

THE OFFICAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY INC.

MAY / JUNE

1985





The National Finch Society

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MAY/JUNE

1985

Volume 2 Number 3

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2nd Vice President	Kelly S. Dahill
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Liason Officer	Nancy A. Reed

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Editor	William G. Parlee
Publicity	Russ Armitage Jr.
Affiliations	Nancy A. Reed
Delegates	Ed Raymond
AFA Delegate	Jerry D'Agata
AFA Delegate	William G. Parlee

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The National Finch Society and its Board of Directors are deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Phillip Shaw. NFS expresses it's feelings in a memorial in this issue.

Our National Show is not far off. We hope all NFS members will support our show. In this issue are requests for ads and sponsorships. Please advertise or sponsor a trophy for the show. In the past two years we have come a long way in furthering the finch hobby in this country, we count on your continued support so that we may continue our work.

Plan now to attend the Second National Finch Society Show in Harrisburg, PA on October 5, 1985.



The National Finch Society

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The National Finch Society

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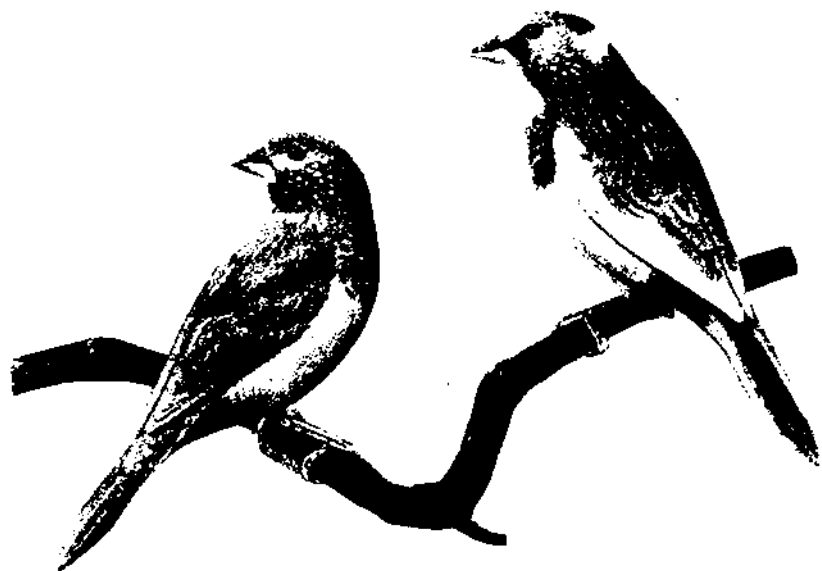
How many species have you bred? _____.

Briefly describe your interest in joining the National Finch Society and what you hope to get out of your membership.

Send you app and fee to Russell Armitage Jr. Treas.
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I N M E M O R Y

P H I L L I P S H A W

1948 - 1985

WE OF THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY
ARE DEEPLY SADDENED TO HEAR OF
THE RECENT DEATH OF OUR NFS PANEL
JUDGE AND AUTHOR, PHILLIP SHAW.

PHIL WAS AN EXTREMELY ACTIVE AVI-
CULTURIST; HAVING BRED MANY SPECIES
OF FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS. HIS
DEDICATION WITH THE VIOLET EARED
WAXBILL HAS BEEN INTRIGUING; HE
HAS SUCCESSFULLY BRED THIS SPECIES
REPEATEDLY.

HE WAS ACTIVE WITH LOCAL BIRD CLUBS
AND WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE
NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY AND EDITOR
OF OUR SOFTBILL COLUMN.

NFS CONVEYS THEIR CONDOLENCES TO
HIS WIDOW, ANDREA AND HIS CHILDREN.

I really enjoyed Bill Parlee's recent article on Star Finches. This article is a result of his request for others to present their experiences with Stars that differ from his.

I raise orchids and tropical trees in a screen covered greenhouse - 25' X 55' and thought I would add a couple of birds to liven up the place. I chose Finches because I was told they would probably not eat the plants, which they don't (just the blooms). But just like with orchids, everytime I saw a beautiful variety of Finch I did not have, out came the billfold and my Finch collection was expanded. I now have Stars, Silverbills, Orange Cheeks, Strawberries, Green Singers, Red Ears, Cordon Bleu, Fires, Shafttails and Lady Gouldians. Of all these types, my Stars are the most enjoyable and prolific.

I can be working in the greenhouse and the male Star will buzz me, land very close, and give me a dirty look as if to say "why don't you leave those plants alone and go get me a Millet Spray". He has almost landed on me a couple of times. He is a real character, with his strange warble song and inquisitive manner.

My experiences in breeding the Star Finch is however completely opposite from that of Mr. Parlee. I think that is what makes raising Finches interesting.

In the greenhouse there are four types of nesting containers; 1. covered wicker nests, 2. gourds, 3. coconuts, 4. coffee cans painted green and suspended under hanging baskets of Philodendron. With all these nice housing facilities, Mr. and Mrs. Star built their first nest right in a pot of orchid plants. She laid five eggs, of which three hatched, and did just fine. Like Mr. Parlee I have never had more than three hatch even though there are usually five eggs. As soon as the babies were out of the nest, they were busy building a new nest in the coffee can under the cascading Philodendron. The next clutch of eggs was laid in the hanging basket, the next one was back in the pot of orchids. There was one time the Stars hatched out babies and did not take care of them. I think that was because they had about six babies from previous clutches always around begging to be fed.

MY STARS CONT.'

Now I have all the young securely in a cage, and Mrs. Star is already setting on five eggs in a coffee can under the hanging basket.

