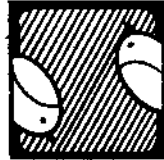


**THE NATIONAL FINCH
AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY**



**July
August
1991**



GWNOREEN

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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

=====

NFS PANEL OF JUDGES 1991

=====

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

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

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

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

RODDY GABEL
600 Gist Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 585-9647

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

BRIAN BINNS
97 Bent Lanes
Davyhulme, Nr. Urston
Manchester, England
M31 2WZ

BRENDA GEESEY
125 W. Jackson St.
York, PA 17403
(717) 854-2604

JOSEPH KRADER
24692 Paseo de Toronto
Yorba Linda, CA 92687
(714) 996-5538

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

CECIL GUNBY
8121 Highway 54
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
(404) 254-1261

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

DR. VAL CLEAR
1001 Martin Drive
Anderson, IN 46012
(317) 642-0795

KENNETH GUNBY
8031 Highway 54
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
(404) 251-2877

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

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

JON HOFFMAN
1226 S. 6th St.
Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 634 9240

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Panel Chairman

GEORGE NARREN
28 Chadworth Crescent
Paulsgrove,
Portsmouth, England
PO6 4ET

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

MARTHA NIGNORE
5010 Mezel Circle
Colo. Springs, CO 80916
(719) 574-1594

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

=====

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.

Or. Al Decoteau.
June 1, 1991

=====

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:

NFS Membership Services
Russell Armitage, JR.
345 Boston Road
Middletown, CT 06457

=====

BAND SECRETARY IS MOVING !!!
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Denise Capazzi, NFS Band Secretary
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New Phone: (203) 464 6961.

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The Bulletin costs about \$1000 an issue to publish and distribute and it is not paying for itself. PLEASE, consider running an ad or ask suppliers that you deal with to consider running an ad. The rates are very reasonable, considering that each issue is seen by about 1600 very interested finch and softbill fanciers. Rates are published on the "Classified ad" pages. Thanks.

=====

RODDY GABEL RECEIVES AFA AVY AWARD

U. S. First Breeding Award for the Rufous-backed Mannikin

=====

One of the most important awards for one of the most significant achievements in aviculture recently went to Roddy Gabel of Silver Spring, Maryland.

In January of 1990 five Rufous-backed Mannikins (*Lonchura bicolor* subsp.) were hatched in his birdroom and raised to maturity by their parents. Later in that season the pair raised more chicks and those were NFS closed-banded. In the winter of 1990 Roddy reported another pair was successfully raising chicks. In the AFA Watchbird issue of April/May 1991 an excellent and comprehensive article[†] by Roddy was published, detailing the taxonomy, distribution, description, diet, and breeding of this species.

At the recent AFA annual convention Roddy received the coveted AFA "AVY" award as recognition of his successful first United States breeding of this species.

If you will look back at Roddy's autobiographical sketch in the March/April 1990 issue of the NFS Bulletin you will get a more complete summary of his extensive background in aviculture. Considering his Master's degree in avian physiology, his nine years as the aviculturist for the endangered species breeding programs at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, (the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services Laurel, Maryland facility), his previous publications and his recent stint as a science editor, then of course, his success as an aviculturist and his skill at documenting it come as no surprise.

Last fall he became an NFS Panel Judge and has quickly become a favorite with affiliated clubs. He is knowledgeable and articulate and has an easy-going demeanor that makes the exhibitors and the birds comfortable.

I have known Roddy for a number of years and it is with great pleasure that I congratulate him on this breeding success and the award he received for it. I want to finish off this complimentary commentary by saying that Roddy is also a genuinely nice person who is always willing to listen and to help, whether with the birds or with the Bulletin and I like him a lot, and he tells great jokes, and he is a good drinking companion. Nice going Roddy!

The Editor.

=====

[†] AFA policy is to authorize reprints of articles provided express written permission is obtained from WATCHBIRD. I have written to the AFA home office and hope to soon receive permission to reprint this excellent article.

The Editor.

=====

=====

PORTRAIT OF A FINCHSAVE DIRECTOR

=====

by Linda Oja

=====

Who is this person who thinks she can run the FINCHSAVE program? Well I'll try and tell you as best I can. First off I'm a transplanted New Yorker who has adapted very well to the slower pace here in Virginia. I can't honestly say that I've raised birds since childhood, but birds have played a part in my life since I was a child. The only pet my mother would allow in the house was her pet canary. He was tame enough to land on your hand for a treat. My father named him Hammering Hank as he was a vigorous singer. Still, I would have preferred a budgie. Another time I remember visiting my Aunt and being totally fascinated by her Java Rice Bird. They were very popular then. Mom said "No. birds are too messy". So I remained birdless but often enjoyed watching the city sparrows and pigeons. I remember my uncle finding a baby pigeon which he hand fed. When I was nine I got to own a pigeon for a whole day before he became pigeon stew. I refused to eat that day.

As a teen-ager I went to live with my grandmother who also had a strict 'no pets' policy so my interest in birds became dormant at that time. After obtaining a BA degree in Art I decided if I wanted to eat I'd have to make a serious career choice. Occupational Therapy became my choice because it allowed me to use some of my creativity and help people at the same time. I attended VCU in Richmond and my husband and I decided to settle down in Virginia. One of our first acquisitions was a dog or two or three, but no birds.

We eventually moved to Newport News, bought a house and started a family. Nothing really unusual about that. Then one day we visited my sister in New York and she happened to have a producing pair (are there any other kind?) of Zebra Finches. She asked if we wanted a pair. Well if I had said "no" then I might have saved myself a lot of work cleaning up feathers and seeds and FINCHSAVE programs. Of course I wanted them. However they did not survive the trip back to Virginia. If it all ended there, I would not presently own over 75 finches and be in this predicament.

I DO NOT consider myself a finch expert. Yes, I have been successful breeding the easier species such as Gouldians, Strawberry Waxbills, Javas and Shafttails but the Owl Finches are giving me a challenge. I worked on organizing a statewide Finch Group because I felt there was a need for knowledge and communication in this area. Others also expressed the feeling that finch breeders were in the minority at many bird club meetings, if they were fortunate enough to have a bird club in their area. I started out by trying to find finch breeders and fanciers within our state with the thought of setting up a listing to be used for finding and selling birds and sharing information. The response was very rewarding, and I went on to develop a

newsletter as well. I am Vice-Chairman of the Peninsula Caged Bird Society, and my newsletter began as a finch column in the club's publication, The Perch. With encouragement from club Chairman Dick Ivy I began my own newsletter, The Virginia Finch Forum, which he publishes and my daughter Kristi illustrates.

The Finch Forum now has subscribers from other states. Although I have limited experience breeding finches I try to find information about various species, including comments from breeders when possible. I also encourage others to share their successful breeding experiences through our newsletter whenever possible.

When Brenda Geesey asked me to be director of the FINCHSAVE program I didn't know what to say. I was very flattered but I wasn't sure I was ready for this. It is the support of my fellow members in PCBS, Virginia Finch Forum and NFS that has given me the confidence I need to undertake this project. I must also add that I have a very supportive and tolerant family which keeps me going.

