The 1978 National Cage Bird show was held in Atlanta, Georgia, and a good time was had by all. Over 1100 birds were benched, including 150 Border Fancy Canaries. The Atlanta area is not known to have a large supply of Borders, so most of these exhibits were brought in from the east and midwest sections of the country.

One of the problems confronting Border Fancy Breeders at the present time is an argument concerning the judging standard to be used. There are two groups, IBFCC (International Border Fancy Canary Club, which is located in the Midwest) and the ABFCC (American Border Fancy Canary Club, with headquarters in the Northeast), who have prepared standards for judging the Border Fancy Canary. Both groups use the same picture standard, (two-dimensional) and the same basic word description and point scores for various features of the bird. Both standards restrict the size of the bird to “not more than 5 ½ inches in length.” The ABFCC also sponsored a three-dimensional figure for the bird.

Some breeders of the Border Canary are presently trying to change the standard to delete the requirement “not more than 5 ½ inches in length” so that Borders can be shown in any size up to that of a Norwich. The primary reason for this change is reflected in the fact that larger birds are winning shows in England, Scotland, Ireland, etc. I understand that the standard is the same in the English-speaking European countries as it is here in the U.S.A. If this is the case, then judges who make show winners of large Borders (over 5 ½ inches long) are cheating on the standard now in effect.

Why is there such an interest in a large bird? The reason is said to be a more pleasing Border with more “substance” of body. It is true, of course, that the larger the bird the more body that can be bred into the species. A 6-inch bird will give more opportunity to breed a more pleasing, prize-winning bird than one of 5 ½ inches. A 6 ½ or 7-inch bird will give more opportunity to raise a good bird than one restricted to 6 inches. Where do we stop if we eliminate any restriction as to size?

History in England indicates that when the Border Fancy was of unrestricted length the larger bird won at the shows. Crosses were made with a Norwich and the resulting “working birds” were shown as Borders. Feather structure became loose and long, the Norwich brow was common, and heavy bodies were in vogue. The jaunty, middle-sized Border that we know now disappeared from the show bench. The English Standard was then reduced to “not more than 5 ½ inches in length.”

It is tough enough to breed good Borders to the restricted standard we have now. Think ahead to the problems that would abound if we went to 7-inch Borders. What was a good Border for one judge would not be large enough for another and, strangely enough, they would both be right. The breeder would have a hopeless task and would put a large cockpit to a small hen hoping for a variety of size in the offspring. This would not seem to be a very scientific approach to breeding.

So our present judging standard for the Border Fancy Canary is listed for the Fancier and is the same for both IBFCC and ABFCC. Many American judges pick a bird larger than 5 ½ inches long. I judge by the standard we have now and will do so until it is changed. Change should only come if a majority of Border breeders in the U.S.A. are in favor. It is fine to cooperate with the approach taken by our European neighbors, but I feel that the American breeders should decide changes on their merits and not blindly follow programs set up overseas.

As the 1978 Judge for the Border Fancy at the Atlanta National Show, I attempted to restrict the winners to the required length. Some very good, over-sized birds were not considered. The result was that some breeders were happy and some were sad. The winners were happy with me, the Judge, and the losers were mad at me. What else is new? We cannot all be winners all the time and I guess our only condolence is that there will be a new and better judge next year.

After 15 years of judging birds I have to come to three conclusions: (1) The breeder can never be objective about his own bird. (2) Many bird breeders have never before been in competition and therefore do not know how to lose. (3) As a judge, my only responsibility is to satisfy myself that I have done my best under the circumstances.

A medium-sized self green Border won the 1978 Kellogg Trophy and it was later the winner of the Scannell Award as the Best Bird in the National Show. It was the property of Robert Morrison of Detroit, Michigan. It was his first Border Canary Kellogg winner. He should be congratulated on raising a fine bird.

Maybe by the time the 1979 National Show comes around the IBFCC and ABFCC will have arrived at a mutually agreeable compromise which will change the present standard, hopefully for the better, and will present the written version of that compromise to all Border Breeders. If no written changes are made, then I hope all judges will unite behind the standard we have now and will choose the best bird that conforms to that standard.

Atlanta, the home of National Show President Ray Johnson, put on a very successful National Show and we hope to see all of you in Los Angeles, California, in 1979.
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVICULTURE
Dedicated to conservation of bird wildlife through encouragement of captive breeding programs, scientific research, and education of the general public.

MEMBER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Love Bird Society
American Cockatiel Society
American Pigeon Fanciers Council
Avicultural Society of America

MEMBER CLUBS

ARIZONA
Arizona Avicultural Society

CALIFORNIA
Aviary Association of Kern
Butte County Bird Club
California Game Breeders
Capitol City Bird Society
Central California Cage Bird Club
Finch Society of San Diego County
Fresno Canary & Finch Club
Golden Gate Avian Society
Great Western Budgerigar Society
Hookbill Heebst of Southern California
Long Beach Bird Breeders
Norco Valley Bird Breeders
Nu-Color Bird Association
Orange County Bird Breeders
San Diego County Canary Club
Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Cage Bird Club
South Bay Bird Club
South Coast Finch Society
Southern California Bird Club
Southern California Roller Canary Club
Valley of Paradise Bird Club
West Valley Bird Society
Western Bird Breeders Society

COLORADO
Rocky Mountain Cage Bird Club, Inc.