The foliage hidden nesting cans are also very popular with the Green Singers and Silverbills. The Stars might have proformed just as well in a cage as described by Mr. Parlee, but, there is no way they could have exceeded their performance in the open greenhouse. I think they have raised four families in the past eight months. I don't know when their breeding season is over, but I hope it's soon.

Editor's note:

Thanks go to Ed Timmons for this our second article on Star Finches. NFS encourages all breeders to write articles describing their experiences breeding finches. The one thing we all know for sure is that all breeders experience different circumstances, successes and yes, failures. All of these, including failures are of educational value to our readers. Please send your article to the National Finch Society, 529 Burnside Ave., E. Hartford, CT 06108.

1984 NFS EXHIBITOR POINTS

UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE NO CHAMPION EXHIBITORS FOR LAST YEAR. THREE NFS MEMBERS CAME VERY CLOSE AND TIED FOR HIGHEST ACCUMULATED POINTS.

D AND D AVIARIES, KELLY DAHILL AND JERRY D'AGATA,
CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR AVICULTURE.

KENNETH AKEY JR. OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE AVICULTURAL SOC.

STEVE HOPPIN OF FLORIDA'S GOLD COAST BIRD CLUB.

THESE MEMBERS ARE TO BE COMENED FOR THERE ACHIEVMENTS ON THE SHOW BENCH FOR LAST YEAR.



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The National Finch Society

NFS AFFILIATED CLUBS AND SHOWS

THE ASTORIA BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Alex Grivas

Show Date: November 2, 1985 - Judge: Tom Corouana*

THE BALTIMORE BIRD FANCIERS

Delegate: Brenda Geesey

Show Date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: to be announced

THE BOSTON SOCIETY FOR AVICULTURE INC.

Delegate: Roger O'Connell

Show Date: Show is not planned for this year.

THE CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Delegate: William T. Lymley

Show Date: October 5, 1985 - National Finch Show

THE CHICAGO CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION INC.

Delegate: Charles Anchor

Show Date: November 1,2,3, 1985 - Judge: Paul Williams

THE CLEVELAND CANARY AND CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Delegate: Louis DiSanto

Show Date: October 13, 1985 - Judge: to be announced

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR AVICULTURE INC.

Delegate: Jerry D'Agata

Show Date: October 26, 1985 - Judge: Kelly S. Dahill

THE GOLD COAST EXOTIC BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Karl Kline

Show Date: October 26, 1985 - Judge: A. E. Decoteau

THE GULF COAST BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Dick Muench

Show Date: to be announced

THE GULF SOUTH BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Evon W. Drause

Show Date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Val Clear

THE LONG ISLAND CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION INC.

Delegate: Thomas Cauarro

Show Date: November 30, 1985 - Judge to be announced

- THE MARYLAND CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION
Delegate: Dallas Johnson
Show Date: October 5, 1985 - National Finch Show
- THE MASSACHUSETTS CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION INC.
Delegate: Shirley Eaton
Show Date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Kelly S. Dahill
- THE GREATER MIAMI AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
Delegate: Karl Kline
Show Date: October 5, 1985 - Judge: George Warren
- THE MID-WEST CANARY CLUB
Delegate: Mary Kaszyca
Show Date: to be announced
- THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY NATIONAL SHOW 1985
Held in conjunction with the Maryland Cage Bird
Society and the Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Club
Shows; Harrisburg, PA - October 5, 1985
Judges: Juanita McLain, Florida and
Conrad Meinert, Indiana
- THE NEW HAMPSHIRE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
Delegate: F. Lawrence Brandt
Show Date: October 12, 1985 - Judge: Daren Decoteau
- THE GREATER OMAHA CAGE BIRD CLUB
Delegate: Wayne Eichelberger
Show Date: to be announced
- THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
Delegate: Martha Wigmore
Show Date: October 26, 1985 - Judge: Charles Anchor
- THE WESTERN NEW ENGLAND CAGE BIRD SOCIETY
Delegate: Bill Pattison
Show Date: November 16, 1985 - Judge: William Parlee
- THE WISCONSIN CAGE BIRD CLUB
Delegate: Mary Zuidema
Show Date: August 24, 1985 - Judge: A.E. Decoteau

ATTENTION DELEGATES: The National Finch Society will publish the date of your show, your judges name, the location of the show and an informational telephone number for all affiliated shows in our July/August and September/October issues. Please send information to the home office as soon as it is available. Show results will be published in the November/December and January/February issues.

The quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held at the home of Liason officer Nancy Reed. Present were Nancy, President Bill Parlee, 1st Vice President Al Decoteau, Treasurer Russ Armitage Jr., Show Chairman Tony Patterson, and two guests. The meeting was called to order at 4:15pm.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The NFS treasury stands at \$2,328.14 as of May 31, 1985. Our Band Secretary Russ Armitage reported that band sales since the last meeting totaled \$108.31 and that we have already received orders for 1986.

Bill Parlee, head of the education committee reported that the first NFS program although already used must be updated for use by other clubs and should be ready shortly. Our second program is already in the works and should be ready about the first of the year.

Al Decoteau gave a Judges Panel report. He told us of the death of Panel Judge Phillip Shaw at the age of 36. Bill pointed out the many accomplishments of Phil and his contributions to the National Finch Society. He and Al indicated that the Judges Panel Handbook was to be dedicated to Phil's memory. The board indicated a great sense of loss at Phil's passing.

Al reported that he had sent out 22 letters to prospective judges that had indicated an interest in their applications. Out of those letters Al stated that there were 5 applicants that wished to persue the program. All pointed out that these individuals would have to have to pass a written test as well as apprentice under at least 3 different judges. Al stated that to date we have a total of 7 apprentices and they are from Florida (3), Conn. (1), Indiana (1), NY (1) and Vermont (1). The panel thinks it will take at least one year for any of these people to complete the program.

