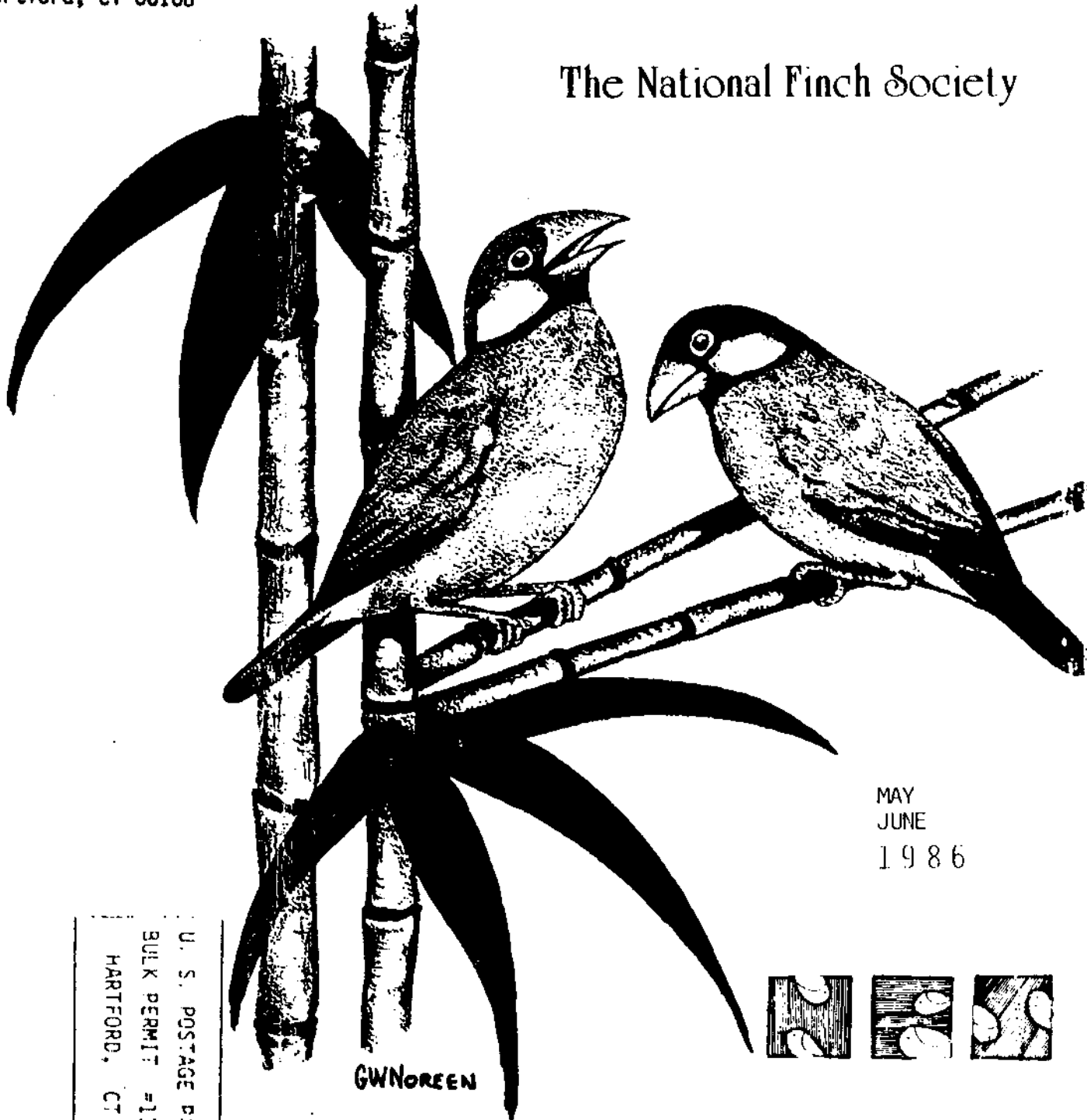


THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY
529 Burnside Avenue
E. Hartford, CT 06108

The National Finch Society



MAY
JUNE
1986

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Officers

President	(203) 528-1458	. . .	William G. Parlee
1st Vice President	(617) 649-6103	. . .	Dr. A. E. Decoteau
2nd Vice President	. . . . .	(203) 688-4069	. . .	Nancy A. Reed
Treasurer	. . . . .	(203) 346-5875	. . .	Russell Armitage Jr.
Corres. Secretary	. . . . .	(617)	. . . . .	Roger O'Connell
Record. Secretary	. . . . .	(203)	. . . . .	Chris Voronovitch

Appointed Officers

Liaison Officer	. . . . .	(413) 734-7053	. . .	Pamela E. S. Liddy
Editor	. . . . .	(203) 528-1458	. . .	William G. Parlee
Education Officer	. . . . .	(203) 688-9403	. . .	Jerry D'Agata
Band Secretary	. . . . .	(203) 346-5875	. . .	Russell Armitage Jr.
Promotion Officer	. . . . .	(203) 688-9403	. . .	Kelly S. Dahill
Points Chairman	. . . . .	(203) 528-1458	. . .	Tony M. Patterson

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Region One (Northeast)	. . . . .	(718) 230-3406	. . .	William Hodges
Region Two (Southeast)	. . . . .		. . .	Karl Kline
Region Three (Mid-Central)	. . . . .		. . .	Jon Hoffman
Region Four (Mid-West)	. . . . .	(402) 339-8772	. . .	Paul Williams
Region Five (Mountain)	. . . . .	(303) 574-1594	. . .	Martha Wigmore
Region Six (Pacific Coast)	. . . . .	(805) 872-1063	. . .	Hal M. Koontz

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is our wish to make ourselves more accessible to our members, therefore, in this issue for the first time, telephone numbers are listed for all officers and Panel Judges.

We ask that you write in most cases. However if you have an emergency situation when contacting one of the Judges or Board members will help, please feel free to use the telephone numbers that have been provided. Please keep in mind that early evening is usually the best time to reach people at home. We ask that calls be made before 9 p.m. in the time zone of the person you are calling.

The Home office number (203) 528-1458 will be answered between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Weekends will be hit or miss, so try to call during the weekday hours.

**NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY
AFFILIATION AGREEMENT 1986**

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING AN INTEREST IN AFFILIATING WITH THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY. WE ARE SURE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WE MAKE WILL BE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT TO BOTH OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

THE ONLY REQUIREMENTS THAT YOUR CLUB WILL HAVE TO MEET, ARE TO PAY THE APPROPRIATE AFFILIATION FEE AND SELECT A DELEGATE TO REPRESENT YOUR CLUB IN DEALINGS WITH NFS. SUCH DELEGATE MUST BE A MEMBER OF NFS.

LEVEL ONE AFFILIATION

LEVEL ONE AFFILIATION IS DESIGNED FOR CLUBS THAT ARE NOT EXHIBITION ORIENTED. THE FEE FOR THIS AFFILIATION IS \$25. YOUR BENEFITS INCLUDE ALL THE ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLICATION MATERIALS OF THE SOCIETY. ALSO YOU WILL RECEIVE DURING THE AUGUST OF YOUR AFFILIATION YEAR A BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE FOR YOUR CLUB. THIS PLAQUE CAN BE A SERVICE OR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB (THIS PERSON NEED NOT BE A NFS MEMBER). THE PLAQUE ALONE IS WORTH THE AFFILIATION FEE. REQUESTS FOR THE TYPE PLAQUE AND WORDING MUST BE FORWARDED TO NFS NO LATER THAN JUNE 1 OF THE YEAR.

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION

LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION IS FOR CLUBS WITH EXHIBITIONS. YOUR BENEFITS WILL INCLUDE BEAUTIFUL PLAQUES FOR FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACE IN YOUR SHOW. THE FEE FOR THIS LEVEL IS \$40, AND IS SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S AFFILIATIONS.

