

## WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

By Barry Schultz—Kadina



Photo: Lindsay Hansch

In mid March I “bit the bullet” & decided to have our twelve monthly finch roundup in our 9m x 9m planted aviary. The weather looked like being a bit cooler for a few days and I deliberately hadn’t pushed any breeding for a few weeks. I hadn’t heard any young being fed.

Using our catching area we managed to remove over sixty birds, of six species, in about an hour. Included were twenty Diamond Fire-tails, *Stagonopleura guttata*. We picked out, rung and released young birds back in the aviary as our breeders for next season - among these was one pair of Diamonds. 90% of the Melaleuca nesting brush was also removed and replaced at this time.

Then two weeks later my wife noticed a fledgling in the planted aviary! It was a young Diamond. To say I was surprised would be an understatement! There hadn’t been time for anything to have been laid, hatched and fledged since the cleanout. What would be the odds of this chick being in a nest in the 10% of brush left in the aviary, having its parents removed and then one(or both) being selected as a breeder for next year and put back?

One very lucky bird is now happily flying around and loudly demanding to be fed by an equally lucky parent!

