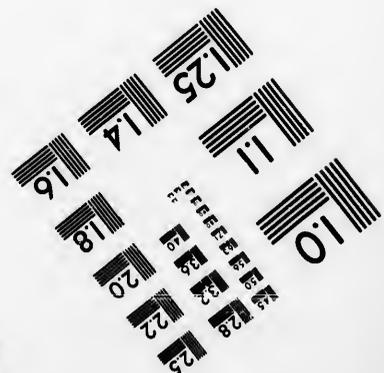
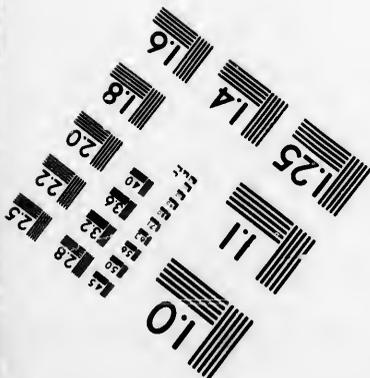
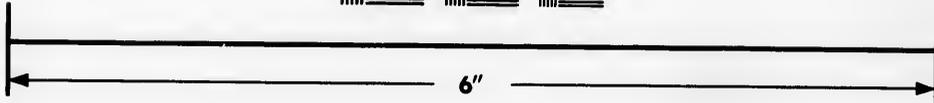
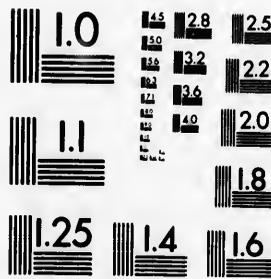


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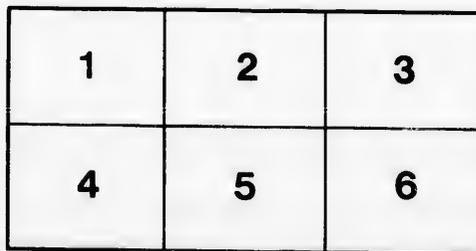
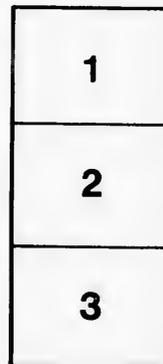
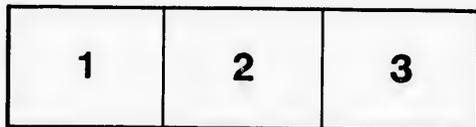
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BROCK'S BOOK ON BIRDS

BEING A COMPLETE GUIDE
ON THE

FOOD, DISEASES, BREEDING, JUDGING,
WASHING, AND COLOUR FEEDING
OF CANARIES.

With Valuable Information on Parrots
and other Cage Birds.

By JAMES NICHOLSON.

PUBLISHED BY
NICHOLSON & BROCK.

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Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada in the year
one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, by Nicholson
& Brock, in the office of the Minister of Agriculture.

PREFACE.



Prefaces are rarely read, therefore this will be brief. Being large dealers in Bird Foods, and having a business that extends from Halifax to Vancouver, we are frequently asked for a book on the treatment of Cage Birds in general, and Canaries in particular, and not knowing any book of the kind in Canada that was written to supply the popular demand, we have done our best to fill what we believe to be a long felt want.

Besides relating our own experience we have not hesitated to consult the best British works of authority and are particularly indebted to "Dyson's Book on Birds" and "Cassell's Canaries and Cage Birds," the latter being an expensive work and rather beyond the limited means of many of our most enthusiastic breeders. We have noticed that many different dealers have issued books treating on cage birds, and have drawn largely on both these works, but have not thought fit to give the credit where it was due.

Only fragments of time in a busy business life have been devoted to this work, and no claim is made to literary style, but if the book is a real help to the public generally—and perhaps some of the more experienced bird fanciers may find it useful—we will consider that our labour has not been in vain.

NICHOLSON & BROCK.

Toronto, Canada.

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How index learning turns no student pale,
Yet holds the eel of science by the tail.

—Pope.

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CRESTED NORWICH HEN.

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MY BIRD.

I wish you could see my dear little bird,
He's the sweetest singer you ever heard ;
If things go right, or if things go wrong,
He is just so happy all day long.

You would laugh, I know, to see him bathe;
No labour or water does birdie save,
He'll duck in his head, how the water will fly
All round and above him ever so high.

When he is clean he will hop on his swing, [sing,
And smooth down his feathers, and then how he'll
Sing all day long, till we shut out the light,
Then he is quiet, and thinks it is night.

He teaches a lesson some never learn,
" Make others happy " if you would earn
Joy for yourself which will not depart,
The joy of a loving unselfish heart.

—Carley.



THE CANARY.

The origin of this famous songster, which delights the homes of many millions in nearly every part of the habitable globe, and is so greatly prized for its excellence of song, its symmetry of form, its beautiful plumage, its pleasing disposition, its aptness for learning, and the readiness with which it breeds in confinement, was the islands from which it derives its name. The Canary Islands are a small group,

in the Atlantic Ocean 27° to 33° north latitude, and being situated in the southern part of the north temperate zone they enjoy through the year a mild and pleasant climate. The native bird is chiefly found in the mountainous districts, where an abundant supply of trees and flowers favour his existence. His home is sometimes as much as five or six thousand feet above the level of the sea.

The wild birds mate generally about the latter part of March, and the nest is never found less than eight feet from the ground, but often a greater height. A tall sapling of the evergreen species or such as produce their foliage at an early season is always selected for the nest. The female bird usually lays five eggs (one each day) the colour of which is a pale sea-green with reddish brown spots. During the period of incubation which is generally thirteen days, the male bird takes his position near the nest, and with his charming melody cheers the female, as with a mother's patience she sacrifices her own enjoyment to the welfare of her future offspring. The young are fed by both parents and never leave the nest until fully fledged, and even then the affectionate parent does not cease his care, but continues to watch over and feed them for some time.

Whilst the singing of the wild bird is similar to that of its domesticated relation it cannot be

denied that the latter has greatly improved his song from listening perhaps to the warbling of other birds.

It was about the beginning of the sixteenth century that the canary became first known in Europe, when a ship having a large number on board and bound for Leghorn was wrecked on the coast of Italy. The birds having regained their liberty, flew to the nearest land, which happened to be the island of Elba, where they found so mild a climate that they built their nests there, and became very numerous. But the desire to possess such beautiful songsters led to their being hunted after, and it is in Italy we find the first tame canaries, and here they are still reared in great numbers.

So attractive has been found the canary on account of its pretty form and charming qualities of its mind that it is now kept and reared throughout the whole of Europe, Australia, and North America. Indeed, as Bechstein has justly remarked, "the qualities of its mind are as varied, or even more so than its plumage, for amongst them it has been discovered, as amongst quadrupeds, and even men, some individuals are gay, and others melancholy; some quarrelsome, others mild; some intelligent, others stupid; some with quick memories, others lazy; some greedy, others frugal; some petulant, others gentle; some ardent, others cold."

The green bird of the Canary Isles has become greatly altered in plumage by a long course of cross breeding, but the original colour still appears in many of the birds bred in England and Canada, and are generally regarded as the strongest birds. In Europe where the breeding of birds is reduced to a science, some thirty varieties of the Canary are recognized. Beneath we give a schedule of a Canary and Cage Bird Society held in Toronto from which the reader will get some idea of the different varieties of Canaries bred in Canada :

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Belgians. | 19. Crest-bred, a. o. v., any colour. |
| 2. Scotch, Clear Yellow. | 20. Lizards, Clear Cap, Gold. |
| 3. Scotch, Yellow Marked. | 21. Lizards, Clear Cap, Silver. |
| 4. Scotch, Clear Buff. | 22. Lizards, Broken Cap, any colour. |
| 5. Scotch, Buff Marked. | 23. Yorkshire, Clear Yellow. |
| 6. Scotch, hens, Yellow, a.v. | 24. Yorkshire, Yellow Marked. |
| 7. Scotch, hens, Buff, a.v. | 25. Yorkshire, Clear Buff. |
| 8. Norwich, Clear Yellow. | 26. Yorkshire, Buff Marked. |
| 9. Norwich, Yellow Marked. | 27. Cinnamon, Yellow. |
| 10. Norwich, Clear Buff. | 28. Cinnamon, Buff. |
| 11. Norwich, Buff Marked. | 29. Novice class, a.v. Canary. |
| 12. Norwich, hens, Yellow, a.v. | 30. Colou Fed. |
| 13. Norwich, hens, Buff, a.v. | 31. Stock Pairs. |
| 14. Crested Norwich, Yellow or Yellow Marked. | 32. Mules. |
| 15. Crested Norwich, Buff or Buff Marked. | 33. Goldfinch. |
| 16. Crested, a.o.v., Yellow or Yellow Marked. | 34. Bullfinch. |
| 17. Crested, a.o.v., Buff or Buff Marked. | 35. British Birds. |
| 18. Crest-bred Norwich, any colour. | 36. Any Variety Bird not already mentioned. |

A.V. means "any variety," and A.O.V. "any other variety."

Besides which the following classes are found in another Canary and Cage Bird Society's schedule, viz.:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Lancashire Coppies. | Common Canary, a.v. |
| Lancashire Plainheads. | German, a.v. |
| London Fancy. | Green Canaries, a.v. |
| First Cross Fancy, a.v. | |

We now turn to a description of the different varieties of the Canary.

The entire canary family is divided into two colour classes, yellow and buff, which are synonymous with the terms *jonque* and *mealy*; but inasmuch as these terms do not express the real colour, they must be regarded as purely technical. For example we speak of a yellow green or a buff green, a yellow cinnamon or a buff cinnamon, when it is easily seen that neither green nor cinnamon can be either yellow or buff really, and the words, therefore, taken in their general application are technicalities. The explanation is simple, whatever is the body colour of the canary, whether it be literally green, yellow, or cinnamon, or whether it be a lizard, it has two forms in which it manifests itself. One is bright and for want of a better term, we will say luminous, polished and glittering; the other dull and flat, and is by comparison what frosted silver or dead gold is to the burnished metal. The first is the yellow form and the other buff; and one or the other presents itself in every canary or canary hybrid.

ry Isles has been by a long course of final colour still bred in England and regarded as the best where the breeding is done, some thirty varieties. Beneath the name of Canary and Cage Bird Society which the reader will find in the present varieties of

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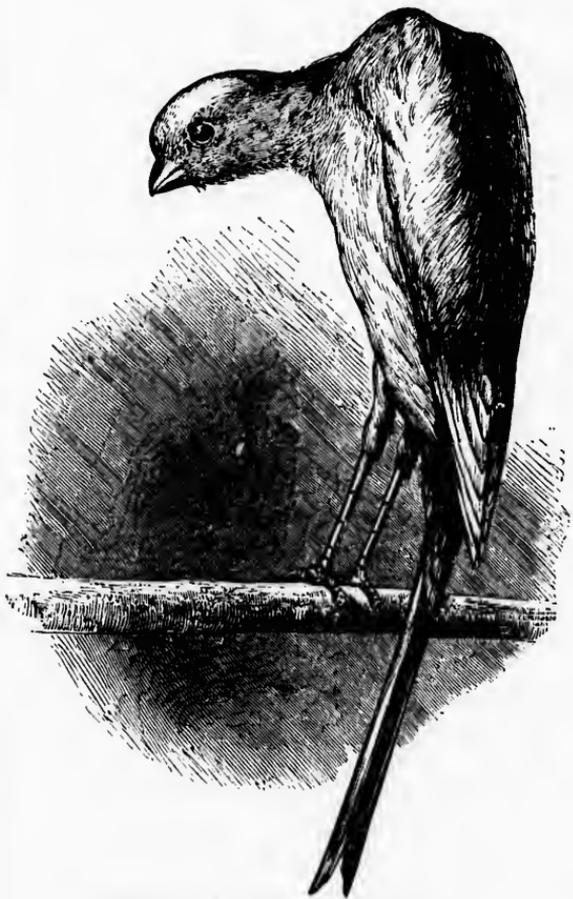
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THE BELGIAN CANARY.

The Belgian canary, so called because originally from Belgium. The head is singularly neat and is an evidence of careful breeding in one direction. To a casual observer, the head of one canary may appear pretty much like that of another; but the eye of the fancier at once detects a marked difference. It is smaller in the Belgian, in proportion to the size of the bird, than in any other variety—the Scotch Fancy, which is an offshoot from this tribe, only excepted—and is much flatter on the crown, causing the bird to be what is known as “snake-headed.” The neck appears to be formed on a telescopic plan being capable of a remarkable degree of extension or elongation when the bird is in what is known as “position.” At present we are speaking of the bird being “at ease,” the body assuming nearly the same posture as when “in position,” but the head and neck an entirely different one. When “at ease” the head projects from the body as nearly as possible at a right angle, the summit of the crown and tips of the shoulders being about the same level. The shoulders themselves are very high and prominent, and in a good specimen should be broad and massive. The breast itself should be prominent, but not full or broad. The wings are long and cannot be carried in too

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BELGIAN : SHAPE AND POSITION.

compact a form, their apparent length depends a great deal on how a bird is standing, but in a good specimen they will frequently reach to a point below the junction of the feet with the legs, and consequently below the surface of the perch on which the bird is standing. The body from the breast downwards should gradually taper, the feathers of the vent and lower regions merging in those of the under tail coverts in a regular way. The tail is long and narrow and should appear like a continuation of the taper arrangement of the body rather than of a fish-tail form. The shape and arrangement of the tail feathers necessitate the formation of a small fork at the extremity, but the more compact the tail, the smaller will be this fork, and the nearer will the tail approach to the standard which requires to be piped as opposed to expanded. Thighs and legs should be long and straight, the former well covered and hidden for the greater portion of their length in the feathers of the body. The feathers throughout should be fine in quality and compact, but shape and position cover a multitude of sins in a Belgian.

Such is the Belgian canary in his formation, the peculiarities of which are not presented to the eye until in a state of nervous excitement he braces himself together and shows what the little frame is capable of doing in the way of "position." On entering a room in which a

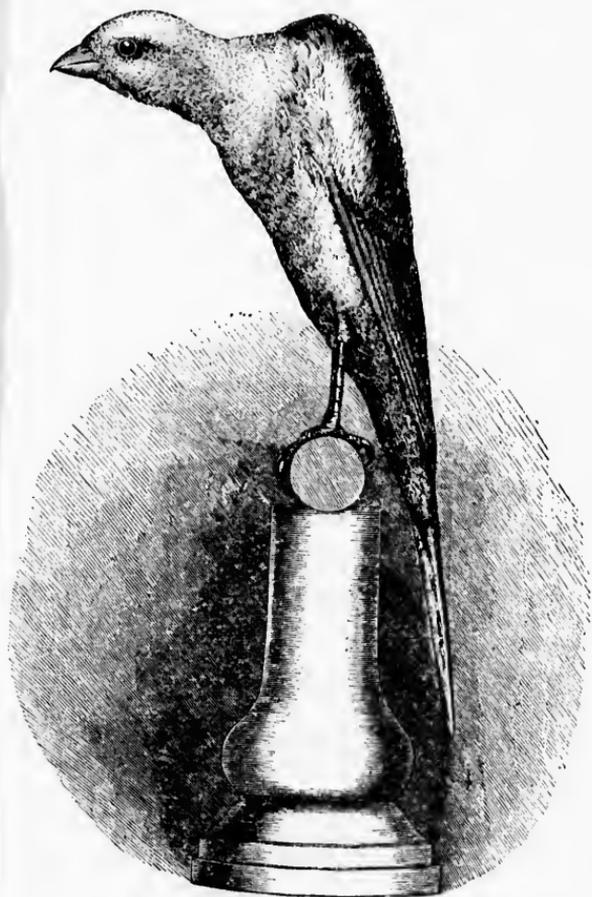
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number of Belgians may be caged singly or in numbers in flight cages, we are not at first struck with the peculiar merit of any one specimen. The very best of them which when put in position may exhibit the most remarkable conformation is seen hopping about in the most slovenly manner from one perch to another or sitting apparently in meditation. His legs are certainly too long and set too far back, he cannot, when on the bottom of the cage, keep his tail off the ground, and when pecking at a grain of seed stiffens his legs into two splinters, straightens his tail into the same line with the body and looks eminently uncomfortable. This is one of those extraordinary Belgians we have heard so much about. No wonder his beauties have no charm for the vulgar crowd and well may it require an educated eye to discover them. Wait awhile. He hops on a low perch, and from that to a higher, drops his tail, which was never intended to be dragged about on the ground, pulls himself together a little, stretches an inch or two and is already different to what he was a moment ago. You pass him into an open show cage, and possibly one or two others hop in at the same time. Let them remain; there may be something in them, for surely those ungainly frames and apparently badly-proportioned forms were made for some purpose not yet evident. But we must get them on even terms, for one is

standing turned in an opposite direction to the rest. They may look a little alarmed and may be not very steady, but a few minutes will set them to rights. Our well-bred Belgian is not a bird to be jostled about roughly, he is accustomed to polite society. Hang the cage a little higher about the level of the eye in a corner of the room where the birds will not be distracted by the bustle and twitter in the other cages. Do not lift the cage by the top, or the birds will perhaps cower and become frightened; take it by the bottom and keep the hand out of sight. They are altogether different birds to what we saw. They are standing in an erect attitude with their legs straightened, their wings tucked up closely, tails so near in a line with the back that it can be called straight. The straighter the line the better although some breeders prescribe as the correct line a form having an appreciable curve. See the illustration of the model cast in bronze of one of the Flemish societies. This formation is not depicted in the previous illustration, but it is nevertheless a life study of a bird which could do almost anything in regard to position. Having our birds nicely steadied and approaching them quietly, first divesting ourselves of our tall hat, an object of dislike to a sensible Belgian, an evidence of its superior intelligence and good taste—we gently scratch the underneath part of the cage with the

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BELGIAN : BRONZE MODEL.

fingers or a little wand. Sometimes a mere tick or gentle tap will do, and *when* it will do, the less rubbing and scrubbing and chirping, the better. Just a faint tap and a little scratch to attract attention, and they draw themselves up farther and farther till their legs are perfectly straight and rigid, showing a portion of the thigh; a little more and an encouraging chirp and the shoulders are raised, higher and higher, and still higher yet, as if the bird were trying to reach a point which, once touched, still cannot be maintained without continued exertion, consisting not in an undignified straining but singularly graceful action. In this straining with the shoulders the head is depressed and the neck stretched to its extreme limit, not with any distressing exertion, but with the most consummate ease and grace; and in that posture it will stand, occasionally turning its head on one side and looking up with a soft pensive grace, with nothing defiant about it, but simply an air of thoroughbred gentility and quiet dignity.

And now note the direction of the head and beak when the bird is thus extended, as contrasted with their position when "at ease." When at rest, that is, when standing in a fairly erect attitude without being in any way excited, at which time we have said the top of the head and shoulders are about in the same straight line, then and *only then* is the head in a hori-

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zontal position. The moment a bird begins to extend its neck or to "reach" as it is technically termed, and the head is correspondingly depressed, its direction is altered and it begins to point *downwards* continuing to do so till, at the extreme point of extension and depression, the previously concave or beautifully hollowed upper line of the neck becomes arched and the head is bent until the beak points *inwards*. This is "position." It is not a question of training for if it be in the bird it will come out, but if it be not there, all the training that can be brought to bear will not develop what does not exist. Undoubtedly a bird placed the first time in a show and asked to do his best at five minutes notice will not do so well as one that has been in many shows before. The one is agitated and restless, the other cool and equal to the occasion.

THE SCOTCH FANCY CANARY.

The Scotch Fancy Canary is known also as the Glasgow Fancy and the Glasgow Don, and may be defined as a Belgian built on a curve instead of on the ordinary rectangular scaffolding. The head of a good specimen is flatter than a Belgian's, and set on a long neck which should neither be thick nor clumsy, the head, neck, back, and tail should form one continuous arc, according to some authorities. Yet birds have been seen in Glasgow keenly contesting prizes

in which the junction of the neck with the back is more angular than curvilinear, but whatever the character of the contour, the broad back and massive shoulder of the Belgian must give way to a well rounded and narrow contour



SCOTCH FANCY.

shoulder. The back is long and convex, the wings long and carried close to the body, showing plenty of side to help to define the contour of the bird. The tail long and compact, broad at the base and tapering, anything like a fish tail being out of character, it must not be tucked under the perch as if the bird was frightened, but curve gracefully in the same line as the body. A prominent breast is a feature in a Belgian, but not so in a Scotch Fancy. An otherwise good bird is often passed over because, as the judges remark, it requires the spokeshave. It is not of so much importance that the bird be very fine and slim, though these are strong points, as that it should be proportionate and shapely, plumage is not a strong point.

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THE NORWICH CANARY.

The Norwich Canary stands at the head of
 colour group canaries, and is perhaps the most
 general favourite of the entire tribe, certainly
 the most extensively bred both in England and



CLEAR YELLOW NORWICH HEN.

Canada, being the embodiment of the popular
 idea of the bird, and the chief source from
 whence springs three-fourths of the home cage

birds in the Dominion. It is easily recognized as a brilliantly-illuminated edition of the yellow every day canary and takes its name from the city of Norwich, England, in which it has for generations been cultivated. It is a plump chubby bird, as opposed to length and slenderness; stoutly built and of bold carriage; quick and active in its movements and lusty in its song, and when at rest stands at an angle of about forty degrees, measured from a base line drawn from the tip of the tail. The head should be broad across the skull, and inclined to be flat rather than high and round. A bird with a small narrow head shows to poor advantage and has a curious expression when facing you, giving one the idea of being out of drawing. The richest colour is found on the crown, and the larger the surface the better the effect. No idea of coarseness should attach to it, but neatness and elegance and delicate feathering should be its characteristics; coarse feathering and overhanging eyebrows indicate a cross in the direction of size not bred out. The eye is dark, full, bright, and sparkling; the beak a clear pinkish white and free from discolouration, though the whole or half of the upper mandible is sometimes dark, and although this is no disqualification yet everything else being equal, the clear beak would win. The neck is inclined to be short, the under part forming in profile a

It is easily recognized in the yellow edition of the yellow takes its name from the and, in which it has for rated. It is a plump to length and slinness; d carriage; quick and and lusty in its song, at an angle of about from a base line drawn. The head should be and inclined to be flat und. A bird with a to poor advantage and when facing you, give out of drawing. The in the crown, and the er the effect. No idea ch to it, but neatness feathering should be feathering and over- a cross in the direc- . The eye is dark. The beak a clear pink- discolouration, though upper mandible is ough this is no dis- else being equal, the neck is inclined to forming in profile a

perfect line of beauty with the breast which should be broad and full and feathered as smoothly as it is possible to conceive. The back is broad, rising very slightly immediately after the juncture with the neck, forming a very delicate curve, and must show most compact feathering without the slightest disposition to open in the middle, which is not an uncommon feature in some varieties. The wings must be firmly closed without a symptom of drooping and tucked in close to the body. The shoulders should be well covered and show no projection of any kind, the feathering throughout the whole of this part being of the closest possible character, compactness being most necessary conditions for the exhibition of colour.

The thighs should be well covered with silky "fluff" r: it down to the hocks. The legs, toes, and claws should be free from all defects. The Norwich canary is a jolly, comfortable sort of bird and is not a large one, though size has its value when combined with colour and quality displayed in excess, a combination very rare.

CRESTED NORWICH.

Crested Norwich is an offshoot of the Norwich, and takes its name from the topping or crest which adorns its head, it used to be called the "turncrown" but the word is now exploded.

All the properties which become the Norwich canary should be found in the crested variety of the same family in as great degree as possible always remembering there *must* be good crest. In shape it should as nearly as possible be circular in form, though such are rare, most of them being elliptical. In size it should extend in front over the greater portion of the beak, the circumference passing round to the back of the head in the plane of the eyes, which should be almost, if not entirely hidden, giving the bird an arch expression. The chief thing about a crest is its size and shape—colour is an after consideration. Size depends upon the length of feather, shape upon its distribution. A small crest will make any head look mean and spare, but a small head can carry a large crest. The most beautiful forms of crest are the long, wide, flat, silky feather type. (See frontispiece.)

