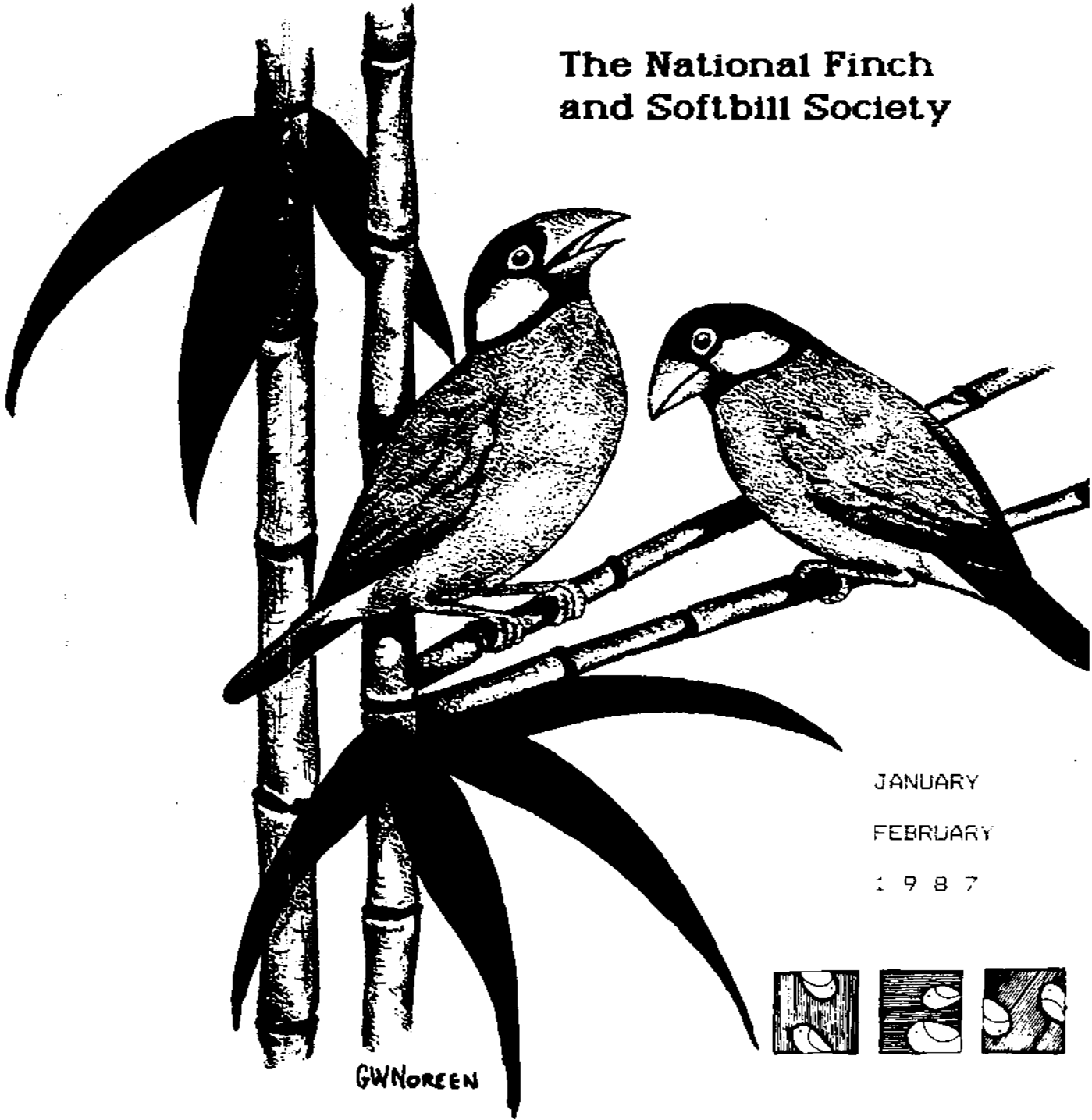


The National Finch and Softbill Society



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

1 9 8 7



JANUARY/FEBRUARY

1 9 8 7

Volume 4 Number 1

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although we will still be known as "NFS", we hope you like our new name. The National Finch and Softbill Society. We feel it more truly represents what our organization is all about. Please note new affiliation options that are offered for Softbill enthusiasts.

PLEASE NOTE NEW HOME OFFICE ADDRESS:

NFS. P.O. BOX 18607, EAST HARTFORD, CT 06116.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: C/O RUSS ARMITAGE JR. 345 BOSTON ROAD, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457.

BAND ORDERS: BAND SECRETARY, ROGER O'CONNELL, 451 MOODY ST., Box 114, Waltham, MA. 02154.

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NOTICE TO ALL CLUB DELEGATES

The next Bulletin of the National Finch and Softbill Society will be the first listing of 1987 Affiliated Shows. Please contact the editor immediately with your show date and location, as well as the Panel Judge you have selected to judge your show.

Remember, many exhibitors make plans as to which shows they will be attending very early in the year. The early listing of your show will enable them to select your show because the information was available to them.

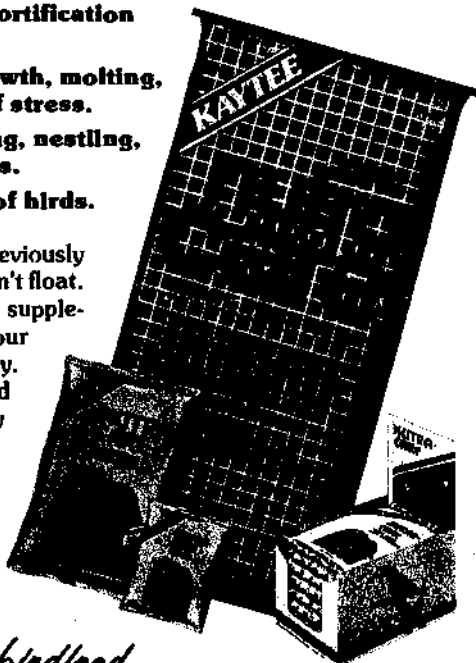
ANY DELEGATES THAT HAVE NOT FORWARDED THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO THE EDITOR, PLEASE DO SO. MEMBERS WISHING INFORMATION ON YOUR CLUB OR SHOW NEED THIS NUMBER SO THAT THEY MAY CONTACT YOUR CLUB.



...For The Life Of Your Bird.

- Supplies essential nutrient fortification lacking in all seed diets.
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The National Finch Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

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CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

selector# _____ member# _____

adm _____

dues paid _____ ann. _____

Check type of membership desired:

Single 15.00, Dual 20.00, Junior \$7.50, Juniors age please _____
Junior memberships are for juniors under the age of 16.

Please list other name to be included on dual membership:

Please answer a few questions for us:

How long have you been involved in finches and softbills? _____

How many species have you kept? _____

How many species have you bred? _____

How many shows have you exhibited in? _____

Do you keep softbills? _____

Do you wish to become an active member?

(Work on committees, etc.) _____

Please list an occupation or special talent that may be helpful to the National Finch Society. (Printer, artist, lawyer etc.) _____

Would you be interested in apprenticing for the NFS Judges' Panel? _____

Club affiliation _____

Briefly describe your interest in joining the National Finch Society and what you hope to get out of your membership. (This will help us plan our educational programs.)

Please mail your application and dues to the address shown below. Your membership card will be sent to you as soon as your application is processed.

Membership Services c/o Russ Armitage
345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457



The National Finch Society

1987 CLOSED ALUMINUM LEG BANDS

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Bands are available in standard NFS color of the year only

Size	For	Cost
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D	Chesnut Breasted, Yellow Rumped, & Pectoralis	
E	Society Finches, Nuns, Firetails, & Diamonds	
G	Larger Waxbills & Canaries	
J	Yorkshires, Norwich, Pekin Robins, etc.	
K	Java Rice Birds, Indian Shama, etc.	
L	Quail, Doves, & Other Softbills	

NFS bands may be ordered in lots of 10 bands, consecutively numbered at \$1.25 per each lot. \$1.00 shipping and handling should be included with each order, whether 10 or 100 bands are being ordered. Bands will be shipped within 30 days of receipt of your order, although most orders will be shipped the same week as received. There is no color choice. The standard NFS color of the year will be used. Each band will have stamped: "NFS", the band size code, year and number. All numbers will be recorded by the NFS band secretary for permanent record.

Please make your check or money order payable to NFS and send your order to:

NFS BAND SECRETARY
 Roger O'Connell
 451 Moody Street, Box 114
 Waltham, Mass. 02154

Please send me the following bands. (Multiples of 10 only.)

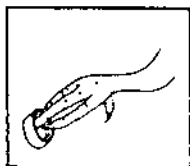
A () B () C () D () E () G () J () K () L ()

Total number of 10 units () x \$1.25 per unit + \$1.00 shipping = (\$)

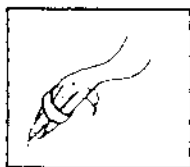
ORDER YOUR 1987 NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY BANDS TODAY !!!

NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP NO. _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

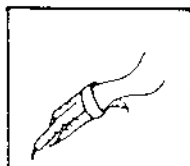
Leg banding Procedure courtesy of the NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY



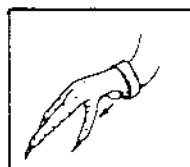
The most important thing to remember when you begin to band a finch is to do it over a counter or table in case the chick makes a sudden move, it will not fall to the floor.



