

After the War-What?

By Earle M. Wood, Regular Contributor

Will the war affect the German canary trade? I wager more than one dealer or fancier is asking himself this question. Of course we have the Yorkshire and Norwich canaries from England to supply our needs, but a great many of us have a warm spot in our hearts for the Hartz Mountain and St. Andreasberg canaries of Germany. Then, too, we have fanciers in our own country, who have been

successful in breeding canaries, but unless these American-bred birds have their voices carefully trained, they seldom can compare with the wonderful songsters from across the sea.

If the war does affect the German canary trade, who will supply us with our cage birds? Germany has sold more canaries to the United States than the rest of the world put together, and if that trade goes on the

antee mated pairs if requested.

Like other Parrots and Parrakeets, the Rosella nests in a hollow tree when in its wild stage. The birds will use a small barrel for a nesting place in the aviary. The barrel should be suspended by a wire and have a hole cut in the end to permit the birds to enter and leave. They make no attempt to build any kind of a nest but lay their eggs on the bare wood. Usually the number of eggs ranges from four to six, but seven is not an uncommon number. The eggs are almost round and are white in color, and the period of incubation is eighteen days. As the hen commences to set as soon as the first egg is laid, the young hatch at irregular intervals, so that the youngster first hatched has attained quite a good size by the time his youngest brother or sister makes an appearance. When the brood is about two months old they all leave the nest together regardless of the differences in the dates when they were hatched. As the brood looks very much alike, there will be some difficulty in distinguishing the males from the females, but unusually the cocks are larger than the hens.

Care must be taken to prevent inbreeding as this is the biggest danger that the aviarist is threatened with. Constant inbreeding will produce the disease called French Mult, which, when once known will be forever dreaded by the bird keeper. The feathers fall out until the bird is practically bare and presents a most miserable appearance. They lose their appetites the eyes seem to be-

come affected and finally the poor creature dies. Inbreeding can only be prevented by numbering and banding each bird and mating those not related. Although several pairs of Rosellas can be kept together, a single pair seems to thrive better when kept separately. Another disease most common to Parrakeets when they are kept in small aviaries where they are deprived of exercise is eggbinding. She can be noticed when the hen shows signs of uneasiness and seems to mope on the perches all day. She will also fly heavier than usual. A hot bath and a small dose of sweet oil will generally correct the difficulty.

Rosellas thrive with the care given a canary with different kinds of seeds, small grains and greens added to its fare. The male has a most pleasing voice and he can be taught to say a number of words in a very droll little voice. Considering the limited talking qualities of the Parrakeets, the writer believes that they learn to talk faster than the other varieties.

The Rosella Parrakeet is highly desirable for mating with other Parrakeets and several beautiful hybrids can be produced by careful mating. Single males or females can be turned out in an aviary with any kind of cage birds and there will be no maltreatment of the smaller Parrakeets. The writer believes them to be the most docile and peace loving of cage birds, and certainly worth the attention of any fancier who is planning to add Parrakeets to his collection.

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decline, our bird stores are going to face a serious canary shortage. There is a movement on foot in England (I have read about it in British pet stock publications) to start wounded and disabled soldiers who are unfit for any other labor, in the canary breeding business. The idea, beside providing work for the incapacitated "tommies" is to steal the German canary trade and hold it. In both stealing it and holding it, our brother fanciers of the British Isles will run against difficulties. German canaries are the most popular cage birds in the world today, and it will take some rubbing to erase their qualities from the minds of American fanciers. The Norwich, Yorkshire and other canaries, which are bred in England, are little known beyond the limits of that country, and it will take some little time to accustom the public of this country to their habits and the birds themselves. If a canary shortage comes, no doubt it will come suddenly, and the market will be utterly devoid of songsters. If England wishes to capture the German trade, she must be ready to release thousands of English birds on the cage bird market.

Should England succeed in taking Germany's long coveted place as the largest exporter of canaries in the universe, will she be able to hold the title that she has won? Always, even before the war, English bred canaries were higher in price than those bred in Germany. Will the American cage-bird-loving public pay more for a British bird, when it is inferior to the German bird in song? For, always, the English breeder has sadly neglected song for his old hobbies of shape and color.

Probably no cage bird in existence can approach the carefully bred Norwich canary with its plump body, beautiful plumage and symmetrical lines. But up to date, this handsome Norwich canary has been unable to wrest the votes from the Hartz Mountain canary in the race for the most popular cage bird in the World

(To be continued.)

BIRD QUERIES

Answered by Earle M. Wood

S. L.—Q. My male and female canary refuse to mate but fight all the time.

A. That is because they are unsuited to one another. Some hens will positively refuse to mate with certain cocks. Try mating them to another bird, but remember, the mating season is in the spring.

"Gloucester."—Q. What kind of parrot makes the best talker?

A. That is hard to say. There are a great many varieties on the market which closely rival one another, and it all depends upon the purchaser's personal taste.

V. H. P.—Q. What are Black-Headed Nuns?

A. They are one of the prettiest of the aviary finches, having a black head and neck, and the rest of the body being rich fawn color. They can be kept with all the other small finches without fear of quarrels.

J. J.—Q. Is \$7.50 too much to pay for a pair of Australian Shell Parakeets?

A. Yes. The dealer who charges \$5.00 for a pair makes a good profit.

Readers desiring advice relative to ailments of cage birds of any sort, have but to write Mr. Wood and a reply will be forthcoming in short order. However, do not fail to enclose two red stamps as, while we appreciate his efforts to help this department, we cannot expect him to furnish postage on correspondence.

Write and tell us about your birds, and etc.—Editor.

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