

# Old Variety Canary: Gibber Italicus

## HISTORY

All frilled varieties appear to have had common origin in an Old Dutch breed of canary in the eighteenth century. In the early days they were known simply by the general term of "Dutch" canaries, but during the nineteenth century, developments took place in various parts of the continent resulting in several distinct breeds. Originally, the only four breeds were recognized by the C.O.M.: Parisian Frill, North Dutch Frill, South Dutch Frill and Gibber Italicus. Today, the C.O.M recognizes most of the Old Varieties.

## BREEDING

Frilled canaries are not usually difficult to breed, some strains being particularly vigorous and free, although as with all canaries, some indifferent breeders are to be found and often with a tendency towards being poor feeders.

## MATING

Few breeders in this country have had any lengthy experience with these breeds and detailed information on mating, based on practical experience, thus is lacking. The generally accepted principles of livestock breeding should therefore be applied by mating together the best birds which conform most closely to the required standard. It should also be remembered that even those which do not quite come up to the standard, if well bred and suitably mated, may still produce good birds.

## MOULTING

Frilled canaries present no particular problems at molting time and do not need to be color fed for exhibition.

## SHOWING

In this country all frilled breeds can be shown in one type of show cage. This is similar in design to that of the Yorkshire but with a flat top instead of a rounded one. Frilled canaries need a certain amount of show training in order that they will be steady and hold themselves up well before the judge.