

The Dutch Waterslager Standard

Published by:

The Dutch Association of Bird Lovers

Copyright by NBvV

All rights reserved

Approved: April 2000

Translated using Alta Vista Babel Fish

Re-edited by Sebastian Vallelunga

Foreword to the Present Dutch Edition:

This document has been modified for rapid download; some characters and layout spaces have been removed.

Foreword to the English Translation:

The Dutch method of scoring waterslagers has been significantly different from that used by Belgian waterslager breeders and the waterslager breeders of other COM member nations.

- The *rollende waterslag* is worth more points on the score card than the *bollende waterslag*
- A particular variety of *staaltonen* called *tjonken* and a particular variety of *fluiten* called *soeten* are emphasized
- A nightingale accent can earn a bird from 1 to 3 extra points.

- Dutch judges are known for their generosity in assigning points to waterslagers. A typical waterslager will score higher, it is claimed, using the Dutch System of Judgment than he would using the Belgian or COM systems.

At international shows like the World Cup, this Dutch scoring method was replaced by the COM score card.

With the new 2005-06 revisions of the COM score card which include splitting *chor* and *knor* and *tjokken* and *tjokkenrol*, for example, it remains to be seen what the Dutch will do at their own contests. Some Belgian judges have indicated that the new COM Standard will be ignored in Belgium for in-federation competitions such as their National. If this is the case, the new standard will serve to divide rather than unite the waterslager breeders of different countries.

Sebastian Vallelunga, Editor

CONTENTS

[Introduction](#)

[Appraisal of common tours](#)

[The system of judgment](#)

[Waterslager tour list](#)

[The tours which form the song](#)

[Klokkende waterslag](#)

[Bollende waterslag](#)

[Rollende waterslag \(waterrol\)](#)

[Chor and Knor](#)

[Staaltonen \(tjonken\)](#)

[Fluiten \(soeten\)](#)

[Fluitenrol](#)

[Woeten](#)

[Bellen](#)

[Belrol](#)

[Tjokken](#)

[Tjokkenrol](#)

[Schokkel](#)

[Indruk \(impression\)](#)

[Strafpunten \(negative points\)](#)

[Nachtegaalaccent](#)

[Stam harmonie \(team harmony\)](#)

General Introduction

The waterslager song canary belongs, as do the harzer and the timbrado, to the three recognized song canary races. Song canaries are exclusively assessed on their song. Each race applies its own appraisal system. The physical form falls entirely outside appraisal; however, in international competition (COM) birds can be sent in which are assessed both on song and zang-kleur (song-color) or song and zang-postuur (song-posture). In Holland exhibited birds must satisfy some general health rules which the NBvV requires for participation. Good knowledge of the song is required to be able assess it. The following four components are thereby concerned:

1. Knowing and understanding the aim of the improved song
2. Identifying the song tours by name
3. Determining the value of the tour according to the usual standards
4. Knowing the errors which do damage to the melodiousness of the song and decrease the value of it

The song is divided into song tours; song tours are divided into song syllables; song syllables are divided into vowels and consonants.

The form of the song is determined by the successive tours.

Appraisal of the Song Tours

(also called the 6 D's—in *English this would be the 6 T's*—editor) by Means of:

1. the classification
2. the tone depth
3. the fullness of the tone
4. the strength

5. the length of the tour
6. the alternative possible systems of judgment

The System of Judgment

The system of judgment has been based on following ideas:

1. All that can influence the musical value of the song in a positive way must be rewarded
2. All that can influence the musical value of the song in a negative way must be punished

The maximum points for each tour in the system of judgment must always be divisible by three. This divisibility by three is very important in the appraisal of the tour since this divisibility by three runs parallel to the three levels of comparison, namely: sufficient, good, and very good.

The Song Tours

The song tours are divided, concerning their internal construction, into three groups:

1. Simple tours which are continuous and curved such as belrol, round knor, and heulrol, but this last tour we almost never hear any longer
2. Simple interrupted tours such as bells, flutes and fluitenrol, tjokken and tjokkenrol, schokkel, steel tones, and that which we almost never hear: woeten.
3. Composed tours include rolling and interrupted tours such as klokkende, bollende, and rollende waterslag, including also the waterrol.

THE TOURS THAT FORM THE SONG

The waterslags are subdivided into three main forms; these are: klokkende waterslag, bollende waterslag, and rollende waterslag. The waterslags are each beat tones in which the characteristic sound of water predominates the fundamental sound. The waterrol is not a beaten tour but a purely rolled tour.

