

# The National Cockatiel Society 1991 Annual Show

by Linda S. Rubin  
National Cockatiel Society Panel Judge  
Chestnut Hills, Massachusetts  
(All rights reserved)

Of the 2,888 birds benched at the National Cage Bird show held November 15 and 16, 1991 in Dearborn, Michigan, 199 entries were entered in the cockatiel division. It was the third largest turnout ever for the National Cockatiel Society, and as the panel judge selected by the NCS membership, I had the pleasure of judging the division.

Traditionally, the National Cockatiel Society's Annual Show is held under the auspices of the National Cage Bird Show, Inc., where the Best In Division winner of each of the show's 13 divisions, including Best Cockatiel, receive the coveted Kellogg Trophy. Kellogg Inc. Seeds and Supplies, manufacturers of a complete line of quality bird foods, has been the sponsor of the Kellogg Awards at the National Cage Bird Show since its inception in 1947.

In addition, the National Cockatiel Society provides its own handsome plaques and awards, plus show sponsors pay for section trophies. And, in 1991, the rosettes provided by NCS were generously subsidized by L/M Animal Farms, manufacturers of a full line of cage bird foods.

During our charter year in 1984, I had the honor of authoring the written NCS Show Standard of Excellence, which consists of a detailed description of the visual qualities sought for in the Ideal Exhibition Cockatiel. Although it is always emphasized that birds are judged by the comparison method and never assigned points at shows, a pointed standard is included as a *guide* for both the judge and the exhibitor, weighing the attributes of the Standard in their relationship to each other.

The NCS Show Standard can be broken down into five major categories consisting of: Conformation, Condition, Department, Color and Markings, and Staging. Although each category is fully described within the written version of the Standard, the weighted scale of points, used *only* as a guide, is included as a sidebar for the reader.

The National Cockatiel Society's largest Annual Show was its first,

held in Chicago in 1984 with 244 entries by 36 exhibitors. The second largest turnout on record was in 1987 in Columbus, Ohio with 233 entries by 44 exhibitors. It is interesting to note the three largest show entries for the NCS National Show were held in the north-easterly states of the mid-western region of the country! Perhaps cockatiel exhibitors from less tropical climates are more eager to take advantage of a National when it comes to town.

The 1991 show in Dearborn boasted 199 cockatiels, of which 170 entries were benched by 22 Advanced Exhibitors, with the remaining 29 entries supported by eight Novice Exhibitors. Due to the large turnout, judging commenced about 8:45 that morning, once all paperwork was found to be in order, and finished somewhere about 5:30 p.m.

Best in Show deservedly went to an exquisitely large and well-muscled, Normal Grey male of impeccable feather condition. This entry held tightly together, consistently displaying great style and carriage, exhibiting well throughout the entire day. He also possessed a good frontal browline, creating the proud "hawk-like" appearance and full crest, which is a desirable part of the NCS Standard, and was totally fearless on the perch. This exhibit certainly had that something extra, that true spirit of showmanship that judges often look for, which shouts "Look at ME!" All in all, it is very hard to fault a bird like this.

In addition to bearing many of the attributes as described in the NCS Show Standard of Excellence, this entry impressed me by the wonderful uniformity and depth of color throughout the entire bird. I have not often seen such exceptional coloring on many Normal Greys of this high quality.

Interestingly, this entry was owned by Wendy Lomas of Gap, Pennsylvania, who did a superb job of conditioning and preparing the entry for show, but was not the breeder of the bird. I later found out after show award presentations that Malinda

Pope of Tampa, Florida was the breeder, and the bird bore Malinda's band code on its closed, traceable legband. As Best In Show was not bred and banded by the exhibitor, the Kellogg division trophy was presented to the next highest ranking bird who was, which turned out to be, the Second Best Cockatiel in show.

This bird was a stately, well-proportioned, and type Normal Grey hen who also excelled in conformation, with good width across the breast, which is characteristic of top exhibition hens. However, the overall length in the body and tail, and

## The NCS Point Standard

### Taken from the NCS Show Standard of Excellence as a Weighted Guide for Exhibitors

The NCS Point Standard exists as a guide for both the judge and the exhibitor in order to search out the best qualities and select the best birds. During a show, however, all birds are judged by the comparison method, using the point standard merely for reference, until the best bird emerges overall.

