

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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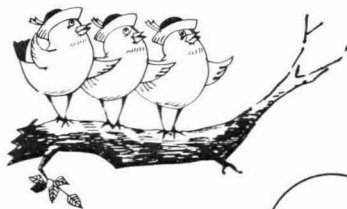
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Canary Calendar

by Charlotte Nierenberg
P.O. Box 2095
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Charlotte Nierenberg

By August, most canary breeders count their "blessings", attempt to sweep up the falling feathers and conclude that they either had a good season or "the worst yet".

A seasoned breeder accepts the fact that some years are productive, others are sparse and very often cannot understand why! However, to a novice who starts off with just one or two pairs, an unproductive season is discouraging enough to give up the whole idea of breeding.

Even more regrettable is the beginner who has great success but also thinks of "giving up" because he is overwhelmed with the quantity of baby canaries he has to house and care for.

Inadequate planning and lack of a system may find the novice busy from early morning to dusk. A familiar pattern develops and the "tender trap" evolves. As each clutch of babies leaves the nest, cages appear in almost every room of the house. The young canaries start to molt and soon seed and feathers are flying everywhere!

This is definitely the time to take stock — not only of the amount of birds produced, but of ways to make both human and bird quarters more compatible with each other and lighten the workload in future seasons.

WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?

Decide what type of operation you intend to pursue. If space is limited, there is really little choice. The breeder should enjoy his hobby and retain a very few

birds. Keep your operation simple — specialize in one type of canary. Visit the canary shows in your area and learn how to produce, develop and eventually exhibit your potential show winners.

If you need the extra income, do you have a spare room for quantity breeding? Separate quarters are definitely required to start even a small commercial enterprise. A few prolific pairs of canaries can produce large numbers of offspring. There must be room for individual breeding cages, medium-sized flights for the young at different stages of development and at least one or two large flights to eventually separate the "boys from the girls".

Additional space is necessary for storage of seed, gravel, etc. in large quantities to reduce the costs of feeding canaries to maturity.

PLANNING AN OUTDOOR AVIARY

If you are fortunate enough to live in a mild climate, an outside aviary, planned wisely, can help to develop beautiful, robust birds. However, a hastily built outdoor aviary "just as a temporary measure" can be a waste of time and money. It may seem adequate to start with but will it shelter the birds when the cold weather comes, when the torrential rains pour, when the neighbor's cats tread above or when unwelcome predators burrow in from below?

Before attempting to build, visit established aviaries in your area. Most breeders will gladly share their experiences and offer helpful ideas.

Each area of our vast country has its own climatic problems but there are important considerations in building an aviary that apply to any locale:

1. Try to plan for at least a two-section aviary.

2. Briefly, a solid shelter should be planned on the north side or wherever the cold winds originate from. Windows or open areas should face the East for the benefit of the morning sun and provisions for shade should be planned for shelter from the hot afternoon sun on the west wall.

3. Build your aviary as close to your house as possible. You might want to add electrical or water lines later at a minimal expense. Also, an aviary that is placed at the rear of one's property can prove very inconvenient to reach in rainy or cold weather.

4. Plan a "safety entrance" no matter how small. Don't wait for the loss of a few valuable birds to add one.

5. A cement floor is easy to maintain and will keep rodents outside. If a natural soil floor is preferred, there are still a number of methods to be used to keep unwelcome predators out (depending upon the size of the aviary).

a. Dig a trench around the perimeter of the aviary before building, fill with cement and press 2x4's into the wet cement. When the cement sets, hardware cloth can be stapled to the 2x4's and then stapled again to the next upper horizontal support.

b. Although expensive for a large aviary, another method for rodent-free quarters is to cover the entire floor with hardware cloth.

c. Still another way is to dig a trench and force the hardware cloth into the earth (at least 7-8 inches and flare it outward before covering again with soil.

LIGHTEN YOUR WORKLOAD NEXT SEASON

Try to remember which chores were the most time-consuming:

1. Fill seed and condition food containers and store on a lower shelf in your birdroom.

2. Estimate the quantity of egg food that is needed for one week. I found and used a recipe last season that can be mixed and stored in margarine containers in the freezer. When defrosted, it was as light and fluffy as freshly made! (I will be glad to furnish the recipe upon request.)

3. Cut and strip burlap for nesting material in advance of the breeding season.

4. Cut newspapers the size of your breeding cage trays and have stacks ready when needed.

To those novices who wrote for "tender sympathy" because of the above chores, I hope I have helped — better luck next year and "hang in there!"



GREATER PITTSBURGH CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Second Annual Show

NOVEMBER 5, 6, 7, 1976

Warren Holiday Inn

Judges:

Red Factors and Type: Sig Larson

Budgies: Tony Mancini

Foreign Birds: Dr. Val Clear

American Singers: John V. Bassett Jr.

For Show Information Contact: Bernard Madden

7013 Ohio River Blvd. • Ben Avon, PA. 15202 • (412) 766-8617

GOLD COAST EXOTIC BIRD CLUB

First Annual Open Show

OCTOBER 22, 23, 24, 1976

Ramada Inn, State Rd 84 and Interstate 95

Judges:

Exotic Birds: I. Perea •• Budgies: C. Schaefer •• Canaries: L. Jarecke

For Show Information Contact: Katie Turning

2829 S.W. 4 Place • Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33312 • (305) 587-1687

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRD CLUB

Annual Open All Bird Show

NOVEMBER 12, 13, and 14, 1976

Alondra Park Community Building

3850 West Manhattan Beach Blvd. • Lawndale, CA.

For Show Information Contact:

Dick Van Dijk • 8071 Mermaid Circle • Huntington Beach, CA. 92646

(714) 536-7160

CALIFORNIA GAME BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Game Bird Show

DECEMBER 11th and 12th, 1976

Los Angeles County Fairgrounds, Pomona •• Building 8

Pheasants, Quail, Doves, Waterfowl

For Show Information Contact:

Mike Verner • (213) 633-7058

NU-COLOR BIRD ASSOCIATION

Annual Open Show

NOVEMBER 26, 27, 28, 1976

Masonic Temple • 211 First Street, Alhambra, CA.

Judges:

Red Factors: William Hawkins, D.V.M.

Type Canaries: Arther B. Ricks • Foreign Birds: Michael A. Cunningham

For Show Information Contact: Joseph Griffith (213) 358-4527