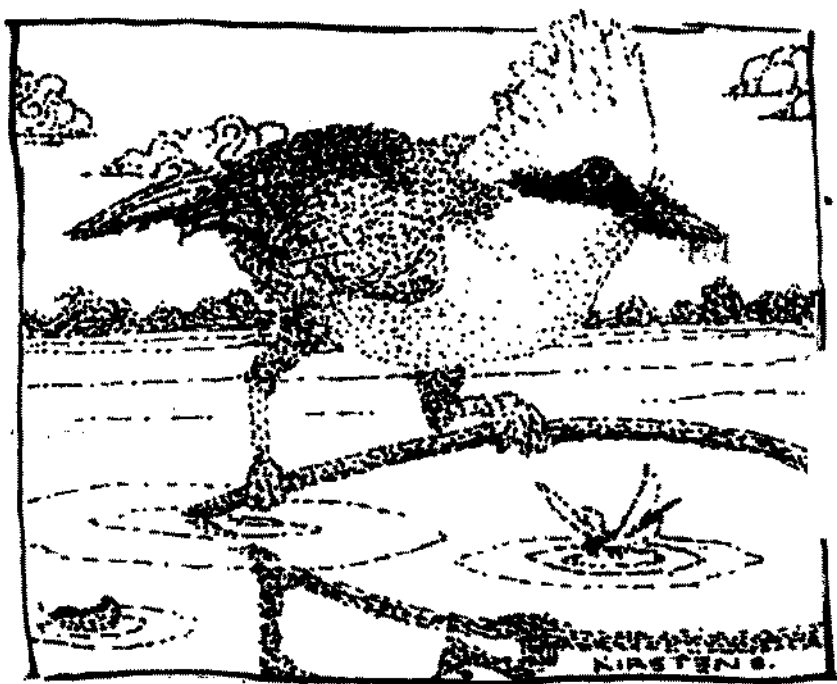


The NFSS Bulletin

Vol. 12, No.6



National Finch and Softbill Society

November—December 1995



THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

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Region 3 - Mid-Central	Tom Rood	(217) 774-5265
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The National Finch and Softbill Society

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and even Morgan Wigmore

Thank you to you all!!

Editorial Policy/Disclaimer

The NFSS Bulletin is published bi-monthly by the National Finch and Softbill Society. The following deadlines normally apply to all aspects of the *Bulletin*: 2/01, 4/01, 6/01, 8/01, 10/01, 12/01. Question? Just call!

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. We will return them to you after use, if requested.

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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.

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In this issue:

As the new year approaches, we provide you with a wealth of ideas to assist you with your birds — many care and breeding tips, identification and genetics facts, and some softbill inspiration. Also included, information concerning NFSS' recent and upcoming activities. *Thank you to all of our contributors!*

Your ballot is enclosed in the center of this issue to elect the NFSS Board of Directors to serve you during 1996/97. Follow the instructions on the ballot to vote. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chairman Lynda Bakula.

The NFSS Bylaws have been revised. In the next few issues of the *Bulletin* you will notice a few changes in our Board positions. Make sure you have your own copy of the new Bylaws. See page 37 for more information. Nearly 50 members returned their bylaws ballots. Your interest is so valued!

My thank you to all of you — readers, contributors and officers of NFSS, can be found on page 56, under a nonsensical title, but rich with sincerity. It has indeed been *my pleasure!*

We wish you happy holidays and many young in the new year!



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



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New Editor as of January 1, 1996

Robert Petrie is assuming the role of Editor of *The NFSS Bulletin*.

Contact him at 4325 NE 53rd St., Kansas City, MO 64119.

Phone (816) 459-9800. *Thanks, Robert!*

Cover Credit

White-crested Laughing Thrush

by Kirsten Swank, Eden Prairie, Minnesota

It has been a special pleasure to share 13 year old Kirsten's artwork on the covers of the *Bulletin*.

Her's is a reminder that the finch and softbill hobby, through a variety of avenues, continues as a rich source of inspiration to mankind.



President's Message

By Steve Hoppin

A couple years ago, I made a major decision — to run for President of NFSS. I did it because I care about what we do, I care about our important role in aviculture, and I care about the survival of our avian hobby. Now, as I move toward the end of my years as President, I can't begin to describe how wonderful and challenging the experience has been.

The Society has compiled many accomplishments. We've structured and restructured committee's to provide more membership participation, reviewed and modified policies and procedures, acquired a new FINCHSHOP sales item, opened the door and established ties once again with AFA, and voted in new Bylaws to govern the Society.

More challenges to come

But this work is only the beginning. The finch and softbill hobby still faces many challenges, and the quickly changing face of aviculture makes us all anxious about the future.

Because our hobby is changing so rapidly, it's an important time to get involved in NFSS. You can turn to the Society for the knowledge, support and encouragement that you need. NFSS sponsors many programs that can help you. In addition, the best resource - your peers - can be accessed through NFSS. Network with fellow members and you will learn more than you ever thought you could.

After all, it's NFSS members who truly know the in's and out's of NFSS. They are the ones for whom the Society's policies and procedures are written, who perform the research, plan the programs, and write many articles for *The NFSS Bulletin*. Attend Society meetings and make an effort to know your colleagues.

After being involved in NFSS for awhile, you might decide that you want to take on a leadership role. You can become involved as a delegate for your local club, participate on one of NFSS' committees, manage an NFSS department, run for one of the positions on the Board of Directors, or take on the challenge of

The Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction

**An NFSS Video
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Adapted from a slide presentation, the birds will delight you and the narration will fascinate you!

Much more than an introduction, this video looks at dozens of varieties of finches and softbills.

To order, see the FINCHSHOP order form in this issue.

leading the Society as President. These endeavors are very rewarding.

Passing the perch

Being a leader is a great honor. That's why I am looking forward to passing this privilege on to my successor.

Thank you to the Board and "Friends of NFSS" for the many gifts, including the slide projector, laser beam pointer, and Michael Garman sculpture. The projector and pointer will aide me in future educational finch and softbill presentations and the sculpture will reside on my desk as a constant reminder of the importance of patience, trust, perseverance, and a good ear.

My personal thank you's

I wish to thank each and every Board member for their support and kindness during my term. I would also like to thank those past Presidents who taught me so much about the history of the office, as well as all the NFSS members who shared their thoughts and expertise. I wish to thank particularly Martha Wigmore, our Society's 2nd Vice President and *Bulletin* editor, who possesses great enthusiasm and creative positive thinking, and was an extreme pleasure to work with.

I can't forget the members of the "Friends of NFSS", my boss Barbara Adams, and my companion and best friend of 16 years, Larry Giroux. I thank you all for your support and encouragement during my term as President. My best wishes to Frank Hudson and all the new Board members. I am sure that you will pull together to make 1996 a very successful year.



NFSS News & Notes

Compiled from NFSS Directors

Kellogg Winner 1995 - Clarence Culwell's Zebra Finch!

Congratulations to longtime NFSS member and Panel Judge Clarence Culwell of Springtown, Texas! Clarence's Chestnut-flanked White Zebra Finch cock won Best Finch and Softbill in Show of 205 entries at the National Cage Bird Show in New Orleans, LA on 11/17/95, judged by Roddy Gabel and brings home with him the coveted Kellogg Trophy. Complete results from this and the rest of the 1995 NFSS shows will be included in upcoming issues of the *Bulletin*.

Members Honored for 1995

At the Annual General Membership Meeting, held at NCBS in New Orleans on 11/18/95, in addition to the presentation of awards to the 1994 Champion Exhibitors, Exhibitor of Excellence and Champion Bird, several NFSS members were honored for their contributions to NFSS.

Special Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the following:



*National Finch And
Softbill Society's*

FINCHSAVE

FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT

Linda Oja

NFSS FINCHSAVE Director
268 Exeter Road
Newport News, VA 23602
(804) 874-8581

Pat & Mary Krichten - for their years of service as FINCHSHOP managers:

Gene Miller - for his years of service as Regional Vice President;

Lynda Bakula - for her work as Membership Chairman and Advertising Manager;

Eileen Laird - for her work as Band Secretary, including transferring records;

Jerry McCawley - for his work with AFA, the WBCA, and the Breeder Recognition Program:

Tom Rood - for taking over so ably as 1st Vice President, serving as Regional V.P., handling the NFSS Census for many years, and coordinating the Overseas Awards Project.

In addition, beautiful appreciation plaques were awarded to:

Linda Oja - for her work since 1991 as FINCHSAVE Director, establishing FINCHSAVE as a nationally recognized cooperative breeding program;

Martha Wigmore - for her work as 2nd Vice President and Editor of *The NFSS Bulletin*, *The NFSS Handbook*, and *The NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards*, service on the Classifications, By-laws, Society and Zebra Finch Committees and numerous other activities.

A special **President's Award** was given to **Dale Laird**, Regional Vice President, who has splendidly supported NFSS through writing articles, guest speaking, conducting regional meetings, participating in FINCHSAVE and the AFA Red Siskin Project, and who chaired two of NFSS' most challenging committees of late - the Committee to Review Reaffiliation with AFA and the Bylaws Revision Committee.

Well done, and thank you to all!!

AFA Honors Two NFSS Members

At its Convention in 1995, awards were given by AFA to two NFSS members—Jerry McCawley of NFSS and Miki Spartzak of the Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors (also an NFSS Board member), both

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: 11/01/95**). If you have not paid by the time of the mailing of this issue you will see highlighted the sad tidings: **LAST ISSUE**.

RENEW TODAY!

Renew early, before the deadline given in your renewal letter, to save money, for if you miss the deadline, you must pay extra to be mailed any missed issues.

for their service to AFA.

Congratulations!

NFSS Judges Handbook-updated

The *NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards* has just been reprinted and updated to include the latest NFSS show judging procedures and rules and all 14 approved and proposed standards. Its compact 8½" x 5½" size makes it handy to pack for shows, and its handsome 3-ring binder allows for easy addition of new standards as they are approved. All for **just \$10.00!** Order today through NFSS FINCHSHOP. Plenty of copies are available!

Elections for 1996/97 NFSS Board of Directors

The ballot to elect the 1996/97 NFSS Board of Directors is included in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Please complete it today and return it to Ms. Nancy Reed at the address on the ballot. Paid dual members are

NFSS Board of Directors 1994-95

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Martha Wigmore
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Dale Laird
Regional Vice President
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 Phone & Fax

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Cathy Knight
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 (510) 634-5068

Dwight Smith
Regional Vice President
Region 7 - Caribbean
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 Ponce, Puerto Rico 00731
 (809) 840-6743

News & Notes, continued

each entitled to vote and they should have two ballots in their joint issue of the *Bulletin*. If you have any concerns about completing and returning your ballot(s) please contact NFSS Membership Chairman Lynda Bakula (see inside front cover for her phone number).

New Bulletin Editor - Robert Petrie

Robert Petrie of Kansas City, MO was selected by the NFSS Board to replace Martha Wigmore as Editor of *The NFSS Bulletin* (see pg. 3 for information on how to send Robert your contributions and ads). Robert's articles for the *Bulletin* (see Sep/Oct '94 and Jan/Feb '95) have brought to us terrific insights into bird breeding. We look forward to the next year in the *Bulletin*! Thank you, both Robert and Kenneth Tidwell of The Woodlands, TX, for offering your services to NFSS as Editor.

New FINCHSHOP Address!

Julie Duimstra of Corvallis, Oregon has been appointed to replace retiring Pat & Mary Kriebten as FINCHSHOP managers. Please note the new address to order all FINCHSHOP goodies on the order form in this issue. Thank you, Julie!

Looking for a Member Directory? Try the NFSS Annual Census

NFSS is often asked to publish a Membership Directory. But rather than ask our membership who does *not* wish to be included, or who wishes to exclude their phone or address, we do one thing better! We of-

fer every member, each year the opportunity to participate in the **Annual NFSS Census**. The Census, the results of which are published mid-year, includes a listing of bird species and who owns them, cross-referenced to participating members, and is an invaluable networking tool. No, it does not include every NFSS member, but it *does* include those who *are* interested in hearing from you this year!

New Census Manager - Steve Hoppin

Steve told us he wouldn't be going far after his retirement as NFSS President, and, sure enough, he's already signed up to handle the upcoming NFSS Census. Watch for the Census information gathering form included in the Jan/Feb 1996 issue of the *Bulletin*. Don't be left out!

