

# Canary Culture

by Tony Bucci

What do we mean when we say "type" canary? Border, Norwich, Gloster, Yorkshire are the most popular "type" canaries. However, Lizard, Scotch Fancy, Frill, Lancashire, Belgian, Fife and London Fancy are also classified as "type" canaries. With exception of Frill and Belgian all of the above mentioned canaries are of British origin.

"Type" canaries are bred strictly for their shape or shall we say conformation.

Each of the above mentioned canaries has its own shape and size. Breeders must attempt to breed the closest possible shape to resemble the model created by the particular specialty Club.

In future articles I will attempt to describe each breed in detail.

Now let us look at some other breeds, where "Type" is not of primary importance, and what we mean when we say, "you must breed type into the canary."

If you breed color bred canaries there is a tendency to disregard the type features. Type features are important in

Fig. 2 — GOOD

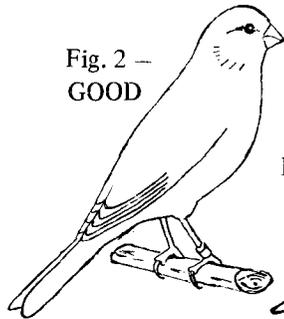
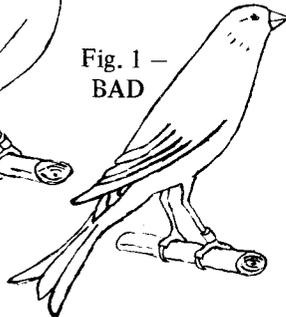


Fig. 1 — BAD



color bred canaries also. Let us look at some of the bad points in Figure 1 and compare them to the good or Type features in Fig. 2. First let us examine Fig. 1;

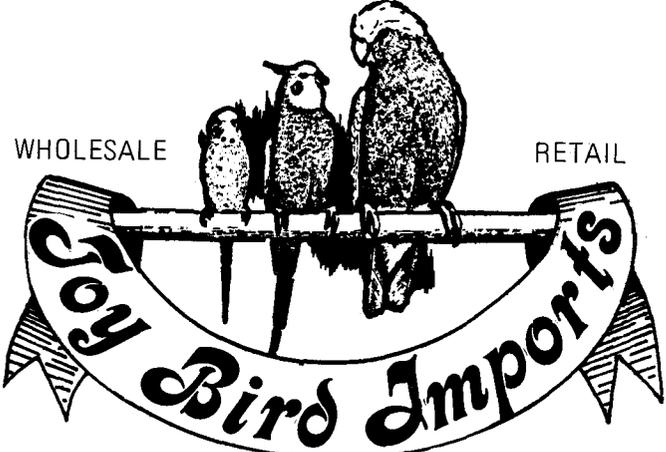
note the head, it is small and pointy. This bad feature is sometimes described as "snake head". Now notice Fig. 2, the head is nice and round. This is what we refer to as a nice Type head.

Again compare the two drawings, notice the body in Fig. 2, the back is full and the chest is round. Now look at the tail, it should come to a point, it should not fan out.

Look at Fig. 1; note the crossed wings — one of the worst features. One more point, the thighs should not show too much. I have pointed out the five most obvious features to look for when selecting your bird to perpetuate good looking "Type" conformation.

Just to show you the importance of Type; this year the Southern California Bird Club will judge red factor canaries 60% for type and 40% for color at their annual show, November 14-15-16, held at Alondra Park Community Building, 3850 W. Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale, California. Bring your canaries to the show, and learn where you stand with your birds. They will also have Exotics and Hookbill sections at the show. Remember, when you select your canary for show, to look for those good Type points. ■

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