Al and Bill then presented the rough form of the Judge's Handbook, After discussion with the board it was decided that the apprenticeship program be included in the handbook. It was also decided that the show reports be changed to four copies so that the panel director would also receive a copy. It was thought that the handbook would be ready for distribution at the end of the month.

Board Minutes Cont'. . . .

The next item to be discussed was the KT Award. Bill told us that Harvey Smith of Kaytee had authorized us to spend up to \$250 for this award and that the design of the award would be under the control of NFS so that it would conform with the other awards given at the National Finch Show. Bill as well as the other board members expressed their gratitude to Harvey and Kaytee Products for this generous contribution to the National Finch Society.

Bill gave an editor's report, stating that at the present we have a store of seven articles for the bulletin of which 3 would be printed in this issue of the bulletin (May/June). Bill wished to thank all those for their continued support of our bulletin. Bill pointed out that articles are not necessarily printed in order of receipt. Sometimes very good articles are held back for future issues so that each issue has articles that are dissimilar from articles in the preceding issue.

It was pointed out that the bulletin starting with May/June would be mailed bulk rate. This will save the club about \$500 in the next year in postage costs. It was also pointed out that this will create additional work for those people that volunteer their services for the mailing task.

Show chairman Tony Patterson stated that our judges have confirmed for the National Show and that our costs for the Judges would be about \$600. He also stated that letters have been sent to National advertisers and to members of NFS asking for support for our show. Support from our host clubs in the form of ads and sponsorships have been less than what we had expected. We are hoping that this will improve as this month draws to a close. A short discussion followed regarding our 1986 show and the sites of New Orleans and Florida were discussed.

They show cage situation was again discussed. Al had checked with a new source in the Carolinas, who we felt could not produce the all the types of cages we needed and probably not in the quantities needed. It was decided that the board would seek a new source possibly locally that we could set up to make the show cages we need. We all agreed that show cages would probably be a problem for us for some time.

In another matter the board voted to have four regional Vice presidents. The country would be divided into four sections.

Board Minutes Cont'. . . .

Those sections would be; Region one - the East, Region two - the Middle East, Region three - the Mid-West, and Region four - the West. The job description for these offices would be to act on behalf of NFS in those regions, to help the club recrute membership and affiliates in their respective regions. It was also pointed out that this would be a proving ground for national office.

The board stated that there were admendments to be made to the by-laws of the organization, including the changes necessary to create these offices for regional vice-presidents. Tony Patterson volunteered to make the changes and present them to the membership in the next bulletin.

Al Decoteau was appointed by the board to form a nominating committee to nominate officers for the society for the coming two years (86-87). Al told us he was forming a committee of national scope that would have nominations ready to the upcoming issue of the NFS bulletin. Nominees for the nine elected positions will be presented in the July/August issue of the bulletin, the results of which would be published in the November/December issue. Those officers would take office for a period of two years starting in January 1986.

This quarterly meeting of the board was ajourned at 6:15pm. The next meeting of the board will be September 9, 1985.

ADVERTISE WITH THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY BULLETIN

DISPLAY RATES:

Full Page 8"x5"	\$ 25
Full Page one full year (6 issues)	\$100
Half Page 4"x5"	\$ 15
Half Page one full year (6 issues)	\$ 60

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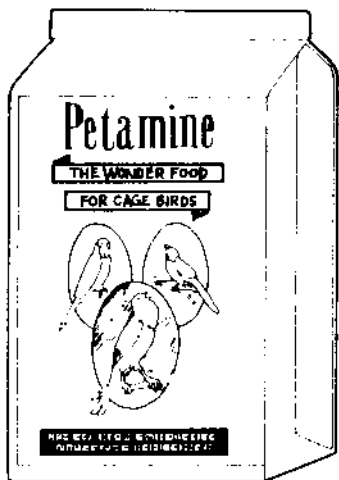
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AFRICAN WEAVER FINCHES

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Most bird-keepers and bird-watchers know that the hardy Ploceids that were transplanted here 135 years ago are feisty little birds that adapted well to their new environment. Thus, the success of the House Sparrow in this country inspired me to choose other African Ploceids as cage-birds; not that I was about to eat them free, but because I thought they'd be easy to breed! A mistaken analogy, alas, but the Weavers I did get have been magnificent birds in terms of color, song, and behavior that is most fascinating, and I'd like to share some information with our readers.

Nearly two years ago, I ordered a pair of Orange Bishops (*Euplectes orix franciscens*) from a dealer, not knowing any private breeders. (I still don't!) About eight months ago, I added a pair of Napolean Weavers (*Euplectes afra*) which came from a pet-store and were in horrible condition, the female being minus half her feathers. (The store owner had been applying isopropyl alcohol to her in an effort to keep the male away!) Early in 1985 she started moulting, and is now a fine looking female, in perfect plumage.

The Orange Bishops are in a large flightcage, 24 x 20 x 14 inches, with natural branches and a gravel floor; the Napoleans are in an immediately adjoining cage nearly the same size.

Here are some of my notes which I hope will help others:

Color:

While last year the male Bishop was very brown in mid-February, this winter he has lost very little color; his beak however, did turn tan. (In breeding plumage it is black.) He sings strongly and continuously even as I write at a distance of but a yard. By contrast, the male Napoleon completely lost his sulfur-yellow, and this past winter could only be told from his hen by his darker upper mandible, and his behavior, which is much more active and fidgety than hers. The beaks of both males were tan by 2-17-85, and at this writing, 5-25-85, the beak of the male Orange Bishop is solid black, while only the upper mandible of the Napoleon's beak is dark. The male Napoleon was in breeding plumage the end of October, and by February was mostly out of it. At this writing, 5-25-85, the first few black feathers are returning.

