

The NFSS Bulletin

Vol. 13, No.3



The National Finch & Softbill Society

May — June 1996



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Thank you to you all!

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In this issue:

Yes, the rest of the 1995 Show Season Reports are finally in. If any have been missed by this point, please let me know. We have the first of two reports on the Waxbill Survey that was distributed in 1995. The survey was conducted by Andrea Sedlak and Gail Ranshaw. The report consumes a large portion of this *Bulletin*, but I'm sure you will find it informative and enlightening.

I try for each issue to include at least one article on an Estrildian finch species. This month is a short and sweet article on Blue-cap Waxbills. I also aim to include an article on a small non-Estrildian passerine. This month's article is on the Paradise Whydah. Mr. Garcia has a great educative tale about a pair of Whydahs. Stephen Hoppin introduces us to a "soon-to-be" Panel Judge.

Another goal of mine is to include an article in each issue concerning health issues for your birds and one on a softbill species. This issue I talk about calcium, phosphorus and Vitamin D₃ and about a large common Genus of Hornbills. If you have an idea or article for these columns please let me know! Next month's "For Your Birds Health" will come from Ron Castaner, a very knowledgeable and helpful member.

Thank you to everyone that has contributed to the Bulletin. I have greatly enjoyed corresponding with so many members.

Thanks Robert

Deadline for the next issue is
July 1st.

The NFSS Bulletin

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Cover and Illustration Credits

All illustrations done by
Angela Petrie


Correction: Last months Spray Millet drawing in Rose Gianferrara article "Growing and Sprouting Spray Millet" was drawn by Rose herself and I missed acknowledging that fact. Rose also is the designer of our current logo. Sorry for missing that and thanks for your wonderful drawings!

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The President's Message

By Frank Hudson

The activities of our society are varied and far reaching. We continue to enjoy the benefits of society membership and friendships made through shows and other functions of NFSS. I am always happy when I find a new aspect of the organization that is adding to our knowledge of the world of finches and softbills.

I have always been aware of the Finchsavve program, but I have not participated in it and, like many of my friends, have not had a clear idea of the program's goals. Finchsavve's new Director, Kristine Spencer, and I being new to our positions are trying to get up to speed on what is happening. It is great news that we have two hard working professionals in Andrea Sedlak and Gail Ranshaw who have spent many hours in the compilation and development of the Waxbill Survey Report. The first of this survey is published in this issue of the *Bulletin*. I think as you read the report, you will realize what a valuable piece of research this is. It is this type of research that I feel raises the NFSS to a new level of professionalism.

On behalf of the entire Society, I would like to congratulate and thank Andrea and Gail for their work and contribution to the Society. Great job!



NFSS News & Notes

FINCHSHOP News

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Region #3 News

The Midwest Zebra and Society Finch Fanciers will hold a

Zebra and Society Finch Show to be held in Kansas City, Missouri on Saturday August 3, 1996. Possibly the first show of its kind. Although, not for points the Show should have some intense competition and fun among the top Society and Zebra Finch Breeders. Martha Wigmore will be the Show Judge. For more information contact: Nita Haas (816)331-5285.

NFSS News & Notes

Region #2 News

We Regional Vice Presidents receive the majority of our information from the Club Delegates in our region. The newest delegate in Region #2 is John Floyd for the Greater Brandon Avian Society in Brandon, Florida. He raises Cutthroats and Societies and keeps Javas, Bronze Munias, and Spice Finches. John won a coveted ugly State Fair plate for 3rd Place at this years show. Along with his sister Amanda, they also have Cockateils, Parakeets and Lovebirds as part of their "Johmanda's Aviary". John helped steward a number of shows in 1995 and both days of the 1996 State Fair. He is currently working on applying for the Red Siskin Recovery Project for his Eagle Scout Project. He is in the Gifted Math and Science classes, with a 3.875 GPA. He is taking piano and trumpet lessons, has rung the handbells for 5 years, sings in his school chorus and church choir, plays soccer and builds model rockets. John is fine young man and is already a good aviculturist. We all look forward to future years of success and accomplishments for John Floyd. He is a very nice young man and he is 12 years old. Congratulations to John on being selected as the Club Delegate for his club.

Region #6 News

The big news this month was the first-time Pacific Northwest Spring Bird Exhibition held April 18-21, 1996, at the Puyallup Spring Fair in Puyallup, WA. 50 birds were entered in the Finch/Softbill Division. The birds were judged by Dr. Al Decoteau, Conrad Meinert, and Harold Bowles. Faye Silverston won the first day with a pair of Fawn Diamond Sparrows. Julie Duinstra won on day two with an orange-rumped Diamond Sparrow. The third day, Sally Huntington took top honors with her CFW Zehra cock. Sally and Julie also won the nightly Best in Show awards and competed on Sunday for the Best-in-Exhibition award. If you weren't able to attend the show in person - check out the show results on the internet! The address is:

<http://www.parrotworld.com/pnsbe>
Erik & Nikki Benjaminson from Cascade Web Publishing are responsible for the images and bringing the Bird Show to the Internet. Thanks Erik & Nikki!

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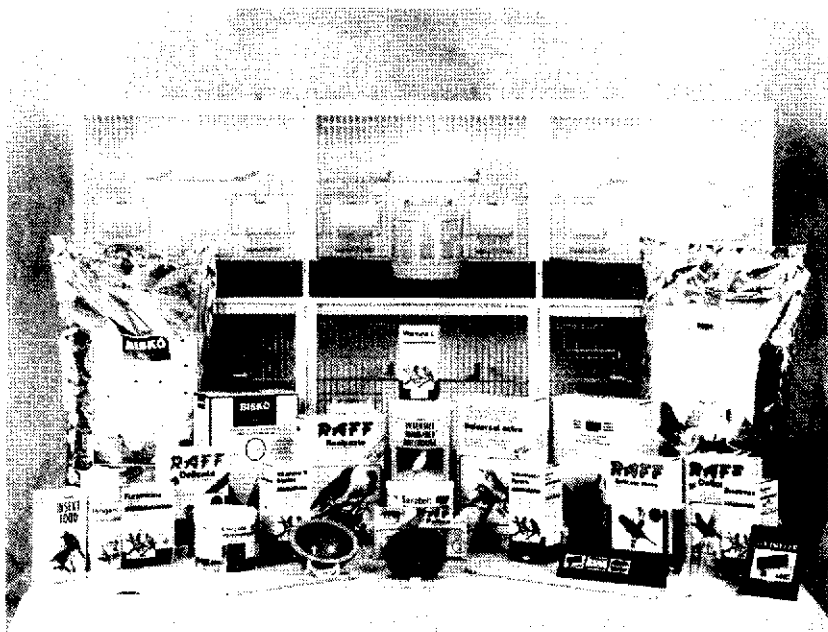
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From the Editor's Desk...



Ah! Springtime! For me spring in the Midwest is best place to be. Although, my springtime enjoyment may not be so much the actual season as it is the fact that it follows winter. After the cold, short days of winter, any season that follows might appear to be the best. Either way I still relish the Spring.

The bright, new green growth of spring is truly a sight to see. For myself the increased activity of the wildlife, especially birds, is what makes springtime in the Midwest so exhilarating.

I get to proof this issue of the *Bulletin* out on my patio, but I find my eyes keep wondering off the page and out onto the yard. It is the local birds that keep distracting me. Combined, my neighbors yard and mine are not much more than a half a football field. Yet in that area there is quite a variety of bird species.