1. Confirmation: 50 Points
  - A. Size: 20 Points  
14 inches from the top of the crown to the tip of the tail, plus a crest approaching 3 inches.
  - B. Crest: 10 Points  
Length, density and fullness. Ideally towards 3 inches. Lutinos will be weighed more heavily for the degree (or absence) of the bald spot.
  - C. Proportions and Shape: 20 Points  
Fullness of body (breadth and substance). Proportions of head to body to wings to tail. Proper wing carriage (no crossed wings or slouched shoulders).
2. Condition: 20 Points  
Immaculate and excellent feather condition, clean and tightly feathered (tail and flight feathers all in place and unfrayed). Superb health and vigor. No pinfeathers or evidence of overgrown nails or beak.
3. Department: 15 Points  
Steadiness on the perch, good posture (approximately 70 degrees off the horizontal) will reflect good show training by the exhibitor. Birds who refuse to perch after a reasonable amount of time will not be considered for advancement.
4. Color and Markings: 10 Points
  - A. Depth of color or degree of markings: 5 Points
  - B. Uniformity of color or consistency of markings: 5 Points
5. Staging: 5 Points  
There is no official NCS show cage required at this time. However, any standard type cockatiel show cage is highly recommended (or other appropriate, clean staging).





*Best in Show. Normal Grey cock at NCS National Show.*



*Second Best Cockatiel at NCS National, a Normal Grey split Pied hen.*



*A partial view of the Top Bench placings after judging, with Best Cockatiel removed for further competition with other divisions for Best in Show.*

well-defined graduating crest, balanced the width of this well-conformed entry. Perhaps on another afternoon, this bird, bred and exhibited by Carl Helton of Illinois, could easily have accomplished a Best In Show.

Third Best In Show went to perhaps one of the finest Cinnamon hens I have seen in a long time. Large, well-muscled, with excellent width across the breast, good proportions and crest, and of a uniform, solid brown color as required by the Standard, without any evidence of grey overtones. This exhibit was well prepared and owned by Sean Donnelly of Ontario, Canada and, I later learned, wore the closed, coded legband of Canadian breeder Brian Eddie.

As I remarked upon final placement of the Top Bench that day, plainly, any one of the top three birds could readily have been placed Best In Show. Certainly, all three excelled in conformation: including size, proportion and shape, with good back-lines exhibiting proper wing carriage and deportment, excellent feather condition, and steadiness on the perch. Another day, another week, the order could easily have been inverted, or reversed.

Judging, as we explain, is always done "at this point in time," which requires a judge to assess a bird's attributes on the showbench during the period of time in which the entry is placed before him. In a large show with many entries, the duration to view each exhibit may be limited, and many judges try to further award extra time to the novice entries, whenever possible.

We cannot place a bird on potential, even if we feel these qualities are existent, but not yet brought out to full advantage. We can only pass judgement on what an exhibit is showing us *now*, at "this point in time." Certainly, a little good fortune has something to do with it, as a bird may not choose "to show" when it is brought up before the judge, and may therefore be passed over. Although, usually, good show training and well-practiced deportment, can overcome such a problem.

Fourth Best Cockatiel in Show was a splendid example of a Lutino cock of superb length and proportions, and very good substance. Lutinos can be one of the more difficult varieties to keep clean and this entry was in fine feather condition, with abso-





NCS Panel Judge Linda S. Rubin explaining placings after judging.



Best in Division winners, including Best Cockatiel, grouped together for Best in Show judging at the National Cage Bird Show.



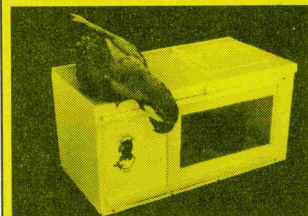
The 1991 Kellogg Trophies at the National Cage Bird Show in honor of the theme of "Motor City."