The plumage of the females is soft and beautiful. The Orange Bishop hen can be easily told from the Napoleon hen because the Napoleon female has a few dark streaks on the underside, and a yellowish eye-stripe.

The fiery orange-red mane of the male Orange Bishop when in breeding plumage is quite striking; it fluffs out impressively, making his overall body size appear larger.

Song:

Even in mid-February the male Bishop sings. He sings more continuously during the summer months, starting from the moment the cover is lifted from his cage in the morning, until late evening, about 10:00 p.m.! This unique and sophisticated sound consists of about a dozen short tchips or tseets, followed by a most unusual whirring, rushing, or whooshing sound, much like water gushing from a fully opened tap. He gushes out these noises with such force that his whole body exhibits a pumping action. The whooshes are followed by more tchips. It's an amazing and wonderful song, and a pleasure to listen to all day long. Written, it might appear as this:

Tchip-tchip-tchip-tchip-tchip-tchip-tchip-tchip-
tchip-tchip-teeeta-tseeta--
Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh,
whoosh, whoosh,
Tchirr, tchirr, tchirr, tchirr, teest!

There are even background sounds produced simultaneously, high and liquid, undoubtedly the second-bronchus sound first described by Greenwalt in 1968 in other songbirds.

Both male and female Bishops communicate with each other using short Tchips and also body-language: twitching, beak-pointing,

leaning forward, and even some defensive beak-snapping.

The male Neopolitan has a song just as unusual as the male Bishop's. It exists in two parts: first, a clockwork, mechanical sound, followed secondly by a whooshing, running-water sound like the Bishop's, but given as a single drawn-out whoosh, rising up the scale. Written:

Queeklo, queeklo, cleet-cleet-cleet-cleet!
(And a single, rising: Whoooooesht!)

Both the Bishop and Neopolitan males are incited into singing frenzies when there are cooking or frying sounds, or running tap water, or the shower is going. Their songs are so unique and fascinating, and yet I have read in one of the currently popular books that they are poor songsters. I would be happy to have a whole fleet of Weavers singing!

The Neopolitan male, which had almost ceased singing during the early part of this year, has increased his singing time as of two weeks ago (early May) and sometimes he and the Bishop males sing simultaneously.

Food & Health:

The Weavers all get a standard finch-mix with occasional supplements added. I use a powdered vitamin/mineral supplement, and also cod-liver oil. Hard-boiled eggs and mealworms were ignored, as are most fruits, vegetables and outdoor weeds. The females love to inspect and peck at new branches with buds on them, and they also like soaked-seed.

Both pairs of Weavers are in excellent plumage, which I attribute to their exuberant bathing interests. They bathe daily in watercups and also enjoy a weekly misting. All birds preen so vigorously and enthusiastically that the rustling and fluffing of their feathers can be heard across the room! I have handled the birds on several occasions (to trim their nails) and examined the plumage with an Agfa 8X Loupe and have found no mites or lice on them, or left on my hand. The only drawback with the Weavers is that their claws become talons quickly, and must be clipped every three to four months.

Nesting:

They haven't, unfortunately; I must assume that a flightcage is not acceptable, and a large aviary might be more appropriate. (I have not been able to find anyone who knows!) But the nesting instincts are certainly there!

Both males and even both hens will weave with grasses, cord, ribbon, bark strips, jute, even my shoeleaces! They have passed twine between their cages and woven their cages together! They even wove the door of their cage closed!

The males prefer to use a straw-colored fibrous cord to make a 'foundation loop' with; from this, they are supposed to add on grasses or cord until the nest is completed. However, neither male has so far gone beyond constructing the foundation. All four birds spend most of their time weaving, knotting, pulling, fraying, and untwisting fibers. The hen Bishop does a lot of twitching when she weaves. Sometimes both birds of a pair will want to work on the same piece of twine.

The male Bishop has been seen to exhibit a wing-flashing display (butterflying) by hanging upside down from the top of the cage and fluttering, or just extending both wings (in April), but I haven't seen either pair copulate. In fact, they don't even perch side-by-side, as I've seen Zebras do. It may be that elbow-room on the perch is proper etiquette for colonial birds that nest by the scores together.

In my naiveté (or hopeless enthusiasm) I placed a traditional covered nesting basket, as for Zebras, in the flightcage with the Bishop pair. The hen has actually entered it on many occasions, and one morning when I drew the covers off the cage, she was at first nowhere to be seen. In a minute, though, she had popped her head out of the nest, and then flew out. She had probably spent the night inside!

It is also interesting that the female Napoleon prefers to perch in the 'foundation loops' that the male constantly builds. I can only hope that sometime in the future these birds will be able to have a full-size aviary; perhaps that will inspire breeding. Until then, I would appreciate hearing from any readers who have had success with African Weavers, or who may have manuscripts or monographs that could be copied.

As a final note, I had tried to keep all four birds in the large flightcage; as a result, both males decreased their song-giving. The two pairs are now in separate cages, but are directly side-by-side. This seems to suit them fine, and as I type this, both males are singing together.

EDITORS NOTE: Monica Russo is a National Finch Society member from Bethel, Connecticut. She wrote this article on Weavers to encourage others to send in their experiences with Weavers to this bulletin for printing, as other observations will enhance our knowledge of these little written about finches.