CREST BRED NORWICH.

Crest bred Norwich is a bird bred from one parent that is crested and the other plain-headed, but with crested blood in it. The same should be large and bold with an abundance of long feathers. If a show specimen, it should have a large head, and the feathers, although smooth on the top, should be long; such, of course, commands a fair price, although nothing like the crested,

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THE LIZARD CANARY.

The Lizard Canary has been named we think
 from the striking resemblance its glittering
 plumage bears to the back of its scaly prototype.
 In size it is rather smaller than the average run
 of Norwich birds. There are the Golden
 Spangled and Silver Spangled Lizards. The
 golden bird is not really of a yellow or gold



CLEAR CAPPED LIZARD.

colour, but is rather as regards what is called its
 body-colour a rich dark bronzy yellow, and the
 richer, warmer, and purer the tone of this body-
 colour the more valuable it is. The head is one
 of the most important features of a good Lizard,
 and while having extreme neatness and finish
 must also have a good width of skull in order

that it may show to the greatest advantage, what is held by many fanciers to be the greatest ornament of the bird, viz., the cap, which in a Golden Lizard is a patch of pure yellow, and in a Silver pure buff, covering the crown. The general appearance of a Lizard is dark and he belongs to a dark-flue school; light points are as a matter of contrast objectionable; as a matter of breeding, still more so. Dark beak, dark legs, and ebony claws are the correct thing for a Lizard; they are his hat, gloves, and boots—things some people do not care about—we do. He should be a perfect gentleman in all the details of his dress. There is a fitness in things: sheep-skin kid gloves, sizes too large, and seditious looking boots spoil the best costume. In breeding, pair gold with silver always, and as a rule, one should be clear-capped and the other broken-capped. The gain from mating the golds may be set down as comprising improvement in colour and in brilliancy of spangle; the loss, falling off in size, want of compactness of feather and consequent lack of regularity in arrangement of spangle. As far as possible mate dark birds. Remember that dark feather means dark spangling and that the Lizard will deteriorate in this respect quickly if encouraged. White beak, white legs, and white claws are frequently followed by white some thing else. The Lizard possesses its show plum-

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age for one year only. The changes which take
 place at the first and second moults are these:
 In common with all others of the family, the
 bird casts its entire suit at the first moult except
 the flights and tail feathers, which retain their
 original dark hue while the body puts on its
 spangle, and it is then as we have said in its
 show dress. At the second moult the whole is
 renewed with a great alteration in character.
 The body-feathers become much lighter, the
 delicate marginal fringe turns paler in the gold,
 and whiter in the silver, and a general fading
 results. This takes place with all Lizards, but
 with some more than others.

Lizards for show purposes are divided into
 gold and silver spangled, and these again into
 clear and broken caps. A perfect cap should be
 bounded by a line commencing at the top of the
 beak and passing over the top of the eye round
 to the back of the head in the same plane and
 returning the same way on the other side. It
 must not come lower than the top of the eye, and
 the boundary line at this part should be a hair
 line of clearly defined feathers; any intru-
 sion of the surrounding feathers on the clear
 surface constituting what is known as a broken
 cap. Some Lizards are very fair songsters but
 they cannot be recommended as first class ones.

THE YORKSHIRE CANARY.

The Yorkshire canary is a smart, bold, defiant bird. The head should be round, of medium



THE YORKSHIRE.

size, and narrow skull. The neck long and straight, between the neck and shoulders there must not be the slightest hollow of any kind

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YORKSHIRE CANARY.

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the shoulders beautifully rounded, well filled in, and narrow; long taper wings, the long flights tucked in closely and stowed away tip to tip at the end of a long narrow back; the tail must be long, perfectly straight, narrow, and flat. The breast must be narrow and perfectly round, which taken in conjunction with the narrow shoulders means small girth, another important point. The Yorkshire is the "genteel" bird of the canary species and is a good hardy variety.

THE CINNAMON CANARY.

The cinnamon canary is so called on account of its colour, resembling the ordinary cinnamon commerce. There are two types, the Norwich and Yorkshire, and there are both yellows and buffs. A good specimen should have no foul (white) feathers in it. There is also the Cinnamon Green canary; *i.e.* a desirable cross with a Green canary and a Cinnamon canary. These are useful for again crossing with a Cinnamon to produce depth of colour. To improve size, a very close-feathered crested-bred is occasionally united to, and then crossed with Cinnamons again and again.

THE LANCASHIRE COPPY.

SHIRE.

The neck long and
and shoulders there
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The Lancashire Cobby is the largest of all of the canary tribe. The word "Cobby" signifies a crest or topping, and this bird is bred chiefly in Lancashire, a county in England that has four

millions of people. In the county of Lancaster the Cobby reigns conjointly with its companion, the Plainhead, and though one of the most interesting birds of the whole canary family it seldom travels outside its own county, and practically cannot be bought in Canada, for it is not bred here, and very rarely imported. In stature he is the giant of the family, standing almost a full head and shoulders above his fellows. Length and massive proportions, a large crest, and a bold, defiant, erect stand are its characteristic traits. The Plainhead is the non-crested form of the bird and in no way differs from the bird in contour, its head only requiring special description. A Plainhead skull should be large and flat, and very broad with heavy overhanging eyebrows; and in place of the neat, short feather, which gives finish to the head of all other canaries, the presence of a redundant crop, as if with very little encouragement it would grow into a crest, is a desirable feature. The neck is moderately long and also straight. The shoulders broad and well filled, but not prominent. The back is broad, long, and the straighter the better, but the tendency of all long canaries is in the direction of a curve. When fully developed, a bird of this variety will measure as much as eight inches long, from tip of beak to end of tail, but such birds are more often talked about than seen. People often ask for a very large Lanca-

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shire at the same time stating it must be a *young* bird. It is impossible to have a young Lancashire its full size the first year; like large varieties of dogs, etc., it takes time. One does not expect a St. Bernard dog to get its full growth so quickly as a fox terrier. The second year sees a good healthy bird of this kind much stouter in body.

THE LONDON FANCY CANARY.

The London Fancy canary is the dearest and rarest of the canary family. A well known authority said some years ago, "The breed was never popular, and cannot easily become so." In the adult bird the body-colour is of the richest hue. It is seen in the richest profusion on the crown as is usual with colour birds; and in all the old standards considerable weight is attached to "purity and richness." Throughout the entire bird, and notably on the breast, deep golden orange should prevail. Beak, legs, feet, and claws should be black.

Birds are singing round my window
Tunes the sweetest ever heard,
And I hang my cage there daily,
But I never catch a bird.

So with thoughts my brain is peopled,
And they sing there all day long;
But they will not fold their pinions
In the little cage of song.

—Stoddard.

THE SONG BIRD.

Beside the pleasant window swings
 My happy pet canary;
 He answers to my call, and sings
 With voice so loud and merry,
 A prisoner? No; just hear his voice
 Ring out its gay, glad story;
 The brass cage is a royal home
 He loves to sing its glory.

—Anon.

Of the many varieties of canaries, undoubtedly the most popular in Canada, Great Britain, and the United States is the German. These birds may be divided into three classes: the Hartz mountain or common German canary; the St. Andreasberg or trained singers, and the Campanini or trainers, as they are sometimes called.

HARTZ MOUNTAIN CANARIES.

The Hartz mountain canaries are the most popular both in Canada and the United States, and are probably the most satisfactory for the people. They are bred by the peasants in ordinary living rooms, high up among the Hartz mountains of Germany, and their music is a restful melody and they endear themselves by their cheery song, bright plumage, and active ways. They are perfectly happy in the cage, require very little care, and if properly attended to are free from diseases.

In the canary breeding section of Germany almost every family keeps a few cages of birds, or has a room devoted to their breeding. Breeding is usually begun in February, and as a rule,



THE GERMAN.

the canary breeders secure three hatches during the season. There are very few harsh notes in the song of the Hartz mountain canary. His voice is mellow, clear, and full of variety, there being quite a difference in the compass of the

voice of the different specimens, some being higher in tone than others. A musician will often be enabled to classify his birds, some have soprano, some alto, tenor or contralto, and there are still others which have a wide compass from high to low, the difference in the voice resulting largely from the different methods pursued by the breeders, each of the large breeders being specially anxious to obtain certain desirable characteristics in the voices of his birds, and in this way secure a reputation of breeding birds of special merit, which will entitle them to prizes in the various bird exhibitions, and also to higher prices on the market.

The natural song of the Hartz mountain canary is varied by the occasional notes of the Nightingale or other trained singers. Some of the best German breeders keep a Nightingale or a trained canary in the room in which the small birds are sent as soon as old enough to leave the nest, and this improves the voice of the young birds greatly.

In this country we do not think there are any firms that import direct from Germany, what German birds there are in Canada are imported generally from New York or Boston. There are about 100,000 canaries sent to the United States from Germany, about two-thirds of which are imported by a German resident in New York, who belongs to Ahlfeld in Hanover, whither the

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birds are brought from all parts of Germany. In the Hartz this dealer has a factory which can turn out the material for 1000 bird cages daily. The peasants take this away and make the cages at their homes. From Ahlfeld the birds are shipped to New York via Bremen, with their attendants. One of these men has crossed the Atlantic more than a hundred times in charge of birds, and there are altogether thirty attendants employed. On the return voyage they take back American birds and animals, and chiefly Mexican and Cuban parrots. In this way the dealer, while importing 100,000 canaries from Germany has been known to export there 5,000 Virginia Cardinals, 3,000 Nonpareils, 2,000 Indigo birds, 500 Mocking birds, and some dozens of sea lions from San Francisco. The total value of the canaries reared in Germany in a single year is estimated at over a quarter of a million dollars, which goes chiefly into the pockets of the very poorest class of people. The shipping cages for canaries are made by the children and peasants, and are of a soft straight grained wood, about four and one-half inches wide, six inches long, and six inches high, having a feed box at one end and a small earthen mug for water at the opposite end. These cages are put in rows of seven, being bound together with a piece of pine thrust through the intersection. Three of these rows of cages in width and twelve in

height are bound together between two boards, thus making what is called a case, holding two hundred and fifty-two of these birds. The case is covered with a coarse linen or canvas cloth for shipping across the ocean. The bird pickers and bird buyers become very expert in handling birds, and they can feed and water fifteen hundred birds, which is about the average number that is allowed for each man to attend to, in three hours. The bird pickers are accustomed to the different breeds of birds, and expert judges of song, as well as being thoroughly posted on the numerous ailments to which the birds are subject, so that they can tell instantly whether the bird is in perfect order or not. From the first of April until the middle of July very little business is done in this line, the exporting season being suspended, so that this is a holiday for the bird buyers, but they usually live among the peasants of the Hartz, and become acquainted with the various breeders and thoroughly posted on their stock. It is of great importance that the bird buyer be expert in distinguishing the sexes, as the small breeders frequently do their best to impose on them. It requires sharp eyes and good judgment to be able to distinguish singers from females. As a rule the head of the male bird is broader than that of the female and flatter on the crown, the colour is also more sharply defined and not as apt to be mealy. The body

is generally more slender throughout and the colour is deeper and brighter around the beak and eyes and over the head.

The buyers compete with those from other countries, and sometimes when birds are scarce the competition is keen, and it becomes correspondingly difficult to secure Campanini or trainer canaries. We have read of standing offers being made some seasons of \$25.00 each and none being secured. As a rule there is very little loss in shipping birds across the water if they receive proper care, but should there be severe storms or very cold windy weather, the birds are easily affected by it, and in some cases it seems almost as though they become seasick.

ST. ANDREASBERG ROLLER CANARIES.

The St. Andreasberg Roller canaries are bred in the celebrated town of St. Andreasberg, situate in the Hartz mountains of Germany. Here bird education is carried on to a degree that can scarcely be understood by ordinary breeders. The young birds are taken from their nests before they have an opportunity to hear or acquire any of the canary song, and their naturally clear toned voices are trained by listening to the notes of Larks, Nightingales, and also to the bird organ, which is an instrument employed to train their voices in the breeding room. There are also in this breeding room various

mechanical devices which produce long trills, water bubbles, flute and bell notes, and other pleasing sounds which the birds imitate, and thereafter form a part of their song. Some of these birds which have long silvery trills, charming flute notes and whistling, are specially cared for and given further training. Many of the birds are found to have voices which are not sufficiently pure and soft to be capable of high training and they are discarded from the training room. There is another class of breeders who train their birds almost entirely from other canaries; these have spent three or four seasons in the training room and are what are called Campanini canaries. Some breeders think that canaries will learn better from these trainers of their own species, and more quickly learn to imitate the choicest notes. It is, therefore, often difficult to obtain these instructors, no matter what price you offer for them, as not more than one bird in a hundred proves to be of sufficient high qualities to be classed under this heading.

The St. Andreasberg Roller canary, as it is sometimes called, because of its rolling notes, can sometimes be taught to whistle a tune, but such birds are very expensive. The St. Andreasberg canary is an ideal bird for an invalid, their voice being particularly soft and restful, and they are frequently purchased for presents for sick friends. These birds are sometimes inferior

produce long trills, and notes, and other birds imitate, and their song. Some of the long silvery trills, whistling, are specially trained. Many of the voices which are not to be capable of high notes from the training of breeders who entirely from other birds in three or four seasons are what are called "rollers." Breeders think that these rollers quickly learn to whistle, therefore, often imitators, no matter how long, as not more than a few notes to be of sufficient length under this heading.

The St. Andreasberg roller canary, as it is called, whistles its rolling notes, and whistles a tune, but is not an invalid, their song is sweet and restful, and they are sold for presents for their sometimes inferior

in colour to the ordinary Hartz mountain canary, and average a trifle smaller in size, but the voice is not to be compared. The Campanini, as has been before mentioned, is superior to the St. Andreasberg. It is bred in the same room, handled and trained in the same way. The voice usually ranges over several octaves, every note being pure, soft, sweet, and musical.

When changing these birds from the small cages in which they travel to larger ones, be sure to watch them, when you give them water and food, as some of them will not put their heads through the water and seed holes without being trained to it, and thus again many a good bird is lost. The reason for this is, that in their native country they have always the food and water vessels inside their cage, and up to the time you buy them have had no other.

The colour of the German canary is usually a clear, pale buff, but some are green, and some are "splashed." The German bird is not large, nor yet of a rich colour, the breeders of such studying vocal powers only. At the same time they are very intelligent, lively, and of compact form.

FOODS, ETC.

"Feed me with food convenient for me."

—Prov. xxx, 8.

The food of canaries when in health should be plain, natural, and of good quality, avoiding a dangerous habit many have of feeding dainties. Butcher's meat is not required for seed-eating birds. All birds like variety in their food, although sugar and sweet cakes are forbidden. Cracknels and plain biscuits are good occasional luxuries. A little fresh green food now and then, but not too often, for it may do much harm when given when there is a tendency to diarrhœa, such as water-cress, chick-weed, mignonette, etc., may be given. If lettuce is used it should be fresh *young* lettuce, for fire-grown lettuce is likely to be harmful, especially the white part near the root. In winter a little sweet apple can be given. Garden cress is very good for them too, especially in cold weather, as it can be grown in a saucer in the house and provides them with a winter vegetable.

The chief food is canary seed, millet seed, German rape seed, mixed in quantities suitable for birds in this climate: about seven parts canary, two imported millet, and two German r:

and put up by some trustworthy house or firm, (see advertisement at end of book) for very few people are aware how much a bird's health, and consequently its song, depends upon the selection of good seed. There are as many different kinds of seed as there are grades of butter or flour. Is all butter alike? Is all flour the same? If so, then all seed is alike.

, ETC.

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CANARY SEED.—The best canary seed is grown along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. A very inferior kind is grown in Honduras and other parts of South America, but this should never be used. Good canary seed is a very bright, plump and heavy feeling seed, free from dust. If you thrust your hand into the seed and it comes back feeling dusty do not have the seed. The bird owner cannot be too particular about getting good clean seed, for the great mortality among birds is to be charged almost entirely to the cheap trashy seed with which the market is flooded.

IMPORTED MILLET SEED from Europe is the best and safest. That grown by the farmers here is of an inferior grade, the climate being too severe for it. All birds are fond of millet in the head, and it is a good plan to grow a small quantity of as good a quality as can be grown, and save the heads as soon as ripe, so that they can be put in the cage during the winter. Millet

is the cheapest of all bird seeds and therefore used largely in cheap mixtures.

THE GERMAN RAPE SEED must not be confounded with English rape. The English rape is much larger than the German with a darker grain and is sharp and bitter to the taste, whereas the German rape is a smaller seed of a bright maroon colour and has a mild and somewhat sweet taste. As its name implies it is grown in Germany and is excellent for birds and should always be given them. It is practically their chief food in Germany where they are reared and being of a very cooling nature will always keep the bird in excellent condition; though fed on this exclusively, he will not sing as much as if his seed were mixed with canary, the canary being necessary in this climate and giving the bird life and animation—is in fact to the bird what bread is to a person. Some bird seed dealers put up wild mustard seed which has been cleaned out of flax and can be bought at half a cent a pound, whereas good German rape is worth ten times that sum. It is needless to say that wild mustard seed is very injurious to birds.

HEMP is a seed about which many bird owners are very ignorant. The best grade is known as Russian hemp, and it is a very rich, oily, sweet seed, and much loved by birds of nearly every species. When mixed with other food.

bird seeds and therefore seeds, the bird never fails to scatter all the rest
 textures. around the cage searching after this dainty
 SEED must not be con morsel, and as long as he has one seed will not
 pe. The English rap touch canary, millet or rape. Thus it makes
 German with a darker him very extravagant with his food for it is
 tter to the taste, where nearly all wasted except the hemp. This, being
 smaller seed of a bright the richest of all seed is very fattening and
 a mild and somewhat heating to cage birds, and will certainly ruin the
 implies it is grown in digestive organs and spoil the song of the bird.
 for birds and should If used at all it should be fed very sparingly
 It is practically the indeed—we would not recommend it at all for a
 here they are reared food—occasionally a bird seems delicate and is
 ing nature will always a very small eater, in such case give a few
 condition; though hemp grains, *and only* a few. Many people
 will not sing as much noticing how eagerly the birds devour this seed,
 ed with canary, they are led by the kindest intention to risk the
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 son. Some bird seed to a child to let it eat what you know will ruin
 tard seed which has its health because its appetite may crave for it;
 nd can be bought at so it is with the bird you have undertaken to
 good German rape is care for; it is to be treated with as much con-
 It is needless to say sideration. To get a bird to feed from the hand,
 ry injurious to birds. a grain of hemp can be given and it will gradu-
 ally overcome its timidity and take food from
 which many bird the hand. Goldfinches will soon learn to come
 The best grade is out of their cages for any favourite food offered
 nd it is a very rich them, and to fly on the hand or shoulder to
 loved by birds of receive hemp seed, of which they are very
 a mixed with other fond.

MAW SEED, often called poppy, is the smallest of all the seeds used for birds. It is of peculiar greyish blue colour and should have clear fresh appearance. This seed is by far the dearest of any of the bird seeds, costing about twenty-five cents per pound in the store. All birds are great lovers of maw seed; and it must be fed sparingly, for being a powerful opiate they will feed upon it until they drop from their perch, owing to its intoxicating effect. A pinch of maw should be given occasionally during moulting, and a little mixed with egg food, for which see later. Goldfinches are quite fond of it, however, and a little should always be mixed with their seed.

FLAX SEED is grown in Canada, and should be good clean seed, it is nourishing and fattening, and a little can be mixed with the canary millet, and rape during cold weather. Many flour and feed dealers who sell bird seed mix flax seed with it, (and very unclean it is) but put in far too much—one pound to ten pounds of bird seed is quite sufficient in winter and in summer it is better without any.

CRACKED CORN AND CRACKED WHEAT.—This is fed principally to macaws, parrots, paroquets (of the larger species) cockadillos, cockatoos, lorries, etc. The corn being of a heating nature should only be given in small quantities. In

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CKED WHEAT.—This
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some parts, buckwheat is fed largely to parrots
and red-birds.

SUNFLOWER SEED is the principal food for
parrots and cockatoos and is greatly liked by
red-birds. It grows in Canada, but the best is
the Russian variety. It is quite a pleasant tast-
ing seed and rich and oily. It is stated that
feeding this seed gives a lustre to the feathers of
the bird, and poultry men feed their fowls with
it a few weeks before the shows.

PADDA.—Unhulled or rough rice is the ordin-
ary rice of commerce before the hulls are off.
This seed is fed to most of the seed-eating birds
of the rice-fields of the Southern States of North
America, and also those that come from China,
Java, or in fact from any part of the world that
rice is grown. All of the family of grosbeaks
are particularly fond of it as is also the Java
sparrow and rice-bird.

INGA OR NIGER SEED, often in Canada called
IONA seed, grows in British India. It is a long
dark seed something like thistle seed, not well
known to the ordinary public, but used by many
of the leading breeders and fanciers of Great
Britain, and kept by leading bird food dealers in
Canada. If you have any difficulty in getting
it write to the largest importers of the seed in
this country, Nicholson & Brock, 81 Colborne
Street, Toronto. There is a great difference of

opinion as to its value. Some bird fanciers would not be without it on any account, and they give a little to their birds, especially goldfinches and bullfinches, all the year round—say mix an ounce of inga to one pound of ordinary food—others only give a little during the breeding and moulting seasons, and then there are others again who do not believe in it at all, and think the birds are better without it. It is a case of doctors differing. One of the largest and most successful exhibitors at bird shows in Canada gives a little to his finches all the year round, mixing it with their ordinary food. He thinks that for giving a good bright, close, compact plumage it has no equal.

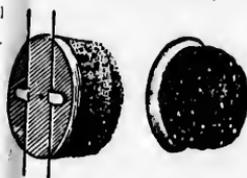
Canaries do not require so much as goldfinches etc., a little now and then being ample. Some breeders who give canaries a little, do not give them any at breeding time as they think it has a tendency to make the hen birds egg-bound, whereas, as we have already stated, other breeders believe that it helps a bird considerably during that period.

BIRD TREAT is something no canary should be without at any time, for it aids in moulting and incubation, sharpens and hardens the beak, stimulates the gizzard, brightens and improves the plumage, clarifies the vocal organs, gives perfect song, safeguards against disease, and

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keeps your bird in proper tone as nothing else
 can. The canary breeders of the Hartz Moun-
 tains in Germany use a paste that keeps their
 birds in health and song,
 and cures nearly all dis-
 eases, and the bird treat
 aims to have the same
 properties and is widely
 known, its merits having
 been tested. Bird Treat is found in good
 bird seed packets, and it is also sold by itself by
 leading seedsmen, druggists and grocers, (see
 advertisement) it is put up in cakes, each in a
 round tin holder that has clips at the back of it,
 to fasten it to the wires of the cage. The
 holder is always a round tin, see sketch, if it
 is square or any other shape it is not Bird
 Treat, so see that you are sure in getting the
 right article.

If the reader has never tried Bird Treat it is
 well worth doing so, and can do no harm and is
 bound to be enjoyed by the bird. The proprie-
 tors of Bird Treat have received many testi-
 monials of its curing disorders of cage birds,
 and causing birds to sing that have been silent
 for a long time—in fact so potent and invigor-
 ating is Bird Treat that it will frequently carry
 the joyful warbler through the critical period of
 shedding feathers without the loss of song. It
 is especially valuable during the breeding

season as the old birds will feed it to their young, and a wonderful increase in the growth of the nestlings will be at once noticed, and the great percentage of deaths which is such a drawback to breeders will be very much lessened.

EGG FOOD is a very nutritious and strengthening diet when properly made. The eggs should be boiled quite hard and afterwards chopped very fine, add stale bread crumbs finely powdered, a little maw seed, and a sprinkling of cayenne pepper all well mixed together. If you have not any maw seed, grate a little Bird Treat in its stead. Egg food is too stimulating as a regular diet, but it will prove about the best daily food to be had during moulting, and also for fledglings and weak birds. For ordinary purpose a little about twice a week will be ample in addition to their ordinary seed.

LIVE INSECT FOOD—for insectivorous or soft-billed birds—especially meal-worms are in the hands of a beginner in bird-keeping, very much what a new very sharp knife is in the hands of a small schoolboy, and is almost sure to lead to some trifling accident.

