

## Show Cage Sizes—British Birds



This fact sheet details the specification of the Show Cages that are required to exhibit British Birds in the United Kingdom.

Other fact sheets in this series are available covering the requirements for other species of birds.

## **Standard Show Cage Sizes**

### **BRITISH HARDBILL, MULES AND HYBRIDS**

The decorative treatment recommended is black (top, bottom, outside back and sides) with the inside and front wires and both rails Georgian green. All drinkers should also be Georgian green. (Georgian green paint is either available from the shelf or can be made up in the shop if not actually stocked. Alternatively Dulux Dublin Bay Code 70GY22546 can be used.)  
Floor covering - seed only.

#### ***Size 2 or A***

For goldfinch, lesser and mealy redpoll, siskin, linnet and twite. All mules and other British bird hybrids whose size does not exceed the hardbills in this category including redpoll x bullfinch.

- \* Length 11 inches, height 9½ inches, width 4½ inches
- \* No 14 gauge wires set at ⅝ inch centres
- \* Drinking hole 1 inch diameter
- \* Bottom rail 1½ inches high
- \* Top rail shaped 1 inch at the outside, sloping to ½ inch at the centre

#### ***Size 3 or B***

For bullfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, brambling, yellow, reed and cirl buntings, goldfinch, linnet, twite and greenfinch mules, bullfinch hybrids, and other British bird hybrids whose size is similar to the hardbills in this category.

- \* Length 12 inches, height 10 inches, width 5 inches
- \* No 14 gauge wires and ¾ inch apart, centre to centre
- \* Drinking hole 1 inch in diameter
- \* Bottom rail 1½ inches high
- \* Top rail shaped 1 inch at the outside, sloping to ½ inch at the centre

#### ***Size 4 or C***

For hawfinch, crossbill, snow bunting and Lapland bunting and all mules and other British bird hybrids whose size is similar to the hardbills mentioned in this category.

- \* Length 14 inches, height 12 inches, width 6½ inches
- \* No 14 gauge wires and 1 inch apart, centre to centre
- \* Drinking hole 1¼ inch diameter
- \* The bottom rail is 2 inches high
- \* Top rail 1½ inches high at the outside, sloping to ¾ inch in the centre

## **BRITISH SOFTBILLS**

The recommended colours are black outside, including wire fronts, with white interior. Food and water vessels should be inside the cage.

Floor covering is optional, but blotting paper, or moss for small softbills and coarse sawdust or leaves is recommended for large softbills. Softbill show cages should be as large as practicable. The following sizes are suggested:

### ***Size 5***

For small softbills up to the size of a waxwing

- \* Length 18 inches, height 15 inches, width 12 inches

### ***Size 6***

For thrushes, except mistle

- \* Length 20 inches, height 15 inches, width 12 inches

### ***Size 7***

For other large softbills except magpie

- \* Length 24 inches, height 20 inches, width 16 inches

### ***Size 8***

For magpie

- \* Length 36 inches, height 24 inches, width 16 inches

## **CAGES IN SCOTLAND**

Standard show cages for British birds (Scottish pattern, sliding fronts). Scotland has no recommended sizes for softbill show cages.

### ***No 1***

For lesser redpoll and siskin

- \* Length 9 inches, height 8½ inches, depth 4½ inches

### ***No 2***

For goldfinch, linnet, twite and mealy redpoll, siskin and redpoll mules and hybrids, whose size does not exceed the size of the finches, including the

redpoll x bullfinch

- \* Length 10 inches, height 9½ inches, depth 4½ inches

**No 3**

For bullfinch, greenfinch, brambling, chaffinch, yellow bunting and reed bunting, goldfinch, twite, linnet and greenfinch mules and all hybrids whose size does not exceed the size of the finches

- \* Length 11 inches, height 10 inches, depth 5 inches

**No 4**

For crossbill and corn bunting

- \* Length 12 inches, height 11 inches, depth 5½ inches

**No 5**

For hawfinch and snow bunting

- \* Length 14 inches, height 12 inches, depth 6 inches

NB: The door on a show cage should always be on the right. These are constructed quite small, about 3 inches wide in respect to finch type birds, for security purposes.

The drinking hole is made less than 1 inch in diameter in many of the smaller cages nowadays to avoid escapes.

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