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY

PANEL OF JUDGES

1985

CHARLES ANCHOR, 630 Lake Park Drive, Addison, IL 60101

MARCO ARIDA, 10480 SW 62nd., Miami, FL 33173

DR. VAL CLEAR, 1001 Martin, Anderson, IN 46012

CLARENCE CULWELL, 913 Lydick Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 67114

KELLY S. DAHILL, 109 Seymour St., Windsor, CT 06095

DR. A. E. DECOTEAU, Groton Road, Dunstable, MA 01827

DAREN DECOTEAU, Groton Road, Dunstable, MA 01827

JUANITA McLAIN, 2410 Madrid Ave., Safety Harbor, FL 33572

CONRAD MEINART, RR 3, Box 392, Warsaw, IN 46580

WILLIAM G. PARLEE, 529 Burnside Ave., E.Hartford CT 06108

PHILIP SHAW, 3667 East 9th St., Kansas City, MO 64124

GEORGE WARREN, 28 Chedworth Crescent, Paulsgrove,
Portsmouth, England PO64E

PAUL WILLIAMS, 703 Donegal Drive, Papillion, NE 68046

* * * * *

National Finch Society Panel Judges subscribe to a format of standardized judging procedures, species standards, and conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.

All Panel Judges charge reasonable traveling expenses and for lodging. Fees may vary from judge to judge.

The National Finch Society asks that all of its affiliated clubs use Panel Judges for their 1985 shows. We do have apprentice judges available in some areas. For further information or special consideration on the above rules write to:

Director, NFS Panel Judges
Dr. A. E. Decoteau
Groton Road
Dunstable, MA 01827



The National Finch Society

NEW MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES WELCOME!!

- 191 Joan Gangle, Copley, Ohio 44321
- 192 Charles Flama, Stongsville, Ohio 44136
- 193 Douglas Olson, New York, New York 10023
- 194 Edith Woodford, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022
- 195 Andrew Huddle, Michigan City, Indiana 46360
- 196 Rocky Mountain Avicultural Society, Denver Colorado
- 197 Theresa Bayoud, Houston, Texas 77062
- 198 Gene Tarver, Orlando, Florida 32810
- 199 Dolores Tarver, Orlando, Florida 32810
- 200 Irma W. Huth, Hockessin, Delaware 19707
- 201 Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Club, Plantation, FL
- 202 Eugene C. Allerton, Plantation Florida 33317
- 203 Richard Feuchter, Plantation, Florida 33317
- 204 Andrea J. Bedlak, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744



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THE KAYTEE
AWARD!

The 1985 National Finch Society National Show, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania will mark the beginning of a tradition: The coveted KAYTEE AWARD FOR BEST BIRD IN SHOW will be offered for the first time.

Each divisional winner will compete for this prize. To win the award the exhibitor must be a member of the National Finch Society. This membership must be in effect before the start of the show on October 5, 1985. If the Best in Show winner is not an NFS member the award will go to the next place winner who is an NFS member. All other awards are open to all exhibitors.

The National Finch Society and it's directors wish to thank Harvey Smith of Kaytee Products for his contribution of this award and his support of the avicultural community.

In this bulletin you will find an affiliated clubs section which lists local aviculture clubs and their NFS delegates. Although our NFS list is not comprehensive for the entire nation, you certainly may be able to obtain information about an organization in your geographic area by contacting one of those listed or the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. I only can write about the club to which I belong: The Maryland Cage Bird Society (MCBS). Furthermore I can only relate why it is important to me. As each club differs, individual members vary in their interests and ideas.

As the name implies, the Maryland Cage Bird Society has many members from Maryland; however, active participants also come from Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Many of MCBS' members own or breed finches (I work with Zebra, Society, and Lady Gouldian species, for example) as well as canaries, hookbills, and other birds. Breeders, veterinarians, show people, pet lovers, and others typically gather on the last Sunday of each month to participate in the club's activities. I attend every meeting possible to exchange information, learn about avian shows, and obtain sources of supply.

Information exchange is important, otherwise you would not have allocated your time to read this bulletin and join the National Finch Society (NFS). Publications, such as this bulletin, are very important, but to have your questions answered may take weeks or months. Talking with pet shop workers may assist you, but each store typically only has a few bird people and their views may be slanted by the products in stock that they must sell to stay in business. Government agencies may also be a source for help, but local officials must be very careful not to endorse or condemn many things and Federal or State officials may have additional constraints imposed upon them. Thus, there are many information sources available to you, but each has its limitations.

MCBS, like anything else, is not exempt from limitations, but it fills the gap in my other sources of avian information. Within the past year or so, I heard a very good presentation about Lady Gouldian and Cordon Bleu breeding, was informed about the avian flu problem (that ultimately led to the cancellation of our 1984 show), and was informed about pertinent political events such as the sale bans on 24

wild birds that are pending in various states and a current movement in the U.S., but particularly in Maryland, to establish health and related criteria for the sale and exchange of exotic birds similar to the operations of the poultry industry. Although many of these topics are covered in this bulletin, the face-to-face opportunity for questions and answers is important to me. (I'm always the one with the questions, never the answers!).

In addition to formal presentations, members have the opportunity to discuss problems, ask and answer questions, and generally share information. Data gathering during the social segment of our meetings sometimes is more intense than during the more formal part. I believe this happens because of the varied interests. One small group may be discussing finch caging. Another group may be talking about cockatiel breeding, and so forth.

Although one cannot believe everything that one hears or reads, most members at least have opinions on many issues and matters. I find this particularly important when I am considering a new finch species, product, or supplier. Almost always at least one person has tried it! To make a long story a bit shorter, MCBS provides me with information that I cannot get easily elsewhere.

Futhermore, for your local club, your input as a finch advocate may introduce other members to the delightful world of finches and softbills. You also may encourage individuals as well as your club to affiliate with NFS!

Bird Shows are an important aspect of my club, and of many but not all local societies. If you are interested in showing birds, look for a club that sponsors shows if at all possible. If you are neutral about bird shows, the association's show activities probably are not significant. If you hate show and do not like to talk about them, try to find a club - many exist - that does not sponsor a show.

