

Preface

Participants, instructors and assessors should take note of the conditions as laid down in the Award Handbook.

This programme is for guidance and is not to be taken as a rigid syllabus. To indicate the content appropriate to young people with varying degrees of knowledge and experience, it is arranged under three headings: 'For beginners', 'For those with some knowledge' and 'For the more advanced', and participants are free to select as broad or as restricted an aspect of this skill as they wish, but appropriate social and cultural aspects are to be covered.

NATURE

BUDGERIGARS AND CANARIES

Introduction

This activity should include as much practical work as possible preferably undertaken with others through a group or club. The social aspects of the programme should be covered in group discussion. Participants should also show some understanding of the historical development of the keeping of budgerigars and canaries, and its relevance to other groups in a world-wide society.

Young people must recognise that in keeping a bird they undertake responsibility for its well-being, both mental and physical. It is essential too, that before acquiring a bird they gain sufficient knowledge to look after it properly and to ensure that it does not suffer in any way.

For assessment, each individual is to produce evidence of regular application to the activity over the required period. This may take the form of some kind of record, such as a diary, log book or sketch book.

For beginners:

Award participants should:

- 1 Keep budgerigars or canaries and look after and learn about their care.
- 2 Join and take an active part in a local cage bird society.
- 3 Breed budgerigars or canaries.
- 4 Exhibit budgerigars or canaries.
- 5 Keep written records.

Skill Section

For those with some knowledge:

Award participants should:

- 1 Keep budgerigars or canaries and have sole responsibility for their care.
- 2 Make a study of their food, habits and ailments, with particular emphasis on diet.
- 3 Be working towards, or actually engaged in, the breeding of budgerigars and canaries.
- 4 Make a special study of breeding budgerigars or canaries (including written work).
- 5 Be an active member of a local bird society and attend its meetings regularly. Study and read books about the care of budgerigars or canaries.
- 6 Keep a record of experiments and interesting findings together with a diary giving details of breeding and exhibiting.

For the more advanced:

Award participants should have a practical knowledge of:

- 1 The housing of budgerigars or canaries.
- 2 The correct methods of feeding and a comprehensive knowledge of types of seeds, soft foods, etc. available.
- 3 The various items of equipment required in the bird-room to ensure correct management.
- 4 The treatment of sick or ailing birds.
- 5 The preparation of birds prior to the breeding season and for exhibiting purposes.
- 6 Sex-linkage and reasons for hidden colour factors appearing in young budgerigars. OR Colour inheritance in canaries.

In addition one bird, at least, should be bred and reared.

- 7 A talk, not less than 10 minutes duration, on the management of budgerigars or canaries should be given.