



FROM MATT'S PERCH

By Matthew Russell

I am getting a bit sick of seeing the same people doing all the work in the Society. It seems to me that people are happy to just go along for the ride until the ship sinks. At this moment the Society is going along great, there are so many benefits in being in the Society and this is mostly due to a handful of people. Now I ask you what would happen if Richard decided that he is sick of writing almost all the magazine. It doesn't take long to write an article, but a whole magazine is a fair effort, so let's share the load. The Society even offers a service where someone comes out and interviews you at your aviary. Nothing is stopping you taking a few pictures and jotting some bits and pieces down on a bit of paper then sending it in so we can type it up and publish it in the magazine. If you are proud of your aviary then show it off. I would love to see what some of our new members have. Aviculture is not a cheap hobby, look at what Tony has done with getting us cheaper seed. He put a lot of time into organising that and it's something we can all benefit from. Then there's all the other work he does like organising the Guest Speakers, they don't just rock up to the meetings. It will be very dull, and the cost of keeping our birds will be more, without all the hard work he puts in. Then there is Dennis, who puts an enormous amount of time into his table just so we can get our bird products at a great rate. We also have Jeanette doing supper and the raffle, Kevin doing the Wants and Exchanges, and not to forget Jack with cheaper books to buy. Diana and Harry are pitching in too, Diana with Membership and Harry on leg rings. Plus there are other people who consistently help out at the meetings and events. To these people I say: "THANK YOU"; and to all other Members I say: "Come on lend a hand and don't just take those people who work hard for you for granted. Just think what we would do without them!"

Also a big thanks to "*Jacarini*" for your response, as printed on the next page, to last month's column. Please Members, keep the responses coming. You can e-mail me at: tara_matt@hotmail.com.

Cheers,

Matt



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A RESPONSE TO JANUARY'S "FROM MATT'S PERCH" COLUMN

"Dear Matt,

I wish you luck wanting members to communicate with each other on breeding procedures. Unfortunately, too many are only interested in making money. Their attitude is why should I tell you how I do it because you might breed more and make more money than me. I know of one person who made the statement "I know, but why should I tell others". Our older members should mix more with new members and talk to them about what they do and how they do it.

I personally think too many aviaries are too small. The attitude is small aviaries means more aviaries and more birds. They forget that in the wild birds have huge areas to live in. How would members like to live their lives in a toilet? This is virtually what some are doing to their birds. The larger the area the happier the birds are and (the) better they breed. Parrots need logs (or boxes) similar to that which they would use in the wild. Finches need a well sheltered area in which to breed. At least half the front of the sleeping area should be covered in. There should be plenty of clean brush and plenty of nesting material. I have found that Emblemas and Diamond Fire-tails breed well in flock conditions.

I hope this article gives some members food for thought."

Jacarini