=====

I have not edited Linda's comments because I think her gentle and sweet nature comes through her words and I want the NFS members to get to know her personally as I do. You can tell from her statements that she is dedicated and hard-working and that she has the best interests of the finches and the finch-keepers at heart. If you have previously enrolled in FINCHSAVE and have not been regularly in contact with the former director or if you have hesitated to enroll I encourage you to contact Linda now. She and her group of assistants are working to sort out the records and would welcome an update from you. The Board of Directors is hoping for a report at the November meeting and it would be helpful if you would take the first step and introduce yourself to Linda. The Board thanks all who have tried in the past to make this program work and wishes the new director and her group great success. They will need your help.

The Editor.

=====

NEW FINCHSAVE DIRECTOR

Linda Dja

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BREEDING CUTTHROAT FINCHES

Amadina fasciata

by Fred Cotterell

To some folks, it seems that these West African finches are "hard". I guess I consider these little birds, the Cutthroat Finch, a challenge.

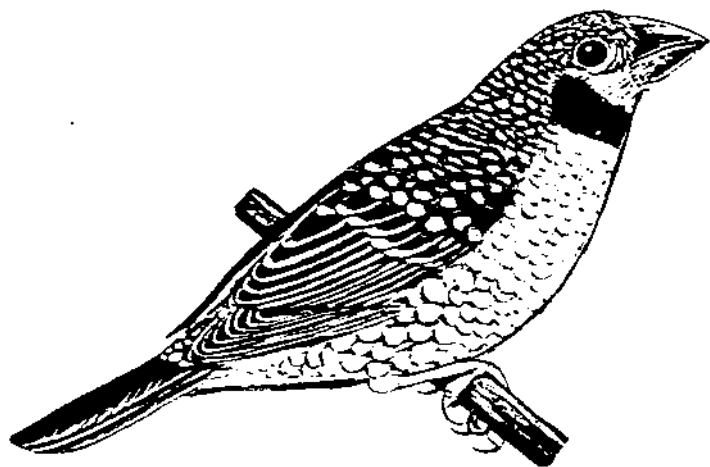
I am a recent "convert" to birdkeeping, changing over from fish keeping, breeding and showing. For the past six years I have been involved with the Siamese Fighting fish and its wild cousins of the Genus Betta and faced a lot of challenges in keeping them. So, when I was told that Cutthroats were "hard" I decided to work with these finches and to succeed at breeding them.

I acquired my pair through two local shops and set them in a cage with a wicker basket, mineral block, grit, nesting material, seed and water. Then I started my research. I read everything I could find on the species.

Everything I read contradicted what folks were telling me. They all said it was an easy bird, a good beginner's bird. What? Then why wasn't anybody breeding them? Well, it seems that this bird is easier bought than bred. I decided to persevere.

I found that our Cutthroats were quite capable nest carpenters and soon had emptied the box of nesting material and were adding bits of greens, millet stalks, and some leaves off a spider plant that hangs near the nest.

It was soon discovered during this period that a favorite supplement was actually a part of their diet. These little fellows love mealworms! Mine will consume 8 to 12 per day; more when feeding young.



Courtship is short and sweet. Although Cutthroats can live up to their name in relation to other birds, as one of our pet Budgies found out, they are pretty gentle towards their mates. The hen, when ready, will approach the male, and he will reply with a little dance and song before mating occurs.

My pair laid 3 eggs and 19 days later they began life in the cage with their parents. The young matured and I noticed the young male had already begun to have the red ribbon slash, setting him apart from the young hens.

We noticed that water, seed, and live food consumption almost doubled during the rearing period. It seems as though we put seed in the cup in the morning and by the next morning it was empty. Same with the watering tube.

The young have a distinctly louder begging cry than our Zebras. At one day old their cries could be heard throughout the house.

To sum up my experiences with these finches, I would say that they are a joy to own and are fascinating to breed. All one needs to do is study them and then give them a try!

=====

Thanks Fred, for the article and the artwork! In your research did you find numerous mentions of Cutthroats having a history of egg-binding, particularly problems with soft-shelled eggs? Did you add anything to their diet to counteract this tendency? It happened here, years ago, with the first (and only) pair we had. We actually thought the hen was dying after 24 hours of heat and oil applications. She laid down on her side and as we watched, the mushy egg slid out! One of those moments no finch-keeper could forget! Glad it didn't happen to you!

The Editor.

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5/6 '92

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

=====

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 8603
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) 872 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 8719
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 Araitage, 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; Walt Perry, (407) 632 7494
Show: November 9, 1991 Indiatlantic, FL Panel Judge: Stephen Noppin

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 Neisenfeld, (904) 731 7173
Show: September 21, 1991 Jacksonville, FL Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

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

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 Muscato, (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 Miegale, (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

IOWA

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 B12B

Show: October 12, 1991 Michita, KS Panel Judge: Paul Williams

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: Milliam Parlee

MARYLAND

Baltimore 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 Gabel

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 Hoffman

NEBRASKA

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

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

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 Hoffman

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 Bird 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 Mehozonek, (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: Charles Anchor

Delaware Valley Bird Club; Kris Kroner, (215) 628 4143

Show: November 9, 1991 Montgomery County, PA Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

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 Deem, (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: Warty Von Raesfeld

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

Show: October 5 & 6, 1991 Fort Worth, TX Panel Judge: Warty 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 Moase, (416) 723 1978

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

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society; Alfred Wion, (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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CAGE BREEDING FINCHES

by Brenda Geesey

Before I begin to tell you how we cage-bred finches, let me tell you why we breed in cages, indoors. We live in southeastern Pennsylvania and our winters can be very severe. We have chosen to work with many species over the years that could not tolerate being housed outside here, even in protected flights. We live in a Victorian house, at the southern edge of a small city, surrounded closely by rural farmland. Our yard is visited frequently by various pesty predators including possums, roving cats, dogs and ornery kids. The weather and the predators have made us decide that the birds are safer kept inside.

For a few years, at the beginning of our avicultural experience, we kept various species in community flights. Some held only a single species and some were of mixed species. We have always kept good records of our production and our aim has always been to produce exhibition quality birds of whatever species we were working with. Very early in our work with finches our records showed us that we got more chicks of higher quality when we kept a single pair to a cage, whether parent-raised or fostered. We soon abandoned the use of mixed and single species flight cages, except for juvenile birds and resting mature pairs between breeding seasons.

Another brief digression before I talk about the "how" we do it. If we count all the finch keepers around the world who are successful there must be thousands of us and that means that there are thousands of ways to do this successfully. There is no absolute right or absolute wrong. If it works for you and your finches, that's fine! By all means continue with your methods in the belief that if it isn't broken it doesn't need fixing. I never have thought that I had all the answers and I'm equally sure that nobody else knows "all about breeding finches".

We travel a great deal each year to seminars and conventions, we read many publications and correspond with many aviculturists and try to keep an open mind. We are always interested in new ideas and discoveries and often change the things that we do with our flock. Nothing that we now do is written in stone and everything is subject to change if we find a better way.

This talk, in August of 1991, will deal with what we are doing now and how we are doing it now. With the amount of research and innovation now occurring in aviculture virtually everything could change overnight.

Our flock usually consists of 200 to 240 finches and softbilled birds of about 18 to 20 species. They are housed in our basement which is about 40' by 20'. The basement is mostly below ground level but does have three windows at ground level which are open all of the time in the warmer months to provide cross-ventilation which is assisted by exhaust fans. There

are several sources of heat in the room for the winter months including a water heater, the furnace for the house and one radiator. There are also 30 sets of four foot fluorescent fixtures which contribute heat. The temperature varies from 52 F at night in the winter to 95 F on a summer day. At times in the summer we use a dehumidifier and at times in the winter an air cleaner, as we feel they are needed.

