



IFFCA *Newsletter*



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President's Message

As your breeding season begins to wind down, I hope you have many healthy young birds developing well in your bird rooms. This is always a rewarding time of year as we see the results of our efforts and look forward to the future.

Soon you will wading through lots of feathers as the moult begins and gets the birds ready for the show season.

Our clubs are already hard at work planning for the fall show season. As always, volunteers play a vital role in making these events successful. If you are able to lend a hand, please consider offering your time and assistance. Every contribution, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.

Enjoy the hobby and have a great year.

Jeremy Faria
IFFCA President

IFFCA Liaisons,

*Daniel Antonio,
David Benites and
Anthony Celano,*

will be profiled in upcoming newsletters.

Join us for a Fife Chat
Sunday, June 28th
7 pm Eastern.

Details will be emailed to members
several days before the chat.



The IFFCA Newsletter

published by the
International Fife Fancy Club of America
286 Hite Road
Kearneysville, WV 25430

InternationalFifeFancyClubofAmerica.com
iffca.net

Volume 5, Number 1
June 2026

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International Fife Fancy Club of America
has selected the
San Diego County Canary Club
as our 2025 Affiliated Club Show!

Thank You

... for your continued service to The Bird Hobby!



International Fife Fancy Club of America
Goals of our Club:
Encouraging excellence in the breeding and showing of the Fife Fancy Canary,
Educating novices, pet owners and the public,
Promoting the Fife Fancy Canary



Join Us On Facebook



Visit Our Website

Applications for Show Sponsorship are due by July 1st!

One affiliated club show will be chosen each year to receive a monetary donation and rosettes for the Fife classes.

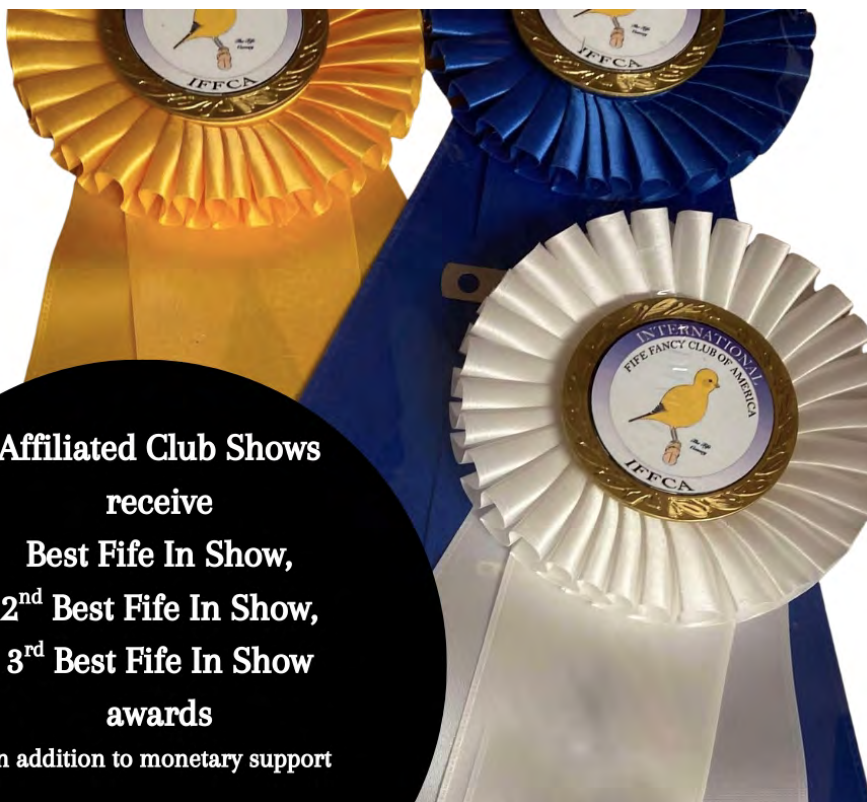
All affiliated clubs receive an IFFCA medal to award to the Best Fife In Show.

Affiliation Form and Sponsorship Application

are available by request and on our website!

Affiliated Club Shows receive
Best Fife In Show,
2nd Best Fife In Show,
3rd Best Fife In Show
awards

in addition to monetary support



Weaning First Chicks - Getting Them Eating

By Linda Hogan

from Canary Tales Blog

The time to start weaning chicks is when the first chick leaves the nest which in normally developing chicks is about 18 days old. As soon as I see the first chick out of the nest, I add in addition to the usual nestling foods, a quarter of a hard boiled egg. Most chicks will start eating it the same day. They like to nibble on the sharp edge of the yolk. To get the sharp yolk ridge, I cut the egg using a thin blade paring knife and first half the egg and then divide the halves again. This is the first food the chicks will learn to eat and the sooner the better as the hen is likely getting anxious to start a second clutch!

