

# THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY



May  
June  
1991



GWNOREEN

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 Band Secretary..... (203) 464 6961 ....Denise Capazzi  
 Promotions Officer.... VOLUNTEER NEEDED !!!

Points Chairman..... (603) 878 4391 ....Dr. Al Decoteau  
 Membership Services... (717) 288 0529 ....Jerry McCawley  
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 Region 4-Mid-West.....(405) 382 7066 ....Gene Miller  
 Region 5-Mountain.....(719) 574 1594 ....Wantha Wigmore  
 Region 6-Pacific Coast.(916) 933 1619 ....Helen Caudle

Presidents' Message:

A Nominating Committee has been appointed! Bill Parlee has offered to chair this committee with Cecil Gunby and Stephen Hoppin assisting. Here is your chance to nominate yourself, your best friend or even your toughest competitor to a position on the ballot for the election coming up in January. The committee's goal is to have two nominees, (at least) for each position and their report is due at the Board of Directors meeting held in conjunction with the National Show in November. Please contact one of the committee members ASAP with your nominations. Phone numbers and addresses all listed on judges panel page. Recently I heard a concern from a Mid-west member who felt that not enough NFS Board positions were held by members from across the country....well...now is the time for YOU to take action to correct that if you feel that way! **THINK IT OVER AND CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER !**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

=====

NFS Panel of Judges, 1991.....	2
News & Notes.....	5
NFS Biographies, by Roddy Gabal.....	9
Affiliates, Delegates and Show Dates.....	11
WYANTK About Breeding Ducks, by Les Gibson.....	12
Proposed Redbilled Firefinch Standard.....	19
International Scientific Survey, by Les Gibson.....	21
Backyard Sanctuary, by Les Gibson.....	23
Portrait of a Family: The Honeycreepers, by Ubaldo Leli, M.D.....	24
Cage Breeding Gold-breasted Waxbills, Mary Gustafson.....	30
1991 Band Ordering Guide.....	34
1991 NFS Band Order Form.....	35
Treasurer's Report.....	39
Classified Ads.....	42
NFS Membership Application.....	45
FINCHSHOP.....	48

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### ARE YOU A BIT TIMID ABOUT WRITING ?

Jon Hoffman, our Second Vice President, and well-known BIRD TALK columnist, has volunteered to help you! In a letter to me Jon wrote, "since some people are shy about writing and aren't comfortable about their ability to write, perhaps they could submit the outline or sketch of what they want to say, and then I can put it into an edited-form of article for them. The procedure might be that a breeder sends me the information or calls me to discuss what they want to say. I then write it up and it goes back to the breeder for approval. The breeder makes notes of any clarifications or requests for changes and sends it back to me. I put it into a final form and send it to the bulletin editor for publication."

=====

This is a very generous offer and I hope many members who have hesitated to write for the bulletin will be contacting you soon Jon! Thanks. The Editor.  
Send your ideas to Jon at:

1226 S. 6th Street  
Louisville, KY 40203

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**NFS PANEL OF JUDGES 1991**

=====

CHARLES ANCHOR  
630 Lake Park Drive  
Addison, IL 60101  
(708) 543-3757

LAURA BENLEY  
Rt. 2 Box 1130  
Mounds, OK 74047  
(918) 366-7427

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M31 2NZ

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3402 Williams St.  
Marietta, GA 30062  
(404) 973-1790

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1001 Martin Drive  
Anderson, IN 46012  
(317) 642-0795

EARL COURTS  
1807 M. E. Colburn  
Lee's Summit, MO 64063  
(816) 524-0921

CLARENCE CULWELL  
Rt. 3, Box 61-7  
Springtown, TX 76082  
(817) 523-5568

DR. A. E. DECOTEAU  
P. O. BOX 369  
Groton, MA 01450  
(603) 878-4391  
Panel Chairman

DAREN DECOTEAU  
P. O. Box 369  
Groton, MA 01450  
(603) 878-4391

RODDY GABEL  
600 61st Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
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(404) 254-1261

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3836 Hidden Acres Circle  
No. Ft. Meyers, FL 33903  
(813) 997-2237

RAY JOHNSON  
175 Stoneridge Way  
Fayetteville, GA 30214  
(404) 461-8675

CLAYTON JONES  
P. O. Box 266  
Soquel, CA 95073  
(408) 728-8676

HAL M. KOONTZ  
2604 Auburn Ct.  
Bakersfield, CA 93306  
(805) 872-1063

JOSEPH KRADER  
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Yorba Linda, CA 92687  
(714) 996-5538

BRIAN MANDERICH  
4743 E. Hedges Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93703  
(209) 255-6508

JUANITA MC LAIN  
2052 N. Fayetteville St.  
Asheboro, NC 27203  
(919) 495-3075  
Judge Emeritus

CONRAD MEINERT  
1212 E. Cr. 300 S  
Warsaw, IN 46580  
(219) 269-2873

WILLIAM G. PARLEE  
P. O. Box 18607  
E. Hartford, CT 06118  
(203) 528-1458

MARTY VON RAESFELD  
1135 Chapman St.  
San Jose, CA 95126  
(408) 985-2712

GEORGE WARREN  
28 Chedworth Crescent  
Paulsgrove,  
Portsmouth, England  
PO6 4ET

PAUL S. WILLIAMS  
703 Donegal Drive  
Papillion, NE 68046  
(402) 339-8772

MARTNA WIGMORE  
5010 Mezel Circle  
Colo. Springs, CO 80916  
(719) 574-1594

NOTE: For more information on the  
Judges' Panel, contact Dr. Al  
Decoteau, at the address above.

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TO ALL CLUBS WHO WILL BE CONTACTING AN NFS PANEL JUDGE:

PLEASE...Be sure that you are using this current list. It is up to date.  
Sometimes addresses, phone numbers, etc. change and all other lists are now  
invalid. Thank you for your attention to this. Dr. Al Decoteau.

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WELL, HERE WE ARE JUST BEGINNING 1991..  
and already Toe Rood is busy working on our next International Exchange  
Program. I have a letter from him saying that he has corresponded with  
several of the clubs that we exchanged with in past years and they are  
pleased to be doing it again. Please help in this by sending "reconditionable"  
(Jon Hoffean won't like that word I made up!) trophies to Tou at:  
313 N. Broadway  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
(217) 774 5265

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Please remember that your "renewal date" is on your address label. Check it  
and please keep your membership and your correct address up to date. It'll  
save time and money if Russ doesn't have to send reminders to you.

RENEWALS AND ADDRESS CHANGES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

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Russell Araitage, JR.  
345 Boston Road  
Middletown, CT 06457

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## ABOUT FINCHSAVE

Because we have had no progress reports and have not received any replies to our correspondence, at the June meeting of the Board of Directors, the quorum present voted unanimously to remove the present FINCHSAVE Director. The President was directed to search for a successor. For the time being all correspondence about FINCHSAVE should be directed to the home office in York, PA. By the next Bulletin issue we hope to have good news about a new Director and a team of very enthusiastic people who have indicated an interest in helping this program get rolling. The Board thanks Jeff Brissette for his initial willingness to serve and regrets that he was unable to fulfill his tasks. We know this is a big job and we have high hopes that it will soon be operating as Kal, Bill, Val, Norm, Jeff and the rest of us want it to.

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## NFS NEWS & NOTES

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MAY - JUNE 1991

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The June Board of Directors meeting was held in Sturbridge, Massachusetts in conjunction with the New England Finch Fanciers second annual All-Bird symposium. A quorum of directors was present including Cecil Gunby, Dr. Al Decoteau, Denise Capazzi, Russ Armitage, Jr., Roger O'Connell, Bill Parlee, Jerry McCawley, Chris Voronovitch, Niki Spartzak, Brenda Geesey and members Tina and Marvin Yoder.

The Recording Secretary's report, consisting of the notes from the Spring Board Meeting, was approved as printed in the January/February issue.

Denise gave us another dazzling report on band sales! As of 5/28/91 18,160 bands have been sold to 181 various NFS members. Our total order of 20,850 in January is now depleted and Denise will reorder soon. Next January she'll split the major "start-up" order into two parts so that we don't have to pay the tariff charges that we had to pay this year (nearly \$80 - that put a dent in the profits!). Denise handles this very detailed job extremely well. I've never heard one complaint about her efficiency. Congratulations and thanks.

Al reported that our Corresponding Secretary had written a number of letters for him in the past months, primarily to judges about their reports.

Russ gave the treasurer's report and it's printed in this issue. The bank balance looks pretty good and the bulletin account is being fed regularly from the main account. Russ also makes direct deposits into the bulk mail account. He's doing his usual fine job. I'm sure most of you are aware that he has been keeping these records since the inception of the Society and can provide history along with detailed financial statements. Very impressive and I'm very grateful to be able to rely on him.

He continued with the Membership Services and Affiliation Directors reports. We now have 889 members and have received re-affiliations from 65 clubs. The affiliation deadline is June 30th and Russ is hoping that the rest come in before that. We have 4 international affiliates and 2 new Canadian clubs. A few clubs haven't realized that we increased the prices of affiliations and Russ will send certified letters to them requesting that they pay the additional fee. The Board decided to withhold the Unflighted Rosettes if the additional fees are not paid.

Dr. Al Decoteau's reports began with the Standards Committees. Currently there are four committees in operation. The Fire Finch Committee, chaired by Roddy Gabel with Martha Wignore, Jeff Brissette and Dennis Lewis has produced a first draft which is printed in this issue. The Pekin Robin Committee, chaired by Marty von Roesfeld with Ken Gunby, Clayton Jones and

## NEWS & NOTES

Brenda Geesey and the Spice Finch/Bronze Wing Mannikin Committee, chaired by Kris Kroner with Marvin Yoder and others are working on their respective presentations. The first draft of the Star Finch Standard has been sent back to the committee for revision and clarification.

Al reported that letters had been sent to judges asking for reports of shows they would be judging in 1991. All but two have responded. These two judges were sent letters notifying them that because this was a continuing problem they would be suspended for one year beginning January 1992. The Board decided that any judge who accepts a judging assignment while under suspension will be suspended permanently.