**THE FEATHER FARM, INC.**  
 Dedicated to protection and conservation through captive propagation  
 "From successful breeders to help breeders be successful!"

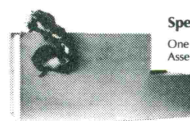
Introduces a new dimension in bird breeding products. . .

LAKE'S DISTRIBUTOR

PRO TECH BROODER



\$175 Baby Protection for the Breeder Who Cares



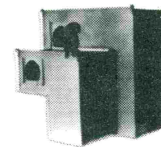
Special Macaw Box  
One size 45" x 21" x 15"  
Assembled - \$125.00

NOW 50% off

Lory Box Option add \$10 per box

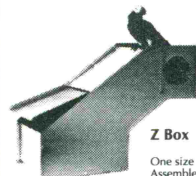
L Box

Large - 24" x 24" x 11"  
Assembled - \$65.00  
Small - 16" x 16" x 8"  
Assembled - \$45.00



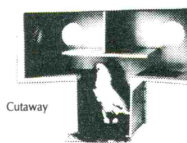
Extend-A L Box

Large - 24" x 30" x 11"  
Assembled - \$85.00  
Small - 16" x 20" x 8"  
Assembled - \$65.00



Z Box

One size 36" x 12"  
Assembled - \$75.00



Cutaway

Super T - With Baffles

Large - 36" x 27" x 15" - Assembled \$95.00  
Medium - 30" x 27" x 15" - Assembled \$85.00  
Small - 24" x 24" x 12" - Assembled \$75.00

- Wood lining available.
- Boxes ordered unassembled come without wood lining.
- Many others not pictured.
- L Box and Z box have left or right entry holes.

- Leading breeder of large Psittacines for over 25 years.
- Now offering a proven product line for the serious aviculturalist.
- Eucalyptus chips and shavings for bedding.
- Breeder cages and doors a specialty!
- Aviary and cage wire now available at the lowest prices anywhere.
- Premium breeder pairs and baby birds always available.
- Most items in stock for immediate shipment.

SASE FOR CATALOGUE



1181 Fourth Avenue • Napa, CA 94559  
(707) 255-8833 • Fax (707) 255-5446



lutely no hint of a bald spot (which is an inherited fault in this mutation). The masking of the Lutino was most satisfactory, without a tell-tale sign of grey, or any melanistic tinge, which would have been revealed by the vitallights overhead.

The NCS Standard does not specify a preference of either white or yellow (lipochrome) coloration in the Lutino, and this entry had snow-white wings amid a more yellow body color, which was perfectly acceptable. Indeed, I have seen a number of pleasing Lutino hens which I have occasionally placed on the Top Bench. However, I have not seen such a fine representative in a cock bird in a long while, which is a credit to owners Don Dunn and Leonard Watson of Georgia who obviously, painstakingly, prepared this entry.

Fifth Best Cockatiel was another large, fine quality, Cinnamon hen of good substance, bred and exhibited by Mike and Sandy Casey of Michigan. This bird was also nicely colored, showing good evidence of rich, brown tones. Too often we see Cinnamons with a decidedly grey coloration, or lessening of pigment (such marbling is more often seen on the backs of males), which would be viewed as a fault.

I was pleased to be able to put up the top bird of the Best Whiteface and Rare section as Sixth Best Cockatiel. This stunning entry was a breathtaking Whiteface-Pearl of excellent size and substance, marked with extensive lacings, owned by Barb Janson and Dale Theeke, also of Michigan.

Had this hen held its crest erect more often than not, and sat at an angle closer to 70 degrees off the horizontal as required, it could have gone much farther up the bench. Although we give each bird as much time as possible, and I gave it "my all," I was unsuccessful in getting this entry to show as competitively as those who placed above it. However, it was a younger bird and it would not surprise me to see its deportment improve in future seasons.

Indeed, some entries can be held back from placing higher, due to such problems as sitting incorrectly on the perch, which may throw off their backline, wing carriage, and affect other areas of conformation, preventing the judge from viewing it at all angles and rendering a more favorable result. It is the judges' job

to artfully convince a bird to move or turn in a showcase, however, there are occasionally entries we see which make this a challenge.