After eating the quartered hard boiled egg and nestling egg food, they will try chickweed seedy heads, sprouted seed, broccoli (pick the heads with the more loose obvious seeds rather than tight heads), romaine and other greens. As soon as they are seen eating the egg and approximately 21 days old they are moved to another cage away from their parents. Providing they are not overly thin and sitting around puffed up, crying all the time. In that case, I move the ready siblings and leave him with the parents a little longer. Some chicks like begging better than eating and can be resistant to eating on their own.

In the weaning cage, I initially remove perches so the chicks will sit on the floor with my smorgasbord of food. They often perch on broccoli as it is the highest thing in the cage and nibble it under their feet. As they eat more, I put perches up about an inch off the floor for a while and then finally to a higher position. The reason is the chicks will sit on the highest perch and watch the food below but not eat it. Eventually, they will start crying and finally puff up, go light and die, all the time looking down at the food!

I watch the chicks to make sure they do not puff up but rather hold their feathers tight to their body. You can also tell a great deal about how the chicks are doing by the width of the tail and wing carriage. Chicks that have a piped tail and good wing carriage are doing well. Wing carriage usually improves first. Wide tails at weaning are usually due to poor eating habits but along with poor wing carriage that persists may be your first alert of a failure to thrive genetic defect problem in the line. 

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Once in the weaning cage it is time to branch out to eat other dry foods such as dry Quiko, CeDe, ABBA green or red, Proteen 25, Petamine/Harrisons mash, bread crumbs (process some fresh bread or corn bread in the food processor), and even Purina flock raiser. In addition, they will likely eat bee pollen, wheat germ, Lewis Lab Brewer's Yeast flakes, and oatmeal. The easiest one of the dry foods to get them to eat is Quiko. I think it is the flaky texture but it is very easy to get them to eat it.

They are now ready for frozen corn or frozen peas. I just pour hot water over the frozen vegetable and thaw it before serving. The first few times I offer peas, I shell each pea to serve only the tender hearts, once they have a taste for it, they will hull their own.

Once they eat these kinds of foods, I introduce couscous with poppy seed. To make it I take couscous and add poppy seed (health food store, I order 5 lbs at a time) and some olive oil mix and cover with boiling water (extra layer of water on top). Fluff occasionally. Already the birds are eating the poppy seed in the couscous! Today, I am going to try Debbie's shredded wheat and carrot (see earlier Tuesday's Tipster food processor). By next week, I will try the border veggies (broccoli/cauliflower and soybeans),

I discontinue the pure hard boiled egg once they are eating other foods but



continue nestling food containing hard boiled egg until mid September. I do cut the nestling food to once a day once the birds are eating regular seed. *

Photo by Linda Hogan

Canary Corner by Charlotte Nierenberg

Q's and A's from 1987 editions of The AFA Watchbird

Q. *"My cock annoyed his hen while incubating and picked at her head feathers constantly. The eggs did not hatch. Could this be the reason, and if so, should he have been removed and when?"*

A. Yes - this could have been the reason if the eggs were fertile since the embryo needs the almost constant body heat of the hen in order to develop. Any cock can be removed after the second egg is laid - especially a culprit like the one you described. If the hen is a good feeder, she is capable of raising her own chicks but if the male behaves himself, he may be returned to help feed his family after the babies are four days old.

Q. *"What is your method for distinguishing the young males from the hens? Some of my young ones started to sing at a very young age but then stopped. After awhile I was thoroughly confused."*

A. As soon as a young male begins to "throat" a song (usually at four to six weeks of age), I place an additional plastic colored band on his leg. The young that do not sing are temporarily assumed to be females. Facilities permitting, the known young cocks should be removed and placed in a large flight cage. Many times a young cock starts to sing later on but he is easy to spot among the quiet hens.

FOOD AND CARE IN THE WEANING CAGE

Four to Six Weeks - After the chicks are able to pick up food for themselves, they should be kept on a "soft" diet for about two weeks – Condition/nestling food (Petamine), corn muffins – crumbled, moistened bird egg biscuits, gravel, cuttlebone and fresh water daily containing water-soluble vitamins. Also, one teaspoon per bird of the same egg food they have been accustomed to may be served three times a day, gradually reduced to a once-a-day serving by six weeks of age.