The Robins search the ground just off the edge of the patio. A pair of Blue Jays steal some of the resident squirrel's acorn stash. A group of Grackles pace the middle of the yard for food. Two Mourning Doves peck in the dirt patch I will claim to be as a garden in a month or

so. The Wren couple inspect their old bird house in my neighbors tree. And European Starlings and House Sparrows dig in the compost pile.

Other birds visit our yards from time to time. I'm always intrigued by the way each species occupies a different place, yet they all exist together.

Makes me wonder why do we keep birds as pets? Probably to bring a little of the outdoors, indoors. As we humans become more and more separated from wild lands, exotic animals become more important to us. It seems to me that as an aviculturist grows, they strive more and more to duplicate the habitat their birds originally came from.

I'm not debating cage or aviary breeding, I do both and they both have their places. What I have observed, though, in myself and other long-term aviculturist I've known (we're talking more than a decade) is that as we grow we tend to move toward those large mixed species aviaries that try to mimic nature.

Most birds are social animals. Pairs often occupy territories and exclude others of their own kind, but they do coexist with many other different species of birds. Some of the South American Tropical Rainforest species may actually need other species of birds to exist or breed.

Mixed species aviaries are not for the inexperienced and

unobservant. It does take a skilled and somewhat seasoned aviculturist to know what species may be compatible and to quickly identify any possible problems before they become severe. But when a mixed species aviary works, it can truly be a work of art. All the finch species that have successfully reproduced have all done so in mixed species aviaries.

There are many goals of aviculturists, breeding a never or

rarely bred species, establishing or creating a new mutation, raising that ideal or perfect type of a species and many others. But what, then when you raised that difficult one or reproduced a hundred or so of that new mutation, or produced that "perfect bird"? What then? There will always be more species or mutations to work with, but a natural progression appears to be toward those wonderful mixed species aviaries. And those aviaries may just be Aviculture's Ultimate Goal!



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Paradise Whydah

The Challenge of a Life Time Almost Comes True.

By Luis Garcia
Colorado Springs, CO.

For almost sixteen years, my wife Andria and I have been breeding and raising finches and like most folks we also started out with the Zebra and Society finches. Throughout all of these years we have worked with many different kinds of birds, having both good and had breeding results. However, when we would fail at breeding a certain kind of bird, we would not give up. Instead we would always try to figure out what we did wrong and correct the problem before moving on to the next species. This kind of thinking and excellent record keeping is what has made it possible for us to unlock some of the mysteries of many of the birds we raise.

As hobby breeders we have always welcomed a challenge and this past March (1995), Andria and I decided to take on a new challenge. With the importation ban on many of the birds once available to us, we decide to work with one of the species of birds of which not much has ever been written about and rarely bred in captivity.

On July 8, 1995 we got our first members of this family, four Paradise Whydahs (3 cocks and 1 hen). Not knowing anything about

these birds we decide to try our luck with them. All four birds were placed in a 6' long by 6' high by 2' wide flight for quarantine, the males were just getting in their tails (about 6" long). After thirty days of quarantine the male with the longest tail and the hen were left in the flight and the other two were placed one each in two other flights. The flight with the pair was set up with an assortment of flack plants and several nest boxes (open front and closed) as well as wicker nest.

Since we did not have the Melba finch to use as host for them, we decided to use birds that resembled the Melba. So two pairs of Red face Stars and a pair of Gouldian Finches were added to the flight. The diet for these birds consisted of our basic two part chick starter and one part finch mix as well as egg food, soaked seed, greens, fruits, and lots of mealworms (about forty to fifty per day). In addition a cup of high calcium K-Tee grit and a cup of this-tle and chipped sun flower seed mixed was given daily.

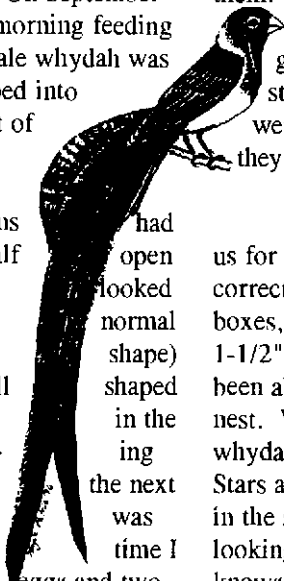
Once the whydahs got used to the other birds the hen started to hang on the wire calling to the other two males and after four days of this behavior we placed the extra males back into the flight with the pair. This calmed her down and before long the cocks were doing what I call the butterfly dance in front of the hen. The males would fly up in front of her and like a humming bird beat their wings to make their tail move

like waves. They would drop to the floor and rest for a few seconds and start the dance over. By the end of August the Gouldians and Star Finches started to build nests and we noticed that every time one of them would leave the nest, one of the whydah males would go and inspect it followed by the hen. On September 8th while doing my morning feeding I noticed that the female whydah was missing, when I stepped into the flight she flew out of the Gouldians nest.

The Gouldians had built their nest in a half open nest box and when I looked inside I found three normal Gouldian eggs (round shape) and one larger football shaped egg. I left the eggs in the nest and kept on feeding the rest of our birds. The next day (Saturday) she was back in the nest. This time I found four Gouldian eggs and two football eggs. On Sunday September 10, 1995 I found five Gouldian eggs and one more Whydah egg, I went upstairs to get more greens and when I returned one of the male Whydahs was looking in the nest, when he flew out he had an egg shell with fresh yolk in his beak. When I looked inside the nest I found all of the eggs broken, he had eaten them.

I could not understand why he would eat the Gouldian eggs and not the Star Finches. Later that day I found out why, he tried to get into the nest of the Star Finches, which

was built in a wicker nest, and got stuck while trying to turn around. This must have scared him, since I never saw him go back to that kind of nest again. We do not know if the Gouldians or the female Whydah had laid eggs before and if the male had eaten them before we could get to them. The Whydahs did not lay again after this and by the beginning of October the males started to lose their tails and were placed in different flight so they could molt.



Nothing could have prepared us for this. Hopefully, we have since corrected the problem with the nest boxes, by using closed boxes with a 1-1/2" hole in the front and have been able to keep the males out of the nest. We have once again set up the whydahs and the very same pairs of Stars and the one pair of Gouldians in the same flight. Everything is looking good once again and who knows maybe the next time I write about the Whydahs it will be about their young.

We hope that our experience could help someone out there that is trying to work with the whydahs. We know little about these birds or any of the other whydahs and we would appreciate any help or advise that any one out there could give us. We are also looking for more of the different whydahs to raise. If you can help with any of this please call to (719) 630-3785 or write to: Luis Garcia 1345 Edith Ln. Colo. Springs, CO. 80909.

Breeding Blue-capped Cordon Bleu

by *Lainey Clafflin*

The Blue-capped Cordon Bleu comes from Africa and has been primarily a wild-caught import in the U.S., rather than domestically raised. Cordons are lively birds that need lots of room to fly. Both the male and female sing, and if conditions are right they will breed prolifically. During the breeding period, Cordon males often become aggressive towards each other, though they rarely bother other species. If you plan to breed more than one pair of Cordons make sure to place only one pair of Cordons in each aviary to avoid conflicts.