Other Recent Happenings—

Minutes from the 3rd Quarter Board meeting by mail and 4th Quarter NFSS Board and General Meetings, held at the National Cage Bird Show will be included in the next issue of the *Bulletin*. But here's some news you'll want to know:

Bylaws Revision approved -

Ballots regarding the proposed Bylaws Revision, as published in the Sep/Oct 1995 issue of the *Bulletin*, were tabulated at the 4th Quarter Board meeting. The ballots received overwhelmingly approved the new Bylaws, which go into effect immediately.

Waxbill Survey results - To date, over 75 of the Waxbill Surveys distributed to the membership earlier

this year have been received. Information garnered from this valuable input will be shared in the pages of the *Bulletin* beginning in 1996.

NFSS at NCBS - The NFSS table at the National Cage Bird Show brought in over \$700.00 in sales and new memberships! *Many thanks* to every member who served the Society behind the table!

Financial freeze - Per the NFSS Treasurer, at this time of the year NFSS' bank balances are usually at their lowest, this year being no exception. A freeze on non-essential expenditures is in place until 3/01/96.

FINCHSAVE update - There are now 59 members participating in FINCHSAVE, working with 52 species. **NFSS IS IN NEED OF A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE OVER AS FINCHSAVE DIRECTOR** from retiring Linda Oja.

Bands! - From Jan-Nov 1995 473 band orders for over 32,000 bands had been filled by Band Secretary Eileen Laird. The 1996 band color will be *Orange*.

Champions So Far in the 1995 Show Season

In addition to Ellen Buchanan's Champion Shafttail noted last issue, NFSS has a second Champion Bird this show season, a Yellow Rump Diamond Sparrow (band # NFS-E-112-94) bred by Gene and June Miller of Oklahoma. This bird is the son of the Miller's Fawn Diamond Sparrow which became a Champion in 1994. And its grandson is still on the march!

As of early November we already had two Champion Exhibitors in 1995 - Dale and Eileen Laird and Gene and June Miller, *AND* two new Exhibitors of Excellence - Christine Voronovitch and Dale and Eileen Laird. *Thank you for shoring your excellent birds with us through our shows!*

Four NFSS Apprentices

NFSS currently has four members in the Judges Panel Apprenticeship program. They are Jerry McCawley of Lancaster, PA, Christine Voronovitch of Manchester, CT, Armando Lee of Miami, FL and Frank Hudson of Calvert, TX. All have passed the written examination, and will be seen apprenticing on the show circuit next season.

AFA Delegates

NFSS is affiliated with the American Federation of Aviculture and our current AFA delegates are Jerry McCawley and Miki Spartzak. Please contact either individual (*see NFSS Board listing for their addresses or phone numbers*) with your questions or concerns about AFA's activities in support of finch and softbill aviculture.

Judges Selected for 1996 and 1997 GABS

NFSS Panel Judges have been selected to judge upcoming Great American Bird Shows. In 1996 Steve Hoppin will judge at Sarasota, FL and Daren Decoteau will judge in 1997 at Manchester, NH. *Congratulations* to both judges!



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Cross-registering Bands-Reminder

Dr. Al Decoteau, NFSS Points Chairman reminds all NFSS Exhibitors: If you have banded birds with closed traceable bands other than NFSS', in order to record points you must register these bands with a \$5.00 fee. Send all registrations to Dr. Al Decoteau. In the history of NFSS, only two birds have been registered.

All-Zebra Finch Show in 1996!

If you enjoy the challenge of breeding and exhibiting one of our typier finch varieties, the Zebra Finch, you'll be excited to hear about the upcoming All-Zebra Finch

Show, tentatively planned for the first Saturday in August 1996 in Kansas City, Missouri. (If you are interested in show quality Societies, you may also want to keep an ear tuned for more information about this show. There exists a possibility at this stage that they may be included in the event.) NFSS Panel Judge Martha Wigmore has been invited to judge (*oh yes!! she screamed!*). For more information contact Tom Rood in Shelbyville, IL (217) 774-5265 or Nita Haas in Raymore, MO (816) 331-5285.



General Care for Finches

Part Two

by *Lainey Claffin*

Grasslands Exotic Finches

226 Ash Street, Weston, MA 02193

(617) 891-4056

HOUSING

We don't think any shelter for adult finches can be too large as long as the birds can find their food and water. In our opinion, 36 inches in length by 24 inches in height and width is an absolute minimum for one to two pairs of finches. Since finches fly side to side rather than up and down, the length of a cage tends to be more important than the height. We house our non-breeding birds in 8 to 10 foot aviaries which we buy from Swelland's at quite reasonable prices. If you make your own cages, be sure to avoid using any toxic materials. Many companies sell rolls of wire that is safe and suitable for finches (see Swelland's under the "Supplies" section). For perches we use fat manzanita branches, wooden dowels, and branches of white pine, apple, oak and maple trees, all of which are not poisonous to birds. We are careful to avoid collecting branches from roadsides or from areas that have been sprayed. Finches do best with perches of different diameters to keep their feet healthy and comfortable. For toys we use mirrors with beads, swings and hanging



Star Finches

Photo by Sandee Gregorich Peterson

contraptions that we make out of wood.

LIGHT

Finches need full spectrum light every day in order to remain healthy, both physically and psychologically. Full spectrum light stimulates birds' hormones and influences their singing, breeding and molting. It also enables them to absorb calcium from their food. Sunlight is full spectrum light, but finches cannot benefit from sunlight if it passes through glass. We use double 48" fluorescent "Shop Light" fixtures. Vitalite is the most common full spectrum fluorescent (found in pet stores), but GE makes a less expensive version called Chroma-50. As heat lamps, we use full spectrum incandescent bulbs made by Chromalux, placed inside metal cone-shaped shades that clamp onto the tops of cages and focus the heat down onto the birds. These

heat lamps are available from most hardware stores, and health food stores often carry Chromalux bulbs. We keep our lights on timers set for 12 to 14 hours a day. At night we use 7 watt night lights to prevent night frights and to ensure that the birds can see in the dark.

TDXINS

As you can tell, we are very cautious about our finches' exposure to environmental toxins. Finches lack the systemic capacity that humans and other mammals have to process and excrete toxins. Gas fumes can kill them. Fumes from burning Teflon can kill them. Flea and rat bombs can kill them. A chip of lead paint can kill them. They should not be exposed to wood or cigarette smoke, paint fumes, car fumes, etc. Even soap is harmful, so we use only hot water for cleaning, and sometimes small amounts of bleach. For disinfecting cages we use Nolvasan solution. It would be hard to be too careful with finches, and we try to be as conservative as we can. If you or anyone in your household smokes, we strongly recommend that you use an air filter in your birdroom.

HEALTH

Since finches are so small, there is a limited amount veterinarians can do once they get sick, so we concentrate on prevention. Our primary means of prevention is to provide a balanced diet with plenty of protein

sources to help the birds resist disease. We also keep their food and water as clean as possible to prevent bacterial infection.

Under various types of stress, finches' temperatures can drop, so if one of our birds seems puffy or chilled we set up a 60 watt Chromalux bulb (full spectrum) over a perch to give the bird access to the heat. (See the "LIGHT" section above for a description of heat lamps.) When finches have access to external heat they can expend more energy on whatever is causing their stress, which gives them a better chance to recover. If a bird isn't eating well, we give it spray millet and ground up Nutriberries (a Lafeber product), both of which our finches adore, but which tend to be costly. Finally, we quarantine all incoming birds in a separate room for one to two months, where they are treated for possible parasites with a preventive dose of Ivermectin or Carbaryl. We check for signs of illness each day - puffiness, listlessness, loss of song, etc. If a bird does get sick, we have several reputable avian vets nearby. Unfortunately, many veterinarians do not have much experience with finches. You may be able to get better advice from an experienced breeder.

Sometimes our finches develop overgrown beaks and claws which need to be clipped.

BREEDING

For our breeding birds, we use 30" and 36" cages, as well as 4 to 6

foot aviaries for groups of mixed species. In general, we place one breeding pair in each cage, and one pair of a few different species in the aviaries. We are as careful as possible to put together unrelated pairs, as breeding related birds can often lead to all kinds of problems with the young. We wait until our birds are between seven and nine months before we breed them, and we make sure they are not molting when we put them together. Finches should not be allowed to breed when they are molting, as it puts too great a strain on them.

We cover our cages and aviaries with fine hay and pine boughs, and we also use hay as bedding. The sides of the cages and aviaries are covered with burlap. This provides a secure breeding environment where the birds are not easily frightened. Inside the cages and aviaries, we place white pine and cedar branches, as well as lots of artificial foliage and colorful artificial flowers. We find that it is particularly important to attach artificial foliage to each nest, especially near the nest opening. We try to create an environment where we can not see the birds when they are in their nests. The central part of the cages and aviaries we leave open to give the birds room to fly.

For nests we use wicker baskets, grass baskets and wooden boxes, depending on the species. As nesting

material, our birds prefer to use very fine hay as well as seeding grasses, burlap fiber and coconut fiber. We try to let all our breeding pairs raise their own young, but if they are unwilling, we use Society finches as foster parents. After three clutches we transfer our breeding pairs to 10 foot resting aviaries in a separate room.

We find that our breeding birds consume large amounts of rearing foods when they are raising their young, so we make sure they have eggfood available to them throughout the

day, and sprouted seeds overnight. Since both eggfood and sprouts are highly perishable and can easily cause infections if they spoil, we are careful to keep them fresh. The light in our breeding room is very bright, with timers set for fourteen hours a day, and we play music for the birds which they seem to enjoy.

Finches should not be allowed to breed when they are molting, as it puts too great a strain on them.

READING

Here are some publishing companies that have interesting collections of avian books. You can write to them for their book lists.

Avian Publications
1653 Briardale Road
Minneapolis, MN 55432
(800) 577-BIRD

Audubon Publishing Company
1 Glamore Court
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- mealworms, waxworms, fly larva

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Tillamook, OR 97141
Phone: (503) 842-5988

- live fly larvae and dried ground fly larvae
- Skipio's eggmeal and soya musca

Pet Warehouse
Dept. ACB- 122
P.O. Box 20250
Dayton, OH 45420
Phone: 1-800-443-1160

- Prime vitamin-mineral supplement

Sunshine Bird Supplies
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1414 Barnett Road
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Phone: 1-800-662-2089

- cages and aviaries
- rolls of wire mesh for home-made cages

Any General Electric wholesale distributor should have GE Chroma-50 lights, and pet stores have Vitalites.

We wish you the best of luck with your birds. We love to talk **about** birds and we are always open to new ideas, so please call us with questions or suggestions anytime.

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Part Two, concluding a series, The previous installment appeared in the Sep/Oct 1995 issue of The NFSS Bulletin.



Breeding European Finches

The European Siskin

Carduelis spinis

by Tim Roche
Tewsbury, Massachusetts

A joy to behold in any aviary, the Siskin is an extremely popular bird amongst European aviculturists. Its friendly and acrobatic behavior is now beginning to win it admirers on this side of the Atlantic. Being pert and small (4½" average), lends to the bird's appeal. The cock is overall green in appearance with yellow on the face, breast and rump areas, and yellow wing and tail bars. Streaking on the back and flanks and a black cap and hih under the beak complete the picture of a sharp looking little bird. The hen is more grayish looking, with lighter wing and tail bars, more streaking overall and lacks the black cap and bib.

Siskins can be bred in either cage or aviary, with best results probably obtained in the latter, where colony breeding can be achieved provided more hens than cocks are kept. Conditioning should commence with the feeding of a soaked mixture of small sunflower and safflower, mixed millets and niger seeds. A basic hard seed mixture of canary, rape, white millet with a little niger and linseed is adequate.

Natural spruce or conifer branches should be fixed around the aviary at head level or above with

canary wicker type baskets affixed thereto. As the cock comes into condition, he will follow the hen around raising his black "crest" and dropping his wings while uttering his creaking song. Once she accepts him, the hen will construct a small neat nest of moss, fine grasses and rootlets, lined with hair and feathers. Three to five blue speckled eggs will follow, which should hatch after an incubation period of 12 or 13 days.

Although primarily a seed eater, the Siskin will need small live food in the early stages to successfully rear its young. Fruit flies, green fly, buffalo worms and mini-meal worms, along with an egg food/soak seed mixture will form the basis of the rearing foods. Siskins also enjoy picking over green food and will sample anything offered. Young birds which resemble the female, but are much more streaked, will tend to leave the nest at around two weeks of age and create a pretty family picture as they perch side by side waiting to be fed. The chicks are self supporting at about 25-28 days old and should be removed as they tend to be a nuisance to their parents who at this time will be commencing with the second brood.

