

The NFSS Bulletin

Vol. 11, No.4



Yellow-crowned Titus -

The National Finch and Softbill Society

July—August 1994



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Editorial Policy/Disclaimer

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NFSS members are encouraged to submit articles, drawings and photographs. NFSS reserves the right to edit and/or reject all editorial, photographic and advertising material submitted to *The NFSS Bulletin* for publication. Photographs, when submitted, shall become the sole property of NFSS and shall be subject to use in any and all NFSS programs.

Affiliated clubs have permission to reprint all articles unless marked "All Rights Reserved". "All Rights Reserved" articles must have the author's written permission and all "reprinted by permission of" articles require written permission from the original source.

Opinions expressed in articles and published in the *Bulletin* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor, NFSS or its Board of Directors.

Advertisements in the *Bulletin* are not endorsed by NFSS unless stated otherwise. NFSS assumes no responsibility for advertisers' claims or the quality of their products or services.

In this issue:

From planning your vacation to the appealing Ixulus. Serins to charming Starlings. Owl Finches to Goldfinches—this issue will likely stretch you into new avenues of your hobby. *Thank you to our contributors!*

A very special thank you is included in this issue to the *Bulletin's* past contributors. The ten year **Cumulative Author Index** is truly an Honor Roll of Contributors. What a special gift all these individuals have given the hobby during the first decade of NFSS.

One of NFSS' very first members reflects on **NFSS' first ten years**. It's pretty interesting to consider the impact NFSS has had on finch and softbill aviculture.

An article about **doing your own cultures** is included, and there's some information from the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** which may answer your questions about **WBCA**. And for those of you who will learn through showing this year, a **show preparation calendar** will get you started this month.

Don't forget the **NFSS logo contest** now underway! Encourage your friends to enter, too.



**Deadline for the next issue is
August 1st.**



The NFSS Bulletin

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Cover Credit:

Nesting Yellow-collared Ixulus (*Yuhina flavicollis*)
by Kirsten Swank of Eden Prairie, MN.

Kirsten is taking art lessons at the *Atelier LeSueur* in Wayzata, MN.

She was also the artist of the *Bulletin's* May-June 1994 cover.

She is (still) twelve years old.

For more information about Ixulus, see page 14.



President's Message

By Steve Hoppin

Over the past many years I have traveled throughout the United States and abroad. My annual personal vacation has been planned to include visits to avian conventions, bird shows, aviculturists' personal aviaries, and bird club meetings. I have had the pleasure of meeting many warm, generous and dedicated finch and softbill fanciers along the way. In addition, I have gained knowledge, shared valuable experiences and truly have enjoyed the camaraderie between myself and other finch and softbill fanciers.

I experienced my first avian convention in 1984. The AFA Convention was being held in Orlando, Florida and offered an array of interesting avian presentations. The topics varied and were presented by well-known, knowledgeable, and talented speakers. Through the course of the day I met aviculturists that

shared similar interests, and attended several educational finch and softbill presentations. I listened closely and took many notes. Time flew by and I soon found myself driving home and reminiscing about the enlightening experience!

In November of 1990, I attended the National Cage Bird Show in Atlanta, Georgia. Over the course of the weekend I met a variety of successful and knowledgeable finch and softbill breeders/exhibitors from all over the U.S. We shared many interests and engaged in healthy conversations about breeding tips, techniques, etc. I entered personally bred and banded finches in competition to measure my breeding abilities/successes against some of the finest birds in the country.

At the close of the weekend I left for home with a feeling of accomplishment. Not only had I shared and gained knowledge, but my 1990 Shafttail won his large unflighted class (17 young birds) and he went on to beat the adult Shafttails (13) in the Australian Section. The fact that this bird neither placed in the final top ten, win a trophy or special award, didn't make any difference to me. I was satisfied that my breeding efforts were appropriate and that I was producing good quality stock. This was personal reinforcement enough for my efforts.

One of my most memorable and pleasant over-all avian experiences was traveling throughout Australia for thirty days in 1990. The "Aus-sies" were without a doubt some of

the most generous and hospitable aviculturists I have ever had the pleasure to meet. I was invited to view, photograph and video numerous exotic birds and outstanding aviaries in Sydney, Melbourne and Cairns. I was also invited to give a presentation to a bird club in Sydney. Needless to say, I jumped at the opportunity. All these memories will last a lifetime!

Buying birds while vacationing

Prior to visiting family in Phoenix, Arizona in September of 1993, I had the opportunity to introduce myself and converse via telephone with a few NFSS members living in the Phoenix area. Arrangements were made to trade a few domestic finch bloodlines. These individuals not only introduced me to other finch breeders, but invited me to attend the Arizona Avicultural Society meeting. Once again, I found the presentation education and worthwhile. I managed to spend quality time with my family, shared a lot of finch and soft-hill energy with a terrific group of Arizona aviculturists, and I came home with a few domestic finches enabling me to increase the diversity in my gene pool of breeders.

When you have the opportunity to travel even on vacations, try to devote a portion of your time to investigate and seek out other individuals with your same interest in aviculture. Of course, do your homework before you go and learn of

local clubs, breeders, and activities at your destination. Much of this information can be obtained from *The NFSS Bulletin*, bird club newsletters, and avian publications listing such items as avian conventions, bird shows, breeder ads or censuses, and club meetings.

There are many people who are willing to share their knowledge, experiences and successes just as much as you are willing to share yours.



*Plan Now To
Attend!*

'94 NFSS General Membership Meeting

National Cage Bird Show
Manchester, New Hampshire
Saturday, November 19,
1994

time to be announced

The National Finch and Soft-bill Society and the "Show of Shows" Welcome You to New Hampshire and the NFSS National Show!

NFSS Panel Judge:
Daren Decoteau

Judging Friday,
November 18, 1994



*National Finch And
Softbill Society's*

FINCHSAVE

"the successful breeding program serving as a model for others to follow!"

**FOR INFORMATION
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(804) 874-8581

*Give Something Back to
Aviculture!*

NFSS News & Notes

Compiled from NFSS Directors

FINCHSAVE to be Presented Again at the AFA Convention

Linda Oja, NFSS FINCHSAVE Director, will make a presentation on the progress of FINCHSAVE—at the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) Convention in Knoxville, TN. August 3-6, 1994. Linda's program receives top billing on some literature AFA is distributing for their 20th Convention! We wish you well at the AFA Convention, Linda, and are proud of you and the FINCHSAVE Committee.

Linda is currently seeking slides to use in her presentation. If you have any good slides of aviaries, nests, finches and/or softbills, etc., please forward them to Linda for possible use in her presentation.

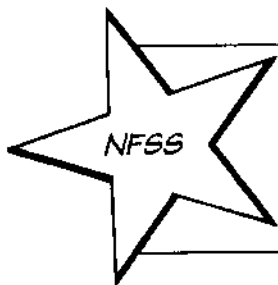
1994 NFSS Regional Shows!

Congratulations to these NFSS affiliated clubs, chosen to host their NFSS Regional Show:

Region 1-Northeast: Connecticut Association for Aviculture (CT)

Region 2-Southeast: Georgia Cage Bird Society (GA)

Region 3-Mid-Central/Foreign: Greater Chicago Cage Bird Society (IL)



THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL
SOCIETY'S

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

A second decade even more successful than its first! And the National Finch and Softbill Society would like to enter this exciting period with a new logo.

All members and friends of NFSS are invited to enter their logo ideas in the NFSS logo design contest.

The prize for the winning logo design will be a choice of ★ \$50 cash plus two years paid membership in NFSS, or ★ five years paid membership in NFSS!

Entries must be sent to

NFSS President

Steve Hoppin

3836 Hidden Acres Cir.

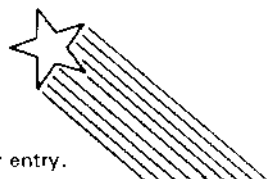
N. Ft. Myers, FL

33903.

Entries must be postmarked on or before
September 15, 1994.

We hope to have several designs to select a winner from at the NFSS Board Meeting at the Great American Bird Show in Des Moines, IA, on September 30, 1994.

Good luck to all!



Complete form below and attach to your entry.

NFSS LOGO CONTEST FOR 1994 ★ ENTRY FORM ★

Entries must be postmarked on or before
September 15, 1994.

I am entering the attached design and/or artwork in the NFSS LOGO CONTEST FOR 1994. The contents of this entry are my original work and I am sole owner of the material. I transfer and assign any and all copy rights to NFSS.

Signature _____

Print Your Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Send entries to:
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 (809) 840-6743

SEND US YOUR IDEAS!

Region 4-Mid-West: Heartland Canary and Finch Club (KS)

Region 5-Mountain: Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture (CO)

Region 6-Pacific Coast: Golden Gate Avian Society (CA)

Region 7-Caribbean: Organización Puertorriqueña de Aves Exóticas, Inc. (PR)

Thanks to all the affiliates that offered to host the Regionals! For more information about these and other NFSS affiliated shows, consult the Listing of Affiliates, Delegates and Shows (see page 53).

New Address for Membership Chairman—Lynda Bakula

Lynda Bakula has moved, and all new memberships, renewals, changes of address, and corrections to mailing labels will reach her faster if you refer to page 8 of this *Bulletin* for her new address.

Need extra copies of an upcoming issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*?

Board members, panel judges and supporters of NFSS who would like extra copies of upcoming issues of the *Bulletin* to have on hand at shows, etc. should let the Editor know by the *Bulletin's* publication deadline dates (see page 1).

Logo Design Contest

NFSS wants to enter its second decade with a new logo. Details of the logo design contest, open to everyone interested, appear on page 7. A \$50 cash award is one of the prizes being offered to the individual who enters the winning design. *Contest deadline is September 15, 1994!*

When is Your NFSS Membership Due for Renewal?

How to Read Your Mailing Label:

Your mailing label shows the issue through which your membership is paid (i.e. *Expire: 07/01/94*).

When your membership is up for renewal, your mailing label will have highlighted: **MEMBERSHIP DUE**.

If you have not paid by the following issue you will see highlighted the sad tidings: **LAST ISSUE**.

New Babies and Panel Judges

It's happened again—another national society Panel Judge has given birth, and once again it's an NFSS judge! Congratulations to Laura Bewley and husband Richard on the birth of their first child, Miles Dean on May 3rd, 1994.

The winner of the drawing from *Bulletin* contributors (January-June '94 issues) is

Jeanne Morris!

Jeanne's drawing of two Zebra Finches appeared on the cover of the March-April issue this year. Her name was pulled out of a hat in which were the names of all those whose contributions were included in the first three issues of this year. (NFSS Directors whose contributions were submitted in the "line of duty" were not included in the drawing, although Directors who submitted articles or photographs were included.)

Jeanne has won a copy of the NFSS video *The Wonderful World of*

**Coming
In the Next Issue:**

Breeding Parrot Finches

Good Food for Birds

**Jon Hoffman's 1st Ten
Years With NFS**

**How Should We Show
Pairs?**

and more!

Finches and Softbills: An Introduction and an NFSS water bottle.

A very warm thanks to Jeanne and to all our contributors for their beautiful work for NFSS! Another drawing will be held from contributors to the last 3 issues of 1994.

First Class Mailing Option

Third class delivery of the May-June issue seemed particularly delayed in many areas of the country (3 to 4 weeks?). For your information, it was mailed *May 17th*. First class mailing of your copy would cost you an additional \$5.00 per year. Interested? Contact Membership Chairman Lynda Bakula (*see page 8 for address*).

**Time to Review Show
Classifications**

A review of the NFSS Show Classifications is underway, and your comments are requested. Please send any suggestions to Dr. Al Decoteau (*see page 8 for address*).

Comments On Proposed Pekin Robin Standard

The comment period on the proposed Pekin Robin Standard, which was published in the May-June 1994 issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*, is still open. All comments are valued and considered, and your participation is welcome! Please address your ideas to Dr. Al Decoteau, Standards Chairman (*see page 8 for address*).

2nd Qtr Board of Directors Meeting

The results of the 2nd quarter NFSS Directors Meeting will be included in the Sep-Oct 1994 issue of the *Bulletin*.

NFSS Tenth Anniversary

Reflections on the impact of NFSS during its first ten years, are still being received from our earliest members and will continue to appear in upcoming issues.

Can We Help You Write It?

If you have an idea for an article but would appreciate a kick in the... er.. some assistance of any kind getting it on paper, please just contact the Editor.

The Cracked Shell—Corrections

Thanks to Bill Parlee for the reminder that the *NFS Handbook* first appeared in 1988, preceded in 1985 by the *NFS Judges Handbook*.

And, of course, it is *yours*, not *your's*. First thing I saw when I opened it up, too...



Breeding the Australian Finches

Another View of Raising Owls

by Laura Barwick
Raleigh, North Carolina

. . . Owl finches are Australian grass finches. . . They are very active birds. Everything is done in a group. So keep finches in pairs. If kept as a single bird, it is subject to stress.

One important thing to remember is cage size. Finches cannot be handled like our parrot friends, so they get their exercise by flying. Try to purchase as large a cage as money can buy. You can also build cages cheaply. I built my cage, or rather Ed (my staff of one and husband) built the cage. He used 1/2 x 1" 16 gauge wire. We used j-clips or ferules to attach the wire together. Make sure you remove the sharp points for the birds' safety as well as your own. . .

My cage is suspended from the ceiling using chain and plant hangers. You can also use a tray bottom to catch the debris, and this is changed once a week. With paper outside the cage, you do not have to worry

about the finches escaping, and it seems to be less disturbing to them when it is cage cleaning time. Once a finch gets out, he either flies high or flies low. He hides and he is QUIET. . . My problem is that I have a Blue-fronted Amazon that thinks everything or everybody is fair game. (No, Ted, Cookie is not that sweet!)