Clubs are reminded to use the Judges Panel list in the most recent Bulletin issue to contact judges.

Apprentices that have been inactive for a year have now been removed from the list according to Al. He has one written test scheduled and two more tentative for this season.

Al is also Points director and is confident that this is the year NFS will have it's first Champion Bird. A bird needs to accumulate 50 points in it's show career to become a champion and Tom Rood has two in the high 40's in points now. As seen on the list published in the January/February issue some other exhibitors are not far behind. Perhaps more than one Champion in 1991? The "Honor Roll" of Exhibitors of Excellence will be published in this issue and will list all members who are now "Exhibitors of Excellence." Al deserves a lot of credit for his hard work. Much of what he does involves cross-checking and proof-reading reports and he is very good at it. He also wins friends for NFS and keep things smooth with his tact and diplomacy.

Jerry McCawley is handling FINCHSHOP efficiently and reports that the newest merchandise (the Shafttail t-shirts, the Gouldian pin and the water bottles) are selling quite well. Jerry puts in a lot of time behind the table at the various annual functions and his enthusiasm certainly is a big help to NFS. Thanks Jerry. Clubs may now order the Eric Peake lithograph, "The Diamond Sparrow" to raffle at shows etc. to raise money. Contact Jerry for details.

The FINCHSAVE Director has not submitted any reports or answered any correspondence. The Board voted unanimously to remove the current director and ordered the President to search for a new director. For the time being, all correspondence should be directed to the home office in York, PA. The Board sincerely regrets the problems with this valuable program and hopes that this painful step is the beginning of a better system.

Chris Voronovitch still has her sense of humor intact in her second year as Awards Director. This is a complicated job and she's doing very well. This year we made the cut-off date for affiliations 30 days later than

continued on page 36





**October 4 & 5, 1991**  
**in beautiful Clearwater, Florida**

*Hosted by: Sun Coast Avian Society, Tampa, Florida*

**JUDGES:**

- Parrots - Daren Decoteau
- Finches & Softbills - Stephen Hoppin
- Budgerigars - Ermafern Collins
- Love Birds - Lee Horton
- NCS Cockatiels - Glen Gibson
- Lipochrome Canaries - TBA
- Melanin Canaries - Ignacio Perea
- Type Canaries - Ray Rudisill
- ACS Cockatiels - Bert McAulay

**CASH PRIZES!**

\* Cash prizes available to Great American Bird Show members

**\$1000 Best in Show**  
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**WHO TO CONTACT:**

**HOTEL:** Belleview Mide

Group Reservations Desk  
 25 Belleview Blvd.  
 Clearwater, FL 34616  
 1-800-237-8947  
 In FL: 1-800-382-8072

**AIRPORT SHUTTLE:**

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 800-329-7780  
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**GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW  
 MEMBERSHIPS:**

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 449 W. Douglas Av.  
 El Cajon, CA 92020  
 619-442-1164

**RATES:** \$79 per night;

2 night minimum.  
 Reservations must be made  
 by Sept. 1, 1991.  
 Please book early.

**SHOW ENTRY:**

Dave Dollar  
 P.O. Box 1179  
 Palm Harbor, FL 34682  
 813-988-3893

**COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS  
 & GENERAL QUESTIONS:**

Jean Strub  
 Kaytee Customer Service  
 P.O. Box 230  
 Chilton, WI 53014  
 1-800-889-9680

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**CATALOG ADS:**

Delphis Distler  
 P.O. Box 1846  
 Pinellas Park, FL 34664-1846  
 813-626-8625

**\* GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW, INC. IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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is toxic to canaries. He even composed pamphlets on bird care that were distributed to customers at the pet shop.

As time passed, Jon left the store, only to work in another pet shop, then in a clothing store, and as a veterinary technician and bookkeeper. During this time he had established a breeding collection of hookbills, canaries, and finches. After accepting a teaching position at Indiana University in Bloomington, Jon was temporarily birdless, but eventually returned to finches as well as a few small hookbills (kakarikis and cockatiels).

Jon was the first person to ever take the NFS apprentice judge's exam. He claims to have had the longest apprenticeship in history, but is now one of our panel judges, and he is also a judge for the Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors. [Rumor has it that he is also a competent canary judge.-R.G.]

In addition to being a judge, Jon is 2nd Vice President of NFS and is active in a variety of society activities. He has assisted in revising the standards for zebra finches (he caught an error in the standard for penguin zebras that had the color pattern upside-down on the birds!) and has been involved in rewriting the NFS Handbook. Jon has some great ideas for producing educational materials for NFS, and I'm sure we'll benefit from the fruits of his labors for a long time to come!

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5/6 '92

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**NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY  
AFFILIATES, DELEGATES AND SHOW DATES**

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THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETYS' NATIONAL SHOW: November 14 - 17.  
In conjunction with the 43rd National Cage-Bird Exhibition, hosted by the  
Mid-West Cage Bird Club at the Hyatt Regency Hotel - Dearborn, Michigan.  
NFS Panel Judge: Earl Courts. For information call : Patrick Vance,  
(313) 443 0643. For hotel reservations: (313) 593 1234.

**ALABAMA**

Central Alabama Avicultural Society; Danny Hall, (205) 491 B603  
Show: August 30 - September 1, 1991.

Heart of Dixie Canary Club; Irene Miller, (205) 649 4524  
Show: October 19, 1991 Mobile, AL Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

**CALIFORNIA**

Aviary Assn. of Kern Co.; Hal Koontz, (805) B72 1063  
Show: December 7, 1991 Kern, CA Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

Capitol City Bird Society; Helen Caudle, (916) 933 1619  
Show: October 19 - 20, 1991 Roseville, CA

Finch Society of San Diego County; Sharon Russell, (619) 274 2095

Fresno Canary and Finch Society; Richard Lujan, (408) 984 1453  
Show: October 25 to 27, 1991 Fresno, CA Panel Judge: Joe Krader

Golden Gate Avian Society; Mary Payne, (415) 449 B719  
Show: November 15 to 17, 1991 Tracy, CA Panel Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld

San Diego Bird Show, Inc.; Janice Pritchard, (619) 442 1164  
Show: November 2 & 3, 1991 Del Mar, CA Panel Judge: Brian Binns

South Bay Bird Club; Gregory Aden, (213) 379 2416  
Show: October 19, 1991 Lawndale, CA Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

**COLORADO**

Colorado Cage Bird Association; Martha Wigmore, (719) 574 1594  
Regional Show: Oct. 19, 1991 Colorado Springs, CO Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture; Donald Locke, Jr. (303) 289 5721  
Show: November 1 - 3, 1991 Denver, CO Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld

## CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture; Chris Voronovitch, (203) 649 8220  
Show: October 26, 1991 Day's Inn, Meriden, CT Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

New England Finch Fanciers; Russell Armitage, Jr., (203) 346 5875  
Show: November 30, 1991 East Hartford, CT Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

## FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida; Len Brover (305) 931 3468  
Regional Show: August 24, 1991 Ft. Lauderdale Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

Exotic Bird Club of Florida; Nalt Perry, (407) 632 7494  
Show: November 9, 1991 Indiatlantic, FL Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show; Claire Reao, (813) 482 5352

Gold Coast All Bird Club; Cynthia Patten, (407) 439 6582  
Show: October 29, 1991 Ft. Lauderdale, FL Panel Judge: George Warren

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.; Lillian Mount, (813) 886 6492  
Show: September 15, 1991 Tampa, FL Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Jacksonville Cage Bird Assn.; Jerri Weisenfeld, (904) 731 7173  
Show: September 21, 1991 Jacksonville, FL Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Suncoast Avian Society; Joe Ventimiglia, (813) 392 9391  
Hosting the KAYTEE GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW, October 4th and 5th, 1991  
Bellevue Nido Resort Hotel, Clearwater, FL Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society; Dale Laird, (407) 657 7989  
Show: October 12, 1991 Orlando, FL Panel Judge: William Parlee

## GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society; Cecil Gunby, (404) 254 1261  
Show: November 2, 1991 Atlanta, GA Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

## HAWAII

Honolulu Canary and Finch Club; Cynthia Pregana, (808) 456 3793  
Show: Honolulu, HI Panel Judge: Brian Binns

## ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club; Jane Nuscato, (708) 305 9043  
Show: November 2, 1991 Rolling Meadow, IL Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

Illini Bird Fanciers; Tom Rood, (217) 774 5265

Show: May 18, 1991 Shelbyville, IL Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

National Institute Red-Orange Canaries; Catherine Niesegele, (219) 922 1146

Show: November 29 - December 1, 1991 Elk Grove Village, IL

Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

Springfield Pet Bird Club; Robert Huff, (217) 522 4164

Show: September 14, 1991 Springfield, IL Panel Judge: Dr. Val Clear

#### INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciers; Dr. Val Clear, (317) 642 0795

Show: October 12, 1991 Ft. Wayne, IN Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

West Central Indiana; Tom Rood, (217) 774 5265

Show: August 10, 1991 Terre Haute, IN Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

#### IDAHO

Mid-America Cage Bird Society; Rhoda Shirley, (515) 243 2255

Show: October 5, 1991 Des Moines, IA Panel Judge: Earl Courts

#### KANSAS

Kansas Avicultural Society; Marilyn Galvan, (316) 524 8128

Show: October 12, 1991 Wichita, KS Panel Judge: Paul Williaes

#### KENTUCKY

Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society; Mac Lewis, (502) 695 5168

#### LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club; Evon Kruse, (504) 641 5510

Show: October 18 - 20, 1991 New Orleans, LA Panel Judge: Williae Parlee

#### MARYLAND

Baltierre Bird Fanciers; Deb Clark, (301) 242 8471

Show: October 19, 1991 Towson, MD Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

Maryland Cage Bird Association; Theresa Brown, (301) 735 7662

Show: September 28, 1991 Timonium, MD Panel Judge: Roddy Gable

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association; Kim Rendigs, (508) 540 2248