NEW FOR 1986 - OPTIONAL ROSETTE PACKAGE

CLUBS WISHING TO ENHANCE THEIR FINCH AND SOFTBILL DIVISIONS MAY SELECT TO PURCHASE OUR NEW OPTIONAL PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES 10 LONG STAPLER ROSETTES FOR THE TEN BEST WINNERS IN YOUR SHOW. THESE ROSETTES ARE ATTRACTIVE COLORFUL ROSETTES THAT WOULD COST YOUR CLUB MORE THAN THE COST OF THIS PACKAGE IF THE CLUB WAS TO PURCHASE THEM FOR THEMSELVES. EACH ROSETTE WILL GIVE THE SHOW NAME, NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY EMBLEM AND PLACE. COST FOR THIS OPTIONAL PACKAGE IS JUST \$25.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING AFFILIATION WITH THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY, YOU MAY WRITE THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY AT 529 BURNSIDE AVE., E. HARTFORD, CT 06108. YOU MAY USE THIS FORM TO AFFILIATE.

CLUB NAME _____ CIRCLE ONE: LEVEL 1 2 2 WITH OPT.
DELEGATE _____ NFS MEM. # _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR FEE OF \$25 - \$40 - \$65 TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.
DEADLINE FOR AFFILIATIONS - JULY 1, 1986.



The National Finch Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual \$15 / / Dual \$20 / / Junior 7.50 / /

Dual Membership is two individuals residing at the same address (one bulletin). Juniors are under 16.

Club affiliations _____

How long have you been involved in finches _____.

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 your app and fee to Russell Armitage Jr. Treas.
345 Boston Road
Middletown, CT 06457

529 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, Ct 06108

THE NATIONAL FINCH SHOW 1986

The National Finch Society, National Show for 1986 will be held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show. This years' show will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 15-17, 1986.

Finch registration will be Thursday evening and Friday morning before the start of judging. The exact cut-off time will be announced at a later date.

This years' National Finch Show promises to be the largest and best yet. The new NFS classification system will be in effect for this show. NFS is looking for a participation that will exceed the largest entry of finches for the National Cage Bird Show. The largest entry to date is 182 in 1985. It would seem that with membership support the NFS can expect at least 300 finches for this years' show.

There will be many incentives for those members entering their birds this year. The Kellogg award of course, will be awarded to the Best Finch in Show. The NFS Kaytee Award will be awarded the Best Breed and Banded by the exhibitor entry. These awards are in addition to all the normal Divisional, Sectional and Class trophies and rosettes normally awarded by the National Cage Bird Show.

The National Finch Society will be Awarding a plaque for the Best in each Section. The NFS Divisional awards will include a plaque for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Best in Division along with the ten best Rosettes.

This year as a special treat to Society fanciers, the National Finch Society will be awarding a first and second Best Society medal. These two medals were obtained through Dr. Val Clear, and are donations to our national show by the National Bangalese Society of Great Britain. We of the National Finch Society consider it a great honor to receive these medals. They are sure to be a treasured holding of the winners.

This year's judge for the Finch Division is NFS President and Panel Judge William Parlee. Bill brings with him his years of experience in judging finches and softbills. His style of judging is sure to be educational to all those viewing the judging.

We encourage all NFS members to attend the "National", as it is more than a show it is an education. You will meet with other serious finch breeders and exhibitors and will be able to share your knowledge. Of course you will be able to see old friends and new ones. There will be a National Finch Society booth set up during the entire show. The NFS National Annual meeting will be held Friday evening at the hotel. We hope to meet and greet all our NFS member at "your show of shows", the National Cage bird Show, St. Louis, 1986.

LAST MINUTE NEWS FROM NFS.

The quarterly Board meeting of the National Finch Society was held on June 8, 1986. Minutes of the meeting will not appear until the July/Aug. issue of the Bulletin as this Bulletin was already in the process of printing.

The following is a brief summary of the meeting.

Board approves a transition to type-set Bulletin.

Board elects to create sixth region. New Region 6 is to include California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. The Board appointed Hal Koontz to serve as Regional Vice President until the next election.

Board enpanels three new judges for 1986. Joseph Krader, Hal Koontz, and Brian Manderich all of California have successfully completed the requirements of the Panel and have been approved as NFS Panel Judges.

Board approves Green Singer Standard. Agrees to set forth a general standard for the judging of finches not covered by formal standards.

Education committee announces two new slide programs to be available to affiliated clubs this September.

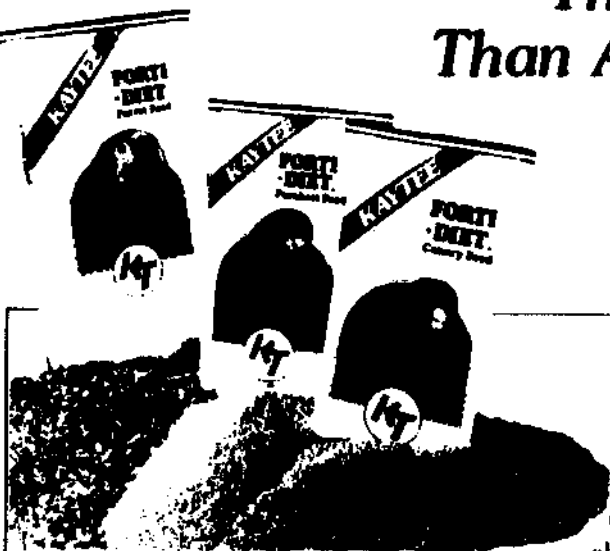
Research and Standards Committee will study, at the suggestion of President Parlee, the feasibility of creating a program of encouragement in the breeding finches that are not well established in this country. The committee will study what part and the extent that the NFS should be involved.

The Board announced an administrative change that will put all membership services in one office, thus shortening the waiting time for responses to members.

President Parlee explains Regional Vice-President program.

Complete minutes will appear in the next issue of the NFS Bulletin.

There's More Than A Grain Of Truth In Kaytee Forti-Diet®



A lot's being said about caged bird nutrition. The truth is that there are many opinions as to what's really needed.

Kaytee nutritional specialists spent nearly five years searching for the ideal premium formula. We found that more nutrition was needed in a top quality mix than ordinarily available in seeds and grains.

Added Nutritional Benefit

We developed a palatable, fortified Golden Granule concentrate packed full of extra vitamins, minerals and amino acids and added it to our special blend of fresh grains, seeds and other natural ingredients.

A Better Approach

Most manufacturers agree that additional fortification is needed in a premium mix. The truth is that they can't agree as to how it should be added.

Some penetrate nature's protective seed hull barrier with a fortified additive which may reduce the shelf-life and seed quality. Others merely coat the hulls with fortification...which winds up at the bottom of the cage.

Fortification Penetrates Protective Seed Hull Barrier - May Reduce Shelf-Life and Quality

Seed Hull Coated With Fortification - Winds Up At Bottom Of Cage



Kaytee's palatable Golden Granule concentrate is totally consumable and doesn't reduce the shelf-life and seed quality. This means your birds are getting the balanced diet and nutrition they need, while you're getting all the value you want.



**Attend the
Kaytee Great
American Bird
Show in Chicago
October 2-4,
1986!**



**KAYTEE PRODUCTS
INCORPORATED**
Chilton, WI 53014
414-849-2321

THE OFFICIAL CORDON BLEU STANDARD

as adopted by the National Finch Society

March 1986

CONDITION: 20 POINTS

The condition of the Cordon Bleu is of paramount importance, as this bird normally holds a good appearance, and the degree of difficulty is not great in keeping the bird in top condition. The Cordon must be immaculate with no soiled or frayed feathers. There must be no pin feathers. Missing toes, nails, or damaged or missing feathers are show faults and will count heavily in the point count.

CONFORMATION: 50 POINTS

(Broken down as follows)

HEAD AND BODY: 20 POINTS. The head should be relatively flat above the eyes, but not so flat as to appear chiseled. The beak should be elongated rather than compact and should be sharp at the tip, clean and free from old beak layerings. The Cordon should appear sleek and not robust, however it should not be so sleek as to appear snakey.

WINGS: 15 POINTS. The wings should be carried evenly and should not droop. They should blend into the back and meet just beyond the root of the tail.

TAIL: 15 POINTS. The tail is important on the Cordon as it should equal almost the length of the body in the male. Males should exhibit a tail of nearly two inches, and females slightly less.

The tail must be compact from the root and fan ever so slightly to the tip. The tail feathers may fan somewhat as it is flicked from side to side.

STANCE: 10 POINTS. The Cordon should be fairly calm on the perch and should not appear overly nervous. He should not jump to the side bars of the cage, but should demonstrate Waxbill behavior by calmly jumping from one perch to the other and back again. Upon each jump the Cordon turns back toward the perch that he has jumped from and "flicks" his tail, and then jumps back. This is the ideal Waxbill demeanor. A judges probe should not cause the bird to lose his composure.