Cordon pairs prefer secluded nest sites in roomy cages or aviaries filled with grasses, tree branches, hay, etc. If a pair will not sit on its eggs, it is possible to use Society finches as foster parents. However, since Cordon chicks are unlike Society chicks in appearance and begging behavior, it is best to use pairs of Societies that have never raised their own young or young that are similar to Societies. Once a pair of Societies has successfully raised Cordon chicks, they can be used to raise other species of waxbills as well. In our experience, Cordons tend to have problems with their first two clutches - either with incubating their eggs or feeding their babies. We often foster the first two clutches to Societies and

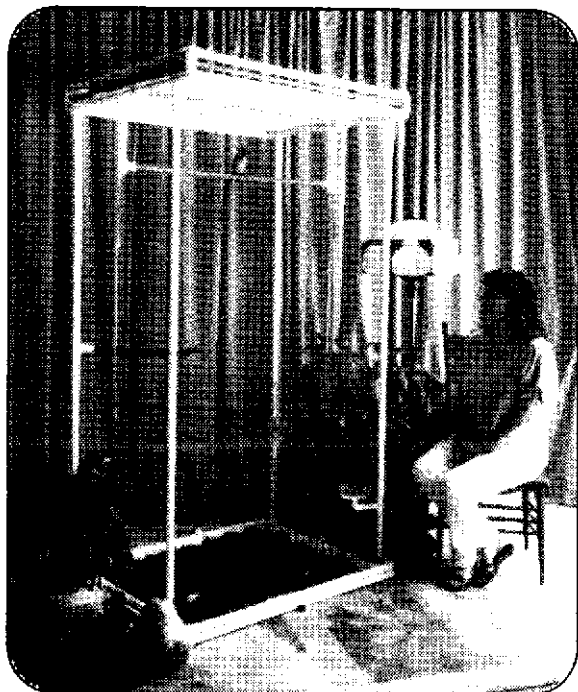
then let the Cordons raise the rest. Cordons need bright, full spectrum light (think of Africa), warm temperatures (room temperatures are fine), and plenty of protein rich foods such as eggfood and livefood (mealworms, etc.), as they eat large quantities of insects in the wild. When we use Society finches to foster Cordons, we find that they like to stuff the Cordon chicks with dry seeds, and we have lost a couple of chicks to what we think was too much dry seed-stuffing. For this reason, we remove dry seeds from our Society foster parents and make sure they have lots of eggfood, worms and sprouted seeds instead. When courting, the male Cordon uses a stalk as part of his mating ritual, so hay or grass can act as a breeding stimulus. We have had good luck using wicker nest baskets for Cordons, but other types of nests (or tree/plant branches where they can build their own) may work as well.

Like many waxbills, Cordons tend to be a bit delicate and should not be exposed to cold drafts or stressful environmental situations such as crowded rooms, overcrowded aviaries, etc. In healthy condition, the male turns brilliant blue and sings throughout the day. These birds are a true privilege to care for and enjoy.

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by Robert Petrie
Kansas City, MO

What's a *Tockus* hornbill? First lets talk about what is a Hornbill. Hornbills are a family of birds, *Bucerotidae*, in the order Coraciiformes. Their closest relatives are Kingfishers, Bee-eaters, Rollers, and Hoopoes. *Tockus* is a Genus of several hornbill species. The *Tockus* hornbills are the largest genus of hornbills. Grzimek (1973) states that there are 13 different species in the Genus *Tockus*. Kemp (from Fry, C.H. et al 1988) lists 16 different species. Fourteen of them from Africa and the other 2 found in Asia.

Having had the privilege to work with several different species of Hornbills, they have become one of my favorite groups of birds. They are small to medium sized birds, that is by comparison with other Hornbills and not with Finches! The smallest, the Dwarf Red-billed Hornbill, is about the size of a cockateil. The largest of the Genus is the Monteiro's Hornbill, whch is Rosella in size.

Hornbills are the ecological equivalence of the Toucans and Toucanettes. The Toucan family is found in South American, where as; the Hornbill clan is from Africa and Asia. Both, as a generalization, are long beaked frugivorous birds, semi colorful and restricted to the tropics. The Hornbills also posses something



called a casque. In future articles I will discuss casques further, but in the *Tockus* Hornbills it is merely a ridge of some sort on top of the upper mandible.

A truly unique behavior of hornbills, all hornbills except the two species of Ground Hornbills, is that the female becomes sealed in the nest chamber while incubating and rearing of the young. A pair of hornbills will choose a suitable hollow in a tree for nesting. The birds will then seal up the entrance to a tiny vertical slit, with the female inside. The opening is only big enough for the Beaks of the birds to fit through. The *Tockus* hornbills use primarily moist soil to "mud-up" the entrance.

During incubation and rearing of the chicks, the female hornbill will receive all her food from the male. When it is time to leave the nest the female will chisel her way out through the mudded-up portion. This behavior is found only in the

Hornbills. It is a means of avoiding would-be predators.

This amazing nesting behavior has made Hornbills highly desirable avicultural subjects, but it is not the reason that I am so intrigued by them. It is their personalities. The mentality of the Hornbills I have worked with is similar to Toucans and Parrots of equal size. They appear highly emotional and intelligent.

The *Tockus* Hornbills are the smallest of the Hornbills. They comprise 14 of the 45 or so species. They are the most omnivorous Hornbills, making their diet much easier to satisfy. The *Tockus* Genus is the most appropriate Hornbills for aviculturist to begin with because of their size and diet. This Genus has also proven to be much more reliable breeders than the other Hornbills.

Four of the 14 African species inhabit the rainforest of Africa, the rest exist in the savannas, woodlands and arid regions of sub Sahara Africa. In the wild these birds eat insects, small birds, mammals, reptiles, and fruit. So their diet should consist of chopped fruit and vegetables, some type of softbill pellets, lots of insects, and possibly some type of meat. I could find no reference to the *Tockus* Hornbills being susceptible to Iron Storage Disease, a disease that other Hornbills and softbills are commonly affected by. So meat has not been a problem in their diet.

Because of their ability to prey on small birds, these Hornbills are not recommended to be housed with finches or of birds that size. They are, however, suitable to be housed with various birds of equal size. They will most likely be the dominate birds in the aviary, but typically do not bully other birds.

It is highly entertaining to observe the behavior of pair of *Tockus* Hornbills in a large mixed Aviary. The males are very attentive and loyal to their mates. He will often "strut his stuff" in a clearing high in the aviary for all to see. He proudly offers his mate any prize catch he makes. The Red-billed Hornbill I worked with was the best insect hunting animal I ever did see. He would use that long bill to probe deep into crevices to find insects. When they fly it is flap and glide. In a large enough aviary it is a pleasure to watch these hornbills glide above you with their long bills and their wings stretched out, looking like some type of airplane bomber.

There is no group of birds I would recommend more highly!

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A Labor of Love? You Bet!

by Stephen Hoppin

NFSS Panel judge Daren Decoteau and Howard Bowles had their work cut out for them at the 1996 Florida State Fair two day bird show. Recorded entries of 162 on Saturday and 150 on Sunday of various finch and softbill species were entered and presented for judging in the Finch and Softbill Division.

Not only did the judges endure two full days of tough physical activity and decision making, but apprentice judge Armando Lee of Miami, FL did as well. Armando, pictured below, was completing his second and third apprentice judging over the weekend. With the high number of entries and tremendous

quality of diversified birds entered, Armando had a real opportunity to put his knowledge, skills, and endurance to the test. Lisette, Armando's wife and faithful supporter, watched patiently from the gallery. During judging conformation, condition, color, demeanor and presentation are all considered with each finch and softbill entered.

*Note: An apprentice judge must follow all policies and procedures as outlined in the *NFSS Judges Handbook*, which include completion and passing of the judges exam and passing three apprentice judgments before applying to the NFSS Board of Directors for consideration as an NFSS Panel Judge. For more information on how to become an NFSS Panel Judge, contact Dr. Al Decoteau, NFSS Judges Panel Director.

Photograph courtesy of Dele Laird

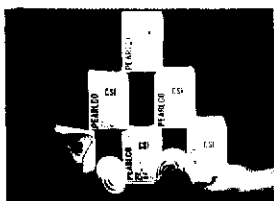


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Your Bird's Health

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*by Robert Petrie
Kansas City, MO*

Seems we all have an extra male that needs a mate of some species. Why? Are there more males hatched than females? Some years may find extra males, or females, but over long periods of time the hatching of the sexes is about equal.