The cage should also have more length than height. Finches fly back and forth, not up and down. My

The *Poephila* genus (family)

The Owl finch is related to the Zebra finch.

Poephila are known as grassfinches and the Owl and Zebra are thought to be closely related to grassfinches.**

Long-tailed grassfinch *P. acuticauda*

Parson or Black-throated finch *P. cincta*

Masked grassfinch *P. personata*

Zebra finch *P. guttata*

Bichenov finch *P. bichenovii*

** Info from Derek Goodwin, *Estrildid Finches of the World*, Cornell University Press, N.Y., Ithaca, 1982. Goodwin puts the Zebra and the Owl in the *Poephila* genus contrary to some ornithologists.

cage is 59" high, 36" wide and 16" deep. I have two pairs inside. They like the small hooded wicker nests which are hung as high as possible in the cage. Sometime in the near

future. I am going to cut the cage in half and make two cages out of it. . . After separating the cages, I will have a holding cage for the babies.

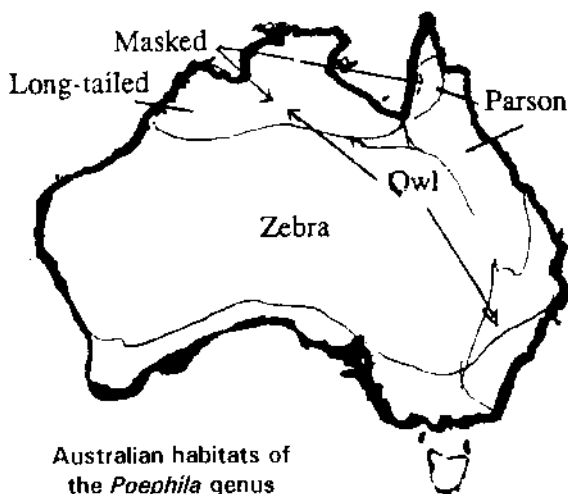
Determining sexes

One problem with Owl finches is that the sexes are hard to determine. Males and females look alike. Females are smaller, have narrower bands some say. If a bird is holding his head at an angle or stretching his neck, the bands will look larger or smaller, however.

To determine sex, separate the birds, by placing one bird in a cage by itself. You will also need to move the cage out of sight and sound of the other finches. If it is a male, it will sing almost immediately. A female will be restless and will not sing.

I use bay for my nesting material, and it is relaxing watching the birds pick up a piece of bay, show it to the female by bobbing their heads, hopping back and forth. The nest is also used for sleeping in at night. Once the nest is built, incubation of the four eggs is about 12 days. At 10 days of age you can band the chicks,

using a size "A" band. The chicks will leave the nest at about 28 days. I purchase my bands from the National Finch and Softbill Society. The band is very small, but then so are the babies if you band. You can wait until



Australian habitats of the *Poephila* genus

Grassy savanna(h) (a plain with coarse grass and scattered trees): *Long-tailed, Parson, Masked, Owl*
 Open, arid areas: *Masked*
 Arid interior near water: *Zebra*

they fledge, using a larger size band, or try banding them at night. Sometimes the adults will forget that you banded the night before. Keep watch and make sure the babies are fed once they are banded. If they are not, then you can pull the babies to be fostered or hand feed them yourself.

Diet

The diet I feed is a good finch seed mix, spray millet, cuttlebone,



Nesting Owl Finches owned and photographed by Sandee Gregorich-Peterson, Minneapolis, MN

mixed vegetables cut up small, and chopped greens. When breeding, I feed heavily live food. The birds also like a good egg food and soaked monkey biscuits.

Some finches require termites or ant pupa, but since I don't need any extra critters to feed, I feed live mealworms—mini size. These are so small they don't feel like they are in your hand. Yes, I actually touch them! I keep them in the fridge. . .

Also keep Owl finches in a cage to themselves. They have been known to hybridize with Zebra and Society finches. The eggs are infertile, and I have not heard of any eggs hatching. At a time when importation is coming to a halt, finches need

our help. Not many finches are being captive bred, and not a lot is known about them. I feel very strongly against hybridizing, be it a parrot or a finch. The gene pool needs to be kept as pure as it can be. Owls have not been imported since Australia stopped them in 1975-76. . .



Reprinted from Virginia Finch Forum, October 1992, where it was edited by Dick Ivy. Originally from the Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society newsletter, Mar-Apr 1992. Jane Stutz, ed.

Special thank you to Linda Oja for permission to reprint from her outstanding publications.

The Avicultural Library

Our Cover Birds:

The Yellow-collared Ixulus

Yuhina flavicollis

Also known as

Yellow-naped or Whiskered Yuhina

FAMILY: Muscicapidae

There are nine species of Yuhinas and numerous subspecies. The Yellow-collared Ixulus and the Black-chinned Yuhina (*Yuhina nigrimenta*) are most frequently seen. There are seven subspecies of the Yellow-collared Ixulus.

DESCRIPTION: Size 4 1/2"

Somberly colored birds, but nevertheless attractive. Upper surfaces olive-brown; nape particularly variable, but usually pale buff; underparts gray-white; crest dark brown. Mustache streaks black. White eye ring and white on cheeks as well as throat is reasonably prominent. Bill and legs brown. Distinctive crest erected in a frequent display of various emotions and any kind of excitement.

The sexes are alike.

DISTRIBUTION: Himalayas, Burma, southern China, Thailand.

HABITAT: Mountainous country and high plateaus, keeping to low forests. Sociable birds, gathering in large flocks (another source describes their flocks as small). Migrates south in winter.

FEEDING: They need a wide variety of food, including small insects (mealworms and maggots are usually too tough—try fruit flies, flies, spiders, etc.), soft fruits (pears, grapes, and berries when in season), a fine insectile mixture (there are several on the market today), and nectar in carefully managed quantities, as they prefer nectar but require a more varied diet. One author, in 1980, stated that Ixulus were birds of highly specialized insectivorous habits, and are best left to the expert. Recent writers are not as cautious.

In the wild, *Ixulus* find insects in the large blooms of rhododendrons. *Ixulus* wipe their bills on branches after feeding, so in captivity perches and branches must be cleaned and changed frequently.

NESTING: *Ixulus* build a cup-shaped nest in a well-leaved shrub or climbing plant. The pairing dance of the closely related Black-chinned Yuhina (*Yuhina nigramenta*) was performed on a branch. The male spread his tail and wings; the crest lay flat on his head and feathers on his flanks stood out. As he did this, he made a hissing sound. Then he let himself fall over frontwards with wings and tail outspread and hung himself upside down from the branch; after this he went round in a circle and sat down on the branch.

It is suggested that a single pair be provided its own small planted aviary in which to nest. Provide fine grasses and rootlets to construct the nest. The Black-chinned Yuhina pair mentioned above successfully nested in a fir tree in a nest built of coconut fibers. The pair preferred to drink water in which clusters of millet had been soaked.

Incubation is 13 days, shared in part by the male. Large quantities of suitable live insects are required for rearing young. The young fledge in two weeks and are independent from the parents two weeks later. The young are muted in color. One source (in 1986) states that the breeding habits of Yuhinas in general are similar to those of Pekin Robins (*for an excellent discussion of breeding Pekin Robins, see "The Pekin Robin" by Brenda Geesey in the September/October 1991 issue of The NFSS Bulletin*).

GENERAL: *Ixulus* are very affectionate to their partners. Although *Ixulus* are sociable birds, living in flocks, and are best not kept singly, *Ixulus* cannot be safely kept with medium sized or closely related softbills. They get along with small finches or small softbills such as Honeycreepers, but they are pugnacious to many larger birds, even twice their size, while defending their territory.

Ixulus are active and acrobatic in habit. They have a soft and monotonous call, males often having a pleasantly melodious call note.

READ MORE ABOUT *IXULUS*:

Alderton, David. **The Complete Cage and Aviary Bird Handbook**, TFH Publications, NJ, 1986.

Bates, Henry and Robert Busenbark, **Finches and Soft-billed Birds**. TFH Publications, NJ, 1970.

Martin, Richard Mark. **Cage and Aviary Birds**, William Collins Sons & Co., Ltd, London, 1980.

Roots, Clive, **Softbilled Birds**. Arco Publishing Co., NY, 1970.

Rutgers, A. and K.A. Norris, ed., **Encyclopaedia of Aviculture, Vol. 3**. Blandford Press Ltd, Poole Dorset, 1977.

Woolham, Frank, **Aviary Birds In Colour**, Blandford Press Ltd., Poole Dorset, 1985.



Breeding the African finches

The Feathered Musician From Africa

The Grey Singing Finch

Serinus leucopygius

by Dorothy Hartle
Warrenton, Virginia

Of all the birds that I have had the pleasure of owning, my very favorite is the charming Grey Singing Finch. I adore this feathered gem. The Grey Singer is approximately 4" long from head to tail tip. He is a member of the Serin family from Africa. The sexes are exactly alike; the only indication of sex is the male's unique, beautiful song. I have heard of hens singing, but I have never been blessed with the ownership of such a bird. As youngsters, the males will start to sing at approximately three months of age.

To the novice, the Grey Singer is probably drab in color. He is a solid pattern of dark grey bars intermixed with white and lighter grey. His underside is white.

I first came upon the species when I ventured into a pet shop. Upon opening the door, I could hear a beautiful song! Considering the length of the store, I was impressed. I followed the sound to a cage full of

finches. There, on the perch, was this little fellow singing his heart out. He and his wife came home with me.

I have never enjoyed a species as much as the Grey Singer. His song is a melody and it is never monotonous or a single roll. It is truly a song. In my birdroom, it is easily distinguished from the canaries' song. I can also tell which male is singing.

I have been able to house them in a mixed aviary as well as in separate cages. For the most part, the Grey Singing Finch is easily bred. But the problems that arise could kill you. I have successfully raised four babies in a year. My most successful breeding occurs during the holiday season. I have tried breeding in spring but found my fertility rate was not as high as the winter months.

The first thing to do is pair the birds and get them acclimated to

*Their magnificent
song will definitely
steal your heart.*

each other as well as their breeding surroundings. After this acclimation period, provide your pair with an open nest (as the canary uses). I find plastic nests better than wicker because they are easier to clean. I usually find the hens to be terrible nest builders. Thus I line the nests with nest pads. They prefer a small open

Breeding The Grey Singing Finch

FINCHSAVE report for 1993
by Dorothy Hartle

Clutch 1: Hatched October 13, 1993
2 eggs—both hatched and weaned

Approximately one week prior to hatching, the male had to be removed because he became very aggressive. He antagonized the hen constantly on the nest because he wanted to breed her, causing her to frequently desert the nest. Males are very aggressive during the breeding season and it is not unusual to have to remove them during the incubation. Upon his removal, the hen continued the incubation until the eggs hatched.

The first day the mother did not feed. I handfed with a toothpick every 2 hours. The second day I handfed about 63% of the feedings. The third day I handfed about 50%. By the 5th day I was handfeeding about 35% of the time. By the 8th day, I only had to handfeed twice a day. My method of handfeeding was to use a flat end toothpick and Exact handfeeding formula. At 2 and 1/2 weeks of age, I no longer had to handfeed the babies.

They fledged at 3 weeks of age. At 4 weeks of age, the mother wanted to nest again. This was obvious because she had plucked the babies' chests and sides completely and lined a new nest with the feathers. I placed the babies in a separate cage and lined the bottom of the cage with soft food and millet spray. They learned to eat on their own very well by devouring the muffins I had made and picking at the millet spray.

Once the male becomes aggressive and starts breeding with the hen, you can expect the first egg within 1 week. The average clutch is 3 to 4 eggs. After 14 days of incubation, the hatching should start. Provide the parents with a nutritious, balanced soft diet to feed their young. There are several good recipes available so I suggest using one that suits you. Upon hatching, I have had problems

with the parents not feeding the babies. I keep a close watch on the young and have had to handfeed the babies because their crops were completely empty. If my parents have not fed their babies in the first 6 hours, then I start handfeeding. Always monitor the babies' crops. I have had to handfeed every baby occasionally for at least the first week.

Grasslands Exotic Finches



Parrot Finches:

- Blue-faced
- Blue-faced Lutino
- Red-headed
- Red-headed Pied
- Red-headed Sea Green
- Pin-tailed
- Peale's
- Tricolor (Forbes/ Blue-breasted)

Gouldian Finches:

- Normal
- White-breasted
- Yellow
- Blue, Dilute Blue, and Silver

Waxbills:

- Lavender
- Gold-breasted
- Violet-eared
- Swee (Yellow-bellied)
- Blue-capped Cordon Bleu
- Senegal Fire Finch

Also:

- Cuban Melodius Finches
- Cinnamon (Fawn) Star Finches
- Green Singing Finches
- Owl Finches
- Zebra Finches
- Society Finches

All of our birds are bred in our home and are NFS banded whenever possible. We will ship, and we welcome visitors anytime. Please call for an appointment (no wholesalers): (617) 891-4056.

Lainey Claflin & John Bikales 226 Ash Street Weston, MA 02193

The babies start to fledge at approximately 21 days of age. Once the babies fledge, the parents are usually eager to go back to nest. Usually the babies are not weaned at that time. Keep watch over them as this is a critical time for the young. Usually, the hen will incubate while the male feeds the babies and the hen. Offer the soft food and millet spray to the young until you see them eating on their own. But that is the age where my problems began and I would lose the babies. After several failures, here are ideas that worked for me. The first thing I did was remove the nest. If the male still continued to aggressively pursue the hen for mating, then I would remove the father as well. Unlike their cousin, the

canary, these babies are hard to wean. They don't automatically peck for food. I have had babies stand in the middle of a pile of softfood and continually beg for a feeding from their parents. At this age, I also found they were no longer thrilled with the handfeeding.