The age of the bird to be banded varies with the species. Generally it will be between five and six days old. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come together) and the size of the band.



The band is generally placed on the right leg of the bird. Banding just before the nighty roost will help prevent picking of the band by the parents. By the next morning the birds will have forgotten about the band.



Have the band ready with a toothpick (or other blunt instrument) and a lubricant. Hold the chick firmly but in a way not to cut off the air supply or to hurt the bird.



Put a little bit of lubricant on the bird's foot and slide the band over the front three toes and finally over the ankle joint. The back toe will probably have to be pried out from under the band with a toothpick. The band is now in the proper location between the ankle and elbow joints.

It is best to check on the chick after a few days to make sure the band has not slipped off. Before banding, make sure the band is right side up so that it can be easily read.

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERS - Welcome !!!

501	Deyoung, Julia	Dalton, IL	60419
502	Deyoung, Alan	Dalton, IL	60419
503	De Mello, Ted	Silverton, OR	97381
504	Moreno, Joseph	St. Louis, MO	63108
505	Coyne, Linda	Ann Harbor, MI	48103
506	Burek, Casimir	Hopatcong, NJ	07843
507	Mid-Michigan Bird Club	Lansing, MI	48911
508	Donley, Larry	Albuquerque, NM	87106
509	Hagan, James	Atlanta, GA	30308
510	Sheehy, Patrick	Tyngsboro, MA	01879
511	Glancy, Jeanette	Malden, MA	02148
512	Frotten, Ronald	Malden, MA	02148
513	Moase, Vincent H.	Ontario, Canada	L1J
514	Miller, Terri L.	Raleigh, NC	27612
515	Gioviale, Danny	Manvel, TX	77578
516	Depner, Roger A.	Orange, CA	92667
517	Trussell, Ruth	Huntington Beach CA	92647
518	Hasselbach, Bruce	Flushing, NY	11354
519	Sinclair, Anna	Colorado Spgs. CO	80910
520	Sanbury, Randy	Lantana, FL	33462
521	Rae, Joan	New York, NY	10021
522	Ventimiglia, Joseph	Seminole, FL	33542
523	Grosse, Cathy	Cincinnati, OH	45211
524	Lorenzen, Vernon L.	St. Paul, MN	55101
525	Johnson, Duane	St. Paul, MN	55101
526	Graff, Alice C.	Castro Valley, CA	94552
527	Heine, A.	Staten Island, NY	10309
528	Archer, Kenneth	No. Kansas City, MO	64116
529	Archer, Linda	No. Kansas City, MO	64116
530	Mount, Lillian	Tampa, FL	33615
531	Sybers, Robert	Atlanta, GA	30306
532	Shodahl, James	Honolulu, HA	96816
533	Doyle, Connie	Hayward, CA	94542

534	Reimer, Gary	Sugin, TX	78155
535	Adams, Greg	Saybrook, IL	61770
536	Adams, Lola	Saybrook, IL	61770
537	Manette, Walter I.	Commerce City, CO	80022
538	Trent, Debbra	Blanchard, OK	73010
539	Trent, David	Blanchard, OK	73010
540	Puckett, Paul	Waleska, GA	30183
541	Puckett, Joan	Waleska, GA	30183
542	Paskie, Denise	Oakhurst, NJ	07755
543	Smith, Nicole	Pittsfield, IL	62363
544	Suncoast Avian Society	Safety Harbor, FL	33572
545	Norkey, Kenneth A.	Peymouth, MN	55441
546	Wendt, W. J.	Philadelphia, PA	19107
547	Curtin, John O.	Wetumpka, AL	36092
548	Allen, Karen L.	Edgewood, MD	21040
549	Penninsula Cage Bird Society	Yortown, VA	23692
550	Oja, Linda S.	Newport News, VA	23602
551	Kroner, Kristine	Ambler, PA	19002
552	Pace, Valerie	Pensacola, FL	32506
553	Thompson, Curley	Washington, IL	61571
554	Thompson, Beverly	Washington, IL	61571
555	Petersen, Henry Jr.	Saugus, MA	01906
556	Croce, John	Houston, TX	77075
557	Pire, John	Texas City, TX	77590
558	Pire, Debbie	Texas City, TX	77590
559	Bass, Howard	Argyle, TX	76226
560	Haywood, Lorraine	Westmont, IL	60559
561	Remo, Claire	Ft. Myers, FL	33907
562	Remo, Frank W.	Ft. Myers, FL	33907
563	Ortiz, Catherine	Glenwood, IL	60425
564	Piekutowski, Robert	St. Louis, MO	63136
565	Hughes, Robert	Ivy, VA	22945
566	Kay, John C. Sr.	Butler, PA	16001
567	Marks, Ron	Lake Oswego, OR	97034
568	Baer, Christine G.	San Francisco, CA	94117
569	Perkins, Katie Dawn	Portland, OR	97266
570	Ryan, Mary	Westminister, CA	92683
571	Dimatteo, James F.	Forest Lake, MN	55025

BREEDING THE BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT by Dr. Vol Clear

The Blue-black Grassquit, also called the Jacarini, from its Latin name, Volatina jacarini, is a small South American bird that has been bred on various occasions in aviaries, but I am not aware of anyone who has successfully bred it indoors. This article is intended to report the way in which I succeeded with this venture.

The Jacarini male in color resembles the Combassou superficially. He is shining black all over his body except for white spots on the butt of the wing. In my experience, most males never quite complete the molt, and continue to have a few brown feathers here and there on the breast. His beak is black and considerably more pointed than the Combassou beak. The female is an assortment of brown shades, with striped breast.

I have in my home a tropical garden about 12 feet by 15 feet which is heavily planted mostly in pots, but with a few areas of large planters built into the floor and wall. In the room at the time of the successful breeding were a number of other species, as follows: A trio of Parrot-billed Seed eaters (Neorynchus peruviansis), a pair of Collared warbling Finches (Pooospiza hispaniolensis), single Black-headed and White-headed Nuns, and unidentified species of the Sierra Finch genus, breeding pairs of Diamond Doves and White Doves, and a pair of Button Quail. This collection appeared to be quite peaceful and I pretty much left them on their own, going in only once a week to water the plants and merely stepping inside daily to leave fresh food. The southern wall consists of five 3' by 8' glass panels, which raises the temperature too high when the strong winter sun hit it, and drops too much at night when the coldness from the outside is conducted through the single-panel glass. (This was originally double thickness thermopane, but because of fungus between the panels, I reduced them to single thickness glass.)

The Jacarini is one of the most interesting birds I have known. When I lived in Peru, on numerous occasions I watched the male do his nuptial dance for over half an hour at a time, non-stop. He finds a bush about 40 inches high, selects a perch on top of it, flies straight into the air 30

or 40 inches, does a somersault and returns to his perch, singing all the time. He does not sit on the perch more than a few seconds before he repeats the performance. It goes on and on like a yo-yo contest. The female is usually not in evidence, although I assume that he knows that she is close enough to benefit from his amorous display.

The Peruvian name for the bird is "Saltapalito," which would be translated literally, "little-stick jump," but which probably would translate better as "pole vaulter."

I had just added the two pairs of doves to the collection, wanting to have my morning punctuated with the peaceful coo of these birds, so I constructed a dove nest tray about 10" by 6" and with a lid of one and one half inch furring strips, so that it was rather like a square bowl. I reasoned that when the doves saw this they would immediately prefer it to any other location (but I was wrong).

I placed the dove nest tray on the bottom hoops of a tomato rack, which held it up off the ground about 8", but left it quite in the open. I think the reason the doves never used it was the difficulty of landing with the wires from the tomato rack surrounding it. Two weeks later the doves had seemed to pay no attention to it but I noticed that the Jacarini male was coming into breeding color and that he was doing an occasional dance, so I took a large handful of grass shavings which I had saved from the summer, and in my haste, tossed them on the doves' nesting platform to keep the grass from the moist earth, thinking that the Jacarinis would help themselves to the grass in order to build their nest. The amount I put on the doves' nest was generous, heaping and overflowing.

Much to my amazement, when I went in to feed a couple of days later, there was a beautiful, neat cavity indented into the mass of grass. It had obviously been tailored with meticulous care and was very delicately laid out in perfectly smooth symmetry. I could not be sure what bird had done it and had to wait for a couple of days until I caught the hen on the nest, which proved to be the Jacarini.

She laid two eggs that were a grayish green, with marked reddish spots scattered indiscriminately all over the egg. I discovered to my chagrin that the eggs are very brittle, when I broke two of them many months later in a subsequent nest.

Because the bird had built so close to the glass wall which stands between the family room and the atrium, I taped some poster board to the glass to reduce the interruptions that would occur whenever anyone came into the family room.

The hen did all of the setting. I never have seen the male anywhere near the nest. She apparently does all of the feeding, as well. Although I never saw her taking any live food at other times, while she was feeding the young she consumed a lot of meal worms. I also provide for those birds a simple egg food mixture which I have used for years, consisting of hardboiled egg and corn flake crumbs, the latter purchased in the supermarket already in crumb form. These two ingredients are mixed with about 20% crumbs to the mixture. The Jacarini consumed some of the egg mixture, but not a great deal.

She always laid only two eggs. I think by now I have probably had seven or eight sets of eggs, always two at a time. Dr. Lindsay Clack, who raised Jacarinis in Australia, tells me that this is the normal clutch with the birds that he has raised. Perhaps this is the reason why the male does not feed, or the result, because if only the mother is feeding, two gaping mouths are probably enough to keep filled.