MEAL-WORMS are extremely fattening and stimulating. One or two do no harm, and if given at proper season they are very good, but to give them liberally makes birds forsake their other food. In trying to raise a young brood of

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mocking birds, cardinals, etc., by feeding the
parents too liberally, ill-success will often result,
the reason being that meal-worms are so very
tempting that the old birds find it impossible to
resist swallowing a good many by mistake ;
neglect of the young brood follows, whilst the
old birds are so much stimulated that they want
to build a fresh nest and lay again before their
proper time. To get a good supply you only
have to tip the miller's boy, who will sacrifice
half his dinner hour for your benefit—and his
own—in hunting for them. If you would be
independent, buy a pint from some miller or
flour and feed dealer. Put them into a deep
earthen pan or tin with a lot of bran, pea meal,
crushed oats, mix in also a bit of old sacking
and a piece of old newspaper, and a little cotton-
wool, etc. In a short time these meal-worms
will change into beetles, lay their eggs and start
a big family in a small way. Be sure that the
supply of food is adequate to the support of the
inhabitants. Keep in a moderately warm place
for frost will destroy them, hence the need of
the cotton-wool.

ANTS' EGGS are, as is well known, not the
eggs but the larvæ of the ant. They are largely
collected in Germany and Russia, and dried
either in kilns or bakers' ovens. Properly dried,
the ants' eggs remain good for a year or more.
The dried ants' eggs should be soaked for a couple

of hours in water and then strained previous to being used, when they may be fed either by themselves or else mixed with other food. A good authority says, "fresh ants' eggs are much better to breed birds on; and I owe such success as fell to my lot in breeding insectivorous birds to the substitution of these for meal-worms. It is not difficult to find an ant-hill, and such an one I put bodily—earth, ants, larvæ and all—in a bag, giving the birds a handful or two every three or four hours. The old birds will find plenty to do in collecting the ants, and scratching or picking the larvæ out of the earth."

SPIDERS.—A few given to insectivorous or omnivorous birds are very healthful, and will sometimes restore a sick bird to health and strength again.

GENTLES OR MEAT MAGGOTS are sometimes very nutritious and stimulating, but in some cases they do not agree with the birds, but he who will try to breed and keep soft food birds must arm himself with inexhaustible patience, and make up his mind to persevere in spite of repeated failure.

MOCKING BIRD FOOD and foods for insectivorous or soft food birds, see the chapter on the Mocking Bird.

ETC.

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FOODS, ETC.

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GRAVEL is very essential to the health and well-being of birds. The bottom of the cage should be kept covered with gravel for it tends to keep the birds feet in good condition, and is conducive to health and cleanliness, besides being essential to enable the bird to digest its food properly, for having no teeth, that necessary work is performed by the gizzard, where the food is ground and reduced to a nutritious condition. The gravel should be sharp, screened and purified by oxygen in order to be the most beneficial. That which is taken from the sea shore is the best, as it is the purest, and possesses all the requisite qualities. Birds thus provided for seldom lay soft-shelled eggs. Fine sand is unsuitable, it not being sharp enough and frequently not clean. Gravel obtained from the streets, pits, etc., cannot be safely used as it usually contains clay, soil, etc., and is liable to be noxious, from various gases and impurities, in their effects. See advertisement at end of book.

CUTTLE FISH BONE is a white chalky substance, the backbone of a fish found in the Mediterranean Sea, the bone which is pure carbonate of lime is imported from Trieste, Austria. The pieces are of elongated elliptical shape, from four to ten inches in length, and it is used for the comfort of the happy little captive, being

fastened in his cage so that he can sharpen his beak upon it, and also eat a little of it occasionally. Almost all birds delight in pecking at it for it helps digestion greatly. The bone being somewhat salty the bird likes it, and it has a good effect upon his general health.

Although such a simple thing, yet it appears to be difficult to fasten. Some tie it with cotton or string and some put it between the wires of the cage, only to fall down. The only way is to buy it from the druggist or grocer with a fastener let into the bone and that clips the wires of the cage as shown. The beauty of it is, that the bird can reach the entire surface of the bone, which is held in position until every vestige of eatable matter is gone. If you once buy the cuttle bone with holder you will never go back to the old fashioned way, for it costs no more than ordinary bone, and is sold by druggists and grocers, and it will relieve you from all trouble and annoyance.

Nice large pieces with fastening for attaching to cage, five cents each, post prepaid, can be obtained. See advertisement.

GERMAN PASTE can be bought readily and of fair quality in most bird shops. It consists, says a great German authority, (Auguste F. Weiner)



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of peameal, a little maw seed, more or less hemp
 seed crushed in a coffee mill, mixed with a small
 quantity of treacle (molasses), and a little lard,
 the whole being gently heated in an earthenware
 vessel and continually stirred until hot, when it
 is spread in a paper or cloth and allowed to cool.
 This preparation will keep weeks and to make
 or buy a week's supply at one time is quite safe.
 Another recipe is one pint of fresh peameal and
 two or three ounces of maw seed, add two new
 laid eggs, previously well beaten, and mix
 all thoroughly together; then add about two
 ounces of treacle, or what is far better, honey,
 and sufficient beef dripping to just moisten
 the whole; when thoroughly mixed and free
 from lumps, place it over the fire in a frying pan
 or kettle, stirring briskly until the food is thor-
 oughly scalded, taking care that it does not
 burn or become smoked. When done, run it
 through a fine wire sieve into a sheet of paper,
 allowing it to remain untouched as it falls from
 the sieve until cold; then put it lightly, as
 loosely as possible, into a glass bottle, and it
 will keep for months. This is highly nutritious,
 and an excellent food for insectivorous birds.

BREEDING.

Thou'll oreak my heart, thou bonnie bird
That sings beside thy mate
For sae I sat, and sae I sang
And wist na o' my fate.—*Burns.*

Breeding canaries is a very interesting and fascinating pursuit. It affords great pleasure to the children to rear a nest of beautiful birds, and they are always interested in watching the nest building, seeing the patience of the mother bird, noticing the hatching and daily growth of the young birds, and their development in song.

Birds mate in cages any time from January until June, and birds once mated will breed until the moulting season. Many people consider that the 14th February is a good time to begin, but many breeders start earlier, and others again, think that St. Valentine's day is too soon. When the winter is long and the spring is late, young birds do not do so well, and the time must be left to the breeder's judgment.

To breed and rear canaries is very easy if you have good, strong stock, and are willing to put them together and not inquisitively disturb them. The birds you wish to mate should not be related to each other and should be placed near each other, the female in the breeding cage

SING.

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and the male in his own cage, and permitted to
 thus become acquainted before occupying the
 same cage. Some extra nourishing food, either
 hard boiled egg, both yolk and white grated
 together, mixed with a little maw seed or Bird
 Treat should be given about a week before the
 birds are put together. A little sweet apple or
 lettuce, or celery should be given every other
 day. These foods with their ordinary seed and
 an abundance of gravel will get the pair into
 condition. Some breeders provide a little old
 plastering from an old building or crushed
 oyster shells for them. Birds thus provided
 seldom lay soft shelled eggs.

The breeding cage may be of brass or wood,
 but the former keeps freer from insects, and with
 nest removed may be used for a singer through
 the year. For a single pair the cage should
 not be less than 10 x 16 or 18 inches is even
 better. The larger cage gives the pair more
 exercise so the progeny are stronger, and also
 gives the young birds better flights. The wood
 frame and tinned wire cages with solid wood
 backs, and wood platform for nest are con-
 venient to hang or set against the wall. The
 largest and most convenient wooden cage has a
 movable partition. Deer's hair or tow is fur-
 nished to the pair so that they may arrange the
 interior of the nest to suit their tastes. The
 nests may be small wooden boxes, or baskets, or

made of wire and lined with cotton-wool or flannel.

A good authority says: "The male should not be over four years old, and the better age is one or two years. The female may be one to four. Some breeders think if the female is older than the male there will be a larger proportion of males among the young birds. A yellow male and a light colour female produce usually handsome yellow birds; if one wishes clear deep yellow birds, let deep yellow unmarked birds be mated. A gold colour pair will produce the same colour. A golden male and deep green female often produce cinnamon colours. Solid green pairs usually produce solid green; but in some cases, unless the same colours have been bred for several generations, the young birds may show colours unlike the parents, but like the grand-parents or great grand-parents. In breeding, size and colour may often be had, but the best song is seldom or never found with the largest birds or fancy colours. Birds of high colour or great size usually have strong heavy voices and are not good songsters. If the breeder wants size, the Lancashires are the best. There are both plainheads and crests. This breed, as mentioned before, are very scarce in Canada. They would have to be got from some bird dealer.

To breed good singers see that both male and female are good German birds, and let the young

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 says: "The male should
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ones hear only the male bird sing or some other
 equally good German, and you will have reason
 to be proud of some choice songsters.

The daily food should be good clean seed,
 canary, millet, and rape well mixed. The
 breeder cannot get a better mixture than Brock's
 Bird Seed, which is put up with great care, and
 (see advertisement) each packet contains a cake
 of Bird Treat, and for one pair of birds one-third
 of both parts of a hard boiled egg finely chop-
 ped with which mix about the same quantity of
 powdered cracker and sprinkle a little cayenne
 pepper. Mix with the egg food every other day
 a very little maw or poppy seed, or as often as is
 needed to keep the bowels open. Give a little
 apple or a little green food every other day.
 Keep plenty of fresh water and a cuttle bone in
 the cage.

Cleanliness is especially necessary during the
 breeding season, but try to disturb the birds as
 little as possible—always move slowly around
 the birds. Lice are particularly annoying at
 this time and they breed very rapidly in the
 nest; it is therefore well to dust the nest and
 cage frequently with insect powder.

After the birds have been cared for, and had
 their bath twice a week if they wish, unless
 some ailment requires attention, leave them to
 their own pleasures. Too close attention and
 frequent taking down the cage to show the pair

to visitors, have separated many mates, and ruined the prospects that gave promise of a large and beautiful family. Quarrels sometimes occur when the pair are first put together, and if hard and continued, the male should be put back in his own cage again for a day or two and then they may try again. Usually the disagreement is brief, but some females take a settled aversion to a particular male and will never pair with him. In such a case change the female.

Some pairs are very backward, and seem to waste two or three weeks' time building the nest in the morning only to tear it in pieces in the afternoon with an occasional attempt on the part of the female to sit some of the time, the pair has not really mated, one or the other not being in condition. Give more fresh egg food in the early afternoon, for where there are no quarrels, there will in almost every case be perfect mating and later eggs. The first egg, a small sea-green colour, is laid on the eighth day after mating, and one egg is laid each day until the laying of from four to seven eggs is complete.

EGG-BOUND.—Females fed with apple and the maw seed are rarely egg-bound, but sometimes it will happen that the day before a female lays, she will be seen in the morning in the most complete health, her feathers close and

be reckoned from the fourth morning. She will then sit thirteen days, and hatch punctually to the hour, one egg each day. But if the eggs should not hatch as expected, let the birds remain undisturbed three or four days, then remove the eggs and nest, and in a few days give a new nest.

Eating the eggs as soon as laid is usually done because the pair has not been fed richly enough. Mated birds require rich food, egg paste and Bird Treat, and these should be given daily for a week or two before the pair is put together and continued until you are through breeding, and the youngest birds eat the seeds.

The male bird should remain with the sitting female if he behaves well; but if he shows a disposition to disturb too much, or drive the female from the nest he may be put in his own apartment. Usually he sits on the eggs when she gets off or else feeds her.

THE NESTLINGS are fed by the old birds with the egg paste which should be given fresh two or three times a day. In some cases, where the old birds are very good parents and feed the young ones as they should, a second nest is put in the same cage with the young birds, and the second laying goes on while the father bird feeds the young until they can eat for themselves. But if the male gets quarrelsome or the

the fourth morning. Should pair in getting too anxious to mate again neglect days, and hatch punctually their young, it is well to separate them, putting one egg each day. But if the male in his own cage until the young birds are as expected, let the birds eat for themselves and fly on the perch. Three or four days, they may then be removed and the male returned to his mate, and another brood raised.

If all goes well the young birds will grow under the eye almost hourly, but it may be that the mother will refuse to feed them at all, or at such long intervals and in such a half-hearted way, that the experienced breeder can tell at the end of a day or two what are the future prospects of the nest. If in place of full crops, plump breasts and heavy abdomen, he finds every feature dwarfed, it is then time for the breeder to step in and assist by artificial feeding. The best rule is, in dealing with breeding hens, to leave well alone, even if that well is just to keep the young birds moving. But for them to stand still is equal to retrograding, and then the mode of proceeding is this: Cut a hard boiled egg in halves, and having moistened the yolk with saliva, visit every nest, particularly the doubtful ones, and when empty crops are found, scrape up some egg with a little flat stick, making it very moist, not much thicker than cream in fact, and give the young birds a good feed. There is no difficulty in making young canaries open their mouth, it is almost the first thing they do in this world and they

remain with the sitting hen; but if he shows a disposition to do much, or drive the hen away, he may be put in his own cage, and the eggs when laid, may be put in his own nest. In some cases, where the parents and feed the young birds, and the father bird while the mother can eat for themselves quarrelsome or the

never seem to forget the way. Fresh food will often induce a mother to feed the young who she might otherwise neglect them. Supposing everything has gone along pleasantly and the birds are, say four or five days old, and as fast as moles, on looking at them one morning will find the down all gone or tangled and matted with moisture. This is an indication that the hen has begun to "sweat" them, which she does by sitting on them very closely, seldom leaving the nest. The best thing to do is to remove this male bird, putting him in an adjoining compartment where he can feed the female through the wires, he will incessantly call her to come and feed and in accepting these invitations, she will get right again.

Keep the young birds confined to the nest until they are three weeks' old, if possible, which time they can use the perch. If then the hen bird is inclined to pull the feathers, the young may be put in a cage with the father bird, and he will feed them as long as it is necessary. The young can crack and eat soaked rape seed when they are six weeks' old. Be sure the rape seed is fresh and good, for it soon goes sour when it is soaked. A very little only should be soaked at a time. It is a great advantage to supply birds in the intermediate stage with ground seed. Canary seed is of course the staff of life, but a variety of other seeds can be used

the way. Fresh food with benefit. The coffee mill will come into use, to feed the young who can be set to grind fine or merely crush, doing neglect them. Supposing fact little else than crack the husk, a feat the along pleasantly and though bird cannot as yet accomplish for itself or five days old, and as fanly with some difficulty. A mixture of canary, at them one morning w little millet, linseed, and even a pinch of hemp e or tangled and matted can all be passed through the mill and put s an indication that thinside the cage. One lesson at a time is suffi- at " them, which she docient, and until they learn to eat their seed they y closely, seldom leaving, should not have to go far to find it. A week of g to do is to remove thhis kind of treatment will go a long way toward n an adjoining compartnating the birds; and if a little whole seed the female through thbe added, and it is seen that they can hull it y call her to come anwithout trouble it is time to think of transferring ese invitations, she withem to a large flight cage, where they will have room to exercise their wings. The larger s confined to the nesand roomier it is the better for the birds, for it ks' old, if possible, bis here they do their growing, and for the first he perch. If then theight weeks of their lives they ought to have pull the feathers, thnothing else to think about. Overcrowding cage with the fathermust be avoided and ample perch accommoda- as long as it is neces tion provided. It is the want of this that leads rack and eat soaked to quarrelling, for birds have their own particu- ks' old. Be sure thelar corners and places to sit and roost in. Keep l, for it soon goes sour the flight cage, whether large or small, scrupu- y little only should be lously clean. Arrange the perches so that the a great advantage to birds cannot soil each other when roosting—give mediate stage with plenty of good sound seed, whole and crushed; is of course the staff plenty of seedy green food, clean, sharp sea sand, er seeds can be used and clean drinking water, with the addition of a

bath every morning. Do not give much soft food, and what you do give, scatter rather than allow it to stand and become sour, and everything will be done to promote a hardy constitution and a good growth.

If you wish the birds to sing well they must be taught by a good singer. The father bird cannot devote himself to raising a second brood and give the first brood the best instruction. The instructor may be a choice canary, a Virginia Nightingale, or an European Nightingale, the Virginia Nightingale being less desirable than either of the others.

Young birds moult their body feathers only the first year, the moulting beginning when they get into full feather at the age of six or eight weeks. The larger feathers, the wing and tail feathers, are not shed until the second season when the bird is about a year old.

In adult birds moulting begins about the month of July, but the time varies greatly according to circumstances, the whole period extending over the next three months. The breeder notes the presence of a few feathers in the bottom of his cages as sure indications of the beginning of the end of his breeding season.

We are referring now entirely to adult birds, and may say here that the first sign of incipient moult, the shedding of one or two quill feathers,

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is to be regarded as the signal to discontinue breeding with such birds as show it; and even if it is found that the hen is sitting on full eggs at the time the moult begins it is best to remove them at once and not allow her to exhaust herself in endeavouring to discharge two duties at once.

One writer says, "young males swell out their throats in attempts to warble when about eight weeks' old, and with increasing age try to sing more. By this action the sex may be determined." The male bird is, as a rule, larger and more massive than the hen, bolder and more energetic in his movements, and in the flight bustles about in a commanding sort of way as if anxious to impress the looker-on with the idea that he is the superior animal. Put him in a cage alone for a minute, and his carriage is bold and defiant, his chirp clear and ringing, his action quick and decisive, and full of fire. The hen, is on the contrary, smaller and more delicately built, is shorter and more chubby, has a neater head and a softer and quieter eye, is less demonstrative in her movements and when put in a cage alone, hops backwards and forwards in a quiet way with a soft, plaintive chirp. The head of the male is longer and looks narrower, and experienced breeders can tell the sex of birds in the nest at a glance. This probably seems, to the uninitiated, distinctions without a

difference, but such distinctions are subtil, and such as only experience and accurate observation can determine, and in mastering them the difference between judge and no judge.

There is no way of determining the age of a canary, but after the first year the scales on the legs become larger and coarser.

HYBRIDS OR MULES.—When mating finches with canaries, it is usually the male finch and hen canary that are put together, the reason being that the female canary, is more domesticated, therefore is likely to be a better mother.

As the finches do not mate until early in May the hen canary can be used up to that time for breeding canaries only, some authorities hold that such use is beneficial. The great charm of mule breeding is its uncertainty, the larger, more stylish, and richer in colour the hen, the more likely is it that corresponding good points will be found in the mule.

It is well to procure finches early in the year so that they may be tamed and thoroughly domesticated by breeding time—a matter of some consequence. The month of May is quite soon enough for "Goldie" to show such signs as are required. To get him into condition he must be fed on a stimulating diet: a little egg seed, German rape, hemp seed, together with a little inga seed if you can get some. When the

ions are subtil, and accurate observations, and mastering them lies and no judge. Determining the age of a bird by the scales on the beak. The last tinge of black has disappeared from his beak, and it begins to assume that delicate transparent pinky white colour, the admiration of men, it is time to think of putting him with his mate. If there are several finches at command they may be mated with hens precisely as canaries, but if not a bird in the bloom of high condition may be "run" through a number of ages. He need not of necessity be allowed to remain long with his hens. A more tractable bird does not exist, nor one more amenable to some influences. If allowed to settle down with his hen he will make the most attentive mate, nursing and feeding in the most exemplary manner. There is some risk in leaving an untried bird with the hen after she lays for he may prove inquisitive, and try to find out what is inside the eggs. If he shows any disposition to do so he must be removed before the egg is laid, and after it is taken from the nest he can be put back.

As we have before stated, the great charm of mule breeding is its uncertainty; the probability is, that all the mules will be dark ordinary looking birds; the possibility is, there may be among the nest of fledglings a single brilliant-coloured bird. To obtain a bird with wealth of white and gold is worth years of experiments.

There is nothing fresh to offer in the general management of young mules, which in no respect

differs from that observed in the rearing of young canaries. Cayenne feeding and every other move being applied with telling effect.

Bullfinches mate with canaries, and sometimes a handsome bird is obtained. Speaking generally, all mules are dark and bear a strong resemblance to the parent finch, and are not unless the latent canary elements are brought out under the magic influence of cayenne, particularly showy birds.

Linnets, Siskins, and Greenfinches may be mated with hen canaries, and also some American birds such as the Bob-o-link, Yellowbird, and Nonpareil.

In addition to the common Mules, viz., offspring of a finch and a canary, there are, far rarer, Finch and Finch Mules, by which meant the Hybrids produced by pairing varieties of Finches. Chief among these is the Goldfinch and Bullfinch (the latter a hen) Mule, beyond comparison the most beautiful example of the whole class. A Hybrid more common is the Goldfinch and Greenfinch (the latter a hen) Mule, and the Linnet and Bullfinch (the latter a hen) Mule, others could be added but they do not come within our province.

Of course, as is well known, Mules themselves are not reproductive.

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CAGES.

It happens as with cages: the birds without
despair to get in, and those within despair of
getting out.—*Montaigne*.

It is desirable that the cage in which a canary
is to live should be chosen with some degree of
consideration, for if it is too small, the little
songster will lead a life of great misery. The
larger a dwelling, the less music you will in all
probability get out of its occupant. He will
think more of skipping and jumping about than
singing, in short he will pay more attention to
his own amusement than to yours. A well
known writer says, "If there is one place more
than another in which we like to see handsome
cages, it is in a working man's cottage. They
help to cover his walls and represent something,
simply repaying the pains bestowed in making
them and in keeping them clean."
The old style was to make bird cages of soft
wood, but wooden cages are more liable to har-
bour insects than metal ones.

Not many years ago the painted wire cages
came into use, and they are still sold largely in
country towns and by the departmental stores of
large cities, where people go to look for bargains.
These cages are far better than the old fashioned

wooden ones, and some of them are quite prett Th
but unless the cage is thoroughly japanned and
dried in a high heat, this paint scales off and
apt to be eaten by the bird with injuries such
effect. go a

The most popular and handsome cages are being
now made of brass wire, thoroughly lacquer
to prevent tarnishing. The cost is not much that,
more than that charged for an ordinary paint Ca
wire cage. There are hundreds of differ will
styles and sizes, well known to the public. T clean
best improvement which has been added to the b
cage during the past few years is the wire screage
around the bottom which is intended to prevent
seed being scattered. T

To clean a brass, silver or gold-plated ca
always wash with a sponge or piece of old tow
using clear cold water and wipe dry. Ne
use soap. The surface of these cages be
varnished, if hot water is used, they will ha
the appearance of being spattered with mi
which can never be removed. If they
scoured, the same as brass-ware ordinarily is,
varnish will be removed, and the cage begins
corrode, and unless polished very frequently
will produce verdigris, which is very injuri
to any bird.

If necessary, silver-plated and brass cages
be refinished and made in appearance equa
new.

them are quite prett The perches should not be made of hard wood, thoroughly japanned and nor should they be too smooth or thin, soft paint scales off and wood is preferable. The perches should be of the bird with injuries such thickness that the claws of the bird may go about half way around them; instead of l handsome cages being the thickness of a pencil as is too frequently the case, they should be nearly twice as thick. The cost is not much that, oval in section with the broad uppermost. Cages should always have false bottoms that will draw out, as they are more convenient for cleaning and there is less chance of disturbing the bird. If you wish to catch the bird in the cage always remove the perches first.

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" The busy birds with nice selections cull
 Soft thistle down, grey moss and scattered wool;
 Far from each prying eye the nest prepare,
 Formed of warm moss and lined with softest hair,
 Week after week, regardless of her food,
 Th' incumbent linnet warms her future brood;
 Each spotted egg with ivory bill she turns,
 Day after day with fond impatience burns—
 Hears the young prisoner chirping in his cell,
 And breaks in hemispheres the fragile shell!"

COLOUR FED CANARIES.

And still, when winter spreads around
The chilling covering of the snow,
And woods in dreary silence bound
No more with sounds of joy o'erflow,
Beside my hearth I sit and hear
The same sweet music ringing clear,
And summer time within I know.

For look ! when at the window swings
Yon blithe canary full of glee ;
And answers to my call and sings
All day his varied melody,
So that I seem to hear again
The skylark's song across the main,
Or nightingale in Thessaly.

