times a number of birds come and several may be caught at one time. Birds approaching with wings dragging are particularly desirable.

The captured Euphonias are placed for safe keeping in a stock cage and covered with a cloth which apparently has a soothing effect on the wild birds. Birdcatchers usually cover their cages in this manner while on their way to and from the hunting grounds. Much interest is displayed in the new captives. Those which appear tame from the start will be the best cage birds.

An account of Euphonia catching in Surinam would not be complete without a few words about the contests in which the boys engage. These contests take different forms depending upon the whims of the promoters. In one form the birds matched against each other are placed in adjoining rooms so that they can hear but not see one another. A record is kept of the calls, omitting the *peet peet* uttered in jumping from perch to perch. The bird that calls, or else sings, the most wins. In another form of contest the Euphonias are placed in sight of each other with cages touching. A good bird will drag its wings and begin calling at once, otherwise it will begin a soft, almost inaudible chipping. A good caller is known as a “kari-kanari” (calling Euphonia). If the match is for “fon-teki” (win-take), the loser must pay. If it is for “set-kanari-go” (decoy go), the winner takes the decoy, but if not so agreed at the outset, he receives a “pai-kanari” (pay Euphonia), usually a female or a less desirable male. The boys take great pride in their pets and frequently give them high-sounding names such as “Napoleon”, or “Spartan”. Any one who is repeatedly successful in these contests and who is in other ways an expert in these matters is known as a “kanari-baas” (Euphonia-boss) or “kanaritata” (Euphonia-father).

**THE FINCHES**

The practice of keeping native finches was introduced from Demerara at a comparatively recent date. Forty years ago these songsters were practically unknown as