

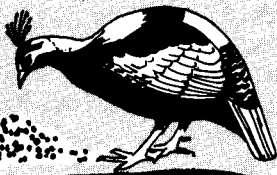


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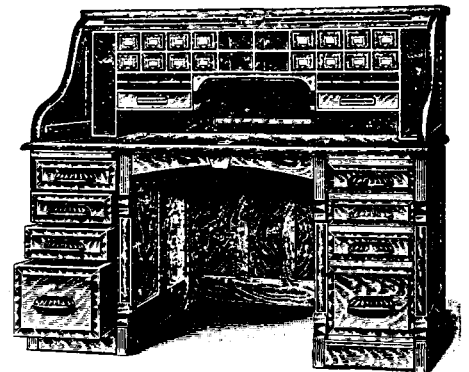
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From The Editor's Desk

by Sheldon Dingle



Dear Editor:

I am writing this regarding two articles by Tony Bucci in which he made erroneous statements.

In the first of these he was discussing color and listed "ivory" as white ground. If this is true, where do we get Ivory (a pale yellow similar to old piano keys) and Rose Ivory (a very soft pinky red-orange)?

Both of these colors appear to be diluted variations of yellow and red-orange. Microscopically, the feathers of both ivory variants have the same amount of coloring agent as "normal" birds, but the arrangement within the feathers is altered in such a way that the color is not observable in its full intensity. Calling an ivory bird white ground is like calling a green opal sky-blue.

The second error made by Mr. Bucci was in an article on Crested Canaries in which he states, "Also, we must use a Plainhead (Crest bred) to produce a good Crest. If we do not use Crest bred Plainheads, we will produce a very bad Crest." Hogwash! The "Crest-bred" fantasy is an old wives tale that should have been put to rest a hundred years ago.

As I explained in an early article on genetics, cresting is a simple dominant and no plainhead (crest-bred or not) "carries" a genetic factor directly influencing crest quality. Indirectly, plainheads used in such matings do have an influence on crest quality, but this has nothing to do with "crest-bred". Topknots are crested canaries with normally very poor crests.

Most of these are common canary stock with large beaks and snaky (thin) heads. Should a plainhead of this "crest-bred" stock be mated to a champion Gloster corona, the result will be lousy crests.

On the other hand, a bird bred from non-crested stock for 100 generations that has a small beak and a broad, well rounded head, mated to the same Gloster corona, will have as good a chance of producing good crests as a Gloster plainhead of comparable quality. In short, the shape of the plainhead's head is the determining factor, crest-bred or not.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph G. Griffith
Costa Mesa, CA.

Dear Editor,

This is a reply to Mr. Griffith's comments in reference to the article written in Watchbird, Vol. 3, No. 2, Apr/May 1976. White, blue and ivory are white ground canaries. I stand corrected to read: White, blue and silver are white ground canaries.

Watchbird, Vol. 3, No. 6, Dec/Jan 1977. I will not change my stand in reference to crested canary, instead I will backup my statements with reference material. Stroud's Digest On The Diseases of Birds, Robert Stoud, Pages 56-59 states that; "The factors making up the crest, determining its shape, size, color, etc., are independent of the crest-factor, responsible for the development of the crest. To illustrate: I once bred some crest-bred (crest-bred birds are

those having one crested parent but no crest) Norwich canaries together for a number of generations. Since all of the birds lacked the crest-factor, no crests were produced. Then I mated one of these birds to a small roller with a very scrubby crest. The crested young developed large Norwich-type crests, proving that the presence of the crest came from one parent, its shape, size, etc., from the other. This means that the crest-factor and the factor responsible for the kind of crest that develops are contained in different chromosomes."

A.C.B.M. canary comments by Harold Sodamann, Vol. 47, Sept. 1975 states that: "In my judgement the non-crested or crest-bred in the pair really is the more important."

"Therefore, it is better that the crest-bred be descended from a line of crested canaries possessing the right head for successful crest breeding."

Encyclopedia of Canaries-Parakeets and Other Cage Birds, Nola Miller Fogg, pages 17-20. States that: "The first rule to be observed in pairing birds for crest breeding is to mate a crest with a crest-bred. Before going further, I ought to explain, that the crest-bred is bred from pairing a crest to a plain-head."

In the past, I have attempted to breed crest on breeds like, opals, satinets and red factors using good gloster crest (corona) for the opposite mate.

On each attempt, I came up with topknots and bald-headed birds. Last year we mated gloster hen corona to a red factor plain plainhead Norwich cross. The crested birds produced from this mating, had very good crest. I am positive that Norwich cross had crest-bred blood lines which contributed to the good crest.

In conclusion, topknot is a bad crest and can be produced from a non crest-bred plain-head. But to produce a good crest (corona) we must use "crest-bred" plain-head with a broad and well rounded head.

