



1-Scotch Fancy.
2-German Roller
3-Yellow Yorkshire.
4-Lizard.

A Hobby That Will Pay the Rent.

(BY ARMSTEAD CARTER)
(Illustrations by N. E. R. Carter.)

In canary breeding there are two ways we can go about mating; one I might term promiscuous breeding, for want of a better term, and the other, selective breeding.

For the first way all we need is a lot of room. An empty room or an outside aviary which ever is handiest in your case. As canaries are not monogamous we can turn one cock with three or four hens and in this manner breed quite a large number of birds in a season, with a minimum of work and a maximum of pleasure, but we cannot control the matings.

If we want to breed for exhibition or contest singing, it is a different proposition; then we are compelled to resort to the breeding cage, as this is the only method by which we can control the matings.

When we mate our birds for exhibition we study the shortcomings of one and balance them with birds that are strong on these points, taking care not to have the same weakness on both sides.

It is always best to mate yellows with buffs, so if we turn out a yellow cock in the aviary, buff hens should be used to mate with him. There is a good reason for this. Buffs when mated together increase length of feathers, yellows on the other hand decrease the feathers. Buff feathers are usually coarse, yellow feathers are soft and silky. Some people will mate two yellows with the object of producing all yellow birds, and from this cause we find a lot of birds with a tendency to baldness, as, if yellows are paired together for several generations, we invariably find the birds begin to be deficient in feathers. To keep the feather uniform it

is always best to pair a buff with a yellow.

Until the last few years, the main centers of cagebird breeding have been the British Isles and the German empire. The characteristics of the two different nations have been reflected in their birds. London has always been a style center for clothing, therefore their birds have been bred for their beauty of form and plumage, with song a secondary consideration. In Germany, on the other hand, music has always been a leading feature, people still go there to finish a musical education, and we find their birds have been bred for song exclusively, how they are dressed did not matter.

In America until the last few years we have followed the Germans taste for birds rather than the British, but now our younger generation is getting more artistic in their tastes and we are beginning to import more of the British product.

I saw in the paper a few weeks ago

a little news item entitled "Tweet, Tweet." This article stated that a German liner had left Hamburg with a cargo of 28,080 canaries, 14 men being in charge of them. Does this mean anything to you? In addition to these there are close to a million birds being imported from Germany and Great Britain every year to supply the American demand for these charming pets. Why are we not breeding our own? Each one of these imported birds must bear an import duty of 50 cents, together with more than an additional 50 cents for carrying charges. Add to this a dealer's profit and you have an overhead \$2.50 for every bird. With this start can you not see a comfortable profit in raising a few canaries for a hobby? Then there is the joy and happiness in the occupation. One cannot keep a bird without being better, both physically and mentally, from the contact.

What a world this would be without our feathered friends. I get a

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lot of delight from the wild birds when following my daily avocation. Do you ever find yourself interpreting what the birds are saying when they sing? I do quite often. There is a meadowlark I listen to every day. He seems to be saying "I like potato peeling very well." Another says "I can sing it, and sing it with glee," and some times as an afterthought, he seems to say "Bet your life I can." We used to have a bird up in the woods where I lived in Washington—I never did get to look at him—so I don't know yet what his avicultural name is, but he had not much use for the eighteenth amendment. He used to make me thirsty with his song of "Bring free beer, drink free beer." He uttered it just as unmistakably as the Bob White quail calls Bob White. I always called him the free beer bird. Then there is the blue jay; he invariably comes and hollers, "Thief, thief, thief," as he makes off with a potato in his bill he says "I got it, I got it."

The sadd martin came back last Thursday, April 11. I noticed him whilst irrigating. Unfortunately one or two swallows don't make a summer, though I have noticed three or four make an early spring, especially when it is moonshine they swallow. Next week a description of some of the exhibition birds.

KEEPING A COOL HEAD



She—Why do you keep your hat off, Mr. Brown? The air is cold.
He—Miss Maud, you know how profoundly your presence affects me—I'm trying to keep a cool head.

**BIGGER, BETTER CO-OPS
ADVOCATED FOR OREGON**

A strong, soundly organized cooperative marketing association is the best thing for agriculture, but a small, weak group founded mostly on hope and enthusiasm is a "snare and a delusion," finds George O. Gatlin, extension specialist in cooperative marketing at the state college after a thorough survey of cooperative marketing conditions in Oregon. Mr. Gatlin found 135 organizations

doing a cooperative business in this state. Most of them are engaged in marketing, though some are purchasing associations. Oregon, he found, has some of the strongest co-ops in the country, organized along sound lines and efficiently managed. Many small, rather weak groups, however, reduce the average.

A suggestion is made that this is a good time for the state to check up on cooperative marketing, inasmuch as the proposed farm legislation will give a decided boost to organizations in a position to receive the assistance offered.

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