The babies are tiny, fuzzy, light colored creatures when they hatch. When they were about a week old, they disappeared. Within a week there was a new clutch of eggs, and the process went on again. The second time, the babies disappeared at about the same age. I decided that it must be the Rufous-collared Sparrows that were the culprits, so I put in a trap that I had bought in Cuba many years ago, and caught them.

With the third nest everything went smoothly, the babies were banded at about ten days of age, and shortly after that they left the nest. The fourth nest worked equally well, almost like clock work. The fifth nest, which followed very quickly after the fourth, found me out of town on a trip and when I came back I banded the birds later than I had the others and this was mistake. I tried to put them back in the nest but they panicked and flew in two different directions, and I believe were abandoned by the hen.

As with the Parrot-billed Seedeaters, which I believe was a world first-breeding, concurrent to the Jacarinis, the Jacarinis went to nest on the Peruvian calendar. In Peru, the height of summer is January, and these birds nested in December, 1985. This article is being written in November, of 1986, and they have again constructed a nest in the same batch of grass. The reason for retaining the cycle may be due to the lighting.

They are exposed to four forty-watt Power Twist Vitalite tubes. These are on a timer which comes on at 6:00 a.m. and goes off at 5:00 p.m. I did it this way in order to get the birds onto a North American season, settling down for the night on a Hoosier sundown, which comes as late as 6:00 p.m. in July. That apparently has not happened, because the birds continued to breed on the Peruvian calendar, settling down to roost when the lights go out about 5:00 in the afternoon. I have chosen not to tamper with that lighting system. If it works, don't fix it, and since I've got these Peruvian birds breeding in November and December, why tamper?

It has been interesting to watch the Jacarinis come into breeding condition and follow through. This was done in an indoor garden. I hope someone is able to develop the skills to get them to nest in more confined quarters than that. It would be nice to have a strain of cage-bred Jacarinis.

Editors Note: Dr. Val Clear is a NFS member and a member of the Standards committee. He has recently joined the formation committee for the NFS "FINCHSAVE" breeding specialist program.



NFS 1987 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

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 NORMAL 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 BREEDER 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 WD 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 AND SECOND BEST IN DIVISION AT YOUR SHOW. THE FEE FOR THIS LEVEL IS \$40, AND IS SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S AFFILIATIONS..

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SAME AS LEVEL TWO BUT WITH 10 ADDED LONG STREAMER ROSETTES FOR THE BEST TEN FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS IN DIVISION. THIS OPTION WITH LEVEL TWO AFFILIATION COSTS \$65.

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SEND YOUR APP AND REMITTANCE TO: THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY, AFFILIATION DIRECTOR, C/O PAM LIDDY, 245 DRAPER ST. SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108.

CLUB NAME _____ DELEGATE _____

LEVEL 1 \$25 _____ LEVEL 2 \$40 _____ 2 W/ROSETTES \$65 _____ 2 W/SOFTBILL \$65 _____

LEVEL 3 W/ROSETTES & SOFTBILL \$90 _____. NOTIFY NFS OF SHOW DATE AND JUDGE WD LATER THAN MARCH 31, 1986 TO ASSURE PUBLICATION OF YOUR SHOW DATE.

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- The Capitol City Bird Society - Helen Caudle - 916-933-1619
- The Golden Gate Avian Society - Mary Payne
- The Aviary Assoc. of Kern Cty. - Hal Koontz - 805-872-1063

COLORADO

- The Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture - M. Wigmore - 303-574-1594

CONNECTICUT

- The Conn. Assoc. for Aviculture - Jerry D'Agata - 203-688-9403

FLORIDA

- The Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Club - Karl Kline - 305-487-7927
- The Sunshine State Cage Bird Society - Ann Hurst - 305-843-9450
- The Greater Miami Avicultural Society - Hector Ugalde
- The Panhandle Avicultural Society - Chas. Richardson

GEORGIA

- The Georgia Cage Bird Society - Cecil Gunby -

ILLINOIS

- The Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club - Charles Anchor - 312-543-3757

INDIANA

- The Indiana Bird Fanciers - Val Clear - 317-642-0795

LOUISIANA

- The Gulf South Bird Club Inc. - Evon Kruse

MARYLAND

- The Baltimore Bird Fanciers Inc. - Brenda Geesey - 717-854-2604
- The Maryland Cage Bird Assoc. - Dallas Johnson

MASSACHUSETTS

- The Boston Cockatiel Society - Roger O'Connell - 617- 899-8523
- The Boston Society for Aviculture Inc. Roger O'Connell # as above
- The Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc. - Shirley Eaton - 401-333-5594
- The Western New England Cage Bird Society - Bob Clark

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- The Mid-Michigan Bird Club - Mary Rue
- The Mid-West Canary and Cage Bird Soc. - Mary Kaszyca - 313-285-5168

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- The Missouri Cage Bird Club - Tom Rood - 217-774-5265

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- The Birds of a Feather - Larry Brandt
- The New Hampshire Avicultural Society - Ken Akey

NEW YORK

The Astoria Bird Club - Alex Grivas

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OKLAHOMA

The Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma - Gene Miller - 405-382-7066

The Oklahoma Cage Bird Society - Laura Bewley

PENNSYLVANIA

The Central Penna Cage Bird Society - Brenda Geesey - 717-854-2604

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The Peninsula Cage Bird Society - Linda Oja

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The Milwaukee Bird Society- Bernard Knuth

The Wisconsin Cage Bird Club - Mary Zuidema - 715-359-4655

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The International Dove Society - U.S.A. - John Pire

The New Zealand Finch Breeders - New Zealand - Valerie Hughes

The Zebra Finch Society - England - J.A.W. Prior



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Please allow 60-90 days for delivery of your first issue

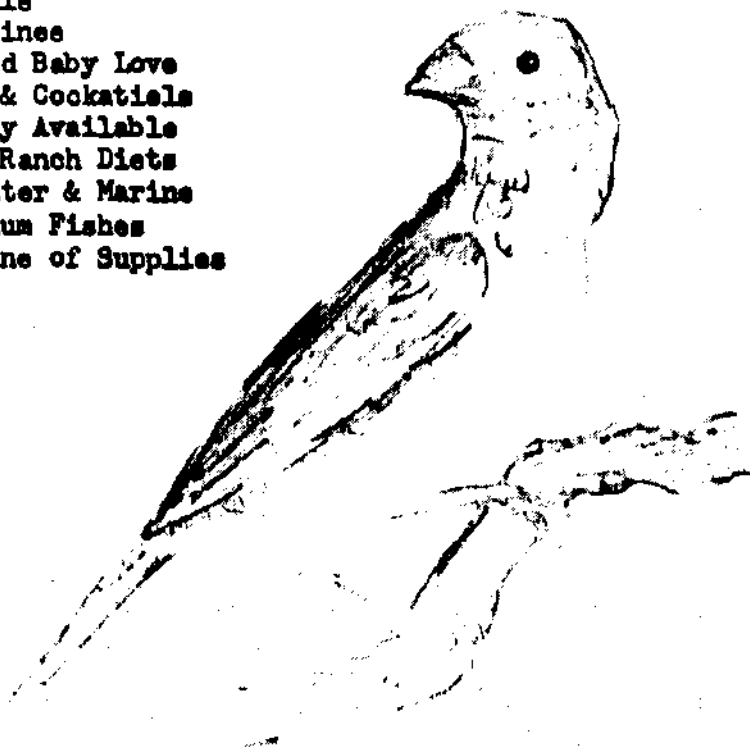
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BOARD MINUTES, DECEMBER 7, 1986

The December 7th Board of Directors meeting was held at the home of President Bill Parlee in East Hartford, Connecticut. The meeting came to order shortly after 2 p.m. In attendance were Nancy Reed, Tony Patterson, Brenda Geesey, Al Decoteau, Russ Armitage, Kelly Dahill, Jerry D'Agata, Roger D'Connell, Bill Parlee, and guests.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Report - Russ Armitage stated that the Society was just short of the 500 membership mark and should top that figure by the end of December. He further stated that we have 36 affiliated clubs. As previously voted all membership services are now handled by Russ from his office at 345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

Band Report - Roger D'Connell our new Band Secretary reported that there were very few 1986 bands left over and that the Society had made a small profit during 1986 on the band program. He further stated that considering the greatly increased demand for NFS bands that we are more than doubling our order for 1987 bands. Roger said that dozens of orders for 1987 bands had already been received and that all early orders would be mailed on December 26, 1987 which is the normal policy of NFS. Roger pointed out that members should anticipate their needs so that they don't run out of bands. Get your orders in early and allow 30 days for processing. The normal turn-around is less than 10 days.

The Publishing, Election, and By-Law committees had no reports.

Research and Standards - The different names for the NFS Breeding Program were discussed at length. Finchsave and Breeder Specialist were the two most interesting names discussed by the Board. The Committee discussed separating the Breeding program from Research and Standards and creating a separate committee to handle the program. Bill Parlee felt that the program would entail to great a work load on the present committee. Al Decoteau announced that three subcommittees had been formed for our next three standards. Committees and Chairman are the Shafttail Committee, Brenda Geesey Chairman, the Java Rice Bird Committee, Dan Outz and Jon Hoffman, Chairmen, and the Diamond Sparrow Committee, Jerry D'Agata and Kelly Dahill Chairmen.