—*W. W. Caldwell* In

Many breeders desire to give to their birds of the brilliant orange or a bright red plumage, other than nature has endowed them. For many years which how to do this was kept a profound secret. Each breeder, with commendable selfishness, kept his particular knowledge private from everybody else and guarded the secret jealously.

At the close of the year 1871 rumours were rife of some extraordinary birds bred at Sutton in-Ashfield, England; they carried away prizes, owing to their brilliant plumage, in their own neighbourhood. They were then exhibited at various shows all over England. At Sund

land the judges were satisfied with them, but the committee in their zeal tested them in a way that was unjustifiable, literally scrubbing off the web of the feathers in one bird's tail, and leaving it with twelve almost naked quills, and shortly after charged the exhibitor formally with having shown painted birds, at the same time producing as evidence, a handkerchief which was alleged to be stained with colouring matter from this mutilated tail. On examination by an analytical chemist he gave the following certificate :

226 HIGH ST., SUNDERLAND.

There is not the least trace of a pigment or foreign colouring matter of any kind on any of the feathers I took from the birds numbered respectively 1, 2 and 3.

JOHN J. NICHOLSON, F.C.S.

CANARIES.

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Chessaly.

—*W. W. Caldwell* In February, 1873, one of the keenest fanciers to give to their birds of the day, Mr. Ed. Bemrose, of Derby, brought eight red plumage, without two specimens for the Crystal Palace Show, them. For many years which he declared owed their colour to nothing but the peculiar diet they were fed on, and deemed a profound secret, but he delivered a promise that next season he would commendable selfishness, he brought out not two, but a string of birds which he would send to every show in England, and he would send to every show in England, and he would take every prize from his birds bred at Sutton Whitby, in September, round to the Crystal Palace carried away to the Crystal Palace show again in 1874, and then he would give his secret to the world. And he kept his promise, for next season he was invincible, and the exhibitors of the colour section of the canary

family lay at his feet. Some accepted their defeat like men, others writhed and wriggled like worms. On December 11th, 1873, Mr. Bemrose published to the world the grand secret of the extraordinary colour of the birds, and the agent used was nothing more than Cayenne Pepper.

Young birds should be put in "feed" early, at the age of seven or eight weeks old, because it is necessary that the colour process should commence while the feathers are yet in embryo. And what is "feed"? Perhaps half a dozen breeders would give as many different recipes, but the active agent in each would be cayenne pepper, which can be mixed with chopped egg and sweet biscuit or crumbs or any of the composition which birds are fond of. Regarding the amount of cayenne to be given, a well known authority from whom we have quoted freely in this chapter says, "We recommend begin with, one chopped egg with its equal of sweet biscuit mixed with a teaspoonful of cayenne. The quantity can be increased or lessened as the birds seem to thrive upon it, and it can be increased almost *ad infinitum* in some instances, as there is no mistake about the birds being fond of it. Give seed very sparingly long as the birds continue to do well on the food. The experience of a season will do more towards teaching a fancier the actual routine of this part of his business than a whole volume of instruction."

Having once begun the colour feeding it is necessary that it should be done regularly, not feeding it for two or three days, and then forgetting it for a day or two; the result of this would be that the bird would have a blotched or patched appearance, some places of the plumage would be a bright, and others a pale colour, showing at once irregular colour feeding. It does not do to feed them one day say at eight o'clock in the morning and the next at four o'clock in the afternoon. If you want an even colour you cannot be too systematic and regular. Rudd, a well known English specialist on canaries says, "If you want to feed for First Feather Shows commence three or four days after being hatched. If for Second Feather Shows when about six weeks old. With your old birds begin before they start to moult a single feather. In all cases birds may be fed from the nest with advantage.

"When feeding for colours, keep the cage fronts covered nearly down to the bottom of the wires to avoid too much light on the birds during the moult. Many use brown paper tacked on the top of each cage, then you can just lift it up when you want to open the door or look at them. I prefer a piece of clean, white linen; the latter will also usually tell you if you have any parasites about, as they will get on this, and can easily be seen. If you desire to feed young birds for

exhibition, they must be 'tailed and flighted', *i.e.*, the flight and tail feathers all drawn, and young birds retain such feathers until the second moult, consequently, if not drawn out the colour will not enter into these feathers, and they will show very white in contrast to all the rest of the plumage. Personally, I am against this practice but whilst it is the fashion to show so (and level coloured bird must stand before one that is not) and you wish to be in the running, it must be done. If you have never done any tailing and flighting do not start on a good bird first, but get some experienced fancier to do a few birds for you: keep your eyes wide open while he is doing it, and then with a little care and ordinary intelligence you should be able to perform the task without giving the bird scarcely any pain. Clumsily done, many a good bird has been 'hip-winged' by the process. Old birds, of course, do not require this, as they moult naturally all their feathers.

"Different persons have different ideas of 'tailing and flighting.' The system I prefer is thus: After the birds have been well got on to the colour feed, and are nine or ten weeks old, draw eight or nine of the short flights only, then the tail feathers and rest of the longer and stronger flights three weeks later. By this system the bird is not stripped of all such feathers at once, and the larger flights come out easier

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CARE, TREATMENT AND DISEASES.

he young disease that must subdue at length,
 grows with his growth and strengthens with his strength.

—*Popc.*

The Bath.—A canary should bathe all through
 he year two or three times a week, but not
 daily in cold weather. Remove seed and water
 ups and the base of cage, and set body of cage
 ver the bathing dish of tepid water and then
 emove the perches. Put the water in a regular
 anary bath, about three-quarters of an inch
 eep. If the bird will not bathe in this try less
 water and perhaps some other shaped dish until
 ou find one he will use, sometimes this being
 in old saucer with a quarter inch of water. See
 hat the air of the room is at a right temperature
 nd that there is no likelihood of the bird getting
 chill. Some birds plunge right into the bath
 when placed before them but some only just wet
 heir head and dress down their plumage. Some
 ike a warm bath and some a cold, but whatever
 t is, be sure that the bird does not get cold.
 There are some birds that like fluttering in a
 and bath which should be given to them.

Hanging Place.—The bird may hang in the
 sunshine fifteen minutes, not longer, to dry his
 feathers after the bath, but a bird hanging in the

sunshine at mid-day is in a bad place for his health and song. Nearly all birds keep in better health if not kept near the window. Many windows are said to be air tight, but none are sufficiently air tight to hang a bird near in cold weather.

Water.—A daily supply of water should be given for drinking, and put so that it is situated on the outside of the cage, so that the bird can easily get at it. Many a bird is killed through want of water or food while their tins or bottles have plenty in them, simply because they are not set so as the bird can get at them; perhaps in the hurry of the moment the vessels have not been placed low enough, and the poor bird cannot either eat or drink, and no answer is given to his mournful chirps. The owner of a bird is duty bound to see that his little charge can get enough to eat and drink.

Temperature.—Sudden changes of temperature are bad for the voice and health, 65° to 70° is about right. Do not leave a bird in a room in cold weather when the window is open to the room. What the bird needs is a regular temperature and be very careful about keeping it free from draughts, even on a warm summer day not to place it outside in front of a door or window so that there is a current of air going through the cage, but hang the cage in front of a blank wall, etc.

in a bad place for his **Position.**—The best height to place a canary
 y all birds keep in better from three to five and a half feet from the
 ne window. Many winoor, and in a not too light place if you wish
 ght, but none are suffioft sweet songs. Close to a window or in other
 g a bird near in costrong light, besides being draughty, the bird
 ops about too much and his song gets loud and
 olly of water should hrrill. The finest grades of canaries sing best
 out so that it is situatften in a half light. A bird has his own little
 re, so that the bird canancies often which must be catered for to get
 bird is killed throull you can out of him. He will sometimes sing
 ile their tins or bottletter in one place than in another, and a little
 ply because they are nperimenting to find which is his most suitable
 at them; perhaps in thplace is often advantageous. Birds should never
 vessels have not bee in a room where particles of dust fill the air
 the poor bird cannbecause dust injures the voice.

no answer is given to h **Bed Time.**—About dusk the bird should be
 owner of a bird is out to bed, just as most wild birds seek seclud-
 is little charge can gng shade and cover at that time.

Now the darkness gathers,
 Stars their watches keep ;
 Birds and beasts and flowers,
 Soon will be asleep.

a changes of temp Your canary to keep health good, voice sweet,
 ce and health, 65° to ; and live a long life should have one thickness of
 eave a bird in a room paper about his cage in summer, and in winter,
 window is open to n our northern latitudes, three thicknesses about
 rd needs is a regulhe cage and same amount thrown over the top
 y careful about keepin the cage and same amount thrown over the top
 en on a warm sunnhe cage and same amount thrown over the top
 le in front of a dooro lap over the paper at sides. The paper
 a current of air go should fit close to the base of the cage all around
 ng the cage in front and stand up almost even with the ring the cage

is hung by, thus preventing all draughts through the cage. A shawl or towel arranged partly around a cage and left open near the bottom causes a draught through the cage and about the bird, and is worse than no covering. When properly covered the cage should be put in a dark place but do not move the bird from a comfortable to a cold place, and in moving the cage with a bird in from one position to another do it slowly and not hurriedly.

The canary is easily kept in song all through the year, in most cases right through the moulting period, if the food and care is right.

Don't take chances about buying a cheap bird for you lose every time, and a cheap bird costs just as much to keep as a good one.

Don't buy poor seed or gravel; they cost more in loss of song or bird than three times the price of the best seeds. Buy seeds and gravel put up by a trustworthy house. (See advertisement.)

Don't hang the bird in the window or high in a room, as the atmosphere is more pure the nearer you get to the ceiling.

Don't hang the bird in the sunshine except just after a bath for a few minutes.

Don't hang the bird where there is a draught or in a kitchen or laundry where there is steam or damp air, and avoid sudden changes of temperature. Beware of stove gas, etc., as no bill

frequent cause of trouble is hanging the bird close to the top of the window with the sack lowered about a foot thus causing a draught of air or putting the cage in a rod which is kept very warm during the day and very cold at night.

When a bird is in good health his appearance is usually sleek and smooth with the feathers lying closely to his body. When you perceive him sitting dull and stupid and all hunched up, something is out of order. In this chapter we refer specially to the diseases of canaries and other seed-eating birds. For Parrots and Mating Birds see their respective headings. All remedies which we refer to are common household remedies which will be found in almost any household, and can be used at once without waiting to send to any dealer for medicines. There are many special or proprietary medicines available by dealers for the various diseases, and it is well to keep some of them for emergencies.

Diseases.—Colds, poor and improper food and impure water are the cause of most diseases. A bird with a cold is puffed up, feathers ruffled, sometimes remaining still on the perch and breathing hard, and at other times hopping about on the bottom of the cage and constantly eating. Do not let the cold "run" for it will likely carry away with the bird. Give the egg paste mentioned on page 50, with as much cayenne as

ble is hanging the biay on a ten cent piece. A teaspoonful each of e window with the sock candy and glycerine dissolved in a gill of thus causing a streater with ten or fifteen drops of paregoric ing the cage in a rodded makes a good cough mixture. Hang a arm during the day aiece of raw fat pork in the cage and let him eat his and put in a new piece every other day.

od health his appeara **Loss of Voice.**—This is usually caused by smooth with the featl verfeeding, oversinging or a cold. A little ly. When you perce ure rock candy dissolved in the drinking water stupid and all hunc nd egg paste mixed, as above for a cold, will order. In this chap ften effect a cure. Hang a piece of raw fat e diseases of canaries acon in the cage. After moulting, a loss of

For Parrots and Mc oice is sometimes observed, and this is usually eective headings. All aused by a cold contracted during the moulting er to are common hieason. Give it the same as above with egg be found in almost aste and cover the cage so the bird will not try used at once without w sing. This treatment should be continued er for medicines. T or some days until the hoarseness disappears. oprietary medicines cake of Bird Treat should always be in the us diseases, and it is v age at this period especially. or emergencies.

or and improper fc **Asthma.**—This fearful disease is generally he cause of most disea aused by exposure to wet or cold, but sometimes affed up, feathers ruff y local irritation: for instance, by placing a still on the perch bird between a door and a window where it will other times hopping at chatch a draught, or by placing a bird too high up ge and constantly eat a a room above the level of the gas burners. un” for it will likely When the bird is affected with astlima you will ive the egg paste n otice it opening its beak as if to gasp for air, short as much cayenne as reath, wheezing and puffing out of feathers until

the bird has the appearance of a ball. Give
paste same as for a cold. Put from two to
drops of whiskey in the drinking water
should be given warm, that is from five to ten
cent. of whiskey in the water. Keep the bird
a warm place and cut a piece of raw fat salt
into bits like seeds and well sprinkle with
enne pepper. A teaspoonful of quite w
milk with bread in it is good, and a bit of sp
cake soaked in sherry wine may be put
separate dish. All these remedies should
given fresh two or three times a day. With
the canary seed and moisten the rape see
that the dust will be removed and the hulls
be made soft; this should be made fresh a
at a time for the rape moistened will soo
sour.

Diarrhoea.—Many birds suffer from this
ease which is frequently fatal and is caused
cold, foul drinking water, musty seed or
suitable food, such as sour egg food. Sympto
The evacuations, frequent and watery, which
soon causes the extreme weakening of the
Cure the cold if it has one; change the w
and seed or food and put a rusty nail in
water. A piece of common chalk should
placed between the wires of the cage or
some powdered chalk in the bottom of the
with the gravel. Two to five drops of parego
its drinking water, or the same amount of br

...ance of a ball. Give sometimes helps to cure severe cases. Feed
 ...d. Put from two to me egg food without the cayenne. Examine
 ...ne drinking water wh the little patient and should the excrements have
 ...that is from five to ten ued the feathers together so as to obstruct the
 ...water. Keep the bir assage, it is well to cut the adhering feathers
 ...a piece of raw fat salt refully away with a pair of scissors and anoint
 ...l well sprinkle with ie parts with sweet oil.

Constipation.—From four to six drops of
 ...spoonful of quite w stor oil dropped in the bird's mouth and also
 ...s good, and a bit of spo ator oil dropped in the bird's mouth and also
 ...y wine may be put oply the same to the vent and this usually
 ...ese remedies shoul rds prompt relief. Freshly grated raw car-
 ...ee times a day. With t powdered over with sugar is greatly relished,
 ...moisten the rape see id feed apples or green food. In severe con-
 ...removed and the hulls aued cases put two drops of glycerine in a
 ...uld be made fresh a spoonful of warm soapy water and give an
 ...e moistened will soor jection of ten drops with the dropper or quill.
 ...second injection if needed may be given in a
 ...w minutes.

Epilepsy and Fits.—This is caused by too rich
 ...birds suffer from this w minutes.
 ...ly fatal and is caused od or too frequent mating, either one of
 ...water, musty seed or hich may cause a partial suspension of the
 ...our egg food. Sympto art's action; or it may be caused by fright.
 ...ent and watery, which hen the bird is attacked hold the cage in the
 ...ne weakening of the ash air and sprinkle a few drops of ice cold
 ...s one; change the w ater on the bird's head. If possible discover
 ...i put a rusty nail in e cause. Hanging the cage in the hot sun
 ...ommon chalk shoul sometimes causes fits; in this case smelling salts
 ...wires of the cage or e required in addition to the water. The diet
 ...in the botton of the ould be carefully regulated. Add more rape
 ...to five drops of parego ed to the food.
 ...he same amount of br

Inflammation of the Bowels.—This is a very common disease with cage birds and may be caused either by faulty feeding, a chill or sudden change in the weather. No time should be lost in applying a remedy. Symptoms are Fullness in the lower part of the body; a dull and heavy appearance, feathers disarranged, continual drinking, but little appetite. The bird rarely stands up on his feet as he should, and rests his body on the perch and does not move. If the invalid is examined the lower part of the abdomen will be found to be a colour varying from rich red to a dark red. The food should be changed and the cage well cleaned. Keep the bird warm and quiet in a cage by itself and anoint the vent with olive oil. A small camel hair brush is best to anoint with, but if not obtainable a small feather will answer very well. Open the bowels if there is constipation. The food should be of the lightest description, like biscuit or bread soaked in milk and given frequently every three hours should be the main diet. From five to ten drops of brandy may be added to the drinking water if the bird seems very weak. As the bird's health improves give it food and a cake of Bird Treat.

Cramps are caused by filthy cages and close confinement in a small cage, or bathing frequently. One bath a day or a bath on alternate days is frequent enough. Sometimes it

wels.—This is a venous swelling caused by indigestion. They may be cured by adding a few drops of laudanum to the drinking water. If the legs, which may be noticed by the nervous contraction of both members, the best cure is to bathe the legs in warm water.

The Pip is a small swelling which appears on the bird's rump. It may be easily cured by opening the swelling with a needle and rubbing a little cold cream gently on it.

Surfeit in old birds is indicated by a slight swelling on the body, and an extending baldness on the head. It is caused by an abrupt change in a cage by itself and food or by continued plain diet. Add a few drops of Epsom Salts to the water and give a pint with, but if necessary give a pint of apple daily, if this does not cause diarrhoea, and feed Bird Treat. Feed only plain food if there is constipation. The best description, lightest and given fresh.

Yellow Gall is indicated by a small ulcer or a number of them, around the eyes. If the bird has been fed on plain food change to a more nourishing diet, but if too rich change it to rapeseed only. The ulcers should be cut and rubbed with ointment made of a strong solution of sugar of lead with soft water. Saturate the ulcers thoroughly with this, and bathe the sore parts three or four times a day until healed.

filthy cages and the cage, or bathing the bird with a bath on alternate days. Sometimes it

Contagious Diseases.—These arise from over-crowded bird rooms, where the air becomes so foul that disease must surely be the result. Bird owners that keep only a few birds are usually affected by it. In appearance a bird may be perfectly healthy and sing, and yet disease lurks in his system and results fatally unless speedy means are taken to check it.

When the disease appears among a number of birds, it may result from unclean or poisonous drinking water, and is shown by merous ulcers on the head and body. In other cases it is noticed by the short gasps of the bird as though in great distress. As soon as noticed all cages in the room should be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and the seed, water and bath cups thoroughly cleansed. Keep the birds in the purest atmosphere possible; sunshine also good. Feed such birds on plain seeds, with a little maw seed in the mixture. Green food and egg-mixture should not be given during the run of the disease. Add to the drinking water a teaspoonful of brandy and a few drops of paregoric; float this mixture with a little cayenne pepper. The above remedy has resulted in the complete recovery when the disease was promptly attended to. If allowed to run without checking, the result will be surely fatal.

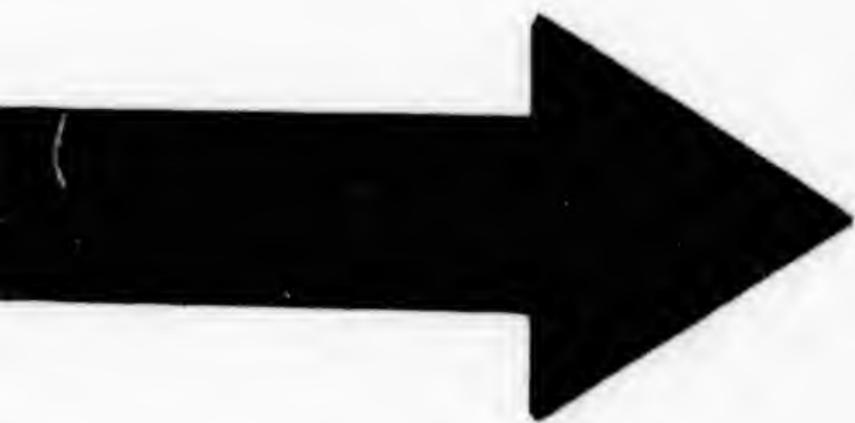
Sore Feet are the result usually of filthy cages. Very often the perch is placed directly

arise from over-feeding so that the droppings from the bird
 the air becomes on the perch above falls on the perch below,
 may be the result in which their feet become clogged. Sometimes
 few birds are not is caused by the perch being too small and the
 appearance a bird's claws meet, often crippling the bird and
 sing, and yet the causing the ends of the claws to strike the
 and results fatally underside of the foot. It is also caused from in-
 ken to check attention to the legs and feet while the bird is
 among a small growing old. Cleanse dirty feet by soaking them
 t from unclean on a warm water, removing all particles of dirt,
 l is shown by num and anoint with glycerine. If the soreness is
 d body. In other caused by scales which grow on the bird's legs
 t gasps of the bird he gets older, take the bird in hand and anoint
 As soon as noticed the affected parts with cold cream, and after
 ld be thoroughly three or four applications daily for three or four
 the seed, water and days, gently remove the scales with the back
 d. Keep the bird edge of a penknife blade, being careful not to
 ssible; sunshine weak the underskin. When the scales are re-
 on plain seeds, with oved as much as possible, anoint daily until
 ture. Green food and feet are healed.

be given during the **Red and Swollen Feet and Legs** are usually
 the drinking water caused by too little green food and too
 and a few drops of used by too little green food and too
 with a little cayenne such plain canary seed. Add more rape seed
 has resulted in the the ordinary quantity in the seed and give a
 disease was promptly ce of apple the size of a thimble, every other
 ed to run without y or even every day, if it does not cause
 surely fatal. diarrhoea.

usually of filth **Bare Places** about the eyes or above the
 which is placed directl back or around the neck are caused by too





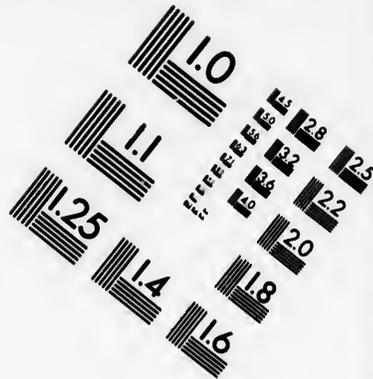
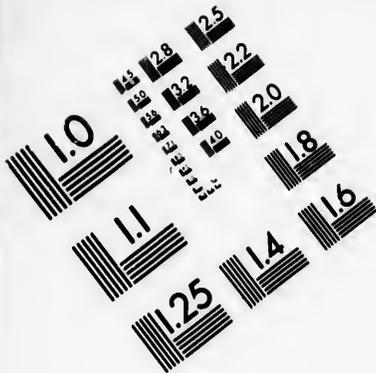
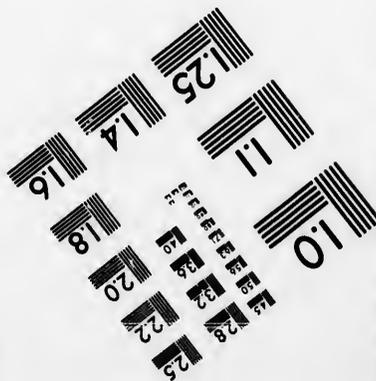
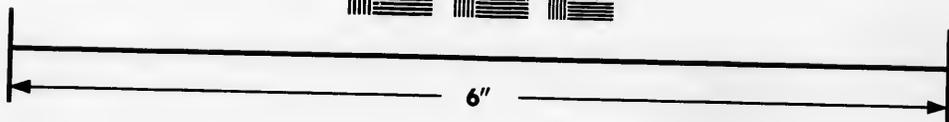
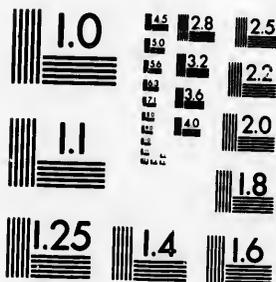


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hearty diet. Treat the same way as for red and swollen feet.

Pulling the Feathers from the body is generally caused by bad blood. Give a plain diet and mix a little salt with the egg paste. Treat same as for bare places, etc., described above.

A Hard Growth which forms just above the beak may be touched daily with vaseline. After a time the core will drop off. This is a blood trouble. Put more rape in the food and give apple as above.