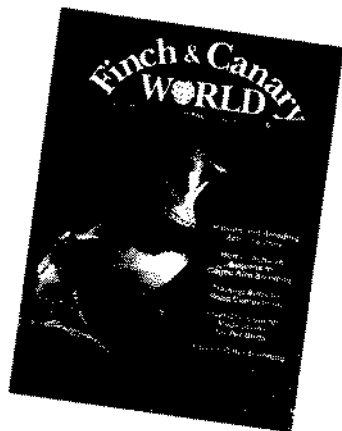
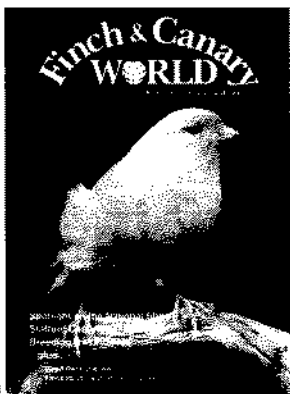
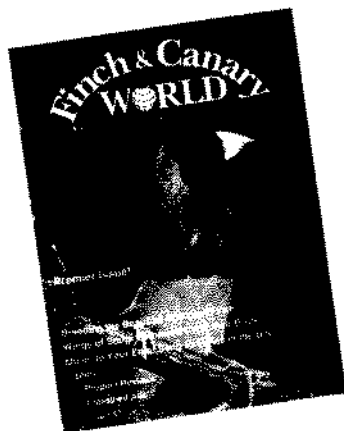
Aviary-kept Siskins are fit, active birds. Cage-kept Siskins should be monitored for obesity with limits placed on the amount of oil seeds such as niger, linseed and sunflower. There is no greater joy than to enter their quarters and have these little birds alight on you, waiting for their sunflower treats. A bird for the enthusiast, the Siskin will be a companion to its owner for many years.

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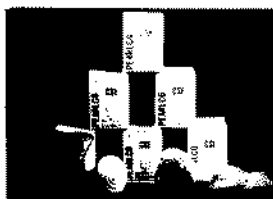


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A Gouldian Challenge

by Luis Garcia
Colorado Springs, Colorado

As I read the article written by Levin H. Tilghman in *The NFSS Bulletin* (May-June 1995 issue) entitled "Gouldian Malaise", I found myself getting pretty upset that someone that has never kept or raised Gouldian finches could write an article about a bird they know nothing about. The more I read the article, the more I was convinced that Mr. Tilghman did not know what he was talking about; as I quote, "Gouldians are certainly not rare and are very easily bred", then he goes on to say, "Gouldians are often poor parents, Some strains consistently fail to rear their own young." As you can see above, he contradicts himself.

However as a Gouldian breeder, I do have to agree with him on one point. When a bird does become more domesticated, the price drops. However the Gouldian finch seems to be the exception. You see, unlike the Japanese that raised the Gouldian in quantities to send to the whole world, most of us true Gouldian breeders here in the U. S. have dedicated ourselves to breeding the Gouldian for quality. We have had to work with the birds that we bought from the Japanese and have made the Gouldian bigger, stronger

and even made it more prone to raising its own young. The evidence of this is seen every year at any bird show.

If you think that the prices for the Gouldian finch and its mutations are high now, wait and see. If the Australians can find out why the Gouldian finch is decreasing in the wilds of Australia, and we the Gouldian breeders have to supply birds for reintroduction - just like the Black Hooded Red Siskin - the price of the normals, especially the black headed Gouldians will double or triple.

The challenge

However, to you, Levin, this may not matter, and as I read your article it seems to me that you want Gouldians but do not want to pay the price for them. So in return, I offer you a challenge. I will supply you with two pairs of parent-raised Gouldian finches for you to keep and breed, free of charge. All you have to do is pay the freight bill, and in return you must keep and raise the Gouldians for three years and supply me and the NFSS editor with a progress report for publishing every six months, to let all of us know how you are doing with them.

I figure writing about birds that you know nothing about is easy; however, raising them is another story. So if you are interested and up to this challenge call me at (719) 630-8483 or write to: Luis Garcia 1345 Edith Lane, Colo. Springs, CO. 80909.

More on the genetics of the Gould The Blue Back Gouldian

by Luis Garcia
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Since the writing of the articles, "The Yellow Body Gouldian Gene" (Sep/Oct 1994 issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*) and "A Gouldian Breeders Tips" (Mar/Apr 1995 issue), my phone and mail box have not had a day of rest from NFSS members wanting to find out more about the Gouldian finch and its mutations. The calls and letters have come from all over the U.S. and several countries, both in Spanish and English. Most of the people who call or write, thank me for the articles and want to know if I would write an article on the genetics of the blue back Gouldian. Well, here it is.

The blue back Gouldian - I call it a blue back, rather than blue body because only the back of the bird is blue. This is unlike the yellow body Gouldian which has both its back and underside yellow. The blue back mutation is recessive, and if a blue back is paired to a normal green, all of the young will be green, but carry the blue gene; in other words, be split to blue. The only way to produce any blue back from these young would be to pair the split to blue back to another split to blue back.

Description- the blue back is just like the normal green Gouldian except that all of the green has been replaced by the color blue, and the under side, which is yellow on the normal, is now a creamy light tan or a rich buff color depending on the chest color of the bird. Anything that is black, such as the wings, tail, pencil line and black bib stay the same.

The head colors for the black head and the yellow head stay about the same as those of the normal; however, the red head changes from red to a light cream color or a light rose. Most people call this head color "white", including the authors of *A Guide to Gouldian Finches their management, care & breeding*, on pages 52 and 53. The bird which is pictured on these pages is actually a red beaded lilac breasted blue back cock, not a white beaded lilac breasted blue back.

The blue back comes in all chest colors, just like the normals. The reason why this bird is blue is because it cannot produce lutino or yellow on its body, except for the yellow of the head. This mutation is not affected by the chest color, as is the yellow body. For example, a yellow body cock can be yellow body or dilute body in the single factor yellow, depending on its chest color. Also unlike the yellow body, this mutation is not sex-linked.

The blue gene can be passed on to its young by both parents. What follows are breeding tables, compiled from results that I have achieved with my very own birds. In the tables following, Normal means a Normal Green Bird. Also, any normal bird when paired to any blue back will always produce split to blue back young, no matter what chest color the parents are.

Blue Back Cock or Hen

A) x Normal

- 1) 50% Normal split to blue cocks
- 2) 50% Normal split to blue hens

B) x Normal split to blue

- 1) 25% Normal split to blue cocks
- 2) 25% Blue cocks
- 3) 25% Normal split to blue hens
- 4) 25% Blue hens

C) x Blue back

- 1) 50% Blue cocks
- 2) 50% Blue hens

Split to Blue Back Cock or Hen

A) x Normal

- 1) 25% Normal cocks
- 2) 25% Split to blue cocks
- 3) 25% Normal hens
- 4) 25% Split to blue hens

B) x Normal split to blue

- 1) 12.5% Blue cocks
- 2) 25% Split to blue cocks
- 3) 12.5% Normal cocks
- 4) 12.5% Blue hens
- 5) 25% Split to blue hens
- 6) 12.5% Normal hens

Finch Medicine Update

Part Four

by Louise Bauck
Hagen Avicultural Research Institute
Ringoes, New Jersey

NUTRITIONAL DISEASES

It is rare to see a breeder's bird with a clinically recognized nutritional deficiency or problem, although undoubtedly there are subclinical problems out there. Many poor pet finches eke out an existence on seed and water but veterinarians, aviculturists, pet retailers and food

manufacturers have made this much less common than it once was. At the Hagen Avicultural Research Institute, we keep a wide variety of old world and Australian finches on a millet based seed mix (panicum, golden german, red, white, others) with canary, niger, rape and poppy available also. Some of the millet is hulled and a dressing agent carries a vitamin and mineral premix onto this seed, as we have found it is pretty rare for finches to eat fortified pellets if seed is available. But they will eat the fortified seed. (This finch mix is called Hagen VME Finch). Formulated (pelleted) finch diets are excellent and I have personally raised several generations of Javas on a 100 % formulated diet. However they are poorly accepted as a sole diet by many of the smaller finches,

The Blue Back Gouldian, continued

C) x Blue back

- 1) 25% Blue cocks
- 2) 25% Split to blue cocks
- 3) 25% Blue Hens
- 4) 25% Split to blue hens

These are all of the possible pairing for the blue back Gouldian. Any of these pairings will work with either a blue cock or a blue hen. If you have any questions about any of these pairings, feel free to call me at (719) 630-8483 or write to:

Luis Garcia
1345 Edith Lane
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

and are rarely taken to any extent when offered side-by-side or mixed in. An important exception might be the breeding season. Greens as mentioned above are available to our finches daily. When eggs or chicks are present, baby mealworms and a hard-boiled egg mix (sieved egg mixed with our crushed psittacine breeding diet) are made available, and a vitamin/mineral/amino acid/beneficial bacteria (*Lactobacillus*) supplement is also added ("Prime"). Year-round, microwaved crushed egg shells and our own imported (mercury free) oystershell is offered instead of quartz grit. Ant larvae are given when available. The egg/Tropicana mix is also given once weekly during the off season. Most of the finches drink from water bottles which are cleaned daily.

Egg binding

Egg binding is an artificially induced nutritional disease in most instances, i.e. it is linked to excessive egg laying. Wild finches mate and lay a fertile clutch and that's that, but in captivity for many reasons a larger number of eggs are laid. Even on a good diet a finch may have problems with calcium, phosphorous, vitamin D3 or all three. If you can, put the finches under full spectrum light (we use Hagen Life Glo fluorescent full spectrum tubes), offer a D3 supplement (ours is Prime) and supply several different calcium

sources (but avoid bone meal as it is too high in phosphorous). Calcium carbonate sources include mineral blocks, cuttlebone, and oyster shell. Calcium gluconate is also available in tablet form or in Prime. Calcium lactate can also be purchased in tablets. Natural food sources popular with finches include spinach and broccoli. Crushed egg shells and oystershell are also good calcium sources (always cook the egg shells in a microwave for 30 to 60 seconds).

Acutely egg bound finches need INJECTABLE calcium and often oxytocin, as well as high heat and humidity. Egg bound finches may be recognized by their fluffed up and sleepy appearance, a history of egg laying, and frequently an egg is palpable in the abdomen. This is a true emergency. A short time after the injections, an attempt may be made to extrude the egg (milking it down with mild lateral pressure), or in severe cases, percutaneous aspiration may be performed by the veterinarian (the egg contents are withdrawn through the abdominal wall).

Part Four, concluding a series. Dr. Bauck was a speaker at the 1994 AFA Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee, and the information here is included in the A.F.A. Annual Conference Proceedings 1994, reprinted here with her kind permission.

Previous installments appeared in the Jan/Feb 1995, Mar/Apr 1995 and May/June 1995 issues of The NFSS Bulletin.



Showing the Combassou Finch

by Dale Laird
Winter Park, Florida

I showed two Combassous under eight different judges this show season with mixed results. One of the Combassous was on the top bench several times but the other one was consistently being put down because it appeared to be either coming into condition or going out due to the brown edges on the wings. Of the eight judges who saw them, one knew they are two different species. The leg color should have given the rest of the judges a clue.

There are three species generally kept in captivity: Steel-Blue Combassou (*Hypochera chalybeata amauropteryx*); Purple Combassou (*Hypochera purpurascens*); Black Combassou (*Hypochera funerea*).

The Steel-Blue Combassou's black feathers have a steel blue sheen

to them. The primary wing feathers are edged with brown, the legs and beak are red. Those from the North-western area of their range have a white beak and red legs.

The Purple Combassou's feathers are glossy black with a matt sheen to them. The primary wing feathers are solid brown, the legs and beak are white to pinkish white.

The Black Combassou is uniformly black with a white bill and reddish legs. Some local variances include orange legs.

Hopefully at future shows the Steel-Blue and Purple Combassous with their brown wings will have an equal chance with their cousin, the solid black Black Combassou.

Reference:

Laubscher, Cyril, "Combassous & Fire Finches: a Breeding Challenge", *Canary and Finch Journal*, 3rd Quarter 1990.