MARKINGS AND COLORATION: 20 POINTS.

COCKS: The beak should be of a fairly strong rose coloration where it meets the skull, and will become more pale to the center where it will blend into a silverly lustrous rose-gray to the tip.

The face, cheeks and much of the underparts should be a shiny sky blue.

The undercoverts of the tail, vent, lower chest, and abdomen should be a relatively dark tan coloration; whereas the top of the head and neck area are a darker shade or mousey brown. The uppersides of the tail and

coverts are blue of less intensity than the sky blue of the face. The male will exhibit a bright, elliptically shaped vivid maroon patch which should be diagonally placed across the cheek. There must be no stray maroon feathers.

HENS: The hen bird will not exhibit a cheek patch and will have less extensive, less intense blue about the head and body.

SPECIAL NOTES:

THE ANGOLAN CORDON BLEU will not exhibit a cheek patch in the cock bird.

The blue, particularly on the underparts, will appear more extensive, but less intense. The Angolan overall will be a more lustrous bird. The body will be more compact, giving an appearance of a somewhat more robust bird.

THE BLUE CAPPED CORDON BLEU will be considerably different from the Cordon, as the entire head and neck areas are blue with no shades of tan or brown. The blue is somewhat more powdery than the Angolan, but more intense than the Cordon. The Blue Capped will appear much more robust, as the body is nearly 1/2" longer than the Cordon, making the total bird nearly 4 3/4" in length. The male Blue Capped, as the Angolan, does not sport a cheek patch.

Females of both the Angolan and Blue Capped will be slightly duller in coloration.

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY EXHIBITION POINTS SCHEDULE

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY POINTS SYSTEM. AS YOU CAN SEE, THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM THAT OF PREVIOUS YEARS. THIS SYSTEM HAS ALEVIATED THE PITFALLS OF THE OLD SYSTEM, AND MORE EVENLY DISTRIBUTES POINTS BASED ON THE SIZE OF ENTRIES. DUE TO THIS CHANGE IN POINTAGE, THE TOTALS NEEDED FOR CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITOR AND EXHIBITOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS HAVE ALSO CHANGED.

CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITOR EXHIBITOR EXCELLENCE
40 POINTS IN ONE YEAR 200 ACCUMULATED PTS.

POINTS SCHEDULE

Number of finches in a show	POINTS SCHEDULE									
	Best	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
20-29	3	2	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
30-39	4	3	2	1	x	x	x	x	x	x
40-49	5	4	3	2	1	x	x	x	x	x
50-59	6	5	4	3	2	1	x	x	x	x
60-69	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	x	x	x
70-79	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	x	x
80-89	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	x
90-99	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
100-119	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
120-139	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
140-159	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
Over 160	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5

The number of points to be awarded for a win, 1st through 10th are listed under the place. Follow the entry size line for the number of finches shown at the particular show over to the place which you have won. The points shown under that place are the points you have recieved for that win. Remember, regardless of the size of the entry, if the show is not being judged by a NFS Panel Judge, there will be no points awarded. The club involved does not necessarily have to be an affiliate of NFS, but the judge must be a panel judge for points to count. Plaques and Rosettes from the National Finch Society are only awarded at NFS affiliated shows.

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY AFFILIATED CLUBS

CALIFORNIA

The Fresno Canary and Finch
Society.
Delegate: Graham Southerland

The Aviary Assoc. of Kern Cty.
Delegate: Hal Koontz
Show: November 15, 1986
Panel Judge: Hal Koontz
Place: Kern Cty. Fairgrounds
Hall of Flowers.

COLORADO

Rocky Mt. Society of Aviculture
Delegate: Martha Nigmore
Show: October 25, 1986
Panel Judge: Paul Williams
Place: Continental Inn, Denver

CONNECTICUT

The Conn. Assoc. for Aviculture
Delegate: Jerry D'Agata
Show: October 26, 1986
Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert
Place: Vet. Memorial Bldg.
E. Hartford, CT.

FLORIDA

Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Karl Kline
Show: October 25, 1986
Panel Judge: William Parlee
Place:
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Gtr. Miami Avicultural Society
Delegate: Hector Ugalde

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society
Delegate: Ann Hurst

GEORGIA

The Georgia Cage Bird Society
Delegate: Cecil Gunby
Show: November 1, 1986
Panel Judge: A.E. Decoteau

ILLINOIS

Gtr. Chicago Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Charles Anchor
Show: October 2-4, 1986
Panel Judge: A.E. Decoteau
Place: Ramada O'Hare
Rosemont, Ill. (6AB6)

Kaytee Great American Cage
Bird Show. Delegate: Harvey
Seith. Date: Oct. 2-4, 1986
Conjunction with Chicago Show.

INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciers
Delegate: Val Clear

LOUISIANA

Gulf South Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Evon Kruse
Show: October 19, 1986
Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau
Place: Clarion Hotel, N.O., La.

MARYLAND

The Maryland Cage Bird Assoc.
Delegate: Dallas Johnson
Show: November 8, 1986
Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau
Conjunction with Cent. Pa. Show
Place: Quality Inn, York, Pa.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Boston Cockatiel Society
Delegate: Roger O'Connell
Show: September 27, 1986
Panel Judge: Jerry D'Agata
Place: Weston Town Hall.

The Boston Society for
Aviculture Inc.
Delegate: Roger O'Connell
No Show this year.

The Mass. Cage Bird Assoc.
Delegate: Shirley Eaton
Show: October 18, 1986
Panel Judge: Milliam Parlee
Place: Reed Hall, Kingston, Ma.

Nestern New England Cage Bird
Society.
Delegate: Charles Giaquinta
Show: November 8, 1986
Panel Judge: Milliam Parlee

MICHIGAN

Mid-West Canary and Cage Bird
Society.
Delegate: Mary Kaszyca
Show: October 3-4, 1986
Judge: Charles Kruger ***
Place: Holiday Inn, Southfield

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Cage Bird Society
Delegate: Micheal Bronson
Show: October 11, 1986
Panel Judge: Milliam Parlee
Place: Knollwood, Minneapolis

MISSOURI

The Kansas City Avicultural
Society.
Delegate: Earl Courts
Show: October 18, 1986
Judge: Dr. Roger Marlan ***
Place: Ho Jo's, Independence

Missouri Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Tom Rood
Show: November 13-16, 1986
Panel Judge: William Parlee
Conjunction with National
Cage Bird Show.

The National Cage Bird Show
Show: November 13-16, 1986
Finch Division
Panel Judge: Milliam Parlee
Place: Adams Mark Motel
St. Louis, Mo.
The National Finch Society
National Show

NEBRASKA

The Str. Omaha Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Mayne Eichelberger
Show: November 8, 1986
Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather
Avicultural Society
Delegate: Larry Brandt

The New Hampshire Avicultural
Society
Delegate: Ken Akey
Show: October 11, 1986
Panel Judge: Al Decoteau

NEW YORK

The Astoria Bird Club
Delegate: Alex Grivas
Show: November 1, 1986
Panel Judge: Kelly Dahill
Place: Am. Legion, Hempstead

NORTH CAROLINA

The Charlotte Metroliner Cage
Bird Society.
Delegate: Patricia Gibson

OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma
Delegate: Gene Miller
Show: October 25, 1986
Panel Judge: Charles Anchor
Place: Camelot Motel, Tulsa.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Central Pennsylvania
Cage Bird Society.
Delegate: Milliam Lunley
Show: November 8, 1986
Conjunction with Maryland
Cage Bird Assoc.