So why then are people always looking for females? Egg binding! Female birds get the lucky job of producing all those calcium rich eggs. What does egg binding have to do with calcium. When a female produces a clutch of eggs, it drains her body of her calcium supply. If her calcium supply was low to begin with, then her body is put under additional stress and that can often be fatal.

But why would her body supply of calcium be low, especially if she appeared in good health. How does a body gets its calcium? When an animal eats a source of calcium, it must transport that calcium from its intestine to the blood stream. The cells along the intestinal wall have specific, active binding sites for calcium (Eckert 1978). These sites are like ticket gates that only allow

certain ticket holders to pass through.

Sounds easy and simple but not so! The mineral phosphorus competes with the calcium to be absorbed. Therefore, if there is a lot of phosphorus and little calcium in the intestine then very little calcium will be taken into the blood stream. The reverse is also true, you can have not enough phosphorus absorbed. Both calcium and phosphorus are needed for the body.

So where does the problem start? Lets examine the diet we feed our birds. Seeds, mealworms, waxworms, most vegetables and fruits, these all have a higher phosphorus percentage than calcium. Most vegetable matter is that way. Makes sense when you think of what we fertilize our plants with Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphorus. Little to no calcium, plants don't have bones that require calcium. Studies on other animals (Crissey, S. & Trusk, A.) have shown that the proper ratio during normal times is 1:1 to 2:1-calcium to phosphorus. When a bird is laying eggs the ratio of calcium increase.

That's not the whole story though. There is a chemical referred to as vitamin D. In order for that binding site to grab up calcium, or phosphorus, it must have vitamin D₃ (Calciferol- Eckert 1978) present.

Our birds diet does contain the precursor to Vitamin D₃, but the birds need UltraViolet light in the 285-315 nm (Bernard, J.B. et al.) range to change the precursor to the usable form.

Well good thing my birds are near a window. Maybe not so! UV light is filtered out by Plexiglas, glass, window screens, etc... (Ullrey, D.E.) Standard welded wire mesh does allow UV light through. Anything with an opening larger than window screen will allow UV light to pass.

This is why I use full spectrum lights that are supposed to be like natural sunlight! The more I have researched avian nutrition, the more I realize how little we actually know. Just think of those news headlines saying "Bran has been found to be good for humans" or something similar. Everyday there is some new news about human nutrition. Millions of dollars are spent studying human nutrition and there is still much to be learned. Yet compare that with research on avian nutrition and very little time or money is used, so obviously very little is known.

Back to the use of wide-spectrum lights, these lights do emit a wider range of light wavelengths than standard bulbs and that range does extend into the UV. In a study on young chickens (Bernard, et. al.), no additional benefit was found, concerning calcium absorption and Vitamin D₃ synthesis, using a commonly

known full spectrum bulbs over the standard cool white tubes. In the study, though, the lights were placed 2.3 meters (7 feet) above the chicks. The wide spectrum lights are a weak source of UV light. Also UV light does not travel as far as longer wavelengths of light.

Much is still needed to learned about this whole process. The best situation is for the birds to have access to natural light through a mesh with larger openings than window screening. If you are like myself and have aviaries indoors, there are a couple recommendations that I strongly urge! Provide a separate source of calcium for your birds to consume as they need. Always use at least one wide spectrum light bulb and the light must be close enough to the cage that the birds can get within six inches of the bulb.

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Waxbill Survey Report: Part I

by *Andrea J. Sedlak
& Gail Ranshaw*

In May 1995, NFSS's *Survey on Breeding Waxbills* was mailed to all current members. A total of 79 questionnaires were returned by October 2, 1995, 73 of which were usable for this survey.¹ This report is the first of two on the survey's findings. It describes the participants, their aviary populations, their overall success and their views about the different factors on this success.

The first section below describes the group of waxbill breeders who answered the survey. Many of these people invested a great deal of time in their responses, writing additional pages of comments about their experiences and even including articles they had written about waxbill breeding. They are highly dedicated to the waxbill breeding effort and we want to acknowledge their generous contributions to this survey, which could not have succeeded without them. Information from all the materials they provided was extracted for the findings reported here.

The second section of this report summarizes the results of the initial part of the survey, in which respondents were asked to rate a number of factors according to their importance for breeding success with waxbills. The participants also reported the highest level of breeding success they had experienced with waxbills, and indicated whether they had ever attempted any special interventions in their waxbill breeding efforts, such as fostering or handfeeding. This section of our report describes what is important to waxbill breeding based on the combined expertise of successful breeders.

The third and final section of this report considers the overall implications of the findings given here and describes what the forthcoming Part II report will cover.

1. The Survey Respondents

Who and Where. All respondents were current members of the NFSS. They resided predominately in the South (37%) and West (26%), but also included residents of states in the North (21%) and Midwest (16%). The survey group provided higher representation from the South and West and lower from the Midwest when compared to the general US population.

¹ Of the six unusable surveys, three provided no responses at all in the sections asking about waxbill breeding: three provided responses only about non-waxbill species (Gouldians, parrot finches).

Finches and Waxbills Kept. Overall, the group kept substantial numbers of waxbills and other finches.² Participants had an average of 112 finches each, but there was a great deal of individual variation, with the number of finches currently being kept ranging from 0 to 900. Their combined aviaries housed a total of 7,590 finches at the time they completed the survey.

Waxbills comprised 38% of the average participant's finch population. In numerical terms, the survey respondents had an average of 29 waxbills each, ranging from 0 to 200. Taken altogether as a group, respondents to this survey kept a total of 1,878 waxbills at the time they answered the questionnaire.

One striking aspect of the survey findings was that these reported aviary populations were predominately domestic birds. This was especially true for finches in general. Among those respondents who provided information about whether birds were domestic or wild-caught, an average of 77% of their finch flocks were domestically-bred birds. Given the relative difficulty of breeding waxbills, it was not surprising to see that the domestic percentage was slightly lower for that sector, but it was sub-

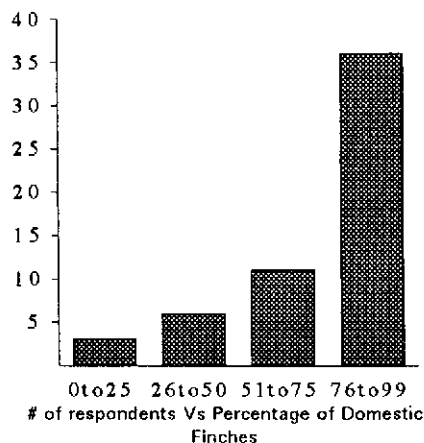


Figure 1. Respondents Classified by the Percentage of Domestic Birds in their

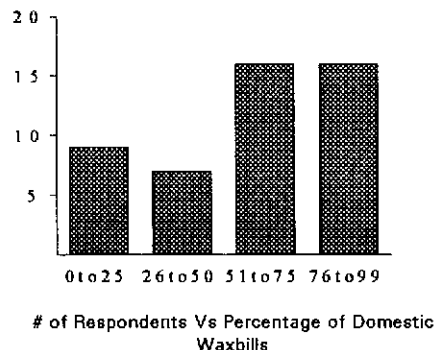


Figure 2. Respondents Classified by the Percentage of Domestic Birds in their Waxbill Populations

stantial among those respondents who gave information on this issue.² An average of 59% of waxbill flocks were domestic.