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Photo by Sue Howse



Feeding Shelf at
Phil & Denise Barth's
Photo by Martha Wigmore

Breeding Dybowski Twinspots in Cage and Aviary

by Geoff Joyner
 Reprinted from "The Waxbill"
 A Publication of
 The Waxbill Finch Society, England
 No. 2 1994/95

The Dybowski Twinspot looks more like the shape of the common Fire Finch than the Twinspots.

They have a justifiable bad reputation for bullying each other, with the cocks being particularly vicious to the hens who are not in full breeding condition, even to the extent of killing them if the breeder is not around to stop it. So it was with great caution I started to introduce a prospective breeding pair to each other on the 20th May. They were put in a double breeding cage with a twilweld wire partition between them so they could see each other but not touch as the introduction was going to be gradual. The slide stayed in place for a period of 14 days, during which time the pair were put together the first day - 15 minutes, second day - 30 minutes, third day - 1 hour, and then an hour more each day, with the slide being returned after each period, until on the 2nd June they were left together fully.

It was the 3rd of June and the weather forecast was stable for a few days so I caught up the pair and took them to their planted flight as early as possible to allow ample time for

them to get used to their new surroundings. The flight was 9ft long by 6ft wide and just over 6ft high, heavily planted with Russian Vine Cotoneaster bushes and a few small bushy fir trees. The floor was of earth and the roof and back were covered with corex sheeting. A large box covered with mesh contained bananas, sugar and a pinch of yeast to attract fruit flies, and lawn cuttings were heaped in one corner for the birds to pick over for insects. The only other pair of birds in the flight were a pair of Lavender Waxbills.

Settling down

The Dybowskis pair seemed to settle down well. The cock only occasionally pursued the hen, who was able to hide from his amorous attentions if the need arose by vanishing into some of the thickly covering Russian Vine. The cock mostly sang and displayed to her for the next few days while the bond became stronger between them as they searched the flight for insects and nesting sites. The pair started to call to each other and the call would be returned. On June 8th the cock was seen carrying nesting material to a location on the back wall of the flight. There was a half open-fronted nest box fixed there and wedged between this and the main stem of the Russian Vine was a nest under construction. This

was completed by June 14th and then all activity ceased.

On June 20th a new nesting site was chosen by the pair in a Cotonest bush right by the flight door entrance. I removed the nest, but undaunted they started to rebuild straight away. I removed the second attempt to nest, and

as they started again I was forced to move the bush. As if sulking, all activity ceased again. On July 7th I saw the hen fly out of the Russian Vine near the first location. On checking, I found that the nest had been completed with hay, moss, co-

conut fiber, leaves and feathers with a very small entrance hole about 1/2" in diameter at the front of the globular nest. There was hardly room, you would think, for a bird their size to squeeze in. On closer inspection the nest contained four white eggs. The pair started to incubate the following day, 8th July, with the cock and the hen sitting alternately in the day time, the hen alone at night.

On July 20th, some 13 days after incubation started, each adult bird was seen taking quantities of Waxworm/Whiteworm and Buffalo worms. They were both very cautious at this stage when entering and leaving the nest, choosing to take a round-about route along a timber support at the back of the flight

above. In contrast, ten days later, they would enter and leave the nest in full view of cats/dogs or any of the family.

Seemingly the need for secrecy had passed. By July 25th the hen and cock were seen off the nest for short periods, together feeding on insects and large quantities of panicum millet, then one or the other would return to feed and brood the young. Came July 30th and the pair were entering the nest alternatively every 30 to 45 minutes, to feed the 10 day old young and at this stage the parents roosted away

from the nest on their favorite cross-member under the shelter of the Russian Vine. The next day the feeding continued every hour but the brooding was over.

First fledgling

At 18 days old on August 6th the first chick fledged and emerged. That was followed by two more the next day, the fourth egg not having hatched. Once fledged, the young never returned to the nest but roosted with parents low down on a branch of the Russian Vine at the back of the flight. On the 11th August, 3 days after fledging, although still being fed, the young were seen picking over the food on the feeding station.

I found that the nest had been completed with hay, moss, coconut fiber, leaves and feathers with a very small entrance hole about 1/2" in diameter at the front

By August 22nd. 14 days after fledging. the young were independent.

On August 21st I went up the garden at first light to put fresh water in the flight. and on checking around could not see the cock Dybowski. I went to attend the other flights and on returning checked again but still had no sight of him. The morning passed and still he did not appear, so I went into the flight to search for him.

A new nest site

Earlier in this article I mentioned the mound of grass cuttings in the corner for the birds to pick over for insects. As I got close a bird shot out from the mound—yes it was the cock Dybowski. On inspecting the mound closely, a section had been scooped at ground level. The nest was constructed with hay, moss, coconut fiber and leaves and lined with feathers and it contained 4 white eggs. I beat a hasty retreat and within 10 minutes the cock was back on the eggs. I then went in again and as quickly as possible caught up the 3 young from the first round. Thank goodness the cock sat tight.

As it transpired, that day must have been the start of incubation. Exactly 13 days later, again from the start of incubation, on September 2nd faint cheeping could be heard from the nest.

On the 15th day after hatching, on September 16th all 4 chicks left the nest. This was 3 days before they were due to fledge. The reason I thought for their early fledging was

that the nest being on the ground, as opposed to being in a bush above the ground. allowed the inquisitive young to follow the parents out by just walking out instead of building up courage to fly. I noticed that the 4th chick was weak and a very poor flier, and over the next couple of weeks did not grow like the others. and on October 5th sadly this youngster was dead on the flight floor.

On the 4th and 5th of October. the adults had made 3 starts at nest building which regretfully I had to destroy due to the lateness of the year. Prior to transferring them and their young to the birdroom for the winter on October 6th they even attempted to build again. I thought that if they were keen I would try to copy their nest location in a small flight in the birdroom.

The move indoors

So I made ready the internal flight with a few stems of fir bushes and a nest basket hooked on the wire about 8 to 10 inches off the floor (*yes. I did measure the distance off the floor with a ruler and transferred the measurements to the birdroom - what dedication!!*) This was the basket they had started to build in out in the flight so the material that they had put in it was left, and more given to them heaped on the floor of the flight.

Now as many of us breeders know, the normal situation you would expect would be for the pair to moult and forget breeding once removed from their breeding

surroundings, but that's another of the fun things about this hobby, the unexpected. The pair were put into the flight and within 2 hours were busily building in the basket. On October 14th the pair started incubating again just 8 days after being removed from the outside flight.

On the 27th October the chicks hatched and on the 28th were heard calling, quantity unknown. On the 11th November the first 2 chicks fledged followed by 2 more on the 12th. On the 18th the young were seen nibbling food and this coincided with the adults starting to build again. This time a freestanding nest was built in some cut fir branches stapled to the back wall of the flight. On the 25th November, 15 days after fledging, the young were removed from the flight, and on the same night the adults commenced sitting again. On the 27th December, 4 more chicks fledged. The 5th youngster was dragged from the nest the following day, already dead for a couple of days. I disposed of it quickly.

The cock bird was removed from the family on the 2nd January to stop any more nests, the hen being left to do any last feeding necessary. I would not normally expect or ask for any more than 3 rounds from a pair, but they had caught me out with their eagerness to go down the 4th time, and as no distress was

apparent to either bird I let it continue.

So to conclude, the pair had fed additional spiders added to the indoor flight diet of waxworms, white-worms, buffaloworms, flour beetle larvae, (thanks to Chris Glanfield) and fruit flies as insectivorous diet,

plus a lot of panicum millet and some mixed millet.

The 4 rounds contained a total of 17 eggs — 1 clear, 1 chick died before fledging, and 1 chick died after fledging. One died in outside facilities, one died in

inside facilities. A total of 14 chicks raised in all. The split was 6 raised outside and 8 reared inside. Average batching time was 13 days, average time from egg batching to independence was 29 days. Average moulting out into adult plumage was 67 days from hatching, and 38 days from fledging.

The hen rested from 17th January onwards, and like the cock bird, will not be paired up before the end of May or until fully fit. Both birds went through their respective moults by the beginning of February. I hope these details help anyone who wishes to try breeding these beautiful birds.

The last thing, but no means the least, is the song. It has to be heard to be believed — it is superb.

March 27, 1994

~~~~~

*the song . . .  
it has to be  
heard to be  
believed — it is  
superb.*

~~~~~

Flocking Together...



A reader has the following question for the NFSS membership:

❖ I am having a difficult time acquiring information about the less common species of parrot finches. I am quite familiar with the readily available:

Red-headed parrot finch (*Erythrura psittacea*)

Blue-faced parrot finch (*Erythrura t. thricroa*)

Pin-tailed parrot finch (*Erythrura p. prasina*)

There is little information however on some of the more exotic species. The following list contains some of the names I was able to compile with what may be their scientific name. Some of these names may be incorrect or duplicated, others may be missing.

Coloria parrot finch (*Erythrura coloris*)

Forbes parrot finch (*Erythrura*)

Royal parrot finch (*Erythrura cyaneifrons regia*)

Peale's parrot finch (*Erythrura cyaneifrons pealii*)

Bamboo parrot finch (*Erythrura hyperythra*)

Are there NFSS members who have a particular interest in the *Erythrura* genus and have avicultural information on the various species? Your help would be appreciated.

Marc J. Riva

303 Elite Court

Oshawa, Ontario, Canada L1J 7V3

fax (905) 436-9872

A response from the Editor:

❖ Three sources mentioned in the *Bulletin* come readily to mind:

1) The wonderful 1993 book, *Finches and Sparrows: An Identification Guide* by Peter Clement, Alan Harris and John Davis.

2) The newly formed Waxbill-Parrot Finch Society mentioned in the Sep/Oct 1995 issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*.

3) The British periodical *The Estrildian*, listed in the *Bulletin's* international correspondents section.

We look forward to hearing from our readers about their experiences with these birds.

OFFICIAL NFSS BALLOT FOR 1996/97 TERM

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President	Frank Hudson	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
1st Vice President	Charles Anchor	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
2nd Vice President	Kenneth Tidwell	_____	_____
	Robert Petrie	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
3rd Vice President	_____	_____	_____
4th Vice President	Dr. Al Decoteau	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Membership Director	Lynda Bakula	_____	_____
	Annette Howard	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Executive Secretary	Patrick Vance	_____	_____
	Jackie Civitarese	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Treasurer	Miki Spartzak	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Leg Band Secretary	Eileen Laird	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Liaison Officer	Jerry McCawley	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

OFFICIAL NFSS BALLOT FOR 1996/97 TERM

FOR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:

Cast **ONLY ONE** vote for Regional Vice President,
ONLY in the region in which you live.

Region One (Northeast)	Kris Kroner	_____	_____
		_____	_____
Region Two (Southeast)	Dale Laird	_____	_____
		_____	_____
Region Three (Mid-Central & Foreign)	Tom Rood	_____	_____
		_____	_____
Region Four (Mid-West)	Clarence Culwell	_____	_____
		_____	_____
Region Five (Mountain)	Julie Kern	_____	_____
		_____	_____
Region Six (Pacific Coast)	Cathy Knight	_____	_____
		_____	_____
Region Seven (Caribbean)	Rich "Sunshine" Morales	_____	_____
		_____	_____

This ballot has been printed in the center position in this issue of the *Bulletin* so that you can easily remove it from the staples without damaging your *Bulletin*.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS BALLOT TODAY!

Mail to our VIP Vote Tabulator:

Ms. Nancy Reed - NFSS Ballot
109 Stage Coach Rd.
Windsor, CT 06095-1249

VOTING DEADLINE: Ballots must be received by **FEBRUARY 1, 1996.**

Breeding the **Java Sparrow or Rice Bird**

Padda oryzivora

*by Barbara Posnanski,
Greater Brandon Avian Society
Brandon, Florida*

Java Sparrows, also called Java Finches, Rice Finches, and Rice Birds, to name a few, inhabit the rice and bamboo fields in Java, Bali and various Indonesian islands. They are communal birds, and are often seen in large flocks. Despite their behavior in the wild, I do not colony breed any of my birds. I believe breeding is enhanced by using individual cages for each pair. Java's can be nasty little birds when in breeding situations.

I find sexing Java's on beak characteristics a bit frustrating. The mature male's beak usually is wider at the base, brighter red and has a slight hump to it. The female's beak usually is somewhat narrower with a sharper angle at the tip and is paler in color. I usually patiently wait until I hear singing. They have a delightful song and only the male sings.