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Mary Zuidewa

*** Non-accredited judge (no points)

1986 NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY CLASSIFICATIONS

DIVISION ONE - ZEBRA FINCHES

YOUNG CLASS	OLD CLASS	YOUNG CLASS	OLD CLASS
SECTION 1 - NOANAL ZEBEAS		SECTION 3 - OTHER VARIETIES	
100 Gray normal male	101	300 Fawn	301
102 Gray normal hen	103	302 Penquins	303
		304 Pied	305
SECTION 2 - WHITE ZEBEAS		306 Florida Fancy	307
200 All White	201	308 Black Breasted	309
202 Chestnut Flanked	203	310 Orange Breasted	311
204 Silvers	205	312 Crested	313
206 Creams	207	314 Any other Variety	315

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best Zebra in Division plaque.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons

DIVISION TWO - AUSTRALIAN FINCHES

YOUNG CLASS	OLD CLASS	YOUNG CLASS	OLD CLASS
SECTION 1 - LADY GOULDIANS		SECTION 3 - PLAINS FINCHES	
100 Red Headed	101	300 Diamond Sparrows	301
102 Black Headed	103	302 Cherry Finch	303
104 White Breasted	105	304 Bicheno (Owl)	305
106 Orange Headed	107	306 Star Finch	307
108 Any other Variety	109	308 Painted	309
		310 Fire Tailed	311
SECTION 2 - GAASSFINCHES		312 Any other Variety	313
200 Shafttail	201	SECTION 4 - NARBILL/NANNIKIN	
202 Masked	203	400 Sydney Narbill	401
204 Parson	205	402 Chestnut Flanked	403
206 Any other Variety	207	404 Tricolor Nannikin	405
		406 Pectoralis	407
		408 Any other Variety	409

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Division plaques
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons

DIVISION THREE - INDO-PACIFIC FINCHES

YOUNG CLASS CLASS	OLD CLASS	YOUNG CLASS	OLD
SECTION 1 - PARROT FINCHES		SECTION 3 - FINCHES OF INDIA	
100 Tricolor (Blue Face)	101	300 Indian Silverbill	301
102 Red Headed	103	302 Spice Bird	303
104 Nonpareil	105	304 Strawberry	305
106 Any other Variety	107	306 Green Avadavat	307
SECTION 2 - JAVA RICE BIRDS		308 White Hooded Nuns	309
200 Moreal Gray	201	310 Black Hooded Nuns	311
202 White	203	312 Tricolor Nuns	313
204 Pied (Calico)	205	314 Any other Variety	315
206 Cinnamon	207		
208 Any other Variety	208		

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Division plaques.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

DIVISION FOUR - SOCIETY FINCHES

SECTION 1 - CHOCOLATE SOCIETY		SECTION 3 - WHITE SOCIETY	
100 Self Chocolate	101	300 Solid White	301
102 Chocolate and White	103	302 Mostly White	303
SECTION 2 - FAWN (CINNAMON)		SECTION 4 - CRESTED SOCIETY	
200 Fawn	201	300 Chocolate Crested	301
202 Fawn and White	203	302 Fawn Crested	303
		304 White Crested	304

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best Society in Division plaque.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

DIVISION FIVE - EUROPEAN, MULES & HYBRIDS

SECTION 1 - EUROPEAN GOLDFINCHES		SECTION 3 - MULES & HYBRIDS	
100 European Goldfinches	101	300 Goldfinch Crosses	301
SECTION 2 - OTHER EUROPEANS		302 Greenfinch Crosses	303
200 Chaffinch	201	304 Chaffinch Crosses	305
202 Bullfinch	203	306 Linnet Crosses	307
204 Redpoll	205		
206 Linnet	207	Note: All crosses must be	
208 Greenfinch	209	listed on the show tag.	
210 Any other Variety	211	Example: Chaff/House.	

DIVISION SIX - FINCHES OF AFRICA

YOUNG CLASS	OLD CLASS	YOUNG CLASS	OLD CLASS
SECTION 1 - SMALL MAXBILLS		SECTION 4 - MANNIKINS	
100 Dufresne's	101	400 Bronze Ninged	401
102 Cordon Bleu	103	402 Magpie	403
104 Gold Breasted	105	404 Silverbill	405
106 Orange Cheeked	107	406 Cutthroat	407
108 Red Eared	109	408 Blue Billed (B&W)	409
110 St. Helena	111	410 Any other Variety	411
112 Firefinch	113		
114 Any other Variety	115	SECTION 5 - WEAVERS & WHYDANS	
SECTION 2 - LARGER MAXBILLS		500 Napoleon	501
200 Blue Capped	201	502 Orange Bishop	503
202 Lavender	203	504 Red Billed	505
204 Aurora (Crimson)	205	506 Scaly Headed	507
206 Melba	207	508 Any other Weaver	509
208 Violet Eared	209	510 Pintailed Whydah	511
210 Purple Grenadier	211	512 Paradise Whydah	513
212 Yellow Wing Pytilia	213	514 Combassou	515
214 Any other Variety	215	516 Queen Whydah	517
		518 Red Throated	519
		520 Fisher's Whydah	521
		522 Any other Whydah	523
SECTION 3 - TWINSPOTS		SECTION 6 - SERINS	
300 Dusky	301	600 Green Singing	601
302 Dybouski's	303	602 Gray Singing	603
304 Green Backed	305	604 Yellow Rumped	605
306 Peter's	307	606 Any other Variety	606
308 Any other Variety	309		

DIVISION SEVEN - FINCHES OF THE AMERICAS

SECTION 1 - BUNTINGS		SECTION 3 - OTHER S.A. FINCHES	
100 All Buntings	101	300 Black & White Singer	301
SECTION 2 - SISKINS		302 Rufous Collared	303
200 Black Headed Red	201	304 Peru Yellow Singer	305
202 Black Headed Green	203	306 Saffron	307
204 Red Headed Siskin	205	308 Crimson Pileated	309
206 Siskin Crosses	207	310 Any other Variety	311
Note: Crosses must be listed on the show tag.		SECTION 4 - CARDINALS	
Example: Chaff/Siskin		400 Virginia	401
		402 Brazilian	403
		404 Black Throated (Grn)	405
		406 Black Crested (Pigmy)	407
		408 Pope Cardinal	409
		410 Any other Variety	411

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Division plaques.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

DIVISION EIGHT - FINCH PAIRS

YOUNG CLASS		OLD CLASS	
SECTION 1 - ALL FINCH PAIRS			
100	Zebra Pairs	101	110 Parrot Finch Prs.
102	Gouldian Pairs	103	112 Other Indo-Pac.Prs.
104	Other Aust.Pairs	105	114 S.American Pairs
106	European Pairs	107	115 Cordon Bleu Pairs
108	Society Pairs	109	116 Other African Prs.

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best Pair plaque.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

DIVISION NINE - ALL SOFTBILLED BIRDS

SECTION 1 - NYNAB BIRDS		SECTION 3 - LARGE SOFTBILLS	
100	Indian Hill	300	Toucans
102	Rothschild's	302	Toucanettes
104	Java Hill	304	Touracos
106	Any other Variety	306	Barbets
		308	Jays
		310	Any other Variety
SECTION 2 - SMALL SOFTBILLS		SEC. 4 - DOVES, QUAIL & RAILS	
200	Starlings	400	Diamond Doves
202	Bulbuls	402	Green Wing Doves
204	Orioles	404	Aust.Crested Doves
206	Tanagers	406	Zebra Doves
208	Troupial	408	Lacenecked Doves
210	Any other Variety	410	Ringnecked Doves
		412	White Doves
		414	Button Quail
		416	Rails
		418	Any other Variety

Suggested awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Division plaques.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Section rosettes.
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Best in Class ribbons.

ZEBRA FINCHES: PART ONE

By Bill Parlec

There is probably more written about Zebra Finches in the field of aviculture than any other finch. The primary reason for this is that Zebras are the most popular and readily available finch in the fancy. This has its pluses as well as its minuses. For the new Zebra enthusiast, this popularity provides a ready source of stock, availability at the local pet shop, and probably someone who can at least give you the basics on care and diet. One of the biggest problems that can arise from this ready availability is the exact knowledge of the genetics of the bird you have purchased. This may not originally be of concern to you, but as you become more interested in breeding, this knowledge will be invaluable to you in achieving an expected result from your efforts.

This brings us to our first subject: selecting your Zebra Finches. Obviously it is a simple matter to go to the local pet shop and purchase birds of uncertain genetics and origin. This is okay as long as you are not concerned with heritage. You will be able to raise birds from these pairs by using suggestions given within this article. It would be wise to pick pairs that seem to conform to a given standard for a Normal Gray or other mutation. For instance, when picking a Normal Gray pair, you should look for a male and female that have entirely red beaks. This will ensure you that you do indeed have an adult pair. The male sports the rust orange cheek patch, and the hen will be clear in this area. Try to select birds that are relatively dark gray and free from tick markings. (Tick markings are leathers or groups of feathers that are of a different color, generally white.) These markings indicate that the bird may be split to a mutation, and therefore indicating with surety that your breeding efforts will be rewarded with a "mixed bag" of babies genetically that will be even more difficult to selectively breed out.