The general cry is, "My bird will not eat the rape." On enquiry you will generally find the so-called rape is only wild mustard seed or kind of turnip seed put in by some unscrupulous and unprincipled bird seed dealers, or that the mixture contains too much millet, or that so much seed is given each day that the bird does not clean up his dish and perhaps takes the canary seed in preference to the rape. The bird owner cannot be too particular about the quality of the food, and see that the packet has the manufacturer's name on the label, if that is not on, then beware of it, as it is evidently put up by some people who are ashamed of their work and therefore afraid to put their name on. Be sure that there is a cake of Bird Treat put up a round tin in each packet and then you can

way as for red and

the body is gener-
Give a plain die
with the egg paste
laces, etc., describ

forms just above th
with vaseline. Afte
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rely on having good wholesome seed for your feathered pets. (See advertisement at end of book.)

The Nails often grow long and hook-shaped and need to be cut. Hold the bird up to a strong light so the vein in each nail may be seen, then cut each nail avoiding the vein. This operation is just the same as cutting your own nails, the white part can be safely cut, but the red part cannot without injury. If the claws get too long they sometimes get entangled in the wires of the cage and injure the bird, perhaps breaking a leg.

The Beak sometimes grows so that the bird has difficulty in eating. Cut the overgrown parts with sharp scissors and scrape them into correct shape carefully with the edge of a pen-knife blade or a very fine file.

Broken Legs may be set if broken between the joints. Shear the feathers off around the break, and draw the leg carefully away from the body, so that the ends of the bone may be pressed into place. Then place strips of court plaster a sixteenth of an inch wide, inside and outside the leg, and extending one-third inch, if possible, past the break. Other narrow strips may be put around the leg in three or four places to hold the lengthwise court plaster splints in position. Some people get a small

quill and split it down one side so that it will go around the bird's leg and act as a splint, and then secure it tightly with thread. Afterwards place the bird in a small cage without perches on some soft hay, etc., and put food, seeds, Bird Treat, and water inside the cage, on the bottom, so the bird will not have to struggle to get them and thus dislocate the break.

A Bird is Puffed Up when he has diarrhoea when constipated, when he has been neglected in food or water, when he has a cold, when a mouse gets in his cage at night, when insects are devouring him, or generally when he is diseased.

Mice are a source of torture to canaries and oftentimes succeed in frightening a healthy bird into sickness and even to death. You will sometimes perceive your canary drooping and sickly in appearance from no apparent cause, and this is provoking considering the care you have given him. If there are mice in the house and any chance of getting at the seed, rest assured they will get there. Bird seeds are as delicious as the best brands of cheese, and they will enter the cage in the dark, and make your bird sick enough to satisfy the most ambitious bird doctor. The only remedy is to hang them out of all possible reach, beware of curtains, etc., for a mouse will think nothing of creeping up that

one side so that it will go even a hard surface if it is not exactly vertical. and act as a splint, and in case of the breeding-room, to effectually bar with thread. Afterward them out, use zinc.

all cage without perches. **Insects** are worse even than mice for they and put food, seeds, Birds are more stealthy and do not leave such traces the cage, on the bottom of their visits, but succeed in so completely torturing the bird that life becomes a burden and re to struggle to get them out. The symptoms break. re gradually consumes away. The symptoms

when he has diarrhoea are a puffed appearance, alternating with a n he has been neglected scratching, shaking, and frequent pecking at the n he has a cold, when body. Put a white cloth over his cage at night e at night, when insects and in the morning you will probably find many r generally when he of the tiny red insects. It sometimes seems as

torture to canaries and regardless of the best care and attention. A righ g healthy bird favourite resort is just around the screw which o death. You will some astens the hook or ring of the cage, this is often ary drooping and sick he mites harbour in the day time, and descend apparent cause, and th in the bird at night, giving the bird no sleep, ng the care you hav which is perhaps more important than food. e mice in the house an Wash your cage thoroughly, being especially t the seed, rest assur areful to remove the top or handle, as the insect rd seeds are as deliciou erts swarm under that cap. After washing, eease, and they will ente ust it thoroughly with the best bird insect nd make your bird sic owder that you can obtain, (see advertisement ost ambitious bird doctor t end of book) take the bird in your hand and o hang them out of al ust the same powder thoroughly through his of curtains, etc., for eathers, using your fingers, and see that all ng of creeping up that arts of the bird receive plenty of the powder.

It will be necessary to make another application of the insect powder three or four days later, as the nits or eggs will be hatched out in the meantime. If you use a wooden cage it will be necessary to scald it thoroughly and varnish the oil the woodwork. Dry the varnish to a hard condition before using it again. The bird insect powder is harmless to the bird but will kill the mites. Young insects are black.

One experienced bird fancier gives the following advice: "Bake the cage in the domestic oven, if it will go in, that is better than scalding. If the cage hangs against the wall see that there are no mites under the paper."

The Moulting Season with birds a year or more, is regularly in some parts of August, September or October and generally lasts so six to eight weeks, or with very old birds, sometimes longer. It is a perfectly natural operation and still it is often attended with illness of various kinds, as it is a very weakening process and this is why the bird should then have extra strengthening food and be in a comfortable warm place, say 70°, out of all draughts, and with the cage covered at 6 p. m. Give egg food daily, and be sure it has a cake of Bird Treatment the cage. A bird in good health should moult only once a year and at this period; birds moulted at other times have colds or have been

to make another application three or four days later. The bird hatched out in the wooden cage it will be thoroughly and varnished. Try the varnish to a hatch it again. The bird inside the bird but will kill the are black.

A fancier gives the following cage in the domestic that is better than scalding against the wall see that the paper."

on with birds a year in some parts of August and generally lasts so with very old birds, so perfectly natural operation attended with illness a very weakening process should then have extended in a comfortable out of all draughts, at 6 p. m. Give egg food as a cake of Bird Treat good health should move this period; birds moult colds or have been

in pure atmosphere, where there has been stove, etc. The cause should be removed and the bird treated for a cold.

Sore Eyes.—The juice of a red beet given the bird internally and also a wash for the eyes greatly relieves this disorder. Gold-finches are frequently affected by it when fed too much hemp seed. Anointing the eyes with fresh butter has been known to give excellent results. Some bird fanciers describe many other bird ailments, but in the end admit that they know little about it. It is easier and better to keep a bird well than to cure it when sick.

To prevent diseases in birds use the best quality of seeds, put up by some reputable firm, such as Brock's Bird Seed, (see advertisement at end of book) clean fresh water for drinking and nothing, coarse sea gravel, a piece of cuttle bone, a little green stuff quite fresh, and a cake of Bird Treat made up in a round tin to fasten to the cage. If these are supplemented by light airy rooms, where the bird may have one or two hours of the morning sunlight each day and regular attention, your bird, if fairly well bred, will be subject to few diseases.

Many bird dealers handle a bird medicine or tonic which is a stimulant and invigorates the bird, and in this way assists it to recover from many bird ills. (See advertisement at end of book.)

All the small seed-eating birds such as Bullfinch, the Goldfinch, the Linnet, the Ind and Nonpareil, and small Finches may be treated in cases of sickness, just like the Canary.

Wrapping Birds.—There are many people who think that a bird will smother if covered closely. Such is not the case. In packing birds for removal great care should be taken that the cage is thoroughly protected with at least two or three thicknesses of stout wrapping paper, allowing no apertures to be left through which a draught might strike the bird. All ventilation necessary may be provided by putting a few very small holes in the paper covering the top of the cage, *never making or leaving holes in paper covering the sides of the cage.* Paper is more suitable for this purpose than either woollen or cotton fabrics. We are aware that many people are reluctant to trust a bird to the supposed rough handling of an expressman. The expressman may handle a trunk roughly and throw packages around in a careless manner, but not the little innocent bird.

Write to Nicholson & Brock, of Toronto, Canada, the well known Bird Food dealers, who will be able to help you and give you advice free of charge.

MENT AND DISEASES.

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scent bird.

on & Brock, of Toronto
own Bird Food dealers, visit
you and give you advice

WASHING CANARIES.

Little dew drops of celestial melody.

—Carlyle.

We are told that "cleanliness is next to godliness," and many a good bird has lost a fair chance at the show, simply because its toilet has not been properly attended to—hence most birds have to be washed before being exhibited though the necessity for "tubbing" must be considered an evil. The evil of too frequent washing is a kind of giving away of the feathers which might almost be called a rubbing out which is apt to show itself at the back of the neck. Have some hot water on the stove and a good bright fire ready. An open wire cage should previously have been got ready to be used as a "drying" cage, and must have its bottom covered over with clean flannel or some handy woollen article; this is placed where good heat from the fire can reach it. Get a clean and soft cloth, be sure they are both clean and soft, and get three good sized basins; very washing basins are very suitable as not being easily overturned. The first basin or pan should be half filled with luke warm water. Dissolve in it a little bit of washing soda about

the size of a nut, and then taking in one hand a piece of good white soap (shaving soap is an admirable article) and in the other a soft washing brush, alternately dip in the water and rub over the soap till you have a basinful of suds. Half fill the other basins with water full blood heat, but not more; if you ha



FIG. 1.

thermometer you may keep it at 90° . These dishes must be placed handy, and it is a good plan to bed it in the soap dish with flannel so that it will not slip about. With these preparations you are ready to begin. Take your first bird and place it along the palm of the left hand

and then taking in one ha
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 and in the other a soft
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FIG. 1.

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 With these preparum
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 e palm of the left han

Fig. 1, the head towards the wrist, and the
 projecting between the thumb and forefinger,
 while the other fingers hold the bird lightly but
 firmly, the little finger securing the head, and
 the others shoulder or side of the wing. It will
 readily found that in this position the bird
 can be held lightly yet with perfect security, and
 at the position of its body can be changed at
 convenience, according as the back or sides are
 being done. Immerse all but just the head in
 the suds for a few seconds, whilst the lather
 brush is being plied with telegraphic speed over
 the soap; and as soon as a good free lather is
 obtained in the brush, lift the bird out, remove
 the thumb or second finger out of the way, and
 brush well with the brush the lower part of the
 body, the wing, and tail; always working in the
 same direction as the feathers lie, and occasion-
 ally dipping the parts being washed in the suds.
 Do this until the dirt seems got out; then hold
 the bird with forefinger and thumb, and remove
 the other fingers sufficiently and alternately, like
 those of a violinist, to give space for the head
 and shoulders being washed, taking care that
 the dirt is well removed round the beak; the
 middle finger placed under the throat will readily
 support the head for that purpose. It is no use at-
 tempting to be too particular about the eyes;
 you had better forget that the bird has any,
 except that you will of course take care the

brush itself does not come against those delicate
 organs. The soap will, and you cannot help
 so it is no use fretting, and most sensible birds
 shut their eyes. Being satisfied that the back
 clean, turn the bird over in the hand (Fig. 2)
 with its head coming under the little finger



FIG. 2.

wards the wrist as before, and again commence
 brushing the wings and tail, opening the wings
 as much as possible. Finish off with the throat
 and belly.

So far all is pretty simple. At first, most
 people seem afraid to handle a canary, thinking
 something dreadful will happen. Once over

ainst those delicate
 you cannot help
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 the hand (Fig. 2)
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and again commene
 opening the wing
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 ppen. Once over

me this and you simply have to get the dirt
 out, being careful to move the brush only in the
 general direction of the feathers, seeing that
 there is no particular pressure on any part of
 the body, especially on the belly. Having got
 the bird clean, squeeze the suds from the brush,
 and with it wash out the soap with the water
 of the second basin. Finally holding the bird,
 which is now comparatively tame in as perpen-
 dicular a position as possible, scoop the water
 of the third basin over it with the right hand
 until it is perfectly free from soap; after which
 draw the flights and tail gently through the
 fingers to remove as much water as possible
 before proceeding to the drying stage. If pre-
 rred, a sponge may be used for the final rins-
 ing, and the bird may even be dipped and freely
 moved in the clean warm water, keeping the
 head out of course, unless for a moment. Re-
 member, however you do it, that the great point
 is to get every least particle of soap completely
 out of the plumage; any left in will hinder pro-
 portionately a good result. Having wrung the
 bird well out with the fingers, take one of the
 soft cloths, previously well warmed at the fire,
 wrap the bird in it and "dab" it gently between
 the hands, until the worst of the wet is soaked
 up by the cloth. Be sure that the water is well
 absorbed from about the belly, vent, and under
 the wings. An excellent method of "towelling"

for effecting this purpose is to place a second d while th
and hot cloth *over* the left hand; then take t the clot
bird by the right hand, with the two first finger back, fl
under the belly and thumb over the root of t main so
tail and ends of the wings, when the patient w cloth in
open its wings a little at the shoulders. into po
once you pop in the covered left thumb und age, pr
one wing (extending between wing and bod the plu

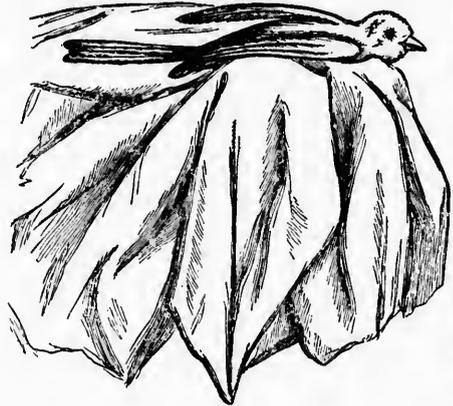


FIG. 3.

and the left, second and third fingers (as in the
covered by the warm cloth) under the other *wire*
wing, (see Fig. 3) which will with a little judg
ious manipulation, rapidly soak up all the warm
all along the belly and under the wings. Af
this the left fore finger, brought up over
right side of the bird's neck, holds it secure
small w

to place a second d while the right hand takes up the loose end of
hand; then take t the cloth and wipes over the head, down the
in the two first fing back, flights and tail. The wet being in the
over the root of t main soaked up, take another piece of hot, dry
when the patient w cloth in the right hand and stroke the plumage
the shoulders. into position, and place the bird in the drying
ed left thumb und age, pretty near the fire. See particularly that
een wing and bod the plumage lies right, about the back of the
neck and rump. The bird may appear nearly



dead, in which case some think it best to hold it
quietly in a cloth near the fire till a good puls-
ation ensues, when they place it in the cage.
But very few—not one in hundreds—really do
die, and it is as well to place the bird in the
warm flannel lined cage at once *on its back* on
the flannel, with the tail pointing towards the
fire. It will generally lie there until the belly
is dry, when it will turn over suddenly, and hop
either on the perch or the wires of the cage tak-
ing care of itself till the feathers assume their
natural appearance. Here a word of caution is
necessary: The drying cage must be very
warm, the danger of chill being considerable.

third fingers (a on the other hand, if too hot, and especially if
th) under the othe the *wires* get hot, such neglect might be worse
ill with a little jud an a chill. It is advisable, therefore, to keep
soak up all the w warming the cage round to avoid this. A much
der the wings. Af better plan is to use a wooden box open one
brought up over e side, and closed in every other part except a
ck, holds it secure small window and the door. The open side

should be covered with clean unbleached linen, and the inside lined with clean stuff and supplied with perches. Such a box may be opened to the fire till it is nicely warm, when the linen front drawn down or shut down will shade off all fierce glare, yet keep the temperature what is desired. Or a larger cage may be employed, and covered on all sides but that towards the fire when it will be found that a greater distance may be preserved.

Throughout the washing the heat of the water should be kept up by judicious changes or additions, and it should also be renewed as fast as dirt or soap make it necessary. The cloths should be regularly dried and heated after being wetted, so as to be always ready, and a towel should be kept for the sole purpose of wiping the wet hands before taking up one of them; it is a great loss of drying power to wet the cloths with anything but the wet birds. If a bird gets cold and shivers, it should always be taken in hand and carefully warmed before being placed in the drying cage.

In conclusion we may remark that, one practical lesson from a good practical washer will be more effectual than a cart-load of instructions.

As the birds get thoroughly dry, they should be gradually moved further off from the fire. Where there are many this is generally into another cage; and it need hardly be said that

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every cage into which a washed canary is put should be scrupulously clean. All being washed and cleaned up, it is best to draw a linen cloth over the cage and leave them for the night. In the morning, if time can be allowed, it is a good plan to put a flannel over the bottom of the cage and give them a natural bath, which is the surest and best way of getting the feathers quite right and restoring the natural bloom, always rather lost by washing. If, however, there is not time, or the birds will not bathe, the mouth is filled with cold water and blown or squirted into a spray through the compressed lips till they are again wringing wet—or get a spray producer from the druggists for twenty-five cents and perform the same office. In either case, when the birds are drenched, remove the flannel (put in to absorb the wet), wipe the perches, feed the birds, and leave them again to dry, or they may after a drenching be run into a clean dry cage. We lay great stress on clean cages, since the birds begin operations at once after a cold bath of any kind, and any dust on wires or perches is at once transferred to the head near the beak, and spoils all. The cold bathing or drenching process is called "fining" and is very necessary to showing birds in good bloom. They generally look their best a day or two after washing and ought to be covered up to keep them from knocking themselves about in the meantime.

EXHIBITIONS AND JUDGING.

“When birds of fine feather are gathered together,
Well clothed in their colours so bright ;
'Tis a sight worth seeing by each human being,
Not only by day but by night.”

—Anon.

Bird exhibitions are quite popular in Germany and Great Britain, and are growing rapidly in favour in Canada. The most famous Bird Show in England is held at the Crystal Palace, London. At most important fall exhibitions there are usually various classes of cage birds shown, included under the head of Poultry, but the increase of Cage Bird Societies, throughout the Dominion, proves that the study and breeding of our feathered pets is getting more important, and proving more interesting to the general public. There are Cage Bird Societies in the Province of Ontario—at Hamilton and Woodstock, besides three in Toronto alone, each of which hold an annual exhibition in winter, in addition to most of them having a “first feather” or young birds show in summer—and possibly other societies in different parts of Canada. Underneath we print a list of the rules and regulations of one of our Canadian Cage Bird Shows :

1. All birds shown shall be the bona-fide property of the exhibitor.

AND JUDGING.

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age Bird Shows :

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2. All colour fed birds will be disqualified, except in class marked colour fed.

3. Hens may be shown in every class.

4. Cinnamon marked birds to be shown according to type.

5. Entry fee—Members. of Society 15c. each bird; non-members 25c. each bird. Entry fee must be sent with each entry.

6. Prize money—First prize, \$1.00; second prize, 50c. In case there are only 1 or 2 birds in a class, cards only will be given. Classes of 3, 4, 5 or 6 birds will receive for first prize only second prize money. All prize money guaranteed, and will be paid at the Society's next meeting, of which winners will receive due notice.

7. Points to count—First, 4 points; second, 3 points; Third, 2 points; V. H. C., 1 point.

8. Should the appointed judge, through any cause be unable to fulfil his duties, the committee reserve to themselves the right to appoint a substitute. The decision of the judge shall be final, unless a protest, in writing, of fraud or wrong doing be entered with the Secretary against a bird before 3 o'clock on day of the show. Such protest must be supported by \$2.00, which will be forfeited to the Society if the protest be considered frivolous. The committee will deal with all protests.

9. Each exhibit must have selling price of same stated on the entry form. Exhibitors are not limited as to price put on their birds

10. All exhibits must be at place of exhibition by 8 a. m. on exhibition day, and no entry will be allowed to be removed from the hall before 9 p.m. of same day. Exhibitors must see that their exhibits are removed by 10 p.m.

11. The society will not be responsible for any accident, mistake, loss or damage to any exhibits, though every attention will be given to the care of the birds.

12. All entries must be in the Secretary's hands no later than five days before show.

All enquiries and entries must be addressed to the Secretary.

Birds intended for exhibition should be accustomed to seeing people in front of their cages, having the cages lifted and handled, and to "run" from one cage into another. The latter is very important and easily taught, and its use is to save unnecessary catching, which soils the birds, often damages their plumage, and, not to believe, by the fright it causes, often lays the foundation of heart disease—all of which might be avoided by training the birds from the first to run from one cage to the other of their own accord. The birds are arranged on stages provided by the society, but they remain in their own cages. Some exhibitors send a bit of sponge in each water-tin to avoid mischief; and if not, care should be taken only to partly fill the tins at first so that the birds can just dip their beaks in. If more is allowed the birds may begin to splash and drench themselves and may not be dry when the judges come around. As soon as the class is judged, the tins may be filled up fully.

There are many towns and cities where an exhibition of birds could be arranged by the ladies, and would attract a great deal of attention. One church at Des Moines, Iowa, recently had

in the Secretary's hands an entertainment consisting of music and exercises by the children, most of which had special reference to God's most beautiful creations, the birds. Members of the congregation were requested to bring their birds and the cages were artistically arranged in an arch over the stage and hung around the sides of the room and on the chandeliers, and their delightful songs added melody to the evening's entertainment. Such a concert could easily be arranged anywhere, and not only will it prove an attraction, but it will teach the children to love these "little dewdrops of celestial melody." Judging, it need hardly be said, is the most difficult work in connection with a bird show, and it requires the most experienced bird fanciers and breeders that are thoroughly honest and unbiassed to act as judges. Outsiders as a rule will carry far more weight and inspire more confidence than local men, and are often a number of petty jealousies and prejudices in the district that it is best for a judge to know nothing of.

To give the reader some idea how the judges make their decision we give below scales for Belgian, Norwich, and Yorkshire forms, which we quote from Cassell's Book on Birds :

BELGIAN
POINTS OF MERIT

| <i>Shape</i> | <i>Maximum</i> |
|--|----------------|
| HEAD.—Small, neat and flat on the crown..... | 3 |
| NECK.—Long and slender and capable of extension..... | to 13 |

| | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| | <i>Shape.</i> | <i>Maxim</i> |
| | Brought forward..... | |
| SHOULDERS.—High, broad, massive, well filled in between the pinions, and presenting a considerable area between the base of the neck and the summit, which should be well rounded..... | | |
| BACK.—Long, straight and well filled..... | | |
| BREAST.—Prominent and deep through from the back to the front of the chest..... | | |
| BODY.—Long, tapering gradually and evenly towards the waist, from a base line drawn diagonally through the body from the breast to the back to a point between the shoulders..... | | |
| WINGS.—Long, compact, and carried close to the body, with tips meeting evenly..... | | |
| TAIL.—Long, narrow, close and only slightly forked.... | | |
| LEGS.—Long and straight with the thighs well covered.. | | |
| FEATHER.—Close and compact, so as not to disturb the outline of the body. Upper and lower tail coverts dense and compact, forming the vertex of an isosceles triangle of which the sectional diagonal line is the base..... | | |
| SIZE..... | | |
| COLOUR.—For purity rather than depth..... | | |
| | POSITION. | |
| ATTITUDE.—Erect stand with quiet easy pose. The line of the back and tail as nearly plumb as possible.. | | |
| LEGS.—Straight and rigid..... | | |
| SHOULDERS.—Elevated..... | | |
| HEAD.—Depressed..... | | |
| NECK.—Length of reach and arching..... | | |
| | Total..... | |

NORWICH

POINTS OF MERIT

| | |
|---|--|
| COLOUR.—Depth and purity..... | |
| Brilliancy | |
| Uniform distribution on both body and wings.... | |
| Whiteness of underflue..... | |
| FEATHER.—Body feathers, for compactness..... | |
| Wings, for compactness and carriage..... | |
| Tail, for compactness and carriage..... | |

learn a few of the methods employed. At contest each bird was allowed six minutes, one point counted for every ten seconds a bird sang without a break. The winner scored eighteen points. At other contests five minutes and ten minutes were allowed, a point for every ten seconds of consecutive singing being allowed as before; while at others a bird has been allowed one point for every second over ten seconds in each burst during the prescribed time.

We are glad to know that this kind of contest is gradually giving place to a more careful cultivation of the quality of the song.

The thrush that carols at the dawn of day
From the green steeples of the piny wood;
The oriole in the elm; the noisy jay,
Jargoning like a foreigner at his food;
The bluebird balanced on some topmost sprig;
Flooding with melody the neighbourhood;
Linnet and meadow-lark and all the throng
That dwell in nest, and have the gift of song

—Longfellow

SONS AND JUDGING.

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—*Longfellow*



THE GOLDFINCH.

Oh! what is so pretty, so cunning, so gay,
So daintily busy the livelong day,
As my little goldfinch—beautiful pet,
With his butterfly wings, and cap of jet?