Regional Show: October 19, 1991 Mansfield, MA Panel Judge: Roddy Gable

Boston Society For Aviculture; Denise Cabral, (508) 586 3293

## MICHIGAN

Mid-Michigan Bird Club; Mary Terwilliger, (517) 463 5695

Mid-West Cage Bird Club; Patrick Vance, (313) 443 0643

Show: Hosting the National, November 14-16, 1991 Panel Judge: Earl Courts

Motor City Bird Breeders; Patrick Vance, (313) 443 0643

Regional Show: Oct. 26 & 27, 1991 Detroit, MI Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders; Bro. Anthony Michael, F.S.D.,  
(616) 245 0049. Show: Oct. 19, 1991 Westland, MI Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

## MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society; Chris Hunsberger, (816) 461 5582

Show: October 19, 1991 Kansas City, MO Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Heartland Canary and Finch Club; Earl Courts, (816) 524 0921

Show: October 26, 1991 Lawrence, KS Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Missouri Cage Bird Association; Dennis Burhans, (314) 441 8525

Show: November 2, 1991 Eureka, MO Panel Judge: Jon Hoffaen

## NEBRASKA

Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society; Elbert Traylor, (402) 435 7886

Show: September 28, 1991 Omaha, KS Panel Judge: Jon Hoffaen

## NEW JERSEY

South Jersey Bird Club; Raymond Passaro, (201) 291 9224

Show: October 5, 1991 Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society; Larry DeLorenzo, (508) 927 5494

Show: September 21, 1991 Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

New Hampshire Avicultural Society; Larry DeLorenzo, (508) 927 5494

Show: October 12, 1991 Hudson, NH Panel Judge: Jon Hoffaen

## NEW YORK

Astoria Bird Club; Leslie Leber, (516) 431 9267

Show: November 2, 1991 Hempstead, NY Non-Panel Judge

Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association; Rena Rouse, (315) 252 7673

Show: September 21, 1991 Waterloo, NY Panel Judge: Dr. Val Clear

Rochester Cage Bird Club; Jeanne Murphy, (716) 288 2145  
Show: November 9, 1991 Rochester, NY Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

#### NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte Metrolina Cage Bird Society; Wanda McCormick, (704) 825 1972  
Show: September 7 & 8, 1991 Hosting the "Carolina Classic Old Show", co-hosted by the South Carolina Bird Buddies and the Palmetto (S.C.) Bird Club. Charlotte, NC Panel Judges: Sept. 7, Conrad Meinert and Sept. 8, Earl Courts.

#### OHIO

Cleveland Cage Bird Society; Maureen Nehozonek, (216) 234 7674  
Show: October 12, 1991 Parma, OH Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

#### OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma; Gene Miller, (405) 382 7066  
Show: September 28, 1991 Oklahoma City, OK Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

OKLAHOMA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY; Laura Bewley, (918) 369 2580  
Show: October 26, 1991 Tulsa, OK Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society; Jerry McCawley, (717) 288 0529  
Show: October 26, 1991 Camp Hill, PA Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Chester County Bird Breeders; Kris Kroner, (215) 628 4143  
Show: September 14, 1991 King of Prussia, PA Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

Delaware Valley Bird Club; Kris Kroner, (215) 628 4143  
Show: November 9, 1991 Montgomery County, PA Panel Judge: Gerald D'Agata

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society; Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 323 7235  
Show: November 2, 1991 Washington, PA Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

Philadelphia Avicultural Society; Rick Szlachta, (215) 635 2097  
Show: November 23, 1991 Intercourse, PA Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Cage Bird Club; Earl Owens, (803) 855 3193  
South Carolina Bird Buddies; Earl Owens, (803) 855 3193  
Show: September 7 & 8, 1991 Charlotte, NC Co-hosts of "Carolina Classic" w/ Charlotte Metrolina (N.C.). Panel Judges: September 7, Conrad Meinert; September 8, Earl Courts.



## TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club; Eva Duffey, (615) 361 5949

Show: October 26, 1991 Nashville, TN Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

## TEXAS

Bay Area Cockatiel & Cage Bird Club; Karol Deen, (409) 737 1557

Show: September 7, 1991 Galveston, TX Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

Capital City Cage Bird Club; Sarah Goodrich, (817) 491 2535

Show: October 12, 1991 Austin, TX Panel Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld

Fort North Bird Club; Clarence Culwell, (817) 523 5568

Show: October 5 & 6, 1991 Fort Worth, TX Panel Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Assn; Clarence Culwell, (817) 523 5568

Show: November 1 & 2, 1991 Killeen, TX Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

West Wings of Houston; Dan Easter, (713) 855 7161

Regional Show: September 21, 1991 Houston, TX Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

## VIRGINIA

Peninsula Cage Bird Society; Linda Oja, (804) 874 8581

Show: September 21, 1991 Newport News, VA Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

## WASHINGTON

Northwest Exotic Bird Society; Nancy White, (206) 523 3602

## WISCONSIN

Badger Canary Club; Patrice Ripple, (414) 527 1980

Show: October 26, 1991 Oak Creek, WI Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Milwaukee Bird Society, Ltd.; Sue Feldstein,

Show: October 5, 1991 Milwaukee, WI Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

## INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society of Canada; John Bennett (416) 473 5612

Show: September 21, 1991 Toronto, Canada Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

CANADIAN NATIONAL SHOW Pickering, Ontario

Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario; Vincent Noase, (416) 723 1978

Show: September 27 - 29, 1991 Panel Judge: Millian Parlee

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society; Alfred Mion, (519) 948 6398

Show: October 19 & 20, 1991 Non-Panel Judge: John Bennett

New Zealand Finch Breeders; New Zealand, Mrs. E. M. Foster

Queensland Finch Society; Queensland, Australia Gavin Dietz

Zebra Finch Society, England; Brian Binns, Manchester, England

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**TO ALL DELEGATES AND JUDGES:** Please read the list carefully!! If you see errors or omissions please call me at (717) 854 2604 immediately!

Thanks, Brenda.

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**W.Y.A.W.T.K. ABOUT BREEDING DUCKS...  
BUT W.A.T.A.**

**by Les Gibson**

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To breed or not to breed? That is the question. Actually, it's a silly question. Breeding is what it's all about. I don't understand those people (mainly parrotty folks) who keep a single bird in enforced celibacy all of it's life - can you imagine yourself in such circumstances?

There is in fact a whole bird club in these parts that is devoted to this sort of thing. They all want to get on TV with Polly, (who has a vocabulary better than the average school drop-out) and become rich and famous. Being in the hobby for the money is strictly for the birds - I prefer the true amateur status.

Breeding birds, to some people (too many) is a rather haphazard process. Too often we hear "I only knew they were nesting when a chick fell out of the nest-box and I stood on it." They go about it in an unscientific way, like the following manner of breeding ducks.

- Step 1. Put a bucket of water in a large cage.
2. Throw in a couple of ducks. Hope they are of opposite sexes.
3. Throw in large chunks of stale bread at irregular intervals of from 8 hours to 3 weeks.
4. Add some straw that has been soaked long enough to go moldy.
5. Insh'allah (as they say in Baghdad), in six months you should have some ducklings, limping from malnutrition and with quacking coughs due to the moldy straw.

As indicated above, domesticated birds (and I include all the Australian finches, cockatiels etc.) are relatively easy to deal with, except possibly for Gouldians. Breeding them has little challenge. So why not set a higher goal? Breed something unknown - breed a "world first."

One of the secrets of success here and one of the ways to avoid the above system is by the study of ethology. Find a little-known species and study its habits in the wild. There are any number of esoteric books to aid you, like Skutch's 'Birds of Central America' or Meinertzhagens's 'Birds of Arabia'. Once you know how the species survives on that patch of rock, sand and oil, you'll be ready to try a pair in your simulated "Desert Storm Aviary". Throw in some old howitzer shell casings for authenticity - some birds will nest in them.

Of course, the next problem is where to get the more unusual species. If anyone has any ideas, please write.

P.S. I am interested in begging, borrowing, stealing or, as a last resort, buying pairs of softbills.

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PROPOSED RED-BILLED FIREFINCH STANDARD

*Lagonosticta senegala*

Submitted for the consideration of the membership by the committee. Comments and constructive criticism should be directed to:

Dr. Al Decoteau

P. O. Box 369, Groton, MA 01450

CONFORMATION:	50 points
CONDITION:	20 points
COLOR AND MARKINGS:	20 points
DEPORTMENT AND STANCE:	10 points

CONFORMATION: 50 points.

Head and body, 20 points. The head should be round from the back of the head to the nape of the neck. The neck should flow smoothly into the back, which should be straight to the tail. Birds should have good substance, with a somewhat rounded chest, but not pouty or fat. A nipped neck or gawky appearance should be faulted. Eye should be centered front to back and slightly above the midline of the beak. The beak should be conical and slender. Overall length, 3 1/2 inches, including tail.

Tail, 15 points. The tail should continue on a straight line with the topline of the bird -- "sky-tail" or a droopy tail should be penalized. The length of the tail should be about 1 1/4 inches and it should be compact and slightly rounded.

Wings, 15 points. Wings should be carried close to the body and meet evenly over the back, with the tips of the primaries just meeting over the rump at the base of the tail. Droopy or "scissored" wings are a fault.

CONDITION: 20 points.

Missing digits, feathers, eyes, etc. are faults. Feathers should fit smoothly without roughness or unevenness. There should be no gaps in the plumage, especially down the midline of the chest or around the legs.

COLOR AND MARKINGS: 20 points.

Beak and legs, 5 points. Beak, red or pink (may be slightly paler in females) with the black lines along the midline of the top and lower mandibles. Legs, brown to brownish-flesh colored.

