One of the most fascinating and least shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be recognized as the canary with the dark speckled feathers and the orange cap. It is the only member of the canary kingdom that changes the design of its feather marking when it moult. This makes it a unique kind of canary.

The lizard canary is grouped with the “type canaries” in most show catalogs even though it is not primarily judged for conformation, stance, or the other “type” characteristics. It might be more properly classed with the color bred since it is bred for controlled penciling or spangling (to be defined later) and for the orderly pattern of these markings. It is further bred and judged for its ground color. The lizard canary existed as a breed long before most types and certainly existed much before the wildest dream of color-bred canaries. It is the only present day canary to be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canaries to appear on the show bench is the Lizard Canary. It can easily be shown canary.
Gold Lizard, owner/breeder Ken Stubbart

Silver Lizard, owner/breeder Pearl Bush

Cinnamon dilute, owner/breeder David Gillilan/Lee Mize

Varigated Blue and White, owner/breeder David Gillilan/Lee Mize

Yellow Border, owner/breeder David Gillilan/Lee Mize
bred to a silver clear cap, only clear capped or nearly clear capped birds would be produced. Only clear capped lizards were accepted on the show bench. This pairing soon began to increase the size of the cap. These breedings produced two faults. The least serious of the two is the "over capped" lizard (see illustrations) in which the cap begins to run down the back of the bird's neck. The over capped area may extend farther down the neck on one side than it does on the other. It is much the same with the second and more serious fault known as "bald face." This characteristic is obvious when the cap extends over the side of the head below the bird's eye(s) and lower mandible, thus doing away with the eyelash.

The correct breeding is clear cap to broken cap. This pairing will most generally produce the following:

**Broken Cap** — including nearly clear cap to nearly non cap. It is a description of a cap with feathers breaking the defined edge of the cap. It is officially described as "one where the head and the neck feathers disqualify it from being classed as either clear or nearly clear cap or as a non or nearly non cap lizard."

**Clear Cap** — Previously described.

**Patch Cap** — This is a cap that has a patch or spot of dark feathers within the cap. (It should not be confused with "patchy coloring," which refers to uneven ground coloring. This is not common with modern methods of color feeding.)

**Ticked Cap** — Refers to a very small patch of dark feathers within the cap that equals less than one tenth of the area of the cap.

A general rule for pairing as far as the cap is concerned is that two birds showing clear or nearly clear caps will produce like young while non capped or birds showing little characteristics of caps will throw like young.

**Color Feeding**

The lizard canary requires color feeding if it is to be entered in shows. The color feed for the lizard may be the same strength as that fed to the other red birds, or it may be used anywhere between full strength and half strength as long as the birds develop the smooth even bronze ground color. Varying the strength or amount of color food during the moult may produce a patchy coloring, which is considered a serious fault. Since the head and neck are the last areas to get new feathers in a moult, if color feeding is not consistent the orange cap will be the first and most noticeable patch area. The ideal bird has an even bronze ground color with a satiny texture to the feathers.

**Show Characteristics**

The ideal lizard should therefore have the following characteristics:

1. Deep even bronze ground color.
2. Satiny feather texture.
3. Compact wing and tail carriage with the wing tips touching above the tail forming continuous spangling from the cap to the tip of the tail.
4. Spangling on the back (These are clearly defined with no light tips among the unflighted feathers.)
5. Rowings on the breast and flanks.
6. Defined eyelash.
7. Dark pigmentation in the feet, legs, and beak.
8. Well rounded breast.
9. Large head that is well rounded on the top.
10. Good stance. For even though lizards are active birds, they should be steady from training.

The lizard canary truly is one of the most fascinating canaries bred and exhibited today. It is not only an excellent show bird, but it is a ready breeder and a fine singer. Any breeder and exhibitor of canaries who is seeking success on the show bench will find it by purchasing and/or breeding lizard canaries that meet the above specifications.

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1. Lizard Canary Association, Mr. R.J. Rainbird, 104 Fletcher Rd., Ipswich, Suffolk, England.
2. The Confederation of All Type Canaries, Mr. Paul Dee, President, 12456 S. McVickers, Palos Hts., IL 60463.