All of the cages are "homemade" and are all wire with no structural supports. Some racks of five or more have been made with a continuous piece of wire for the fronts, tops and bottoms and have just a single wire panel for dividers. We use 1" by 1/2" 16 gauge wire, galvanized after weaving and we find that it is rigid enough without framing. We use ferrules (J-clips) to fasten the pieces together, cable ties for door hinges and 12" by 18" heavier gauge door frames with snap-on plastic edge covers for the cut wire edges. The all-wire construction is lower cost, easier to do by yourself, at home, and easier to keep clean and to sterilize. The smallest cages that we use for a single pair of finches are 24" by 24" by 24". All of the cages are suspended from the walls and there are no cage legs or anything else on the smooth cement floor. We can sweep the entire room in about 15 minutes. The cages are hung from screw eyes which are screwed into 2" by 4" boards which are bolted to the semi-smooth plastered, white walls. Some of the softbill cages are as large as 6' by 6' by 3' and these require support in the front edge to remain level. We use a short length of chain up to a nail in the rafters for this purpose. None of the cages have a solid floor or a tray or pan. The cage floors are the same type of wire and all debris falls through. We keep no papers inside the cages, only a deep layer of fine, organically grown, unsprayed hay. We are very careful to remove soiled and wet hay on a daily basis to prevent the growth of mildew, etc. We simply drop the soiled material on the floor and sweep it up. The hay is useful to us and to the birds for it's sweet smell, it's pleasant appearance, the edible seed heads and it's value as nesting and courting material. Many of the finch cages are in two rows, one over the other on the walls and each has a fluorescent fixture laying directly on it's ceiling. The lights are controlled by two timers, one for each half of the room. The lights remain on a fixed schedule, 16 hours year round for optimum production. One half of the lights go off fifteen minutes before the other and we have a 7 1/2 watt night light on continuously in each half of the room. No dimmers seem necessary. The tubes are broad-spectrum Chroma 50's from either GE or Phillips. We see no need for higher priced tubes when the Kelvin output of these tubes is nearly equal to tubes costing three times as much. The bottom row of cages and their fixtures are covered by a single layer of newspapers to catch debris from the top cages. This is also discarded daily. This creates much less panic than removing papers from inside the cages. All cavity nesting species are given a 5" cube nest box, made of plywood with a 1 1/2" high opening all the way

Cage Breeding Finches

across the front and a lid that lifts for inspection. We put a handful of cedar chips in the bottom and a handful of hay on top of that and they build their own nests from there. The boxes are hung on the outside of the cages, near a top corner, with a small diagonal perch just in front of the box opening. Cup nesters get a wicker basket, similar to a canary nest, but larger, wired about 2/3 of the way up the side, in a corner, inside the cage, usually at the front. Shy species have plastic greenery hanging in their cages, screening the nest or nest opening.

We feed a seed mix that we make up fresh, in small batches. We use 2 parts of a premium finch mix, not one with artificial colors and/or treated seeds, just fresh wholesome seeds. We buy it because it contains a small portion of cut oats which we find hard to obtain as a single item. We add 2 parts canary seed, one part Siberian millet, one part German millet, one part white Proso millet, one half part Japanese millet and in the winter, one half part Niger. In cages with fledglings we keep a separate dish of Japanese millet as it is always the first seed that young finches can hull. We do not use spray millet as we feel that it is largely wasted. When fresh locally grown greens are available in the warmer months we feed them liberally but we don't buy shipped greens in the winter as we feel that 4 day old greens have very little to offer nutritionally. We grow dandelion, endive, comfrey, basil and clover for the birds in the back yard. In the winter we rarely feed any greens other than cucumber which remains fresh and nutritious during shipping. Undoubtedly the most valuable part of what we feed the entire flock, softbills included, is the eggfood we make fresh every day. Bruce is the chef in this house and he distributes this eggfood, a scant teaspoon for two birds, by 8 am each morning. (Thanks Bruce - from the flock and me!) He uses 7 large eggs, boiled 12 minutes, cooled, peeled and dried. He discards the shells. 3 tablespoons Vionate, 2 tablespoons of 91 % protein soy protein isolate, 2 tablespoons of corn meal, 1 tablespoon of bee pollen, 1 tablespoon finely ground cuttlebone, 800 international units of vitamin E and 1/2 tablespoon Hagen's Prime complete the mixture and he puts them all in the food processor together for a few seconds spin till the eggfood is the texture of fresh corn bread crumbs. For birds who are new here, we sometimes find it necessary to remove their seed dish for a few hours each morning and leave no other edibles in the cage but this eggfood till they learn to eat it. For those hatched here it is the first thing they eat and they hang on the doors waiting for it. We feed it on shallow saucers that are non-porous and we keep them at the far side of the cage from the water dish. This recipe, if not kept in a deep dish or allowed to get wet, will not spoil in 24 hours, instead it will dry out completely. We keep and feed small mealworms and waxworms and for a few species these seem necessary either to

Cage Breeding Finches

bring them into breeding condition or to induce them to feed chicks. For most they are a treat and a luxury. Each cage has a shallow, wide seed dish, the eggfood saucer, and a broad, shallow, rough surfaced water dish. We use plastic saucers (the ones that come with flower pots that resemble clay pots) for water dishes so that the finches can bathe every day in a dish that has a safe footing. We believe that free access to bath water is very valuable in keeping finches plumage immaculate. Each water dish is scrubbed each day in detergent and rinsed and returned to the same cage. The eggfood saucers are washed and soaked in a bleach solution as are the soft-food dishes the softbills use. We "winnow" the hulls off the top of the seed dishes daily and refill them. The "throw-away" portion doesn't get thrown away here, it keeps the feeders outside full year round. Also each cage contains either a cuttlebone or a salt/mineral block, sometimes both. All perches are natural branches from hardwood trees that we are sure were not sprayed and did not come from a roadside location. We do a lot of cross-fostering and we house and feed the fostering Societies just the same as the more rare species.

We welcome visitors to see our birds and we have quite a few visitors, year round. Since the aisles are narrow this results in the finches and the visitors being "up close and personal" and this has been an advantage over the years on the show bench. Our birds are steady and calm when being closely observed and we have been Champion Exhibitors in our division for five consecutive years. We pride ourselves on producing high quality specimens of the more common birds such as Shafttails and Gouldians and on our success with more difficult species such as Black Crested Finches and Violet-eared Waxbills and Bali Wynahs. We are always interested in talking with aviculturists about their experiences and in sharing ours. We encourage all finch keepers to join and participate in the National Finch and Softbill Society so that we can all learn from each other.

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Editor's Note: This is the synopsis of a talk I was invited to give at the seventeenth annual convention of the American Federation of Aviculture. If you do not belong to AFA, - JOIN TODAY !! A one year individual membership is only \$20 and besides bringing you 6 issues of the excellent "Watchbird" magazine it helps support AFA's conservation programs. Send a check today to:
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NEWS AND NOTES

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JULY - AUGUST

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The August meeting of the Board of Directors was during the AFA's annual convention. A quorum was present including Dr. Al Decoteau, Roger O'Connell, Helen Caudle, (she took notes...thanks Helen), Jerry McCawley and myself. I received votes from three directors by fax, three by mail and two by phone. We had guests including Kevin Gorman, head of the AFA's Red Siskin project, Jon Fink, one of AFA's CITIES Committee members and several NFS members. We welcome guests and encourage members to attend this year's last Board meeting and annual general membership meeting to be held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show.

