

GROUP REPORT ON GREEN AVADAVAT FOR 2004

Breeding in 2004 started well with reports of Green Avadavats nesting from all over Australia. It was shaping up to be a bumper year. Young flew from the first round of nests and then the breeding stopped. For 6 months (April to September) not a chick fledged. These are usually the prime breeding months for Green Avadavats in Australia. October came and with it a change in breeding activity. Pairs started nesting and young produced. One member has young in the nest now (January 2005).

This breeding activity is very unusual. Green Avadavats are essentially winter breeders in Australia. Their season is between March and October. So what happened – why the change? The only alteration in the environment was an exceptionally dry winter. You may remember many areas in Australia were drought stricken and still are. The dam water supply in our area was down to 38% and restrictions applied to water use. Then the rain came in October which triggered the breeding of many varieties including the Green Avadavats. We have always known that rain triggers breeding in many Australian finches so it would appear that the rain is an important factor for the Green Avadavats.

2004 breeding produced 19 young from only two breeders. The total number of Green Avadavats fell slightly due to many of the older birds dying. What is positive is that the ratio of young to old birds has increased. This means more birds capable of breeding.

The table below indicates the progress;

YEAR	ADULT BIRDS	YOUNG BRED	TOTAL	REMARKS
1995	150	?	?	Census taken by the QFS Endangered Species Group
2002	100	5	105	Estimate only – not confirmed.
2003	57	19	76	First year results
2004	54	19	73	% of young birds increased.
2005				

2005 – MORE GET INVOLVED

I am pleased that Dr Loui Filippich, B.V.Sc., B.Sc., PhD, patron of the Queensland Finch Society has become a sponsor of the group. We are fortunate to have Loui on board. His knowledge on avian health and general well being of birds is acclaimed world wide. We look forward to his input.

This year a couple of breeders who produced many Green Avadavats in the past have taken up the challenge and included them in their aviaries. They are starting with young birds so with their expertise this year promises to surpass the last two years.

Thankyou for all the support during 2004. We are well on the way to achieving our goal of saving the Green Avadavat from extinction in Australia.

Peter James
Group Leader