The MCBS plans on two shows this 1985 year, a baby bird show at the end of June and the annual show which is scheduled for October 5 in Harrisburg, PA. This annual show will be combined with the endeavors of the National Finch Society and the Central Pennsylvania club. More information concerning this combined show is found elsewhere in this bulletin. In addition to meeting all of you at

this event this fall, I look forward to the influx of birds and information exchangers to the general area in which I reside.

A Source of Supply is another advantage of local club membership to me. Good healthy livestock can be obtained from other members who are bird breeders, usually at very reasonable prices. Because the pet industry's finch supply may vary greatly, this can be an especially important matter to all of us. Some members make show cages, unusual accessories, and so on. Many members bring items they recently purchased. Others bring catalogs of samples from suppliers. The list could continue. However, the major point is that quality suppliers can be located quickly so that you may have more time and money to enjoy other aspects of bird keeping pursuits. You should note that many reputable pet shops will be able to special order supplies, equipment, and livestock for you if you can identify the sources and know your specifications.

Throughout this article I have used the words "I" and "YOU" interchangeably. Although the English may be poor, I hope that some of my good experiences will be passed on to you if you do associate with or already are a member of a local club.

Socializing, selling things myself, and other benefits have come to me since I joined MCBS. But again, I am sure that every member of every club sees his or her benefits a bit differently. I can state that the few hours every month, the nominal dues, and the drive through the Maryland countryside certainly are small costs for what I receive.

If your activities in your club continue, keep up the good work! If you are a local club member who does not participate often, you may be missing out. If you do not belong to a local club, you owe it to yourself to investigate the benefits to you of local club membership. I personally encourage our NFS membership to actively support local bird clubs. It is one of the best methods available to spread the word about our relatively new organization and advance the finch hobby. This may become critical because many species - recently such as Australia's once common Lady Gould's - are becoming rare in the wild and it may be the aviculturists' primary role to keep a species surviving until it can be reintroduced into its natural, or at least.

D.DAVID DEWALD CONT". . .

suitable, environment.

And, of course, do not forget to maintain your support of the National Finch Society.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dale David DeWald is the president of the Maryland Cage bird Society and a member of the National Finch Society.



The National Finch Society

LEGISLATIVE NEWS OF INTEREST!!

Summer is just around the corner and most state's legislatures are ajourned or about to be. Last year a ban on imported birds passed the New York legislature. This year similar bills were introduced in Connecticut and Massachussetts where proponents lacked the element of surprise and where concerned aviculturists and pet shop owners turned out at hearings in number to oppose the bills. In each case the bill was put out to summer study groups where they may die. NFS is waiting an outcome.

New Jersey, D.C., and Texas are a bit different. There the bans were attached to bills either already on the books or to bills regulating minimum standards for the keeping of animals in pet shops as in the case of Texas. Those interested in the Texas bill should may obtain copies of the bill by calling toll free 1-800-252-9693.

Although it appears that legislation unfavorable to the aviculturist will not pass in any state this year, it is only because we were ready to testify at hearings against ill-founded and deceitful bills supported and suggested by "concerned conservationalist groups".

Summer is here but we should not rest, as supporters of bird ban bills are at work in California, Oregon and in other states. Keep yourself informed and report to NFS.

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A.F.A.'s Eleventh Annual Convention

Darel Cavender, Chairman
A. F. A. Speakers Committee
P. O. Box 1973
Escondido, CA 92025-0340
May 30, 1985

Mr. Bill Parlee, President
National Finch Society
529 Burnside Ave.
East Hartford, CT 06108

Dear Mr. Parlee:

On behalf of the Speakers Committee of the American Federation of Aviculture, I have the privilege to thank you for your organization's participation in the A. F. A.'s Eleventh Annual Convention.

The dates of the A. F. A. Convention are August 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, 1985. The General Session will take place on Thursday, the 8th thru Saturday, the 10th. Your Delegates to the Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, the 7th. The Veterinary Seminar will be held Sunday, the 11th.

The meeting of the National Finch Society is scheduled for Friday, the 9th of August in the Cathedral Hill 'A' Room, 2nd Floor of the Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness at Geary, San Francisco, CA. You may begin promptly at 9 p. m. and your meeting adjourns at 9:50 p. m. As meetings are held every hour on the hour, your cooperation in adhering to this schedule is appreciated.

Should your members only be able to attend the convention on the day of your meeting, please be advised that we have tried to schedule at least one lecture concerning your specialty on the same day of your meeting in the General Session. Although it is possible to register for only one day of the convention, we recommend registration for the whole at the bargain price.

Anyone wishing extra convention packets or who are not A. F. A. members, please write to A. F. A., P. O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 or call (213) 372 2988 during regular business hours.

Sincerely

Darel Cavender
Chairman, A. F. A. Speakers Committee

Membership meetings of the National Finch Society will be held this year at the AFA convention in San Francisco as explained above. Meetings will also take place at The National Cage Bird Show in San Antonio, at Fort Myers Florida (Gulf Coast Show), and at the Gold Coast show at West Palm Beach, Florida. The National Annual Meeting of the Society will be at the National Finch Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on October 5, 1985.