I am positive, if the novice or advanced breeder follows these simple rules, he will have a good chance in breeding a good crest.

Respectively,
Tony Bucci

Sir:

Enclosed is a check for \$5.00 as a donation toward the AFA court case to establish a restraining order against USDA and CSDA pertaining to the eradication

of birds suspected of contact with VVND.

We would appreciate being kept informed on this issue because we will be moving to California this summer with our modest stock of canaries, finches, and cockatiels.

Incidentally, I would like to recommend to the readership of Watchbird a new book, published in England, *The Bengalese Finch* by James Buchan. This short book covers the care and exhibition of the bengalese, or society, finch with excellent clear discussions of nutrition, housing, and breeding that would apply to many finches. Included is a chapter on the use of bengalese as foster parents.

I would be particularly interested in hearing from anyone in the U.S. that has available either of the dilute factor bengalese described in this book.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of us aviculturists.

Donale M. Wilkison
Nancy C. Wilkison
6305 NE Radford Dr.
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Sirs

I am interested in raising canaries. More for fun than for profit. If you know the name of a person in Las Vegas that raises canaries, please let me know if possible. I would like to talk to them about this hobby.

D. Thompson
Las Vegas, Nev.

As it happens, my brother, Pat Dingle, is the AFA State Coordinator for Nevada. He is also president of the newly formed Las Vegas Avicultural Society. I phoned and gave your name to him. You should have been contacted by now and introduced to several very good canary breeders in Las Vegas. If not, please let me know and I'll see that Pat's pay is cut in half for his slothful reaction.

Dear Sir

I am interested in English Yorkshire Canaries as a hobby. I would appreciate it if you would direct me in finding breeders of these birds.

K. Mrozik
Toms River, N.J.

Please consult the roster of clubs and the list of State Delegates found at the front of this magazine. Anyone living anywhere near your area will be pleased to help you.

continued on page 46



October 22, 1977

The Greater Pittsburgh
Cage Bird Society

will present its

Annual All Bird Show

at the Holiday Inn,
Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 3,
Warrendale, PA. The Budgie
judge will be Corienne Traver.
Gino Abbate and Marilyn
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Val Clear will judge foreign
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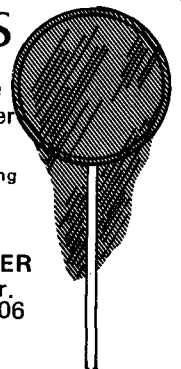
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

continued from page 41

Dear Sir

I manage a pet shop and am Vice President of the Baltimore Bird Fanciers. Recently I lost two Yellow Fronted Amazons due to the coating on the wire I used to make their flight. Can you provide information on which types of wire can be toxic?

Brad Spellman
Balto, MD

According to H. Richard (a custom aviary builder of prodigious knowledge and ability) no common steel wire should be toxic to parrots. Some wire, however, is coated. The types of coating are variable and some may be poisonous. Another potential problem is painted wire. Some paints are toxic. When building cages or aviaries it is wise to buy a good grade welded wire of the appropriate mesh and to wash it thoroughly. It can then be painted with a non-toxic paint. Your bird should live happily behind that wire until he dies of something other than poisoning.

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is a donation to help solve the Newcastle disease problem. Keep up the good work. This problem has disturbed us also.

Question: We have two birds, a Mealy Amazon and a Halfmoon. Their feathers seem to turn brown at the tips, and have a chewed up appearance. Our veterinarian, Dr. Kray, sprayed the birds with something. It seemed to help for a while but we don't want to take the birds to the clinic every week. Can you tell us of a good feather spray to help eliminate this problem?

Thank you
G. and V. Woll
California

Unfortunately your humble servant is just an editor and does not feel qualified to recommend any sort of medicinal treatment for your birds. I know Dr. Kray well and have the utmost confidence in his ability. However, if you folks can persuade Dr. Kray to edit this magazine for my pay, I'll gladly recommend a spray for his pay. If that fails why don't you ask him to sell you some of the spray he used.

Gentlemen:

Years ago there was a magazine called "Aviculture". When did this magazine, published in Los Angeles, become defunct? Why did it go out of business?

Also, why is it that in the United States the breeding of small insectivores, such as wrens, warblers, flycatchers,

etc., has yet to be accomplished? The United States is way behind Europe in avicultural achievements.

William Ganey
San Francisco, CA.

I have asked several of my oldest friends about the magazine "Aviculture". None of them remembered it. I then asked numerous even more ancient folks about that magazine and none of them had heard of it. Perhaps the magazine is defunct because everyone connected with it is defunct also. I haven't been able to stir up a trace of that ephemeral old periodical. On the other hand, there has long been a magazine called "Avicultural Bulletin" published here in Los Angeles. Perhaps that is the one you are thinking about. It is the official periodical of the Avicultural Society of America and is sent monthly to each society member. Although the "Avicultural Bulletin" has enjoyed brief periods of eclipse it is now far from defunct and in fact has a positively healthy heartbeat in the form of its new editor Jaynee Salan.

