

In the International Spotlight

John Barron: Country: Ireland
Breeder, Show Competitor, Champion



Our first in the International Spotlight series goes to John Barron, who has bred and shown Irish Fancy Canaries for almost 10 years. He is a member of the Irish Fancy Canary Society in Ireland, the birthplace of the Irish Fancy.

How I started in Irish Fancies

I started out in Irish Fancies in 2012 with 2 pairs of birds. Not great quality but I didn't know any better at the time. It was only when I went to my first few shows that I started to see the difference in quality of the birds I had, compared to what was on the bench. This prompted me to do my homework and I enquired who would be the best to obtain good stock from. I then contacted 2 of the top breeders at the time and bought 2 pairs of birds from each breeder, This is where it all started for me. It was all about improving each year from then up until now.

Why should people starting in birds choose the Irish Fancy

When anyone tells me, they are going to start out in birds, I recommend the Irish fancy. To me they are a lovely bird and once looked after in the correct manner and healthy then they will go about their business. Unlike some of the other breeds they will rear their own chicks and not need feeders. The Irish Fancy is a wonderful looking bird with great type and is a very eye-catching sight on the show bench when you walk into a show hall.

Beginners Tips: What To Do and Not Do?

My best advice to newcomers to this wonderful hobby is to straight away source good stock and not to be picking up birds here and there from everybody. A poor-quality bird will cost the same time & money as a good bird.

Join your local bird club for starters and go to as many shows as it is possible for you to attend, this is more than likely where you will meet many new friends and make good contacts and obtain valuable information.

How I progressed my line of Irish Fancies from when I started as novice until I moved into the Champion section?

When I first started out in Irish Fancies it was the colour birds (e.g. greens, blues, cinnamons) that I liked but as I started to improve and learn I found that to be competitive for the top awards I would need to concentrate a bit more on my clear birds (yellows/buffs). In the Irish Fancy Canary Society (IFCS) you have 5 years (it has now been increased to 7 years) as a novice before having to move up to champion. My first couple of years did not bring much success and it was only maybe my 3rd year that my line of birds started to come good. In fact, it was in my 4th year as novice that I took Best Irish Fancy in Show at the 90TH Anniversary Cork show with a Self Blue hen. It was my first major achievement and the same bird went on to win Best Novice & 2nd Best Irish Fancy in Show at the IFCS National show in Arklow the same year.



Continued next page

International Spotlight continued

John's Achievements with Irish Fancies so far.

Ireland Awards

Best Novice Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show Cork 2015
Best Novice Irish Fancy and 2nd & 4th Best Irish Fancy in Show IFCS National Arklow 2015
Best Novice Irish Fancy and 3rd & 4th Best Irish Fancy in Show IFCS National Arklow 2016
Best Champion Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show Midleton (IFCS Cork Branch) 2017
Best Champion Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show IFCS National Arklow 2017
Best Champion Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show Cobh 2018
Best Champion Irish Fancy and Best Irish Fancy in Show IFCCU 2018
Best Champion Irish Fancy Swords 2019

UK Awards

Best Champion Irish Fancy in Show 2017 English National Stafford

World Show Awards

Gold Medals x 5

Silver Medals x 4

Bronze Medals x 4