² All statistics about respondents, their flocks, and their experiences are based on those respondents who were able to provide information relevant for the statistics in question. This means that there are different amounts of missing information for different items. The most missing information was for the percentage of domestic birds among the waxbill sectors of respondents' flocks—which was based on 48 respondents' answers.

Figures 1 and 2 display the distribution of survey respondents according to the percentage of domestic birds within their finch populations and within their waxbill populations, respectively. Again, these figures include only those respondents who gave information pertinent to calculating these percentages. In figure 1, 36 of the 56 respondents who are included on the graph reported that domestic birds comprised 75% or more

of their finch flocks. Figure 2 graphs 48 respondents who gave information about relative numbers of domestic waxbills in their waxbill flocks. Two-thirds of them reported that more than 50 percent of their waxbills were domestically-bred.

Table 1 shows the number and percentages of respondents who kept different varieties of waxbills. As shown, the majority of respondents had some variety of Cordon-blue.

Table 1. Types of Waxbills Kept

| Waxbill Type | # of Respondents who kept type | % of Respondents who kept type |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cordon-bleu | 50 | 68 |
| Gold Breast | 30 | 41 |
| Strawberry | 24 | 33 |
| Fire Finch | 21 | 29 |
| OrangeCheek | 17 | 23 |
| Red-ear | 15 | 21 |
| Lavender | 8 | 11 |
| Grenadier | 8 | 11 |
| St. Helena | 8 | 11 |
| Pytilia ¹ | 5 | 7 |
| Violet-eared | 5 | 7 |
| BlackCheek | 4 | 5 |
| Rosy-rump | 4 | 5 |
| Twinspot ² | 2 | 3 |
| Blackcapped | 1 | 1 |
| Swee | 1 | 1 |

¹ Of the five respondents who indicated they had Pytilias, 3 had Melbas, 1 Aurora and 1 Yellow-wing.

² Of those who had Twinspots, 1 had Peter's & the other a Dybowski

Among the 50 participants with Cordon-blues, 24 (33% of all respondents) had Blue-capped Cordonhleus, 18 (25%) had the Red-cheeked Cordon-blues and 2 (3%) had the Blue-breasted Cordon-Bleu (6 individuals kept more than one of these varieties)³. The second most commonly reported waxbill was the Gold-breast, kept by 41% of the respondents at the time of this survey. One-third kept the Strawberry Finch, or Red Avadavat, and 29% kept Fire Finches (only three of whom indicated the specific species). Orange-cheeked Waxbills were fifth most commonly listed, kept by just under one-fourth of the respondents (23%), and Red-ear Waxbills were a close sixth in the listings (21%). Table 1 shows a sharp drop-off after that. Other waxhills listed were kept by 11% or fewer respondents.

³ Fourteen respondents indicated only that they had "Cordon-blues" (i.e., unspecified variety).

Table 2. Types of Other Finches Kept

| Finch Type | # of Respondents who kept type | % of Respondents who kept type |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Gouldians | 39 | 53 |
| Serins | 39 | 53 |
| Societies | 29 | 40 |
| Owls | 23 | 32 |
| Zebra | 16 | 22 |
| Mannikins | 15 | 21 |
| Parrot Finches | 13 | 18 |
| Grassfinches | 12 | 16 |
| Stars | 11 | 15 |
| Cutthroats | 7 | 10 |
| Diamond Ft. | 6 | 8 |
| Weavers | 5 | 7 |
| Java Rices | 3 | 4 |
| Red Headed | 3 | 4 |
| Whydahs | 3 | 4 |
| Cherries | 2 | 3 |
| Combassous | 2 | 3 |
| Crimsons | 2 | 3 |
| European Gld | 2 | 3 |
| Timors | 2 | 3 |
| BlackCrested | 1 | 1 |
| Cubans | 1 | 1 |
| Golden Song | 1 | 1 |
| Sparrows | | |
| Quail Finches | 1 | 1 |
| Red Siskin | 1 | 1 |

Table 2 shows other (i.e., non-waxbill) finch species kept by survey respondents at the time they answered the questionnaire. The most commonly kept other finch was the Gouldian, kept by 39 respondents, or more than half (53%). Some type of Serin was equally common in respondents' flocks. This group

included canaries (kept by 18 respondents, or 25%), Green Singers (kept by 17, or 23%), Gray Singers (kept by 2, or 3%), and other Serins (kept by 2, or 3%). Also fairly common were Society Finches, which were listed by 29 survey respondents (40%), and Owl Finches (listed by 23, or 32%). Sixteen of those who answered the survey (22%) kept Zebra Finches, and fifteen (21%) kept some variety of mannikin. Most commonly, those with mannikins reported Silver-bills (kept by 9, or 12%). The parrot finch group was the seventh most common non-waxhill variety listed (13 respondents, or 18%). Grassfinches (most commonly Shafttails) were eighth most common (listed by 12, or 16%), and Star Finches were ninth (listed by 11, or 15%). Other finch varieties were indicated by 10% or fewer of the survey participants.

Others Birds Kept. Most survey participants (71%) said that they kept other birds, besides finches. Table 3 shows the types of other birds they reported. A large majority indicated some type of hookbill (other than Budgies). The extensive involvement with hookbills was also demonstrated by the fact that 22 respondents (30%) reported more than one hookbill variety in their flocks. Among the more commonly reported types of hookbills were Parakeets (listed by 17 respondents, or 30%), Cockateils (listed by 12, or 16%), African Grays (listed by 7, or 10%), Lovebirds (listed by 6, or 8%).

Table 3. Types of Other Birds Kept

| Type | # of Respondents who kept type | % of Respondents who kept |
|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hookbills | 42 | 58 |
| Doves | 7 | 10 |
| Quails | 6 | 8 |
| Budgies | 3 | 4 |
| Pekin Robins | 3 | 4 |
| Waterfowl | 2 | 3 |
| Bantams | 1 | 1 |
| Crow | 1 | 1 |
| Emu | 1 | 1 |
| Owl | 1 | 1 |
| Peafowl | 1 | 1 |
| Pheasant | 1 | 1 |

Cockatoos (listed 4, or 5%), and other parrots (listed by 12, or 16%).

Aside from hookbills, other (non finch) birds were less commonly kept by survey participants. These included Doves (kept by 7, or 10%),

Quails (kept by 6, or 8%), Budgies (kept by 3, or 4%), and Pekin Robins (kept by 3, or 4%). A fair variety of other avian species were less commonly listed, as shown in Table 3. A minority of participants (29%)

reported that they kept softbills, but many of these individuals did not indicate the varieties of softbills that they kept. Among those who had softbills, the number kept ranged

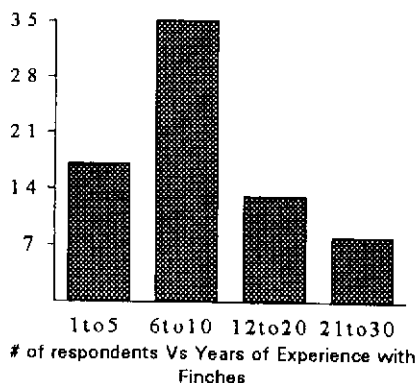


Figure 3. Respondents Classified According to Their Number of Years of Experience With Finches in General

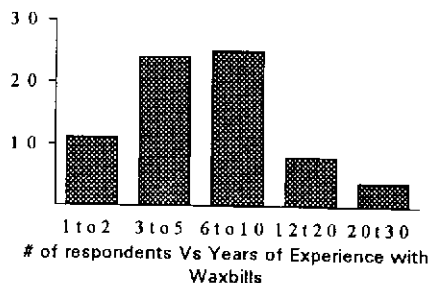


Figure 4. Respondents Classified According to Their Number of Years of Experience With Waxbills

from 1 to 47, with the average being 9 softbills.