Plumage, eye, and eye ring, 15 points. MALE - Ruddy to bright red on the forehead and hind neck, less bright on the hind crown and nape. Face, sides

of neck, chest, and most of underparts variable shades of rosy red, purplish red, dull scarlet, or an intermediate shade. Intensity of the red is important in comparisons of birds on the show bench. Some chest feathers have small white dots, variable in number, singly or in pairs on individual feathers. Other plumage brown, darker on wings with some red along fringes of wing coverts. Rump, upper tail coverts, and central tail feathers have varying shades of red along webbing. Outer tail feathers, dull brown, others dull black. Area around vent and under tail buffish brown. Eye, iris brown to brownish red. Old birds (2 or more years) should have a bright yellow, conspicuous eye ring. FEMALE - Red mark from base of lower mandible to or over the eye. Rump, upper tail coverts, and tail similar to male; otherwise, uniform buffish to greyish brown, but with larger and more numerous white spots than males. Rosy or reddish suffusion may appear in areas that are red in the male. Eye ring paler, can be whitish or silvery.

DEPORTMENT AND STANCE: 10 points.

Stance should be about 30° above the horizontal. A horizontal posture or roosting is faulted, as is a too-erect stance. Firefinches should be calm, but not lethargic, and pairs should be attentive to one another if shown together.

Respectfully submitted by the Redbilled Firefinch Standard Committee.

Roddy Gabel, Chairman  
Nartha Wigmore, Participating Panel Judge  
Dennis Lewis  
Jeff Brissette.

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I APOLOGIZE...WITH GREAT PLEASURE!!!

Tina and Marvin Yoder did reach the 200 point goal, indeed they surpassed it by one point!! Their names should have been on the page with the other "Exhibitors of Excellence" in the last issue. I am very sorry that the correct information didn't reach me in time. Please accept my apology and the congratulations of all NFS members. Not just for the award but for the brand-new baby boy too!!

The Editor.

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# INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SURVEY

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by Les Gibson

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Here is a chance for our readers to participate in an "International Scientific survey". It is international because I am a foreigner. It is probably scientific because it is about sexing Colinus/Mousebirds. No one could argue about it being a survey.

Blue-naped Mousebirds can be sexed by their eyes! The cock has a plain dark brown eye while the hen has an obvious greyish iris which makes the eye look smaller. They must be examined in good light, e.g. sunlight. I have checked a few birds of two other species, the Speckled and the White-headed and found no difference in the eyes.

Three other species (there are only six) remain to be checked, the Red-faced (*C. indicus*) which I suspect will have sexable eyes, the White-backed (*C. Collus*) which I suspect won't, and the Red-backed, (*C. castanotus*), which could go either way.

With practice, Mousebirds can be sexed just by looking at them. It is much easier if the birds are hand-held in twos and compared. The hen has a distinct head and legs, although she may actually be heavier than the cock.

So if anybody keeps any of the above or knows of any in a zoo etc., please try and get a comparison done and report on any eye differences and also on the sex, if known.

At least we know that Ken Archer has Mousebirds, although I think it is a fair bet that he may have two hens. He said they were both on the nest and in my experience, males never sit on the nest. We hope they are a pair and that they raise a nest and that he'll give us a report and tell us about their eyes.

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Editor's note: The more correspondence I get from Les the more I appreciate his wealth of experience. Thanks again Les, you are a great source of information and I appreciate you being willing to share it!

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All articles, anecdotes, artwork,  
ads and other additions to the  
bulletin should be sent to:

NFS Editor, Brenda Geesey

125 W. Jackson Street  
York, PA 17403-2265

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## BACKYARD SANCTUARY

by Les Gibson

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Did you know that you can have your yard declared an "Urban Wildlife Sanctuary"? This useful piece of information (spotted in the AMERICAN AIRLINER magazine by alert reader and frequent flier, Melba Finch of Entebbe) is great news for the anti-lawn-moving fraternity, of which I am an honorary life member. It seems that if your yard does not shape up, but is allowed to run wild, the (God-bless-em) National Institute for Urban Wildlife, Columbia, MD (phone (301) 596 3311) will, at your request, clear a hole in the brush and stick in a sign declaring the place a refuge.

I could not believe my luck when I heard this and lost no time in pointing out to my spouse (Val - "Vee haf vays of making you mov, you know" - Kyrie) the advantages of not having to dispose of tons of tree-trimmings every few months and of having a home for the buffalo to roam in the uncut prairie out back.

For \$3 the N.I.U.W. will send you a booklet telling you what you can stop doing in the way of garden chores. They will also tell you what to do to make the yard attractive to a host of critters. The first thing, they say, is to supply permanent water, and they recommend a small pond. Frogs will appear from nowhere and move into the latter.

Actually, I have been doing the above sort of thing for years - it's just great that it is now "official". Even a simple bird-bath, kept regularly filled, summer and winter, will attract and keep many different species. A bath was kept going in our African garden through five years of drought and many birds took up residence and more than a dozen species nested because of this. Even the little skinks learned to crawl up the pedestal for a drink.

Just as important in freezing winters as in drought areas, a bird bath can save birds from dying of thirst during a spell of sub-zero weather, which, in spite of the propaganda to the contrary here in the Northwest, has hit Portland Oregon for two of the three winters that I have been here. You have to pour in hot water several times a day but the birds soon catch on and queue up before it freezes again.

Other features recommended by the NIUW are at least a patch of long grass, and a big compost heap. I am already out in front as I keep half the back yard under very long grass. This is ideal for supplying spiders and grasshoppers for softbill chicks, and also produces clouds of little burnt-orange skipper butterflies who breed somewhere in the clumps.

Assorted heaps of garden, kitchen and dog refuse are spotted around the yard and inside the large aviary. These serve several useful purposes. With a little mid-summer hosing, they provide a year-round supply of

earthworms - essential for raising Blackbirds, Thrushes, Shammas, Babblers, etc. They also supply the compost needed for growing the numerous Rhododendrons in the garden, and they are a fun habitat and egg-repository for a pair of box turtles. The heaps also provide a home for various species of salamanders which pass through these premisses. In the winter, the compost-heaps are instrumental to the survival of several insectivorous birds.

Another useful thing that everyone should do is to put up nest boxes. These can be as rough as you like, or even made from cardboard, if they can be put under an overhang. I have actually used cardboard boxes a lot for breeding Shammas and various species of finches. Common sparrows cannot enter a hole that is only 1 1/16" in diameter, and this will shelter Tits and Wrens. A local Wren explosion resulted from putting up three such boxes, showing that they need only suitable nest-sites. Larger boxes (with bigger holes) will attract Martins, Swallows, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, etc. and, unfortunately, Starlings as well as Sparrows. These last two aggressive nuisances can be easily be nabbed. Hold a clear plastic bag around the entrance-hole and bang the box. How you dispose of them is best left to the imagination (hint: they are not protected species). It is useless to let them go right there, for they will be back in the box before you get into the house.

Other animals that ventured into this tiny wilderness, eight miles from the city center, included a pair of raccoons, a steady but now diminishing stream of opossums, and assorted mice, both field and house varieties. These are not quite as exotic as the creatures in the African garden, but that is another story.

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Les's additional notes say he is working on a long version of "Birds etc. in a Natal Garden" and that he has European Blackbird eggs and Blue Rock Thrushes building a nest. Personally, I'm waiting to see if there is an anti-lawn-moving sorority. I WANT TO JOIN!!  
The Editor.  
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# PORTRAIT OF A FAMILY: THE HONEYCREEPERS

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by Ubaldo Leli, M.D.

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Scientifically no such thing as a honeycreeper exists. This common and incorrect name, given by aviculturists to this heterogeneous group of birds, refers to their preference for nectar and for sugary foods over items such as fruit or nutritious high-protein insectile mixtures.

In these notes, I will not go into detail concerning the classification of these birds but, instead, I will cover some practical avicultural aspects of their keeping.

The honeycreepers, also called sugarbirds or flying-flowers (in the Victorian period), are small, brightly-colored birds of the South American rainforests. These birds are biologically closest to tanagers. Some authorities consider them a highly specialized tanager sub-group. They belong to the large family Passerinae, which contains the most highly evolved birds.

I will only describe the most commonly available species: the red-legged, the yellow-legged and the green honeycreepers. You can find better descriptions of these birds in the Bates and Busenbark's, Frank Woolham and Dunning books.<sup>1</sup> However, beware of the advice that all these books give on keeping honeycreepers: it is often outdated.

The yellow-legged and the red-legged honeycreepers are very similar in size and shape. They are about 4.5 inches in length and are stocky little birds with a short tail. Their beak is thin, curved and elongated, with the yellow-legged honeycreeper having a slightly thinner bill. The males are entirely blue with black primaries and a black mask. The yellow-legged honeycreeper has also a black bib, and the red-legged has black on the nape and on the tail. However, the shade of blue is different in the two species. The yellow-legged honeycreeper has a deeper shade of blue, but lacks the nearly turquoise hood of the red-legged. The legs are the most distinctive characteristics of the two birds, with the yellow-legged honeycreeper having legs of a yellow varying from lemon to a light shade of greenish imperial

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<sup>1</sup> Bates, H., and Busenbark, R., *Finches and Soft-billed Birds*. TFW Publications, Neptune City, NJ, 1970, pp. 406-409.

Dunning, J. S., *South American Birds. A Photographic Aid to Identification*. Narrowwood Books, Newton Square, PA, 1987 pp. 250-254.

Woolham, F., *Aviary Birds in Colour*. Pitman Publishing, New York, NY, 1974, p. 91.

Woolham, F., *The Handbook of Aviculture*. Blandford Press, Dorset, UK, 1987, pp. 286-288.