The Grey Singer is a delightful addition to any aviary. Their magnificent song will definitely steal your heart. My goal is to have as many of these as my walls will provide room for. If you ever have the pleasure and opportunity to acquire these finches, do so. You will not regret it. And, if after ownership you decide to part with them, just give me a call.



Ten years with NFSS: A Part of a Life

by Roger O'Connell
NFSS Member #12
Waltham, Massachusetts

I found out about the Northeast Finch Society through *American Cage Bird Magazine*. I had been raising (or should I say "trying to raise") your common pet store variety zebra finches and some "going-out-of-business" canaries (and I can see why). I saw the ad and thought, "Wow!" Other nuts like me that like birds! But no one could ever have as many as I do (20 in assorted cages about the room). I believed. I joined immediately. My first *Bulletin* arrived, chock full of information and I couldn't wait for more.

I eventually went to shows and admired all the beautiful birds and exhibitors. The judges astounded me with their knowledge and expertise. I was amazed when one judge, a Mr. William Parlee, came up to me after the judging and asked how I liked the show. I had loved it and was thrilled that such important people would take an interest in my opinions. And to sit down in the bar at the show hall and drink and socialize with not one, but TWO judges (Dr. Al Decoteau joined us) just blew me away. What I was quickly to realize was that all the real chat and good

gossip occurs after the show at the local watering hole.

I don't really know how the next part happened, but I can assume it was part of a well laid plot (looking back on how many well laid plots I have been party to!)—all of a sudden I was an NFSS director. I drove to Connecticut to attend board meetings at Nancy Reed's house, as well as Kelly and Jerry's. The food was scrumptious and the information astounding.

Since that time I have joined many other organizations, attended AFA conventions, carried my ribbons and trophies from the show bench and have stood by and applauded friends both old and new on their accomplishments. But the one thing I have retained from my association with this organization are my friendships, deep and strong, from members all over the country. Of this I will always be grateful.

I faithfully remain, Member number 12.

TWO WAYS To Give Something Back to Aviculture:

1. Join *FINCHSAVE*, NFSS' cooperative breeding program.

2. Write something for *The NFSS Bulletin*, NFSS' bi-monthly publication.

*The National Finch and
Softbill Society*

More about Serins

The Green Singing Finch

Serinus mozambicus

by Linda Oja
FINCHSAVE Director

The Green Singing Finch is still commonly available to aviculturists at a reasonable price. It originates from Africa (south of the Sahara Desert) and is closely related to the canary. Other common names given this species include **Yellow-fronted Canary, Yellow-eye Canary and Mozambique Serin** (these may indeed be sub-species).

Aggressive in the breeding season

The attractive color combination of gray-green and bright yellow, along with a talent for song has maintained their popularity with finch enthusiasts. However, they have other qualities which are not so endearing. Green Singers can be highly aggressive during breeding season. They have been known to badly pluck and even kill other birds. It is recommended that only one pair be kept per cage or flight during breeding. I have observed Green Singers attacking other species in the flight who are of similar

yellow coloring. Observe your birds carefully if you place them in a community flight. Remember, they may not show signs of aggression until breeding season. Some have been reported to abuse their mates as well. Always keep in mind that some pairs are just not compatible.

Green Singers are highly active birds who enjoy plenty of flight space. They do well in an aviary or flight cage but are not very happy in the average sized bird cage. I tend to use natural, uncontaminated tree branches for perches and just replace rather than clean them. You will sometimes find the birds picking at the perches. They seem to enjoy having evergreen branches to hide in and are delighted to find juniper berries. I've also used pyracantha branches which ended up being a double treat for the birds. They found the aphids and berries to be most delectable.

Feeding the Green Singer

A high quality seed mix including millet, canary seed, niger, flax and shelled sunflower should be offered. Green food like chickweed, dandelion leaves, kale, spinach, fruits, cuttlebone, and ground egg shell are also good. Don't forget the protein food such as egg food, and live or dried insect food. Offer a variety and be persistent as it can sometimes take a while for birds to accept new food.

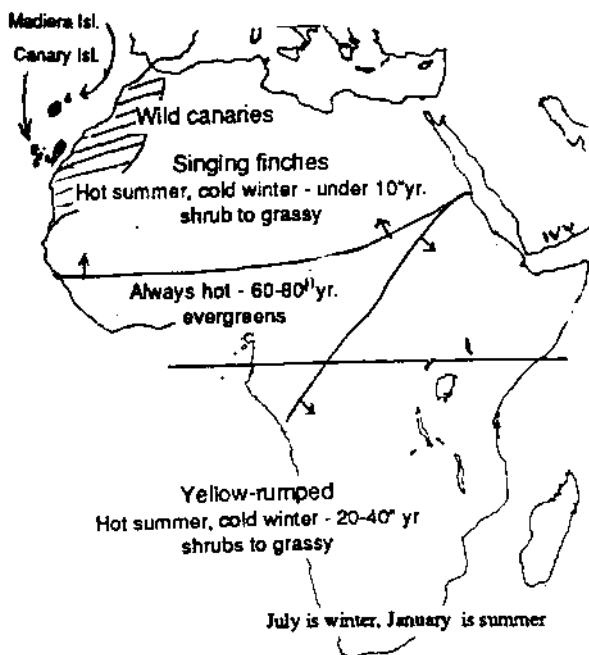
I have drawn the conclusion that Green Singers are inconsistent

breeders. They are easy enough to sex once matured. The female has a grey dotted necklace around the front of her neck, whereas the male has none. Some sources state that the male's yellow coloring is brighter but that may vary. You must be sure the birds are mature because young fledglings resemble the female and do not lose the necklace until their first moult. Males in general are identified by their ability to sing, but as with canaries, I have known some female Green Singers to sing as well.

Breeding activity

In most cases the Green Singing Finch follows its natural timetable as far as breeding season. In North America their breeding cycle starts in late fall and lasts through winter. As previously mentioned, the male becomes very aggressive and sings almost violently. Pairs should either be housed one per enclosure or only in a flight with other species which would not be intimidated by them. One breeder I knew was successful using a large

Africa—home of the Serin



Temperatures and rainfall data
adapted from World Book entry on Africa
1960.

commercial finch cage, but this seems to be an exception rather than the rule.

Nests reportedly used by Green Singers are as follows:

- open canary nest
- open wicker, closed wicker
- open-front nest box
- own constructed nest in shrubbery

If the information is available, find out from the bird's previous owners what nests the birds were using. Otherwise, experiment until you find something they like. Another frequently mentioned suggestion is to hang greenery, artificial or real, to partially hide the nest.

Problems with nesting

A friend and I both had a problem with our male Green Singers constantly removing nesting material, leaving a barebottom nest (open nest). I was able to solve this problem sewing a white felt lining into the nest. The birds happily shredded the felt and had a soft surface on which to lay eggs. I have also glued felt onto the bottom of my wooden nest boxes for birds that tend to remove too much of the nesting material. Green Singers seem to favor fine grasses and threads for nesting material. Some people have even offered cotton balls with success. Just be careful to use natural materials and make sure that no fibers become wrapped around the birds' legs as this can eventually cause loss of toes.

Green Singing Finches have a tendency toward small clutches. From two to four eggs may be laid

and often times only one or two chicks are raised from a clutch. I would love to hear from successful breeders of this species to determine if they have the same results. Incubation period is about 13 days, and generally two clutches a year are raised. In at least two articles it was stated that the chicks were tame enough to sit on one's hand. One chick even remained tame after reaching maturity. Some finches have the potential for hand taming. The male should be watched for any aggressive tendencies towards the chicks, and previous chicks should be removed before another clutch is raised. The hen is capable of raising the chicks on her own should you need to remove the male.

Some problems encountered by breeders include the hen laying eggs over the side of the open nest, broken eggs found in the nest, eggs being thrown or pulled out of the nest. The right nest or nesting material may alleviate some of the problems. The birds need closer observation (without disturbing them) to see what is going on.

Extra protein needed

Although some people have reportedly raised Green Singers without additional protein food, I would not recommend this. In the wild, almost all birds feed insects to their young. Provide protein in the form of insects, insectivore mix, or eggfood (home made or commercial [such as CeDe]).

One British publication says Green Singing Finches prefer open-fronted boxes unless in a planted aviary.

Green Singers have a longer life expectancy [12 to 20 yrs.] than many finches if given proper care.

The personality of the Green Singing Finch may not appeal to everyone, but judging from its popularity it has many admirers.

Other serins

GRAY SINGING FINCH *Serinus leucopygius*

Also called a White-rumped Seedeater. Pale beak. Sex not apparent by look.

ST. HELENA SEEDEATER *Serinus flaviventris*

Also called a Giant Green Singing Finch.

WILD CANARY *Serinus canarius canarius*

5". Dark beak, dark body. Hen paler. Not many in captivity.

YELLOW-RUMPED SERIN *Serinus atrogularis*

4.5". Sex not apparent by look. Has lines similar to Green Singer.

Except for the Wild Canary found on the Canary Islands off Africa and in northwest Africa, all other canaries are domestic (*Serinus canarius domestica*), and not found in the wild. The canary varieties were developed in Europe decades ago.

A bit of trivia: The birds on Canary Island were named after the islands. The islands were named after wild dogs by the Spanish which were

abundant when they occupied the islands. "Can" means "dog" in Spanish, according to Don Harper in **The Practical Encyclopedia of Pet Birds for Home & Garden**, New York: Harmony Books (available from Avian Publications, \$17.95 plus shipping, and perhaps other places.)

Information sources:

Bates & Busenbark, **Finches & Softbills**

Black, Robert. "The Green Singing Finch" *American Cage Bird Magazine*, July 1984

Morris, Tim. "Breeding the Green Singing Finch", *The NFSS Bulletin*, Sept./Oct. 1987

Selesky, Sandy. "Ozzie & Harriet", *Bird Talk*, Dec. 1991

This article was previously printed in Virginia Finch Forum, December 1991, an outreach program of the Peninsula Caged Bird Society Finch Circle of Friends.



Club Delegates!

The NFSS Bulletin should have your affiliated club's correct phone number and show information. Please call the Editor with any corrections:

Martha Wigmore
Editor

The NFSS Bulletin
(612) 241-0071

The Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992

The Impact of the Legislation

by *Martha Wigmore*
Elk River, Minnesota

Clearing up misunderstandings; A court order; First cooperative breeding program applications

In late May, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published the *Fact Sheet* (following) to address several misconceptions about the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. Our readers may find this helpful.

The Service also provided notice of a recent district court order which requires the Service to be "stricter" in their regulatory interpretation of the Act. As originally proposed by the Service, the automatic import moratorium would not apply to birds listed on appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) if the birds originated from a country other than the country or countries that listed them in appendix III. Some birds are abundant in some countries but are considerably rarer and considered endangered in others. Where quite rare, the host country might choose to list them as endangered (on appendix III) with CITES, while the countries with less threatened populations of the birds would not list them on

appendix III. The Service had proposed to *not automatically* forbid imports from those countries which do not consider their populations threatened enough to list them on appendix III.

The Human Society of the United States and Defenders of Wildlife have won a court order which argues that this allowance violates the plain language of the Act, which bars the importation of "any" species listed in "any" appendix to the Convention.

"Therefore, in keeping with the district court order, the Service announces that all exotic birds listed on CITES appendix III are covered by the automatic import moratorium of the WBCA, regardless of their country of origin," the Service announced on May 24, 1994.

Two cooperative breeding programs have applied for approval by the USFWS for importation permits under the regulations. One breeding program is being established by three private individuals to breed the Yellow Crowned Amazon Parrot, and the Sun Coast Avian Society has assumed responsibility for the oversight of the program. Region #2 V.P. Dale Laird provided information about the Sun Coast Avian Society's breeding consortiums in the May-June 1994 *Bulletin*, including their efforts with waxbills in FINCHSAVE. It will be interesting to follow the fate of these first cooperative breeding program applications.



WILD BIRD CONSERVATION ACT OF 1992

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS
BY BIRD OWNERS AND BREEDERS

New laws and the regulations derived from them are often a source of misunderstanding and confusion for the people they affect. Sifting through new regulations to determine what parts apply to you may result in more questions than answers. A case in point is the Wild Bird Conservation Act (Act). A significant step in international conservation efforts to protect exotic wild birds subject to trade, it also has been a source of confusion for some bird owners, aviculturists, importers, and other interested groups.

WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD:
MISUNDERSTANDINGS 1 - 7

Some people incorrectly interpret the regulations to mean:

- (1) that no more birds can be imported into the United States;
- (2) that keeping and breeding exotic birds already in captivity in the U. S. will become more restrictive;
- (3) that only birds imported from the wild in countries where they occur naturally fall under the protection of the Act;
- (4) that all captive-bred birds are exempted;
- (5) that only birds on the approved list may be bred or sold in the U. S.;
- (6) that only aviculturists belonging to a cooperative breeding program can breed birds; and
- (7) that regulations can be written to exempt additional families of birds.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

Neither the Wild Bird Conservation Act nor the Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) regulations implementing the Act impose new burdens or requirements on buying, selling, breeding, transport, interstate commerce, or export of birds bred in the United States. What the Act does is restrict imports of certain exotic bird species into this country—species listed in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), whether taken from the wild or bred in captivity. Even then, a species listed in one of the CITES Appendices still may be imported if an individual shipment has received a Wild Bird

Conservation Act permit or if it has been included in a list of species approved for importation without such a permit. Contrary to some bird breeders' current understanding of the Act and its regulations, this means that:

FACT 1: Birds still can be imported but their import may be restricted depending on their status under the Act. Ten families of gamebirds and raptors are completely exempted from the Act and its regulations—Phasianidae, Numididae, Crecidae, Meleagrididae, Megapodidae, Anatidae, Struthionidae, Rheidae, Dromadinae, and Gruidae. In fact, thousands of non-CITES birds have been imported since the regulations went into effect. Avenues for importation include (1) birds on the approved list that may be imported without a Wild Bird Conservation Act permit, (2) any species not listed in CITES Appendices that also does not have a moratorium on imports, and (3) a bird shipment permitted under one of the Act's four permit exemptions: scientific research; zoological breeding or display; pet importation when owners are returning to the U.S. after at least a year's absence; and Service-approved cooperative breeding programs.