Far, far from his native bowers of bloom,
He lives a prisoner, yet feels no gloom;
For his merry glance and his sprightly song,
Tells plainly as words that he fears no wrong.

Next to the canary this may be considered the
most popular cage bird, and especially is this
the case in all parts of Europe. He may not
be reckoned a high class songster in the true sense
of the word, but one never tires of hearing his
wild song, and it must be unanimously

allowed that he excels in beauty of plumage, being the handsomest of British finches. He is a native of England and most parts of Europe, and they have been imported and naturalized in Cuba and Africa.

The illustration, at the head of the chapter, shows as well as can be done with one colour the markings of the bird. He is a really aristocratic little gentleman. The front of the throat is of most vivid scarlet, and a broad margin of similar colour surrounds the base of the bill. A black stripe passing around the back of the head and down on each side of the neck, the front of which there is a white spot; the wings and back are a beautiful brown, the feathers of the wing and tail being of velvety black with whitish tips, and having a bright golden line about an inch long on the wings. The female bird is smaller and not so handsome.

THE GOLDFINCH of all parlour birds is certainly one of the most delightful, for it is a very sprightly, beautiful bird, and is very affectionate, docile, and intelligent. It is very tame in an aviary, but should not be confined in a very small cage, as he is so restless that he scarcely ever still and is continually climbing about, trying all the wires of the cage piecemeal, twirling his beak along them. On this account he ought not to be kept in a bell-shaped cage, as he is apt to grow giddy, but in a square

excels in beauty of plumage, and is ten to sixteen inches long. Dyson says, in his book on Bird-keeping, "he is very easily tamed, and may be safely allowed a flight around the room while his cage is being cleaned. He is capable of great attachment to his owner, and may be taught various amusing tricks, such as firing off cannon, dragging a little waggon up an inclined plane into his cage, opening a box with his seed, ringing a bell for it, and hauling up a pulley from a little well underneath the cage; and all these he will learn very readily and without any coercion. Some of the tricks which professional exhibitors of birds make a trade by, are not so difficult, and they have appeared delighted to exhibit their cleverness. One of my birds was the most delightful, for it was tamed in a cage made with a seed box attached to the wooden back; and he always lifted up the lid when he wanted a seed, and soon grew so intelligent. It is very easy as to take out two or three seeds at a time, and he is so restless that I had to put them by his side between the wires. I and he is continually clinging to him this in a couple of days by fastening a piece of silk round the lid and gradually covering it till it was quite closed; and he kept in a bell-shaped net nearly as soon to draw up a little silver giddy, but in a square net with water, from the glass which formed

a well, suspended by wires from the bow window attached to his cage. In the floor of this was a hole, across which went a narrow bridge of wood, to which a little ring was fastened, attached to a tiny silver chain holding the bucket, which was about the size of a thimble. I drew the bucket up to the bridge at first and fastened it while the bird drank the water, then let it down and refilled it, and drew it up nearly to the top, and I gradually left a longer and longer length of the chain between the bridge and the bucket. The bird soon found out that he must pull the chain up into the cage, but let it go while he drank, till he comprehended the necessity of holding it with his foot; and as soon as this was made clear to him his education was finished; he hauled up a bit of the chain, put his foot on it, hauled up another length, and held that, and so on, till the bucket came to the bridge, and he could drink out of it. He never forgot the art and was so proud of his own cleverness that he would pause to sing, after he had drawn the bucket within reach, before he quenched his thirst. This bird was never happy out of his cage, and when it was out of repair, and he had to live in a cage of ordinary construction, he pouted and moped, and was exceedingly displeased with his new abode. Of course, care must be taken that the lid of the box is not heavy enough to distress the bird,

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while holding it upon his head, and that the machinery of the bucket, chain and well is always in order; any hindrance to the bucket's fall into the well to get refilled would be most serious and cause the bird great suffering. A chain attached to a waggon may be drawn into the cage and held in the same manner, and the bird may be taught to ring a little bell by suspending it in a corner of the cage and leaving him without seed till he is hungry, pulling the string attached to it and ringing it and then putting some favourite food into the glass. He will soon discover that whenever the bell rings he gets his food, and will seize the string and ring it whenever he is hungry.

"The Bullfinch and Siskin will learn all these accomplishments, but canaries never understand the art of holding the chain with their foot when they have drawn it up; at least I have never succeeded in teaching any of mine to overcome this difficulty. A mule bird, with canary and goldfinch parents, was very quickly taught it."

Goldfinches will soon learn to come out of their cages for any favourite food offered to them, and to fly on the hand or shoulder to receive hemp seed of which they are very fond, and will sometimes refuse to sing unless provided with hemp seed, but he must not have a large quantity of this seed for it will cause blindness and excessive fatness.

Goldfinches have been known to live, confined in a cage, for sixteen or twenty years; and though they may lose their bright colours, they retain their activity and cheerfulness of disposition. Their food in their wild state consists chiefly of the seeds of weeds, groundsel, burdock, and thistle, of which last he is so fond that he is often called the "Thistle-finch." Lettuce and a thistle head should often be given to goldfinches, cabbage seeds he also approves of and in confinement he should have these occasionally. In a cage he should have maw seed mixed with canary and rape seed, and also about one ounce of inga seed, of which he is very fond, to one pound of the other seed. As their bill though sharp as a needle, is in young birds quite soft, and although very fond of rape and canary seed, they cannot readily crack it until they are at least two years old, it would always be well to soak a little canary and rape for them, thereby softening the hull and making it a matter of no trouble for them to crack. Be sure that it is given fresh for when soaked the rape goes sour in a few hours. And occasionally, as a reward for some trick or display of affection, a few crushed hemp seed which he should be made to take from the hand. Most wild birds when captured become, in confinement, sullen and dispirited. Want of exercise and of a peculiar kind of food so alters the quality of the

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fluids, that fits and ailments ensue; and the
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 goldfinch, after his capture he commences to
 feed on maw seed, mixed in equal parts with
 rape and canary, frisks about the cage and
 dresses his plumage without manifesting the
 least apparent regret for the loss of companions
 or liberty. His beauty, melody, and speedy re-
 conciliation to confinement, render him a de-
 sirable companion; and he is captured to cheer
 us with his manners and voice in airs and regions
 very different from his native thistly downs and
 apple blossom bowers.

There are many varieties of the goldfinch
 shown by the difference in markings or colours
 of the plumage. The highest prized of these
 varieties are the scarlet-headed, which has the
 entire head coloured in rich scarlet or crimson;
 there are no other markings to mar the brilli-
 ancy of colour on the head. This is a very rare
 and beautiful variety. The white-breasted
 Cheveral or King Goldfinch has a pure white
 breast and clear white ring around the neck.
 This variety is highly prized as a breeder of
 white or handsomely marked goldfinch-canary
 hybrids. The white-legged variety is esteemed
 for the readiness with which he mates with the
 female canary. The Black Goldfinch is a variety
 which is obtained by keeping the bird in close
 confinement in a darkened room.

The goldfinch when caged sings throughout the year, excepting during moulting season. His song is on a high key, and agreeable and contains many warbles, trills and twittering notes which are intermingled in a most charming manner. The bird, during the continuance of his song is in constant motion; and these lively movements, combined with his graceful form, delicately blended colours, and sprightly song make him one of the most attractive bird objects with which a home can be adorned. Goldfinches may be reared in cages in the same manner as canaries; their mating season begins in May.

Diseases.—The Goldfinch has epilepsy, diarrhoea, constipation, etc., all of which may be treated in the same manner as like ailments in canaries. Decline or wasting, is cured by changing the diet to richer food, giving freely apples or any fruit the bird will eat, and lean raw juicy scraped beef. Giddiness may be treated by withdrawing the maw seed and feeding on soaked millet and rape seeds.

The goldfinch, if properly cared for, will live for years and keep his general friskiness or sprightly melody to the end, but some bird fanciers think he loses his bright colours as time goes on. If put near a canary it will often catch some of that bird's notes and often improve its song.

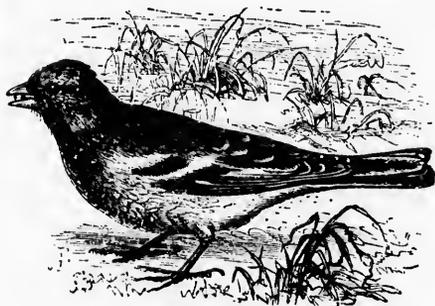
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THE CHAFFINCH.

The low, sweet singing of a bird
The murmur of the breeze
How soft would glide our fleeting hours
Blest as the sunshine and the flowers,
And calm as summer seas.

—*Amelia*.

The chaffinch is one of the most handsome birds of the small finches, being distinguished for his bright colour and active habits. They are a very popular cage bird throughout Europe, but comparatively few of them are kept as cage birds in this country. He is a native of all parts of Europe, and is not so much prized in England as in France and Germany. The forehead of the male is black; the neck slate colour;

shoulders and body a reddish brown; back a
olive green; the wings black striped with white.
They can be easily tamed and can be reared
from the nest on soaked bread moistened with
water, and scalded rape seed.

In their natural state chaffinches are partial-
ly insectivorous, and although they are fond of
the young shoots of vegetables, and do mischief
by eating them as soon as they appear above
ground, yet they do great service by destroying
numbers of insects which would be far more de-
structive—they are fond of the seeds of the dead
nettle and groundsel. In the cage rape seed and
canary seed in about equal quantities with about
an ounce of inga seed to one pound of the others
and occasionally a few seeds of hemp may be
given, but too much of this seed is injurious to
them. A piece of sweet apple or a little lettuce
may be given occasionally as a variety, and they
should have an occasional meal-worm or some
insects to aid digestion and keep them in good
song. Ant eggs may be also given occasionally.

In confinement the chaffinch is generally kept
in a low oblong cage; a bell-shaped cage makes
him giddy, and he sings less in a large cage or
aviary. Their food should be kept outside the
cage, as they waste it very much. In Germany
chaffinches are highly valued. An ordinary
workman will think nothing of giving four
dollars for a bird whose notes he considers good

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and it is said he will live upon bread and water until he can save money to purchase the desired object.

His wild notes are soft and mellow, but have little variety, they are heard very early in the year, for he seems very ambitious to begin before any other of the feathered musicians have got their instruments in order.

They must have water for bathing as well as drinking. They are subject to diarrhœa and to obstruction of the oil gland. In the former trouble, the gland, a small protuberance just above the tail, must be carefully opened with a fine needle and afterwards anointed with butter and sugar mixed together as an ointment.

List, to the merry shilfa! on the air
It sweetly trills a morning song of praise,
And flits from bough to bough, now here, now there,
Not long in any spot or posture stays;
A lively bird, that in early days,
When only fitful gleams of sunshine break
Athwart the leaden gloom, and misty haze,
That veil the infant year, will frequent make
The leafless woods re-echo to its call.
Treen, treen! a low sweet note, and then a shrill,
And sharp fink, fink! upon the ear doth fall
Like a speech expressive of a sentient will;
As brisk, as merry and as loved a bird,
As any in the fields and woodlands heard.

—H. G. Adams.



THE BULLFINCH.

Whose household words are songs in many keys,
Sweeter than instrument of man e'er caught
Whose habitations in the tree-tops even
Are half-way houses on the road to heaven.

—Longfellow.

The Bullfinch is a very engaging bird because it is so very happy in captivity, and entirely devoted to the person on whom it bestows its affections. It is a heavily built bird of rather inelegant shape, but very striking plumage; his bright red breast contrasting most forcibly with the black hood on the head and the beautiful grey on the back. The female has the breast chocolate brown, and the grey on the back tinged with brown. These birds have been known to lose their colours and turn almost black.

The natural tone of the bullfinch is objectionable, and it is only when trained that they are highly valued. They have the faculty of imita-

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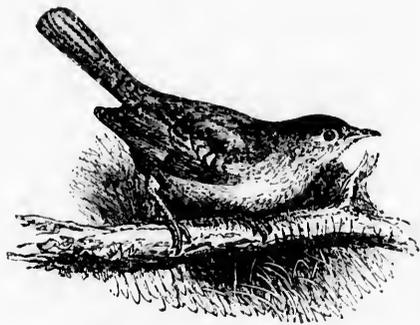
—*Longfellow.*

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ing the song of other birds, and also learn readily to pipe a tune, being perhaps superior in this respect to any other bird, their tones being much better when taught from a flute. It requires time and patience to teach the bullfinch, but he well repays the effort and soon becomes the favourite of most bird fanciers. The bird is a native of Europe, the best specimens come from Germany where they are taught to pipe tunes by experts. Shoemakers and tailors often make the training of bullfinches a profitable sideline, and they are taught such airs as will make them saleable, those going to England being taught, "God save the Queen," and those intended for the United States, "Yankee Doodle," etc. A trained bullfinch, which can whistle a few tunes, will bring a high price in Europe.

The bullfinch should be fed chiefly on canary and German rape seed, mixed with a little inga seed, no hemp seed should be given. They require lettuce, chickweed, groundsel, and are very fond of watercress when moulting, they may have a clove or a rusty nail in the drinking water, egg food, or a few ants' eggs. When over-fat, scalded rape seed and green food. A little fruit or berries may be given occasionally. They are very fond of bathing. If he appears dull and melancholy give him a little maw or poppy seed which will, in many cases restore him to his usual spirits.



THE BLACKCAP.

Under the greenwood tree
Who loves to lie with me,
And tune his merry note
Unto the sweet bird's throat,
Come hither, come hither, come hither!
Here shall he see
No enemy
But winter and rough weather.

—*Shakspeare.*

The Blackcap has a song second only to the nightingale in power and sweetness, and it is an admirable mimic, learning the notes both of the canary and nightingale, and imitating the latter so exactly that at night its song is frequently mistaken for that of the nightingale, and is often called the "mock nightingale." Its tones are loud, sweet, and especially flute-like.

It is a small bird (about five and three-quarter inches long) considering the fulness of its song,

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and its distinguishing characteristic is a jet black cap or hood on the crown of its head. The back and wing coverts are ash grey shaded with olive brown, the pinions and tail are dark brown, edged with the same colour as the back; the breast is light grey, paler towards the throat and belly. The female differs from the male in being a trifle larger, while the cap on the head is a chocolate brown. His cage should be the same as the nightingale's, about 15 inches long, 12 broad, and 12 high, and he prefers shade to sunlight, therefore, should have a green baize roof to it. He is fond of bathing, but the bath must not be left in the cage.

His food should resemble that recommended for the nightingale, and he should be supplied with soft garden fruit, such as currants and raspberries when in season, and as a treat a ripe pear may be given. A few flies or spiders will be greedily devoured. In winter, grocers currants soaked in water until they are soft are good.

The Blackcap and most of the genus suffer from tender feet, and swellings or warts upon them. A little cold cream will cure these.



THE LINNET.

I wadna gie the lintie's sang,
Sae merry on the broomy lea,
For all the harps that ever rang
In all the halls of minstrelsie.
Mair dear to me, where bush and breer
Among the pathless heather grows,
The lintie's wild, sweet note to hear,
As on the ev'nin' breeze it flows.

—Burns.

The Linnet, either gray or brown, is a beautiful songster and is very generally kept throughout Europe. He is of a hardy constitution, easily domesticated, a most lovely and constant singer, uttering many very sweet, flute-like notes; and if fed principally on canary and rape seed with occasionally very few hemp seed, will remain in health.

The two birds are spoken of as two distinct varieties, but in reality they are not; for the bird which at one year old when it has no red

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feathers in the head is a *gray* linnet, becomes after the second moulting, when the red on the breast takes a golden hue from the yellowish-white margins of the feathers a *yellow* linnet; and in the spring of the third year, when the forehead is blood red, the feathers on the side of the breast the same colour, and a ferruginous tinge prevails over the whole body, the bird comes out in all his glory as a *rose* linnet. By and by when age steals on, or sickness or confinement tell upon the constitution of the sweet songster he falls from his high estate, his plumage changes, and he is a brown, gray or yellow linnet, as the case may be. There is scarcely any bird perhaps, that puts on so many different dresses in the course of his life as our little linnet; there is scarcely any telling what changes each moult will produce; that is in a state of confinement; for in a natural state the bird will go through its regular gradations of plumage in a natural manner; and one may safely judge of his age by his dress; but in an artificial state it is not so.

The linnet feeds on all kinds of seeds, its fondness for flax or linseed has given it its name of linnet. It is also very fond of hemp seed, but must not have much of either of these seeds, their oily nature makes the bird too fat. The best food for linnets is the same as canaries get, a little salt mixed with it is sometimes use-

ful, and green food occasionally. They are liable to surfeit from eating too much and taking too little exercise; and bread and milk, lettuce seed or two drops of castor oil put into their drinking water are the specifics for this.

The linnnet is fond of bathing, and of two kinds: firstly, like the skylark, in plenty of gravel (of which there must be abundance in the cage) and secondly in water, and a bathing dish must be given daily. His diseases are similar to seed-eating birds in confinement; and the treatment must be the same.

There is not the same objection to a bell-shaped cage for the linnnet as for the goldfinch and chaffinch. They will live from twelve to sixteen years in confinement, and will often form great attachments to one another even among birds of the same sex.

The male linnnet will sometimes pair with the canary, but the mules are not nearly so beautiful as the offspring of the goldfinch and canary, though they are generally good songsters and prized on that account.



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THE SISKIN.

“Come little bird and live with me,
You shall be happy, blithe and free,
You shall be all the world to me,
Come birdie, come and share your glee.”

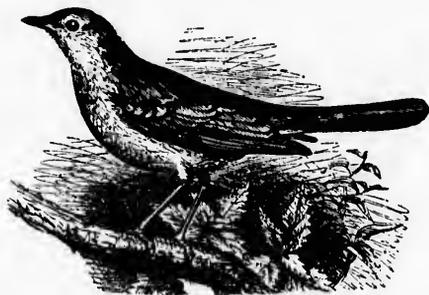
The Siskin, sometimes called the black-headed finch, gold-wing and barley-bird, is an European bird. It has a pretty mixture of black, green, and yellow in its plumage, and is shorter and more thick-set than the goldfinch and a very active lively little bird, very amusing in a cage, because it is such a mountebank, always climbing about, moving along the top of the cage, swinging by one leg, head downwards and placing itself in all kinds of extraordinary positions. It can be taught all the accomplishments learned by goldfinches, and is quite happy in captivity, besides being very useful in an aviary because its continual twittering excites the other birds

to sing. Its natural song is not powerful but sweet; but the sweetness is often interrupted by harsh jarring notes; and although it will learn the songs of other birds, it can never be taught to whistle a tune perfectly. It drinks a good deal, and throws water over its feathers continually, so that it requires to be constantly supplied with water, though it does not often go into a bath. It should be fed the same as a canary, but with a little maw seed mixed in the seed, and occasionally a little hemp. Like the goldfinch he is rather a greedy bird in the aviary often driving other birds away, and he should not be fed too much. A thistle head should be frequently given to it. In sickness treat them similarly to canaries. They should not be confined to a small cage, but be allowed plenty of exercise.

MULES.—Siskins will pair readily with canaries. The offspring of the siskin and green canary are said to be the strongest birds, but mules produced by the siskin and yellow canary are much more beautiful; they are generally good songsters. They often associate with linnets.

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THE NIGHTINGALE.

Thou wast not born for death, immortal bird,

No hungry generations tread thee down;

The voice I hear this passing night was heard

In ancient days by emperor and clown:

Perhaps the self-same song that found a path

Through the sad heart of Ruth, when sick for home
She stood in tears amid the alien corn;

The same that oft-times hath

Charmed magic casements, opening on the foam

Of perilous seas, in fairy land forlorn.

—Keats.

The Nightingale though possessed of so sweet a song, is in plumage exceedingly unpretentious, but its form is very graceful. Its length is about six and a half inches. The whole of the upper part of the bird is a rich chestnut brown, the wings being slightly brighter, the breast is a dull whitish grey, slightly tinged with brown. The

female is somewhat smaller than the male, but the difference between the sexes is hard to distinguish and it would be well for a buyer to choose a large bird with a bold eye.

The nightingale is the most melodious of all singing birds. The compass, wonderful variety and harmony of his voice makes him a great favourite. His very striking musical talent, surpassing all other singing birds, has acquired for him the title of the king of songsters. Many of these birds are used in Germany for training the St. Andreasberg roller canaries, as they are masters of music.

The bird is a native of Europe and its stay in England is only brief, namely from April to September, when it migrates south. Many of them are trapped to supply the markets of the world, comparatively few, however, are brought to Canada.

His food is the same as that of the mocking bird, but he requires more to feed him—for he is a great eater. Less than half the size of the mocking-bird he will eat double the quantity of food. You may never fear to give a nightingale as much food as he will eat. His daily bread and butter should be prepared mocking bird food. Vary this with grated carrot, some fresh ripe fruit and berries, hard boiled egg, ants' eggs, etc. He is fond of meal-worms and will sing better for every worm eaten. Keep his cage

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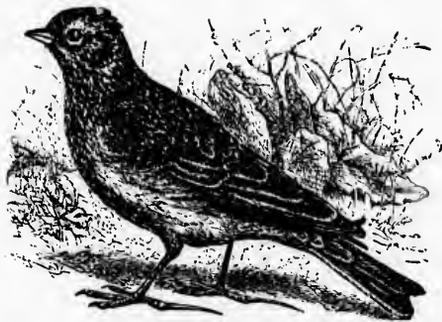
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perches and feeding dish very clean and let him have a bath daily and keep him well supplied with bird gravel.

A gentleman who has been very successful in his treatment of nightingales, and says he has not eaten a Christmas dinner for twenty years without the nightingales' song, fed them as follows: 7 lbs. pea meal, 2 lbs. coarse oatmeal, 1 lb. moist sugar, 1½ lbs. beef dripping, 1 lb. honey, 2 quarts hemp seed, and 1 pint of maw seed. The dripping and honey were melted together in a sauce pan, and the meal and sugar well rubbed, so as to leave no lumps in the paste; then the hemp seed crushed and the maw seed were added, and when cool it was put in an earthen jar. A tea cup full of paste was mixed with a hard-boiled egg all pressed through a fine wire sieve. This was sufficient for five soft billed birds and on this the nightingales throve well.

“ The merry nightingale,
That crowds and hurries and precipitates,
With fast, thick, warble, his delicious notes,
As if he were fearful that an April night
Would be too short for him to utter forth
His love-chant, and disburden his full soul
Of all its music.”

—Coleridge.



THE SKYLARK.

Leave to the nightingale her shady wood:
A privacy of glorious light is thine
Whence thou dost pour upon the world a flood
Of harmony, with instinct more divine
Type of the wise who soar, but never roam
True to the kindred points of heaven and home.

—Wordsworth.

The Skylark is entitled to a prominent position in the foremost ranks of our songsters, whether we observe it soaring "from his low and grassy bed, through the clear bright morning skies," or as the pet of some family cramped in between the narrow streets of some large city. No bird seems to appeal more powerfully to Englishmen and with such sturdy eloquence. Even in its cage the Lark seems compelled to use some

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muscular exercise during singing, for it flutters its wings and tramples the turf as if it were once more free. As with most songsters its plumage is most unpretending, being of a brown plumage three different shades on the wings and back, the breast and neck pale brown, and the feet especially formed for walking, the hind toe being long and straighter than perching birds. The Skylark should have a roomy cage, long enough to allow him a run, the longer the better, and moderately high, the roof of the cage must be of green baize or cloth, and the back should be boarded. It should be without perches and the floor must be covered with red gravelly sand and powdered chalk with old mortar bruised. This he delights to roll in and dust himself with. He should have a piece of turf placed in the circular front of the cage, this should be fresh cut if possible, or at least three times a week, this may be kept fresh by watering it and putting it in a saucer. The food and water should be outside the cage. Their food should consist of the yolk of egg hard-boiled and mixed with grated bread crumbs varied with a meal-worm every day, ants' eggs, sponge cake, German paste, a little lean meat, now and then, watercress, lettuce, cabbage, etc.

They sing best in a cage, and this should be placed in the open air on every sunny, warm day, so that they may have plenty of fresh air.