Promotion and Products - Kelly Dahill and Russ Armitage stated that the 1986 T-shirt program was a great success. They stated that there were only a few small and medium sized shirts left for sale. The module Zebra design was very popular and the committee felt that to continue with that same modern design would be advantageous. The Board discussed the species to be considered for the 1987 shirt. The Lady Gouldian was chosen.

Judges Panel Report - Al Decoteau stated that the Panel report would be a lengthy one and it was. He stated that at year end he gives his progress report of all the apprentices. Al did that, giving the name of each and every apprentice, what requirements had been completed and his suggestions on each one. The Board also was asked to vote on deleting certain apprentices and putting others on the inactive list. Some apprentices ask for a year off from the program which is acceptable.

Al stated that he felt two or three of the apprentices could complete the program in 1987 and could be brought up for the vote of the Board after the 1987 show season.

The Board gave its final approval on the appointment of Earl Courts to the Panel. Earl has completed all requirement of the program. The vote was unanimous.

The Board brought up the question of a judge that does not complete his paperwork and fulfill the requirements of the Panel Director. The judge involved had been contacted both by phone and letter regarding the complaints against him. Al stated that at the time of this meeting those requirements had still not been met, and that this matter had occupied the time of the Board over the last four meetings (one year). The Board voted to remove this judge from the 1987 Panel of Judges. The vote on this matter was unanimous.

Show report - The show report was given by Tony Patterson who stated that the show reports were coming in well this year. He stated that the only reports not received for show already held were the report of the Central Ohio club and the Fresno report. He stated that there were still shows left on the schedule but that all reports should be in, in time to publish the points results for 1986 in the Jan/Feb issue of the Bulletin.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board voted unanimously to remove a judge from the panel.

The Board voted "FINCHSAVE" as the name to be used for NFS' finch and softbill breeding program

The Board voted to rename the Society the National Finch and Softbill Society.

The Board voted to accept the resignation of Nancy Reed as 2nd Vice President and accepted her offer to remain in the post until a replacement could be elected.

The Board voted to leave the geographic classification system intact.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board voted to nominate Brenda Geesey to fill the vacated unexpired term of 2nd Vice-President.

The Board voted to reorganize the upper management of the society so as to better administer the organization. This would create the positions of 3rd and 4th Vice-President and would realign job responsibilities.

The Board voted to activate the By-law committee to effect the needed amendments to change the societies name and to create new officerships.

The Board voted to drop the 3rd place plaque for all affiliated clubs to bring costs in line with affiliation fees.

The Board voted to offer a Softbill award package to interested clubs at additional cost.

The Board voted to drop the affiliated club name from the Rosettes in favor of the imprint: Awarded by "The National Finch and Softbill Society".

The Board voted to have two away Board Meetings per year. One to be held at the AFA Summer Convention and the other at the National Finch Society National Show (NCBS). This would place the winter and spring meetings in New England and the summer meeting in Seattle, with the fall meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

The meeting was adjourned after five and one-half hours at 7:30 p.m.

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN

1987

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

1ST. VICE PRES.

SECRETARY

TREASURER

REG. V.P.'S

BAND SECRETARY

2ND V. PRES.

3RD V PRES
"FINCHSAVE"
DIRECTOR

4TH V. PRES.

EDUCATION

RESEARCH &
STANDARDS

PROGRAMS

PUBLISHING

CLASSIFICATION

PUBLIC
RELATIONS

BULLETIN

CAPTAINS

JUDGES PANEL
DIRECTOR

PROMOTION

YEARBOOK

BREEDERS

SHOWS/POINTS

The 1st Vice President position administrative and is meant to be a grooming position for the Presidency.

TO ALL NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY MEMBERS!!!

The Research and Standards Committee wishes to announce three new sub-Committees:

The Shafttail Standards Committee, Brenda Geesey, Chairman. Cecil Gunby, member.

The Java Rice Bird Standards Committee, Cecil Gunby, Chairman. Dr. Dan Outz and Jon Hoffman, members.

The Diamond Sparrow Standards Committee, Brenda Geesey, Chairman. Gerald D'Agata and Kelly Dahill, members.

We need more volunteers to serve on these committees. It is your responsibility to get involved, particularly if you breed or exhibit any of the above species. Write me or the Sub-Committee Chairman. We need your help. Submitted by A.E.Decoteau, Chairman - Research and Standards.

NFS MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Any of these items may be purchased by sending a check in the exact amount to Membership Services, c/o Russ Armitage Jr., 345 Boston Rd. Middletown, CT. 06457. Check the items you wish and total the amount.

NFS BACK ISSUES

\$1.50 each	1986 Sept/Oct
1984 April	1986 Nov/Dec
1984 July	1987 Jan/Feb
1984 October	
1985 Jan/Feb	
1985 Mar/Apr	Spec.Publications
1985 May/June	1984 NFS show
1985 July/Aug	Catalog Collectors
1985 Sept/Oct	item \$3.00
1985 Nov/Dec	1985 NFS show
1986 Jan/Feb	Catalog Collectors
1986 Mar/Apr	item \$3.00
1986 May/June	
1986 July/Aug	

1986 Collectors NFS Tee

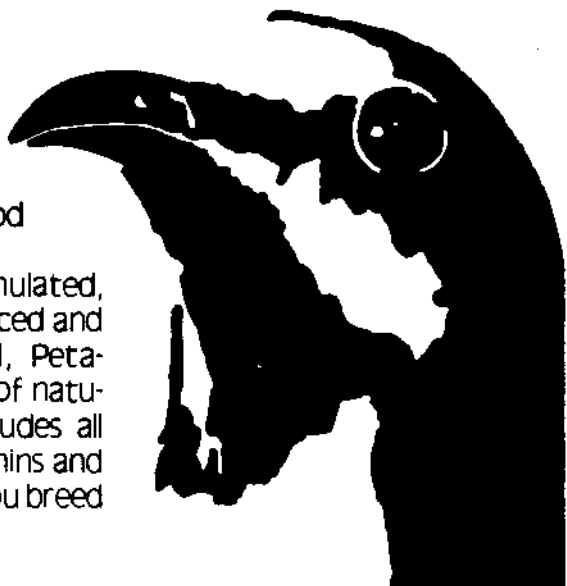
Shirts - Zebra design
sm __ med __ only \$10.00

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Softbill ___ \$3.00
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SINGING SWEETIES by Wanda Deacon

What's a birthday without a cake? That's what my thoughts used to be before I became a diabetic. My diet is strict and one is restricted to natural types of sugar, which are found in forms of fruit; berries, oranges, apples and the such. Gosh those strawberries sure are addicting. One must also maintain an exercise program. Once you get into a routine it will all come automatically. If you take a day off you feel as if you have sinned. There are too many things in life that can go wrong if your not in control. Life is short enough as it is.

You may ask what all this has to do with "singing sweets"? Well, instead of the cake, I got a wonderful gift of a couple of Green Singing finches. Actually I got them a few weeks before my birthday. How I enjoy their sweet Goldfinch type song.

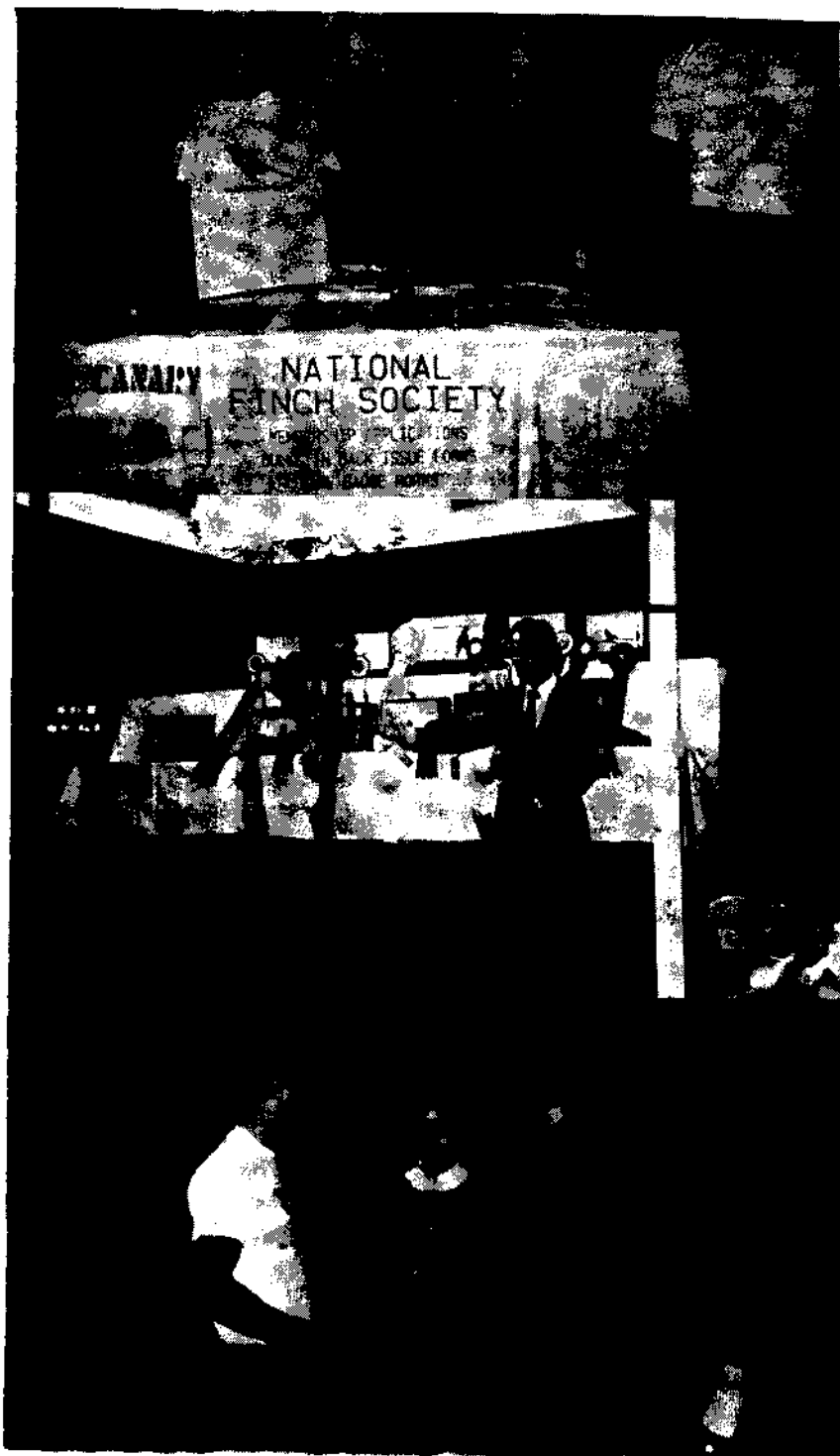
They are both males, I call them "Ranger and Tonto". I have always had a secret admiration for these pretty little singers. They do have the reputation for being quite aggressive in the aviary, even to the point of bossing birds twice their size. Mine, being both males do quarrel at times but it is nothing more than a buzz; a little chase around the cage and it is over as fast as it started, seldom a feather out of place. The Green Singers are long lived birds and have a sweet song that is sung quite loudly for their size. They do well in a Canary type cage.

