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.

CHARLOTTE NIERNERBERG
P.O. Box 2095
Sepulveda, CA. 91343

REST & RECUPERATION
INCREASING PRODUCTION NEXT YEAR

SCHEDULE FROM HATCHING TO MOULTING

COLOR FOOD

“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.

ALWAYS IN THE WINNER’S CIRCLE

PETAMINE and BUDGIMINE
(by Kellogg of course)

BREEDERS! Do you want year round health and performance for your prize winners? Do you insist on a specially formulated COMPLETE bird diet, university tested? Do you ask for all of this and CONSISTENT Quality? Why not use the two top winners, Petamine and Budgimine. Now available at your dealers’ in ECONOMY sizes 5, 10 and 25 lb. pkgs. Or write Kelloggs for the supplier nearest you.

LOFT-KELLOGG CO., INC.
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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.

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.

COLOR FOOD FOR RED FACTORS

Red factor canaries attain a different range of hues, depending upon their heritage and whether they are frost or non-frost birds. Do not expect the same deep red results from all canaries — even when they are nestmates. Color food will enhance the natural color and reach different degrees and shades from a light pink to an orange or a deep tomato red.

There are choices of color food today — either the "natural" carotene products or the synthetic products containing canthaxanthin. I have used both and find that the synthetic product will produce deeper shades and have not encountered any difficulty or illness from it.

Color food will not turn a yellow canary red — some unsightly splorches may appear. It is best to keep your red factors in a separate flight and offer color food either in tubes of water or mixed with corn muffins or nesting food — according to directions from the supplier.

To attain a nice, even color, it is important to start babies on color food just before the baby moult at about 8-9 weeks of age. Adult canaries usually start to moult when their breeding chores cease. They should be started on color food directly after the last clutch has been weaned.

I hope all canary breeders had a satisfactory breeding season with MANY HAPPY RETURNS.