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yellow. The red-legged honeycreeper has vermilion legs, that is a tone of red with an orange-brown tinge. It has also a very difficult to see yellow area under the wings. In nuptial plumage this yellow is even less pronounced. The toes are black in both species. The females are very different from the males, as are the juveniles before their first molt. The female yellow-legged honeycreeper is slightly smaller than the male and has a green back similar in tone to the back of the Gouldian finch. Her underparts are light brown, with many streaks of powdery yellow. The cheeks are rusty brown, and a very irrelevant bluish moustache is occasionally visible. The legs are olive green. The juveniles are like the female, but the rusty cheek spots are nearly absent, and some blue feathers are always visible mixed with the underparts. In my experience, no birds with any blue in their plumage have ever been females. If you are uncertain and you can try this. Pull a couple of feathers from the breast of the hen suspected of being an adolescent male. The feathers will grow back blue if it is a male, but they will not if the bird is a hen. The yellow-legged honeycreeper male has no eclipse plumage. The red-legged hen has a more uniform color than the yellow-legged one, and is pale dusty verditer aquamarine. Her legs are grey, and the black areas of the male are grey-brownish, lacking a distinct sharp division from the rest of the plumage. The male of this species in eclipse plumage is identical to the female, but its legs stay red, thus allowing for its identification. I have never seen a juvenile red-legged honeycreeper, so I cannot describe it. We must assume that it resembles the female. The green honeycreeper is distinctly different from the two previous fellows. It is a bird larger than the Cyanerpes and of a shape similar to a finch, more precisely to a European goldfinch. The bill in this species is considerably shorter and thicker than in the other two species, with the lower mandible colored in yellow and the upper in black. In this genus (*Chlorophanes*) the derivation from the tanagers is particularly visible. As I mentioned above, the honeycreepers are believed to have derived from the progressive adaptation of tanagers to a diet of small insects and nectar, which caused a progressive modification of the shape of their bill. But back to the green-honeycreeper. This bird is green-turquoise, with the female of a washed out tone. The male has also a jet black head, sharply divided from the rest of the plumage, absent in the female. Feet and legs are grayish in both sexes.

Never available regularly from importers, honeycreepers are now starting to appear more frequently on price lists of dealers specializing in softbills. The most commonly offered species include the red-legged or yellow-winged honeycreeper (I always had a problem distinguishing the yellow in its wings); the yellow-legged or purple honeycreeper or sugarbird; the green honeycreeper or black-headed sugarbird; and the blue dachnis. All these species are very similar in their husbandry, but differ in their temperament, with the two *Cyanerpes* (the first two species mentioned) being considerably more delicate and less aggressive than the *Chlorophanes* (green honeycreeper) and the dachnis.

Honeycreepers are the best introduction to the small nectar-eating softbills. They are considerably less expensive to obtain and certainly less difficult to keep than hummingbirds. Their temperament is careful and they move fast, with a windy, extremely precise flight, as you would expect from a bird spending most of its time in the thick rainforest canopy, catching many small insects in flight. They move around in a way that always reminds me of chickadees. These facts are of relevance for the aviculturist, because they make these birds much less prone than hummingbirds to household accidents, injury from other pets and makes their keeping easier, except when you have to catch them.

Honeycreepers are now offered by several importers, and can be shipped by air anywhere in the US territories. The only advice that applies to all purchases of birds that you do not see in advance, is that you use a reputable dealer. Be very clear and require guarantee of live arrival and, possibly of at least 48 hours survival in advance, before paying for the birds. I have gone through problems when I was shipped two honeycreepers from California during a cold Boston winter. One of them came out of the crate dead. Neither the airline company that took 18 hours to deliver the bird, nor the seller ever refunded me. So be careful.

Once you receive your birds have ready a warm room or a source of heat near the cage, which should be small so that the birds do not get exhausted. Keep the lights on at least 24 hours so that the birds can eat and recover. At first feed only hummingbird nectar: it is light to digest and full of energy.

When your birds have recovered from their trip, move them to their final accommodations. This can be a large cage but, better, the honeycreepers should have the run of the birdroom or of a large flight. These little birds are extremely active and, if kept in a cage they will bounce around flipping upside down like the fairy Tinker-Bell in Peter Pan. My birds have always been kept free-flying in my bird room which contains a mixed collection with large and small parrots, hummingbirds and finches. Contrary to hummingbirds, who get into all sorts of trouble with the parrots, the cat, and by straying away, the honeycreepers never had a problem. Once one strayed out of the bird room, but I noticed it immediately because, in attempting to get it, my cat had demolished the windowsill collection of cactuses and orchids, without even getting near the bird which was hidden behind a pot in a crevice. So honeycreepers are suitable for free flight in a closed environment. Their droppings are irrelevant, like those of the hummingbirds. Established honeycreepers are peaceful birds that mix well with other non-aggressive species, except for the green honeycreeper that is reported to be aggressive by Bates and Busenbark.

Although honeycreepers require considerably less energy than hummingbirds to carry out their daily activities, they will need a good deal of sugar in their diet. I have had extensive experience with the yellow-legged honeycreeper, possibly the most delicate of all, and my birds have done

well on hummingbird nectar and spongecake alone (for the recipe of the spongecake see Bulletin of the National Finch and Softbill Society, November/December 1990, pag. 14-17). Interestingly, British aviculturists will warn you against keeping these birds solely on a diet of nectar but, probably, this is because the products of modern nutritional technology were unavailable to them, and a prolonged imbalance in the diet would jeopardize everybody's health. My birds are fed a diet of hummingbird nectar, 1 container (40 ml) per day per bird, and a portion of spongecake soaked in red Gatorade or nectar. Occasionally they get some semi-moist egg food that I use for the finches (recipe follows). I have been extremely unsuccessful offering fruit. I have tried chopped apple, orange, peaches and banana but all were barely paid attention to. In addition, in an environment devoid of live insects, fruit is too low in proteins to be worthwhile. I do not feed insects to my birds because I believe that any bird can be domesticated and fed appropriately formulated diets that will fulfill their nutritional needs: after all we do not feed cats live mice or birds, and they stay healthy. I have seen a red-legged honeycreeper thriving on a diet of nectar different from the commercial hummingbird diet I use. I also give this recipe, thanks to Brenda Geesey and Tom Adams, who modified it from Dr. Lindsay Clack's zoo version. This nectar has a higher protein content and a lower sugar concentration than hummingbird nectar, and it is probably appropriate for the maintenance of sunbirds and other nectar eating birds. I think it is too heavy for the hummingbirds, so I have not tried it on them.

Honeycreepers are among the most beautiful birds available to aviculturists. Attempts to breed them should be encouraged warmly. I have had big problems finding a female for my yellow-legged honeycreeper, despite the fact that the species is dimorphic. Males are beautiful when in nuptial plumage.

Juveniles can be very confusing and, as I mentioned above generally resemble hens, and I have acquired occasionally "hens" that eventually molted into beautiful cocks. So is life.

One last word before I conclude: do not forget to obtain a bacterial culture of your birds as soon as you receive them, and to treat all infections painstakingly. This will save you from bad surprises in the future. If you are an intermediate level aviculturist, that is if you have bred Gouldian finches but have not attempted to keep large hornbills in your condo, honeycreepers are for you.

#### Eggfood recipe:

- 4 hard-boiled eggs
- 2 cups high-protein baby cereal (Gerber, golden box)
- 4 tablets multivitamin and mineral supplement for human use (I use CVS brand)
- 4 capsules of 400 units of Vitamin E
- 1 tablet vitamin B12, 250 micrograms

### Eggfood recipe, con'td.)

- 1 tablet Zinc, 50 micrograms
- 1 teaspoon cod liver oil
- 2 tablespoons Mekton Tonic K
- 2 tablespoons sterilized bone meal (for dogs)

Grind the hard-boiled eggs without shell in a vegetable mill or a food processor. Add the cereal and the pills crushed in a mortar to a very fine powder, except for the vitamin E, which must be pierced and squeezed out. Add the remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly. The food should resemble a crumbs, and will dry during the day instead of spoiling. This is also my egg food for finches. The food is kept frozen, and every day the necessary amount is scraped directly into food containers. It will thaw nearly immediately.

### Nectar recipe (from Brenda Geesey and Tom Adams, modified from Dr. Lindsay Clack's)

- 2 cups apple-flavored pellets (Scenic Bird Foods, Marion Zoological, Marion KS, 66861)
- 2 cups Gatorade (red or orange)
- 1 cup of white sugar
- 6 teaspoons Vionate (Squibb)
- 1/3 cup soy protein isolate

Heat Gatorade, DO NOT BOIL!, pour over pellets and soak until soft and room temperature. Spin in food processor or blender with all other ingredients. Pour into ice cube trays and freeze. Editor's Note: We feed this, at this consistency, to Hanging Parrots and other birds. To use it in nectar feeders, for nectar eating birds we thin it with the following mixture.

- 1 thawed cube of the mixture above
- 4 ounces apricot or pear nectar (Libby)
- 1/2 teaspoon Prime (Hagen, Mansfield, MA 02048)
- 1/2 teaspoon of the following dry mix, which Ubaldo created for his hummers.

### Ubaldo's nectar recipe

- 1 teaspoon pollen (Ubaldo's source is a health food store)
- 1 teaspoon white sugar  
grind together in a mortar
- 1 teaspoon brewers yeats  
may also need to be ground, depending on brand
- 2 teaspoons soy protein isolate

Ubaldo's nectar recipe, con'td.

mix very thoroughly, then add  
1 1/2 cup white sugar  
1/4 teaspoon Nekton S.

This mixture of dry ingredients should be stored in refrigerator or freezer. Normally, to serve it to Hummingbirds, Ubaldo uses 1 tablespoon of it to 1/2 cup of water.

=====  
Thanks again for another very informative article Ubaldo. NFS is fortunate to have a member with such a keen mind and generous spirit. Brenda

=====  
POSTAL PERMIT ACCOUNT #389

BEGINNING BALANCE (MARCH 11, 1991)	\$	280.15
DEPOSITS		\$ 250.00
POSTAGE USED	-	133.45
<hr/>		
ACCOUNT BALANCE (MAY 28, 1991)	\$	396.70

BULLETIN EXPENSES ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE (MARCH 11, 1991)	\$	2066.51
DEPOSITS		\$ 1000.00
EXPENSES		
NOV/DEC BULLETIN PRINTING	-	868.00
NOV/DEC FIRST CLASS MAILINGS	-	50.22
JAN/FEB BULLETIN PRINTING	-	0.00
JAN/FEB FIRST CLASS MAILINGS	-	46.38
<hr/>		
ACCOUNT BALANCE (MAY 28, 1991)	\$	2101.91

ENDING BALANCE (MAY 28, 1991) \$ 12686.89

CASH	\$	69.48
UNDEPOSITED CHECKS		50.00
SAVINGS ACCT.		9845.26
CHECKING ACCT.		223.54
POSTAL PERMIT ACCT.		396.70
BULLETIN ACCT.		2101.91
<hr/>		

\$ 12686.89

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## CAGE BREEDING GOLD-BREASTED WAXBILLS

=====

by M. Gustafson

=====

In March 1989, I bought a pair of Gold-breasted Waxbills as much out of sympathy for the bald female as for the brilliant plumage of the male. They were only the second pair of birds I owned. The Gold-breasts were initially kept in a small cage where the female laid an occasional egg but never tried to incubate them. I fostered the eggs under Zebras where they hatched at least twice but the chicks were removed at hatching by the Zebras.