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They are apt to get their feet dirty and clogged with hair, wool, or any loose substance of the kind in which they can entangle their long claws, if allowed to range the room or aviary; and if they are not very carefully cleansed they will become lame or lose their claws. Larks are subject to all the ailments to which tame birds are liable, and especially to diarrhoea, for which they should have some saffron put into the water-glass, and a little grated cheese, old and dry, mixed with their food; or a little ground rice may be given them, and now and then a small spider. The Skylark has one malady peculiar to it: the skin at the root of the beak becomes yellow and scabby, and for this it should have cooling food, watercress or lettuce, and ants' eggs and meal-worms.

The Skylark is one of the best songsters of England, and English people everywhere are very fond of these birds. As you are doubtless aware, there is no such thing as a song bird natural to Australia; there are birds that chatter, birds that shriek, but no birds that sing. Among the many emigrants to the Australian gold regions, was a young Englishman, who started a store in the gold sections, about two hundred miles from Melbourne. He was quite prosperous, and, like a dutiful son, wrote home for his father and mother to come and live with him, and if they possibly could, to bring with them a

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lark. A lark was procured, and in due time, the old folks and their feathered charge took ship and departed from England. The old man, however, took the voyage so much to heart that he died, but the woman and the lark arrived in sound health at Melbourne, and were speedily forwarded to Mr. Wilsted's store at the Ovens.

It was on Tuesday, when they arrived, and the next morning the lark was hung outside the tent, and at once commenced piping up. The effect was electric, sturdy diggers, big men with hairy faces and great brown hands, paused in the midst of their work and listened reverently. Drunken, brutal diggers left unfinished the blasphemous sentence, and looked bewildered and ashamed. Far and near the news spread like lightning. "Have you heard the lark? Is it true, mate, that there is a real English lark up at Jack Wilsted's?"

So it went for four days, and then came Sunday morning. Such a sight had not been seen since the first spadeful of the golden was turned. From every quarter, east, west, north and south, from far off hills and creeks twenty miles away, came a steady concourse of great rough Englishmen, all brushed and washed as decent as possible. The movement was by no means preconcerted, as was evident from the half ashamed expression of every man's face. There they were, however, and their errand was to hear the

lark. Nor were they disappointed. There perched in his wood and iron pulpit was the little minister, and as though aware of the importance of the task before him, he plumed his crest, and lifting up his voice sung them a sermon infinitely more effective than the bishop himself could have preached. It was a wonderful sight to see that three or four hundred men, some reclining on the ground, some sitting with their arms on their knees and their heads on their hands, some leaning against the trees with their eyes closed, so that they might the better fancy themselves at home and in the midst of English fields once more ; but sitting, standing or lying, all were equally quiet and attentive, and when after an hour's steady preaching, the lark left off, and his audience soberly started off a little low spirited, perhaps, but on the whole much happier than when they came.

"I say Joe," one digger was heard to say to another, "do you think that Wilsted would sell him, the bird, you know ; I'd give as much gold dust for him as he weighs, and think him cheap."

"Sell him, be blowed !" was the indignant response. "How would you like a feller to come to our village at home and make a bid for our parson ?"

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THE WOODLARK.

What time the timorous hare trips forth to feed
When the scared owl skins round the grassy mead,
Then high in air, and poised upon his wings
Unseen the soft enamoured Woodlark sings.

The woodlark's song is greatly prized, and by some has been assigned a rank next to the nightingale. It is a smaller bird and yellower than its relative the skylark. The hen is a larger and handsomer bird than the male, and as it sings a little, is often mistaken for its mate. It is more easily tamed than the skylark and appears more happy in captivity. Most of the woodlarks perch, therefore he should have a square one put in his cage, but if he does not use it, it should be taken away. A cage similar to the skylark should be provided for him, long enough to allow of his running backwards and forwards. He should have a fresh cut turf, if possible of clover, three or four times a week,

and plenty of gravel and chalk. His legs are as brittle as glass, and if he gets his feet clogged with dirt or hair, etc., they must be soaked in warm water and cleansed. He sings best when allowed to range a room or aviary, but requires warmth and suffers much in moulting.

In addition to the skylark's food, the woodlark may have sweet almonds blanched and macerated with hemp seed and roasted bullock's heart. He is very fond of paste made of the crust of a French roll soaked in cold water for half an hour, squeezed dry, and added to three teaspoonsful of wheat flour, half a teaspoonful of brown sugar and an ounce of grated carrot; this should be well mixed and rubbed through a sieve. All these are delicacies, the daily food must be hard eggs and bread crumbs. In its natural state the woodlark eats insects, grubs and seeds of various kinds and green food, the young shoots of wheat, etc.

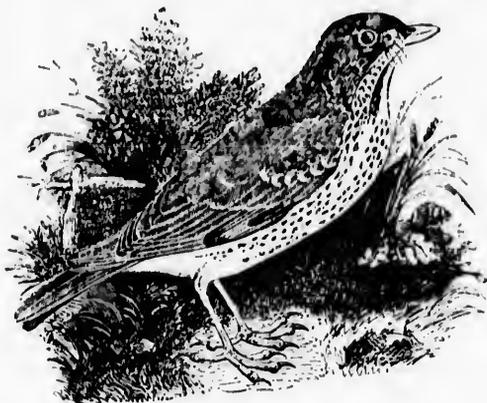


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THE THRUSH.

But when the morning broke and the green woods
Were all alive with birds, with what a clear
And ravishing sweetness sang the plaintive Thrush ;
I love to hear his delicate rich voice,
Chanting through all the gloomy day, when loud
Amid the trees is dropping the big rain
And gray mists wrap the hills ; for aye the sweeter
His song is when the day is sad and dark.

—*Longfellow.*

The Thrush is deservedly a great favourite among European songsters. On account of its beautiful voice it is in great request as a cage bird. The male and female are so much alike in colour that it is very difficult to distinguish them, so that a purchaser of a thrush should make sure of its sex by hearing its song. The male bird has great imitative powers, and will readily learn tunes played on wind instruments or whistled

to him. The cage should be large, height eighteen inches, width seventeen inches, and depth twelve inches. It should have a wooden curved roof, and wooden back, wooden bars an inch apart are far preferable to wire; the perches should be placed from front to back, one in the centre of the cage, and one other on either side near the feeding and drinking troughs, so as to obviate the necessity for the bird standing on the floor to feed. The cage must be kept dry, but supply the bird liberally with water, both for drinking and bathing, but his bath must be taken away when used, as the bird is liable to cramp. A little bird sand should be sprinkled over the floor of the cage. The food and water should be placed outside the cage if possible. They should be fed chiefly on barley meal, made into a paste with milk and water, to which a little lean beef or mutton may be added three times a week, and this must be varied by occasional treats of hard egg, German paste, cheese, boiled potato or carrot, snails, meal-worms, etc. If a snail be put into the cage, a smooth stone must be put in with it for the thrush to crush it upon. He will live years in confinement if properly cared for and fed. The two ailments to which he is most subject are constipation and atrophy. For the first a large spider is the best remedy, and for the other, abundance of pure fresh air and a change of diet should be given.

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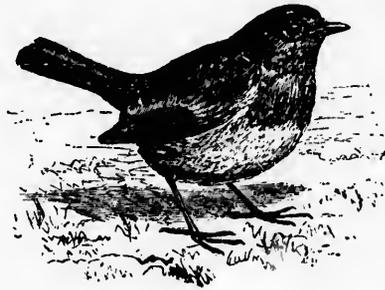
“O Blackbird ! sing me something well,
While all the neighbours shoot thee round,
I keep smooth plats of fruitful ground,
Where thou may'st warble, eat, and dwell.”

—Tennyson.

The English Blackbird as its name denotes, is jet black over the whole of his body, wings, and tail. The beak, which is an inch long is of a brilliant yellow, showing markedly against its sable plumage. Although not so good a songster as his relative the thrush, he has a very cheery mellow song, and being a lively joyous creature, is in many respects a desirable cage bird. He will learn to whistle tunes with great precision, and is said never to forget a tune

once learned. He will also learn to imitate the songs of other birds, the gobble of a turkey, etc. It is not unhappy in captivity if it has a large cage, perhaps because it does not live in flocks, but leads a solitary life the greater part of the year. He is fond of bathing and may have a good deep bath daily in the sunshine, but his cage must not be left wet as he is subject to cramps, he must have plenty of dry sand or gravel on the floor. He will live in captivity from twelve to sixteen years and sing in a loud and joyous tone the whole year, except during the moulting season. His food and treatment are similar to the thrush adding by way of treat, a few garden worms, caterpillars, or any fruit that may be in season, which the bird will greedily devour and tend to keep him in health and song. Whenever the weather permits, place the bird out in the sun and he will repay all the care bestowed upon him by his keeper. He is not dismayed, however, by damp weather, as it is invariably after a shower that his song is blithest, and during the hottest days of summer he should be well shaded and kept cool, as in very dry weather his song seems to depart. He is sometimes rather eccentric in his choice of subjects for imitation, one having been known to imitate very correctly the crowing of a cock which he would mix up in his song in rather a ludicrous manner.

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THE ENGLISH ROBIN.

“ Art thou the bird that man loves best,
The pious bird with scarlet breast—
Our little English Robin—
The bird that comes about our doors
When Autumn winds are sobbing?
Art thou the Peter of Norway boors,
Their Thomas in Finland
And Russia far inland:
The bird who by some name or other
All men who know thee call thee brother—
The darling of children and men?”

—Wordsworth.

The Robin Redbreast is known throughout Europe, Asia Minor, and North Africa, and remains in England the whole year. He is not the same bird as the American robin, being far smaller, the head, back and tail are of a yellowish olive brown, and the upper part of the breast is an orange red. He is practically never seen in

this country, either in the open or as a cage bird, but in England it is the greatest favourite among all classes of people. And their the only hope of seeing a tame robin happy is by allowing him to come and go at pleasure, providing him with a warm habitation in winter, but not obliging him to remain a prisoner. He is not happy caged unless he has been brought up from the nest, and is too restless and lively to submit to close quarters. If one is kept in a cage he requires the same care and attention as the nightingale. The cage should be eighteen inches long, twelve inches wide, and twelve inches high, with a green baize roof, and the perches covered with wash leather. Ants' eggs and meal-worms should be given if affected with dysentery. He may be easily taught to fly about the room, but he is of very inquisitive nature, and will hop about the table and examine everything that he sees in the room with the greatest interest.

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THE STARLING.

“The birds around me hopped and played
Their thoughts I cannot measure,
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.”

—*Wordsworth.*

The Starling is a beautiful bird with a bright glossy plumage, black varied with purple and green, reflected with great brilliancy in different lights and spotted with buff. It is a well known bird in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and is common to all parts of the British Isles. The starling, in a wild state, feeds chiefly on insects, worms, grubs, and grasshoppers, and is often seen perched upon the backs of sheep, ridding them

of their parasites. In confinement it will eat raw and cooked beef, bread, cheese, and anything that is not salt or sour. He can be fed the same as the mocking bird. His natural song is rather poor, but he has a wonderful good memory. He will learn to repeat several airs that are played to him, with great ease; nay, more: he learns to pronounce words very distinctly, or imitate the song of other birds, or any sounds when repeatedly heard. Besides this, he becomes very tame in the house, so as to be let out of his cage, and walk about the room. He soon knows all the persons in the house, is always gay and wakeful, and as docile and cunning as a dog. His food and treatment may be the same as that of the mocking bird. He is a very hardy bird, and will sometimes attain the age of fifteen years.



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THE TALKING MINOR.

Then he will talk—good gods ! how he will talk .

—*Nathaniel Lee.*

The Talking Minor, or musical grackle, is about the size of a blackbird, with deep velvet-like plumage, glossy with metallic lustre, tinged with purple and bronze green. The feathers on the head are short and glossy, and have the appearance of satin velvet. Below each eye is a small bright yellow membrane. It is very common in India, and as a talking bird is unsurpassed. He speaks plainly and can acquire and retain an unlimited number of words, which he readily forms into sentences. He is fed the same as the mocking bird, boiled egg and boiled potato is good for him, and once or twice a week

lean raw beef chopped fine is beneficial. He is fond of bathing and should have a bath every day. The bird, which has been known to live for many years, should have a suitable cage twenty-four to thirty inches long and twenty inches high. A surgeon in England had two of these birds that were exceedingly lively and talkative, and delighted in being noticed, chattering most when a number of persons are standing round their cage. The two birds speak in different voices, one having been apparently instructed by a youth, and the other by a deep-voiced man; and will converse for a quarter of an hour at a time, the bird with a deep voice calling out, "Bring the boat longside!" and the other answering, "Ho! ha! does anybody want the shoeblack?" Then the first bird will speak in Hindostance, and the other will say, "Hey, what? ha, ha!" upon which his companion will call out, "Bugler, sound the roll call," in a voice as clear, natural and powerful as that of a drill sergeant. They were taken over in a man-of-war, and learned to sound the roll-call with great precision.

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THE TROOPIAL.

The ballad singers and the troubadours,
The street musicians of the heavenly city,
The birds, who make sweet music for us all
In our dark hours, as David did for Saul.

—*Longfellow.*

This is a South American bird and has a beautiful plumage and looks very much like the Baltimore Oriole, the chief difference being that he is much larger and the orange of the body more yellow. He has a fine ear with a most retentive memory, and very few birds have a song so sweet and powerful as he has. A young male can be taught to imitate the tones of the flageolet with astonishing fidelity. They are very active and graceful in their movements and require a cage similar to the mocking bird and the same kind of food and treatment. There are few wild birds which, when confined, become so thoroughly domesticated as the troopial.



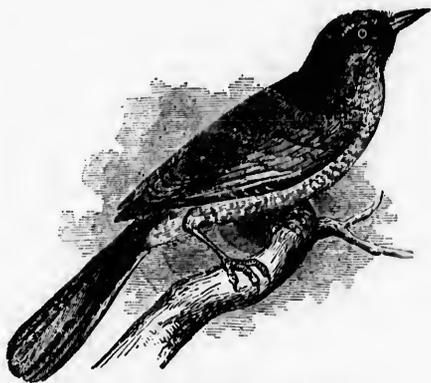
THE BRAZILIAN CARDINAL.

“Thou hast no sorrow in thy song
No winter in thy year.”

—John Logan.

The Brazilian, or red crested cardinal is the cardinal *par excellence*, and is meant when dealers speak of cardinals without specifying which they refer to. This sleek bird with prettily marked grey back, the head, crest and cheeks and throat are bright red of an orange hue, the lower part of the body is greyish white, the crest is pointed like that of a Virginian nightingale and is raised and depressed at pleasure. If fed on unhulled rice and canary seed, and given plenty of bathing water they will live many years in a cage.

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THE MOCKING BIRD.

“ Amid the morning's fragrant dew
Amid the mists of even,
They warble on as if they drew
Their music down from heaven ,
How sweetly sounds each mellow note
Beneath the moon's pale ray,
When dying zephyrs rise and float
Like lovers sighs away ! ”

—Anon.

According to some writers of the United States, the mocking bird is, of all cage birds, the very best songster, but this opinion is not shared by most Europeans. They prefer the nightingale, and thrush. The mocking bird has a very fine and melodious voice, and moreover a wonderful capacity for imitating the notes of any other bird and reproducing them exactly. The plumage is sober and yet prettily

marked, the predominant colour being light grey with black and white marks. The male is distinguished from the female by having a white band extending over all the feathers of each wing, and forming when the wing is spread almost a crescent, whilst the female has a white mark on only the outer wing feathers. Its powers of mimicry are so great that it continually deceives the other birds, sometimes calling them round it at the supposed cry of their mates, sometimes driving them in alarm to the shelter of the thick bushes by imitating the cry of a fierce bird of prey. He can imitate the shrill scream of the eagle, the mourning note of the turtle-dove, the delicate warble of the blue bird, the cackling of the domestic hen, the mellow whistle of the cardinal, the grunt of the maternal porker searching for her young, the creaking of some rusty gate, the pipe of the canary, and the cry of some lost puppy wailing in the midnight air, and each succeeding the other with such rapidity that the listener wonders if such a variety can come from so small an object. But he is capable of all this. He is a general favourite and should be well cared for. Owing to its well developed powers of mimicry, the mocking bird is the easiest trained of all songsters.

The finest mocking birds come from Louisiana and Texas, and they seem to be larger and

hardier than those frequently
found in the States. They are
usually kept in cages, and
breed freely. They are
fond of berries, and will
eat a great quantity of
water in a day.

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hardier than those hatched in the north, and frequently live to be twenty years of age. They sing all the year, except during the moulting and breeding seasons. They should have a large cage which should be kept clean and have plenty of gravel strewn in the bottom so as to keep the feet in good order. They are very fond of bathing and should daily be given clean water in a large bath dish.

The mocking bird will breed in confinement, but it rarely pays, and for this reason very few of the female mocking birds are sold. The young mocking birds do not develop their musical powers during the first year, but they usually begin when about a year old and by the end of the second year are singing very nicely, and in the third year they reach their highest perfection. They are a very long lived bird if kept free from diseases. Care should be taken not to neglect to feed the bird sufficient for his needs, and it is better to give him food twice a day. You will have better success in feeding a prepared mocking bird food mixed with grated carrot or sweet apple, though for a variety he may be fed occasionally a mixture of hard-boiled egg and potatoes, in proportion of two parts of potato to one of egg. They are very fond of meal-worms, grasshoppers, spiders, and insects of all kinds, and these seem to strengthen the bird and prove the best medicine which can

be administered in case of sickness. The season when insects are not obtainable, it is well to put scalded or soaked ants' eggs and soaked grocers currants with their mixed food. A meal-worm or two may be given about three times a week, but care should be used not to put too many in the cage, as they are very strong food. They are also fond of huckleberries, in fact of all kinds of berries.

A supply of insects should be gathered during the proper season, such as flies, grasshoppers, spiders, etc., and put loosely in a bag and hung up to dry, and when used in winter they should have boiling water poured over them, which will soften them and make them as palatable as if they were still alive. A grasshopper thus prepared is a thanksgiving dinner to your bird.

The prepared mocking bird food can be had from any bird dealer, but it is well to buy it from some prominent dealer, so as to be sure and have it fresh and pure. If not properly made the food is liable to become rancid, and in this state it is undesirable for the bird. If exposed to the air the prepared food will also become full of worms or insects, and some object to feeding the food in this condition. There are many different recipes given for making mocking bird food, and very good food can be made in the following manner: Two beef hearts, boiled until they are thoroughly cooked and

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tender, the yolks of two dozen hard-boiled eggs ; for this purpose the eggs should be boiled for at least half an hour ; two pounds of parrot crackers, or if you cannot obtain these, the ordinary soda crackers will answer the purpose. The above materials should be thoroughly grated until they are fine. Add to this two pounds of split peas and two pounds of hemp seed ; both of these can be ground in an ordinary coffee mill. Thoroughly mix all of the above ingredients, and add one pound of maw seed to the mixture. A small quantity of fresh lard is frequently added to make it moist. This food may be put up in ordinary glass fruit jars to exclude from air and keep fresh. When fed to mocking birds it should be mixed with about the same bulk of fresh grated carrots or grated sweet apple.

Another recipe is eight ounces crushed hemp, eight ounces pea-meal, eight ounces corn-meal, three ounces maw seed, two ounces rice flour, four ounces beef dripping, two ounces of treacle or black molasses, and eighteen ounces of powder crackers. Mix the dripping and molasses well into the other ingredients and it will make an excellent food.

Mocking birds are subject to very few diseases, and these result usually from improper diet or from cold. They are more easily cured by giving proper care and food than by admini-

istering medicine. A live spider given to a bird will cure many of its complaints; for constipation feed plenty of fresh green stuff, insects or worms, or give a dose of three drops of castor oil daily for three days. Stale bread soaked in boiled milk, sprinkled with cayenne pepper, will generally cure diarrhœa. The pip is caused usually by a cold, and by examining the external skin of the tongue you will notice a white horny scale, which causes the bird to stop singing; this should be carefully removed with a sharp knife or with the finger nails, as, if it is allowed to remain the bird is apt to die. The scale should be peeled off by beginning at the base and peeling toward the tip of the tongue. Apply glycerine to the tongue after removing the scale, and feed only soft rich food.

Lice cause great annoyance to the bird, and it is well to use insect powder in the cage frequently. The beak and claws of mocking birds often become too long, and need to be trimmed with a sharp knife or scissors, and as the bird grows old, the legs should be anointed with vaseline, glycerine, or some other preparation of like nature, so as to keep the scales from growing coarse and hard.

Experience has taught us that nine-tenths of the ailments of birds are caused by improper feeding. Bits of sugar, candy, daily green food, grapes, butchers meat—all are bad for a bird.

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Birds need plain food regularly given. The food should be mixed daily in clean vessels. A bath should be given the mocking bird each day and the vessel should be removed from the cage when the bird has bathed. You can soon teach any bird to bathe directly when you give him his bath, if you give it to him at the same hour each day. If irregular yourself, the bird will contract the same habit.

These remarks on the mocking bird food will also apply to the thrush, starling, lark, nightingale, robin, blackcap, in fact all soft-billed birds. In doctoring your sick bird, ascertain as nearly as possible what his complaint is and apply the remedy, if it does not succeed, try another. Birds have been known to be at the point of death with costiveness, when a small spider has been forced down their throats and a large knitting-needle, dipped into oil, inserted into the passage as an injection, and the bird caused to fly a few feet, when immediate relief followed and in a few hours the bird was again in song.



THE GROSBEAK.

Sweet warblers of the sunny hours,
Forever on the wing,
I love them as I love the flowers,
The sunlight and the spring.

The rose-breasted Grosbeak is very little known in Canada, though few of our cage birds surpass him in sweetness of song or beauty of plumage. He sings by night as well as by day with clear mellow notes. His bright carmine breast and deep black and snowy white body forming such a rich contrast. He soon becomes tame in confinement and being contented lives many years. He keeps in good health if fed on plain canary seed.

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THE VIRGINIA NIGHTINGALE.

Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight.

This bird is really the cardinal grosbeak, but some enthusiastic writers in the United States have named it the Virginia Nightingale, and have described his song as equal or superior to the European Nightingale, but then tastes differ. He is sometimes called the Virginian red-bird, and is a native of the Southern States, and one of the handsomest birds on this continent, and deserves all his popularity, being a diligent and melodious songster, but the song is more monotonous, louder and less sweet than the European nightingale. His colour is a brilliant red, with the exception of the throat and the part round the beak, which are black. The head is ornamented with a tuft, which he is capable of rais-

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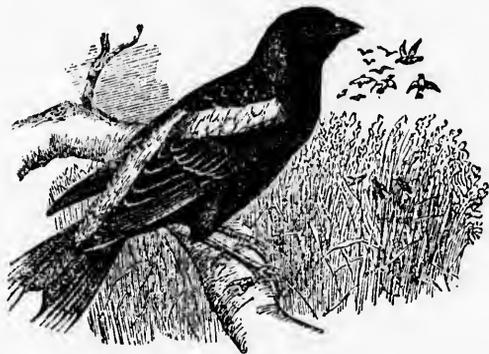
ing at pleasure, which gives him a very commanding appearance. The female is not so handsome as the male. Both birds sing, the female about as well as the male, whose voice is very fine and loud, and he sings all the year round, except while moulting. They are hardy birds, and if kept out of drafts and properly fed will preserve their health and beauty many years, often living fifteen years.

The cardinal, of necessity, loses some of its brilliant colour in confinement, but this can be prevented to a considerable extent by giving them roomy cages; they are very active birds and require plenty of exercise, plenty of pure air, and a liberal supply of pure water for both drinking and bathing purposes daily. A little salt and chalk is often kept in their cage; the salt helps the bird to retain its colour, and the chalk to keep its system regular. He should be fed with a mixture of canary and hemp seed, and rough unhulled rice, to which may be added a little fresh green food, or a piece of apple occasionally. A lady who has had a pet Virginia nightingale for some years says he is still in the highest health and beauty; she feeds him upon canary seed, giving him a few hemp seeds, four or five meal-worms, or a spider, grubs or caterpillars everyday. He is fond of spanish nuts, almonds, walnuts, and Indian corn but cannot crack the nuts.