CONNECTICUT
Connecticut Association for Aviculture

FLORIDA
Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida
Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Club
Gulf Coast Cage Bird Breeders Association
Miami Budgerigar Society, Inc.
Sun Coast Finch Society

GEORGIA
Georgia Cage Bird Society

HAWAII
Honolulu Canary & Finch Club

ILLINOIS
Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club
Illinois Game & Pet Breeders Society

INDIANA
Indiana Bird Fanciers of Muncie

IOWA/NEBRASKA
Mid-America Cage Bird Society

MARYLAND
Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Inc.
Maryland Cage Bird Society
National Capital Bird Club

MASSACHUSETTS
Western New England Cage Bird Society

MINNESOTA
Minnesota Cage Bird Association
Minnesota Pheasant & Waterfowl Society

MISSOURI
Missouri Cage Association

NEVADA
Las Vegas Avicultural Society

NEW HAMPSHIRE
New Hampshire Cage Bird Association

NEW YORK
American Singers Club, Inc., Chapter I
Long Island Cage Bird Association

OHIO
Akron Cage Bird Club
Central Ohio Bird Fanciers, Inc.
Ohio National Color Breeders Club

OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma Cage Bird Society

OREGON
Columbia Canary Club

PENNSYLVANIA
Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society

RHODE ISLAND
Rhode Island Canary & Cage Bird, Inc.

TEXAS
Alamo Exhibition Budgie Club
Dallas Cage Bird Society
Fort Worth Bird Club

UTAH
Avicultural Society of Utah

VIRGINIA
Tide Water Cage Bird Fanciers of Virginia

WASHINGTON
Washington Budgerigar Society

WISCONSIN
Wisconsin Bird & Game Breeders Association
Wisconsin Cage Bird Club

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Alamo Exhibition Budgie Club — Texas
Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida — Florida
Avicultural Society of Utah — Utah
Baltimore Bird Fanciers — Maryland
Tide Water Cage Bird Fanciers of Virginia — Virginia

COMMITTEES

AVY AWARDS
Roland Dubuc (714) 727-1486

SPECIAL RESEARCH AWARDS
Dr. Phillip J. Ryan (612) 636-5133

BY-LAWS
Charlotte DeLoux (415) 494-0345

CONVENTION 1979
Dr. Ronald L. Harris (305) 238-3754

CONVENTION COORDINATOR
Lee Horton (714) 727-1486

EDUCATION/MEDIA SERVICES
Sharon and Steve Claus (714) 748-3847

EMERGENCY TASK FORCE
Dr. Barry Adler (201) 762-5488

ETHICS
Ruth Hanessian (301) 926-2838

FINANCE
Janice Pritchard (714) 442-1164

HOME OFFICE
Janice Pritchard (714) 442-1164

INSURANCE
Jerry Jennings (213) 884-5476

LEGISLATION
Clifton Witt (301) 774-0303

SPECIAL LEGISLATION ADVISOR
Dr. Richard E. Baer (614) 836-5822

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
Jerry Jennings (213) 884-5476

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION
Tim Dable (310) 760-4626

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
Joe McLaughlin (503) 628-2743

NOMINATING
Peggy Cochran (404) 977-9842

PATRONAGE SHOW AWARDS
Nancy Reed (203) 688-4069

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Lee Horton (714) 727-1486

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY
Janet Galey Phipps (301) 525-1311

RAFFLE
Judy Hofferman (703) 325-0459

SHOW DISPLAY

STATE COORDINATORS
Dr. Richard E. Baer (614) 836-5822

WATCHBIRD STAFF
Sheldon Dingle/Editor (714) 747-7488
M. Jean Hetler/Art Dir. (714) 548-3133
Lee Horton/Managing Editor (714) 727-1486
Jerry Jennings/Ad Dir. (213) 884-5476
Bus. Neal/Fast Coast (301) 948-1121
Dr. R.E. Baer/Mid-West (614) 836-5832

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
Janice Pritchard (714) 442-1164

NOMINATING
Peggy Cochran (404) 977-9842

PATRONAGE SHOW AWARDS
Nancy Reed (203) 688-4069

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Lee Horton (714) 727-1486

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY
Janet Galey Phipps (301) 525-1311

RAFFLE
Judy Hofferman (703) 325-0459

SHOW DISPLAY

STATE COORDINATORS
Dr. Richard E. Baer (614) 836-5822

WATCHBIRD STAFF
Sheldon Dingle/Editor (714) 747-7488
M. Jean Hetler/Art Dir. (714) 548-3133
Lee Horton/Managing Editor (714) 727-1486
Jerry Jennings/Ad Dir. (213) 884-5476
Bus. Neal/Fast Coast (301) 948-1121
Dr. R.E. Baer/Mid-West (614) 836-5832

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
Janice Pritchard (714) 442-1164

NOMINATING
Peggy Cochran (404) 977-9842

PATRONAGE SHOW AWARDS
Nancy Reed (203) 688-4069

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Lee Horton (714) 727-1486

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY
Janet Galey Phipps (301) 525-1311

RAFFLE
Judy Hofferman (703) 325-0459

SHOW DISPLAY

STATE COORDINATORS
Dr. Richard E. Baer (614) 836-5822

WATCHBIRD STAFF
Sheldon Dingle/Editor (714) 747-7488
M. Jean Hetler/Art Dir. (714) 548-3133
Lee Horton/Managing Editor (714) 727-1486
Jerry Jennings/Ad Dir. (213) 884-5476
Bus. Neal/Fast Coast (301) 948-1121
Dr. R.E. Baer/Mid-West (614) 836-5832