The minutes from June were approved and printed in the May/June Bulletin. Denise sent another stunning band sales report. As of August 4th, 1991 she had ordered 22,000 1991 bands and sold 19,670! This is 243 orders by 198 NFS members. Bands will be available at the Kaytee Great American Bird Show and the National Cage Bird Show. If you return bands to Denise, BE SURE TO USE A PADDED ENVELOPE!! In an ordinary envelope they arrive flattened.

Marty von Raesfeld, our Corresponding Secretary wasn't present. I'm told they have a brand-new baby and are quite busy. Al reported that Marty is continuing to handle some of his correspondence with judges, etc.

Russ had been looking forward all year to this trip but he wasn't able to come. The evening before he was to leave burglars broke into his house and took some items and some cash belonging to NFS. The burglars found his airline tickets and so the police advised Russ not to go. Everyone missed him and the Board voted not to require him to repay the cash to NFS. If his home-owners insurance covers it, fine, and if not NFS will stand the loss. In keeping with his high standards of responsibility, he express mailed his reports to me at the hotel! As of July 31, 1991 the balance in the treasury was \$ 13,516.90. Although this looks fabulous, REMEMBER, we now have over 70 affiliated clubs and we'll soon be paying for the plaques, etc. so the answer is NO! We are not going to have a gigantic party!

The number of members remains about 880 to 900 with some coming in from the ads running in the bird magazines. From August till November, (the convention/show season) NFS gets more new members than any other season. If you would like to have brochures and other literature to distribute at shows in your area, contact your Regional Vice President.

The affiliations are up to date, with only one club pushing the limits of the new deadline. The clubs that had not realized the prices had increased have now sent in the additional fees and we're all set for the season. As of August 1, 1991 we have 73 affiliated national clubs and six international affiliates.

Dr. Al Decoteau reports that the Star Finch standard will be revised with Jon Hoffman and Marvin Yoder assisting the original committee of Clarence Culwell, Gene Miller and chair, Bill Parlee. Kris Kroner, who is Chairing the Spice Finch Standard Committee, says that a preliminary report will be ready soon. The Pekin Robin Committee is proceeding. The Firefinch Committee has submitted a proposed standard. BE SURE TO READ THE REDBILLED FIREFINCH STANDARD IN THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE. It is important that we get comments on these proposed standards. Also, we need some input from softbill keepers about the Indian Hill Mynah Standard. If you have an interest, contact Al. A new standard committee has been formed for the Parson Finch. It'll be chaired by Marvin Yoder (he won the National a few years ago with a Parson) assisted by Daren Decoteau, Jon Hoffman and Cecil Gunby.

Al introduced the Panel Judges attending: Roddy Gabel, Brian Manderich, Dr. Val Clear, Brenda Geesey, and himself. The judge who failed to respond for clarification of errors on reports did express mail an explanation to this board meeting and that issue is now resolved. Two panel members are overdue in renewing memberships and will be removed from the roster and the panel on August 16th if they do not renew. Dr. Clear inquired about having the standards in a more consistent form. Martha Wigmore is at work on this project (a part of her offer to re-do the Handbook) and plans to have a preliminary copy for Al and Brenda to review by the first of September and to have them distributed to all judges by the end of September.

At least two apprentices will be taking the test this fall, and perhaps there will be three. If you have an interest in this apprentice program, contact Al.

Tom Rood has the first NFS Champion Finch with his bred-and-banded by-exhibitor Dilute Society! A Zebra of his follows closely and Kris Kroner is next with two Maggie Nannikins.

Jerry continues to do an excellent job with FINCHSHOP and sales are very good on the new merchandise. Jerry spends A LOT of time at the table at these events and he was the primary person responsible for the booth in San Diego. I have thanked him personally, for Bruce and me, and now I thank him again, for the Society.

THE BIG NEWS IS...WE HAVE A NEW FINCHSAVE DIRECTOR !!

Linda Oja of Newport News, Virginia will be the new director and she will be assisted by an enthusiastic group of folks who have been active in the Bird Clubs of Virginia with their very successful "Finch Forum". I'm delighted with their acceptance and I'm confident of their ability to handle it well. I feel the program has the best chance yet in their hands. I believe that it is too big for any one person and too complicated for anyone with no experience. Look for the article in this issue introducing Linda.

My sincere thanks to all the people who have done so much to get this very valuable program to where it is today. Bill Parlee, Dr. Val Clear, Norma Kopecky, Hal Koontz and Jeff Brissette and all the participants made a dream a reality and have kept FINCHSAVE alive through some trying times.

Thank you for your work and your patience. Please...keep the dream going. Contact Linda Oja, 258 Exeter Road, Newport News, VA 23602 and tell her how you can help and what is going on with your chosen species.

Chris has shipped awards for the early shows and has the plaques and rosettes on hand to be shipped for the rest of the season. They will be in the hands of the delegates in time for their shows. Thanks for a good job!

Miki has sent renewal notices to advertisers and letters to fifty other manufacturer/distributors inviting them to advertise in the NFS Bulletin. She's targeting smaller business that may not need a whole page and she is appealing to members: (a) to consider an ad for themselves; (b) to send the names of businesses that they deal with who might benefit from advertising to the NFS membership.

The good news from the Publishing Committee is that the May/June issue was mailed September 3rd and the July/August will be mailed by September 23rd. That will get the September/October issue out on time! Hooray! Martha is making progress on the Handbook, even though she digressed to do the standards in a new format for the judges.

We're still looking for a Promotions Director....could you help?

Jon Hoffman is compiling slides for an program tentatively titled "Introduction to Finches and Softbills". He needs slides of some specific species. If you can help, please call him. NFS will reimburse you for copying and give you credit in the program. A decision has to be made on the format. Should it be slides with an audio tape or a video. What do you think? Call or write to Jon with your opinions.

Stephen Hoppin's Southeast Region regional show in Ft. Lauderdale was a major success! 208 entries! Dr. Al Decoteau, the judge, raved over the facilities and the high quality of the entries. There was a good turn-out for the regional meeting which Stephen conducted. Len Brower, the delegate for the sponsoring club, deserves a lot of credit for a grand show.

Martha Wigmore had a successful Finch BBQ again this year. Joe Heard and his wife hosted the gathering which featured a workshop on the NFS standards. Martha circulated a survey to members in her region and has inaugurated a new Bulletin column from the responses. See "I Was Just Wondering..." in this issue.

Tom Rood's in the lead getting new affiliates for NFS - three clubs this year. He sends rosettes to all the clubs in his region at his own expense and circulates a newsletter to all "his" delegates too.

At the end of the scheduled reports we have a discussion of "new business". This meeting we had three major questions.

First, Martha Wigmore feels strongly that we should look for a new editor for the Bulletin. I said that although I am very late now the payment agreed to in June should be the solution to the problem. I also stated that I want very much to keep this job. The discussion included the fact that many members have no contact with the Society but the Bulletin and clearly indicated that the Board Members present have fielded many inquiries

expressing disappointment over the status of the Bulletin. Roger O'Connell moved that we give the present editor a few more months to see if she can catch up and if not that we search for a replacement. Dr. Al Decoteau and Helen Caudle seconded the motion. A final tally of the Boards votes was: 3 want a new editor now, 1D want to keep the same editor for now. I want to thank those 1D people for the vote of confidence.