If you wish to breed the Normal Gray (wild) Zebra, it would be best to purchase true pairs from a respected breeder. The breeder can give you a history or ancestry of your birds. This will allow you the advantage of knowing what you will get from your pairings.

Your next consideration should be the type of Zebra you wish to breed. Along with the Normal Gray, there are many mutations. The White Zebra is probably the most popular. The White is an attractive bird which lacks the cheek patch on the male. When sexing the Whites, again make sure the beaks are entirely red. This will indicate that the birds are indeed old enough to sex. The deeper red beak is the male, whereas the more orange beak is the hen. The White birds should be entirely white with no dark spangling on the mantle (head). Birds that exhibit spangling should be sold as pets, and not used for serious. Other than Normals and Whites, you may choose. Fawns, Chestnut Flanked, Pies, Silvers, Creams, Penguins, Black Breasted, or the new orange mutations just now becoming available.

When trying to find a good breeder, you may follow these avenues: at your local bird club, inquire as to the finch breeders in the roster; or contact the local Vice-President of the National Finch Society in your region. If all else fails, you may wish to write to NFS for direction. One of the best ways to decide the type of Zebra you wish to work with is to visit

an affiliated bird show. At the show you are sure to see many of the mutations of the Zebra.

Once you have selected your birds, it is necessary to know how to manage your birds. You may think this is a strange word "manage", but this is in fact what you do in raising birds. When we try to accomplish a goal, it takes management.

Our first consideration in breeding Zebras is housing. I have found that the more domesticated species of Australian Finches seem to do better in cages rather than in flights. The Zebra definitely falls into this category. For my birds I now use FerPlast double breeders from Italy. They are ideal cages that are split down the middle by a removable bar grid. This allows plenty of room for each pair on either side, and still allows you the flexibility of removing the separator to house a clutch of young. In the past I have used Herbst and Crown double breeder as well. In fact, about twelve years ago I purchased 24 shelt cages from a W.T. Grant store that was going out of business. They worked out just as well as anything else I have used since. If anything, they may have been a little too square and possibly a little large as well.

As long as you select cages that are large enough, the most important other factor is the ease it will afford you in the cleaning department. You may think I am taking up too much space talking about cages, but it really is an important consideration. As you become more interested in Zebras or other finches, you will want to expand your aviary. By putting the thought into your initial cages you will be able to add more of the same type of cage and still maintain some organization. When you have several types of cages in your bird room or aviary, your cleaning tasks have a way of getting out of hand.

If you can get PerPlast cages you will find them easy to maintain. The trays individually slide out, and feed and water cups can be cleaned or changed from the outside of the cage without danger of the birds escaping. The bases are made from strong tinted plastic which are replaceable if broken. I have washed these bases in a dishwasher, set on low heat with success. If you can't tell already, I don't like the maintenance part of bird care. This makes my try for the ultimate in efficiency. Remember it is not the time you spend that counts. It's the end result. Through proper aviary management you can cut your cleaning time in half and have an aviary that is cleaner and more conducive to breeding than most of your friends that may not be as organized as you.

Now that we have our cage, let us look at the Zebra as an aviary subject. Zebras in the wild are a very social bird inhabiting many areas of Australia within the reach of man; in back yards, parks, and animal watering areas. This same type of social behavior can cause problems in the open aviary, where the Zebra will visit and possibly disrupt other birds' nests. The Zebra in a captive situation is a gregarious subject that is generally active and alert, taking time out for an occasional nap in the afternoon.

Zebras like relatively dry environs and of course draft free. Temperature is generally not a problem as they will accept with ease temperatures between 45 and 90 degrees. Temperatures below or above those parameters may take some special preparation. A few years ago when I was building my new aviary, I sent a few pairs of Zebras to my friend Nancy Reed, to house while I was making my alterations and building cages. This transfer also allowed me to test a situation I had been wanting to try for many years. The Zebras were to be housed in a cold greenhouse

OPERATION ICE CUBE

by Nancy A. Reed

In our previous home here in Connecticut, I had a 36' lean-to greenhouse attached to the south side of the house. This facility was divided into two sections. The 24' and 12' segments were separated by a glass partition and door. Originally the smaller 12' by 9' room was used as a "cool" greenhouse (45 degrees minimum) to grow plants preferring colder night temperatures, but by the early 1970's, the electricity to heat it became too expensive to justify its use, and it became basically a store room.

The larger section of the greenhouse was heated by hot water off our oil furnace (55 degrees minimum). Eventually the original plant areas got totally usurped by bird aviaries as the bird mania progressed. ("Avian flu", I call it.)

While my basic "thing" has been Cockatiels, this still left the open aisle areas. So I threw in some Zebra Finches, a pair of Canaries, Button Quail, etc. I let them fly loose and fend for themselves, building nests in the many nooks and crannies. (I couldn't use my garden trowel one spring because the Canaries had used it as a support for their nest. I lost an Asparagus Fern because Zebras had made a nest in its base, and I didn't dare water it for fear of flooding them out.) I really didn't care whether these extreme birds bred or not. It was "avian flu" in advanced stage! If there was a speck to fly, **!!! !!!**

In the summer, I would open the partition door into the smaller greenhouse, and the loose birds could expand their horizons and breeding. But come winter, I would have to drastically cut down on the now expended free bird population to fit back into the winter quarters, and shut the door to the unheated section.

Bill Parlee and I decided one fall to experiment. We kept 5 pairs of Zebras in the isolated greenhouse. Plenty of food, greens, nesting material, and boxes were provided, water was changed once a day, or more often if it froze. (I think this only happened maybe four times over the whole winter when outside temperatures reached 0 degrees or below.) While the area was unheated, it was totally sheltered. With a southern exposure, on a cold sunny day the temperature could still reach 50-60 degrees in Jan./Feb. through the glass. But of course the nights varied from frigid to freezing.

I recall the January thaw where temperatures increased and some eggs were laid, followed by perfect timing when in Feb. the babies fledged and survived. This was strictly a stroke of luck of good weather at vital times.

But come March and a warming environment, the birds went into MASS PRODUCTION! I'm sorry I didn't keep records on this whole experiment at the time, but I don't think it an exaggeration to say that each pair probably fledged in that first March nesting an average of six of the healthiest and robust babies possible! Like the winter hardships had actually improved their breeding potential. Walking into that cool greenhouse section in late April/early May was like walking into a bee hive — the fledglings were almost comparable to a swarm!

My personal feeling is that we northern aviculturists "pamper" our birds. Especially regarding temperatures! I keep my birds at 55 degrees minimum temperature, but basically because I'm not comfortable working out there daily at anything lower.

Case in point is that these Zebras actually all survived, and thrived in what we would normally have thought "adverse conditions".

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BREEDING THE BLUE FACED PARROT FINCH

by Hal M. Koontz

I have been asked to write a series of articles on Australian finches and to answer questions that members ask relating to Australian finches. This column can be an open forum where we can share ideas, troubling problems and questions relating to Australian finches. I encourage you to write to me with your questions at 2604 Auburn Court, Bakersfield, CA 93306. Your questions will help guide me into areas the readers find most interesting as well as be a service to those members whose questions are answered.

For this article, I have chosen to discuss the Blue Faced Parrot Finch. It is a bird whose body feathers are grass green (resembling the green feathers of an Amazon parrot from which it gets part of its name), face is blue and tail is dark red. When seen in the sunlight, the colors appear to shine brightly and the bird is very impressive. When seen in the shade, the colors are dark, much less impressive than in the sunlight and not as attractive as the Red Headed Parrot Finch since blue is a more subdued color than red.

Because of the three colors on the bird, Blue Faced Parrot Finches are often called "Tricolored Parrot Finches". This is an incorrect name for the bird since there is a completely different species of finch called the "Tricolored Parrot Finch" which does not resemble the Blue Faced closely at all. The Tricolored Parrot has much more extensive blue, extending down onto the lower chest area. Since the rest of the world calls the bird Blue Faced Parrot Finch, I feel we in the United States should as well.