Six months later the Gold-breasts were moved into a 2' 3" x 3' 6" x 4' homemade cage made of 1/2 x 1" welded wire. The Gold-breasts and a pair each of Red-eared Waxbills, Diamond Doves, and Button Quail were all released into the cage at the same time. Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*), a common weed of stagnant and waste areas, was provided for cover at the ends of the cage. The individual stems were pulled down through the roof and then out one of the short sides. The plants were also provided in the hopes that the waxbills would need less frequent capture for nail trims. In the larger cage, the female laid her first complete clutch. She sat during the day but came out of the nest as it got dark. If a light was left on all night, she would stay in the nest. But, she still left the nest at the slightest noise. The eggs did not hatch.

The female then laid eggs in a nest devoid of any nesting material. She would lay an egg and try to incubate, but the egg would break. I started taking the eggs immediately upon laying for fostering attempts, but all were clear. I left a small pad of nesting material to cushion the next egg, but it was removed before the next egg was laid. I left for a week's vacation in July 1990, and returned to find the Gold-breasts incubating in an elaborate nest of soft grasses and Spanish Moss. The nest was built within a small wicker finch nest only 2 feet from the floor of the cage, which sat directly on the ground. The female had not been seen out of the nest starting midway through my absence. I had not left any interior lights on because an outdoor security light provided as much illumination as a night light in the room. I was amazed when the female stayed on the nest when the sun went down my first evening home. For the first few days after my return, the natural light schedule was maintained. When the computer near the cage was needed, the lights were kept on up to two hours without any detectable response by the birds.

Twelve days after the reported start of incubation, the female erupted off the nest. I had cleaned the cage and checked the nest not two hours earlier, and all four eggs were still present. Now when I looked, I

only saw three eggs. I thought one had been broken until I saw half an eggshell in the nest and then, an impossibly tiny, dark red chick. The female returned to the nest quickly.

The next morning I went out to a farm to try and find some ant pupae, which I thought would resemble the Gold-breasts natural diet of termite pupae. After an hour in hundred degree heat trying to find some large ant hills I had been told were on the property, I found a small, very old composted pile of manure and on the second spadeful hit several hundred large ant pupae  $1/4''-3/8''$  long. I went home, fed as usual (egg food and greens), and offered ant pupae in a pie plate on the floor of the cage. I fed extra mealworms prior to putting in the ant pupae, but the quail still ate lots of pupae. All the birds in the flight devoured the pupae, including a male Owl Finch that had been added to the cage.

The Gold-breasts evidently liked them too, as the male ate incredible amounts and fed the female on the nest for at least the next two days. Unlimited quantities of ant pupae were fed until day 5, with rationed amounts the next two days. As the quantity of ant pupae decreased, more small, whole mealworms ( $1/2''-3/4''$ ) were supplied. By late day 7, I ran out of ant pupae and could not find any more. After that only mealworms were fed. Eight days after hatching, the begging chicks could be heard in the nest. Thirteen days after hatch, the female spent her first night out of the nest.

The first chick fledged on day 16 and was adopted by the Owl Finch, even spending its first night in the Owls' bachelor nest. Two more chicks fledged the next day, and all three chicks slept in the Owl's nest with the Owl and the female Gold-breast that night. The Owl Finch was frequently seen preening the young Gold-breasts, and occasionally, feeding a chick. The Owl was removed from the flight when he started pulling out the fledglings tail feathers on day 23.

Day 27 of the first nest, the female laid an egg in the Owls former nest. The chicks from the first clutch frequently joined the female in the nest during the day as well as at night. Fourteen days after the start of incubation, an egg with a full term chick was found in the water dish. The next day I found one chick  $3/4''$  long and two apparently clear eggs in the nest. The chick was dead the next day. Ant pupae were provided for this attempt also, but fewer were found and they were only available for 2 days. The male did not feed the female on the nest as he did in the first attempt. At this point, a pair each of Firefinches and Owls were added into the flight to get the Gold-breasts out of breeding condition and give them a chance to molt. The three chicks were removed from the flight about the time they finished their postjuvenile molt. At no time did either parent chase the chicks. All three chicks are males and are about 15% larger than their parents.

I believe this cage breeding of the Gold-breasted Waxbill is the



result of minimal disturbance early in incubation, live food soon after the chicks hatched, a pair that was well bonded in a large cage they left secure in, and a lot of luck. At present, the female is laying eggs at irregular intervals, invariably breaking them within a day. I am optimistic that the pair will decide to raise young again.

=====

Well, Ms. Bustafson the editor begs to differ....the editor thinks that luck had a lot less to do with it than your determination and dedication. The editor is familiar with 100 degree heat and the perfume of "very old composted manure piles" in 100 degree heat. The editor wishes to compliment you on your gumption and to say again that luck had precious little to do with your success. Congratulations!

=====

A note about the possibility of purchasing ant pupae. I have a 6 year old catalog (over 1000 pages, must weigh 6 pounds!) from:

Carolina Biological Supply Company  
2700 York Road  
Burlington, NC 27216-9988

It lists for sale a multitude of insects in various stages. Among them are ant farms, giant ant farms, "refills" for ant farms, ants and replacement sand and food. Sounds like it might be possible to have a growing colony of ants. Their five pages, (in color), of insects available also include silkworm eggs, tobacco hornworm larvae, mosquito larvae and the larvae of Painted Lady butterflies. For more information, call, 1 800 334 5551. I called to inquire about the availability of ant pupae and a nice gentleman told me they had them "occasionally". (Perhaps if they saw a market they would have them more regularly.)

Also, fanciers of African finches might want to consider that now several companies sell *Musca* larvae, sometimes referred to as "tiny wigglers". As an aviculturist who has nearly all of her birds inside the house I find these unacceptable as they hatch (rather quickly) into houseflies. However, they are readily accepted by almost all finches in the larval and pupal stages.

=====

#### TO MEMBERS WHO ARE USING MUSCA LARVAE:

Please write to the editor and tell us your experiences with them, including how you control the flies when they hatch. Also, please contact your suppliers and ask them to consider advertising in this Bulletin.

Thanks, the Editor

=====

# 43rd National Cage-Bird Exhibition

NOVEMBER 14, 15, 16, 1991

Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Dearborn, Michigan 48126  
For Reservations Call:  
313-593-1234

The Kellogg Company will sponsor the Division and Best-in Show Awards with the beautiful Kellogg Trophies and the Scannell Memorial.

The Mid-West Cage-Bird Club will host this year's event.

The annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon followed by the Awards Presentation Banquet at 8:00 p.m.

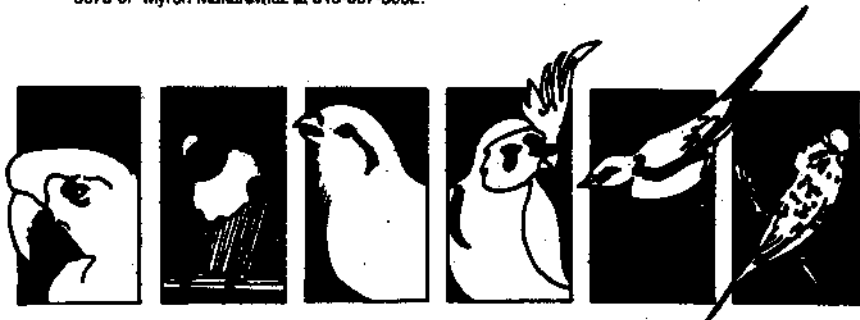
Members of the Board of Directors for the National Exhibition will all be on hand to assist with the check-in on Thursday evening and with the check-out following the banquet on Saturday night.

Judges selected for the show are:

Borders .....	Bert Reid (Scotland)
Type Canaries .....	Clarence King (TX)
Glosters .....	Harry Marriott (England)
Hartz .....	Margie McGee (CA)
Old Variety Canaries .....	Giovanni Bertonecchio (Italy)
American Singers .....	Joyce Yugas (NJ)
Lychrome .....	Roberto Font (FL)
Malahin .....	Robert Van Dorp (Belgium)
Parrots .....	Conrad Meinert (IN)
Finches/Softbills .....	Earl Courts (MO)
Lovebirds .....	Roland DuBuc (CA)
Budgerigars .....	Len Adams (IL)
Cockatiels .....	Linda Rubin (CA)

Call the Hyatt for room reservations. Doubles are \$89.00 per night.

Information on Commercial Exhibits can be obtained from Ray Johnson by calling 404-461-8675 or Myron Makarewicz at 313-687-3082.



GUIDE TO ORDERING 1991 NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY CLOSED LEG BANDS

Thanks to the work done by the Band Size Committee we are able to offer an expanded list of suggested sizes for more species of finches and softbills. We're hoping to get more updates from societies overseas in 1991. We also welcome members suggestions for the list.

