

FRANK SAVAGE ON BORDERS

◉ We may see gradual return of supreme Clear Yellow cocks ◉

A LOT of Border Canary breeders have been looking forward to the show season, anticipating that they are going to do well. However, as we consider the fruits of our labours during the breeding season, many will find out that their birds are not as good as they thought they were. When we do lose, we must take it in the right spirit.

Before blaming the judge, we should study the classes objectively and you may well find that, in many cases, that although we have improved our birds since last year, so have the breeders who beat us then. As a result we find that our exhibits are still in second and third places. It happens to most of us.

As far as Borders are concerned, Clear Yellow cocks were just about maintaining their standard last year. Even so, it was disappointing to see that this class, for so long accepted as the perfect Border to aim for, rarely provided the winner of the best Border award. Perhaps we may see a gradual return to the days when Clear Yellow cocks carried everything before them.

Some of the Clear Yellow hens I saw last year were superb Borders, exhibiting outstanding type and quality, but too many were a little bit down in colour; possibly because they had received little help in the

form of natural, permitted foods. This is an area which could easily see an improvement in the coming show season.

We will no doubt be seeing some super Buff cocks, but they remain the most difficult to win with and to judge. Last year I was invited by a fellow judge to look at his class of Buff cocks. They were so good that

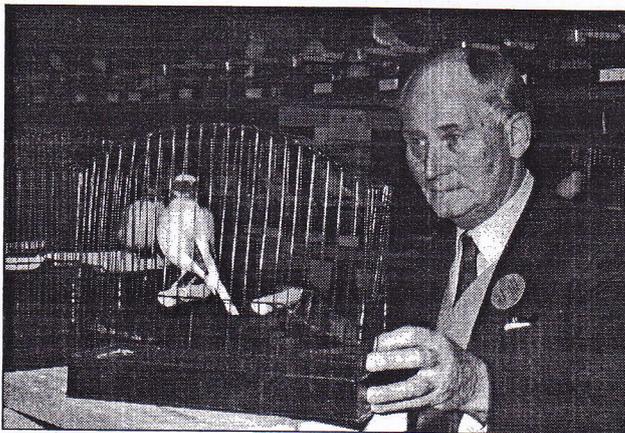
useful Green Borders and I believe that today's Greens are not as good as those of days gone by. This can be accounted for by the number of points allocated for colour being fewer. In consequence, poor-coloured Greens, which would have come nowhere years ago, are taking the top awards. Yet a Yellow with an equal lack of colour would not even win its class, never mind a special.

To be fair, in the old days there were Greens that were winning on colour alone. It would be too optimistic to express a hope that we will soon be seeing the old grass green coloration returning, at least while the points allocation remains as it is. Greens are difficult. How many breeders of "Normal" Borders realise how great is the achievement of the specialist who manages to combine

colour and type on a Green Border?

Neither are Cinnamons as good as they were in the past – with one or two notable exceptions. Again, it is a matter of type and feather quality being rated above colour. When it comes to White and its allied colours, I am still looking out for a Blue to match the one bred by Noel Weaver 30 years ago.

I have seen one or two superb Whites and Fawn & Whites in the last couple of years, but Noel's Blue must still be the finest ever bred. During the present show season I will be judging at a number of specialist Border shows. I am sure that, as always, I will be seeing some outstanding Border Fancy Canaries.



■ Frank Savage.

he marked an extra place – down to eighth – to let the unlucky exhibitor know how close he had come to being in the cards. The winner was outstanding. When the time came to judge the specials it had completely gone to pieces.

This is the trouble with Buff cocks. One minute they can look like world beaters and the next, little better than pets. I had the pleasure of judging many good classes of Buff hens last year. This was often the best class in the show and often provided the winner of the best Border trophy. There is no reason why this should change in 1992.

Over the years I have bred a few