The Blue Faced Parrot Finch has several similarities to Gouldian Finches. For example, their babies have the iridescent beads on the sides of their mouths, they both like to nest in boxes, they both have approximately the same body shape and size and they both have a tendency to get fat unless given room to fly. There are a number of differences from Gouldians also. For example, Blue Faced nests are completely lined with nesting material so that you cannot see into the box through the top if opened. The entrance hole is the only opening to the chamber. Most of my Gouldians build rather simple nests and a few build a dome over it inside the nest box. The mating manner of the Blue Faced is quite different from that of the other Australian finches. The male chases the female about the aviary and when he finally catches her, he clings with his beak to the back of her head during mating. This explains why many female Blue Faced are bald on the back of their heads. Do not let this baldness make you think there is something wrong with the bird since the feathers will grow back out. Another unusual characteristic of the bird is that it is the only Australian finch that bites hard. It will give you a pretty hard pinch which can startle you if you are not expecting it.

Another characteristic of Blue Faced Parrot Finches is that they cannot take very hot temperatures and thirst very well. I say this because of an incident that happened a couple of years ago. I went away from home for the weekend during the hot summer. I have automatic waterers in my aviaries so all the birds had plenty of water. The temperature was approximately 105 degrees as the high during the weekend. When I came home, I found my waterer in one of my holding pens had fallen off so no new water was available. The birds were probably without water for 24 to 48 hours. I had 8 Blue Faced Parrots die but no other species of bird died even though there were around 50 other birds in the holding pen.

The Blue Faced Parrot Finch is a shy bird which prefers to be out of my sight if it can manage it. I have a shelter area, the inside of which cannot be seen from the front door of each aviary. My Blue Faced are nearly always in the shelter area out of sight. They have a song which resembles the roll or trill of a canary. It is not as pretty as a canary song, but that is the best way to describe it.

Despite the violent mating behavior, Blue Faced Parrot Finches are quite peaceful in a mixed collection or in a colony. I do not believe they are suitable for a small cage. They need a large cage or aviary to avoid becoming fat. If they are on eggs, they usually will not come off of the eggs when I enter the aviary. They leave the nest only when I look them in the eye or force them off the nest.

Small clutches are a negative attribute of the species. A normal clutch is 3 eggs. I have a few pairs which lay 4 eggs and I have had 5 eggs in a clutch only a few times. Fertility has also been a problem for me. I first got Blue Faced Parrot Finches in 1980. I got 6 pair and raised 15 babies in a 6 month period from a couple of the pairs. I thought the bird was easy to raise. In 1981, I raised only 3 babies. The birds I had purchased were plagued by infertile eggs. It was not until the babies that I had raised myself reached maturity that breeding success really began. In 1982, I raised 21, and in 1983 I raised 46. Recently, I have again had a problem with birds with infertile eggs which has caused lessened breeding success.

I have found that Society Finches do not foster raise Blue Faced Parrot Finches as well as they raise the other Australian Finches. The Blue Faced baby is large and appears to be more demanding than the other Australian finches. I have noticed a tendency in Society Finches who have fostered Blue Faced to appear worn out after raising a clutch. I have also seen many instances of Societies refusing to care for Blue Faced babies even though they had previously been good parents. From this I draw the conclusion that the babies must be especially demanding. Perhaps that is the reason Mother Nature has caused the parent to lay a smaller clutch than other Australian finches. About half of my Blue Faced do a fine job raising their own babies but the other half will refuse to feed the babies or will end up raising only 1 or 2 of the babies in the clutch.

The biggest problem I have had with Blue Faced Parrot Finches is lack of fertility. To solve this problem, I put 12 birds together in a colony so they could choose their mates. I suspected that the birds did not like the mate I put with them. Four of six possible pairs laid eggs, two of which produced fertile eggs. I consider the identification of 2 fertile pairs a success and I am removing them to separate aviaries. I will break up the colony for a few months and may try it again later to see if I can identify additional fertile pairs.

I would classify the Blue Faced Parrot Finch as a challenging bird. The small clutches, low fertility and refusal by some parents to raise their own babies is frustrating and severely cuts down on the number of babies you might expect to raise. We need to establish a domestic strain of the bird which will make it a more reliable breeder.

I believe that more Blue Faced Parrot finches die in the United States each year than are raised in the United States. The only reason for the bird's availability is the fact that it is imported regularly into the United States. We need to have a self-sustaining population of the bird in the United States in case importation of birds is cut off.

I encourage some of the members of the National Finch Society to work with the Blue Faced Parrot Finch to help accomplish this goal.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Blue Faced Parrot Finch is an Indo-Pacific variety, but because of its similarities to Australian species, it is covered in this column. We encourage you to write to Hal at the address at the beginning of the article so that he may address the question of our members and can present answers that will be of interest to all.

WE NEED INPUT:

Question: Have you noticed difficulty in fertility, clutch size, hatchability etc., regarding breeding at high altitudes?

We inquire particularly regarding the Lady Gouldian, but request that you send all input on this subject to Hal by July 1st, so that we may further discuss this matter.

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THE OFFICIAL GREEN SINGING FINCH STANDARD

as adopted by the National Finch Society

June 1986

CONDITION: 20 POINTS

Maintaining perfect condition in the Green Singing Finch can be accomplished with a moderate degree in difficulty. Those showing less than perfect feather will score accordingly. There must be no pin feathers. Missing, soiled, or frayed feathers, missing toes or nails, are condition faults and will count heavily in the point count.

CONFIRMATION: 50 POINTS

HEAD AND BODY: 20 POINTS. The head is round and relatively small. It should not appear overly flat. It should blend evenly into the back line. From the head to the tip of the tail the Green Singing Finch should equal four inches. The tail should be one and one half inches. The bird should not appear robust, but should appear healthy and bright.

WINGS: 15 POINTS. The wings should be held closely to the body and should not droop. Crossed wings at the root of the tail is considered a show fault.

TAIL: 15 POINTS. The tail should not fan nor be overly compact. It will be similar in width at the root and tip. One and one half inches is the size of the tail.

STANCE: 15 POINTS

The stance or cage composure of the Green Singing Finch is more highly counted than other African finches. The Green Singer is easily cage trained and should remain on the perch quite fearlessly. Wild behavior in the show box will count heavily against this bird.

MARKINGS AND COLORATION: 15 POINTS

COCKS: The beak will be gray/horn in coloration. The underparts will be brilliant yellow and will extend from the bright yellow rump to and hourglass chest area and into the facial area. There will be a bright yellow eyebrow band which connects across the forehead. The top of the head and extending onto the back and tail is a diffused pattern of greenish/gray. Each feather is darker in the center and more gray to the edges. The hourglass chest pattern is caused by a mandarin style mustache which out and down from the lower mandible. The lore area is diffused gray/green.

HENS: The hen will appear as in the male except that all colors and patterns will appear more dull and diffused. The bright yellow will be far less noticeable. The hen will sport a ill-defined necklace of darker spots that cross the throat area. The more defined and complete this necklace is the higher rated this hen will be in the Markings and Coloration portion of the judging.

SPECIAL NOTE: A close relative of the Green Singing Finch is the Yellow Eyed Finch or Yellow Crowned Canary as it is sometimes called. These birds although very similar should not be shown in this class.

THE COMMUNITY AVIARY

by Norm Kopecky

Isn't it so sad when we grow older and move to a retirement or nursing home we must give up the sweet sounds of our birds? But then think of all the people who never had the chance to enjoy them in the first place.

Here in Sioux Falls, S.D. we've started a pilot program of working with the elderly, the handicapped, and children, using indoor aviaries. We put in our first aviary at the Senior Citizen Center about a year ago. Since then, we have added ten more: 5 at retirement/nursing homes, 3 at state institutions (the Penitentiary, School for the Deaf, and the institution for the mentally retarded adults), the public library, and the biology department of Augustana College.

This project is conducted under the regulatory control of the South Dakota Department of Health. We assume this type of permission would always be required from the state agencies involved.

We have enough aviaries out and have had them out long enough to start drawing some conclusions. Let me start with the big one — the idea works! People love the birds! We were afraid that after the novelty wore off people would ignore the aviaries. In fact, just the opposite occurred. Interest in them has steadily increased to the point that many people go out of their way just to check out the birds and see how they are doing.