SIZE TO FIT LEGS OF:

- 
- A Small Waxbills, Ovis, Strawberry, Orange-cheeks, Red-ears, Gold-breasted, Quail Finch.
- 
- B Cordon Bleu, Black-cheeked Waxbills, Fire, Cuban Melodious, Olive, Lavenders, Rufous-backed Mannikin and others.
- 
- C Blue Caps, Green Singers, Silverbills, Stars, Shafttails, Cherry, Red-headed Parrot, Painted, Heck's, Pileated, Grey Singers, Pytilias, Bronze-wing and Black and White Mannikin.
- 
- D Zebras, Gouldians, Pictorellas, Yellow-rumps, Chestnut-breasted, Blue-faced Parrot, Pintail Nonpareil, most other Parrot finches, most smaller Mannikins and most Twin Spots.
- 
- E Society, Spice, Siskins, Golden Song Sparrows, Diamond Sparrows, Nuns, Peter's Twin Spots and Black Crested Finches.
- 
- G Magpie Mannikins, and other large Mannikins, European Goldfinch and small Tanagers.
- 
- J Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias and other small softbills.
- 
- K Java Rice, Shama Thrush, Saffron and Red-crested Cardinal.
- 
- L Diamond Doves, other small doves, Quail and other softbills.
-

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ORDER FORM**

1991

MAIL TO: DENISE CAPAZZI  
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Phone (203) 464 6961

NFS offers, to members only, closed traceable aluminum bands. Available only in the NFS color of the year. Engraved with the initials "NFS", size code, year and number. No choice of numbers. All orders recorded for permanent reference. Bands may be ordered in strings of ten, all same size, at a cost of \$2.25 per string, no shipping charge. Anticipate your needs to avoid frequent re-orders. Orders will be shipped within 30 days of receipt.

NOTE: Due to increasing losses in shipment, please include .75 for postal insurance on orders up to \$50 and \$1.50 for orders over \$50 up to \$100. If you choose not to include this sum NFS will not be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.

SIZE	# OF STRINGS	SIZE	# OF STRINGS
A	_____	G	_____
B	_____	J	_____
C	_____	K	_____
D	_____	L	_____
E	_____		

See expanded list of sizes recommended for particular species on previous page.

Total # of strings \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.25 = \_\_\_\_\_ + postal insurance \_\_\_\_\_ =  
total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP # \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY.

## NEWS & NOTES

previous years and told all the clubs that it would be inflexible and that they MUST re-affiliate by June 30, 1991. So far this seems to be working well. Several clubs that have held spring shows have already received and awarded their plaques and rosettes and the fall orders are now being compiled. Chris says she's ready for the many many trips to the post office.

Miki Sparzak, our Advertising Director, would like you to send a note to her at 517 Old North Point Road, Baltimore, MD 21224 if you have ideas about how she could reach more potential advertisers. Perhaps a list of the folks you buy from!

Martha Wigmore is working on re-typing and following Jon Hoffman's advice on editing the Handbook. She has paused, temporarily, to focus on making a comprehensive, coherent and consistent set of currently approved standards which she hopes to have in the hands of the Panel Judges by September. This is in answer to requests from judges that these standards be made available in this format before the fall show season. The rest of the Publishing Committee's report consists of me telling all of you that I'm doing the best that I can trying to catch up on the Bulletin issues. If you can help and are comfortable with WordStar and/or any other word processing program that can produce ASCII files that I can translate to WordStar... PLEASE WRITE OR CALL!

NFS presently has no Promotions Director. We need a volunteer here! A person who is acquainted with retail/wholesale suppliers of t-shirts, pins, mugs, etc. and who can find the best deals at the best prices and can handle the negotiations to get good merchandise at good prices. Is that you? Would you like to help the Society with this? Write or call for more information.

Jon Hoffman, who IS the Education Committee, (and probably would like some volunteers to assist) is assembling slides from various sources to prepare the first official NFS educational video or slide program. The Board had a discussion about which format it should be, but did not reach a decision. Bill Parlee made the point that if we use slides they are shown in a much larger size, on a screen or a wall and can be seen by more people and show greater detail. A video would combine in one piece of software the visual and audio portion but would be more expensive to produce. Also, a video is shown in a smaller format and the equipment is more difficult to move and to obtain. Jon has done the research and made the contacts and volunteered his time to do a video but now I am leaning toward the slide format because the pictures are bigger and the equipment to show it is easier to carry around. We need a quick response from members who have strong opinions and from the Board members especially. Call or write to Jon and let him know your opinion. Also, if you have a good library of slides he is looking for some specific species to include in an introduction to finches and softbills program. (Address on judges page.)

## NEWS & NOTES

A Nominating Committee was formed with Bill Parlee chairing the committee and Cecil Gunby and Stephen Hoppin assisting. The first order of business will be to contact all Incumbents to see if they want to be nominated again and then they will be asking for nominations from the membership for elected positions. Those are: President, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Vice-President, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and the 6 Regional Vice Presidents. **WON IS YOUR CHANCE!!** You can nominate yourself, your best friend or your toughest competitor...if you need information on the "job descriptions" write or call a member of the committee, (addresses on judges page) and ask them for the information.

**Roger D'Connell's Region 1 Regional Show and Meeting**  
Massachusetts Cage Bird Association; Kim Rendig, Delegate, (508) 540 2248  
October 19, 1991 Mansfield, MA Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

**Stephen Hoppin's Region 2 Regional Show and Meeting**  
Aviary and Cage Bird Society of South Florida; Len Brover, Delegate (305) 931 3468. August 24, 1991 Ft. Lauderdale, FL Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

**Tom Rood's Region 3 Regional Show and Meeting**  
Motor City Bird Breeders; Patrick Vance, Delegate (313) 443 0643  
October 26 & 27, 1991 Detroit MI Panel Judge: William Parlee

**Gene Miller's Region 4 Regional Show and Meeting**  
Nest Nings of Houston; Dan Easter, Delegate (713) 855 7161  
September 21, 1991 Houston, TX Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

**Nartha Nigmore's Region 5 Regional Show and Meeting**  
Colorado Cage Bird Association; Nartha Nigmore, Delegate (719) 574 1594  
October 19, 1991 Colorado Springs, CO Panel Judge: Nartha Nigmore

Additional news from the Regional V. P.'s.....

Stephen Hoppin is looking forward to the entry at his regional show being a BIG one. He says he's really pleased that the show manager, and NFS delegate, Len Brover, has booked a room for the regional meeting. Stephen says he's prepared with lots of membership applications.

Tom Rood has donated a beautiful plaque with figurines to be awarded at the 1991 National Show to the Best Novice Bird in the Finch and Softbill Division. Please pass the word to any newcomer or to any finch fancier who has never exhibited birds before! He has donated rosettes to all the clubs in his region to be awarded in the NFS division, however the club chooses. Also

## NEWS & NOTES

Tom says he has an even more incredible collection of exchange awards from overseas clubs that he'll be bringing to the National this year, including rosettes, medals, plaques and diplomas from clubs in England, Scotland, Australia, etc.. He is busy (and keeping this a BIG SECRET) rounding up "one-of-a-kind" items for another auction, like the one that was so much fun and so profitable last year. He's writing letters now asking for donations to start a fund for a significant award, on an annual basis, for the best Bred and Banded by Exhibitor bird at the National each year. If you'd like to contribute, mail to 313 N. Broadway, Shelbyville, IL 62565. Thanks.

Martha Nigmore's fabulous display boards were "unveiled" with much drama at the June Board Meeting. Russ waited till just before adjournment to let the suspense build and then lifted the covers. WON !!! EVEN BETTER than the pictures! Each is about 2 1/2 feet tall and about 1 1/2 feet wide. All four are full of information highlighted by colorful pictures and are mounted tastefully in handsome frames. They come in their own very special shipping crates. Great job Martha...and please convey our thanks to your husband Mark and to Anna Sinclair and her husband Bill for their skilled assistance. The boards will make their first public appearance in San Diego, then, on to Florida for Stephen's Regional show and the Kaytee Great American Bird Show. Next planned stop is the National in Michigan in November....don't miss them!!

As the last order of business at this meeting I said that I thought the Board needed to consider making the position of Editor a paid position. As we all are aware, time is money and to buy time to do a job that takes as much time as the Bulletin costs money. Almost every other national society has a paid editor for this very reason. Bill Parlee asked what figure I had in mind. I said that in my case \$200 per issue would pay for a person who can handle my flock and the wild birds that I rehabilitate equally well for an eight hour day each week. That would give me one full day each week to do nothing but take care of NFS business, including the Bulletin. Bill, (who is the only other person in this Society who has "hands on experience" doing this job) agreed that it was a good idea and made a motion that "the Bulletin Editor be paid \$200 per issue for each issue that is mailed by the last day of the publication date." (For example; the May/June issue would have to be in the mail by June 30 for the editor to be paid for that issue.) The ten members present voted unanimously YES. Frankly, I was a little surprised and quite pleased. It will make a world of difference when I get caught up to have someone here for 8 hours once a week. Thanks...I really appreciate it!

Meeting adjourned.

=====

TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE (MARCH 11, 1991)

\$ 8744.90

INCOME

MEMBERSHIP DUES

1990 RENEWALS	\$ 120.00
1991 DUES	742.50
1991 RENEWALS	807.50
1991 BAND ORDERS	1669.50
1991 CLUB AFFILIATIONS	1770.00
1991 JUDGES FEE	30.00
BAD CHECK	23.20
BULLETIN ADVERTISEMENTS	96.00
BULLETIN CLASSIFIEDS	51.45
BULLETIN BACK ISSUES	30.00
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS (T-SHIRTS)	33.00
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS (PINS)	91.00
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS (MUGS)	12.00
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS (WATER BOTTLES)	12.00
SHOW CAGE PLANS	8.00
DONATION	5.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT INTEREST	88.49

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TOTAL INCOME \$ 5589.64

EXPENSES

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	\$ 86.50
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES PRINTING	17.82
FINCH SHOP POSTAGE	16.75
SHOW CAGE PLANS PRINTING	20.46
FULL PAGE AD NATIONAL CATALOG	75.00
DISPLAY BOARDS	106.30
1991 CLUB AFFILIATIONS AWARDS	27.00
POSTAGE	43.35
REGIONAL VP EXPENSES	5.75
LITHOGRAPH - DISPLAY FRAME	5.30
1991 BANDS - POSTAGE	31.14
BAD CHECK	23.20
POSTAL PERMIT DEPOSITS	250.00
BULLETIN EXPENSES DEPOSIT	1000.00
PRINTING	86.03
NAME BADGES	5.00

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TOTAL EXPENSES

- \$ 1799.60



# Finch Breeders Handbook

The Queensland Finch Society Inc. has published two magnificent colour handbooks on the keeping and breeding of Australian and Foreign Finches.