Seventh Best Cockatiel, a well-marked, good size Cinnamon-Pearl split Pied hen, was bred and exhibited by Lloyd Bailey of Wyoming. This hen was of good width, nicely colored, and a good representative of this variety. As with the Sixth Best in Show, the Seventh Best Cockatiel was a cross mutation requiring the satisfactory demonstration of both a color *and* a pattern in a single entry.

Eighth Best Cockatiel went to a type, well-proportioned and superbly conditioned Lutino hen, owned and exhibited by Carol Marr of Massachusetts. This entry, if I may say so, also had a rather full and showy crest which it displayed, without evidence of a bald spot, along with good overall coloring.

The entry was unbanded and, much to my embarrassment, I later learned after the show from Carol, was a bird I had bred some years ago and given her in exchange for handfeeding services. (I went to band the chick at the usual banding time, only to discover its foot had grown too big. Even coating the foot and the interior of the band with vaseline was to no avail and Carol, who had taken the chick for handfeeding, was unable to band it even after weaning).

Ninth Best Cockatiel, I was pleased, went to the next placement in the Whiteface and Rare Section, a wonderfully marked and well-conformed Whiteface-Cinnamon-Pearl-Pied, again bred and exhibited by Lloyd Bailey of Wyoming. It is difficult enough to produce a double, or even triple mutation, exhibiting several colors and/or patterns worthy of the Top Bench, but to breed a quadruple mutation, while retaining size, especially in the Whiteface and Rare category, is quite an accomplishment! This takes true dedication on the part of the breeder to persist in a breeding program of such rigorous standards.

Tenth Best Cockatiel in Show was another excellent quality Normal Grey, this time a cock, bred and exhibited once again by Carl Helton of Illinois. I remember this Grey as a nice, large bird, quite full through the body and wings, while maintaining fine, proportionate length.

In compliance with the Standard, I'd like to remark that all the Top Bench winners, with the exception of the Whiteface varieties,

had generally good cheek patches of favorable size and color, and all had seemingly clear wingbars, without fault of extraneous colors or markings.

The Best Novice Cockatiel in the show went to a nicely proportioned and well-conditioned, Normal Grey male, bred and exhibited by James Vegeais of Ohio. The top ten were such exceptionally large birds, it was difficult to work the Best Novice into the Top Bench, unfortunately. Still, the breeder of the Best Novice bird should be proud, as it was a *very* fine entry.

The novices of today are the advanced breeders of tomorrow, and so we honor their accomplishments with their own Top Bench. To continue: Second Best Novice went to a Lutino-Pearl hen, bred by Janet Landvater; Third and Fourth Best Novice were a Normal cock and a Normal Grey split Pied hen, owned by Jan Bishop; Fifth Best Novice was a Cinnamon-Pearl split Whiteface hen owned by Jim Rauls; Sixth and Seventh Best Novice were a Cinnamon-Pearl-Pied cock and a Cinnamon-Pied cock, bred by Curt Marsee; Eighth Best Novice was a Lutino-Pearl hen, owned by Karen Kanine; Ninth Best Novice went to a Normal Grey hen bred by Deb Maneke; and 10th Best Novice was a Normal Grey split Pied hen, again owned by Karen Kanine.

In order to do a good job, a judge must have a knowledgeable and supportive show committee to smoothly channel through procedures, and the 1991 Show Committee was no exception. Many, many thanks to a most able group of secretaries, stewards and ribbon tiers: Nancy, Craig and Sandra Kizuka; Mike, Sandy and Kelley Casey; Jan and Joe Beregszaszy; and Curt Marsee. They were all a credit to NCS and the National Cage Bird Show.

A round of applause and congratulations to all the winners! Many other well-deserving birds were seen on the showbench that day, but for one reason or another, were unable to make it any further "at that time." And, that was a phrase many heard through the day as, they were told, and they *knew*, "at another point in time;" and with the right stuff, it could then be *their* day!

#### Reference

Rubin, Linda, S. "NCS Show Standard of Excellence", NCS Magazine. 1984/1985. ●