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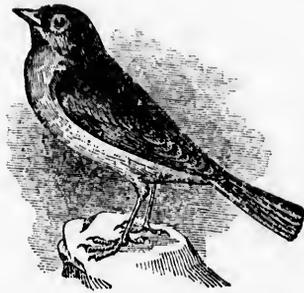


THE BOBOLINK.

Merrily swinging on briar and weed,
Near to the nest of his little dame ;
Over the mountains, river and mead,
Robert of Lincoln is telling his name.
Bob-o-link, bob-o-link
Spink, spank, spink.

—*Bryant*

They are found all over the United States and their song is a confused merry jingle of notes, of about the quality of the canary, but without any method whatever. They are easily domesticated in cage life, and, when fed on nothing but canary seed (no hemp), will sing about eight months of the year. They are hardy and will live many years.



THE NONPAREIL.

“ A merry welcome to thee, glittering bird !
 Lover of summer flowers and sunny things !
A night hath passed since my young buds have heard
 The music of thy rainbow-coloured wings,
Wings, that flash sparkles out where'er they quiver,
 Like sudden sunlight rushing o'er a river.”

The Nonpareil is a native of North America, from Canada to Mexico, but only found in the colder parts in summer; its nests are found mostly in orange and citron trees. Buffon says that the Dutch breed these in their aviaries. They are called by American authors the “ painted finch ” or “ painted bunting,” and is also spoken of by Buffon as “ the Pope,” he says on account of his beautiful violet hood. He is a splendid bird when in full plumage, but as he moults twice a year, and the young males do not acquire their full plumage till they are three years old, he is seldom met with in the perfection of his colouring. A beautiful specimen of

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the bird has a violet head and neck, a red circle round the eyes, the iris brown, the beak and feet brown, the upper part of the back yellowish green, the lower part of the back, and the throat, chest, and whole under part of the body as well as the upper tail-coverts, of a bright red; the wing coverts are green, the quills reddish brown tinged with green, the tail is reddish brown. He is about the size of the English robin, and very much resembles that bird in his attitudes and characteristics, and his song is a sweet low warble. He is fed upon canary and millet seed, and is exceedingly fond of flies and spiders, which he ought to have, to keep him in health. If he is offered one, he darts across the cage to seize it, and takes it from the hand fearlessly; and when he is allowed to fly about the room, he will catch flies for himself, either pouncing upon them in the window, or taking them on the wing in a rapid dash across the room. He is a very sociable and inquisitive bird. The female is not nearly so pretty as the male, she is a yellowish green bird with brown and green wings and tail.



THE AMERICAN BLUE ROBIN.

Never the song of the robin could make my
heart so glad,
When I hear the bluebird singing in spring I
forget to be sad.
Hear it ! a ripple of music ! sunshine changed
into song !
It sets me thinking of summer when the days
and their dreams are long.

—Eug. R. Ford.

This bird is found in the United States and is
a great favourite with the people, who often

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keep boxes in their gardens and close to their houses for the Bluebird to build in, with a hole in the side for it to enter. They are very common there, but the greater number resort to the warmer parts of America, and the West Indian Islands, and even to Brazil, for warmth during the inclement season. They feed on insects, spiders, small worms, and caterpillars, and in the autumn on soft fruits and seeds. The head, neck, and upper part of the body of the male bluebird is of a bright azure blue, with purple reflections; the quill-feathers of the wings and tail being jet black; the throat, breast, and sides of a ruddy chestnut, and the lower part of the body white. The female has paler tints of the same colouring. Its song is very lively and pleasing.

VARIOUS BIRDS.

To charm the sense, and soothe the pensive heart.
And bid sweet dreams and gentlest fancies start.

We mention below a few foreign birds that are sometimes found in aviaries, although they are not common in Canada.

The Japanese Robin.—This bird, a native of Japan, where they have reduced the breeding of birds to a science, is very beautiful, about the size of a bullfinch. The head of the robin is a bronze green, beak yellow, body the colour of a mourning dove, eyes black with a cirlet of white, throat a yellow tint shading on the breast into orange; wing-feathers black, with stripes of gold and white; and tail feathers glossy black, barred with white so clear that the bird looks as if he had just been out in an April flurry of snow. His voice compasses all the notes and semi-tones contained between low contralto and high tenor. Every day he delights with new and surprising combinations, as well as notes totally different from any before uttered. He whistles every month in the year. He is fed the same as a mocking bird, and his cage should be square, about medium size.

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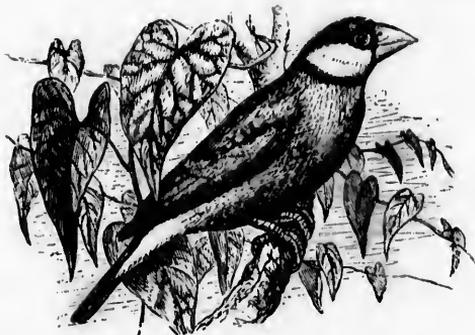


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The Java Sparrow comes from Java, where they are very common. Their chief recommendation is the beauty of plumage, and occasionally one is seen that can be called a song bird. They are contented in a cage and are



THE JAVA SPARROW.

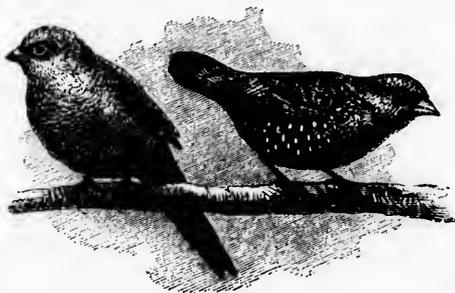
generally fed upon canary and millet seed, although in a wild state they live chiefly on rice.

The Orange Cheek Waxbill is a beautiful smooth little bird, always as neat as possible with every feather in its place, vermilion beak, gray head, neck and throat brown.

The Cordon Blue, a native of Africa, or as some call this bird, crimson-ear waxbill, is one of great beauty. The male has a soft, pleasing song, and is usually to be heard cooing, as if for

his own amusement. This little fellow has a peculiar habit of singing with a bit of twine, or something which he can hold in his bill. If he can find a piece of cotton, or stalk of any kind, he will hop about his cage, and sing to his utmost.

The St. Helena Waxbill.—This finch comes to us from Africa, and our description will be brief. The beak is a bright red, a darker shade of



THE ST. HELENA WAXBILL AND THE AVADAVAT.

same passing through each eye; also a dash of same on under part of body. The prevailing colour of the plumage is a grayish-brown, the wings and tail being a shade darker. All the feathers have transverse blackish wavy lines all over them, giving them a very soft and silken appearance.

The Avadavat, is a native of Asia, Africa, and India. Their plumage is beautiful, and

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unlike most other birds, they change plumage yearly until the third year. At this time, the head and under part of the body are a fiery red tinged with black, the back brown, tail black, wings a reddish brown; all the feathers are tipped with white, giving the bird the appearance of being speckled with white spots; beak red, the upper mandible on top being almost black.



THE DIAMOND AND CUT-THROAT.

The Cut-Throat Sparrow, a native of Africa, sometimes called "fascinated finch," is about half the size of a canary. He is of a delicate grayish-fawn colour, spangled with white spots.

The Diamond Sparrow, or "spotted-sided finch" a native of Australia, is a short, stout bird, somewhat larger than the St. Helena wax-bill. The under part of the body is white and

the sides under the wings quite black, with oblong white spots. They have the utmost desire to catch flies, and if allowed the liberty of a room, will rush to the window, and remain by the hour catching them. They can be made remarkably tame, and can be trusted without their cage.

Japanese Nuns, are a beautiful combination of the purest white, intermingled with the much admired cinnamon colour. These pets, being bred in cages, are very tame, of a quiet disposition, and sing so merrily that you would think two songs were striving for united utterance.

The bird family like any other is liable to domestic troubles. Sometimes a bird of certain species will become troublesome, and destroy the quiet and happiness of the entire family. When such an one is found, he should be taken from the aviary and exchanged at a first class bird store for another of his kind. By this means the aviary will become a model of quietness and harmony.

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TAMING A BIRD.

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Of tame villatic fowl.

—Milton.

A siskin, goldfinch or canary can easily be tamed by cutting away more or less of the inner web of the pinion-feathers, care being taken that the bird shall have sufficient power to fly from the hand without injury. The nostrils are then smeared with any essential oil—bergamot is as good as any—which will render it insensible for a time. It should then be placed upon a finger and changed from one to another. It may fly a few times, but should be brought back, and kept upon the hand until the effects of the oil have wholly passed away, when the bird, finding no harm is intended, will sit quietly. A few crushed hemp seeds should be given for its good behaviour, and the above repeated from day to day until a satisfactory result is obtained. Hunger will speedily teach a bird to take food from the hand. Place it in a small cage, one that has a door large enough for the hand to pass through, then remove all food. In a few hours try putting a seed dish into the cage with your hand; if the bird flutters wildly about,

and refuses to accept your offering, remove your dish and wait a few hours longer. You will not be compelled to remain long in suspense, for two or three trials will generally effect a good result. After food has been accepted from the dish try your hand, and as soon as you have convinced your pupil that only from you can food be procured, and to you, and you only, must he look for all his goodies, a friendship will be formed which he will not be first to break. Birds that are desired to be tame should be talked to and made much of; they should be placed upon your writing table, and every now and again a little notice taken of them. It is surprising how soon these little fellows will learn the difference between neglect and attention. Some of the best birds which have been placed on exhibition have been those owned by tailors and shoemakers, who owing to the nature of their business, could keep their feathered pupils constantly with them.

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PARROTS.

"Fie, silly bird! I answered, tuck
Your head beneath your wing,
And go to sleep; but o'er and o'er
He asked the selfsame thing."

"Then smiling to myself I said,—
How like are men and birds!
We all are saying what he says,
In action or in words.

—Whittier.

The docility of the Parrot and the talent of some species for imitating the human voice and pronouncing words or sentences, have made parrots favourite cage birds, and sufficiently explain that, when America was first discovered, they were found domesticated by the natives, and that tame parrots have been kept as pets by the natives of India from time immemorial. No other birds become so entirely domesticated and so much attached to their keepers as parrots, and none are so long lived, but many parrots utter distracting screams, which may become quite unbearable. It is well to know that, however, most parrots only scream from fear, and quite forget this bad habit when they become thoroughly tame. Their powerful beaks render parrots very destructive, and their keeper should, therefore, provide the strongest possible cages.

Experience shows that the larger parrots and especially the tame ones, thrive best when kept singly in cages. Tame parrots are extremely jealous, and to place these in an aviary will cause them often to pine or to become exceedingly quarrelsome; in the latter case they will inflict fearful injury on each other. Almost all parrots possess very much individuality, and form strong attachments and equally strong antipathies.

In teaching or training a parrot, let the bird remain for two weeks after purchase, unnoticed, further than proper care is concerned; it will then not be so shy, and finding no harm is intended, will incline to become friendly. It is better to use only gentle means for training, and avail yourself only of some knack according to the bird's inclinations. Always move slowly around the cage, and never poke your finger or anything else at the bird. If a parrot starts to bite you do not jerk your hand away, but blow in its face or tap its beak or claws lightly with a lead pencil; this is sufficient to make it stop. It is needless to have a screaming parrot, as the bird can easily be taught that it is against the rules for to make an undue amount of noise. Tapping lightly on the cage with a stick, or on the claws or bill, is usually sufficient punishment to stop the noise, though some bird fanciers make it a rule to cover the cage with a cloth or paper.

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The gray parrot makes an excellent talker. As a rule a parrot will learn much quicker from a lady's voice, than from a man's, and still quicker from a child's. They learn more readily in the three hours next following sunrise, or the three hours before sunset, and should be taught just as one would teach a child "line upon line, precept upon precept." Parrots vary in age when they begin to talk, for some are slower than others and do not begin until they are several months or even a year old. Covering the cage with a cloth transfers the attention of the parrot from everything else, and its entire attention is fixed on what it hears, and within a few days after they begin they will repeat words and sentences. After once commencing well the cloth may be removed, when you are talking to it if you prefer to do so. Too much attention cannot be paid to the linking together of words forming any sentence you desire the bird to learn. Let each word glide into the next as smoothly as possible, being particular to articulate plainly, but not to make too much of a pause between the words.

There are many persons who prefer to purchase a bird which has begun to talk, so they are sure to obtain one which can be taught, and for this reason talking parrots always sell at a higher price, as it is, of course, some trouble to teach them, but we consider it better to purchase

a young bird, before it has learned any words, and teach it yourself, as it then becomes accustomed to your voice and learns more rapidly, and you can teach it to say just what you wish. Those that talk appear to have a great sense of fun, and will bring in the sentences they have learned to utter, in the most appropriate circumstances. Probably they observe the effect of certain phrases when used by human beings, and their powers of memory being very great, remember the proper time to make use of them. The well-known story of Henry the Seventh's parrot, which on falling into the water, called out, "A boat! twenty pounds for a boat!" and on its rescue, when the waterman claimed the reward, gave order to "give the knave a groat," is only one of numbers of the same kind. Another story is told of a bird who lived in a kitchen, where the mistress was very suspicious of her servants, and he used always to give her notice,—"Mary has been here," "John was here again," etc., and on one occasion, when the mistress came unexpectedly into the kitchen, while some contraband cooking was going on, the bird called out, "Cake under the cushion, mistress!" and repeated his speech till the hidden cake was produced. It is difficult to imagine that this parrot was not acquainted with the meaning of the words he used.

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training, but always be gentle, and avail yourself of some knack, according to the bird's inclinations. Take away the drinking water or coffee for some hours, then hold it out to the bird, and offer also some tit-bit of which the bird is very fond, and thus the bird will learn to take food from the hand, and will presently voluntarily come on to the finger, allow its head to be scratched, and soon permit one to caress and handle it at will.

FOOD.—The food usually given to parrots consists of a mixture of unhulled rice, cracked corn, hemp and sunflower seed, chiefly the latter, but the effect of all foods should be watched and if any of the above appears to disagree, it should at once be withheld. A few peanuts may be given occasionally, but no other nuts, as they are too rich. If the bird will eat it give it a piece of cuttle bone daily, about the size of a walnut. Never give any butcher's meat, bones, or greasy food of any kind, as they cause diseases and ruin the plumage. Dainties from the table are usually harmful. Fruits, such as apples, oranges, bananas, etc., may be given in limited quantities, but only those proper for your special bird. A cayenne pepper pod can be given every week or so, and is particularly desirable during moulting season, and a piece of raw onion, about half the size of an egg, acts as a good tonic. A cracker or stale, but good, bread

soaked in coffee, is good daily, but some gray parrots will not take coffee, or it may make them nervous, in which case, water should be used. Water causes some to have diarrhœa, and coffee, in that case, is the better drink. Silver gravel in abundance should be given fresh daily for eating and bathing. The cage or stand should be cleansed with water, or soap and water, every third day, and oftener if necessary. Bathing in sand, not in water, is usual for parrots; but water baths should be given according to the health and needs of the bird, one to three times a week through the year. Use from a pint to a quart of tepid water, in which a teaspoonful of borax has been dissolved, spraying the bird with a coarse atomizer which holds a half-pint. If a teaspoonful of wine is afterwards thrown on with a small atomizer, the plumage will become glossy and beautiful.

DISEASES.—If parrots are properly fed and cared for, they will remain in health over fifty years. The principal diseases are as follows :

COLD.—Put it in a warm place and it is a good plan to wrap it up in a piece of flannel. Put ten drops of aconite in a glass of water and every hour pour a teaspoonful down the bird's throat. Bird pepper or red pepper seem to be beneficial to the bird. If the bird has a severe cold and running at the nose we would clean the

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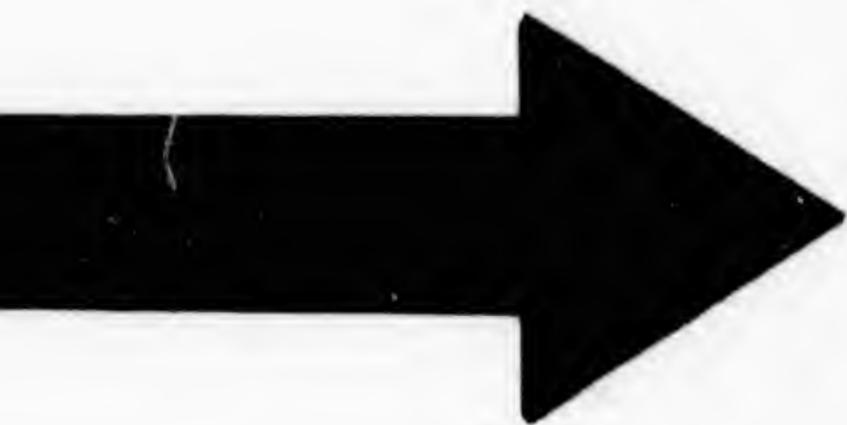
bird's nostrils with a feather dipped in salt water and then moisten them with oil of almonds. A vapour bath is also good for the bird and is easily arranged by placing the cage over a cane-bottom chair, removing the cage bottom. Set a pan of boiling water under the chair and cover a quilt over the cage, chair and all. It is well to peep at the bird occasionally to see that he is not overcome by the vapour.

INDIGESTION.—Give a plain light diet of cracked corn, padda, and a few sunflower seeds ; put a teaspoonful of lime water in the drinking water, and a teaspoonful of warm wine can be poured down the bird's throat.

CONSTIPATION.—We know of nothing better than a half teaspoonful of castor oil which may be mixed with the same quantity of honey and given once or twice a day. Drop a little olive oil into the vent or passage from the head of a pin. Feed hemp and sunflower in equal parts.

DIARRHŒA, or loosening of the bowels, is the most common and also the most dangerous illness of the parrot, and nothing causes it sooner than sour food. Keep the bird in a warm place, feed unhulled rice, and give a half cracker in brandy on which sprinkle red pepper. In severe cases put five drops of paregoric into a teaspoonful of boiled milk and give this full dose every three hours.





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BLOODY DIARRHŒA.—Give four drops of laudanum in a teaspoonful of boiled milk every three hours. Give no fruit or green stuff, and do not allow the bird to drink water unless it has had some tincture of iron put into it.

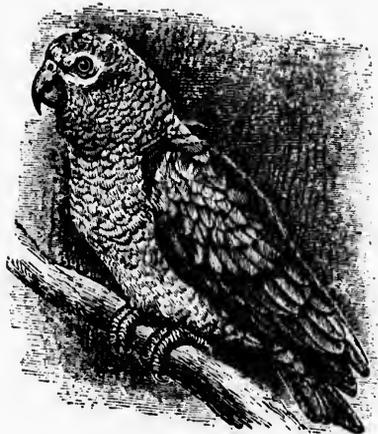
DYSENTERY.—Treat as for diarrhœa, and give also one half to one teaspoonful of castor oil, with ten drops of honey. The sticky feathers under the tail should be washed with warm water.

VOMITING, when caused only by fright, anxiety, or over-eating, has but little significance, but when arising from inflammation of the stomach, and accompanied by weakness, shivering, loss of appetite, or bloody discharges, should be treated as follows: Apply warm or nearly hot poultices of bread or flax seed to the belly; also apply sand as warm as is pleasant to the hand. Give teaspoonful doses of a solution of tannin, two to seventy-five or one hundred parts of warm water two or three times a day.

PULLING THE FEATHERS.—It is a great annoyance to the owner of a fine bird to see it strip itself of its plumage, and this is usually caused by the bird being confined in too small a cage, lack of cleanliness and the feeding of meat or greasy food. When birds are addicted to this habit we would give them only cracked corn,

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sunflower and padda. Do not feed hemp seed, but adhere to a strictly plain diet, and have plenty of gravel in the cage. It is also well to put in an ear of corn, some spools or other articles for the bird to gnaw at or play with. In many cases where feather pulling arises from too rich food the bird's general health can be helped by keeping some cuttle bone in the cage. It is also a good plan to keep an inch or so of dry sand in the bottom of the cage, as the bird frequently likes to wallow in it, and the feather pulling is caused by an itching of the skin. Fruit or green food is good for the bird at such a time. Frequently, however, feather-pulling is caused by insects, and it is well to take the parrot out of the cage and rub insect powder thoroughly through his feathers in all parts of the body. By doing this for several days they will finally all be exterminated.



THE GRAY PARROT.

“He will be talking.”—*Shakspeare.*

The best known and most popular Parrot is our domestic pet “Polly,” the gray parrot from Africa with ashen gray body, black bill, light gray face, and scarlet tail. Until the bird is a year old the body plumage is a darker gray, and the tail dark brown, excepting close to the body where the crimson shows a little. The birds vary from twelve to fifteen inches in length, about the size of a common pigeon. They are brought to America, generally from their home in West and Central Africa, either by steamers to England, or direct in sailing vessels. The birds in sailing vessels are preferred, because

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they get acclimated in the longer trip. Dozens of Gray Parrots on steamers are often packed away like merchandise in any old box, without much regard to health or ventilation. As a result gray parrots can often be bought comparatively cheap. Young birds are worth from fifteen to twenty-five dollars, and talkers from twenty-five to seventy-five, and extra fine talkers more than that. An acclimatized tame gray parrot, although costing more, is cheaper than a raw young bird. Young gray parrots can be distinguished by their gray eyes, the eye of old birds being straw coloured. Male and female are alike and equally gifted.

CAGE OR STAND.—This parrot should have a cage fourteen or fifteen inches in diameter, or fifteen to twenty-four inches long, but larger ones can be used, or a stand of the usual style. Generally parrots do not talk as well if allowed about a room, and are apt to find something to eat which is injurious.

For food, care and diseases see the chapter on Parrots.



GREEN PARROTS.

They always talk who never think.

—Matthew Prior.

There are many varieties of green parrots among which are the following :

The Double Yellow Head of Mexico which many fanciers consider to equal in ability and intelligence the African Gray, he is considered the operatic star of the parrot family, his natural gift of song is great, and his voice is clear and ringing, and many stories are told of their singing powers. The Mexican is of a beautiful green throughout the body, with a pale orange forehead, and scarlet and blue feathers in wing and tail, his feet are strong and white, his beak is white, his tongue may be white, black, or

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mottled. His length is from fourteen to sixteen inches, being a somewhat longer and thicker bird than the gray parrot. As the birds get older, the pale orange colour of the forehead deepens and extends back over the head. These birds are not only great singers but free talkers as well, learning many words when taught for three months or so, and are most amusing at times by their manner of mingling songs and speeches. The grays and these Mexicans are the most enjoyable birds to own, because most intelligent and teachable.

Cage, food and care are the same for the Mexican as for the gray.

The Carthagenia Parrot is from thirteen to fifteen inches long, being about the size of the Mexican, and has all green plumage, except on the back of the neck, a pale orange marking about the size of a silver half dollar; and in the wings and tail feathers red and blue markings. This bird becomes quite a singer, whistles some and talks very well; he is generally next to the Mexican, and his food and care are the same as that bird's.

The Single Yellow head is smaller than the Double Yellow head, being from eleven to thirteen inches long, but has the same colours and markings as that bird except the beak is dark, instead of flesh colour, and the narrow pale orange stripe on the forehead does not extend as

the bird grows older. This bird makes a fair talker, learning easily, but not so many sentences as those named above. His food and care is the same.

The Blue Front Parrot is twelve or thirteen inches long, with plain green body and blue forehead, and slight red and blue markings in the wings. He becomes a fair talker. His food is same as above.

The Cuban Parrot is ten to twelve inches long, with green body, white forehead, scarlet throat, and scarlet and blue wings. These are imported when three months old, so they are tame, and very teachable, becoming quite good English scholars. The food is the same as above.

The Maracaibo Parrot is ten or eleven inches long, with green body, forehead well marked with yellow, and wings having some blue, yellow, and red markings. He looks like a small edition of the Mexican, and sometimes makes an excellent talker. His food is the same as above.

The Amazon Parrot is a native of the upper portion of South America. He is not quite as large as the Mexican, his light green body and brilliant head-dress of blue and yellow, throat of orange tinged with red, scarlet tipped wings and parti-coloured tail, make him very attractive. He is an apt scholar, and easily learns to talk and sing. Food the same as above.

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