

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.

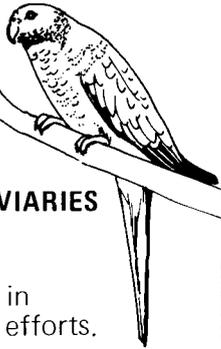
This helpful handbook is a must for the beginner's library, as well as the experienced fancier.

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Canary Culture

by Tony Bucci

To canary fanciers show time is the climax to the year long efforts to breed the perfect canary. This is the time the breeder can show off his best birds. At the show he can meet other fanciers and compare breeding results. Annual bird shows expose the hobby to others who may become interested and join the canary fancy.

There are two kinds of shows; one where canaries are judged on conformation and color; the other where the birds are judged on song quality. Sometimes a color and conformation show will have a division devoted to American Singers. A singing canary called "roller" is entered in a show exclusively for rollers. The conformation and color shows are generally the most popular.

If you wish to enter your canary in a show you must select the proper show cage. Each type canary has its own style cage. If you don't have the proper cage take any small square cage and paint it black and you are in business. If you are a novice most shows will accept any cage. The floor of the cage must be covered with canary-rape seed mixture about one quarter inch deep. This assures a good supply of food for the three day stay at the show.

The usual entrance fee is .75c or one dollar per bird. When the fee is paid your bird will be classified by a qualified show officer. Don't worry, your bird will fit into some division and section. If your canary is not closed banded it will compete with the old canaries.

Normally canaries are entered in the

show on Friday, judged on Saturday, and on display to the public on Sunday. When you select the show of interest write to the show manager for a catalog. It will give you all the information you need.

There are several things you must do to prepare for the show. In order to assure that your canary will be calm during the judging you must introduce the bird to the cage it will be shown in. The bird should be placed in the cage at least twenty days prior to the show. You must make sure the canary learns where the drinkers are. Many fine birds have been lost because they did not find water in their new surroundings. A piece of lettuce placed in the drinker will draw the bird to the water. Food will not be a problem as it is on the floor.

To avoid a generally bad appearance you should trim your birds nails and wash the tail and tips of the flight feathers. This grooming should be done during the beginning of the twenty day training period so the bird can regain its composure before the show. A few days before the show spray your bird with a simple mister. This will induce the canary to preen its feathers and improve their general appearance.

There are many fine points regarding showing canaries. Attend the shows and observe them closely. I am personally involved with Southern California Bird Club Show which takes place November 12, 13, and 14 in Lawndale, California. I'd like to see you there where you can participate and have a lot of fun.