Second: I have requests to print notices of non-affiliated clubs shows that will be judged by NFS Panel Judges. Shall I print them? It was moved and seconded that they be printed with an asterisk or in a separate box to indicate that they are non-affiliated. Final tally: 9 yes, print and separate. 3 no, do not print. 1 abstaining.

Third: propose judges for the 1992 NCBS and GABS. In a letter Brian Manderich reminded Al and I that in a Board meeting years ago he had been nominated to judge GABS in 1992. I apologized for having forgotten that. The Board agreed to re-nominate him to judge the 1992 Kaytee Great American Bird Show in Houston, TX in October, 1992. Brian accepted my apology and the nomination. The majority voting want to re-nominate Brian Binns for the 1992 NCBS. I will contact him and see if he is agreeable. We need to work more closely with the board of the National Cage Bird Show, particularly their secretary, Paul Williams, to insure that the communication lapses of the past year do not occur again. Provided that Brian Binns agrees, he will be our first nominee for the 1992 NCBS in Oklahoma City, OK.

We had a discussion on AFA's proposal to sell closed traceable bands for all sizes of birds. A petition requesting that AFA reconsider and discard this idea was available for signatures and will be forwarded to the AFA Home Office, P. O. Box 5621B, Phoenix, AZ 85079-621B. Please voice your opinion.

Jon Fink (AFA CITIES rep) said that he felt that the "bird bills" now in the U. S. House and Senate were very bad for finches and finch keepers. He urged us to speak our minds about them to our representatives and senators. He hopes that FINCHSAVE will become more active and stronger. You can reach Jon at: 1893 E. Concorda Drive, Tempe AZ 85282, phone (602) 968 4869. On this subject, I have written an "editorial" that expresses my personal opinion in this issue. I hope you have formed an opinion of your own and that you communicate it to your congressional representatives.

Kevin Gorman (AFA Red Siskin Project) would like to work with the NFS finch keepers in the Red Siskin Project. NFS has supported this AFA project with a \$500 donation and another endorsement this year. Kevin publishes a newsletter which is very worthwhile. You can reach him at 204 Conrad Drive, Rochester, NY 14616. This AFA project is not connected with our own FINCHSAVE but is similar and it's focus is on one species.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Geesey

MORE ABOUT SPROUTS AND SPROUTING

by Laura Sherman

This article is written for the beginner in this hobby who is faced with some of its rather unusual and unique problems. No, I am not going to solve the complexities of egg-food formulas, judging a bird's conformation, or even how many mealworms to give the Owl Finches when they are breeding! But I do hope to make life easier for those of us faced with wanting to provide sprouted seed to our feathered friends.

My trials with this little problem alone are worth my concern for others in the same situation! At one point I even resorted to spreading the seed between dampened table mats! It was not fun trying to scrape the sprouts off and the table mats still have an unusual web of dried sprout design. Figuring out how others managed to rinse the seed twice daily without losing half of it down the sink was beyond me. Finally, the mold that appeared because I couldn't get my sprouting containers into the refrigerator almost did me in too. The birds and I were getting very little rewards for all my efforts.

Thank goodness for the "sharing-what-I-know" people in this hobby! Some good and generous soul wrote an article which suggested the answer. Every beginner needs this sharing and support which is given freely through the articles written by their fellow enthusiasts. Such advice is invaluable in saving time and birds too. Enough said, what follows is a direct and simple solution to the "seed sprouting mystery" of bird feeding.

I know this sound simplistic - it is! Go to your health food store and ask for a "Seed Sprouter". These cost about \$6.00 and come complete with a wide mouth glass quart jar, three colorful lids with openings of various sizes and instructions. For my 30-some finches three jars mean that I never have a day without fresh sprouts. I store them in the refrigerator, still in the glass jar. Read the instructions, get some fresh finch seeds and you're in business. Your birds will thank you.

A few additional tips

- use your common sense. If the wet seed doesn't smell nutty-like (actually it reminds me of fresh corn) after it has started to show sprouts then discard it and start over. Don't experiment with your birds lives!
 - fresh seed should begin to sprout within two or three days of after the initial soaking period of 24 hours.
 - sprouts only need to be 1/8" long to be fed.
 - the suggested ratio of dry finch seed mix is about 1/3 cup per quart jar.
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MORE ON HUMMINGBIRDS AND NECTAR

by Dick Schroeder

I enjoyed Dr. Leli's article on Hummingbirds. The more hummer articles the better - but I'd like to point out a few things. You really don't have to feed fruitflies if you feed one of the modern formulas that is complete and balanced, (such as Avico's Hummingbird Nectar). We imported 100 hummers last July and 100 more in February of this year. They have never been offered a fruitfly. I still have about a dozen left from the last shipment (no, the others didn't die from lack of fruitflies!) and they are doing fine.

Also, the need for glass feeders is over-played. Our birds have had plastic feeders since they were captured in Peru. There has never been any sort of problem with contaminated feeders. We use two types, one is made as a hummingbird feeder, with a screw-on bottom. This has a large capacity and is great for feeding large numbers of birds. We used fifteen of these every day while feeding 95 hummers! The only drawback with these is that any solids that fall out of suspension can't be reached by the birds because of a slight recess in the bottom. By far the best feeder is a medicine syringe, used to give medicine to human babies. It's much like a hand-feeding syringe, except it has a slightly larger diameter opening which allows all species of hummers access to the nectar. Since the feeding orifice is at the very bottom of the feeder all of the solids are accessible to the birds. We paint the tips red with fingernail polish. We use two sets of feeders. One is in the flight and the other is washed with regular dish soap and a bottle brush and is ready for tomorrow. We feed only once a day, but being near the ocean, (Dick lives in Los Angeles) our temperatures rarely exceed 75°.

Most of our customers mix enough food to fill an ice cube tray, freeze it and thaw whatever is required for a day's food. I will agree that nothing is easier to keep than a hummer, but whatever the diet, they have to be fed everyday. I don't want people to be "turned off" to keeping hummers because they are reluctant to buy glass feeders and/or to keep fruitflies. They need to know that nothing is easier to keep but few birds offer more of a challenge to breed.

TO: Dick Schroeder, Dr. Ubaldo Leli and Dr. Val Clear.

The temptation gets greater each time I talk to any of you or read the things you write. Someday soon I think Bruce and I will join the ranks of the hummer-keepers. The fact that now new and complete formulas are available makes me more confident.

The Editor.

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AN EDITORIAL, REGARDING THE BILLS NOW BEFORE THE HOUSE AND SENATE

by Brenda Geesey

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A friend remarked to me that I have been uncharacteristically silent about the bills pending in Congress. I replied that I had read the bills and read the propaganda published about the bills; I had heard the opinions of knowledgeable people and the more vehement opinions of uninformed people and I have made up my mind as to my personal opinion. My friend wanted to know why I had not yet spoken out. Considering that a few years ago I won an AFA AVY Award for my "grassroots leadership" and out-spoken opposition to a bill introduced into the Pennsylvania legislature it's a reasonable question.

I cannot and will not oppose or support any of the bills. H.R. 2541, H.R. 2540, S. 1218 and S. 1219 (I refuse to call them by their "nicknames", derived from their leading sponsors) are all seriously flawed and are all lacking in essentials.

I detest the way in which the leading proponents of each bill have presented them. I refer particularly to the publication of pamphlets and brochures in which each group steadfastly refuses to be objective and instead, each portrays the other as villainous and malicious.