Years of Breeding Experience. As a group, survey respondents had a combined total of 764 years with finches. Individuals averaged 10 years experience with finches each, with a wide range, from one to 30

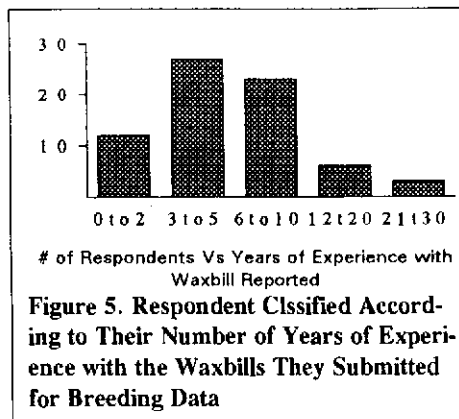


Figure 5. Respondent Classified According to Their Number of Years of Experience with the Waxbills They Submitted for Breeding Data

years. Figure 3 shows that the great majority (more than three-fourths) had more than 5 years experience with finches.

Taken together, this group of breeders represented a grand total of 549 years with waxbills. Individual participants reported an average of 7.6 years experience in attempting to breed waxbills, ranging from one to 25 years. Figure 4 show that slightly more than half had over five years experience with waxbills.

Figure 5 shows how they were distributed across different experience categories, revealing that a substantial proportion (32 respondents, or 45% of the 71 who reported this information) had more than 5 years experience with the particular species they described for the survey.

Table 4. Breeding Success Without Special Methods

| Response about Waxbills | # of Respondents | % of Respondents |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Raised & weaned young on their own | 50 | 68.5 |
| Hatched & fed but not to weaning | 9 | 12.3 |
| Hatched young but did not feed | 4 | 5.5 |
| Incubated but not to hatching | 5 | 6.8 |
| Laid eggs but didn't incubate | 2 | 2.7 |
| Built nest no eggs | 1 | 1.4 |
| No Answer | 2 | 2.7 |

2. Factors Important to Breeding Success with Waxbills

Overall success Achieved. In the initial section of the survey, respondents were asked about the degree of success they had achieved in breeding any waxbill species in the past 5 years. Specifically, they were asked about the highest degree of breeding success the waxbills themselves had achieved (that is without any special intervention on the respondents' part). Many participants reported the highest possible levels of success; their answers were distributed as shown in Table 4. Note that a combined total of 63 (or 86.3%) reported that their waxbills had hatched young, whether or not they went on to feed and wean them.

Respondents who said that their waxbills had raised and weaned young on their own were asked to indicate the total number of waxbill

chicks raised by their own parents in the past 5 years. Forty-seven of the 50 eligible participants answered this question, reporting an average of 30 chicks each (specific answers ranged from 3 to 125). Taken altogether, this group of breeders had a total of 1,504 parent-raised waxbill chicks in the past 5 years.

Differences in Perceived Importance of Factors Related to Breeders' Success

Participants were asked to rate the importance of 36 factors to waxbill breeding success. When we examined these ratings in connection with the general levels of success given in Table 4, we found an interesting pattern. Less successful participants tended to see all factors as fairly important and did not differentiate their ratings to the same extent the more successful participants did.⁴ It suggests that more successful breeders have learned to give different priorities to the many different factors that could affect breeding success, while breeders who have not achieved the higher levels of success tend to treat all factors as of equally high importance, indiscriminately.

It is important to note that the less successful breeders are not ignorant of critical factors. Instead, because they tend to regard everything as equally critical, they may be overwhelmed by the scope of issues requiring attention and not be capable of focusing on the most critical

issues in the manner of the more successful breeders.

Relative Importance of Different Factors for Breeding Success with Waxbills Because there were substantive differences in perceptions related to respondents' breeding, we report here only the perceptions of the more successful breeders. That is, this section summarizes the ratings of the 63 participants whose waxbills had at least successfully hatched young (i.e., the respondents included in the first three rows in Table 4).

Table 5 lists the rated factors in decreasing order of their average perceived importance among these more successful breeders. Ratings were: 1 = critically important, 2 = very important, 3 = moderately important, 4 = slightly important, 5 = not at all important.

The top 10 rated factors include the availability, type (s) and amount(s) of live food, the size of the cage or flight, calcium source(s), the compatibility of the cock and hen as a pair, other protein sources, the basic diet, the availability of multiple choices of nest sites, [freedom from] external disturbances, the total hours of light, and the type(s), quantity, and timing of availability of nesting materials.

In interpreting the findings in this section, readers should bear in mind

⁴ The correlation between respondents' level of success and the standard deviation of their importance was significant ($r = 1.92, p < .05$), and the correlation

that they primarily reflect opinions shared by successful breeders. What actual role these different opinions factors have influenced breeding success of specific pairs is a separate issue-- one that will be partially addressed in the third section of this report, which examines the predictors of success with specific waxbill pairs.

Respondents' Comments. A number of the successful breeders commented about the importance of different factors, and some suggested factors that were not on the listing.⁵

■ **Diet.** This was the subject that drew comments from the greatest number of respondents (n=31). Most (n=19) mentioned the criticality of providing live food of some kind (specific types mentioned included mealworms, fly larvae, fruit flies, waxworms, spiders, aphids and seed moths). Other dietary factors that were mentioned included eggfood (n=8), calcium sources (n=6), general balance and variety of diet (n=5), vitamin and mineral supplements (n=4), and the availability of soil or access to the ground to permit the birds to scratch and dig for food (n=4).

■ **Housing.** Twenty-seven respondents contributed detailed remarks about the housing. These emphasized the need to provide sufficient flight space (n=18), the importance of keeping same species

separate or of only mixing breeding pairs which are compatible and do not interfere with each other (n=11), the benefits of including foliage (n=10), and of locating the breeding flights outdoors (n=5).

■ **Birds.** Nineteen of the 73 respondents made additional comments about the birds. These predominately focused on the importance of pair compatibility as a prerequisite to breeding success (n=9), on the importance of birds being young (n=4), and on different benefits of using domestic stock whenever possible (n=3). The benefit of domestic stock included known age and parentage, lower risk of disease carries, and more amenable to settling down to breed without period of adaptation.

■ **Lights.** Fifteen participants wrote specifics on this subject. the largest group (n=7) reported that they kept their breeding waxbills in outdoor conditions, which meant that they relied entirely on natural lighting conditions. Others (n=4) reported the number of hours they found necessary for breeding (ranging from 12 to 16), or emphasized that the use of broad spectrum lighting is important to breeding success (n=3).

■ **Other Environmental Conditions.** Twenty participants mentioned other environmental conditions in their written

⁵ Respondents' comments were classified into the categories listed, and only those issues mentioned by two or more respondents are noted here.