I feed my Singers the same way I feed my canaries: half finch mix, half canary mix, a few drops of Linatone, and a bit of ground Hi-Pro Dog food. For a large variety I also offer one of these each day: canary song food, steel cut oats, Petamine, fruit, dark greens, eggfood, a bean, rice, corn and dogfood supplement. Sometimes a few mealworms are added to the diet. They are super eaters and will try almost anything I place in the cage. It's cute to see them hang on the side of the cage to see what special goodie "Mom" has for them today.

So if you like finches; and the song of a canary, but felt a canary was just too large: then go the next best route. Green Singers are friendly, perky songsters whom I'm sure will delight even a canary fancier.

Editor's Note: Wanda, get two females and start propagating. Help fill the avicultural world with song. Wanda Deacon contributes much to NFS through her articles and beautiful artwork, as featured in this and other issues of the NFS Bulletin.

38 TH NATIONAL CAGE-BIRD EXHIBITION AND NFS ANNUAL SHOW



HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE
1986 NFS
NATIONAL SHOW

ALL THE
WINNERS

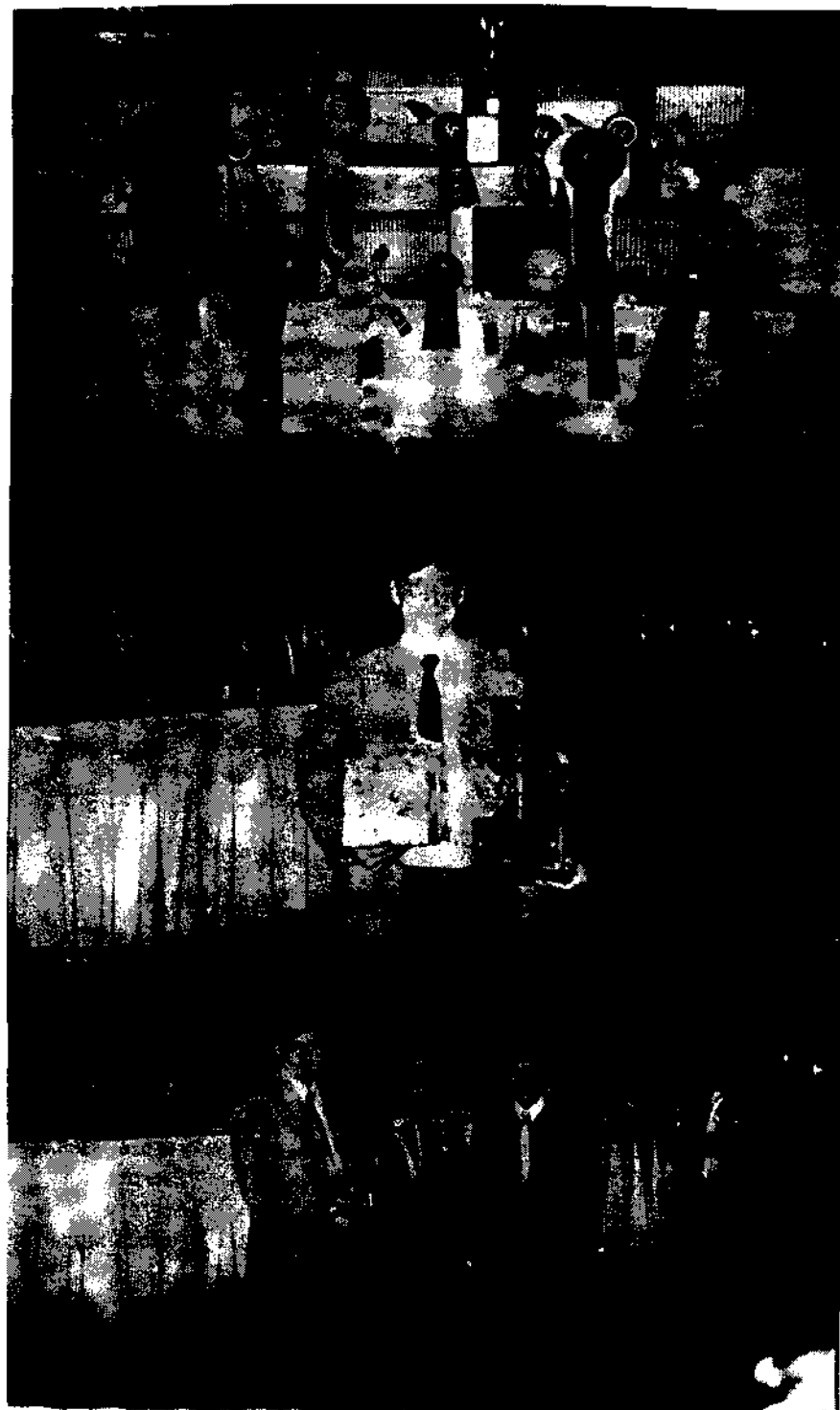
NANCY REED
AT THE
NFS BOOTH

BEST IN
SHOW WINNER
TOM ROOD
WITH THE KAYTEE
AWARD

JUDGE PARLEE
"THIS IS WHAT
IT'S ALL ABOUT"

TOM WITH THE
KELLOGG, DON
STEIN AND
BILL PARLEE

1985
CHAMPIONSHIP
EXHIBITOR'S
AWARD WINNERS
BOB AND TINA
HEMENWAY



OFFICIAL BALLOT

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY
PO BOX 18607
EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118-0607

To all members:

Please check off your vote and return this ballot by return mail to the address given above, no later than April 15, 1987.

ITEM ONE:

Acceptance of bylaw amendments as published in the Jan/Feb issue of the NFS Bulletin.

YES

NO

ITEM TWO:

Elect Brenda Geesey to fill the unexpired term of 2nd Vice-President.

YES

NO

Signed _____ mem # _____.

**PULL
THIS
BALLOT
OUT!**

**MAIL
TO
NFS.**

. . NFS 1986 SHOW RESULTS . .

RAP-UP

NOTE: NFS prints results of affiliated and non-affiliated show with NFS Panel Judges where points are awarded.

OCTOBER 18, 1986

CENTRAL OHIO BIRD FANCIERS

Panel Judge: Val Clear - 15 Exhibitors - 30 Entries

<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>NFS#</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Species</u>
Best	Chen Young	122	3	Strawberry Finch
2nd	Chester Marlatt			Red Siskin mule
3rd	Chen Young	122	1	Diamond Sparrow

NOVEMBER 15, 1986

AVIARY ASSOCIATION OF KERN COUNTY

Panel Judge: Hal M. Koontz - Exhibitors 9 - Entries 114

Best	Rose Mey			Owl Finch
2nd	Brian Mandarich	356	10	Crimson Pileated
3rd	Helen Caudle	241	9	Red Eared Waxbill
4th	Brian Mandarich	356	8	Zebra Finch
5th	Sandy Sutherland	359	7	China Spotted Dove
6th	Sandy Sutherland	359	6	White Hooded Nun
7th	Brian Mandarich	356	5	Purple Grenadier
8th	Brian Mandarich	356	4	Parrotfinch
9th	Jennifer Gagosian			Society Finch
10th	Sandy Sutherland	359	2	Rufous Weaver

NOVEMBER 22, 1986
MILWAUKEE BIRD SOCIETY

Panel Judge: A.E.Decoteau - 8 Exhibitors - 38 Entries

<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>NFS#</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Species</u>
Best	Frank Ornelas			Silverbill
2nd	Frank Ornelas			Owl Finch
3rd	Dusty Griffiths			Silverbill

NOVEMBER 29, 1986
NUCOLOR-CALIFORNIA

Panel Judge: Joe Krader - 5 Exhibitors - 21 Entries

Best	Brian Mandarich	356	3	Gouldian
2nd	Brian Mandarich	356	2	Zebra
3rd	Rose Wey			Strawberry

NOVEMBER 29, 1986
PANHANDLE AVICULTURE SOCIETY

Panel Judge: Juanita McLain - 10 Exhibitors - 38 Entries

Best	Jack Voelkel			Common Mynah
2nd	Norris Voudreau			Hybrid
3rd	E.J. Nagel	179	2	White Society
4th	E.J. Nagel	179	1	Owl Finch

JANUARY 10, 1987 - DOES NOT COUNT IN 1986 STANDINGS
INTERNATIONAL DOVE SOCIETY, HOUSTON TX.

