

Budgerigar Health And Related

Feather Mites

NOTE: we are not here to self diagnose your bird (it this is an information article only and we always suggest seeing an avian vet for diagnosis and treatment)

Contributed by Liv

About 2 weeks ago during random checks of my birds, I discovered tiny feather mites on the flight feathers of most of my aviary birds.

They look like tiny bits of dirt in the feather.

Zoomed they look like this (not my photo)

It is unknown when the mites got introduced to my flock, but I saw someone during autumn on my inside birds (who came inside in autumn) are clean from the mites.

A little bit about the feather mite
A little bit about the feather mite can be seen on the long wing and tail feathers between the feather barbs, but you'll have to have the bird in your hand to see them.
Other species of feather mites, known as quill mites, pass their entire life cycle within the hollow confines of the wing feather quills. These types feed on host tissue fluids by piercing the quill wall with their sharp mouth parts.

AVIAN INSECT LIQUIDATOR

A.I.L. is an effective water-based insecticide and insect growth regulator that gives three way protection for all avian species.
3 Way Protection: When used directly on the bird, A.I.L. penetrates deep into feathers to kill lice and mites. When sprayed around the environment A.I.L. kills insects on contact and the residual action guards against re-infestation for up to six weeks. Also, the growth regulation effect of A.I.L. prevents insect eggs from hatching and newly hatched insects from reaching maturity.

Directions:
Use a 5% solution (1 part concentrate: 19 parts water - 20 parts total) NOT FOR USE WITH REPTILES OR FISH; hold trigger pack 30-40 cm from birds and spray directly on to birds; use 4-5 pumps per bird. Cages, aviaries, perches and nest boxes should also be sprayed thoroughly with the diluted product. Repeat in 6 weeks or as necessary.

Guaranteed Analysis

Permethrin 7.5%
Fluralaner 125g/L
Methoprene 0.4g/L

I found A.I.L. too hard to get here in SA so I used Coppert to treat my birds which contains the same amount of Permethrin as A.I.L. when a 25g sachet is made into a 10L solution. I treated all my aviary birds, cleaned out the entire aviary and treated all the perches and surfaces - it was very comforting to see happy birds and dead bugs everywhere

Next time you are looking at your birds, check for little specks of "dirt" in the flight feathers - you may need to treat for feather mites too.

Unique solution ID: #1211

Author: Elly

Last update: 02-Oct-2008 19:23