FACT 2: The Act does not restrict keeping, breeding or commerce of exotic birds within the U. S. or exports of such birds to other countries. Its intent is to assist wild bird conservation in countries of origin where such birds may be captured for export to the United States.

FACT 3: Except for the 10 bird families excluded from the Act, all exotic bird species exported to the U.S. from any country come under the Act's provisions.

FACT 4: Only captive-bred exotic bird species on the approved list may be imported without a permit, so as, in the words of the Act, "to preclude the importation of birds into the United States that have been banded through captive-breeding facilities." A species is on the approved list if it is:

- regularly bred in captivity, with no wild-caught birds of the species in trade (legally or illegally); or
- bred in a foreign breeding facility that qualifies under the Act's criteria.

FACT 5: For clarification of Misunderstanding 5, see Fact 2.

FACT 6: Only aviculturists who plan to import and breed exotic bird species are on the approved list have to belong to a cooperative breeding program. Such a program must promote the species' conservation and its continued existence in the wild by enhancing propagation and species survival. Also, the program must be developed in conjunction with an avicultural, conservation or zoological organization.

FACT 7: Regulations establish procedures for implementing and enforcing the Act. They cannot be used to change a law enacted by Congress. In passing the Wild Bird Conservation Act, Congress defined "exotic bird" to exclude the 10 families of gamebirds and raptors. Changes to a species' status can only be done within the Act's framework of exemptions or in keeping with changes to a species' listing status under CITES.

Carrying out Congress' intent when passing the Act, the Service's regulations help to ensure a fair system for approving permits under and exempting certain birds from the Act's moratorium on imports of CITES-listed, wild-caught and captive-bred birds. They also ensure that imports of captive-bred species are allowed only if they do not detrimentally affect the species' wild populations or if they have not passed through an exporting facility serving as a "laundry" for wild-caught birds.

This information should help to clarify some of the misunderstanding pertaining to the Act. If you have further questions, contact the Service's Office of Management Authority.

HOLLIS STREET

Office of
Management
Authority

440X

Fairfax Drive
Room 520
Arlington, VA
22205

1-800-358-2104

or

(703) 358-2093

FAX

(703) 358-2281

Flocking Together...



Our readers have the following questions for the NFSS membership:

- ❖ We have been attempting to breed the Pagoda Mynah for the past several years. They hatched two chicks in 1992 but they did not fledge. Several breeders have told me the only way we can get them to breed is by feeding baby mice (pinkies). Mealworms and wax worms is about all I can handle. Is this absolutely necessary? Has anybody out there had success without feeding pinkies?

Dale & Eileen Laird
1166 Village Forest Pl.
Winter Park, FL 32792

- ❖ I have a screened porch 18' long by 10' wide by 8' tall which I would like to use as a mixed flight for smaller finches, including waxbills. I would like as many varieties as possible. How many pairs can I put into this area if I wanted to breed the birds? How many pairs if I did not want to breed? Suggestions for compatible species?

Ralph Smith
4238 S. Peninsula Dr.
Daytona Beach, FL 32127
(904) 761-0639

- ❖ I have a very prolific trio of Orange Weavers that keep losing the young just before fledging. I'm thinking it must be nutritional and would like to discuss this with someone successful at raising weavers.

Gail LaCroix
4930 Wethersfield Rd.
Warsaw, NY 14569-9761

- ❖ I am interested in corresponding with NFSS members who share an interest in *Liothrix lutea* Pekin Robins, *Mesia* (*Liothrix*) *argentaris* Silver-eared Mesias, and other African softbills.

Debra J. Chamblin
1061 Kelly Place
Winter Park, FL 32789
(407) 644-5172

In response to the question last issue concerning ants in the nest in warmer months, we have the following from a member:



❖ When ants become a problem, this product is the best! **Biological Bird Cage Spray** formulated with Natural Pyrethrins. The product I use is manufactured for Sunshine Bird Supplies, 8535 N.W. 56 St., Miami, FL 33166.

Jose Aleman
A-1 Aviary
11536 Chestfield Ct.
Orlando, FL 32837

Want to correspond with fellow NFSS members who share your interest in a particular species or who may have met a challenge in their bird room similar to the one you are facing? Use the NFSS **FLOCKING TOGETHER** column to send a call out to the membership. Mail your request to the Editor, *The NFSS Bulletin*.

Readers who can help an inquirer can write directly to the individual if their address is provided, or to the Editor for forwarding. If you wish, send a copy of your letter to the Editor for publication in the *Bulletin* where your ideas will reach many others with the same or similar needs.

*Nature is indifferent to our love, but
never unfaithful.*

Edward Abbey

About the European Finches

The European Goldfinch

by Dr. Al Decoteau
Groton, Massachusetts

Quite recently, one of our members suggested that we change our classification to reveal *three Goldfinch classes, the European, the Asian and the Siberian*. He has also suggested that we change the Division to *Mediterranean Finches*. As our directors review this, I was searching through my collection of old books and found this interesting article in one of the many outstanding books written by Dr. W. T. Greene. This particular book entitled **Birds I Have Known** was written and published in 1885. Here is his article on the Goldfinch.

"This universal favorite, now becoming rather scarce in England, was very rarely seen by me in Brittany, where, on one or two occasions, it built in a large arbutus tree exactly opposite our drawing room window, but owing to some mischance never brought up the brood.

My father, however, hought several males, at different times, at a bird shop in town, with a view at breeding nules between them and our canaries, but without succeeding in his design. Once during a fall of

snow while the ground was deeply covered with snow, I caught one under a sieve, along with some Sparrows and Yellow Hammers, and kept it for some time, when it accidentally got one of its legs broken, which my father fixed, but it never did much good afterwards.

I must confess that I never cared a great deal about these birds, nor very much admired them; certainly not to the extent that Buffon did, who says "Beauty of Plumage, softness of voice, quietness of instinct, remarkable cleverness, proved docility, tender affection, are all united in this delightful little bird: and if it

.....

*The female is a
trifle smaller and is
less brilliantly
colored*

.....

were rare, or if it came from a foreign country, it would then be valued as it deserves". However, it is fast fulfilling one of the conditions which the great naturalist considered necessary to its being appreciated, it is becoming rare.

The Goldfinch is rather a small hird, measuring five and three quarter inches in length, two of which belong to the tail. The beak is five lines long, very pointed, rather flattened at the sides, and of a whitish color, with a brownish tip. The front

of the head and a border round the beak are a fine reddish crimson, the back, shoulders and sides of the neck are a rich brown; immediately around the beak is a rich circle of black, which is also the color of the wings and the tail; the centre of the wings is marked by a patch of golden yellow, and the flight and tail feathers are tipped in white.

The female is a trifle smaller and is less brilliantly colored than the male. Before moulting, the young have grey heads and are then known to dealers and birdcatchers as "greypates", of which thousands are annually caught soon after leaving the nest, often before they can feed themselves, with, as might be expected, the result that nine of these helpless little creatures die in a few days, out of every ten that are caught.

Few birds of the same species, not even excepting the Bullfinch, vary as much as the Goldfinch does in size and colour: differences, however, which are not in themselves sufficient to constitute the birds so differing into separate species: for the large Goldfinch, and the small, the brilliantly colored, and the dingy, the white legged and the dark and the chevril (one with a white

streak from the base of the lower mandible down the breast) are all Goldfinches; just as a man of four foot and one half, and one of six foot four, and a dark and a fair man, are all men.

Again the distinction into "races" one of which is supposed to emigrate, while the other remains with us all year round, has little foundation in fact, and is not much more rational than that of "orchard" and "fir" Goldfinches insisted upon by some continental writers, while the "barbour" and "arbor" birds are much the same as the rest. Difference in size is accounted for by the fact that the young which are first hatched are stronger

and larger than their Juniors in the same nest, and often carry off the food intended for the latter. Again if there are two or three young in a nest it stands to reason that they fare better and consequently grow larger than a nest of six. I have proved this when raising canaries.

When wild the Goldfinch is found all over the temperate regions of Europe: those that live in the south being larger and more brightly colored than those which inhabit the north: thus the continental Goldfinches are larger and handsomer than our English birds, which again

Few birds of the same species, not even excepting the Bullfinch, vary as much as the Goldfinch does in size and colour: differences, however, which are not in themselves sufficient to constitute the birds so differing into separate species

are superior to those found in Ireland and these to the Scotch Goldfinches. Though a shy and restless bird, the Goldfinch is not migratory in its habits, and merely moves from place to place in search of food. certainly never crossing the seas so erroneously stated.

When wild, the Goldfinch feeds on a variety of seeds, such as those of the thistle, different kinds of grass, groundsel, dandelion, plantain, and others, and in the house it will thrive on the same food in addition to canary, millet, hemp seed and rape. Once accustomed it will live a very long time. One of these birds that belonged to a relative of mine was known to be twenty years of age when it came into my possession, and I kept it four years longer. At that time it started to scatter its seed and could no longer crack or shell its seed; I fed it spongecake and bread and milk until it succumbed in its 25th year. Green food is indispensable to keep these birds in health: always feed it fresh.

The Goldfinch generally builds in orchards, and in gardens. I once saw a nest of these birds in the top of a clump of mimosa in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens: though as the sparrow has become adjusted to the antipodes, so has the Goldfinch become acclimated in the wilds of Australia.

It makes the nicest nest, after the Chaffinch, selecting the very top-most branches of the tree for the purpose. The foundation of the little structure is moss and fibres: it is

covered outwardly with grey lichens and cobwebs, lined with wool, hair and the pappus of various seeds; the eggs are from four to six and bear the general resemblance of the canary egg, being spotted, especially at the larger end, with rusty red and brownish black on a bluish green ground. Goldfinches will breed in a garden aviary, or even in a cage, with canaries and other finches as well as among themselves, and should they ever really become extinct in a wild state, the species might best be preserved in a domesticated condition like the canary."

You will note that Dr. Greene has never once mentioned the so called Siberian Goldfinch. It would be interesting to note where that term originated. He also indicated that southern races were larger than northern races. If this is true, perhaps the Siberian should be called the Southern European variety or Mediterranean variety!!!

At any rate, should our classification stop at the species in a class?



Need More 1994 Bands?

Order now!

*NFSS band order form
on page 62.*

Doing Your Own Cultures And Saving Lives

by *Dan Thorschmidt
Cammack, New York*

I've been doing my own bacterial and yeast cultures for about 5 years now and feel much more in control of my birds than when I didn't.

About ten years ago I had an uncomfortable experience with a veterinarian being negligent with a diagnosis. I felt helpless while watching some of my finches dying one at a time.

I proceeded frantically giving medication until the problem finally subsided, with me still not knowing what it was or if I had actually hit on the proper antibiotic. Even losing one bird, when there is a chance to help the ailing bird back to health is a great loss.

So I made a decision to help myself and learn about bird diseases, particularly in finches. I thought since I was thoroughly involved with the care and breeding of so many types of finches, I had better get a handle on this as soon as possible, to protect the birds, myself, and the members of my family from any possible infection.

I bought books and clipped out vet articles from bird magazines to form a library of reference. I found a

company by the name of Micro-Bio Products Inc. that offered a four culture kit, with all the necessary articles, for \$39.95.

When I received the kit I was not intimidated by it at all. You just have to read it over completely and run a sample culture to get acquainted with the procedure. In the first procedure you inoculate the culture plate with fresh stool or a throat swab. You must then incubate the culture plate @ 100° F for a suggested 24 hrs. On occasion, I have

...run a sample culture to get acquainted with the procedure.

discovered culture growth results in 10 hrs. The type of bacteria is then revealed.

You then can cross reference the proper antibiotic for that growth immediately. To further the process, you do a sensitivity test with another plate and grow the bacteria again with antibiotic discs placed on the media. After another 12-24 hrs. you can clearly see that the antibiotic that will best perform for the problem wards off bacteria growth around the disc. The result with the largest ring is the best. The others can be secondary medication if you don't have the best one at your disposal. You will also note that some of the antibiotics would do absolutely nothing.

Special Issues Coming Your Way!

A Request For Your Contributions

SPECIAL FEATURE sections, focusing on a particular finch or softbill and on other topics of interest to NFSS members will be included in upcoming issues of *The NFS Bulletin*. Upcoming features will cover:

- MYNAHS
- FOSTERING
- HANDFEEDING

If you wish to submit an article, long or short, photographs or artwork for these **SPECIAL FEATURE** subjects, **submissions should be made prior to August 1st, 1994.**



If you would like to contribute something about **Touracos, Red-eared Waxbills, or cage breeding** (as requested earlier) your submissions are still welcome!

You can acquire many different antibiotic discs, so you will have to educate yourself on your choices.

The Birdseye Standard A Kit, #AV-100 includes 4 different popular antibiotic discs for testing. Also included with the Birdseye kit is the biggy yeast test tube, which is inoculated at the same time as the culture ID plate. This test reveals any yeast infection present. Some yeast infections come from heavy medication with antibiotics.