These handbooks have been entirely written, published and printed in Australia and sought by Aviculturists all over the World.

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Other services to members include items available from the Sales Steward and reductions on society publications.



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**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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**FINCHES:** All kinds. Domestic and imported. Will ship. Send SASE, A-1 Aviary, 5503 Axion Avenue, Orlando, FL 32809 (407) 352 1593 jf

**AUSTRALIAN FINCHES:** All domestically bred. Most closed banded. Ovis, Red Headed Parrots, Shafttails, Stars, Gouldians. Also Cordon Bleus. Eric Milk, 3203 Enisgrove Drive East, Palm Harbor, FL 34683 (813) 787 2165 ja

**GOULDIANS:** Parent raised in outdoor aviaries. Normals and mutations. Also some hand-fed and tame. Joleen Chrestensen (305) 583 5654. so

**NFS SHOW CAGES:** #1-assembled, unpainted \$20/painted \$30; #2 - \$25/\$35; #3 - \$35/\$47. Cages are top quality birdh plywood. Exteriors are gloss black, interiors your choice of white, beige or light blue. Special cages for larger softbills also available. Reasonable UPS shipping. Call or write: Marlene Ayres, 836 1/2 McClane Farm Road, Washington PA 15302 (412) 746 1384 mj

**WANTED:** Hen Snowy-crowned Chat (*Thaenolaea coronata*). Buy or trade for male. Gibson, 7036 N.E. Wygant, Portland, OR 97218 mj

**FOR SALE:** Red Bill Hornbills, \$125 each. Bali Mynahs, \$200 each; SS, \$250, permit required. Male Turquoise Tanager, \$ 75. Domestic Persa Touracos, \$200 each. Parent raised: Peters Twinspot, \$100 each. Green Strawberries, \$125 pair. Normal Gouldians, \$40; White-breasted, \$60 each; Splits, \$50 each. **WANTED:** Female Emerald Toucanette. Jeff Puryear (804) 589 1103. mj

**EGG SHELLS,** dried egg yolk, soy protein concentrate, lettuce seeds, nutritional yeast, spirulina, etc. plus informative nutritional charts, recipe ideas and catalog FREE or with egg shell sample, \$1.00. AviBio, Box 115, Annandale, VA 22003 (703) 256 2273. mj

**BIRDS AND SUPPLIES:** Affordable seed, cages and supplies. Small breeder/owner of Canaries, Finches, Parakeets, Cockatiels, Lovebirds and Conures. If we don't supply it, we can get it! Call or send a SASE to: Trailside Aviaries and All Pet Supplies, P. O. Box 583-NFS, Springfield, VA 22150--5893. Karen (703) 922 1763. jf

**FOR SALE:** Gouldians and Shafttails, normals and mutations. Also, Rufous-backed Mannikins. All closed-banded. Roddy Sabel, (301) 585 9647. so

**Editors Note:** Roddy got the AFA's First Breeding Award for the Rufous-backed Mannikin..here is YOUR opportunity to own some of the first domestically raised of this species!!

**GOULDIAN VARIETIES:** Help me (nearly!) sell out of my collection. After 20 years, I need a break! I want to hold on to a few, but cut back radically, to hobby levels. I can sell about 20 pairs of proven breeders (some approaching three years old) plus three dozen or more young approaching breeding age, or virtually every mutation available: white-breasteds in green, blue, yellow and silver (near-white) body varieties, plus purple breasted blues, yellows and silvers and white-breasteds and yellows and white-breasted yellows split to blue. I'm offering these at legitimate "going-out-of-business" prices. (Also have cages and flights to sell, if you can pick up). Terry Dunham, Avian Genetics Co, 813 527 0252. Please call only 8-10 p.m. E.S.T.

=====

**FINCHSAVE CLASSIFIED ADS**

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**NEEDED:** New blood for Cherry Finches. Could use two extra hens. Jose Aleman, A-1 Aviary, 5503 Axion Ave., Orlando, FL 32809 (407) 352-1593

**NEEDED:** White Eyes (*Zosterops*) and Svec (Dufresne's) Maxbills for FINCHSAVE breeding program. Jodie Davis, 7721 James Madison Hwy., Gainesville, VA 22065, (703) 754 9643.

**WANTED:** Grey Singing Finches for breeding program. Young preferred. D. Cabral, (508) 586 3293.

**WANTED:** Blue-grey Tanager, (*Thraupis episcopus*). I need a hen and want another pair. Must be sexed or proven. Brenda Geesey, (717) 854 2604.

=====

**BAND SECRETARY IS MOVING !!!**  
**NEW ADDRESS FOR:**

Denise Capazzi, NFS Band Secretary

9 Eagle Ridge Drive

Gales Ferry CT 06335

New Phone: (203) 464 6961.

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS !!!**

=====

## BENEFITS OF JOINING THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

The National Finch and Softbill Society is dedicated to the preservation of all finch and softbill species.

1. Our bi-monthly Bulletin connects you with other finch and softbill keepers around the country. It includes articles on diet, breeding, management and the experiences of other aviculturists. NFS keeps you abreast of the news on legislation.
2. NFS has a program named 'FINCHSAVE'. The goal is to establish and maintain all finch and softbill species in American aviculture. All members are encouraged to enhance the propagation of finches and softbills.
3. NFS maintains an annual census that can connect you with other breeders for the purpose of exchanging information or breeding stock.
4. NFS offers, to members, closed, traceable, leg bands.
5. NFS has an affiliation program. Your club can affiliate and receive plaques and rosettes as show awards. Non-show clubs can affiliate and receive service awards for members. Speakers are available, with slide programs that feature finches and softbills.
6. Each year NFS holds a National show. All members are encouraged to attend and participate. An International Patronage Exchange brings awards from foreign countries.
7. NFS has a Judges Panel, composed of individuals who have completed the apprenticeship program. All judge by the NFS Standard of Judging, are approved by the Board of Directors and are available to local clubs.
8. NFS has established exhibition standards for; Cordon Bleu Waxbills, Gouldians, Green Singing Finches, Java Rice Birds, Shafttails, Society Finches and Zebra Finch Standards. Lavenders, Star Finches, Fire Finches, Diamond Sparrows and Pekin Robin Standards are now "in the works".
9. NFS sponsors a "Championship Exhibitor" award program and a "Championship Bird" program. Both reward high achievements on the show bench.
11. "Finchshop", the sales division, offers various items for sale to members. The profits are used to support the Society's other programs.

JOIN WITH US . . . SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION . . . TODAY !



# THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Please list second name for dual membership. \_\_\_\_\_

Canadian and foreign subscriptions are mailed first class.  
Please send US funds. Canadian, add \$5.00, foreign, add \$10.00.

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Please give us some more information about you !

Species of finches and softbills you are interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the topics that are most interesting to you in the Bulletin:

\_\_\_ nutrition \_\_\_ breeding \_\_\_ management \_\_\_ exhibition

\_\_\_ conservation \_\_\_ classified ads \_\_\_ NFS news & notes

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MAIL TO: RUSSELL ARMITAGE, JR.  
345 Boston Road  
Middletown, CT 06457

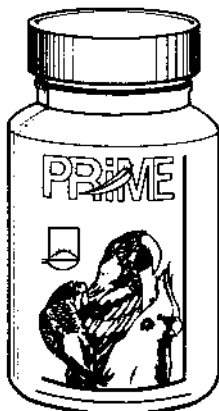
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- |  |   |
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| <p><u>NFS PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE</u>     \$ 6.00<br/>With an extension tube. Holds 18 oz<br/>To fill show cage water dishes or<br/>for you on that next marathon run.</p> <p><u>NFS SECOND OFFICIAL PIN.</u>     \$ 6.00<br/>NFS Logo and Red-headed Gouldian<br/>Male, six colors, gold edge.</p> <p><u>1990 T-shirts.</u>                     \$ 15.00<br/>A white Shafttail, "National Finch<br/>and Softbill Society" in blue.<br/>10" wide logo, 100% cotton shirt.<br/>Sizes, M, L, XL and a few XXL.</p> <p>=====</p> <p><u>ERIC PEAKE LITHOGRAPH</u>     \$ 50.00<br/>"The Diamond Sparrow", signed and<br/>numbered by the artist.</p> <p><u>SHOW CAGE BLUEPRINTS</u></p> <p><u>#1 Cage (Finches up to and</u><br/><u>including Zebras)</u>     \$ 4.00</p> <p><u>#2 Cage (Finches larger than</u><br/><u>Zebras)</u>                     \$ 4.00</p> <p><u>#3 Cage (Softbills)</u>             \$ 4.00</p> <p><u>All three cage plans</u>             \$ 10.00</p> | <p><u>NFS NAME BADGE</u>                     \$ 5.00<br/>Print name at bottom of form.<br/>Members only.</p> <p><u>BULLETIN BACK ISSUES</u> each \$ 2.50<br/>Any six issues                     \$ 12.00<br/>See January/February issue<br/>for index of articles.</p> <p>1985 all 6 issues available.<br/>1986 all 6 issues available.<br/>1987 all 6 issues available.<br/>1988 all 5 issues available.<br/>1989 all 6 issues available.<br/>1990 all 6 issues available.<br/>Include months and year on order.</p> <p><u>NFS OFFICIAL NUG</u>                     \$ 6.00<br/>NFS Logo &amp; Java Sparrow</p> <p><u>NFS FIRST OFFICIAL PIN</u>     \$ 5.00<br/>NFS Logo &amp; Zebra Finch</p> <p><u>NFS HANDBOOK</u>                     SOLD OUT<br/>Editing is complete and typing is<br/>progressing on the new version.<br/>We're sorry for the delay. If you<br/>can help, call Nartha Nigmore.</p> <p><u>NFS ARACARI T-SHIRT</u>             \$ 12.00<br/><u>  small  medium  large  x-large</u></p> |
|--|---|

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