For breeding, I use a 24x18x18 inch cage, constructed from 1/2 x 1/2 inch 16 gauge wire with a standard parakeet box attached outside. I line the bottom of the box with pine shavings. The parents add whatever they can, such as spray millet pieces,



Pied Java Rice Bird

Photo by Sandee Gregorich Peterson

newspaper strips, small feathers, and grass. Boxes may get so full of used millet spray it's hard to find the babies, so I pull some out. Java Finches are avid bathers and require plenty of water, especially in the warmer summer months.

My Javas are peds, and they have given me normal peds, cinnamon, and whites. My clutches average about 6 babies, and I have heard of up to 9 babies per clutch from other breeders. Incubation is from 13 to 15 days, and chicks hatch rapidly. Java's are great parents, and I've never seen parental abuse of the babies. While they are feeding the young (up to 4 weeks in the box, and 7 to 10 days after fledging) adults love fresh corn on the cob, romaine lettuce, broccoli, Petamine (Kellogg) or Nutra Care (Kaytee), spray millet and fortified finch seed. They ingest a lot of cuttle bone. When they are

All-Natural Pest Control

by Rose Gianferrara
Bonita Springs, Florida

Troubled with roaches or insects? Worried about chemical spray residues? Then try a pest control that is all-natural — a bay leaf.

Many ecologists say that this household spice is helpful in repelling roaches and insects. Reason: the key substance in the leaf is cineole, reportedly 98% effective in repelling roaches. So, just put a bay leaf in the area where you see unwanted insects and the cineole is said to drive them away - and keep them away. I also

put a piece of bay leaf in my nest boxes.

For sugar ants and other varieties of bugs you can make a bait of 2½ oz. of corn syrup or honey and 1 teaspoon of boric acid. Stir the two ingredients together and melt the mixture on the stove or in a microwave oven. When the mixture cools, stir in an equal amount of water, then put small amounts of the resulting bait into plastic coffee can lids, bottle caps or other small receptacles and placed where our pets cannot get at it. In two weeks, the bugs will be dead.



Java Rice Bird, continued

not feeding young, I sprinkle L & M eggshell on the Nutra Care.

Java's get their adult plumage at about 4 months and can be bred at about 9 months to a year of age. They are prolific, and will continue to breed as long as a nest box is present. I limit them to four clutches a year, during the cooler months, preferably between January and June. During the resting period, Java's may be housed in a large flight with budgies. Since both are aggressive species, they seem to respect each other and they get along well.

Several years ago, I handfed some Java babies that I pulled at 3 weeks. They are tame as long as their wings are kept clipped. They do love to pick at your eyes and any marks that are on your skin. But, hey, they're such a small bird, how bad can they bite? They make a delightful pet, and I recommend them to everyone!



This article first appeared in the "Friends of Feathers Newsletter", April 1995 (vol. 12, no. 4), published by the Greater Brandon Avian Society, and is reprinted here with their kind permission.

From the judging circuit **Report of Judges Clinic**

**Ft. Worth Bird Club Show,
Arlington, Texas
October 7, 1995**

*by Tom Rood, NFSS Panel Judge
Shelbyville, Illinois*

I was very anxious to travel to Texas to judge the Ft. Worth Bird Club Show as I knew that fellow NFSS members Clarence Culwell, Gene & June Miller, Jim Hulsey, and Frank & Sandy Hudson would be in attendance. Upon my arrival, I was approached by Clarence Culwell who was very anxious to "line up" some birds and discuss them following the judging.

I found a very nice entry of 109 birds entered in the show, and as would be expected with the names mentioned above, the quality of the entries was outstanding. The Australian section was very strong with 4 Australians making it to the Top Bench.

Looking over the Zebras

Clarence and I enjoyed looking over the Zebra Finch entries following the judging. We discussed size, type, and conformation of the Zebra being exhibited at the present time as compared to those 10 years ago. I think all those present agreed that we

spent the early days of "English" Zebras worrying about size to the point where many birds on exhibit were "loppy", for want of a better word. We are now concentrating on type and conformation again.

Clarence had several interesting colors on display that were exhibited in the A.O.V. Zebra classes. One bird he exhibited in the class went on to take 3rd Best Zebra. I think we agreed that the A.O.V. section will be seeing more entries in the near future with many breeders now working on some of the newer colors. Interestingly enough, there was only one normal gray entered in the show. A large class of 10 fawns were exhibited with several different sizes and body styles on display. We enjoyed going through these fawns giving our opinions. Condition was hurting this class of fawns at this show and I think 2-3 weeks of "finishing off" will help them.

Gene Miller and I also discussed the showing of pairs and agreed that 2 birds of the same color mutation should make up an exhibition pair. We also discussed pairs acting like a pair when being exhibited. Not necessarily courting or displaying to each other, but feeling comfortable together in the cage—not fighting, chasing one another, or cowering on the floor of the cage.

It was also brought to our attention that the Ft. Worth club might want to change one of the classes in their present catalog. Tri-Color Nuns are presently exhibited in the African section rather than the Indo-

The National Finch and Softbill Society
Region NEWS

News from Region 2: Southeast

Dale Laird - Regional V.P.

The Region 2 general membership meeting was hosted by the Exotic Bird Club of Florida in Palm Bay, Florida on November 4, 1995 in conjunction with their annual bird show. The show was judged by NFSS 1st Vice President, Tom Rood. The winner was a 1994 Java Rice Bird shown by Dale & Eileen Laird, followed by the first place Softbill, a Silver Eared Mesia, shown by Phil & Denise Barth. Seven exhibitors entered 70 birds to round out the field.

During the show Dale Laird attended a NFSS booth which included a display board, several birds, NFSS literature, FINCHSHOP items, and the continual running of the NFSS video "Introduction to Finches and Softbills".

Dale & Eileen Laird donated a trio of Spice Finches and an Audubon Bird Book which were raffled at the membership meeting raising \$67.00 for NFSS. (This was added to the \$26.00 raised earlier in the year selling NFSS items at the shows.) Mel Trentwedel won the Spice Finches and Phil Barth won the Audubon book. Eighteen people attended the meeting. The agenda included the bylaws vote, upcoming elections, input for the bird standards, the importance of FINCHSAVE, and the 4th Quarter NFSS Board meeting at the National Cage Bird Show in New Orleans.



Judges Clinic, continued

Pacific section as suggested by NFSS.

All in all, we had a very fruitful and enjoyable time discussing the birds on display and came away with more knowledge as to how each other thought about breeding and exhibiting finches.



Addition to **1994 Annual Census**

Please add the following record to the 1994 NFSS Annual Census:

Participant: Mary Cahow (WI)
(715) 635-2978.

Common Names of Species:
Aurora Finch, Gold-breasted Waxbill, Pearl-headed Silverbill, and Strawberry Finch.

See the Jul/Aug 1995 issue for the main results of the 1994 Census, with an addition published in the Sep/Oct 1995 issue.

*Invite a Friend
to
Join NFSS!*

NFSS Bylaws Revised

The Bylaws Revision published in the September/October 1995 issue of the *Bulletin* was approved by ballot of the general membership. The complete text of the approved new Bylaws are as published in that issue. If you are a new member of NFSS, you may order a copy of the Sep/Oct 1995 issue through FINCHSHOP.

The Bylaws should be reprinted sometime in 1996 with the publication of the 1996 Yearbook of *The NFSS Bulletin*, called *The NFSS Handbook*, which also will include an index to the *Bulletin*'s articles, the NFSS Annual Census, show classifications and much more!

Copies of the 1995 *Handbook* are still available, with the last Census and a complete index to all *Bulletin* articles since 1984. (It does include the out-dated Bylaws, though). If you didn't catch it while reading the *Bulletin* this year, *The NFSS Handbook* was the July/August 1995 issue of the *Bulletin*, pulling out of your regular bi-monthly issues some key, and lengthy, Society information for you and publishing it all in one handy issue.



SAMPLE NFSS BALLOT FOR 1996/97 TERM

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1st Vice President	Charles Anchor	_____
2nd Vice President	Kenneth Tidwell Robert Petrie	_____ _____
3rd Vice President		_____
4th Vice President	Dr. Al Decoteau	_____
Membership Director	Lynda Bakula Annette Howard	_____ _____
Executive Secretary	Patrick Vance Jackie Civitarese	_____ _____
Treasurer	Miki Sparzak	_____
Leg Band Secretary	Eileen Laird	_____
Liaison Officer	Jerry McCawley	_____

FOR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT: Cast ONLY ONE vote for Regional Vice President, ONLY in the region in which you live.

Region One (Northeast)	Kris Kroner	_____
Region Two (Southeast)	Dale Laird	_____
Region Three (Mid-Central & Foreign)	Tom Rood	_____
Region Four (Mid-West)	Clarence Cutwell	_____
Region Five (Mountain)	Julie Kern	_____
Region Six (Pacific Coast)	Cathy Knight	_____
Region Seven (Caribbean)	Rich "Sunshine" Morales	_____ _____

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PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THE BALLOT TODAY!

Mail to our VIP Vote Tabulator:
Ms. Nancy Reed - NFSS Ballot
109 Stage Coach Rd.
Windsor, CT 06095-1249

VOTING DEADLINE: Ballots must be received by FEBRUARY 1, 1996.

Election of 1996/97 NFSS Board of Directors

Candidates' Biographies

For the Office of President

Frank Hudson
Calvert, Texas

Frank Hudson is a native of South Florida and a graduate of Florida Atlantic University. He moved to Texas in the early 1970's and now lives in Calvert, Texas. He is active in his community and church. Frank works as a banking consultant for a Dallas-based firm.

Frank came to the breeding of exotic finches after getting his start in American Singer canaries. Joined by his wife, Sandy, Frank started with finches about six years ago after seeing the lovely Gouldian finch during a trip to Europe. After a lifetime of interest in and raising many different types of birds, the Hudsons became fascinated by the Australian finches.

After early concentration on the Gouldian finch they have expanded their aviary to include many different types of finches and softbills. Their main area of interest now includes a breeding program of Masked Grass finches and Lilac Breasted Rollers.

After getting started in breeding, they naturally started showing their birds. Their Lilac-breasted Roller, Mrs. T., came in second at the

National Cage Bird Show in 1992 and was the recipient of the Kellogg Trophy in 1993. The Hudsons have been quite active at shows in the southwest and have received the Champion Exhibitor award in 1993 and 1994.

For the Office of 1st Vice President Regional V.P.'s/Education

Charles Anchor
Addison, Illinois

I have been a member and a judge in NFSS almost from day one.

I have been involved with birds all my life. My first cage bird show was in 1959. Before that I kept chickens and other birds which I kept along with cage birds until 1990. Now I keep only cage birds.

I have won four Kellogg trophies at the National Cage Bird Show along the way.

For the Office of 2nd Vice President Publishing

Kenneth Tidwell
The Woodlands, Texas

Robert Petrie
Kansas City, Missouri

My name is Robert Petrie and I am a candidate for the 2nd Vice President for NFSS. I hope you will take a few moments and read a brief biography about myself.

I have just been appointed to serve as the Editor of *The NFSS Bulletin* beginning with the Jan/Feb 1996 issue.

I have been a private aviculturalist for 16 years. I went to college at Iowa State University, studying Animal Ecology. After college I became a zookeeper at the Kansas City Zoo in what was then the bird department. After five years working at the zoo I was promoted to Animal Area Supervisor over the Asian area of the zoo. While working at the zoo, I had the pleasure of working with a vast array of bird species, including a lot of rare and endangered ones. We raised quite a few Bali Mynahs for the SSP (Species Survival Plan) program. During my school years and while working at the zoo, I remained a private aviculturalist. The last couple of years I have been concentrating on the African Estrildid finches. I have had great success with this group of birds, raising the typical Goldbreasts, Fires, Cordon Bleus, Strawberries, Red Heads, etc., and several of the mannikin species. My most noteworthy successes have been with the reproduction of Red-ear, Lavender, and Violet-eared Waxbills and Quail Finches. These were all parent-raised birds. Mid-September of 1995, I resigned from my position

at the Kansas City Zoo in order to work with my own collection full-time.

