

would if they were put into the breeding cages after having been shut up close in the stop cages: too much care cannot be taken in regard to this circumstance, for I have frequently known birds (which being taken immediately from a close box cage, and put into a breeding cage, where they have had water given them to wash themselves), to turn very sick; and indeed many to have been lost, through not adopting the plan above mentioned.

ON THE BREEDING OF GOLD-FINCH MULES.

IN order to possess handsome mule birds, the breeder must provide himself with a young cock goldfinch, and match him with a clear junk hen canary, one that is perfectly free from black: when matched, they ought to be kept together in the same cage through the winter, till April, when the goldfinch must be taken away from the canary, and hung close to her in a separate cage, till the beginning of May, feeding the goldfinch on bruised hemp seed, and a little

of the heads of groundsel, every morning, in order to bring him forward for breeding: the hen, however, must be kept on plain seed only, as when she is fed up, it often happens that she lays her eggs at the bottom of the cage.

About the beginning of May, put them in the breeding cage, and feed them on bread and egg, with a little hemp seed bruised, giving them some nesting to build with; when you find that the canary has finished building, you must be very careful to watch her off the nest, in order to take away the eggs, and substitute false ones, lest the goldfinch break them, which he is very apt to do, the moment he gets sight of them: the eggs must be kept in bran, as I have before mentioned. When the canary has laid her complement of eggs, I should recommend that they be set under another hen canary, and let her bring up the young mules, at the same time keeping the canary that is with the goldfinch sitting on the false eggs for about a week, when they may be taken away, and she will soon begin to

lay again. By sitting on the false eggs for a short time, the canary will be stronger than if she were suffered to begin laying immediately after her own eggs were taken away.

By adopting this plan, the breeder will have many more mules than if he allowed the hen to bring up the young ones herself; if, however, it should happen that he have no canaries under which the eggs can be placed, I should advise that the goldfinch be taken away; when the hen, if she be a kind feeder, will bring up her own young ones extremely well. The breeder should remember that the goldfinch must not be put back to the canary again, till such time as the young ones are old enough to be taken away, that is, when they are able to feed themselves, which is generally at about a month old.

When the young ones are taken away, they must be put into a small cage, and fed with bread and egg, and bruised hemp seed mixed together, and set inside the cage, so that they may have no difficulty to find it,

till they are old enough to seek it outside; the young mules ought to have a head of groundsel given them every day.

The mule bird is a very beautiful songster, and I consider him one of the best we have for the cage, as he sings both Winter and Summer, and nearly the year round.

As mule birds do not breed again, the hens are of no use, unless it be to keep in an aviary, where, by their excessive activity, they keep all the other birds lively and cheerful.

The cock mule may readily be distinguished from the hens, by his cap being of a deeper orange, as are also the pinions of the wings, which will also have the gold mark, the same as the goldfinch.

ON THE BREEDING OF LINNET MULES.

MATCH a cock linnet with a clear hen canary, in the same way as recommended in breeding goldfinch mules, choosing a two-year old linnet, which is more likely to breed than a young one; still, however, the