

in a single day, when the chance occurs, notes that destroy the finest song.

Great differences are found in these birds in quality of voice and execution, but, with a fine bird as tutor, some of the young birds will be found to equal, and, sometimes, one to excel him.—*Fanciers' Gazette.*



### A MODEL RABBITRY.

We recently visited the new Rabbitry of Messrs. Barber & Co., and think a description of it may prove interesting to our fanciers of this particular branch.

The building in which it is, is a solid brick one, the lower part of which is to be devoted to fowls, and has a concrete floor with sewer taps, so that the entire floor may be flushed and thoroughly cleansed. The story above is the rabbitry proper, and is some thirty feet long and ten feet wide with a match-board floor, gas and water laid on and a hot air ventilator from the kitchen of the dwelling house, so that in the coldest weather "bunny" may be made comfortable.

The hutches were not finished when we were through, but they are to be at the back of the house facing the west. Ample allowance is made for ventilation and fresh air.

The proprietors are determined to have the best lot of Lops in America, and in addition to the rabbits imported some time ago and mentioned in R.E.V.I.W., have just received from England a grand black and white buck measuring 23 inches and weighing 14 lbs., and a 23 inch golden-fawn doe.

The inmates now consist of Lops of various colours, black and white Dutch and Silver Creams.

One of the sights of Parry Sound is a tame otter. He follows his master,

Mr. Sarkey, wherever he goes, and can be depended upon to catch fish for the entire family.

### THE LOP-EARED RABBIT.

BY R. O. EDWARDS,

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This, the first of all varieties of the rabbit, is supposed to be a native of Great Britain; however, considerable doubt upon that point is entertained by many who have looked into the matter.

To a certain extent the lop of to-day is a manufactured animal, for even if rabbits were created with drooping ears, such a length as is now obtained has never before been known.

At times half-lops, horn-lops, and oar-lops are heard of, but the only one recognized by fanciers is the true double lop. A rabbit with drooping ears which measure from seventeen to twenty five inches, may be termed a fancy one, of course provided it has the other essential points, such as colour, &c. The ears are measured from the tip of one ear to the tip of the other for length, but for breadth only one ear is taken, and at the broadest place. The ears should fall gracefully, one on each side of the head; they should be free from knots and tears.

The lop shows a handsome variety of colours, fawn or yellow, grey, blue, black, and sooty-fawn; this latter is a fawn shaded off with a deep brown or black; all these are known as self-colours. The part or broken coloured are, fawn and whites, grey and whites, blue and whites, and black and whites. Tortoiseshells also come under the heading of broken colours, they are sooty-fawn and white, yellow and white. Tortoiseshells and black and whites are the favourite colours.

The white should be neatly broken

into the colour on the face, shoulders and hind feet. The doe when fully matured should show a very handsome cushion on the chest, which, when she is resting, adds very much to her beauty; this cushion or pouch is known as a "dew-lap."

When breeding, almost any two colours may be crossed; however, blues do not cross very well with either yellow or tortoiseshells.

Pulling the ears to make them grow is of no use at all, good blood and warm hutches, together with a little common sense, alone will obtain the desired length. Never keep more than about three young ones on a doe, and of course be careful to keep those which show signs of size, length of ear, and also strength. Be sure to feed the doe well when she has her young, which should not be removed from her until fully eight weeks old; sixteen weeks is not uncommon.

A good lop should weigh from about 9 lbs. to 15 lbs. or more. The eye should be large, clear, and well shaped. All the limbs should be free from any kind of deformity. The ears of the lop do not grow much after the rabbit is sixteen weeks old. The body of the doe does not fully mature until she has been bred from, but the buck should not be allowed to breed until quite nine months old.

Lops sell at from a few shillings to £30; however, very good blood stock can be obtained at about £3 or £4 a pair. Be sure to have a good buck, and keep him healthy and clean, these latter instructions also apply to the doe, and the young, for if not kept clean rabbits will never thrive. At present Scotland is behind with the rabbit fancy, but before long more classes with better prizes will be offered at shows, and then perhaps it will be a struggle between north and south for premier honours.—*The Scottish Fancier and Rural Gazette.*