Documenting all your findings with the forms provided will help you greatly in the future as reference, which will include the frequency of occurrence of similar bacteria for awareness and preventive maintenance.

Proper disposal of the articles you have used is easily done by spraying or dipping with Clorox.

LIST OF MY SUPPLIERS:

AV-100 Birdseye Standard A Kit from:
Micro-Bio Products Inc.
 402 Orion st.
 Tempe, AZ 85283
 1-800-642-7624—call for
 information or catalog

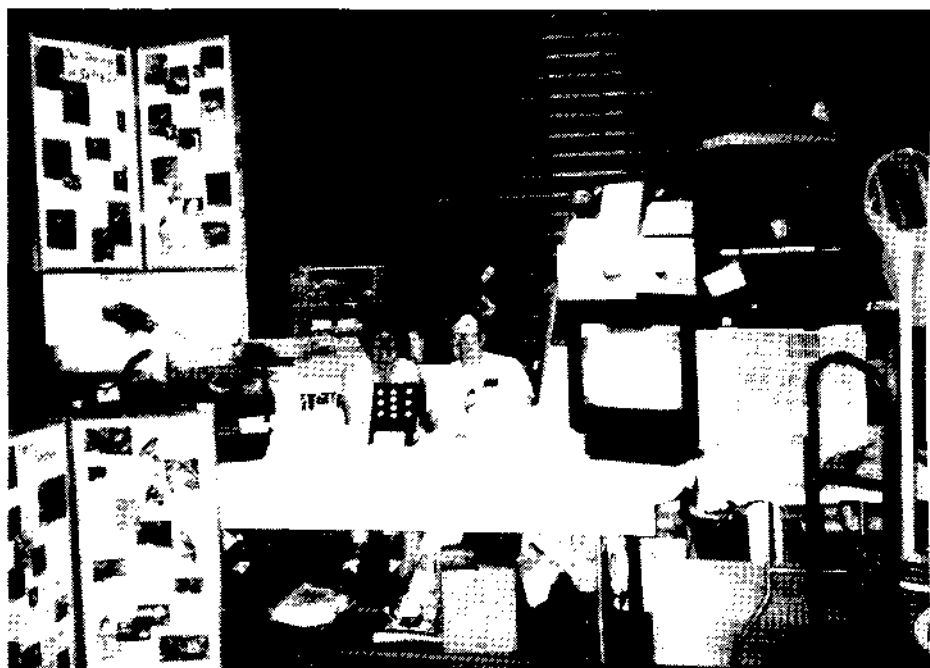
Incubator, medications, vet supplies:
 1-800-JEFFERS for a catalog

BIRD DISEASE BOOKS:

Bird Diseases by Arnall/Keymer.
 T.F.H. #H-964
Diseases Of Cage Birds by Burr.
 T.F.H. #H-1096



The National Finch and Softbill Society Region NEWS



Eileen and Dale Laird, NFSS Region 2 Vice President
at the NFSS booth, GBAS Exotic Bird Extravaganza, May 1994.
Photo by Steve Hoppin.

News from Region 2: Southeast

Dale Laird - Regional V.P.

On May 1st of this year, the Greater Brandon Avian Society of Florida held a **HUGE** bird extravaganza featuring birds, food and products for sale. Lillian Mount, event coordinator, offered a complimentary table to every society the club is affiliated with, including NFSS. I called Pat Krichen and arranged for the NFSS educational display boards and a few FINCHSHOP items to be shipped to us for the event.

NFSS Classified Ads

Classified ads (except *FINCHSAVE* ads) are \$.15 per word, per issue.

Red Ear, Gold Breast, Strawberry, Orange Cheeks. (\$20 each); **Cutthroats** (\$15 each). Domestic bred & related. Robert Petrie (MO) (816) 459-9800. ja

EXOTIC BIRD PRODUCTS INC. offers free brochure about Bag O' Bugs insect formula, nestling food, 11 kinds of calcium blocks, toys and more! Highest

quality guaranteed direct to you—fast and ppd. from P.O. Box 128, Newberg, OR 97132. 1-800-441-1157. ma95

For Sale: Finches & Finch Breeding Items. Seeds, fruit & veg, egg food, grit, millet, cuttle bone, antibiotics, breeding cages, cage spray, nest boxes, nesting material, fake eggs, open bands, nets, cage accessories, candling light and breeding records. Please send S.A.S.E. to: A-1 Aviary, 11536 Chestfield Ct., Orlando, FL. 32837. FREE price-list. FREE shipping (first order). nd

Continued next page...

Continued from previous page

Steve Hoppin, Diane Pittman, my wife Eileen and I set up the table early in the morning. Besides the items Pat sent us we had the NFSS video, *The Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction*, playing continuously through the day. It was very well received.

Diane brought her male Gold Breasted Waxbill, Steve his male Black Crested Finch. Edith Pendleton sent her female Brazilian Cardinal, and Eileen and I brought our Persa Touraco. All of these birds were either registered or hatched in the FINCHSAVE program.

The Cardinal did wonderfully, even though it was not accustomed to that small of cage nor that many people. It was calm throughout the entire day and very popular. The Touraco was in a display cage and

tried to beg grapes through the Plexiglas front all day. The Black Crested Finch and Gold Breasted were actively moving from perch to perch and displaying beautifully. All the birds helped get people to our booth which gave us the opportunity to talk with them.

We sold a few items from FINCHSHOP and distributed a ton of material on NFSS and FINCHSAVE. I'm sure glad Steve brought additional copies of everything. We enjoyed talking about our birds, NFSS and FINCHSAVE. Hopefully, some of the people who received brochures will join and become proactive members of NFSS. All in all, it was good day.



FINCHSAVE Classifieds

FINCHSAVE classifieds run **FREE** of charge to FINCHSAVE participants. All readers are welcome to respond to FINCHSAVE ads.

BIRDS WANTED

Wanted: Male Siberian Goldfinch, male Black-cheek Waxbill. Will trade hen Black-cheek for male. Linda Oja (VA) (804) 874-8581. ja

Slides Wanted: I need good slides of finches and softbills for a FINCHSAVE presentation at AFA Convention in

August. Will copy and return your slides. Linda Oja (VA) (804) 874-8581. ja

Wanted: Parent-raised Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*). Will buy or trade. Joe Kessler (PA) (610) 326-7541. ja

Wanted by breeder: Red-check Cordon Bleus. Levin H. Tilghman, 6419 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, PA 19126. (215) 924-6252. ja

Wanted: Female Purple Grenadiers for breeding. Will buy or trade extra males. Rolando Hurtado (FL) (305) 822-2846. ja

FOR SALE

For Sale or Trade: NFSS banded Immale Yellow-faced Star Finches, 1 NFSS banded female Pawn Shafttail, 1 male Gold Breast, 2 female Red-headed Parrot Finches, 2 male Normal Gouldians. Harry Bennett (Jax, FL) (904) 720-0691. ja

Available for Cost of Shipping: Pekin Robins (6) and Silver-eared Mesias (4) to someone who can successfully breed them. Marj & Jim Hansen (AK) (907) 586-8903. ja

For Sale: Diamond Sparrows, Plum-head Finches, Normal and White Breasted Gouldians, and White Societies. Ken or Carole Miller (Tampa, FL) (813) 971-1190 (after 6pm eastern). nd

For Sale: 1994 Gold-breasted Waxbills. Jodie Davis (VA) (703) 754-9643. ja

For Sale: Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Peale's Parrot Finch, Crimson Finch, Pictorella. James Felix (FL) day (305) 637-8550, eve (305) 552-7391. ja

For Sale: Closed banded (NFSS) Green Singers 2 M, 1 F, want to place in breeding situation. Joe Solge (DE) day (302) 428-2148, eve (302) 658-2089. ja

For Sale: Star Finches, red & yellow faced, unrelated pairs. Charles Galusha (NY) (518) 686-5263. ja

For Sale: Will sell my Indian Silverbills for a reasonable price to an individual willing to work with them in the FINCHSAVE program. These birds have bred successfully. Pat Krichlen (PA) (717) 632-8092. ja

For Sale: Red-headed Gouldians, unrelated birds, will sell or trade for Siberian Goldfinches or Waxbills. Linda Oja (VA) (804) 874-8581. ja

For Sale: Star Finches red & yellow-faced, Owl Finches, Gold-breasted, Blue-cap Waxbills, Red-headed Parrot Finches, Pintailed Nonpareil (imports). Rose Gianferrara (FL) (813) 992-6331. ja

For Sale: Entire collection of Yellow-winged & Aurora Pytilias, most close banded, were in FINCHSAVE. Will ship. Melissa Eisenhauer (WA) (206) 852-3227. ja

For Sale: Purser's Touraco, FINCHSAVE bred, hand-fed, 93 close banded, NFSS registered, \$300 ea or 2 for \$500. Dale Laird (FL) (407) 657-7989. ja

For Sale: Owl Finches, good fostering Societies, Shafttails, Gouldians, No shipping. Bea Rogers (VA) (804) 484-6001. ja

A Special Starling

Tweedy: A Love Story

*by Bethany Tudor
Brattleboro, Vermont*

Tweedy was very young when I took him from his nest in the wall of our old chicken house. He seemed quite happy to settle into my hand, as I carefully carried him to our (farmhouse) kitchen. I had heard that starlings made wonderful pets. He didn't want to eat at first, but after gently prying open his beak a few times he was very willing to have food stuffed down. I wasn't sure what to feed him, but had seen mature starlings eating bugs in our garden and searching through the lawn for various crawly things. Tweedy liked canned dog food, our food and soft green worms when available.

Tweedy thought I was his mother and couldn't have been a more wonderful friend in my opinion. As he grew up and began to fly, he went everywhere in the house with me. My mother thought it was best, however, that he spend most of the day in my outdoor aviary, inhabited by four parakeets, ten canaries, and two doves.

Tweedy didn't get his name until he grew speckled adult plumage. I thought he looked as though he had on a tweed coat, so "Tweedy" seemed suitable. He was beginning

to whistle and shriek lovely starling songs and could imitate a plastic bird whistler to perfection. I did not know the extent of starling mimicry, so he never was trained to talk or whistle songs.

In 1957 (Tweedy was two at the time) our family decided to spend a year in England. That was wonderful, except that I couldn't bear to leave Tweedy behind. "We will take him with us", said my mother reassuringly. A few months before departure she wrote a certain government department to ask if taking a starling to England and back would be a problem. We were sailing in August and had been waiting

*Tweedy thought I
was his mother and
couldn't have been
a more wonderful
friend in my opinion.*

anxious weeks for a reply. Finally, just a few days before departure an official looking letter arrived. The reply was not favorable. Starlings were permitted to leave the USA but bringing one back from England was "Importing Starlings" and therefore illegal. I was very upset, as I knew Tweedy wouldn't live (long) left behind with caretakers.

We took him anyway—in a small canary cage—zipped up in a neat looking corduroy cover. He

traveled by train from Concord, New Hampshire to Montreal where we boarded the huge Queen Elizabeth II to sail for England. The problems of feeding Tweedy were a bit disconcerting. He had to eat what I was able to collect at meal times on the ship. I carried a small plastic bag in my purse for this purpose. I would very

discretely stuff bits of mashed potato, meat and fruit into the bag.

Half way across the Atlantic I caught a very tired English Sparrow as it rested on the ship's rails. He spent a day and night visiting Tweedy—who was quite pleased to see another bird. I had to let him go for fear too many "spots" on the floor and bed might arouse suspicions. So far nobody discovered Tweedy in our cabin.

After arriving in England I seized the first opportunity I could to secure some fresh grass and earth for Tweedy. My family and I went to St. James Park where I proceeded to dig up some sods with a restaurant spoon. Next came the purchase of a larger cage.

After a week in London we boarded a train for Sussex, where a rented farm would be our home. Tweedy (unfortunately) was not feeling very well. Feathers all around his face fell out and he could barely fly. Even after several months of country living he didn't look at all

like a healthy starling. After several months of this, a friend happened to mention a bird doctor in London. Back in 1957 it was rather unusual to find an avian vet. I was so excited about this!

Anyone who has ever seen Peter Sellers as the crazy doctor in "The

Wrong Box" would have a perfect picture of the eccentric but wonderful "Bird Man" whom we entrusted with Tweedy's medical care. He examined Tweedy and without hesitation said a lack of protein was the problem. This is what he prescribed verbatim: "Take a very sticky, empty jam pot and leave it outdoors for a day. By late afternoon it will be filled with flies and bugs unable to get very far. Protein for Tweedy!"

I returned home and promptly tried the good doctor's method — which worked beautifully. Tweedy had all the flies and beetles he could eat. He seemed to enjoy the jam too! After about two months we noticed his feathers growing back, but his flight remained poor.

Tweedy went many places with us in his little travel cage. He toured all over England, spent Christmas holidays in London and visited Edinburgh Castle while traveling in Scotland. Most of the time was spent at our farm, in Sussex. He net a lot of English birds including a tame

Tweedy went many places with us in his little travel cage. He toured all over England, spent Christmas holidays in London and visited Edinburgh Castle while traveling in Scotland.

jackdaw and blackbird which I had rescued as orphans. He was not interested in them. I'm sure he thought he was a person.

After thirteen months we got ready to leave England and sail back to America on the Empress of France. Tweedy would have to be smuggled home. I had it all planned beforehand. I bought a ladies' handbag in the shape of a small basket with folding lids. Tweedy would have to go everywhere in it with me until we got through U.S. Customs in New York. Not too much space for an anxious starling! I just hoped he would keep quiet!