The only objective presentation I have seen, and a position which I will support, is the document prepared by the American Ornithologists' Union. This is the largest and oldest organization of professional ornithologists in the United States. Representing over 5500 scientists from each of the United States and from 66 countries around the world, the organization is dedicated to the study of birds and their conservation.

Quoting from the executive summary in their "Recommendations on Proposed Exotic Bird Trade Legislation":

"Focusing primarily on the implications for conserving wild bird populations in the countries of origin as well as in the U. S., seven principles are developed to provide a basis for guiding an international trade in live birds. If there is to be an international bird trade, the importation of live exotic birds should:

1. be sustainable and not pose risks of extinction for wild populations of species that are imported.
2. not pose significant risks of transmitting exotic diseases to native species, poultry, or other birds held for legitimate purposes.
3. not result in significant potentials for the establishment of feral populations.
4. be consistent with U. S. policies concerning the use of native species.

5. have regulations that are economically feasible, practically enforceable, simple and effective.

Captive breeding of exotic species for aviculture should be:

6. self-sustaining and conducted humanely.

7. used as a conservation strategy only as a last resort, and if fully integrated with international preservation and reintroduction efforts.

None of the 1100 bird species threatened with extinction (Collar and Andrew 1988) should be imported for commercial purposes.

The AOU recommends that the importation of exotic live birds, including the importation of birds reared in captivity, should be conducted only if it can meet the seven general principals outlined above. Few of these principals are explicitly addressed by either of the proposed bills to curb the importation of exotic birds. Especially lacking are regulations to: (1) decrease the risks of importing disease epidemics by improving quarantine regulations; (2) slow the establishment of feral populations of exotic species; (3) eliminate ethical inconsistencies with U. S. policies concerning use of native species vs exotic birds, and (4) decrease the dependence of aviculturists on the continued importation of wild-caught birds.

Because the importation of live exotic birds into the United States for commercial purposes has been demonstrated to have severe impacts on some wild populations, the AOU recommends the passage of a bill to curb this practice. *But the AOU does not take a position backing either of the two bills because neither bill deals with all of the principals that we believe must guide any trade in exotic birds. Enactment of one of these bills could mean a positive step towards the conservation of biological diversity, but because these bills are incomplete additional legislation will be necessary.*

The AOU believes an optimal solution to the bird trade problem from the standpoint of conserving wild populations of birds would be to enact a moratorium on the importation of wild-caught birds to the United States for a fixed period of time as soon as possible. The AOU recommends a moratorium because it is the most sensible stance in terms of its potential for immediately reducing the detrimental effects of the trade in exotic live birds on wild populations, its simplicity and effectiveness of regulations, its ethical consistency in treatment of native and foreign wildlife, and its cost effectiveness."

Contact Dr. Steven Beissinger, Associate Professor, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511 [phone (203) 432-5120; fax: (203) 432-5942] for the complete text of the AOU's recommendations. Contact your Congressman for the complete text of the bills. Read and study these documents. Form your own opinions and communicate them to your Congressman.

My choice is to support the AOU's position. This is not a statement of the position of the National Finch and Sootbill Society, of which I am the president, nor that of any other person or group. I also support the Constitution which guarantees free speech to each of us.

=====

**"THE OVERSEAS PROJECT"
NATIONAL SHOW AWARDS**

by Tom Rood

=====

(Please excuse this early insertion of an "editor's note but I want you all to understand that this "Overseas Project" - National Show Awards - is REALLY BY TOM ROOD !! I mean, he conceived this idea and he carries it out each year, almost single-handedly...AND...this article about it is by him too.)

Once again the NFS has been involved in an overseas exchange project with various cage bird clubs in England, Scotland, Australia, etc. I must say that the response to this year's project was overwhelming. We received numerous beautiful and unique awards from these clubs. Many of the awards consist of colorful rosettes medals, plaques and diplomas. Many of the awards are quite unique; the type of awards we just don't see in the U. S..

In order to meet Brenda's deadline for this issue I'm not going to list all of the awards now but I will in a future issue, before the National Show. It is safe to say that all 10 finch and softbill sections listed in the National catalog will be represented with overseas awards. Several of the clubs that responded were Zebra, Society and Australian Finch clubs, so those sections will be "hit" heavily with specials. There will be some Novice awards and some Unflighted awards in several of the sections.

Be sure to bring some birds to Detroit in order to win some of these!

=====

And in case that's not enough to lure you and your birds, Tom donated a beautiful plaque with figurines to be presented to the best Novice bird and he organized a fund-raising drive that accumulated enough money to present a nice award to the best Bred and Banded by Exhibitor Finch or Softbill. Each year he sends rosettes to each NFS affiliated club in his region (plus a few others) for them to use in their NFS division in any way that they want. And he has a nice wife and great kids, and he raises great birds!

Nice to know 'ya and thanks a lot Tom.

The Editor (again)

=====

**SUPPORT
PINGSAVE**

**THE NATIONAL FINCH
AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY**

HONOR ROLL

**EXHIBITORS WITH 200
OR MORE POINTS**

MARTY VON RAESFELD	437
GENE & JUNE MILLER	423
TOM ROOD	352
CECIL GUNBY	343
RICHARD LUJAN	313
HAL KOONTZ	310
BRENDA GEESEY	307
KRIS KRONER	279
STEPHEN HOPPIN	250
BRIAN MANDERICH	223
MARVIN YODER	201

CONGRATULATIONS !

=====

TOP TEN SHOWS OF 1990

=====

Dr. Al Decoteau reports that he has had a request that we print this list. I suspect that he just wants to see it in print! Anyway, here goes....

National Cage Bird Show			248 entries
Atlanta, GA	11/16/90	Judged by Joe Krader	
Fresno Canary & Finch Club			163 entries
Madera, CA	10/27/90	Judged by Marty von Raesfeld	
Sunshine State Cage Bird Society		32 exhibitors	156 entries
Orlando, FL	10/13/90	Judged by Cecil Gunby	
Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida		20 exhibitors	152 entries
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	8/25/90	Judged by Stephen Hoppin	
New England Finch Fanciers		21 exhibitors	145 entries
East Hartford, CT	11/24/90	Judged by William Parlee	
Baltimore Bird Fanciers		18 exhibitors	136 entries
Towson, MD	10/20/90	Judged by Roddy Gabel	
Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club		14 exhibitors	136 entries
Sunnyvale, CA	11/24/90	Judged by Joe Krader	
Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Club		15 exhibitors	120 entries
Mechanicsburg, PA	10/27/90	Judged by Stephen Hoppin	
Golden Gate Avian Society		20 exhibitors	120 entries
Livermore, CA	11/3/90	Judged by Hal Koontz	
Mid-America Cage Bird Show		16 exhibitors	119 entries
Des Moines, IA	10/6/90	Judged by Paul Williams	
Fort Worth Bird Club		13 exhibitors	112 entries
Fort Worth, TX	10/6/90	Judged by Dr. Al Decoteau	
Jacksonville Cage Bird Society		8 exhibitors	110 entries
Jacksonville, FL	9/29/90	Judged by Stephen Hoppin	

Yes, I did notice that there are actually twelve shows listed. Did you notice that two shows tied for 6th and two for 7th place?

=====

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.