Panel Judge: A.E.Decoteau - 17 Exhibitors - 145 Entries

Best	John Croce	556	14	Diamond S.W. Rump
2nd	John Croce	556	13	Diamond S.W. Rump
3rd	John Croce	556	12	Ringneck Pied
4th	John Croce	556	11	Ringneck Fawn
5th	Gregory Cole			Ringneck W.Type
6th	Howard Bass	559	9	Senegal Dove
7th	John Croce	556	8	Key West Quail Dove
8th	John Croce	556	7	Ringneck Rosy
9th	Ray Sullentrop			Ringneck Ivory
10th	John Croce	556	5	Diamond Yellow Wing

1986 CHAMPIONS

NAME	POINTS
Cecil Gunby	74
Brian Mandarich	67
Brenda Geesey	60
Steve Hoppin	60
Hal Koontz	56
Ann Hurst	48
Gene Miller	43
Robert Hemenway	41
Tom Rood	40

EXCELLENCE LEADERS

Steve Hoppin	100
Cecil Gunby	91
Robert Hemenway	73
Brian Mandarich	67
Brenda Geesey	60
Hal Koontz	56
Russ Armitage	55
Kenneth Akey	51
Gene Miller	51

The NFS points program has two levels of achievement. The first is the Championship Exhibitor Award. This award is awarded to exhibitors who attain 40 points in one year (50 during 1987). The other award is for Exhibitor's Excellence. This award is designed to measure a more sustained achievement record and is accumiative from year to year. To achieve this award an exhibitor must attain 200 points. To date no NFS member has achieved this level of performance.

... NFS PANEL OF JUDGES 1987...

CHARLES ANCHOR *
630 Lake Park Drive
Addison, IL 60101
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MARCO ARIDA
10480 S.W. 62nd
Miami, FL 33173
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KELLY S. DAHILL
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DR. A. E. DECOTEAU *
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Dunstable, MA 01827
(617) 649-6103

DAREN DECOTEAU
Groton St.
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(617) 649-6103

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Bakersfield, CA xxxxx
(805) 872-1063

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(714) 996-5538

BRIAN MANDERICH
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JUANITA MCLAIN
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Safety Harbor, FL 33572
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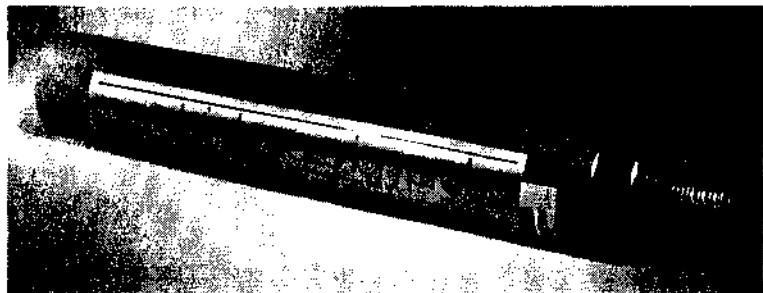
FOR INFORMATION ON THE NFS JUDGES PANEL: Write Panel Director A.E. Decoteau, Groton St. Dunstable, MA 01827.

NOTE: THE USE OF A NFS PANEL JUDGE WILL ALLOW NFS MEMBERS SHOWING AT YOUR SHOW TO GAIN NFS POINTS. ALL AFFILIATED SHOWS RECEIVE PATRONAGE AWARDS TO THE LEVEL OF THEIR AFFILIATION AGREEMENT.

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NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY EXHIBITION POINTS SCHEDULE

This points schedule will be used for shows judged by NFS Panel judges. NFS plaques are awarded only at affiliated shows. Points are awarded by the NFS Points Director. Appeals or questions are to be directed to NFS Points Chairman, Tony M. Patterson, PO Box 18607, East Hartford, CT 06118-0607. Please note the Total points needed for Championship and Excellence awards. Excellence awards are accumulative.

CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITOR
50 POINTS IN ONE YEAR

EXHIBITOR EXCELLENCE
200 ACCUMULATIVE POINTS

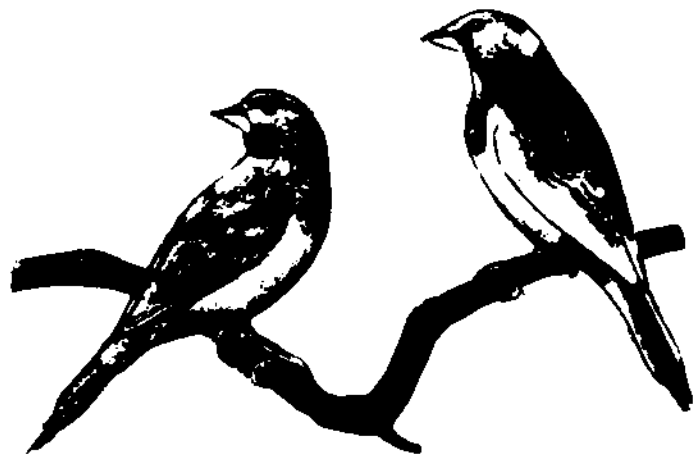
POINTS SCHEDULE

Birds in
Division 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
60-79	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	x	x	x
80-99	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	x	x
100-119	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	x
120-139	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
140-159	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
160-189	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
190-219	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
220-259	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
260-299	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
300 +	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7

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NFS Notes. . . .

The NFS March/April issue will include these among other items of interest.

Hal Koontz on Foster Parents.

Helen Holmes on Cats, Birds and Love.

"FINCHSAVE" breeding program update.

A Breath of Fresh Air in the Birdroom, Mike Harding.

1987 NFS Finch and Softbill Classifications.

News updates on the Great American and National Cage Bird Shows.

Getting Birds Ready for Show, Charlie Anchor.

What is a Dove Club, John Pire.

Bluebirds are Coming Back, John J. Doria.

Bird Legislation and You, Bill Parlee.

The Rufus-backed Mannikin, Stuart Borlase.

Yellow-beaks and other Unusual Zebras, C. H. Rogers.

. . . NFS CLASSIFIEDS. . .

LADY GOULDIANS - Normals, White-breasted, split/white. Red, Black, Yellow-headed. Connie Doyle, Hayward, CA (415) 581-9486.

INTERESTED in buying a female Melba Finch for breeding. Joseph Moreno, 40 North Kings Highway, Apt 11 E, St. Louis, MO 63108

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FINCH OR SOFTBILL experiences may be related to others by writing an article for the NFS Bulletin. Send to editor PO Box 18607, East Hartford, CT 06118-0607

BREEDING THE BLACK-CRESTED FINCH

(*Lophospingus pusillus*) by Maxilla Evans

In 1984, my beautiful pair of Black-crested finches (also called Pygmy Cardinals) lived peacefully in a 3' x 5' x 7' walk-in aviary. Their cage mates included Lady Gouldians, Cordon Bleus, Gold-breasteds, Red-eareds, and Orange-cheeked Finches. Whenever nesting would start I would find a broken egg on the floor. I thought this was an accident.

The Black-crested hen had constructed her nest in a canary nest pan placed high in the cage and concealed with artificial boxwood branches. She lined the nest neatly with the soft inner coat hair brushed from our Norwegian Elkhound. She sat closely -- I never saw her feed or drink -- for about two weeks and then began to carry egg food to the nest. The male showed much interest in the nesting, but did not participate, that I ever saw. In two weeks or less, I found a very immature baby on the floor and put it back in the nest, which contained no other eggs or babies.

The baby continued to show up on the floor, and even spent two nights cuddled under the Button Quail. Then I began to put it on the 2' high seed table in the cage center. All this was a classic example of being too helpful: on the table I saw the male abuse and pluck the baby even as he fed it. On the floor, the baby's mother fed it, the quail warmed it, and the father had ignored it. The baby died, and the hen's further nesting efforts produced nothing. I later concluded that one of two Gold-breasted also died of abuse, although I did not see it. Still I did not realize why those occasional eggs kept appearing on the floor.

In 1985, the Black-crested finches were turned loose downstairs in the American Singer canary breeding room which was 7' x 15' in hopes that more space and absence of other free-flying birds would calm the male's aggression. Nesting sites are arranged up high. In the Fall, courtship behavior was observed, but no nest was built. Perhaps the short days of Fall, and artificially lengthened days beginning in December, suitable for American Singer breeding, disturbed the finches' natural breeding cycle. They are native to the Southern Hemisphere where seasons are the reverse of ours. Or perhaps, I failed to supply enough protein in their diet.