Six to Eight Weeks - Hard seed can be added to the above diet, plus a small amount of greens per bird daily (THOROUGHLY WASHED).

Eight to 16 Weeks - The "baby moult" usually starts between eight and ten weeks of age and first-year birds will lose and replace all feathers except the tail and flights.

Although by no means completely adult, most young canaries have completed their "baby moult" by 16 weeks of age and can be considered "teenagers". Soft egg food should gradually be reduced to a once a week offering if they are flighted in a large aviary - eliminated if in a small cage. Condition or treat seed may continue to be a steady part of their diet, especially in large flights where they will throw off excess fat by exercise alone.

By sixteen weeks of age, a youngster can be considered adult enough to be sold or kept for the next breeding season.

REST & RECUPERATION

* "Tapering off" operations should come as a welcome relief to both breeder and birds at this time of the year. Breeders are tired of preparing egg food, performing necessary extra chores and staying so close to home during the season. More important, the birds are ready for a well-earned rest!

* For those who breed on a pair-to-pair basis, that is, when/both the cock and hen raise their babies, the parents should be separated when the last clutch of babies is about 10-12 days old. This will preclude further coition and resultant fertile eggs. The more "eager feeder" should remain with the young (preferably the cock) and the mate removed to a nearby cage. If the hen lays another clutch of eggs after that, her infertile eggs may be tossed without regret as soon as she completes her laying cycle.

INCREASING PRODUCTION NEXT YEAR

* Understandably, a large commercial breeder wants as much produce and profit as possible during a breeding season. A basic hobbyist, however, is closer to his birds and values the individual hen who is a good breeder and mother.

* Since most creatures who mature quickly have comparatively short life spans, limiting the canary hen to two nests per season will ensure a longer productive life. This is especially true for a first-year hen and one who raises her babies alone.

* When a novice gains more experience and sets up a number of hens at the same time, he can still increase his production from one hen while allowing her to raise only two clutches.

Q. "After the breeding season, can I place the adult males with the young males - same for the hens?"

A. Yes. Young canaries grow rapidly and are usually capable of taking care of themselves in an ample-sized flight cage. A bully (young or old) should be removed and either caged separately or placed in another flight. Many times a bird will act differently in strange surroundings or with new companions.

* A hen canary is capable of laying up to four clutches of eggs per season. Laying and incubating does not drain strength it is the feeding and nurturing the babies for approximately four weeks that does.

* If the hen lays infertile eggs, she may be allowed to try until she produces. Sometimes a change of mate will help. Any clutch of eggs (from the first to the third) may be removed and transferred or distributed to other hens who lay at the same time. The first hen may then be recycled to produce more eggs.

* If the hen hatches only one or two babies, these can be transferred to another hen who produces an equally small clutch (of the same age). This hen can also be recycled to produce a hopefully larger clutch.

* If the above procedures of "switching" are followed, the breeder must exercise some precautions. Try to make sure that the foster mothers are reliable feeders. Transfer babies of the same age and size (preferably close to "lights out" time) and put a drop or two of mixed dry baby cereal and water in the crop. Check the transferred babies to make sure they are being fed the next morning. Do not transfer babies to a full nest - four is an average-sized clutch; do not burden another mother hen with six unless she regularly produces and raises that amount.

Breeder List Is Now On Our Website!

Daniel Antonio

Fall River, MA
contact via website:
FancyCanary.com
Yes, I ship.

Arda Degirmenci

Waltham, MA
contact via website:
CheerfulCanaries.com
Yes, I ship.

David Benites

Chula Vista, CA
(619) 405-6562
davidbenites@hotmail.com
Yes, I ship.

Dan Pitney

Salem, OR
phone: (503)866-9524
email: dspitney@gmail.com
Yes, I ship.

Susan Bergel

Kearneysville, WV
contact via website:
SusansCanaries.com
Yes, I ship.

Debbie Stout

Harlem, MT
contact via website:
SSCanaries.com
Yes, I ship.

Kevin Buttigieg

Queens, NY
phone: (646) 731-7750

No, I do not ship.

Deb Whidden

Dover, DE
email: dlwhidden915@gmail.com

Yes, I do ship.

Guiseppe (Joe) Cucuzza

Ridgewood NY
email: peppuccio1@aol.com

IFFCA's website comes up on Google Searches for 'Buying a Fife Canary'!!!

Our club website receives numerous inquiries about the Fife Fancy and where to purchase stock birds. We try to connect them to various members who have given us permission to give out their contact info.

Our website is a place people are looking when
they want to buy quality Fife!

Is Your Name On Our Breeder's List????