Perhaps this shouldn't be so surprising. Almost everyone agrees that it's good to have animals in our lives. Pet Therapy has become an accepted part of the Mental Health field. The problem for public institutions has always been the cost and maintenance involved. But with small finches in indoor aviaries, we seem to have found a way around these problems.

Here's how our program works. We build the aviaries and the institutions buy them from us. We then furnish all the birds, feed, materials and maintenance for \$25 a month. Our costs involve the birds themselves; the food, nesting materials, waterers, feeders, etc. needed to maintain the birds; liability insurance; the support aviary in our basement; autopsies of any birds that die of unknown causes; avicultural memberships and subscriptions; gas and general office supplies. It works out that the organizations pay the cost of this project and we donate our time as a public service.

The key to this project is our attempt to develop a low maintenance aviary. I work at the Post Office and have Mondays and Tuesdays off. On Mondays, I go around and clean the aviaries, feed the birds, change the water, and move birds as needed. The institutions change the water on Wednesdays and Fridays. Then I usually spend a couple of hours a week responding to problems like babies falling out of the nest or somebody picking on someone else. And that's all the maintenance there is to the project. Of course, our basement aviary is run like any other aviary with daily care.



Convalescent home aviary

Our basic aviary is 6 1/2' high by 4' in length, and 2' deep. Some aviaries are 8' wide and others made to fit in corners with 4' on a side. They're made of red cedar frame with window screen on the inside. The back is a sheet of wood paneling and the bottom is made of plywood. The top uses a sheet of light paneling held in place by a wooden hood. Inside the hood is a shop light with a Vita-light and a regular bulb.

Entrance is gained using a door on the side. The nesting areas are made by using a 1'x4' frame covered by 2" chicken wire and filled with native grass hay. We've tried wicker nest baskets a number of times and they just don't work well at all.

Inside the aviary, we use Kaytee Kay-Kob on the floor. Our diet is Kaytee Forti-Diet and Kaytee Grit. The waterer is just a 2 quart jar on a baby chick waterer.

We normally have 8 birds to an aviary. We start with a pair of Pied Zebras to get a quick success in raising babies. To this we may add a male Canary a pair of Cinnamon Societies and a pair of small Waxbills. On the floor is usually a pair of Button Quail. The Zebras are usually very aggressive, so we let them have a couple of clutches and then remove them. With the Zebras gone, the Societies will normally nest and sometimes make their pretty domed nests using a canary nest as a base. We've also raised quite a few canaries in the aviaries. Sometimes we'll let a pair of canaries raise their own babies, but usually we just let a hen sit and foster a couple of eggs to her. If an institution wants to see baby canaries, they have to agree to feed egg food every day for the babies. Usually, there's plenty of people more than willing to do that.



Aviary at the public library

The key to raising babies in these aviaries is the support aviary in our basement. We'll let a pair raise two clutches and then rest them and put in a fresh pair. Of course the babies have to be removed as quickly as possible so that we don't overcrowd these relatively small aviaries.

While a person would expect to raise domesticated species like Zebres, Societies, canaries and Button Quail, we've also had some surprises. We've raised Gold Breasted Wexbills, Strawberries, Bronzings and Silverbills on nothing else but Kaytee Forti-Diet. We've also had Gray Singing Finches, Orange Cheeked Wexbills and Red Eared Wexbills nest but not fledge their young.

One of the pleasant surprises of this project is to see how well the birds adapt to their environment. Some of these aviaries are exposed to a lot of activity around them and yet the birds adjust very well.

We've tried many different species in these aviaries. In general, the genus *Lonchura* tears the grass nesting area up too much and are just too big for these small aviaries. Bronzings are an exception of course, and the willingness of Societies to nest and their usefulness as foster parents make them another exception. Wexbills are the perfect size for these aviaries and we're using Wexbills more and more. As we get 2nd generation domesticated Wexbills, I think we'll get reasonably good nesting success. Our Green and Grey Singing Finches tend to stay wild, although they do sing well. I really wish that we could get American Singers the size of Green Singing Finches. Regular Canaries are just too big for these Wexbills. I'm just getting started with the Australian Finches courtesy of NFS member Wayne Eichelburger, and I think they will really work out well.

What needs to be done now? The concept of the minimum maintenance (once a week) aviary must be developed fully. This is the key to the whole project. Then a working group needs to be formed to work with the idea of placing these aviaries in institutions.

Let me start with the minimum maintenance aviary.

So many of you have a lot of experience with indoor aviaries and we'd love to hear any ideas about how you make them work. We think that the sizes we're using are about right. Certainly there isn't space for anything much bigger so we think we're committed to this size of aviary.

The biggest problems we're having is with food and water. It appears that our birds are not eating a balanced diet. They seem to be picking out one or two seeds they like and live on them. As a consequence, it appears that the Waxbills in particular are malnourished. The only solution we can think of is the use of pelletized food. Dr. Thornberry's article "Bird Nutrition Can Be Improved" in the Feb/March issue of AFA's Watchbird supports the use of pelletized food. So do Ewing and Clause in the May issue of Bird World. Concentrating on Waxbills for now, and ignoring the behavioral problem, does anyone have any ideas about how to make these pelletized feeds work? Could a separate diet be made for Australian Finches?

We also need a waterer that would last a week. One time the person changing the water went on vacation and her replacement forgot to change the water. The birds ran out of water and we had an aviary full of dead birds Monday morning. We were all sick at the sight. The birds bathe in the water and splash it onto the bedding which then molds and smells in the summer. What kind of waterer can we use that would take care of 8-10 birds for a week without these problems?

There are certain strains of birds we wish could be developed for these aviaries. The top of the list would be a nonaggressive strain of Button Quail where the male would help raise the young. My strain is very aggressive and the males pick the hens and kill the young. We have to remove the male right away when the hen starts to sit. We've already mentioned small Canaries. Regular Canaries are just too big for small Waxbills. Bates and Brisenbark mentioned the Chinese Strawberry (*Amandava amandava punicea*) as being smaller and prettier than the normal Strawberry. Does anyone know anything about them? And of course we certainly need breeding strains of all the Waxbills.

Above all, we need to communicate with people who either are interested in this project or have experience with similar situations. It's fair to say that this project grew in relative isolation from the rest of the avicultural world. Not many people keep finches out here. We'd love to have a number of you serve as advisors for this project.

While we hesitate to get people too excited about this project until the problems are worked out, we also hope that the potential is not lost. Imagine the interest in finches that an aviary placed in your public library would stimulate. Likewise, many people view us as destroying millions of wild birds for our own selfish pleasures. With this project, we obviously provide a very great public service and help protect wild birds from their greatest enemy — our ignorance.

But more than all of this, when we share our joy in birds with others, that joy comes back to us a hundred fold. The essence of this project is to see an elderly lady in her wheelchair at a nursing home almost jump with the excitement of watching the birds. The grandchildren always want to visit so they can see the birds. Imprisonment places a tremendous stress on a family, and yet that family contact is so critical to staying out of prison the next time. Instead of being overwhelmed by problems, the family can focus on the birds. And believe it or not, our birds really control the hallway behavior at the School for the Deaf. Real payment for this project comes when someone comes up and tells you that you can't believe how happy you've made so many people. That's our project.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Norm and Rheta Kopecky may be written to at:
1917 South Spring, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57105.

The National Finch Society wishes to commend both of the Kopeckys for this innovative project which is sure to bring praises for both them and the avicultural world.

CLASSIFIED. . . .

WANTED: Mates for South American Seedeaters and information exchange with persons keeping genus *Sporophila*. Gary Wallen, 1540 North Sierra Bonita, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

NEW NFS COVER ART

This issue of the NFS Bulletin sports a new cover design depicting a pair of Java Rice Birds. The cover was designed by NFS member and Avian Artist George Noreen of Portland, Oregon. We at the National Finch Society thank George for his efforts and hope that he will continue this fine work.