Table 5. Average Importance to Waxbill Breeding Success According to Ratings of Successful Breeders

| Factor | Average Rating |
|--|----------------|
| Live food (availability, types(s), amounts) | 1.31 |
| Size of cage or flight | 1.67 |
| Calcium source(s) (cuttlebone, eggshell, grit, etc.) | 1.72 |
| Apparent compatibility of cock and hen as a pair | 1.79 |
| Other (nonliving) protein sources (availability, amounts) | 1.92 |
| Basic diet (nature of seed mix, pellets, etc.) | 1.95 |
| Availability of multiple choices of nests & sites | 1.98 |
| External disturbances (proximity to household traffic, sensitivity to nest checks, etc.) | 2.03 |
| Total hours light provided during breeding effort | 2.08 |
| Nesting material(s) (type, quantity, timing of availability, etc.) | 2.08 |
| Ages of birds | 2.10 |
| Foliage (presence/types/amounts/placement) | 2.12 |
| Position of nest | 2.12 |
| Types of nest provided (cover wicker, boxes, open cups, etc.) | 2.13 |
| Greens (types(s), availability, frequency) | 2.18 |
| Number and/or species of other birds present | 2.21 |
| Other offerings (spray millet, grassheads, fruit, etc.) | 2.27 |
| Location of light sources(s) (on cage, in room, window, etc.) | 2.34 |
| Temperature | 2.36 |
| Shape of cage or flight (tall Vs long Vs square) | 2.39 |
| Time of year/season | 2.42 |
| Type of light (regular fluorescent, broad spectrum, etc.) | 2.45 |
| Increase in hours of light provided in preparation for breeding | 2.48 |
| Vitamin supplements | 2.50 |
| Size of nest | 2.50 |
| Special changes/shifts in diet in preparation for breeding | 2.69 |
| Source of birds (domestic Vs wild-caught) | 2.73 |
| Height of cage bottom/top relative to floor/ceiling level | 2.73 |
| Availability of nest/nesting materials prior to breeding season | 2.73 |
| Privacy of pair Vs presence of any other birds | 2.80 |
| Humidity (high Vs low ambient humidity) | 2.82 |
| Interaction/exposure of cock & hen prior to breeding season | 2.91 |
| Prior breeding success of either cock or hen | 3.14 |
| Cage structure of open wire Vs solid walls | 3.22 |
| Type(s) and/or placement of perches | 3.25 |
| Simulated "rain" (providing misting/showers) | 3.39 |

comments. Eight stressed minimized disturbances of all kinds, including nest checks; 6 indicated that adequate heat was important; 3 made the same comment about humidity; 4 described the seasonality of waxbill breeding as a factor to bear in mind; and 2 noted that the calls of other birds could be stimulating.

Differences in Views About Important Factors for Breeders Success With Different Categories of Waxbills. There were enough successful breeders in five categories of waxbills to allow us to separately examine the ratings for those subgroups of breeders. The ratings given by the 44 successful breeders of the various species of Cordon-bleus generated a top 10 listing that agreed in all respects with the list shown in Table 5, (a not surprising result, given that the successful Cordon-bleu breeders were the most numerous group among the contributors to that earlier tabulation). The top rated factors for other subgroups of breeders differed from the top 10 factors listed in Table 5 in the following ways:

■ **Fire Finches.** The top 10 listing of the 14 successful breeders of Fire Finches included the: availability and frequency of greens and vitamin supplements; at the same time, the total hours of light provided and external disturbances were not in the top 10 factors for this subgroup of breeders.

■ **Typical and Lavender Waxbills.** For purposes of this survey, the waxbills in this category were

grouped together on the basis of their relatedness as described in Goodwin (1982). There were 15 successful breeders in this category, which included the St. Helena, Rosy-rumped, Red-eared, Orange-cheeked and Lavender Waxbills. Their top 10 listing included: foliage (presence, types, amounts, and placement), types of nests provided, other dietary offerings (spray millet, grass heads, fruit, etc.), and the ages of the birds. These breeders gave slightly lower (i.e., below top 10) ratings to nesting materials (type(s), quantity, and timing of availability of nesting materials), basic diet, external disturbances and total hours of light provided.

■ **Strawberry Finches.** There were fifteen successful breeders in this category. Their ratings differed from the summary in Table 5 by placing the following three factors into the top 10: the ages of the birds, the position of the nest, and the shape of the cage or flight. Their top 10 items did not include: total hours of light, external disturbances and nesting materials (type(s), quantity, and timing of availability).

■ **Goldbreast Waxbills.** Survey participants included 27 successful breeders of this waxbill. Their top 10 rated factors included: foliage (presence, types, amounts, and placement), and availability and frequency of greens. Compared to the listing in Table 5, they gave slightly lower ratings to nesting materials (type(s), quantity and timing of

availability), and to total hours of light.

Special Interventions Attempted and Their Success. Fifty-two respondents (71%) indicated that they had attempted some type of special intervention during their efforts to breed waxbills in the past five years. Respondents who were more generally successful in breeding waxbills were significantly more likely to have attempted special intervention methods--77% of those whose waxbills had hatched out babies had also tried special intervention methods, compared to only 25% of those who had less success with their waxbills.⁶ As shown in Table 6, this is most often meant that they tried using foster parents for incubation.

Only about one-third of those who had attempted artificial incubation reported success with that method (36% of those who attempted it). Much better results were experienced by those who had tried foster parents for incubation (76% had success) or for feeding (65% had success) and by those who had attempted handfeeding (57% had success). Others that were tried also met with a high rate of success (80% reported success).

The other methods that were reportedly tried included supplemental feedings of the babies during the first several days after hatching until the foster parents "kicked-in" and fed

Table 6. Attempted Intervention With Special Methods

| Special Method | # of Respondents who attempted | % of Respondents ¹ |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Artificial incubation | 12 | 23.1 |
| Foster parents for incubation | 42 | 80.8 |
| Foster parents for feeding | 40 | 76.9 |
| Handfeeding | 28 | 53.8 |
| Other intervention | 5 | 9.6 |

¹ Based on n=52 respondents who tried any of these methods. Because these respondents could have tried more than one of the methods listed, the %'s in this table sum to more than 100%

sufficiently on their own; supplemental dosing of the babies with vitamins during their time in the nest; rotation of foster parents who were used for incubation/feeding; and forcing the remaining nestlings to fledge after the first one had to prevent the parents from underfeeding the chicks left in the nest.

Those who had attempted to use foster parents for incubation and /or feeding reported broad based success in using Society Finches to raise a variety of different waxbill species. Societies were reported to be successful foster parents for Fire and Strawberry Finches, Cordon-bleus (both Red-cheeked and Blue-caps), Orange-cheek, Goldbreast and Violet-eared Waxbills, Purple

⁶ $X = 9.37, p < .004.$

Grenadiers and Combassous. However, other fostering species were mentioned. Specifically, respondents reported using Zebras to raise Gold-breasts and Cordon-blues; using Silver-bills to raise Strawberries, Fires and Melbas; using Shafttails to raise Blue-cap Cordon-blues; and Cutthroats to raise Pytilias.

The majority of those who had tried any special intervention (70%) reported that their interventions had raised waxbill chicks through weaning. The remainder had lower levels of accomplishment with these methods. Sixteen percent said that the waxbill were hatched and fed out, but not to weaning, 7% had had waxbill eggs incubated, but not to hatching. Respondents indicated they had raised an average of 29 chicks through weaning by using special intervention(s), but there was wide variation in across respondents (they ranged from 1 to 200 chicks).

3. Summary and Future Direction

The breeders who responded to this survey were very experienced and impressively successful in breeding waxbills. They provided substantial information and recommendations which we hope will prove helpful to all waxbill breeders. In many ways, the factors and issues they mentioned are familiar ones to NFSS members. However the findings here lend a perspective that is new in several respects.

First, even though we mailed the survey with an introduction which

noted that "as a group, we actually possess a great deal of knowledge on the subject [of breeding waxbills]", we were nevertheless dumbstruck at the amazing wealth of experience and resources that became evident when we summed the overall experiences and successes of this group of breeders. For example, as noted above, this group had a combined total of 764 years breeding finches, and 549 years with waxbills. Their combined aviaries housed 7,590 finches and 1,878 waxbills at the time they sent in their responses. A total of 1,504 waxbill chicks had been raised by their natural parents in their aviaries during the past 5 years. These findings alone should renew our confidence in the wealth of our collective knowledge and should firmly establish the depth and breadth of our unified expertise.

