

# Old Variety Canary: Scot or Scotch Fancy

## HISTORY

The history of the Scot (Scotch) Fancy Canary began in the early part of the nineteenth century when it was evolved as a development from Belgian stock dating back at least to the 1830's. During the middle years of the Victorian era it had achieved a considerable popularity among Scottish fanciers, particularly in the Glasgow area, where it became known locally as the "Glasgow Hen". Its other popular name, the "Bird o'Circle", referred to the ideal outline and stance of the breed as it was in its heyday. During the later years of this century a great deal of crossbreeding with the Belgian Canary took place, to the detriment of both varieties. It is from this period that the beginning of a decline of the Scot Fancy from popular favor can be traced. Today, it is making a heartening rally although still in the hands of a relatively few enthusiasts.

## BREEDING

The decline of the Scot Fancy in the past was often associated with infertility and poor rear ability, said to be due to the effects of excessive inbreeding as numbers declined. Stocks available today have undoubtedly been maintained with the aid of occasional outcross so that increased vigor has largely eliminated these defects. In general there has been a decrease in size in present day Scot Fancies and this must be guarded against since an undersized or miniature Scot Fancy is as incongruous as and undersized Yorkshire or Norwich.

## MOULTING

The Scot Fancy can be moulted in the usual manner and it does not need to be color fed for exhibition.

## SHOWING

The Scot Fancy is shown in an open wire cage with a wooden base, somewhat similar in design to that of the Border. The top of the cage being rounded. A certain amount of training is needed so that the birds will hold itself well and how to its full advantage when in front of the judge.

## STANDARD

This breed is exhibited in an open wire cage of somewhat similar design to that of the Border, though slightly larger in dimensions. As a temporary measure it is permissible for members to exhibit their birds in a standard Border Fancy show cage. The Scot Fancy needs a fair amount of show cage training for successful exhibition. In position it should stand erect, with the head carried well forward and forming with the back and tail, which should be well curved under the perch, one continuous arc. In action it should move freely and effortlessly from perch to perch displaying a certain jauntiness and elegance but without destroying the essential outline of its contours.