In August of 1986, the Black-crested were back upstairs and installed in a triple canary breeding cage 30" long. The hen at once built her nest and soon there was an egg - - on the floor. The male was banished. In the next two days, the hen laid two more fertile eggs, and hatched two young from them. By this time, she was permitting me to raise her gently with a wooden spoon to inspect the eggs and babies, which were hatched with startlingly black skin.

The day they left the nest, they were panic-struck and pushed through the canary cage bars, hiding around the room in cracks I never knew existed. So the cage had to be covered with nylon net. Then they scrambled to hide beneath the wire floor. I thought my ingenuity had been taxed to the limit, but there was more to come. In less than two weeks, the hen was back working at the nest and neglecting the young. I read in an out-of-print English bird book that in the wild the male feeds the young for up to a month after the hen returns to her nest for the next clutch. So I cautiously put the father back into the cage, where he immediately mated with the hen, devoured meal worms, and fed them to the young. No plucking!

In a few days, I saw the first egg - - on the floor with a hole pecked in it. For three days I closed off the male and young each night from the nest site with a wire divider until the next two eggs were laid and removed each morning. After the third morning, when it was apparent there would be no more eggs, the hen and nest were closed off permanently with the solid partition in the right end of the cage.

The male fed the young well for three days; but on the morning of the fourth day, there were the tell-tale little gray feathers on the floor beneath the cage. As I watched, it became apparent that stuffing in meal worms and pulling out feather was his program.

The final solution was to have the male shut off in the left end of the tree-sectioned cage, the young in the center section with food, and me pulling the wire partition many times each day, permitting the male to feed the young and then hustling him back behind bars. After how long I don't know - - but it was long - - one morning the young hopped down to investigate the food dish, whereupon the male was permanently banished, and the babies were weaned.

The hen raided and fledged the two young in her second clutch, alone, and laid a third clutch of eggs which were removed, nest and all. Eggs and nest are preserved on the shelf, and, having proved that I can raise Black-crested finches, I expect never to do it again.

I gave the male to Ray Johnson (NFS panel judge, Georgia) and dreamed the other night that Ray oiled its feet, performed other conditioning and grooming techniques known only to show winners, and in 1987, the Black-crested and Ray won "Best Finch" in the Big Show. Next morning, recalling the dream, I thought, "I can dream a better fantasy than that. I will take one of the babies, by ten grown into a neat and stylish adult with imposing crest, to the show, and the baby and I together will win the blue ribbon. Ray Johnson and the baby's father will have to settle for second place."

This last scenario is my fantasy revenge for the time that Ray was judging a finch division, and turned to the audience and said the Violet-eared was probably best, but because of dirty feet would place second. My Violet-eared waxbill.

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OCTOBER 2-4, 1987. ATLANTA, GEORGIA - THE GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW.

The GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW will continue the tradition of it's wonderfully successful show held last year in Chicago. Last year Kaytee Products served the avicultural community well by acting as the catalyst and sponsor for this public orientated show. This year the Show management has been taken over by a Board of Directors, and is sponsored by Nature's Window. The show will be held at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, conveniently located at the Atlanta International Airport. The show will continue as a public event, and will feature of course, the cash award exhibition as well as public seminars and demonstrations. There will be a large and active commercial area and space allotted for Specialty club meetings and tables.

National Specialty clubs participating, include the African Lovebird Society, the American Budgerigar Society, the American Cockatiel Society, the National Cockatiel Society, the National Finch and Softbill Society, and the Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors. Canary Organizations will be announced shortly.

A large and exciting raffle has been planned by the GABS host club, the Georgia Cage Bird Society. The Show Managers are Harold Bowles and Raymond Johnson. Show Co-ordinator and Catalog editor is Bill Parlee. For info on commercial space contact Ray Johnson, 175 Stoneridge Way, Fayetteville, GA 30214, Site info: Harold Bowles, 3402 Williams St., Marietta, GA 30062, for Specialty Club or Catalog Ads contact: William Parlee, PO Box 18607, E. Hartford, CT 06118-0607.

NOVEMBER 20-22, 1987. COLUMBUS, OHIO - THE NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW.

This year the NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW travels to Columbus, Ohio and is hosted by the Central Ohio Bird Fanciers. The NCBS is the host to the National Finch and Softbill Society Annual Meeting and Exhibition.

This years judge for the Annual show is George Warren of Portsmouth, England. George is a well respected NFS Panel judge in this country as well as abroad. His sense of humor and judging critics are sure to make his judging informative as well as enjoyable.

As you know last year in St. Louis, Tom Rood of Shelbyville, IL took home the honors with a pair of Fawn Zebra Finches. This years National Show is expected to be even larger. We are looking for 300 finches and Softbills for the countries keenest competition. Plan on showing and joining in on the fun. Don't forget to attend the NFS National Meeting.

For Show membership (to win a Kellogg award you must be a member) contact Margie Magee, 25 West Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91860. For show information contact: David S. Guinn, RR #1 Box 238A, Yorktown, IN 47396.

HAL KOONTZ on Milk Feeding

HAL KOONTZ ON MILK FEEDING

As you know I write this Australian finch column for NFS and ask on a regular basis that questions be sent me regarding Australian Finches. This month's column features one of these questions and my answers. If you have questions, write me a 2604 Auburn Court, Bakersfield, CA 93306.

Our milk feeding question comes from Tim Morris an NFS member from Rockford, Illinois.

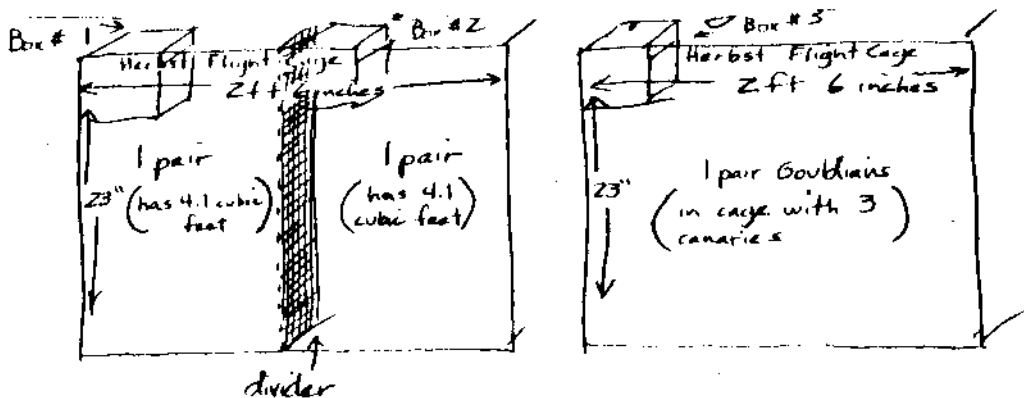
MORRIS: In the March 1985 issue of the National Cockatiel Society Bulletin, Mr. Michael Underwood states in a letter to the editor; that milk is bad news for cockatiels. Ex: Milk passes undigested from the large to small intestine where bacteria try to digest it causing gas and diarrhea. He further states that it its not digested by the large intestine because there is no lactose enzyme.

The droppings from my Gouldians have always seemed loser than my other birds, but they have never really seemed to be in poor health. Last spring I had 20 infertile eggs though, with no hatchings.

KOONTZ: When I first began in birds I followed a canary breeder's approach to nutrition which included milk on wheat bread or Mocha mix on wheat bread. I fed this form approximately one year no adverse consequences observed. I do not feed milk to my birds now. I discontinued feeding it primarily because I was afraid of the milk souring and because it was too much work for me.

Powdered milk will not face the spoilage problem and I do not believe there should be a problem in feeding it. I know that experienced canary breeders in this country and finch breeders in England do feed milk on wheat bread to their birds. I have no knowledge about the digestion of milk in birds. All I can tell you is that experienced breeders have fed milk without visible adverse effects. It is also possible that milk has no positive effect on birds. I noticed no decline in my birds when I discontinued feeding milk and have successfully raised birds for years without feeding it. I am sorry I do not have more scientific knowledge so I could better answer your question.

MORRIS: I am very concerned with the problem of infertility. I really want to raise Gouldians. I have recently tried Orlux "Universal Softbill" diet, and my birds did not seem interested, so I discontinued using it after three weeks. Orlux was also very expensive for such results. I have offered mealworms, but nobody wants any since they have not had them in the past. I am not keeping Society finches right now, partly because I would like to let my birds raise their own young. Below is a drawing of the cages I am using. The one on the left houses 2 pairs of Gouldians and the cage to the right one with three canaries.



unacceptable

better

RITTER: I have recently stopped using the powdered milk portion of the diet and continued to offer fresh millet spray continually. Can you offer any advise?

KDONTZ: Regarding the egg fertility problem, I think the double breeder cage that you are using as two cages is too small for Gouldians. They need more than fifteen inches of length to stay in breeding condition.

The cage used a one cage (30 inches in length) should be all right. Gouldians have a tendency to get fat when not made to exercise which can lead to sterility in the males. If they are not in good condition, I would put them in flights (say 8' long) until they got back in good condition. When I get infertile eggs, I generally blame the male. Determine whether he is getting too old to breed (5 years or older) or whether he is fat (yellowish instead of reddish abdomen under the feathers).

Incompatibility could also be a problem, especially if these birds bred with other mates before you bought them. I would try switching pairs around until I found a compatible pair. I would give each pair two or three months each time before switching mates again.

