



FROM MATT'S PERCH

By Matthew Russel

I have started to see a positive shift in the avicultural community over the last few months. I have witnessed people becoming more open about their breeding techniques and more willing to give a hand when it comes to the Society matters. For this I say thank you.

One of the biggest threats to our hobby, or any hobby that involves in-depth knowledge to achieve a particular goal, is losing the knowledge to perform tasks within the hobby. Without ongoing breeding, aviculture will die out. I hear time after time that birds are getting harder to breed with each generation. Everyone draws the conclusion that it's the genetics of the birds. Well, I put this to you, before you blame the birds you should look at the aviculturist. You hear of people bringing animals back from near extinction with the right breeding plans and knowledge about how to achieve it. I think we are forgetting how to breed birds.

In old avicultural journals you can find countless articles on how someone has achieved great results breeding a particular species. It seems nowadays people are too lazy, or don't have the time, to sit down and share their knowledge with the bird-keeping community through journals, and in my opinion our breeding results are suffering because of it.

So what I'm going to take that excuse away from you. I believe that most of you out there have a mobile phone. Here's where it gets tricky, there is a function on your mobile phone which enables you to send a short text message this is called SMS. If you don't know how to use that function ask someone who can help. I want each of you to send me, Matthew Russell, an avicultural SMS tip on my mobile: 0422 660 955 eg. "Java Sparrows prefer to use green grass for nesting over anything else". Then I will put them all together and have them published in an upcoming magazine. So let's all chip in and see what we can come up with collectively.

If you prefer you can e-mail me at: tara_matt@hotmail.com.

Cheers,

Matt