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY CLASSIFICATIONS

DIVISION ONE - ZEBRA FINCHES

Section 1 - Normal Zebras

1101 Grey male

1102 Grey female

Section 2 - White Zebras

1201 All White

1202 Chestnut flanked

1203 Silvers

Section 3 - Other Varieties

1301 Fawn

1302 Penguin

1303 Pied

1304 Florida Fancy

1305 Any other variety

DIVISION TWO - AUSTRALIAN FINCHES

Section 1 - Lady Gouldians

2101 Red Headed

2102 Black Headed

2103 White Breasted

2104 Orange Headed

2105 Any other variety

Section 2 - Grassfinches

2201 Shafttail

2202 Coral Billed (Hecks)

2203 Masked

2204 Parson

2205 Any other variety

Section 3 - Australian Plains Finches

2301 Diamond Sparrow

2302 Cherry Finch

2303 Bicheno (Owl)

2304 Starfinch

2305 Painted

2306 Firefinch

2307 Any other variety

Section 4 - Waxbills and Mannikins

2401 Sydney Waxbill

2402 Chestnut Breasted

2403 Tricolor Mannikin

2404 Pectoralis

2405 Any other variety

DIVISION THREE - INDO-PACIFIC FINCHES

Section 1 - Parrot Finches

3101 Tricolor (Blueface)

3102 Red Headed

3103 Nonpareil

3104 Any other variety

Section 2 - Java Rice Birds

3201 Normal Grey

3202 White

3202 Pied (Calico)

3203 Cinnamon

3204 Any other variety

Section 3 - Finches of India

3301 Indian Silverbill

3302 Spice Bird

3303 Striated

3304 Strawberry

3305 Green Avadavat

3306 Any other variety

DIVISION FOUR - SOCIETY FINCHES

Section 1 - Chocolate Society

4101 Self Chocolate

4102 Chocolate and white

Section 2 - Cinnamon (fawn)

4201 Self Cinnamon

4202 Cinnamon and white

Section 3 - White Society

4301 Solid White

4302 Mostly White

Section 4 - Crested Society

4401 Chocolate

4402 Cinnamon

4403 White

DIVISION FIVE - EUROPEAN FINCHES

Section 1 - European Goldfinch

5101 European Goldfinch

Section 2 - Other European Finches

5201 Chaffinch

5202 Bullfinch

5203 Redpoll

5204 Linnet

5205 Greenfinch

5206 Any other variety

NOTE: All mules and hybrids are shown in the
Mule and Hybrid division only.

DIVISION SIX - FINCHES OF AFRICA

Section 1 - Small Waxbills

- 6101 Dufresne's
- 6102 Cordon Bleu
- 6103 Gold Breasted
- 6104 Orange Cheeked
- 6105 Red Eared
- 6106 St. Helena
- 6107 Firefinch
- 6108 Any other variety

Section 2 - Larger Waxbills

- 6201 Blue Capped
- 6202 Lavender
- 6203 Aurora (Crimson Winged)
- 6204 Melba
- 6205 Violet Eared
- 6206 Purple Grenadier
- 6207 Yellow Winged Pytilia
- 6208 Any other variety

Section 3 - Twinspots

- 6301 Dusky
- 6302 Dybowski's
- 6303 Green Backed
- 6304 Peter's
- 6305 Any other Variety

Section 4 - Mannikins

- 6401 Bronze Winged
- 6402 Magpie
- 6403 Silverbill
- 6404 Cutthroat
- 6405 White Hooded Nun
- 6406 Black Hooded Nun
- 6407 Tricolor Nun
- 6408 Blue Bill (Black & White)
- 6409 Any other variety

Section 5 - Weavers and Whydahs

- 6501 Napoleon
- 6502 Orange Bishop
- 6503 Red Billed
- 6504 Scaly Headed
- 6505 Any other variety Weaver *Speckle fronted*
- 6506 Pintailed Whydah
- 6507 Paradise Whydah
- 6508 Combassou
- 6509 Queen Whydah
- 6510 Red Throated Whydah
- 6511 Fisher's Whydah
- 6512 Any other variety

Section 6 - Serins
6601 Green Singing
6602 Gray Singer
6603 Yellow Rumped
6604 Any other variety

DIVISION SEVEN - FINCHES OF THE AMERICAS

Section 1 - Buntings

7101 All Buntings

Section 2 - Siskins

7201 Black Headed Red Siskin

7202 Black Headed Green Siskin

7203 Red Headed

NOTE: All Mules and Hybrids must be shown in the
Mule and Hybrid division only.

Section 3 - Other South American Finches

7301 Black and White Singers

7302 Rufous Collared

7303 Peruvian Yellow Singer

7304 Saffron

7305 Any other variety

Section 4 - Cardinals

7401 Virginia

7402 Brazilian

7403 Black Throated (green)

7404 Black Crested (pigmy)

7405 Any other variety

DIVISION EIGHT - ALL FINCH PAIRS

Section 1 - All Finch Pairs

8101 All Finch Pairs

NOTE: A pair is male and female of same species,
shown together in small cage.

DIVISION NINE - MULES AND HYBRIDS

Section 1 - All Mules and Hybrids

9101 European Goldfinch Crosses

9102 Greenfinch Crosses

9103 Chaffinch Crosses

9104 Linnet Crosses

9105 Siskin Crosses

9106 All other Crosses

NOTE: All crosses must be listed on the outside of the
show tag, so that the judge may judge each cross in the
most fair manner. Crosses not listed will be disqualified.

DIVISION TEN - ALL SOFTBILLED BIRDS

Section 1 - Mynah Birds

10101 Indian Hill

10102 Rothschilds

10103 Java Hill

10104 Any other variety

Section 2 - Smaller Softbilled Birds

10201 Starlings

10202 Bulbuls

10203 Orioles

10204 Tanagers

10205 Troupials

10206 Any other variety

Section 3 Larger Softbills

10301 Toucans

10302 Touracos

10303 Barbets

10304 Jays

10305 Any other variety

AWARD NOTES: For the National Finch Society National Show, the award schedule is as follows: Ribbons for each class, Rosettes for each section and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies for each division. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place trophy for Best in Show. The First Place in show will receive the KT Best in Show trophy (to receive KT trophy the winner must be a National Finch Society member prior to the the start of judging).

