later than 22nd of October. Seed pick-up will be at Magill Grain Store on Saturday 1st November from 9:00am to 11:30am. If you require any product(s), sold by Magill Grain Store, not shown on the enclosed Order Form, check with the Secretary for availability and price.

## THE AMAZINGLY VERSITILE MEALWORM

Mealworms are the larval form of the mealworm beetle, *Tenebrio molitor*, which is a holometabolic insect. (*Holometabolism, also called complete metamorphism, is a term applied to certain insect groups to describe a specific kind of development which includes four life stages - embryo, larva, pupa and the adult being.*) Mealworm larvae typically measure 2.5cm or more, whereas the adult beetles are generally between 1.25 and 1.8cm in length.

Mealworms are typically used as a food source for birds and other pets, such as reptiles and fish. In Europe they are commonly used for fishing bait. They can be purchased at most pet stores and are also available via mail order and the internet (by the thousand). Mealworms are typically sold in a container containing bran. Some commercial growers incorporate a juvenile hormone into the feeding process to keep the mealworm in the larval stage and thus achieve an abnormal length of 2cm or more.

Mealworm beetles are prolific breeders. Mating is a three step process: 1. The male gives chase until the female relents. 2. The male then mounts the female and begins the mating process. 3. The male then injects the female with a packet of semen. Bran is the most commonly used substrate for a mealworm culture, and dependent on incubation temperature, the female will, within a few days, burrow into this and lay between 70 and 100 eggs.

Incubation takes 10-11 days at 20°C and 4-6 days at 30°C. The larval (mealworm) period is 90-114 days; the pupa period is 30 days at 15°C; 9 days at 25°C and 6 days at 35°C. The adult beetles can live for many weeks, but their peak breeding period occurs within the first three to four weeks of their life. Mealworms can be easily raised in bran, with sliced carrots and little pieces of apple as a water source. Potato should not be used as this can cause an infestation of fodder mite which will result in the loss of the mealworms.

Apart from their role as a bird food, mealworms have many other uses. For instance, they can be dried and crushed for use as a protein rich flour, and are also used whole in recipes such as sautéés, or spaghetti dishes. They have also been incorporated into tequila flavoured novelty candies. However, mealworms are not traditionally served in tequila drinks.

Bon appétit!

Reference: "Wikipedia"



## THE 2008 ADELAIDE ZOO VISIT

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October

MEET AT THE BACK OF THE MAIN KIOSK AT  
11:00am

### BBQ LUNCH

A DONATION OF CAKE OR BISCUITS GREATLY APPRECIATED

AFTER LUNCH THERE WILL BE A CONDUCTED TOUR BY BIRD DEPARTMENT STAFF, INCLUDING AREAS OFF-LIMITS TO THE PUBLIC.

A reduced entrance fee has been arranged, so we don't all have to arrive together; just show your current Society Membership Card at the gate.

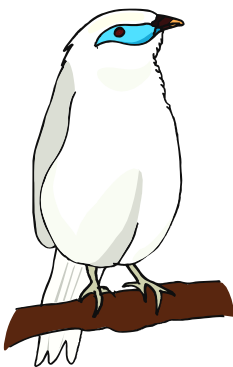
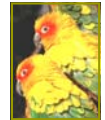
It will be a good day, so come along and enjoy yourself.



## ANNUAL PICNIC

The Society's 2008 Picnic will be held at the Gorge Wildlife Park, Cudlee Creek on November 16th.

Full details in next month's magazine.



**Minnie the Mynah asks, did you know that...** the Swallow-tailed Gull (*Reargues furcatus*) of the Galápagos Islands is the only fully nocturnal gull?

the Red-backed Kingfisher (*Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*) nests in the top third section of a steep sloping or vertical bank overlooking a dry riverbed but not one overlooking water, and that they may vacate the site if the riverbed becomes inundated?

the Honeyguides, or Indicator birds (family *Indicatoridae*), of Africa and Asia are named for a remarkable habit seen in one or two species: they guide humans, and possibly other large mammals (such as the honey badger), to bee colonies. Once the mammal opens the hive and takes the honey, the bird feeds on the remaining wax and larvae?

the diet of most species of Sand Grouse (family *Pteroclididae*) is very dry, and as a consequence they need to regularly visit water in order to drink. As they travel to water holes or lakes they call to others members of their species and many hundreds or thousands of birds may visit a drinking site at once?