The day finally came for our departure. Everything went well at first—we boarded the huge ship in Southampton and safely made it to our state room. After dining from his plastic bag, Tweedy was allowed some exercise. In fact, he spent the night sleeping on my pillow cuddled up to me. During the day I carried him everywhere in my basket pocket-book. We watched whales, icebergs and listened to the gulls. Tweedy could see through the basket but he never made a sound.

On the third day at sea Tweedy became decidedly restless as a result of so much confinement. I decided to allow him more daytime freedom in our cabin. As he was sitting on my bed one morning, we heard footsteps approaching. Before I could hide Tweedy a steward opened our door. He took one look and said something in broken English about birds not (being) allowed. He left abruptly, no

doubt to report the stowaway immediately. I was in great fear of the consequences.

That afternoon my mother received a summons from the Captain. I was in tears as she prepared to leave. She looked very determined, which cheered me somewhat. After what seemed like an eternity, she returned to say (that) the Captain had been pleasant, but firm. Tweedy would have to leave and spend the remainder of the voyage in the ship's galley. Someone there would feed him scraps. We were charged three dollars for his passage and I could visit him occasionally. The Captain apparently knew nothing about import laws concerning starlings.

The cooks evidently took good care of Tweedy—for he survived the voyage in fairly good spirits. Upon arriving in New York I gladly collected Tweedy and made my way off the ship. Now came the truly scary part—U.S. Customs! Tweedy simply had to remain absolutely silent—or else! It took a very long time for everyone to have their baggage inspected. I kept moving about, trying to look innocent as possible—all the while cognizant of the inspectors busily opening our various trunks. It was getting close to lunch time and Tweedy was becoming restless—sticking his beak through the wicker basket. Luckily we safely made it past the officials and were met by my father (he had returned to the U.S. earlier).

We headed for a nice restaurant lunch prior to heading home. Tweedy was silent until we arrived

and sat down to eat. The smell of food was more than he could stand. He was hungry! All his pent up feelings began pouring forth in loud startling language—shrieks and angry noises—enough to turn the heads of nearby patrons. Here I was, trying to stuff Club sandwich into my pocket-book, smearing it through the cracks while a very long beak was probing its way everywhere. Needless to say, we didn't stay long!

We drove back to our New Hampshire farm—whereupon Tweedy was set free in the spacious kitchen. He recognized it immediately—going all around until he found the large bird cage in the next room. We found him attempting to get inside to join the birds within. I was amazed at his intelligence and memory.

Tweedy lived happily with me for six more years, though he never regained complete health. His last few months were spent peacefully in a canary cage, as he couldn't fly. Trips to the garden for bugs didn't seem to help. I was broken hearted when he died. Such a dear, intelligent companion for eight glorious years!

Tweedy was cremated in a coffee can we placed inside our wood cook stove. I couldn't bear to bury his remains in the herb garden, so I opted instead to place them in a pretty copper box bearing two speckled birds etched on the top. Tweedy was—and is—with me still.

NFSS Bulletin Advertising

Display (camera ready) Ads:

Full page \$35/issue; \$144/year

Half page \$20/issue; \$96/year

Business card size \$12/issue;
\$50/year

Classified Advertisements

FINCHSAVE: free to participants

Others: \$.15 per word, per issue

Deadlines

12/1, 2/1, 4/1, 6/1, 8/1, 10/1
for next bi-monthly issue.

Send ad and payment (payable to NFSS) to

Martha Wigmore
NFSS Bulletin Editor
18913 Boston St. NW
Elk River, MN 55330
(612) 241-0071

*Bethany Tudor has loved birds since early childhood. She is the daughter of Tasha Tudor—the renowned author and illustrator of children's books. Bethany has written several herself, plus a biography of her mother called **Drawn from New England**. Her article "In Praise of Society Finches" appeared in the Mar/Apr 1994 NFSS Bulletin. This article appeared previously in STURNUS, a magazine of the North American Starling Fanciers Association.*

Show Preparation Calendar

First published in the Sep-Oct 1989 Bulletin. Here revised slightly.

by Waltraud (Anna) Sinclair and Martha Wigmore

# OF WKS BEFORE SHOW	THINGS TO DO
9 to 13	<p>Remember, the condition of a bird on the outside starts on the inside. Order show cages early, and lots of them! Review NFSS standards. Study birds at every opportunity. Attach "play" show cages to birds' regular cages to explore.</p>
8	<p>Select birds for show—always select more than you can show. Pull carefully broken or damaged feathers. Place birds in individual cages with paper towels or absorbent material on floor (no newspapers!). Make sure perches are placed far from sides of cages to prevent tail damage. Spray daily with cold or lukewarm water.</p>
7	<p>Handle and move cages frequently. Place birds in show cages 2 to 3 times a week, for a few hours at a time. Spray daily with water.</p>
6	<p>Handle and move cages frequently. Place birds in show cages 2 to 3 times a week, for a few hours at a time. Spray daily with water.</p>
5	<p>Handle and move cages frequently. Place birds in show cages 2 to 3 times a week, for a few hours at a time. Spray daily with water.</p>
4	<p>Trim nails and beak, if necessary. Handle and move cages frequently. Place birds in show cages 2 to 3 times a week, for a few hours at a time. Spray daily with water.</p>
3	<p>Bathe birds, if necessary. Handle and move cages frequently. Place birds in show cages 2 to 3 times a week, for a few hours at a time. Spray daily with water.</p>
2	<p>Stop feeding red, yellow vegetables or greens. Feed seed and a small amount of eggfood only. Handle and move cages frequently. Place birds in show cages 2 to 3 times a week, for a few hours at a time. Spray daily with water.</p>
1	<p>Add Glycerin to spray water. Spray daily with water until 2-3 days before the show. Handle the birds only when needed, with lightly powdered hands. Wash all show cages. Clean perches with sandpaper. Clean drinkers. Look for nicks and scratches. Store cages in plastic or paper bags. Handle the cages with birds in them. Continue to place birds in show cages during this final week for a few hours at a time.</p> <p>Day Before Show: Rub a little baby oil on the beak and witch hazel on the legs. Check legs and bands for cleanliness. Remove extra open bands, if necessary. Check for loose/broken feathers.</p> <p>Show only healthy, clean birds in the best of condition!</p>

The Honor Roll of Contributors

to *The NFSS Bulletin*

by *Martha Wigmore*
Editor

The index of articles (by author) which follows shows the breadth of the contributor pool to *The NFSS Bulletin*. During NFSS' first ten years, over 135 individuals submitted articles, anecdotes, suggestions, objections! And not included in this Index are countless submissions in the "course of duty" from NFSS Board Members, as well as drawings and photographs. The complete Cu-

mulative Index was published in the March-April 1994 *Bulletin*.

Special credit must be given to past editors of the *Bulletin* - Bill Parlee (April 1984 through December 1988) and Brenda Geesey (January 1989 through December 1993), both of whom served concurrently as NFSS President. While the Index lists several articles by each of these individuals, it only hints at the tremendous contribution each made to the *Bulletin* and NFSS during their tenure as editor.

Remember to mention to all of these contributors, next time you meet, that you appreciate their support of your hobby through their articles in *The NFSS Bulletin*. It has certainly been a fine decade with finches and softbills. hasn't it?



Additions to the 1993/94 NFSS Census

by *Tom Rood*
Census Chairman

The following listings, received at a later date, should be included with the results of the 1993/94 Census, published in the May/June 1994 issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*:

Frank M. Schubert -AZ- (602) 482-8839
Gouldians—normals and all mutations

Dixie Burkhart -CA- (916) 268-0165
Cutthroats, Red Heads, Green Singers, Tri-Colored Nuns, Spice, Societies (F/W, C/W), Zebras (Normal, Fawn, White)

Gail Ranshaw -NM- (505) 822-1483
Orange cheek Waxbills, Lavenders, Strawberries, Black cheeked Waxbills

Fernando Contreras -NY- (718) 231-6729
Red-headed Parrot, Blue-faced Parrot, Cuban Melodious, Masked Grass, Red-cheek Cordon Bleu, Violet-ear Waxbills, Peters Twinspots, Black Crested (Pigmy Cardinals), Societies, Gouldians (Blue, Silver)



A CUMULATIVE AUTHOR INDEX to The NFSS Bulletin

APRIL 1984—JAN/FEB 1994



* An index by author of the first ten years of *The NFSS Bulletin*. *

To order any issue of the *Bulletin* use the FINCHSHOP order form at the back of this issue.

-A-

- A. Beginner, "How To Sell Society Finches (and Computers)", MA93.
- Alarcon Jr., Paul, "Notice of Trademark Infringement", SO89.
- Aleman, Jose, "Breeding the Black-faced Grassquit", JA92.
- Aleman, Jose, "Breeding the Cuban Melodious", JF89.
- American Federation of Aviculture, "Fact Sheet Relating to Laws Which Would Prohibit the Sale of Wild Caught Foreign Birds", ND85.
- American Cockatiel Society, "Filling Out a Show Tag", SO85.
- Anchor, Charlie, "A Judge's Comments", SO87.
- Anchor, Charlie, "Getting Birds Ready for Show", MA87.
- Anchor, Charlie, "Keeping Hummingbirds", SO87.
- Andrus, Brent, "A Man Without Guile", ND93.
- Archer, Ken, "Ramblings From a Bird Person", ND92.
- Archer, Kenneth, "Response to 'I Was Just Wondering...'", ND92.
- Archer, Kenneth, "Softbills, A Mixed Collection", ND90.
- Archer, Ken, "The Crimson-breasted Blue-bill", JA93.

Armitage Jr., Russ, "Notes From Membership Services", JA90.

Armstrong, Don, "A Letter to the NFS Editor Regarding AFA", MJ93.

Ayres, Marlene, "Warning About Wood!", MA91.

-B-

- Bailey, Jim, "In Memory of Dr. Val Clear", SO92.
- Baker, Val, "A Reply to 'Hand-raising a Gouldian Finch (MJ93)', JA93.
- Bonetti, John, "Breeding English Zebras", MJ88.
- Berry, Robert, "Captive Management of Turacos at the Houston Zoological Gardens: Part 1", MA88.
- Berry, Robert, "Captive Management of Turacos at the Houston Zoological Gardens: Part 2", MJ88.
- Bims, Brian and Margaret, "The Zebra Finch Society of England's Overseas Section", MA91.
- Bird Clubs of Virginia, "More on the Avian Crisis in Florida", SO92.
- Black, Robert, "Egg Food Recipe Based on Robert Black's", JA87.

- Borlase, Stuart, "The Rufous-backed Mannikin", MA87.
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Changing Your Address?

Let NFS be the first to greet you at your new address!

Please send this form to

Lynda Bakula
 NFS Membership Chairman
 P.O. Box 3232
 Ballwin, MO 63022

Club delegates should also send their change of address

separately to

Russell Armitage Jr.
 NFS Liaison Officer
 28 Piping Rock Dr.
 Waterbury, CT 06706

	Membership
Name _____	# _____
Address _____	
City _____	
State _____	Zip _____
Phone _____	



1994 Chronological Show List

There's a NFSS Show for Everyone!

February

- 2/19 FL
Florida State Fair
(Earl Courts)
- 2/20 FL
Florida State Fair
(Dr. Al Decoteau)

April

- 4/23 CA
American Family Bird
Show (Joe Krader)

June

- 6/04 IL
Illini Bird Fanciers
(Tom Road)
- 6/05 IL
Illini Bird Fanciers
(Conrad Meinert)
- 6/11 MO
Heart of America
Hookbill & Finch Soc.

August

- 8/20 FL
Aviary & Cage Bird
Society of S. Florida
(Martha Wigmore)

September

- 9/03 TX
Bay Area Cockatiel &
Cage Bird Club
(Marty Von Raesfeld)
- 9/10 MI
Mid-West Cage Bird
Club
(Marty Von Raesfeld)
- PA
Chester County Bird
Breeders
(Cecil Gunby)
- 9/17 CT
Rose City Bird Show
(Dr. Al Decoteau)
- FL
Greater Brandon
Avian Society, Inc.
(Patrick Vance)
- 9/24 CN
Ourham Avicultural
Society of Ontario
(Conrad Meinert)
- OH
Toledo Bird Assn. &
Zebra Finch Club
(Patrick Vance)
- OK
Bird Fanciers of Okla-
homa (Tom Road)
- PA
Central Pennsylvania
Cage Bird Society
(Dr. Al Decoteau)
- PA
Seven Mountains Ex-
otic Bird Club
(Roddy Gabel)

- 9/24 SC
Palmetto Cage Bird
Club (Harold Bowles)

October

- 10/01 CO
Region #5 Show
Rocky Mtn. Soc. of
Aviculture
(Laura Bewley)
- IA
Great American Cage
Bird Show
Mid-America Cage
Bird Society
(Martha Wigmore)
- NJ
South Jersey Bird
Club
(Ken Gunby)
- OH
Classic Feathers
(Harold Bowles)
- TX
Fort Worth Bird Club
(Paul Williams)
- 10/08 FL
Sunshine State Cage
Bird Society
(Stephen Hoppin)
- IN
Indiana Bird Fanciers
(Tom Road)
- KS
Kansas Avicultural
Society
(Cecil Gunby)
- OH
Cleveland Cage Bird
Society
(Dr. Al Decoteau)
- 10/15 CN
Essex-Kent Cage Bird
Society
(Patrick Vance)
- FL
Suncoast Avian Soci-
ety (Dr. Al Decoteau)
- MD
Baltimore Bird Fanci-
ers (Jon Hoffman)
- MA
Massachusetts Cage
Bird Club
(Harold Bowles)

