

## My Method for Training Spanish Timbrado Canaries for competition

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At the request of my friend Martin Valdez, President of The Southern California Spanish Timbrado Club, I am writing this article to help their members in their annual Timbrado completion on December 16, 2017 in California.

This method of training is not the best, nor the only method to train Timbrados, it is simply my method. I hope all find it useful, it has been for me since 2008.

- 1.- Place in the training cages your male Timbrados 6 to 8 weeks before the competition date. In the FOE, we use the "Valenciana" cage. Keep the tutors or training recordings in the same room. Make sure the Timbrados see each other for 3 days.
- 2.- The light should be white light and preferably keep the Timbrados near a window. The light hours should match the natural day hours.
- 3.- Feed them the regular feed and egg food 3 times per week to start. Give them Nekton Bio in the water twice a week.
- 4.- At the end of the three days mentioned in #1, place the cages so birds don't see each other.
- 5.- Place a small piece of masking tape on the outside of the cage (this will be their report card), record band number and group in lots of 4, making sure that you put together full brothers or cousins in each lot.
- 6.- After one week in their "Valencianas" start moving your lots of four to other locations of your house daily for about 5 minutes, if they sing fine, if they don't that is ok, you are getting them used to movement and other locations of your house. Ideally take them out twice per day but once a day would do as well initially.
- 7.- Listen to their song carefully, if you find song defects or something you don't like, remove those birds from the training room ASAP.
- 8.- By about 3 weeks, place a check mark on the masking tape on the cages of the birds that are singing, if they are singing aggressively and you like what you hear, place two check marks on the masking tape. Those double checkers are probably going to represent your aviary at the show.
- 9.- Eliminate the Nekton Bio and egg food if your birds are singing too loud, continue if they are not.
- 10.- Place the strongest singing birds at the bottom of the stack and the weakest on top.

11.- At about 4 weeks before the competition, you should know which lots of birds are singing freely. Increase the lighting in the room by 15 minutes per week as you approach the competition date. Change your feed to ONLY straight canary seed or “alpiste”.

12.- One week before the competition, place the lots of four in their carrying cases completely **open**. Continue to take them to sing twice per day. Birds that at one month before the competition are not singing take them out, do not show them now, maybe later.

13.- At three days before the completion, cover the carrying boxes so that enough light is provided so they can eat and drink. The birds should **not** be singing at all, only when you take them out. If they are, then block more light. Allow them at this point to sing for about minute or so when you take them out, not more.

14. During the last three days, as soon as you take them out, they will all start singing simultaneously. Stop them in about a minute.

15. Do not allow them to sing the day of the completion at all.

16.- Sit back and relax, your work is done, your Timbrado will have to do their work now.

### Final comments

1.- Learn and seek advice from the judge on your birds. He is an expert and is willing to help.

2.- Be humble.

3.- If any of your birds score 86 points or above, consider yourself a show winner, that is a first class Timbrado.

It should be used for breeding or tutoring.

4.- **Enjoy the show and make friends.**