I have never had the opportunity to prepare an entire publication, but I have had some articles printed. These articles include several for the Kansas City Zoo in various newsletters and two in *The NFSS Bulletin*. The two in the *Bulletin* were in the Sep/Oct 1994 and Jan/Feb 1995 issues. To me a great publication has a few key elements. Number one is entertainment. People will not look forward to, read, and resubscribe if they are not entertained. Not only is the subject matter important, but also the writing style. The second most important element is information. The audience for *The NFSS Bulletin* is one that requires constant new information. Appearance is also important for a great publication. People buy a certain brand of cola because of the way they perceive it. Any publication is the same. If the organization and the appearance do not look professional, then its readers are not going to perceive it as an authority.

When I left the zoo field my intention was to become more active in NFSS, and the 2nd Vice President's position appears to be an ideal opportunity for me and for NFSS.

**For the Office of
3rd Vice President
FINCHSAVE**

No candidates on ballot.

For the Office of 4th Vice President

Judges Panel, Stds & Research,
Specie Classifications,
Society shows, Points

Dr. Al Decoteau
Groton, Massachusetts

Dr. Decoteau has been a breeder, exhibitor and judge of parrots, finches and softbills for many years. He has produced numerous handfed baby birds. He is often called upon to lecture all over the world and has traveled extensively in the jungles, particularly in South America. Dr. Decoteau is the author of *The Handbook of Amazons*, *The Handbook of Cockatoos*, *The Handbook of Macaws* and *Exhibiting Birds* plus completing videos on Amazons, Cockatoos and Macaws. He is on the judging panels for the Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors, the National Finch and Softbill Society, the National Cockatiel Society and the African Love Bird Society. Dr. Decoteau is the recipient twice of the coveted AVY award given by the American Federation of Aviculture; the Rose Award for 1984 given for outstanding donation to aviculture in New England and the 1987 Kaytee Award for outstanding National Service to aviculture as well as the SPBE ultimate award: The Carolina Parakeet Award. He serves as Director of the National Cage Bird Show, the National Finch and Softbill Society plus being a director and founder of the Society of Parrot Breeders and

Exhibitors. Currently he is serving as President of the Great American Bird Show.

For the Office of Membership Director

Lynda Bakula
Ballwin, Missouri

I am currently ending my first term as NFSS Membership Chairman. I have really enjoyed talking and corresponding with so many members. On an average, the position has taken about 8 hours a week. We have a home computer and purchased a laser printer this past year. The extra bedroom that is my office/bird room should be a full time office by year end, as the bird room is currently under construction in the basement. I hope you will decide to elect me to another term as Membership Director.

I have tried to answer the NFSS mail within two weeks of receiving it. With moving this past year, there were times that it did take longer. I have only had birds for 5 1/2 years. There are so many questions from new members, I like to try to answer all the questions I can or give them a contact to help with the problem they may have.

This is my third season raising waxbills. I did get my husband a pair of Gouldians this last spring for our aviary in the living room. They have raised 2 clutches of 4 chicks each this summer. They have been very good parents. All of my chicks are parent raised. The birds that have

raised successfully include red-ears, red-cheeks, blue-caps, lavenders and silverbills. I have been successful in getting most of them closed banded.

Annette Howard
Salem, Ohio

For the Office of Executive Secretary

Patrick Vance
Lathrup Village, Michigan

A graduate of Michigan State University. I taught high school for two years before taking a job with the State of Michigan, currently as a child support specialist. I've been involved with birds for 14 years, beginning with a pair of cockatiels and soon afterwards adding 3 pairs of finches to my collection. I currently have 20 hookbills and over 300 finches, primarily Australian species. I began exhibiting finches in 1987 and have been an NFSS Champion Exhibitor for the past 5 consecutive years (1991-95). In addition to writing articles for local newsletters, *The NFSS Bulletin* and the new *Finch and Canary World* magazine, I've been an NFSS panel judge since 1993.

I look forward to serving NFSS in the capacity of Executive Secretary if elected.

Jackie Civitarese
San Juan, Puerto Rico

For the Office of Treasurer

Marion (Miki) Sparzak
Baltimore, Maryland

I have been a member of NFSS since 1987. I have been a Director since 1988. During the years of service to NFSS I have held the positions of Advertising Manager, Membership Services, and presently hold the office of Treasurer.

I believe in NFSS and hope to help the Society continue to grow into a beacon of knowledge for all those seeking education, friendship, and comradeship in the field of aviculture.

I enjoy teaching others about birds through lectures, conversation and exhibiting. I am an NFSS judge and use this forum to encourage everyone to join us to share the many offerings of NFSS.

For the Office of Leg Band Secretary

Eileen Laird
Winter Park, Florida

Eileen has been involved with birds or bird related activities for a number of years on both a local and state level. She has worked the majority of shows in Florida as the finch and softbill secretary for the past two years.

Having lived in different sections of the country and Japan, Eileen and her family now reside in Winter Park, Florida. They raise and

show a number of finches and soft-bills but are most proud of their Persa Touracos, who gave them 7 FINCHSAVE registered babies since 1993. Eileen, along with her husband Dale, is working with the Venezuelan Black Hooded Red Siskin, an endangered species, raising 6 babies this past year. Their mixed collection of finches have evolved over the years to include Australian, African, South American, and Indo Pacific.

Eileen accepted the position of Band Secretary in October 1994. She has worked very hard to computerize the reports, records and band orders. Eileen's goal is to expedite every order she receives. She has sold over 35,000 bands and filled over 450 1995 band orders this year. Eileen is very dedicated to the growth and development of NFSS and is committed to doing her part to make it happen.

For the Office of Liaison Officer

Jerry McCawley
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

For the Office of Region 1 - Northeast Vice President

Kris Kroner
Ambler, Pennsylvania

For the Office of Region 2 - Southeast Vice President

Dale Laird
Winter Park, Florida

Dale lives in Winter Park, Florida with Eileen, his wife of 25 years. They raise and show a number of finches and softbills, but are most proud of their Persa Touracos who gave them 7 FINCHSAVE registered babies since 1993. They keep several species of Whydahs and strive to place one on the top bench each year. Their mixed collection of finches have evolved over the years to include Australian, African, South American, and Indo Pacific.

Dale has served in the position of Southeastern Regional Vice President for the past two years. He feels the most important function of that position is communication. Dale holds yearly Regional information meetings, mails quarterly updates to the delegates in his region, and writes articles about NFSS for the club newsletters in his region. Dale has served on two major projects for NFSS this past term. He served as chairman of both the AFA Re-affiliation Committee and the Bylaws Revision Committee.

Dale has served NFSS well in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

**For the Office of
Region 3- Mid-Centrel & Foreign
Vice President**

Tom Rood
Shelbyville, Illinois

Having served NFSS for several terms, I would again enjoy serving as Region 3 Vice President. I enjoy corresponding with members and affiliated clubs in my region. I make attempts to answer any questions they may have; or at least steer them in the right direction. I have always offered special awards to all Region 3 clubs and plan to continue this practice if re-elected.

Being one of the charter members of NFSS, I am still a very strong supporter of our organization. Having been on the NFSS Judges Panel for three years now, I appreciate the opportunity to visit various affiliated clubs around the country and meet new finch breeders and exhibitors. I am also still very active in breeding and exhibiting my own birds.

Should NFSS choose to re-elect me as Region 3 Vice-President, I will do my best to serve you.

**For the Office of
Region 4 - Mid-West
Vice President**

Clarence Culwell
Springtown, Texas

My number in NFSS is #72.
With a number this low you can see I have been an NFSS member since its

very early days. I have also been an NFSS judge since that time. I have kept finches since the early 1950's. I have bred both Australian and African varieties. If one could say I have a specialty, It would be Societies and Zebras. (*Editor's Note: Clarence, in November 1995, won the coveted Kellogg trophy for Best Finch or Softbill at the National Cage Bird Show for a Zebra Finch he bred.*)

I have been nominated by a fellow NFSS member to seek the Region 4 Vice President position. I have a desire to serve NFSS and to give back to the organization that has clearly promoted the Finch Fancy. It is with this desire that I seek this position.

**For the Office of
Region 5 - Mountain
Vice President**

Julie Kern
Denver, Colorado

**For the Office of
Region 6 - Pacific Coast
Vice President**

Cathy Knight
Byron, California

**For the Office of
Region 7 - Carrihheen
Vice President**

Rich "Sunshine" Morales
Carolina, Puerto Rico

Call me Rich Sunshine.

Let me invite you to visit an independent island in the Caribbean: **THE GREAT PUERTO RICO.** Warm tides, faithful winds, sunshine unlimited, secluded beaches where you could swim in Adam and Eve's bathing suit, rain forest, palm forest, red forest, dry forest, cavern systems, phosphorescent bays and amiable, friendly and hospitable people. Puerto Rico is a Continent.

I am the first child in our family. Mom and Dad both were raised in the countryside. Their life was filled with a lot of scarcity, needs and wants, penury and misery. As teachers they taught us to overcome obstacles and limitations.

Thanks to the freedom granted by my parents I studied 6 years of my life to become a Catholic Priest with the **REDEMPTORIST FATHERS** who work for the poor and the needy. I left (the seminary) since it did not take very long to find out that it takes more than a blanket to sleep warm at night.

(My wife) Lourdes is to me the closest link to God's presence, protection, perfection. She is a biologist. What I admire most in her is

the understanding of people she has and a profound respect for animal life. She bought, taught, and encouraged us to watch her first handfed bird **PACO.**

Actually, Lourdes and I lead a tour business. I have attended more than 300,000 people in my life as a guide. I love what I do and I would like to give NFSS members advice before your next trip into a foreign country. **TAKE A TOUR!** A tour without a guide is like a student without a book.

My son Carlos is a 10 year old kid. He is fun to be with and he enjoys birds a lot.

Maybe you expected me to write about finches: which ones we like most, how many do we have, how do we raise them, what do we expect from our crosses. It is much more than that. By relating to birds we prevent our divorce from nature, and we expand our spiritual growth. Every time a Lady Gouldian is born I feel I have helped to recreate a masterpiece of nature alive, something that I cannot and will never be able to paint.



Shape the Future of NFSS

Send in your ballot for 1996/97 Officers today!

NFSS 3rd Qtr 1995 Board Reports

By Mail - recorded 9/24/95

Recorded by President Steve Hoppin

Membership Chairman's Report -

Lynda Bakula of Baltwin, MO. We now have a total of 962 members:

- 8 junior
- 656 single
- 220 dual
- 4 exchange/international
- 74 affiliated clubs

NFSS has increased its membership by 151 members since January 1994.

Advertising Manager's Report - Lynda

Bakula. We now have several full page advertisers, however, time has been at a premium and Lynda has not been able to further her work in this area this quarter.

Election of Officers Committee -

Clarence Culwell of Springtown, TX. A slate of nominees is being developed for 1996/97 Board positions. All offices have nominees except for the position of 3rd Vice President (FINCHSAVE Director).

Sun Coast Avian Consortium - Richard

Ulrich, president, Sun Coast Avian Society, FL. The \$100.00 donated by NFSS to the Consortium was used to purchase two female Fire Finches. Mr. Ulrich intends on releasing a full report on the Consortium between November and December of 1995. At this time he can state that the Fire Finches are holding their own and show promise, but that the Red-ear Waxbills have shown a high percentage of losses.

Treasurer's Report - Miki Spartzak of

Baltimore, MD. Miki submitted an Income and Expense Report for 1/1/95 through 9/19/95, and a letter to all department managers with guidelines for the handling of NFSS monies received by various NFSS departments.

Balances as of 9/19/95:

Savings	\$1,520.79
Checking	\$4,151.83

NFSS Net Worth	\$5,672.62
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Publishing Committee's Report - Martha Wigmore of Elk River, MN. Current Editor, Martha, announced during the quarter that she was resigning after publication and distribution of the Nov/Dec 1995 issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*. The updated *NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards* would also be published prior to the Nov/Dec '95 issue of the *Bulletin*. The Nov/Dec '95 issue would be held up until the NFSS meetings at NCBS are held, and a final slate of nominees for the 1996/97 ballot is determined.

The first of hopefully several individuals has volunteered for the appointed position of Editor in 1996. Kenneth Tidwell is also running for the position of 2nd V.P.

We have three typists who are just terrific: Sue DeBusk of S. Miami, FL, Janice Trost of New Port Richey, FL and Lynda Scott of Naples, FL. They are really professional and really appreciated!

We have changed our Bulk mailing permit to a non-profit mailing permit, saving quite a bit on postage. The NFSS Editor now has a fax (same number as home phone), property of NFSS. Thank you to Miki Spartzak for her help with these two items.