I concur with you regarding the disparity between European and American aviculture. Don't you suppose, though, that the reason for it is the relative ages of the two civilizations? Europe (excluding a few wild Irishmen) has been civil and settled for a thousand years or so. We, on the other hand, have just had our 200th birthday. Up until recently our people have been pioneers struggling to expand our borders. The wrens, warblers, flycatchers, etc., were caught, put into a pie and eaten. My God! Sir, any group that could destroy millions of buffalo in just a few years can't be expected to nurture gnatcatchers.

Fortunately, our borders are now closed. We are turning inward and gaining a modicum of civilization. American aviculture is in its infancy and as soon as we learn how to raise a few parrots, finches, and pheasants, we will attempt the insectivores that you so favor. The only difficult chore in the immediate future is to civilize the various cossacks that populate our government. After that it's clear sailing.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED RATES — \$3.00 minimum charge for 4 lines of type (average 7 words per line). Additional charge of 9¢ per word for ad running over 28 words. (28 words to include name, address and phone.) All copy to be **RECEIVED BY 15th** day of month preceding publication.

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FOR SALE: All types of Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos, Lorays, Toucans, Waterfowl, etc. We operate and own our quarantine station! We also rent the station. Louisiana Fauna Institute, P.O. Box 654, Slidell, Louisiana 70459. Phone (504) 643-8978 or 641-7195.

WANTED: Information on Feral Amazon Parrots — for graduate research on behavior and ecology of So. Cal. populations. Numbers, species, locations, activities, etc. Jeff Froke, Box 174, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. (213) 355-3685.

FREE TO GOOD HOME: Black and White spayed female Border Collie — evenly marked, approx. 2 yrs old. Call (714) 548-3133 after 6 p.m.

with care and training of Cage Birds. "Raising Parrakeets for Pleasure and Profit". "Raising Canaries for Pleasure and Profit". \$3.00 each — or both for \$5.00. Mrs. A.D. Myers, 6076 — 82nd Terrace, Pinellas Park, Florida 33565.

WANTED: pair Stanley Rosellas, unrelated, healthy birds, and one Many-color hen (P. varlus). **FOR SALE:** One Massena's Lorikeet. Rudy Yarbrough, 2155 Ferry, Salem, OR 97301, (503) 585-8074.

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FOR SALE: Welded Wire 1/2" x 1/2", 4' x 100'. Also available in 1/2" x 1", 4' x 100' roll. Wholesale price. Jerry Jennings, 1803 Pontius Ave. L.A., CA. (213) 884-5476 evenings.

WANTED: Zebra Finches in quantities of 150 to 1000. Looking for 1st class birds — top prices paid. Write to Novak's Aviary, 113 K Brook Ave., Deer Park, NY 11729.

FOR SALE: Blue-eyed Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, exceptionally beautiful and super tame, has extensive vocabulary, does tricks, has made TV appearances. Price, \$3000. Also Black-capped Lorikeet — semi-tame, \$250.00. Phone (312) 338-4638 (Chicago) after 10 p.m. Wayne Welge.

Lovebirds, Black Masked, Blue, Peachface, all Cockatiels, including Yellow, Scarlet Chested, Plumhead, Alexander Parakeets, Moluccan and Chattering Lories, all aviary bred, Timneh and Normal African Grey. **WANTED:** Crimson and Blue Rosellas — Trade. Harry Linden, (805) 969-1895 Evenings. Santa Barbara Bird Farm.

FOR SALE: 1 pair adult Umbrella Cockatoos in immaculate condition, \$1500. Abyssinian Lovebirds, \$90.00 each. Young unsexes Ring-necked Parrakeets, \$50.00 each. Young Philippine Green Parrots, \$450.00 each. 1 pair European Gold Finches, \$150.00. Male Red-headed Lady Gould, young domestic breed, \$75.00 each. **WANTED:** Hen Lady Gould, Male Blue & Gold Macaw — tame or semi-tame, breeding age. HAPSBURG KENNELS & AVIARIES, 14043 24th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98168. (206) 243-2160.

WANTED: Parrots, Cockatoos, Macaws, maimed — defective, or otherwise unsaleable; free of disease, for private collector with limited funds. Good permanent home. Bethany Franco, 320 Farmington Ave., Hartford, CT. 06105. After 6 p.m. call (203) 527-9941.

WANTED: Highest prices paid for all types and quantities of birds for resale. Adams Bird Shop, 486-7009. 395 E. 200, Cleveland, Ohio 44119.

WANTED: Bird lovers interested in a unique new store selling birds and bird supplies. BIRDLAND, 6066 1/2 University Ave., San Diego, CA. 92115. (714) 583-2940.

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