I hope this letter is of some assistance to you and that you are able to raise Gouldians in the future. They are truly one of the most beautiful finches on earth.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Veterinarian sources I have checked with see no problem in feeding milk to softbilled birds, as long as it, like fruit and greens, is in small amounts, as it can cause diarrhea. It is also an excellent source of calcium for egg production. I like Hal, however do not use it because of the bother and the spoilage problem. I increased my cage size by just 6" about 5 years ago and had better hatches with my Goulds.

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NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY BYLAWS

Adopted by the Board of Directors on Sunday, March 15, 1987 and replaces those adopted on November 10, 1983 and September 8, 1985. These bylaws have been adopted subject to membership approval which is to be placed in the minutes of the next regular Board Meeting and subject to correction of spelling and typographical errors. These bylaws are on file with the Secretary of States office in Hartford, Connecticut.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be known as the National Finch and Softbill Society, Inc. It shall also be known in a more casual manner as "NFS".

ARTICLE 3 - HOME OFFICE

The principle office of the society shall be 810 Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06118, or other address as the Board of Directors may from time to time select.

PARAGRAPH TWO.

First Vice-President: Shall fill the position of the President in absentia. Shall be first in succession to fill the position of the President should the President be unable to fill his term. The First Vice-President shall coordinate the activities of, and be responsible for, all Regional Vice-Presidents.

PARAGRAPH THREE.

Second Vice-President: Shall be second in line to the Presidency and first in line to succeed the First Vice-President.

The Second Vice President shall chair the Education Committee and coordinate the educational programs of the society. The Second Vice President shall also chair the Publishing Committee as well as sit on all Committees of the Society.

PARAGRAPH FOUR

The Third Vice President shall be in charge of "FINCHSAVE" the captive breeding program of the Society. He shall participate in the committee and guide the captains and breeders involved in the program.

PARAGRAPH FIVE

The Fourth Vice President must be a NFS Panel Judge as he/she shall serve as the Panel Director. The Fourth Vice President shall also chair the Research and Standards Committee and be in charge of Specie Classifications. He/she shall also be responsible for shows or exhibitions of the Society and member points arising therefrom.

PARAGRAPH TWO

Membership Committee: The Membership Committee shall conduct the membership affairs of the society, and shall from time to time conduct drives to increase the membership of the society. It shall promote the society at any event held nationally or locally in the Avicultural field unless such promotion should be contrary to the sponsoring organization's policy. The Membership Committee shall be chaired by the the Treasurer of the Society.

PARAGRAPH THREE

Show Committee: The Show Committee, chaired by the Fourth Vice-President shall be responsible for the annual show of the society. It shall be responsible for the day-to-day activities required to achieve said exhibition, and shall be immediately responsible to the Board of Directors.

PARAGRAPH FOUR

Publishing Committee: The Publishing Committee shall be responsible for all publications of this society. It shall produce and edit a bi-monthly bulletin for the membership of the society. It shall produce a Handbook or yearbook for the Society, and any other publications as directed by the Board of Directors.

PARAGRAPH SIX

Education Committee: This committee will assist its chairman, the Second Vice-President, in developing educational programs for the members of this society.

PARAGRAPH TEN

Finchsave Committee: The Finchsave Committee shall assist the Director of the program. It shall consist of members designated by the Director and the Board of Directors. This Committee shall help develop and preserve policy in regard to this captive breeding program. Only the Committee may request funds for the administration of the program. All funds used for the program must be authorized by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 14 - ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The bylaws hereby set forth in Articles 1 through 14 shall be considered the articles of incorporation of the National Finch and Softbill Society, Inc., and may not be changed in any way, subject to the terms of Article 13 paragraphs 1 through 4, as included herein.

Approval of Article ONE will mean your approval of the name change as is required in any other sentence of these bylaws. For the purposes of space any such other name change is not printed here in these proposed amendments.

NFS INDEX OF ARTICLES

The following is an index of all NFS articles, including important NFS business reports, Standards, and other reports of interest. This index covers all NFS issues inclusive of this issue.

SPECIES ARTICLES

- Bali Mynah Breeding, Know Your Softbills- P. Shaw, by D. Wetzel
Jan/Feb 85.
- Black-crested Finch, Breeding the- Maxilla Evans Jan/Feb 87.
- Blue-black Grassquit, Breeding the- Val Clear Jan/Feb 87.
- Blue Faced Parrot Finch, Breeding the- Hal Koontz May/June 86.
- Cordon Bleu, NFS Official Show Standard- May/June 86.
- Diamond Sparrow, Breeding the- Hal Koontz Sept/Oct 86.
- Cuban Melodious Finches- courtesy of San Diego Finch Society,
Apr 84.
- Goldfinches, Breeding- Joe Corrao Jan/Feb 86.
- Goldfinches, European- Nancy Hicks Sept/Oct 85.
- Gouldians, Breeding- William Parlee Apr 84.
- Gouldians, Breeding the Yellow- Terry Dunham July/Aug 85.
- Gouldian, Mutations- Terry Dunham July 84.
- Gouldian, Lady, Mutation Update- Terry Dunham- Sept/Oct 86.
- Gouldian, Lady, NFS Official Show Standard- Mar/Apr 86.
- Green Singing Finch, NFS Official Show Standard- May/June 86.
- Hawfinch, White Tailed- William Parlee Jan/Feb 86.
- Indian Soice Bird, The- Val Clear Sept/Oct 85.
- Java Rice Birds- Dan T. Outz Jan/Feb 86.
- Masked Grassfinch, Breeding the- Hal Koontz Mar/Apr 86.
- Owl Finches, Breeding the- William Parlee Oct 84.
- Plush Capped Jays, Know Your Softbills- P. Shaw, by P. Miller
Mar/Apr 85.
- Shafttail, Breeding the- Hal Koontz July/Aug 86.
- Society- Nat. Bengalese Fanciers Assoc. Question & Answers Mar/Apr 85.
- Society, NFS Official Show Standard- Oct 84.
- Society, Our Little Captain Marvel- Wanda Deacon Mar/Apr 85.
- Star Finches- William Parlee Jan/Feb 85.
- Stars, My- Ed Timmons May/June 85.
- Strawberry Finches- Val Clear Jan/Feb 85.
- Weaver Finches, African- Monica Russo May/June 85.
- Wydahs, Those Interesting- A. E. Decoteau Jan/Feb 86.
- Zebra, NFS Official Show Standard- Oct 84.
- Zebra Finch, The- Val Clear Nov/Dec 85.
- Zebra Finches: Part I- William Parlee May/June 86.
- Zebra Finches: Part II- William Parlee- July/Aug 86.
- Zebra Finches: Part III- William Parlee- Nov/Dec 86.

CARE AND MANAGEMENT ARTICLES

- Cage Vs. Aviary Breeding- Terry Dunham Jan/Feb 85.
Dietary Comments, General Nutrition- William Parlee Sept/Oct 85.
Dietary Comments, Millet Sprays- William Parlee Nov/Dec 85.
Dietary Comments, Vitamins & Other Supplementation- W. Parlee
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Handy Hints- (New Zealand Finch Society)- Sept/Oct 86.
Leg Banding Procedure- Sept/Oct 86.
Live Foods: To Feed or Not to Feed- Terry Dunham Sept/Oct 85.
Milk: To Feed or Not to Feed- Hal Kontz Jan/Feb 87.
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Poisonous Plants- Guy Hodges Nov/Dec 85.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

- AFA Fact Sheet, Possible laws to prohibit sale of wild birds-
Nov/Dec 85.
Best in Show Judgings: The Possibilities- W. Parlee Sept/Oct 86.
Cats, Kids, and Birds- Wanda Deacon Nov/dec 85.
Community Aviary, The- Norm Kopecky May/June 86.
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Welcome to the National Finch Society- Nancy Reed Apr 84.
Why Do Your Finches Do the Things They Do?- Wanda Deacon July/Aug 85.

NFS NEWS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARTICLES

- NFS Affiliation Agreement- Nov/Dec 85, Mar/Apr 86, Jan/Feb 87.
- NFS Annual Minutes- Chicago, 1984, Jan/Feb 85; San Antonio, 1985, Nov/Dec 85; St. Louis, 1986, Nov/Dec 86.
- NFS Attained Exhibitor Points- Jan/Feb 85; Jan/Feb 86; Jan/Feb 87.
- NFS By-Laws, as ammended- Sept/Oct 85, Jan/Feb 87.
- NFS Captive Breeding Program- Parlee, Koontz, Kopecky Nov/Dec 86.
- NFS Educational Puzzle- Mar/Apr 86.
- NFS Election Ballot- Sept/Oct 85.
- NFS Exhibitor Points Schedule for 1986- Nov/Dec 85; for 1987- Jan/Feb 87.
- NFS Index of Articles- Nancy Reed- Jan/Feb 87.
- NFS Judges Panel Handbook Supplement- Jan/Feb 86.
- NFS Membership Roster- Oct 84, Jan/Feb 85, Jan/Feb 86, Nov/Dec 86.
- NFS National Show 1984- T. Patterson Jan/Feb 85; 1986-Mar/Apr 86.
- NFS Regional Map- Nov/Dec 85, Mar/Apr 86, Jan/Feb 87.
- NFS Show Classifications for 1985- May/June 85, for 1986- May/June 86.
- NFS Show Results, 1984- Jan/Feb 85.
- NFS Show Results, 1985- Nov/Dec 85, Jan/Feb 86, Mar/Apr 86.
- NFS Show Results, 1986- Nov/Dec 86, Jan/Feb 87.



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