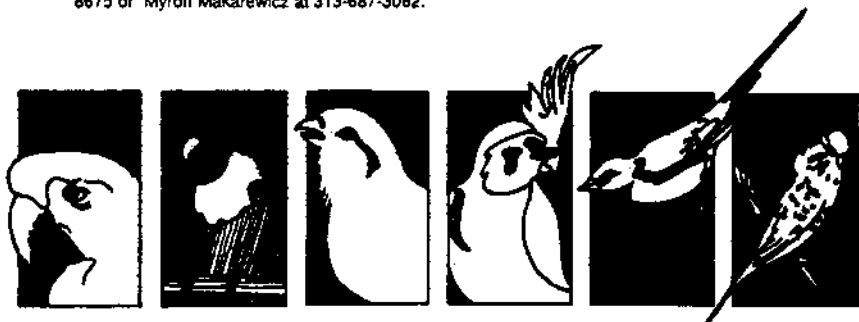
Members of the Board of Directors for the National Exhibition will all be on hand to assist with the check-in on Thursday evening and with the check-out following the banquet on Saturday night.

Judges selected for the show are:

Borders	Bert Reid (Scotland)
Type Canaries	Clarence King (TX)
Glossers	Harry Marriott (England)
Hartz	Margie McGee (CA)
Old Variety Canaries	Giovanni Bartocello (Italy)
American Singers	Joyce Yuhas (NJ)
Lychochrome	Roberto Font (FL)
Melanin	Robert Van Dorp (Belgium)
Parrots	Conrad Meinert (IN)
Finches/Softbills	Earl Courts (MO)
Lovebirds	Roland DuBuc (CA)
Budgengars	Len Adams (IL)
Cockatles	Linda Rubin (CA)

Call the Hyatt for room reservations. Doubles are \$69.00 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, Owls, 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.
-

NFS BAND
ORDER FORM

MAIL TO: DENISE CAPAZZI
9 EAGLE RIDGE DRIVE
GALES FERRY CT 06335
Phone (203) 464 6961

1991

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.



AFA in brief

Gary Clifton, Editor (602) 945-7736

July 1991

Legislative Update - Federal

Two bills addressing the bird trade are now before Congress, and it is of utmost importance that aviculturists contact their federal legislators to show support for the **EXOTIC BIRD CONSERVATION ACT** (HR2541 and S1218) proposed by the Cooperative Working Group on the Bird Trade (CWGBT) after three years of study and negotiation, and at the same time voice opposition to the **Wild Bird Protection Act** (HR2540 and S1219) proposed by Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and a few other "animal rights" groups. This "lookalike" bill proposed by these groups is intended to set the stage for further restrictions aviculturists would find intolerable. Both bills were introduced by Rep Studds (phone 202 226-3533) and Rep Beilenson (phone 202 225-5911), who should also be contacted to hear the concerns of private aviculturists. Phone calls, to be effective, should be followed up with letters.

Participants in the CWGBT include AFA, AAV (Association of Avian Veterinarians), AAZPA (American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums), APWA (American Pheasant and Waterfowl Association), Audubon Society, ICBP (International Council for Bird Preservation - a federation of 330 bird conservation organizations), PIJAC (Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council), TRAFFIC(USA) and WWF (World Wildlife Fund). Until the last minute, HSUS (Humane Society of the United States), SAPL (Society for Animal Protective Legislation) and AWI (Animal Welfare Institute) participated.

Unlike the Defenders bill, the **EXOTIC BIRD CONSERVATION ACT** (HR2541, S1218) is designed to promote captive breeding and worldwide conservation strategies. Among the key differences, the Exotic Bird Conservation Act sets a rational five year phaseout of wild-caught birds for the pet trade rather than an immediate halt called for in the Defenders bill. This provides time for aviculturists to improve production to meet demands of the pet trade rather than causing immediate turmoil in the market and an unimaginable increase in smuggling to meet demands that do not diminish because of legislation. After the phaseout period, a registration system with provisions for automatic approval would allow aviculturists to obtain wild-caught birds for breeding purposes. **THIS REGISTRATION WOULD APPLY ONLY TO THOSE PERSONS WISHING TO OBTAIN WILD-CAUGHT BIRDS FOR BREEDING STOCK AFTER THE FIVE YEAR PHASEOUT.** No marking requirements are involved for domestic-bred birds or birds imported prior to phaseout, no registration is re-

quired for breeders unless they wish to obtain wild-caught stock after the phaseout. The Defenders bill, on the other hand, would require marking of **ALL BRDS** except canaries, budgies and cockatiels. This would apply to all imported birds, no matter when imported, and to domestic produced birds as well.

Ranching (a managed program of habitat enhancement rather than destruction to provide a sustainable harvest of some of the young) can provide economic incentives to protect habitat. This is consistent with conservation strategies and provided for in the Exotic Bird Conservation Act, but under the Defenders bill there is no provision for importation of ranchered birds thus no economic incentive to protect habitat. The Defenders bill seeks to limit trade only, with no regard or "protection" for wild birds or their habitat. Additionally, the CWGBT bill (HR2541, S1218) allows citizens to file suit against the government in cases of alleged violations or failure to enforce the act. Under the Defenders bill, well-funded animal rights groups could file suit against private individuals like you, aviculturists or pet-owners, said to be in violation of the Act.

The Exotic Bird Conservation Act (HR3541, S1218) is intended to be comprehensive and preemptive with respect to importations and transfers of birds, providing one uniform, national law rather than a hodgepodge of different, perhaps conflicting state laws. The Defenders bill specifically states it isn't designed to provide this, instead it allows each state to develop more restrictive laws resulting in a patchwork of inconsistencies at the state level.

YOU need to contact your US Senators and Representatives to let them know which bill to support and why. The animal rights groups are conducting an expensive campaign for their highly restrictive bill. If you sit back to let "the other guy" write, you can rest assured the other guy will be writing to support a bill that will require you to mark **ALL** your birds except canaries, cockatiels and budgies, no matter when they were imported, no matter whether they were imported or domestically produced. The other guy will be supporting a bill that almost ensures an incomprehensible increase in smuggling, since legal importation will come to an immediate and virtual halt. The "other guy" will be writing to support a bill that will create a mosaic of inconsistent state laws rather than uniform federal law. The other guy will be writing to support a bill that exposes you to the possibility of countless lawsuits, filed by any "concerned citizen" who thinks you **MIGHT** be in violation of the Wild Bird Protection Act. Can you afford for the "other guy" to be the only voice heard by your legislators?

AFA...working for aviculture and you!

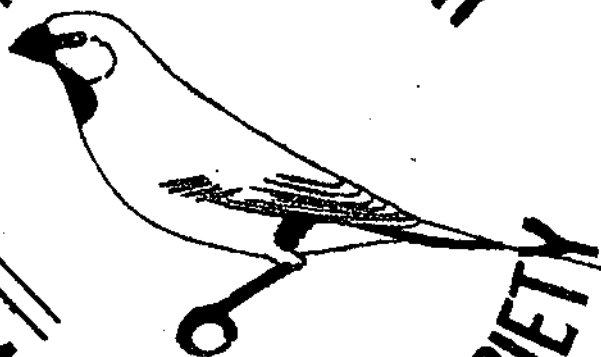
American Federation of Aviculture • P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ 85079-6218 • ph (602) 484-0931