NOTES FOR AFFILIATED CLUBS: Affiliated shows are asked to use the classifications above for their show catalogs. They may be abbreviated, however all divisions would become sections and should be maintained. Abbreviations of the classifications are allowed within each section. Awards are up to the individual club, however a first place trophy in each section and three trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Best in division are suggested.



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<u>MELBA FINCHES</u>	<u>2 PR.</u>	<u>ON EGGS</u>	
<u>YELLOW WINGED PLOVER</u>	<u>1 PR.</u>	<u>3 BABIES</u>	
<u>RED CHEEKED COCORON BIRD</u>	<u>1 PR.</u>	<u>—</u>	
<u>GREEN BACKED TOWHEE</u>	<u>1 PR.</u>	<u>—</u>	
<u>GREEN ANASQUAS</u>	<u>1 PR.</u>	<u>—</u>	
<u>TAWN SHAFTHILLS</u>	<u>1 PR.</u>	<u>ON FERTILE EGGS</u>	
<u>CHERRY FINCHES</u>	<u>1 PR.</u>	<u>ON FERTILE EGGS</u>	
<u>BICHENO</u>	<u>1 PR.</u>	<u>—</u>	
<u>PEARL HEADED AMADINE</u>	<u>1 PR.</u>	<u>—</u>	

If common name is not available use scientific name. This is in answer to many members request for census or breeders listing information. This is entirely voluntary, this info will not be published in regard to breeders' names or addresses and will be computerized at the NFS. If you are willing to trade information with other breeders please check here

If you wish this info for statistical info only, check here . Send this census to NFS c/o Jerry D'Agata 109 Seymour St. Windsor, CT 06108.

Breeder Name
Address

STEPHEN HOPPIN
3836 HIDDEN ACRES CIRCLE
NO. FT. MYERS, FLA. 33903
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Phone No.

The phone number is the only way a breeder will be able to contact another breeder. If the breeder involved wishes to give address etc., he may do so at his option.

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1985

SECOND ANNUAL

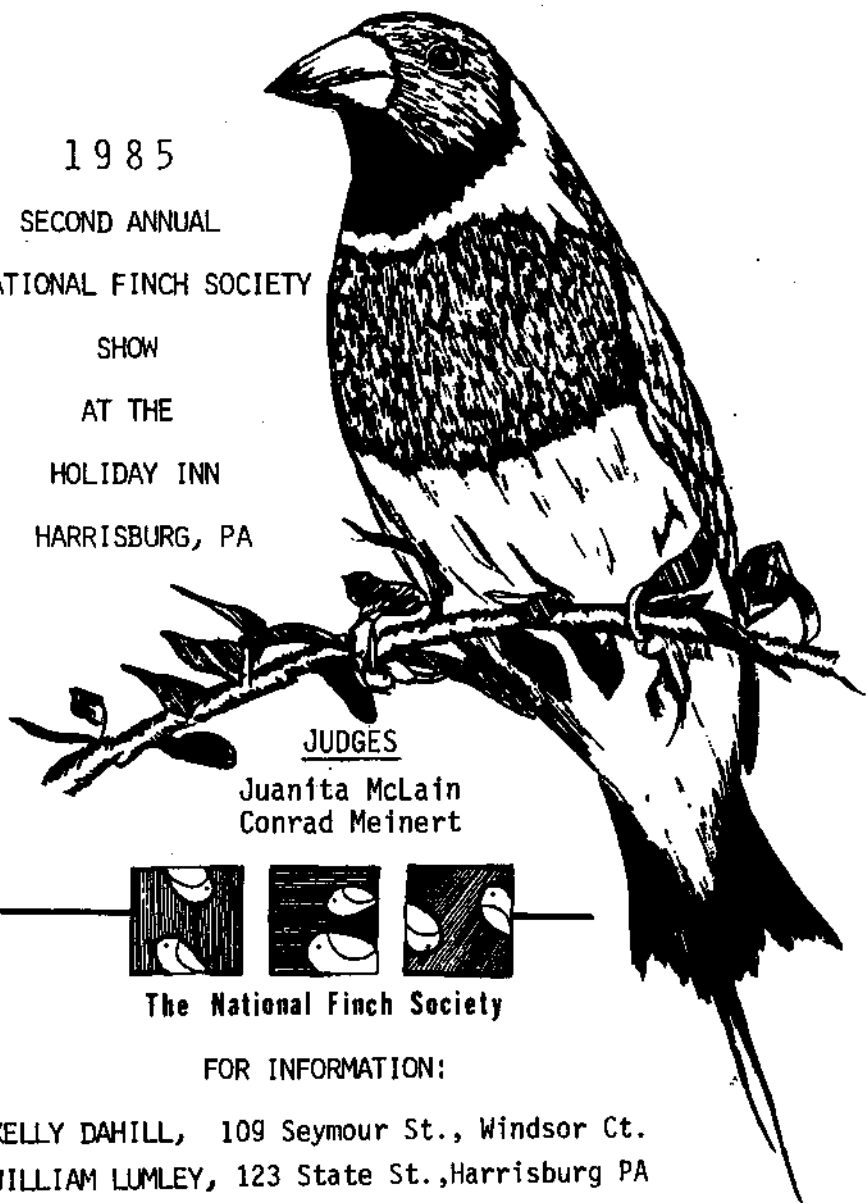
NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY

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The National Finch Society

FOR INFORMATION:

KELLY DAHILL, 109 Seymour St., Windsor Ct.

WILLIAM LUMLEY, 123 State St., Harrisburg PA

OCTOBER 5, 1985