- 10/15 MI
Great Lakes Avicul-
tural Society
(*Charles Anchor*)
■ MO
Greater Kansas City
Avicultural Society
(*Earl Courts*)
■ NY
New York Finch &
Type Canary Club
- 10/16 MO
Heart of America
Hookbill & Finch Soc.
- 10/22 CA
Capital City Bird Soci-
ety (*Clayton Jones*)
■ CO
Colorado Cage Bird
Association
(*Cecil Gunby*)
■ CT
Region #1 Show
Connecticut Assoc
for Aviculture
(*Steve Hoppin*)
■ KS
Region #4 Show
Heartland Canary and
Finch Club
(*Clarence Culwell*)
■ KY
Central Kentucky
Cage Bird Society
(*Dr. Al Decoteau*)
■ NC
Ashville Bird Club
(*Ray Johnson*)
■ OK
Oklahoma Cage Bird
Society
(*Laura Bewley*)
■ WI
Badger Canary Fanci-
ers Ltd.
(*Martha Wigmore*)
- 10/29 CA
Fresno Canary &
Finch Society
(*Hal Koontz*)
■ CN
100th Canadian Na-
tional Show
Canadian Avicultural
Society
(*William Parlee*)
■ FL
Exotic Bird Club of
Florida
(*Conrad Meinert*)

- 10/29 MD
Maryland Cage Bird
Society
(*Ray Johnson*)
■ MI
Society of Canary
and Finch Breeders
(*Roddy Gabel*)
■ TN
Middle Tennessee
Cage Bird Club
(*Cecil Gunby*)

November

- 11/05 CA
Central CA Cage Bird
Club
(*Marty Von Raesfeld*)
■ CA
San Diego Bird Show,
Inc.
(*Cecil Gunby*)
■ FL
Gold Coast All Bird
Club
■ GA
Region #2 Show
Georgia Cage Bird
Society
(*Conrad Meinert*)
■ IL
Region #3 Show
Greater Chicago Cage
Bird Club
(*Brian Binns*)
■ MI
Mid-Michigan Bird
Club
(*Martha Wigmore*)
■ MO
Missouri Cage Bird
Association
(*Tom Rood*)
■ TX
Texas Bird Breeders
& Fanciers Assn.
(*Clarence Culwell*)
- 11/12 CA
Region #6 Show
Golden Gate Avian
Society - Day 1
(*Hal Koontz*)
■ LA
Capital Area Avicul-
tural Society
(*Charles Anchor*)

- 11/12 PA
Delaware Valley Bird
Club
(*Stephen Hoppin*)
- 11/13 CA
Region #6 Show
Golden Gate Avian
Society - Day 2
(*Clayton Jones*)
- 11/18 NH
National Cage Bird
Show
Birds of a Feather
Avicultural Society
(*Daren Decoteau*)
- 11/19 OR
Rose City Exotic Bird
Club
- 11/26 CA
Santa Clara Valley
Canary & Exotic Bird
Club
(*Brian Mandarich*)
■ CT
New England Finch
Fanciers
■ IL
National Institute of
Red-Orange Canaries

December

- 12/03 CA
Aviary Assn. of Kern
County
(*Brian Mandarich*)
■ PR
Region #7 Show
3rd Puerto Rican Na-
tional Show
Organización Puertor-
riqueña de Aves Ex-
oticas, Inc.
(*Daren Decoteau*)

1995

- 2/18-19 FL
Florida State Fair Ex-
otic Bird Show

NFSS Panel of Judges 1994

Charles Anchor
630 Lake Park Drive
Addison, IL 60101
(708) 543-3757

Laura Bowley
Rt. 2 Box 1130
Mounds, OK 74047
(918) 366-7427

Brian Binns
97 Bent Lanes
Davyhulme, Nr. Urmston
Manchester, England
M31 8WZ

Harold Bowles
93 Burnt Hickory Dr. SW
Cartersville, GA 30120
(404) 387-9189

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

Clarence Culwell
Rt. 3 Box 61-7
Springtown, TX 76082
(817) 220-5568

Dr. Al E. Decoteau
Panel Chairman
P.O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450
Phone (603) 672-4568
Fax (603) 672-3120

Daren Decoteau
42 Kinsley St. Apt. #2
Nashua, NH 03062
(603) 880-7832

Roddy Gabel
600 Gist Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 585-9647

Brenda Geesey
125 W. Jackson St.
York, PA 17403
(717) 854-2604

Cecil Gunby
8121 Highway 54
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
(404) 254-1261

Kenneth Gunby
1117 Williamsburg Lane
Noreross, GA 30093
(404) 251-2877

Jon Hoffman
800 S. 4th St. Apt. 1706
Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 585-5370

Stephen Hoppin
3836 Hidden Acres Circle
N. Fort Myers, FL 33903
(813) 997-NFSS

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
24692 Paseo de Toronto
Yorba Linda, CA 92687
(714) 692-8051

Brian Mandarich
4743 E. Hedges Ave.
Fresno, CA 93703
(209) 255-6508

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

William G. Parlee
P.O. Box 380607
E. Hartford, CT 06118
(203) 569-0200

Marty Von Raesfeld
1135 Chapman St.
San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 985-2712

Tom Rood
313 N. Broadway
Shelbyville, IL 62565
(217) 774-5265

Patrick Vance
18175 Avilla
Lathrup Village, MI
48076
(313) 443-0643

Martha Wigmore
18913 Boston St. NW
Elk River, MN 55330
(612) 241-0071

Paul S. Williams
703 Donegal Drive
Papillion, NE 68046
(402) 592-5488

NFSS Affiliates, Delegates & Shows

(Listing as of June 13, 1994)

ALABAMA

Rocket City Cage Bird Club

Ron Clifton (205) 852-7155

Bird Fair November 19 & 20, 1994

Huntsville, AL

CALIFORNIA

American Family Bird Show

Aviary Assn. of Kern County

Willis & Velva Baker (805) 765-6110

Show December 3, 1994

Panel Judge: Brian Manderich

Capital City Bird Society

Dare B. Cagle (916) 452-4526

Show October 22, 1994

Roseville, CA

Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

Central California Cage Bird Club*

Show November 5, 1994

Turlock, CA

Panel Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld

Finch Society of San Diego County

Sharon Russell (619) 546-1870

Fresno Canary and Finch Society

Dixie Lea (209) 584-3764

Show October 29, 1994

Madera, CA

Panel Judge: Hal Koontz

Golden Gate Avian Society

Claudio Salo (510) 455-9909

Region #6 Show

Double Show

November 12, 1994 *Saturday*

Panel Judge: Hal Koontz

November 13, 1994 *Sunday*

Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

Tracy, CA

San Diego Bird Show, Inc.

Sharon Russell (619) 546-1870

Show November 5, 1994

Del Mar, CA

Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club

Neil Crowley (408) 258-4601

Show November 26, 1994

Panel Judge: Brian Manderich

COLORADO

Colorado Cage Bird Association

Show October 22, 1994

Colorado Springs, CO

Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

Julie Kern (303) 753-6145

Region #5 Show

Show October 1, 1994

Denver, CO

Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture

Chris Voronovitch (203) 649-8220

Region #1 Show

Show October 22, 1994

Manchester, CT

Panel Judge: Steve Hoppin

New England Finch Fanciers

Russell Armitage, Jr. (203) 756-1753

Show November 26, 1994

East Hartford, CT

Rose City Bird Show*

Show September 17, 1994

Norwich, CT

Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida

Phil Barth (305) 931-3468

Show August 20, 1994

Margate, FL

Judge: Martha Wigmore

* * * are unaffiliated clubs, but points
earnable under NFSS Panel Judges

Central Florida Bird Breeders

Eugene F. Goss, Jr. (407) 957-1274

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami, Inc

Armando J. Lee (305) 270-1000

Exotic Bird Club of Florida

Mary Petty (407) 632-7494

Show October 29, 1994

Cocoa Beach, FL

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show

Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

Show February 18-19, 1995**Gold Coast All Bird Club**

Len Brower (305) 931-3468

Show November 5, 1994**Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.**

Carole Miller (813) 971-1190

Show September 17, 1994

Tampa, FL

Panel Judge: Patrick Vance

Gulf Coast Exotic Bird Club

Diane Pitman (813) 772-1150

Suncoast Avian Society

Joe Ventimiglia (813) 392-9391

Show October 15, 1994

Clearwater, FL

Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society

Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

Show October 8, 1994

Orlando, FL

Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

GEORGIA**Georgia Cage Bird Society**

Candy Wright (404) 633-4364

Region #2 Show*Show* November 5, 1994

Atlanta, GA

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

ILLINOIS**Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club****Region #3 Show***Show* November 5, 1994

Rolling Meadows, IL

Panel Judge: Brian Binns

Illini Bird Fanciers

Jan Marcott (217) 347-9690

**National Institute of Red-Orange
Canaries (NIROC)**

Marie Ortiz (708) 758-5363

Show November 26, 1994

Elk Grove, IL

Springfield Pet Bird Club

Tom Rood (217) 774-5265

*Show Cancelled for 1994***INDIANA****Indiana Bird Fanciers**

Conrad Meinert (219) 269-2873

Show October 8, 1994

Fort Wayne, IN

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

IOWA**Mid-America Cage Bird Society**

Rhoda L. Shirley (515) 243-1511

Great American Cage Bird Show

October 1, 1994

Crystal Inn, Des Moines, IA

Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

KANSAS**Heartland Canary and Finch Club**

Shirley Landkamer (913) 594-6795

Region #4 Show*Show* October 22, 1994

Lawrence, KS

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Kansas Avicultural Society

Jim Cowan (316) 263-8835

Show October 8, 1994

Wichita, KS

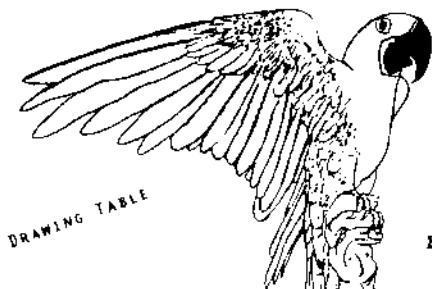
Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby



9TH ANNUAL
Great American Bird Show, Inc.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1, 1994
 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

ADMISSION: \$2.00 ADULTS
 \$1.00 CHILDREN AND SENIORS



DRAWING TABLE

SALES & BIRD
 RELATED PRODUCTS

CASH AWARDS FOR
 SECOND AND THIRD BIRD IN SHOW

\$1,000
 CASH AWARD
 BEST BIRD IN SHOW

JUDGES:

- ABS BUDGERIGARS GERALD COLLINS
- ACS COCKATIELS CARL HELTON
- NCS COCKATIELS CONRAD MEINERT
- NFS FINCHES
- & SOFTBILLS MARTHA WIGMORE
- ALBS LOVEBIRDS DAVID ARTHUR
- SPBE PSITTACINES RALPH MILOS
- NCA CANARIES: LIPOCHROME
- AND MELANIN RAY RUDISILL
- TYPE CANARIES LARRY WILSON

HOSTED BY:
 MID AMERICA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY
 DES MOINES, IOWA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
 ERMAFERN COLLINS
 1515 992-3539
 304 KELLOCC
 DALLAS CENTER, IA 50063



Crystal Inn
 Conference Center
 6111 FLEUR DRIVE
 DES MOINES, IOWA 50321
 (800) 248-4011

46TH NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW

"YOUR SHOW OF SHOW'S"

1994

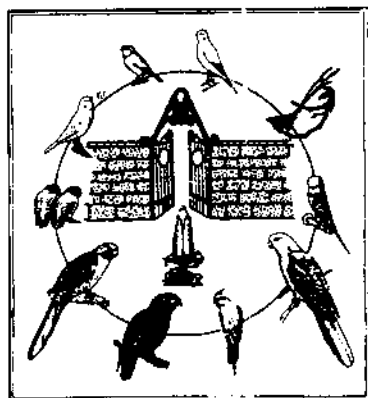
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

NOVEMBER 17, 18, & 19, 1994

THE CENTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
HOLIDAY INN
603-625-1000

JUDGES

Borders
Tony Flumerodo
California
Glossers
Margaret Moore
England
Type
Steve Maley
England
Old Varieties
Ray Rudisill
Missouri
Hartz
Mark Whiteaker
Missouri
American Singers
Richard Hoey
New York
Lipochrome Color
Bob Metheny
Texas



JUDGES

Melanin Colorbred
Wilfred DeYart
Belgium
Finches & Softbills
Daren Decoteau
New Hampshire
Parrots
Clarence Cuiwell
Texas
Lovebirds
Walter Petty
Florida
Budgerigars
Len Adams
Illinois
Cockatiels
Lloyd Bailey
Wyoming
Fife Fancy
Clarence Kling
Texas

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

DENISE BOURGAULT 603-893-8870

CHARLES ANCHOR 708-543-3757

KENTUCKY**Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society**

Steve Slates (606) 223-2600

Show October 22, 1994

Lexington, KY

Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

LOUISIANA**Capital Area Avicultural Society****Show* November 12, 1994

Baton Rouge, LA

Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

MARYLAND**Baltimore Bird Fanciers**

Jackie Eckman (410) 485-7842

Show October 15, 1994

Glen Burnie, MD

Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

Maryland Cage Bird Society

Theresa Brown (301) 735-7662

Show October 29, 1994

Baltimore, MD

Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

MASSACHUSETTS**Boston Society for Aviculture****Massachusetts Cage Bird Association**

Dianna Smith (508) 540-3214

Show October 15, 1994

Brockton, MA

Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

MICHIGAN**Great Lakes Avicultural Society**

Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163

Show October 15, 1994

Grand Rapids, MI

Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

Mid-Michigan Bird Club

Mary Lou Tewilliger (517) 463-5695

Show November 5, 1994

St. Johns, MI

Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

Mid-West Cage Bird Club

Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

Show September 10, 1994

Westland, MI

Panel Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld

Motor City Bird Breeders

Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders

Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

Show October 29, 1994

Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

MISSOURI**Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society***Show* October 15, 1994