Education Committee Report - Martha Wigmore. NFSS' education outreach remains in the hand of our contributors to the *Bulletin* at this time. The proposed Bylaws move the responsibility of Education to the NFSS 1st V.P., who, along with the Regional V.P.s will hopefully expand NFSS educational efforts in the upcoming year.

Standards, Judges and Apprentices - Dr. Al Decoteau of Groton, MA. A proposed Star Finch Standard will again be published in the *Bulletin* for comments. No report from the Mynah Standard Committee. The Zebra Finch Standard Committee, chaired by Martha Wigmore, sent out a questionnaire to all judges. Volunteers will be requested for a new committee to write the standard on the Pintailed Nonpareil.

Judges have been notified that all judges fees will be due at the same time as their 3/01 report of shows to be judged that year.

Two new apprentice applicants have contacted the Panel Director.

Judges need to be selected for GABS in 1996 and 1997.

Band Secretary Report - Eileen Laird of Winter Park, FL. To date 440 band orders

have been received and filled. A total of 31,930 bands have been sold to our membership. Our 1996 band order was placed with A.C. Hughes in August. 36,300 bands have been ordered for the coming year. The first 1996 band order was recently received.

Eileen also submitted detail of bands receipts and sales by size and by month during 1995. the 1996 band color is Orange.

Breeder Recognition Program Committee - Jerry McCawley of Lancaster, PA. BRP is almost complete. A final draft will be mailed by Jerry shortly after the first of October, after WBCA hearings are over.

Promotions - Jerry McCawley. NFSS has been presented formally to USFWS as well as Congress over the past six months. We have also been present at the AFA Convention in both booth and verbal forums.

Jerry has found some unique items for raffle and possible sales at Nationals. These items will be present for Board approval for the 1996 year.

Affiliation and Awards Report - Ginny Allen of Opelika, AL. Ginny has sent awards to 18 affiliated clubs. The awards company has promised to complete all awards so that the clubs will receive them two weeks prior to the scheduled show date. We have 77 affiliated clubs as of 9/13/95. Found a new vendor for NFSS rosettes for 1996. Champion Exhibitor awards will be ordered as well as the other special awards being presented at the NCBS. The Diamond Sparrow prints were sent to all affiliated clubs in August. Members who ordered these prints through FINCHSHOP were also sent their prints.

Overseas Awards Patronage Report - Tom Rood of Shelbyville, IL. The project had very good results again this year. In all, there should be *at least* 2 awards for each of the 10 sections in the Finch & Softbill division at NCBS. Also, that beautiful plaque for Best in Show.

Bylaws Committee - Dale Laird of Winter Park, FL. The committee formed by the Board in 2/95 completed a revision of the Bylaws in early 9/95, sent it to the Board for a confirmation vote, and sent the final print to the Corresponding Secretary by Certified Mail. The Board confirmation vote was 13 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain, 3 chose not to vote and 1 did not have a vote, but approved of the membership voting on it. The revised Bylaws will be printed in the Sep/Oct issue of the *Bulletin* for vote by the general membership. The ballots will be opened and tabulated at the 4th Quarter Board meeting in New Orleans on 16 November 1995. A complete file of confirmation votes, certified mail documentation, and smooth copies of the revised Bylaws are on file with the Bylaws Chairperson.

No reports were submitted from the following departments or committees:

1. FINCHSAVE (including Waxbill Survey)
2. FINCHSHOP
3. Conservation Committee
4. "Betty Crocker" Fund-raiser Committee



NFSS Affiliates, Delegates & Shows

(Listing as of December 1, 1995)

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society
Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168

Rocket City Cage Bird Club
Ron Clifton (205) 852-7155

CALIFORNIA

Aviary Assn. of Kern County
Willis & Velva Baker (805) 765-6110
Show December 2, 1995
Bakersfield, CA
Panel Judge: Hal Koontz

Capital City Bird Society
Dare B. Cagle (916) 944-2437

Finch Society of San Diego County
Sharon Russell (619) 273-2005

Fresno Canary and Finch Society
Dixie Lea (209) 584-3764

Golden Gate Avian Society
Claudia Salo (510) 455-9909

Region #6 Show

Show November 11, 1995
Tracy, CA

Panel Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic
Bird Club

Neil Crowley (408) 258-4601
Show November 25, 1995

Santa Clara, CA

Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture
Julie Kern (303) 753-6145

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture
Chris Voronovitch (203) 649-8220

New England Finch Fanciers
Russell Armitage, Jr. (203) 756-1753
Region #1 Show
Show November 25, 1995
E. Hartford, CT
Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South
Florida
Phil Barth (305) 426-5340

Central Florida Bird Breeders
Eugene F. Goss, Jr. (407) 957-1274

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami
Armando J. Lee (305) 270-1000

Exotic Bird Club of Florida
Jonathan Jones (407) 724-9498

Region #2 Show
10th Anniversary Show
November 4, 1995

Palm Bay, FL
Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Florida West Coast Avian Society

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show
Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

Double Show

February 17, 1996 *Saturday*
Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau
February 18, 1996 *Sunday*
Panel Judge: Harold Bowles
Tampa, FL

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.
Russ Blagg (813) 689-0692

Sun Coast Avian Society
Joe Ventimiglia (813) 392-9391

* not NFSS affiliate, but points
earnable under NFSS Panel Judge.

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society
Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society
Candy Wright (404) 633-4364
Show November 4, 1995
Marietta, GA
Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

HAWAII

Honolulu Canary and Finch Club
Kathy Perreira (808) 839-2269

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club
Jane Museato (708) 305-9043
Show November 4, 1995
Rolling Meadows, IL
Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

Illini Bird Fanciers

Jan Marcott (217) 347-9690

National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries (NIROC)

Stephan V. Hopman (815) 469-8455
Show November 25, 1995
Elk Grove Village, IL
Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Springfield Pet Bird Club

INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciers
Conrad Meinert (219) 269-2873

IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society

KANSAS

Kansas Avicultural Society
Jim Cowan (316) 263-8835

KENTUCKY

Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society
Patricia Wilkins (606) 271-0273

LOUISIANA

Capital Area Avicultural Society
Tim Schexnaydre (504) 562-3579
Show November 11, 1995
Baton Rouge, LA
Panel Judge: Miki Sparzak

Gulf South Bird Club, Inc.

Jeanne Murphy (504) 833-4241
National Cage Bird Show
Show November 18, 1995
Radisson Hotel, New Orleans, LA
Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers

Maryland Cage Bird Society
Theresa Brown (301) 735-7662

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc.
Dianna Smith (508) 540-3214

MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Avicultural Society
Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163

Mid-Michigan Bird Club

Mary Lou Tewilliger (517) 463-5695

Mid-West Cage-Bird Club, Inc.
Patrick Vance (810) 443-0643

Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders
Patrick Vance (810) 443-0643

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avic. Society
Nita Haas (816) 331-5285

Heart of America Hookbill & Finch Society

Moses Linn (816) 523-4661

Missouri Cage Bird Association
Richard & Rose Dickman
(314) 928-3444

Show November 4, 1995
Eureka, MO

Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Bird Club, Inc.
Gail Ranshaw (505) 822-1483

**NFSS
INTERNATIONAL
AFFILIATES**

CANADA

**Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society
of Ontario**

Jim Marks (416) 292-3852

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton

Show November 4, 1995

Ontario, Canada

Panel Judge: Steve Hoppin

**Durham Avicultural Society of
Ontario**

Vincent Moase (905) 723-1978

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

Alfred Mion (519) 948-6398

**NFSS
INTERNATIONAL
CORRESPONDENTS**

AUSTRALIA

Queensland Finch Society
Gavin Dietz, P.O. Box 1600,
Coorparoo DC 4151
Queensland, Australia

GREAT BRITAIN

The Estrildian

Ian Hinze, Coetref, Tyn Lon,
Holyhead, Gwynedd LL65 3LJ,
Wales, United Kingdom

The Waxbill Finch Society

Mr. Buzz Hope-Ingilis,
10 Litchfield Close, Plympton,
Plymouth PL7 3UU, England

Zebra Finch Society, England

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

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Finch Breeders Assn.
293 Albany Highway
Albany, New Zealand

NEW YORK

Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association

Rena Rouse (315) 252-7673

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Marie Grein (718) 468-0881

Rochester Cage Bird Club

Patrick Goonan (716) 288-5653

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society

April Blazich (919) 851-8079

Smokey Mtn. Cage Bird Society

Jim Cody (704) 686-5157

OHIO

Fort Defiance Bird Club

Larry Endsley (419) 263-2795

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

Robert Ayling (419) 536-8736

OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma

Gene and June Miller (405) 382-7066

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society

Doug Paris (918) 446-2447

OREGON

The Finch Connection

Julie Duimstra (503) 757-3117

Rose City Exotic Bird Club

Show November 4, 1995
Portland, OR

Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

PENNSYLVANIA**Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society**

Donald Strause (610) 926-5210

Chester County Bird Breeders

Roe Prieman (unlisted)

Delaware Valley Bird Club

Kris Kroner (215) 628-4143

Show November 11, 1995
Creamary, PA

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society

Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 363-6438

Show November 4, 1995
Monroeville, PA

Panel Judge: Miki Spartzak

Northeastern Penn. Cage Bird Club

Gary Fino (717) 829-3891

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

Rafael Echevarria (809) 795-5718

4th Puerto Rican National Show

Region #7 Show

Show December 2, 1995

Bayamon, PR

Panel Judge: Miki Spartzak

SOUTH CAROLINA**Palmetto Cage Bird Club**

Melvin Yoder (803) 459-5319

TENNESSEE**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

Eva Duffey (615) 361-5939

TEXAS**Bay Area Cage Bird Club**

Linda Beeman (713) 485-0291

Capital City Cage Bird Club

Fenton R. Mereness (512) 310-1802

Fort Worth Bird Club

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

Texas Canary Club

Chris Davis (713) 361-3364

VIRGINIA**Peninsula Cage Bird Society**

Linda Oja (804) 874-8581

WISCONSIN**Badger Canary Fanciers Ltd.**

Patrice (Ripple) Brusk (414) 785-8988



1995/96 Chronological Show List

There's a NFSS Show for Everyone!

February

- 2/18 FL (120 entries)
Florida State Fair
Exotic Bird Show -
Day 1
(Conrad Meinert)
- 2/19 FL (108 entries)
Florida State Fair
Exotic Bird Show -
Day 2
(Clarence Culwell)

June

- 6/03 IL (129 entries)
Illini Bird Fanciers
(Martha Wigmore)
- 6/10 MO (70 entries)
Heart of America
(Miki Spartzak)

August

- 8/12 LA (10 entries)
Gulf South Bird Club
(Dr. Al Decoteau)
- 8/19 FL (156 entries)
Aviary & Cage Bird
Soc. of S. Florida
(Steve Hoppin)
- 8/26 MI (25 entries)
Mid-Michigan Bird
Club
(Patrick Vance)

September

- 9/02 AL (32 entries)
Central Alabama
Avic. Soc.
(Dr. Al Decoteau)

- 9/02 TX (54 entries)
Bay Area Cage Bird
Club - Day 1
(Ray Johnson)

- 9/03 TX (51 entries)
Bay Area Cage Bird
Club - Day 2
(Ray Johnson)

- 9/09 NH (35 entries)
Birds of a Feather
Avicultural Society
(Miki Spartzak)
- PA (43 entries)
Chester County Bird
Breeders
(Martha Wigmore)

- 9/16 CN (?? entries)
Canadian National
Show
Budgerigar & Foreign
Bird Soc. of Ontario
(Non-panel judge)
- FL (89 entries)
Greater Brandon
Avian Society
(Tom Rood)

- MI (93 entries)
Region #3 Show
Mid-West Cage-Bird
Club, Inc.
(Charles Anchor)

- 9/23 CN (163 entries)
Durham Avic. Society
of Ontario
(Tom Rood)
- OH (?? entries)
Toledo Bird Assn.
(Paul Williams)

- SC (16 entries)
Palmetto Cage Bird
Club (Carolina Classic
- Day 1)
(Ray Johnson)

- 9/24 SC (28 entries)
Palmetto Cage Bird
Club (Carolina Classic
- Day 2)

- (Conrad Meinert)
- 9/30 MI (73 entries)
Society of Canary &
Finch Breeders
(Conrad Meinert)
- NM (27 entries)
New Mexico Bird
Club, Inc.
(Harold Bowles)
- OK (82 entries)
Bird Fanciers of
Oklahoma
(Laura Bewley)