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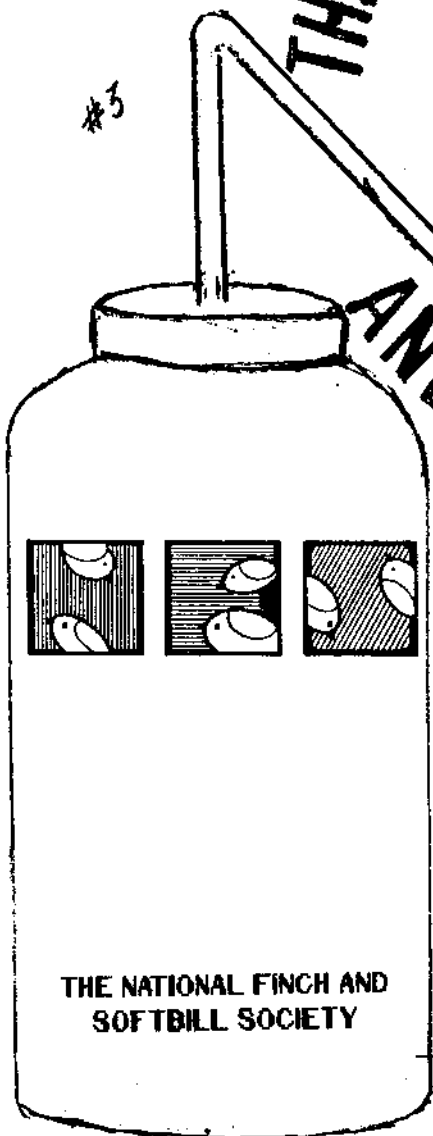
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THE NATIONAL FINCH



#3

AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY



NEW FINCHSHOP ITEMS !!

#1. The new Gouldian and NFS Logo Pin. Very nice FULL color Red-headed male Gouldian. Purple band around edge, gold letters. White background behind bird. Same "stick-pin" back as the previous model. \$6.00.

#2. This is the design that is approximately 10" wide on the new T-shirts. The Shafttail is white, outlined in black, red beak and legs and the lettering is blue. Sharp! The shirts are 100% cotton. Sizes M, L, XL a few XXL. \$15.00.

#3. Handy water bottle. Makes it easy to refill those show cage water cups. Keeps water from home fresh while you travel. Holds 18 oz. NFS logo on both sides. Clear plastic. \$6.00

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND
SOFTBILL SOCIETY

AND...Bruce, the cut and paste master, got them all on one page! Hooray! The Editor.

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY
 AGENDA FOR BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING NOVEMBER 1991

1. Roll call

___ Geesey	___ O'Connell	___ Parlee
___ Gunby	___ Hoppin	___ Liddy
___ Hoffman	___ Rood	___ McCawley
___ Brissette	___ Miller	___ Voronovitch
___ Decoteau	___ Wigmore	___ Spartzak
___ von Raesfeld	___ Caudle	
___ Capazzi		
___ Armitage, Jr.		

2. Recording Secretary's report.

Capazzi

12. Finchsavve Report.

Dja and group.

3. Band Secretary's report.

Capazzi

13. Awards Directors report.

Voronovitch

4. Corresponding Secretary's report.

von Raesfeld

14. Advertising Manager's report.

Spartzak

5. Treasurer's report.

Armitage

15. Publishing Committee report.

Geesey

6. Membership Services report.

Armitage

16. Promotions Committee report.

Geesey

7. Affiliations Directors report.

Liddy

17. Education Committee report.

Hoffman

8. Standards Committee report.

Decoteau

18. Regional Vice President's reports.

O'Connell, Hoppin, Rood,
 Miller, Wigmore and Caudle.

9. Judges' Panel report.

Decoteau

10. Points Directors report.

Decoteau

11. Finchshop report.

McCawley

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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NEW BUSINESS

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CLB BUSINESS

We need people to sign up to help as stewards, secretaries, etc. at this years National.

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TENTATIVE NOTICE OF 1992 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS

It is very convenient to have a Board meeting with the New England Finch Fanciers Syposium, one with the AFA Convention and one with the National Show. In 1992 this means the NFS Board will meet in New England in June, in Miami in August, and in Oklahoma City in November. This spreads the meetings around the country very nicely! We will do our February Board meeting by mail again. The votes will be reported in the March/April bulletin.

For the remainder of 1991:

November Board Meeting, in conjunction with the National Show, Detroit, MI

=====

Thanks for your input and co-operation. Best wishes, Brenda.

=====

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NEWS FLASH !!!

NFS first Champion Bird !!!

**Dilute Society Male
NFS E B7 1989**

**Bred, banded and exhibited to his
NFS Championship by**

Tom Rood

This Dilute Male Society in 1989 was second best Society in the NFS National Show and went on to become 10th Best in Show as an Unflighted bird. Then in 1990, at the National Show E B7 '89 took Best Society and 2nd Best in Show!

Congratulations and best wishes to Tom and E B7 '89.

=====

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.

The handbooks are unique being one of the first Australian produced documents on the keeping and breeding of Australian and Foreign Finches.

They are available from the Queensland Finch Society Inc. by sending appropriate monies to the Sales Steward.

**Finch Breeders Handbook - Volume I,
The Australians \$20 + \$3 P&H**

**Finch Breeders Handbook - Volume II,
The Foreigns \$30 + \$5 P&H**

Subscribe to **FINCH NEWS**

The prestigious Aussie colour monthly magazine with everything you wanted to know about Australian and Foreign Finches.

Annual Subscription rates:

Australia - \$20.00

Overseas (Surface) - AUD \$24.00

Overseas (Airmail) - AUD \$35.00

payable to: **The Membership Registrar,
THE QUEENSLAND
FINCH SOCIETY,
P.O. Box 303,
Woolloongabba,
Queensland, Aust. 4102**



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

BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA



=====
CLASSIFIED ADS
=====

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

AUSTRALIAN FINCHES: All domestically bred. Most closed banded. Owls, 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 (*Thamnoaeta 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 Twin-spot, \$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 Gabel, (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 D252. Please call only 8-10 p.m. E.S.T.

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FINCHSAVE CLASSIFIED ADS

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

NEEDED: White Eyes (Zosterops) and Swee (Dufresne's) Waxbills for FINCHSAVE breeding program. Jodie Davis, 7721 Janes 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.

=====

I WAS JUST WONDERING....

**from the membership
to the membership**

=====

"I have a suspended 1" x 2" wire mesh cage, 7' long, 3' tall, 3' wide which I no longer use for parrots. The cage is in a lighted and comfortable (not too warm or too cold) basement in which I breed many species of finches. I feel I am ready for the softbill plunge (i.e. I am an experienced bird keeper/breeder, and finally consider myself disciplined enough for softbills). What would you recommend I start with in a cage this size mesh, and should I stick to only one species in this cage? What diet would you recommend for these birds?"

This first question is from Martha Wigmore, (the Regional Vice-President whose survey of members engendered this new column). Responses are invited from all members and should be mailed to the Editor's address.

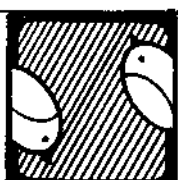
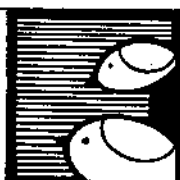
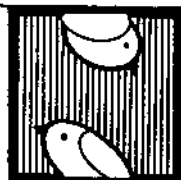
Questions of any sort are also invited and will be published on a regular basis, along with answers to the questions in previous issues.

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 Naxbills, Gouldians, Green Singing Finches, Java Rice Birds, Shafttails, Society Finches and Zebra Finch Standards. Lavenders, Star Finches, Fire Finchr, 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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NEW MBSHP _____

RENEWAL _____

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