NCS

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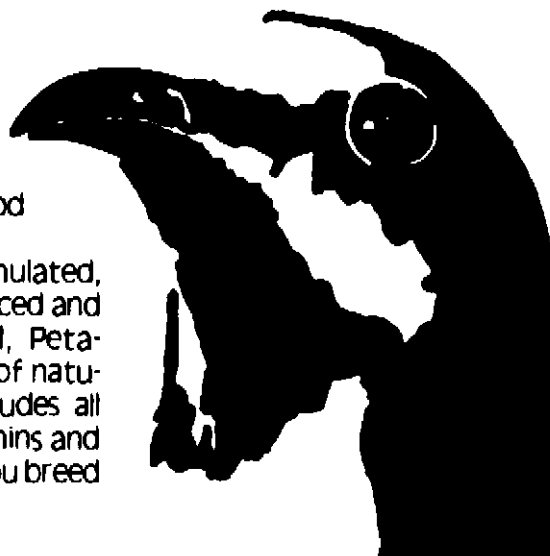
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N F S REGIONAL S H O W S

REGION 1 - Greater New England Cage Bird Show, Oct. 25, 1986. All bird show. NFS Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert. The show will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Bldg., E. Hartford, CT. For information write: Russ Armitage Jr., 345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

REGION 2 - Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club, October 25, 1986. All bird show. NFS Panel Judge: William G. Parlee. The show will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. For information write Karl Kline, 9574 Saddlebrook Dr., Boca Raton, FL 33434.

REGION 3 - The Great American Cage Bird Show. Oct 2-4, 1986. This show is jointly sponsored by the Greater Chicago Bird Club and Kaytee Products of Chilton, WI. The show will offer NFS awards as well as cash prizes. NFS Panel Judge will be Dr. A. E. Decoteau. This is an all bird show. Best in show will be judged by NFS Panel Judge William G. Parlee. The show will be held at the Ramada Inn O'Hare at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. For further information contact Harvey Smith of Kaytee Products, P.O. Box 230, Chilton, WI 53014.

REGION 4 - There has been no request for a regional show in this region.

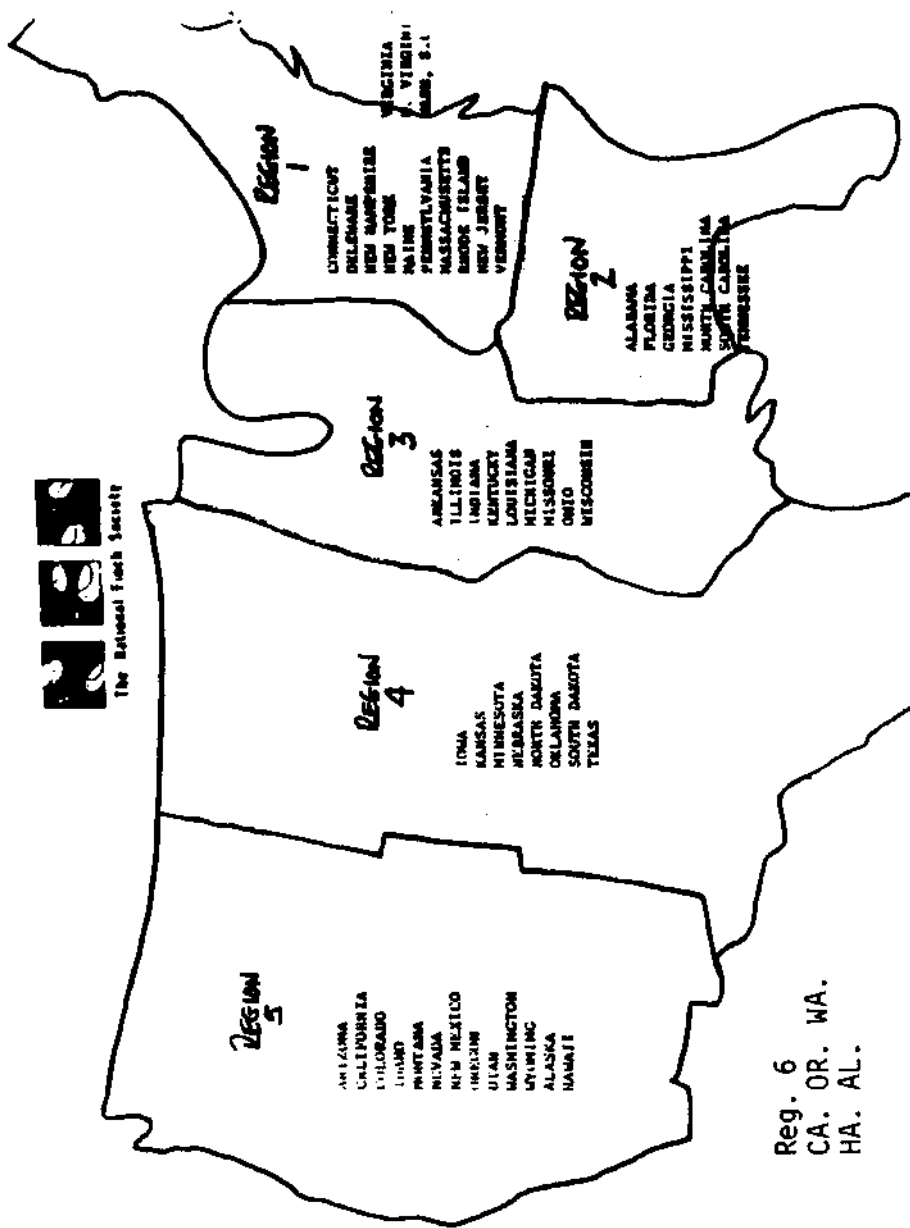
REGION 5 - The Rocky Mountain Society for Aviculture Show. October 25, 1986. NFS Panel Judge: Paul Williams. The show will be held at the Continental Inn in Denver, Colorado. For more information contact Martha Wigmore, 5010 Wezel Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80916.

REGION 6 - The Fresno Canary and Finch Club Show. The show will be held in Fresno, California. The NFS Panel Judge will be Joseph Krader. For more info on this show, write to Graham Southerland, 2029 No. Katy Lane, Fresno, CA 93711.

All of this information will be updated in the July/Aug. issue of the Bulletin. Regional Show always have a top bench which includes the top ten birds in the Finch Div. NFS Regional Rosettes are awarded these birds. Points rules apply as to the size of the entry and the points awarded for each place.



The National Fish Society



Region 5

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- ILLINOIS
- INDIANA
- KANSAS
- NEVADA
- NEW MEXICO
- OHIO
- UTAH
- WASHINGTON
- WYOMING
- ALASKA
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- DELAWARE
- NEW HAMPSHIRE
- NEW YORK
- MARYLAND
- PENNSYLVANIA
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- VIRGINIA
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- ALABAMA

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- GEORGIA
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- SOUTH CAROLINA
- MISSISSIPPI

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- ILLINOIS
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- MICHIGAN
- MISSOURI
- OHIO
- WISCONSIN

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Carole Wheeler, Editor

NEWS from PIJAC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jay H. Smith
(202) 452-1525

PIJAC ACTIVATES 800 TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE INFORMATION

Responding to the increased amount of legislative activity within the pet industry in recent months, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has activated an inbound WATS telephone line. The new 800 number will enable PIJAC members, members of state and local pet organizations and hobby clubs, and the media to receive instant updates on the status of legislation or rule-making proceedings in various jurisdictions, according to Richard Peterson, PIJAC President.

Legislators, regulators, the media and others are encouraged to use PIJAC through this number as a central clearinghouse on the status of legislative and regulatory procedures and to obtain information on model laws for various aspects of the pet industry.

The number, 800 553-PETS, is a direct tie to PIJAC headquarters in Washington, D.C. PIJAC staff will respond to caller requests for information during normal working hours (9 to 5:30 Eastern).

Peterson emphasized that information available through the new 800 line encompasses legislative and regulatory activities only. The new communications aid is not meant to supplant the use of regular telephone lines for routine business calls to the organization.

February 25, 1986

NR1-86

Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council — PIJAC
171 Brookland Ave., N.W., 2nd Fl., Washington, D.C. 20007



American Federation of Aviculture

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August 6-10, 1986

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Tuesday, August 5	Hospitality
Wednesday, August 6	Registration, Board of Directors Meeting, Luncheon, Installation of Exhibits, Exhibits Open
Thursday, August 7	Exhibits, Seminars, Registration, Hospitality
Friday, August 8	Exhibits, Seminars, Luncheon, Hospitality
Saturday, August 9	Exhibits, Seminars, Cocktails, Banquet and Entertainment
Sunday, August 10	Registration, Vet Seminars, Luncheon, Exhibits until 3:00 p.m.

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