October

- 10/07 CA (109 entries)
Great American Bird
Show
Golden Gate Avian
Society
(Miki Spartzak)
- CO (60 entries)
Region #5 Show
Rocky Mtn. Society
of Aviculture
(Ray Johnson)
- FL (67 entries)
Sunshine State Cage
Bird Society
(Martha Wigmore)
- IA (38 entries)
Mid-America Cage
Bird Society
(Patrick Vance)
- OH (20 entries)
Ft. Defiance Bird Club
(Conrad Meinert)
- TN (?? entries)
Middle Tennessee
Cage Bird Club
(Bill Parlee)
- TX (109 entries)
Fort Worth Bird Club
(Tom Rood)
- 10/14 CN (103 entries)
Essex-Kent Cage Bird
Society
(Charles Anchor)
- FL (47 entries)
Sun Coast Avian
Society
(Clarence Culwell)

- **IN (65 entries)**
 Indiana Bird Fanciers
(Patrick Vance)
- **KS (20 entries)**
 Kansas Avicultural
 Society
(Tom Rood)
- **NH (41 entries)**
 New Hampshire Avi-
 cultural Society
(Daren Decoteau)
- **NY (174 entries)**
 NY Finch & Type Can-
 ary Club
(Joe Krader)
- 10/21 CA (140 entries)**
 Capital City Bird
 Society
(Tom Rood)
- **MD (53 entries)**
 Baltimore Bird
 Fanciers
(Miki Sparzak)
- **MA (30 entries)**
 Mass. Cage Bird
 Association
(Harold Bowles)
- **MI (29 entries)**
 Great Lakes Avic.
 Society
(Conrad Meinert)
- **MO (44 entries)**
Region #4 Show
 Greater Kansas City
 Avic. Society
(Martha Wigmore)
- 10/22 MO (46 entries)**
 Heart of America
 Hookbill & Finch Soc.
(Ray Johnson)
- 10/28 CA (85 entries)**
 Fresno Canary &
 Finch Society
(Marty Von Raesfeld)
- **CT (50 entries)**
 Connecticut Assoc.
 for Aviculture
(Dr. Al Decoteau)
- **KY (18 entries)**
 Central Kentucky
 Cage bird Society
(Patrick Vance)
- **MI (?? entries)**
 Motor City Bird
 Breeders
- 10/28 NC (?? entries)**
 Smokey Mtn. Cage
 Bird Society
(Ray Johnson)
- **OK (24 entries)**
 Oklahoma Cage Bird
 Society
(Steve Hoppin)
- **TX (85 entries)**
 Texas Bird Breeders
 & Fanciers Assn.
(Joseph Krader)
- **WI (29 entries)**
 Badger Canary
 Fanciers
(Martha Wigmore)
- 10/29 FL (?? entries)**
 Florida West Coast
 Avian Society
(Bill Parlee)

November

- 11/04 CA (48 entries)**
 Central Calif. Cage
 Bird Club
(Joe Krader)
- **CN (104 entries)**
 Cage Bird Society of
 Hamilton
(Steve Hoppin)
- **FL (70 entries)**
Region #2 Show
 Exotic Bird Club of
 Florida
(Tom Rood)
- **GA (15 entries)**
 Georgia Cage Bird
 Society
(Clarence Culwell)
- **IL (?? entries)**
 Greater Chicago Cage
 Bird Club
(Laura Bewley)
- **MO (91 entries)**
 Missouri Cage Bird
 Association
(Brenda Geesey)
- **OR (45 entries)**
 Rose City Exotic Bird
 Club
(Dr. Al Decoteau)
- **PA (64 entries)**
 Greater Pittsburgh
 Cage Bird Society
(Miki Sparzak)
- **TX (65 entries)**
 Texas Canary Club
(Hal Koontz)
- 11/11 CA (105 entries)**
Region #6 Show
 Golden Gate Avian
 Society
(Marty Von Raesfeld)

- **LA**
 Capital Area Avicul-
 tural Society
(Miki Sparzak)
- **PA (62 entries)**
 Delaware Valley Bird
 Club
(Clarence Culwell)
- 11/17 LA (205 entries)**
**National Cage Bird
 Show**
 Gulf South Bird Club
(Roddy Gabel)
- 11/25 CA (51 entries)**
 Santa Clara Valley
 Canary & Exotic Bird
 Club
(Clayton Jones)
- **CT**
Region #1 Show
 New England Finch
 Fanciers
(Laura Bewley)
- **IL (40 entries)**
 National Institute of
 Red-Orange Canaries
(Conrad Meinert)

December

- 12/02 CA**
 Aviary Assn. of Kern
 County
(Hal Koontz)
- **FL**
 Colorbred Canary
 Club of Miami
(Non-panel judge)
- **PR**
Region #7 Show
 4th Puerto Rican Na-
 tional Show
 Organización
 Puertorriqueña de
 Aves Exóticas. Inc.
(Miki Sparzak)

1996

- 2/17 FL**
 Florida State Fair
 Exotic Bird Show -
 Day 1
(Daren Decoteau)
- 2/18 FL**
 Florida State Fair
 Exotic Bird Show -
 Day 2
(Harold Bowles)

NFSS Classified Ads

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

FOR SALE

European Goldfinches and Raw Natural Nesting Material. Coco fiber (hair-like mat with some skin attached): \$13.50/lb., \$25/2 lbs; Manilla or hemp fiber (both combed hair-like): \$11.50/lb., \$21/2 lbs., postpaid. Pierre Ata. 13119 Sundale Rd., Houston, TX 77038 (713) 448-1188. jf96

Blue Gouldians. Look no further: My prices and quality of birds can't be beat. Many proven show birds. Kyle Bolton, 535 W. Broadway, Red Lion, PA 17356 (717) 246-0936. mj96

Show Quality Zebra Finches. Many varieties, cage-bred, NFSS banded. Also Yellow Stars, Fires, Java Rice (fawn, pied), Parrot Finches, Owls, Shafttails. Reasonable & NFSS banded. The Gilded Cage, Sally Underhill (NY) (914) 473-0301. (914) 473-9182 eve. ma96

Lady Gouldian Finches - several mutations including Blues and Silvers. Florida Fancy Zebras and Society Finches. Others available. Rick Landry (LA) (318) 893-7732. nd95

Reducing collection: Paradise Whydah, Orange-wing Pytilia, Peter's, Blue/gold Tanagers, Peru Ground Doves, Red-crested Pileated, Green Singers, Red Parrot Finches, Goldfinches, Scarlet-chest and Bourke Parakeets, Goulds, Shafttails, Cordon Blues. (TX) (713) 748-6941, Houston. nd95

SOUTH AMERICAN SOFTBILLS: Honeycreepers, Tanagers, Toucans, Aracaris, Toucanettes, Oropendolas, Caciques, Motmots, Barbets and Jays. Also So. American Finches: Siskins, Crimson Pileated, Sierra Finches, Saffron Finches, Collared Warbling, Sporophila Seedeaters and more. Call Danny (305) 358-5513, or write: PENGUIN INTERNATIONAL, P.O. Box 12345, Miami, FL 33101. Or fax: (305) 381-6020. jf96

For sale or trade: Bronze wings, Shaft-tail, Gouldian, Silverbill, Star, Owl, Cutthroat, Red-headed Finch, Java Rice and Blue lace Parrot Finch. Working on other breeds. Larry Dishaw, 294 Kenyon Rd., Mexico, NY 13114. (315) 963-8629. jf96

Cuban Black Bull Finches and Cuban Melodious, cage bred, available in pairs. Gerry Cherta (FL) (305) 635-4800. 8 to 5pm. ja96

European Goldfinch \$85 each. Pierre Ata. 13119 Sundale Rd., Houston, TX 77038. (713) 448-1188. ma96

WANTED

Wanted: Scaly Crowned Weavers. Singles or pairs. Call Marie (NY) (718) 468-0881. ja96

Your HELP WANTED for NFSS!

FINCHSAVE Director (NFSS 3rd V.P.) for 1996 on. Seeking energetic & progressive person. Leave your mark on aviculture in this significant way! Call current Director for more information. Linda Oja (VA) (804) 874-8581.

FINCHSAVE Classifieds

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

1995 NFSS banded Owls and Gold Breasted Waxbills. Rose Gianferrara (FL) (941) 992-6331. nd95

For Sale or Trade: Red Face Star Finch-females, White Rump Owl Finch-males. The majority are '95 birds and all are NFSS banded. Peter Twinspot-males. Some are NFSS banded '95 and some are imports. Richard Dickman. St. Louis, MO (314) 928-3444. E-Mail - skdat1@mlink.com nd95



NFSS Bulletin Advertising Rates

Display (camera ready) Ads:

Full page \$50/issue: \$200/year
 Half page \$30/issue: \$120/year
 Qtr. page \$20/issue: \$80/year
 Inside cover \$70/issue: \$300/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

CéDé BIRD FOODS

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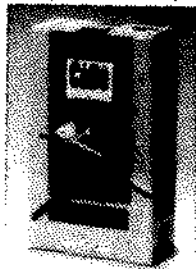
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A mashed, er, mushy thank you from the Editor

Potato Ayes

This part of my gift to NFSS comes to a close. Such a special time — freezing in the basement in the wee hours of the night (until we sensibly invested in the space heater...); oh, that river of Northern Lights!; discovering my twin brother T. Rood - separated all these years. eerily our involvement in the hobby has followed parallel activities, with such similar motives (though, C.H. I *really* don't know about) - T. Rood even has the mannerisms of my real brother - poor, dear Jane!; those sweet notes from so many places around the world, so unexpected, and especially warming on those oh, so, many late nights — *thankless* job?! you're joking!; and those lovely feathers in every letter from that man I'm waiting to polka with. Soon, sir ...

How freely I have felt to speak with all three of our special NFSS Presidents, sometimes ignorantly, always with love. I hold a lot of gratitude for their receptiveness, and still hold, now even more so, that deep heartfelt regard for their tremendous sacrifices for a bunch of bird brains. Ha! I'll never forget that dawning realization that I was inadvertently scaring Bill to death on the shelf roads of Colorado. And I'll never forget the fun and professionalism Brenda brought to our work together on the *Handbook* update many years ago. How much *she* put into it, and how generous she was with her complements of others' efforts.

I'll never forget the treasured phone call I received from Jon, and Brian's ever-kindness and generosity. But the missed visit to the Frog Prince Laird's lair — one sad, frustrating moment.



Special ladies - lovely Lynda B... simply wonderful: my three typists (my three treasured stooges) - just first class!: lady Katelyn with such knowing and giving hands: and always in the background, lovely Rita, meter maid...

And my men - Mr. Steve, Mr. Trust, Mr. Cool. Kinda fun to see below the surface. And he never let up, never gave up. Another fine step of a life well lived.... And Mr. Spencer (and funny man Morgan) looking for a way to be a part of Mom's action, and finding it and doing it so well. Peel and stick with your eyes closed. He's done it.

And Mr. Mark. THE Mr. Mark, of which this world has never seen and will never see another. Such is the stuff that the finest husbands / friends are made of. Come check it out - learn from him! I have.

Thank you all for your birds, and the very fine reading.

*Stick me with a fork,
I'm done!*

Martha





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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"

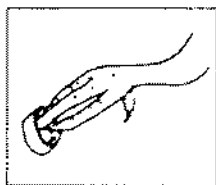
Java Rice Bird
Red-crested Cardinal
Saffron
Shama Thrush

size "L"

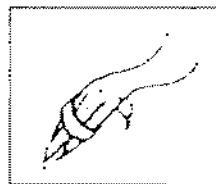
Diamond Dove
other small doves
Quail
other softbills

LEG BANDING PROCEDURE

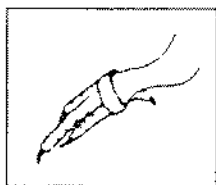
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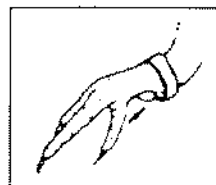
The most important thing to remember when banding chicks is to do it over a counter or table so if the chick is dropped it doesn't fall to the floor. The age to band varies between species but is generally between 5 and 10 days. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come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



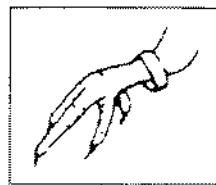
Have the bands, a toothpick (or other small blunt instrument) and some lubricant ready. Be sure you have the bands "right side up" for easier reading.



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

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