Tour Descriptions as Assessed by the Judge

Klokkende Waterslag

1. We assess sufficient klokkende waterslag at from 1 to 4 points
2. We assess good klokkende waterslag at from 5 to 8 points
3. We assess very good klokkende waterslag at from 9 to 12 points

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

We frequently hear good forms and assess them as beautiful. A special characteristic of the klokkende waterslag is a strong beat that is almost never heard in the bollende and rollende waterslag. The tour is made up of well-spaced beats. Furthermore, the sound of water predominates over the fundamental sound. As for the vowels and consonants, they definitely play a role in the tour's appraisal. In very good klokkende waterslag, the ideal vowels and consonants are:

Consonants KL - DL - WL - BL - HL - GL

Vowels (fundamental sounds) OEI - OE - OO

Example sounds WLOEI - BLOEI - DLOEI

A poor klokkende waterslag is flat with too little play of water in the fundamental sound.

Bollende Waterslag

1. We assess sufficient bollende waterslag at from 1 to 2 points
2. We assess good bollende waterslag at from 3 to 4 points
3. We assess very good bollende waterslag at from 5 to 6 points

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

A special characteristic for the bollende waterslag is that the fundamental sound in each beat is fuller in nature whereas the fundamental sound of the klokkende waterslag has a hollow inflection. The rhythm of the bollende waterslag, and therefore the speed with which the beats succeed each other, is much faster than in the klokkende waterslag.

The pause between each beat has been reduced: in the klokkende waterslag each beat is interrupted but in the bollende waterslag, although this is also still true, the space between the beats is very small.

To recognize good value we must hear the play of water in the fundamental sound. As for the vowels and consonants, they again definitely play a role in the tour's appraisal.

In very good bollende waterslag, the ideal vowels and consonants are:

Consonants L - BL - B - W - H - D

Vowels O - OE

Example sounds BLOE - BLO - LOE

A poor bollende waterslag is pronounced with the vowel U and has too little play of water in the fundamental sound.

Rollende Waterslag (Waterrol).

1. We assess sufficient rollende waterslag at from 1 to 3 points
2. We assess good rollende waterslag at from 4 to 6 points
3. We assess very good rollende waterslag at from 7 to 9 points.

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

Rollende waterslag has the characteristic of a rhythm in which the beats are brought still faster than are those of the bollende waterslag. Here too, the impression of water determines the appraisal of value. It is the speed at which the beats succeed each other, in addition to the length of the fundamental sounds, that determines if a tour is the rollende waterslag.

In a very good rollende waterslag, the ideal vowels and consonants are the same as those defined for the bollende waterslag.

Example sounds LOE - BLOE

A poor rollende waterslag uses the vowel A and has too little play of water in the fundamental sound.

Waterrol is a composed rolled tour, and sounds as if one is blowing in water with a straw. With this tour the consonant R is clearly audible. The impression of water in the fundamental sound determines a positive appraisal.

It is not a separate tour on the score sheet and is considered a subdivision of the rollende waterslag. If the waterrol is of good quality, we can add 1 or 2 points extra to the rollende waterslag score.

Chor and Knor

1. Sufficient knor gets from 1 to 2 points
2. Good knor gets from 3 to 4 points
3. Very good knor gets from 5 to 6 points.

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

The chor is an interrupted tour and must sound like CHOR - CHOR - CHOR. The pauses between beats must be short. The vowels and consonants used are the same as those one uses to write the word (***Dutch CH is pronounced like K in English—editor***). In contrast to the chor, the knor is a continuous and purely rolled tour.

Very good knor is rounded and will be sung in a strongly curved movement by the waterslager; it should not be too long or too brief. It sounds like KNOR or KNOER. In appraising the knor, we give 1 or 2 points extra under the heading of chor/knor if the bird also has chor.

Poor knor is too long, aqueous, or loose.

Steel Tones (Tjonken)

1. A sufficient steel tone gets from 1 to 2 points
2. A good steel tone gets from 3 to 4 points
3. A very good steel tone gets from 4 to 6 points
4. If of the tjonken form and very good, it gets from 7 to 9 points.

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

Steel tones exist in the form of interrupted beats. What is important in appraising a steel tone are the metallic resonances which sound like the beats when you hit a hollow pipe with a hammer.

The vowels and consonants of a very good steel tone are the consonants T or TJ (***Dutch TJ sounds like the soft English CH--editor***) at the beginning and NG at the end of the beat and the fundamental sounds (vowels) U - O - OE.

If steel tones are sung with the fundamental sound O we may speak of tjonken. These we can assess at 7 to 9 points if they are of very good quality.

Poor steel tones are those with too little resonance or are pronounced with the vowel A which makes them toneless.

Flutes (Soeten)

1. A sufficient flute gets from 1 to 2 points

2. A good flute gets from 3 to 4 points
3. A very good flute gets from 5 to 6 points

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

A flute is an interrupted and elongated beat.

Very good flutes have the vowels O or OE and the consonants D or T.

Waterslagers generally have several forms of flutes in their song.

Categorized as flutes, the soeten are almost no longer heard. These forms of flutes contain a slight upward inflection in the fundamental sound. If soeten are sung, we assess them with the flutes with from 1 to 3 points added onto the points which are given for the other flutes, that is: 1 point for sufficient, 2 points for good, and 3 points for very good.

