

So You Want To Breed Your Canary

by Charlotte Nierenberg

A guide for the novice.

Step-by-step care, before, during and after breeding. The aim of Mrs. Nierenberg is to take the guess work out of the novice's first attempt at canary breeding, providing a guide to success.

This helpful handbook is a must for the beginner's library, as well as the experienced fancier.

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Canary Culture

by Tony Bucci

The aim of this article is to introduce terminology and basic genetics for the canary breeder in a very simple form.

The so called new color canary is the result of several mutations that occurred in recent years. To understand and to breed the new color canaries we must learn some very basic laws dealing with genetics. First we must divide canaries in two groups: *Melanin* and *Lipochrome*.

Melanin is the term that describes dark pigment observed in feathers.

Therefore, melanin canary is dark in color like the two classic canaries Green and Brown (cinnamon). Type canary breeders use the term *Self* to describe melanin.

Lipochrome is the term that describes light pigment. Yellow, Red and White are Lipochrome canaries. Type canary breeders use the term *Clear* to describe lipochrome.

Whether melanin or lipochrome, canaries come in three ground colors; yellow, red and white.

Yellow, green and brown are yellow ground canaries.

White, blue and ivory are white ground canaries.

Red and bronze are red ground canaries.

The next major hurdle is to understand the genetic make-up and heredity factors of various known mutations.

Below are the two major groups of different genetic make-up:

Sex Link Heredity

Green
Agata (dilute)
Brown (cinnamon)
Isabel (cinnamon dilute)
Pastel
Ivory
Mosaic (dimorphic)
Satinet (red eyes)

Independent Heredity

Yellow
Red factor
Open Recessive
Ino Recessive (red eyes)
White Recessive
White Dominant

Let us first see how Sex Link heredity behaves. In the sex link group there is the Dominant and the Recessive color or characteristic. For example green is dominant over Brown, and Brown is recessive to the Green color. Green (dominant) can be carrier of Brown (recessive) but brown (recessive) can not be carrier of green. The rule of thumb states that darker hue melanin canary is dominant over light hue melanin canary.

Figure 1 is a schematic to show Sex Link behavior. XX represents male and XY represents female canary. Each chromosome is numbered to show inheritance from the parents. The Y chromosome in the female is sometimes referred as the empty chromosome.

Green/Brown (Heterozygote) indicates that canary is all green in color and is a carrier of Brown.

In sex link behavior female can not be a carrier.

Under the Independent heredity group Recessive (open, Ino, white) are the next we will talk about.

Refer to figure 2 and notice that XY is not used to denote the female. Instead we will use XX, and now either parent can be assumed as male or female. Also, female can now be a carrier. If you wish to work out the recessive traits or colors just substitute with the opal chromosome in figure 2 and you will find the results you need.

Figure 3 is the white dominant schematic. Here we can see that dominant white is never pure. White dominant is always a carrier of yellow or Red-Orange. Yellow or Red-Orange can not be a carrier of dominant white. When the combination permits pure white (HOMOZY-GOTE), Figure 3 "B" mating 1-3 embryo will die in the shell.

The last of the Independent heredity are Yellow and Red Factor. Here are some examples in respect to yellow and red orange matings:

Yellow X Yellow will produce all yellow.

Yellow X Red-Orange (Lipochrome) will produce all red-orange but very pale orange, in other words yellow dilutes the red.

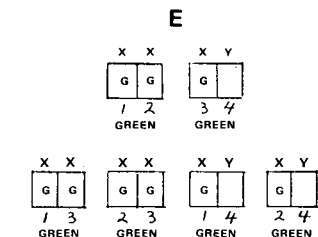
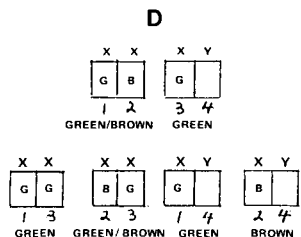
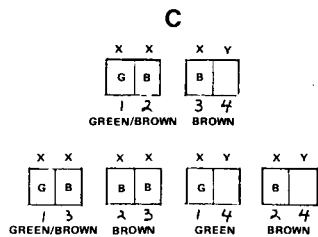
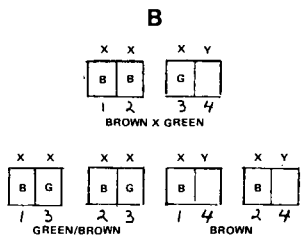
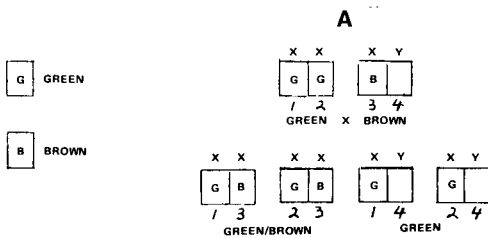


Figure 1. Sex Link Schematic for the Mating of Green and Brown

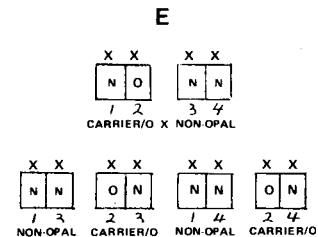
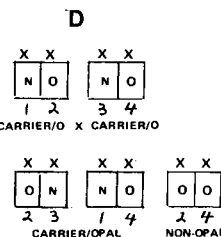
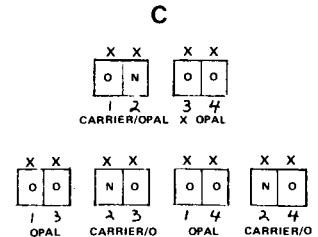
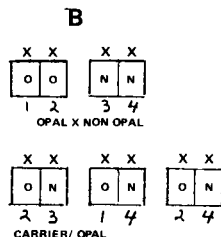
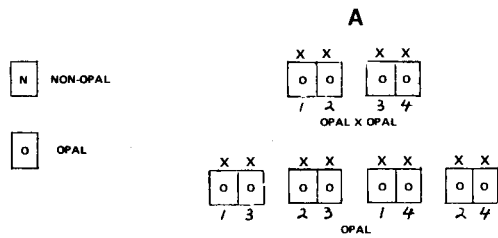


Figure 2. Recessive Schematic for the Mating of Opal and Non-Opal

Yellow X any melanin will produce all variegated canaries.

Red-Orange X any melanin will produce all variegated canaries.

All Lipochrome canaries if mated to the melanin canaries will produce all variegated canaries. When working with Lipochrome Ivory (sex link), Yellow and Red-Orange is dominant over ivory.

With breeding season in full swing and the knowledge you have gained reading this article, see if you can create a black canary. Good Luck!

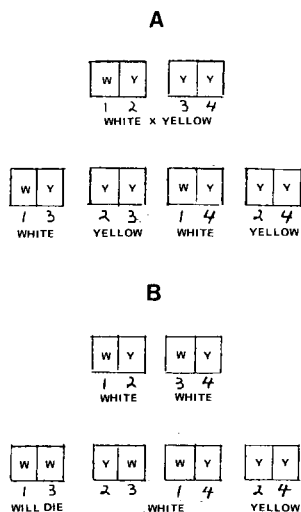


Figure 3. Mating of Dominant White and Yellow

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