Kansas City, MO

Panel Judge: Earl Courts

Heart of America Hookbill & Finch Society

Mose Linn (816) 523-4661

Show October 16, 1994**Missouri Cage Bird Association**

George Alles (314) 677-4723

Show November 5, 1994

Eureka, MO

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

NEW HAMPSHIRE**Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society****National Cage Bird Show**

November 17-19, 1994

Manchester, NH

Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

NEW JERSEY**South Jersey Bird Club**

Janet Greenlee (609) 228-4738

Show October 1, 1994

Cherry Hill, NJ

Panel Judge: Ken Gunby

NEW YORK**Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association**

Rena Rouse (315) 252-7673

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Harry S. Novak (516) 889-7153

Show October 15, 1994

Franklin Square, NY

Power City Bird Society

Maria Gleason (716) 282-2944

NORTH CAROLINA**Ashville Bird Club****Show* October 22, 1994

Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society

Karen Whitlow (919) 557-0450

OHIO**Classic Feathers**

John Neff, Jr. (419) 782-3121

Show October 1, 1994

Defiance, OH

Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

Cleveland Cage Bird Society**Show* October 8, 1994

Cleveland, OH

Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

**Toledo Bird Assn. & Zebra Finch Club
of America**

Patrick Vance (313) 443-0643

Show September 24, 1994

Toledo, OH

Panel Judge: Patrick Vance

OKLAHOMA**Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma**

Gene and June Miller (405) 382-7066

Show September 24, 1994

Oklahoma City, OK

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society

Laura Bewley (918) 366-7427

Show October 22, 1994

Tulsa, OK

Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

OREGON**Rose City Exotic Bird Club**

Susan Akins (503) 630-2877

Show November 19, 1994

Washington Co. Fairgrounds

PENNSYLVANIA**Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird
Society**

Pat Krichten (717) 632-8092

Show September 24, 1994

Grantville, PA

Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

**NFS
INTERNATIONAL
AFFILIATES****AUSTRALIA****Queensland Finch Society**

Gavin Dietz, Queensland, Australia

CANADA**Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society
of Canada**

Jim Marks (416) 292-3852

Show October 14 & 15, 1994

Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

Non-panel judges

Canadian Avicultural Society*

Pat Donnelly (416) 491-0231

100th Canadian National Show

October 29, 1994

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Panel Judge: William Parlee

**Durham Avicultural Society of
Ontario**

Vincent Moase (905) 723-1978

Show September 24, 1994

Pickering, Ontario, Canada

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

Alfred Mion (519) 948-6398

Show October 15, 1994

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Panel Judge: Patrick Vance

GREAT BRITAIN**Zebra Finch Society, England**

Brian Binns, Manchester, England

NEW ZEALAND**New Zealand Finch Breeders Assn.**

Mrs. E. M. Foster, New Zealand

PUERTO RICO**Organización Puertorriqueña de Aves
Exoticas, Inc.**

Rafael Echevarria (809) 795-5718

*Region #7 Show**3rd Puerto Rican National Show*

December 3-4, 1994

Bayamon, Puerto Rico

Chester County Bird Breeders

Show September 10, 1994
King of Prussia, PA
Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Delaware Valley Bird Club

Kris Kroner (215) 628-4143
Show November 12, 1994
Ft. Washington, PA
Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society

Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 363-6438
Show (date not given)
Panel Judge: Ken Gunby

Seven Mountains Exotic Bird Club

Show September 24, 1994
Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Cage Bird Club
Melvin Yoder (803) 459-5319
Show September 24, 1994
Anderson, S.C.
Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

TENNESSEE**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

Eva Duffey (615) 361-5939
Show October 29, 1994
Nashville, TN
Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

TEXAS**Bay Area Cockatiel & Cage Bird Club**

Karol Deem (409) 737-1557
Show September 3, 1994
Galveston, TX
Panel Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld

Fort Worth Bird Club

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568
Show October 1, 1994
Arlington, TX
Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568
Show November 5, 1994
Killeen, TX
Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

VIRGINIA

National Capital Bird Club
Deborah Goodall (703) 471-1231

Peninsula Cage Bird Society

Linda Oja (804) 874-8581

WISCONSIN**Badger Canary Fanciers Ltd.**

Patrice Ripple (414) 527-1980
Show October 22, 1994
Oak Creek, WI
Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

Notice of Upcoming 1994 NFSS Board of Directors' Meetings

3RD QTR 1994

Kaytee Great American Bird
Show - Des Moines, Iowa
Friday, September 30, 1994
at 7:30pm (tentatively)

4TH QTR 1994

National Cage Bird Show
Manchester, New Hampshire
Thurs., November 17, 1994
in early evening

The first two 1994 Board meetings were conducted by mail, giving the entire Board the opportunity to voice their opinions and vote on the issues.

The last two meetings will be spread around the country. Understanding that circumstances vary for each individual, all Board members are encouraged to attend these meetings which allow for greater exchange of ideas and opinions regarding NFSS.

FINCHSHOP

the National Finch and Softbill Society store

ITEM	QTY	SIZE/ STYLE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL AMT
Video "The Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction"		Members & Affiliates: Non-Members:	\$17.00 \$22.00	
Show Cage Plans (see sizes below)			\$4.00	
All 3 Show Cage Plans			\$10.00	
Plastic Water Bottle			\$6.00	
Zebra Pin			\$5.00	
Gouldian Pin			\$6.00	
Aracari T-Shirt (s/m/l)			\$12.00	
Eric Peake Lithograph <i>The Diamond Sparrow</i> Signed & numbered			\$50.00	
Name Badge (members only) <i>Print name at bottom of form.</i>			\$5.00	
Past Bulletin Issues			\$2.50	
Any 6 Issues of Bulletin			\$12.00	
NFSS Handbook			\$12.00	

NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS - updated in '93

1 Cage Finches up to and including Zebras

2 Cage Finches larger than Zebras

3 Cage Softbills

TOTAL _____

Name _____ Member # _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Mail form and payment to

FINCHSHOP

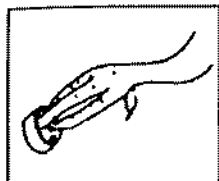
c/o Pat & Mary Krichten
 412 E. Walnut St.
 Hanover, PA 17331

For more information call
 (717) 632-8092

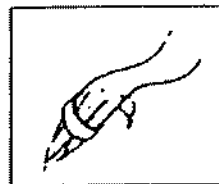
LEG BANDING PROCEDURE

courtesy of

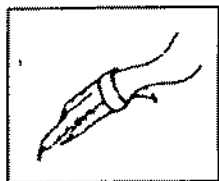
The National Finch and Softbill Society



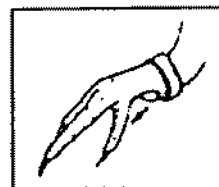
The most important thing to remember when banding chicks is to do it over a counter or table so if the chick is dropped it doesn't fall to the floor. The age to band varies between species but is generally between 5 and 10 days. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come together) and the size of the band.



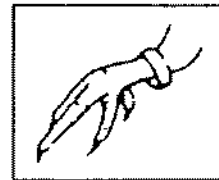
Have the bands, a toothpick (or other small blunt instrument) and some lubricant ready. Be sure you have the bands "right side up" for easier reading.



The band is generally placed on the bird's right leg. Banding just before the parents go to roost in the evening will prevent them from picking at the band. By the next morning they will have forgotten about it.



Hold the chick firmly but in such a way as to not cut off its breathing and so that you don't harm it. Remember, their bodies cannot tolerate compression. Put a little bit of lubricant on the chick's foot and slide the band over the three front toes and finally over the ankle joint. The back toe will probably have to be gently pried out from under the band with a toothpick. The band now should be in the proper location between the ankle and the elbow joints.



Check on the chick the next few days to be sure that the band has not slipped off and that there are no scrapes or irritations on the foot or leg.

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

BAND ORDER FORM

NO RUSH ORDERS!
 Allow 30 days from receipt of
 your order for delivery.
 Anticipate your needs to avoid
 frequent re-orders.

NFSS offers to members only closed traceable aluminum bands. Available only in the NFSS color of the year. The bands are engraved with the initials *NFSS*, size code, year and number. No choice of numbers.

All orders are recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of ten, all the same size. New members may order before receiving membership number. Write "New" for membership # on order form.

BAND SIZE	# OF STRINGS	PRICE/ STRING	TOTAL AMT
A		\$2.75	
B		\$2.75	
C		\$2.75	
D		\$2.75	
E		\$2.75	
G		\$2.75	
J		\$2.75	
K		\$2.75	
L		\$2.75	

POSTAL INSURANCE:

Under \$50 - \$.75

From \$50 to \$100 - \$1.60

Over \$100 - \$2.40

If you choose not to include this sum NFSS will not be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.

SUBTOTAL _____

INSURANCE _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____ Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail form and payment to:

Denise Capazzi
 NFSS Band Secretary
 976 Long Cove Road
 Gales Ferry, CT 06335
 (203) 464-6961

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

GUIDE TO ORDERING NFSS CLOSED LEG BANDS

NFSS welcomes comments and suggestions for this Guide. Contact the home office.

size "A"

Small Waxbills
Gold-breasted Waxbill
Orange-cheeked Waxbill
Bicheno (Owl) Finch
Quail Finch
Red-eared Waxbill
Strawberry Finch

size "B"

Black-cheeked Waxbill
Cordon Bleu Waxbill
Cuban Melodious Finch
Fire Finch
Lavender Finch
Olive Finch
Rufous-backed Mannikin

size "C"

Black and White Mannikin
Blue-capped Waxbill
Bronze-winged Mannikin
Cherry Finch
Green Singing Finch
Grey Singing Finch
Heck's Shafttail
Painted Finch
Pileated Finch
Pytilias
Red-headed Parrot Finch
Shafttail Finch
Silverbills
Star Finch

size "D"

Blue-faced Parrot Finch
most other Parrot finches
Chestnut-breasted Finch
Gouldian Finch
Pictorella Finch
Pin-tailed Nonpareil
Yellow-rumped Finch
Zebra Finch

more size "D"

most smaller Mannikins
most Twinspots

size "E"

Black-crested Finch
Diamond Sparrow
Golden Song Sparrow
Nuns
Peter's Twinspot
Siskins
Society Finch
Spice Finch

size "G"

European Goldfinch
Magpie Mannikin
other large Mannikins
small Tanagers

size "J"

Pekin Robin
Silver-eared Mesia
other small softbills

size "K"

Java Rice Bird
Red-crested Cardinal
Saffron
Shama Thrush

size "L"

Diamond Dove
other small doves
Quail
other softbills



THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL

Membership is for twelve months
and includes six bi-monthly issues of *The NFSS Bulletin*.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ New Member? _____ Renew NFSS # _____

CHECK ONE: Single \$15 _____ Dual \$20* _____ Junior (under 16 yrs) \$7.50 _____

* 2nd name for dual membership _____

U.S. 1st class mailing, add \$5.00.

Canadian & foreign subscriptions are mailed 1st class. Please send US funds.

Canadian, add \$5.00 Foreign, add \$10.00

PLEASE GIVE US SOME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU!

Species of finches and softbills you are interested in:

Check the topics that are of most interest to you in *The NFSS Bulletin*:

Nutrition _____ Breeding _____ Husbandry _____ Classifieds _____

Conservation _____ Exhibition _____ Census _____ NFSS News _____

MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:

Ms. Lynda Bakula
NFSS Membership Services
P.O. Box 3232
Ballwin, MO 63022

La Sociedad Nacional de Finches y Softbills

BENEFICIOS DE MEMBRESIA

La Sociedad Nacional de Finches y Softbill se dedica a la propagación de todas las especies de finch y de softbill.

- Revista SNFS** Nuestra revista bimensual le comunica con otros criadores de finches y softbills, con los mismos intereses. Incluye artículos sobre dieta, procreación y manejo de las mismas, y las experiencias de otros avicultores. La sociedad le mantiene informado de la legislación pertinente a la avicultura.
- FINCHSAVE** La meta de *FINCHSAVE* es establecer y mantener a todas las especies de finch y softbill en la avicultura americana. A todos los socios se les estimula a que contribuyan a realzar y mejorar la propagación de todas estas especies.
- Censo** El censo anual de la SNFS le pone en contacto con otros criadores para el intercambio de información o líneas de sangre.
- Anillas** La SNFS ofrece, a socios solamente, anillas cerradas y asignadas a nombre suyo.
- Afiliaciones** La sociedad local suya puede afiliarse a la SNFS y recibir placas grabadas y cintas (trifens) para premiar en las exhibiciones. Las sociedades sin interés en exhibir pueden afiliarse y obtener placas para "reconocimiento por servicio." Hay conferenciantes disponibles, con diapositivas de aves.
- Exhibición Nacional** Se les recomienda y estimula a todos los socios a que acudan y participen en la exhibición nacional. Hay premios oriundos de países extranjeros, lo cual se logra a través de intercambios internacionales.
- Panel de Jueces** Compuesto por individuos que han completado un entrenamiento riguroso, usan el "estándar de perfección" de la SNFS, requieren la aprobación de la Junta de Directores, y están al servicio de los clubes.
- Estandar de Perfección** Al concluir el año 1993 la SNFS contaba con un estándar de perfección para once especies y se está trabajando con otros más, que incluyen el primer estándar formulado para un softbill.
- Campeones** La SNFS auspicia un programa que reconoce: "Exhibidor Campeón" y "Ave Campeón." Ambos reconocen altos logros en las exhibiciones.
- FINCHSHOP** La SNFS cuenta con muchos artículos a la venta para socios solamente. Los fondos obtenidos se usan en otros proyectos de la SNFS.