

Canary Culture

by Tony Bucci

As the breeding season approaches, it would be most appropriate to talk about proper mating. The topic we have chosen is one much misunderstood due to varied terminology describing the same thing. One of the important aspects in mating two canaries is to select two birds with proper feather texture. When mating two canaries, one of the birds must have hard feathers and the other bird must have soft feathers. If we talk about type canaries, then hard feather is called "yellow" and soft feather is called "Buff" or "Mealy". When we refer to Red Factor or Color Bred Canaries, then hard feather is called "Non Frost" or "Intensive" and soft feather is called "Frost" or "Non Intensive".

Please refer to Fig. 1: This is a "hard" or a "non frost" feather. We can see that the dark part (which represents color) extends to the edge of the feather. This type of feather gives the bird a slick and full color appearance. Also, note that

this feather is smaller which will make the bird look skinny and small.

Now refer to Fig. 2: This is a soft, buff or frost feather. Here the color does not extend to the edge of the feather. This type of feather gives the bird a broken color pattern and frost like effect. This larger feather gives also a fluffy and bulky look to the canary.

If we do not observe this basic rule in mating; Non Frost to Frost or Yellow to Buff, this is what will happen: Mating Non Frost to Non Frost or Yellow to Yellow or Hard feather to Hard feather will produce canaries with snakey appearance, showing too much thigh.

Mating Frost to Frost or Buff to Buff or Soft feather to Soft feather will produce a high percentage of larger birds with loose and untidy feathers.

Buff to Buff mating is practiced by experienced breeders but not encouraged for the beginner. ■

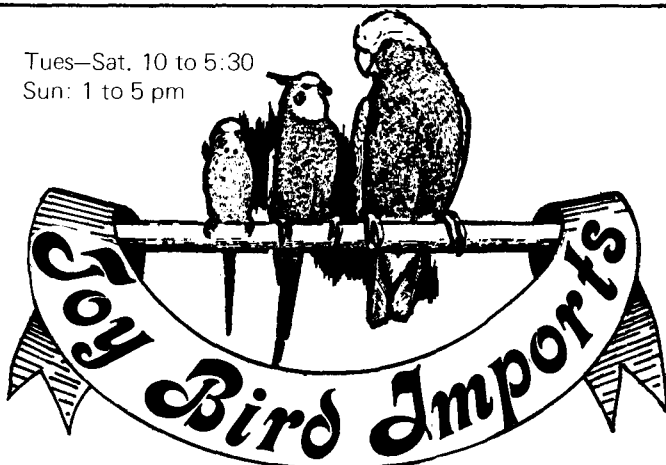


Fig. 1
Hard Feather



Fig. 2
Soft Feather

Tues—Sat. 10 to 5:30
Sun: 1 to 5 pm



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