Poor flutes are pointed, sharp, or nasal.

Fluitenrol

1. A sufficient fluitenrol gets from 1 to 2 points
2. A good fluitenrol gets from 3 to 4 points
3. A very good fluitenrol gets from 5 to 6 points

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

A fluitenrol is, in spite of its name, not a rolled tour but an interrupted tour. In contrast to the flute, it is shorter in form and is sung in a much more rushed way. The consonants of a very good fluitenrol are D or T at the beginning and the vowels are U - OE - I; the fundamental sound OE always remains the most beautiful.

Poor fluitenrol are: nasal, weak, or hammered.

Woeten

1. Sufficient woet gets from 1 to 2 points
2. Good woet gets from 3 to 4 points
3. Very good woet gets from 5 to 6 points

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

Woeten are interrupted and elongated beats; within the fundamental sound is a slight upward inflection. Very good woeten have the vowels OE and the consonants W at the

beginning and T at the end of the beat. The sound is WOET - WOET - WOET with an inflection in the fundamental sound.

Poor woeten have incorrect vowels and consonants.

Bells

1. A sufficient bell gets from 1 to 2 points
2. A good bell gets from 3 to 4 points
3. A very good bell gets from 5 to 6 points

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

Bells are little phrases of the song in interrupted form; for this reason they are turned out with a free and fast rhythm. The fundamental sound for a very good bell is generally U or I, with the consonant L at the beginning and the consonants NG at the end of the beat.

Hollow bells with the fundamental sound OE are also very good.

Very good bells are sung as LING - LING - LING or LUNG - LUNG - LUNG.

Poor bells are sharp and hard or over used.

Belrol

1. A sufficient belrol gets from 1 to 2 points
2. A good belrol gets from 3 to 4 points
3. A very good belrol gets from 5 to 6 points

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

The belrol is a rolled tour and for this reason is a simple uninterrupted tour. A nicely formed belrol rings and rolls at the same time. The consonant for a very good belrol is R in combination with the vowels U or I.

Poor belrols are nasal, hard, or harsh.

Tjokken

1. Sufficient tjok gets from 1 to 2 points
2. Good tjok gets from 3 to 4 points

3. Very good tjok gets from 5 to 6 points

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

Tjokken are interrupted simple tours. The fundamental sound or the vowel of the tjok is O, and the consonants are TJ at the beginning and K at the end of the beat. For a very good score, tjok must be short and powerful; it is a real nightingale tour.

Poor tjokken are flat with the vowel A or U or use the fundamental sound IO - IOE.

Tjokkenrol

1. Sufficient tjokkenrol get from 1 to 2 points

2. Good tjokkenrol get from 3 to 4 points

3. Very good tjokkenrol get from 5 to 6 points

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

Tjokkenrol are not rolled tours but interrupted tours, contrary to their name. The difference is, in contrast to the tjok rhythm, they are much faster. For a very good score the sound must be that of a marble bouncing along a hard surface. The vowels and consonants are the same as for the tjokken.

Poor tjokkenroll are watery or have incorrect vowels or consonants .

Schokkel

1. Sufficient schokkel gets 1 point.

2. Good schokkel gets 2 points.

3. Very good schokkel gets 3 points.

For a valid appraisal, we must pay attention to the 6 D's already defined.

The schokkel is an interrupted simple tour. The beats succeed each other with a shaking and rocking movement. With very good schokkel we can even see that the bird rocks its body as it produces the rhythm of the tour.

Very good schokkel has U - O - OE as the fundamental sound and the consonant H - B - L at the beginning of the beat.

We also have the waterschokkel; here it is possible to hear a certain inflection present in the fundamental sound. There should be the play of water on the fundamental sound.

Poor schokkels are hard, long, nasal, or hammered or beaten in form.

Indruk (Impression)

1. A sufficient impression gets 1 point.
2. A good impression gets 2 points.
3. A very good impression gets 3 points.

The judge stipulates the impression points based on the way in which the song is presented.

To get a very good impression score, tours must be good to very good, and at the same time there must be no disturbing or faulty tours. Also, the song must be sung without any interrupting pauses.

Strafpunten (Negative Points)

Faults are not punished by the judge but are indicated on the score card by means of a note or comment.

Nachtegaalaccent (Nightingale Accent)

1. A sufficient nightingale emphasis gets 1 point.
2. A good nightingale emphasis gets 2 points.
3. A very good nightingale emphasis gets 3 points.

The judge stipulates nightingale accent points based on hearing the bird use the structure of the nightingale.

Stamharmonie (Line Harmony or Team Harmony)

1. Sufficient stamharmonie gets 1 point.

2. Good stamharmonie gets 2 points.
3. Very good stamharmonie gets 3 points.

The judge stipulates the stamharmonie points when he hears a breeder's line that has valuable properties and equality in song.