Second, the findings emphasize the need for us to raise the sharing of our expertise to a new level. We have traditionally shared our discoveries on a relatively small scale and personal levels. The value of systematically integrating our knowledge in large scale efforts such as this is underscored here by the major common themes that emerged and even in the unexpected patterns of differences that were detected.

For instance, more successful breeders were discovered to have more differentiated views of the relative importance of different factors influencing breeding success. They have apparently learned to prioritize

the various in certain ways. where as the less successful breeders saw a myriad of factors as all highly (and nearly equally) important. This finding has implications for future NFSS efforts toward breeder education. Once breeders understand the impact of the various components, priorities help them allocate their efforts in the most efficient ways.

Third, the prevalence of attempts to use special interventions and the fact that the more successful breeders were more likely to attempt special interventions are findings which emphasize the importance of these interventions to the successful captive breeding of waxbills. At this point, it isn't clear whether the more successful breeders are simply more adventurous in many respects and that this adventurous quality accounts for both their waxbill breeding success and their more frequent attempts with special interventions, or whether the use of special interventions per se is somehow instrumental in helping them to achieve the levels of success they attain. Note that if the latter is true, it would contradict the idea that reliance on these various interventions leads to a deterioration of the natural parenting skills in the chicks who are raised. This question will receive further attention in future analysis of this survey's data. In any event, the special intervention methods reported here revealed a broad spectrum of creative approaches that should enlarge the range of options considered by many readers.

Forthcoming reports will report on other findings from this survey. There are two main areas of findings which have not been addressed in this Part I report, which we plan to cover in the future. (i) We plan to present the findings from the section of the survey where respondents detailed their recent breeding experiences with specific waxbill pairs. This database includes detailed information about discrete breeding attempts with 136 pairs of waxbills. That report will explore which factors predict greater success in this population of waxbill pairs, essentially uncovering the factors that differentiated waxbill pairs that bred successfully from those that did not. (ii) We will provide a "yellow pages" of resources for waxbills breeders, which compiles respondents' suggestions on nestling food and handfeeding formula, books, magazines and magazine articles, and suppliers for food, equipment, and materials.

Our vision is that this will be among the first of many reports to synthesize our breeding knowledge, and that NFSS will sustain efforts to organize and communicate our collective expertise through other large scale data collection projects such as this one.

References:

Goodwin, Derek. 1982. *Exrildid Finches of the World*. Cornell University Press. Ithica, NY.

KAYTEE

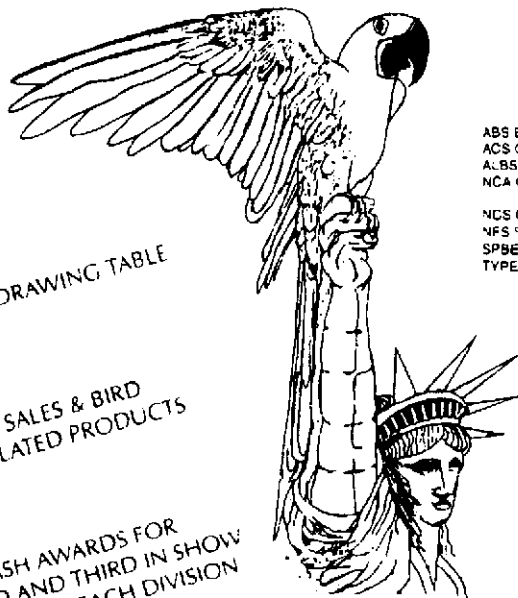
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| ACS COCKATIELS | MELINDA POPE |
| ALBS LOVEBIRDS | JOE DELUCA |
| NCA CANARIES | IGNATIO PEREA SR |
| | LIPOCHROME AND MELANIN |
| NCS COCKATIELS | DON DUNN |
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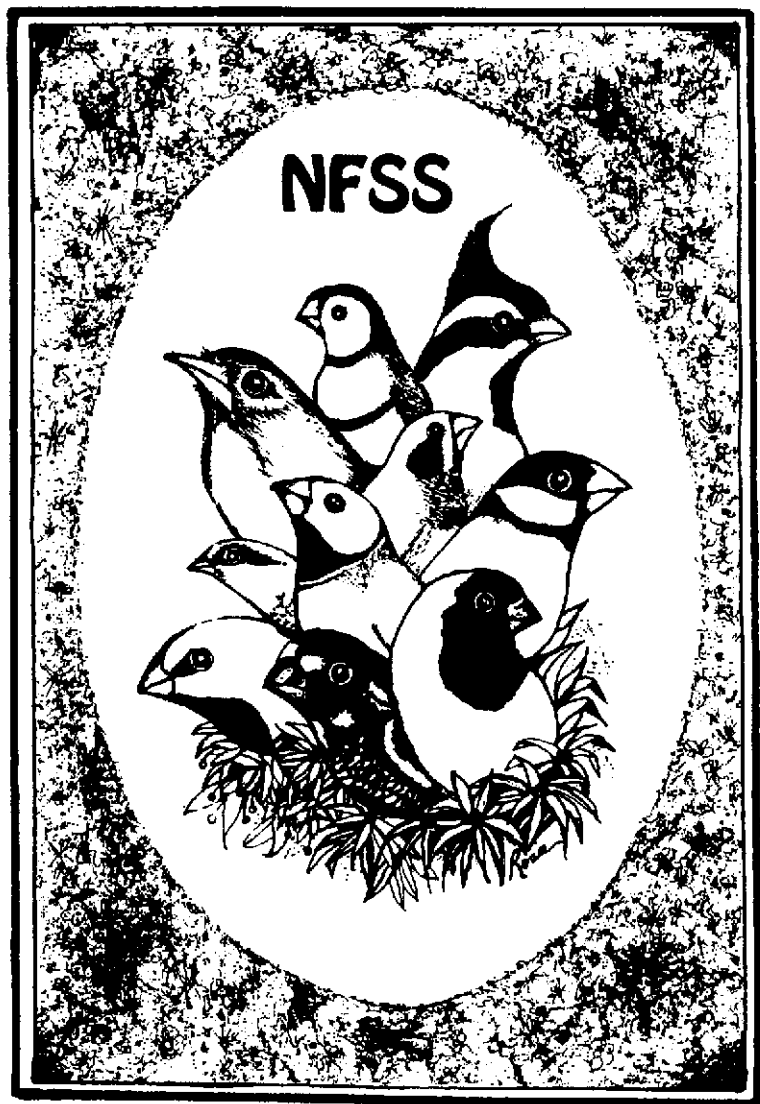
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1995 Show Report Conclusion



The National Finch and Softbill Society

Capital City Bird Society, Roseville, CA, October 21, 1995
Judge: Tom Rood — 15 Exhibitors, 140 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 11 | Sally Huntington | Chestnut-flanked Zebra | |
| 10 | Liza Smith | Strawberry Finch | |
| 9 | Richard Pizzurro | Owl Finch | |
| 8 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Five-color Nun | |
| 7 | Kathleen Provins | Red-headed Gouldian | |
| 6 | Claudia Salo | Red-headed Gouldian | |
| 5 | Sally Huntington | Chestnut-breasted Zebra | D 6248 (95) |
| 4 | Julie Duimstra | White Society | |
| 3 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Silverbill | |
| 2 | Sally Huntington | Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu | |

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Baltimore, MD, October 21, 1995
Judge: Miki Spazak — 6 Exhibitors, 53 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 6 | Donald Strause | Pintailed Nonpariel | |
| 5 | Woody Hughes | Normal Parson Finch | |
| 4 | Woody Hughes | Red-headed Barbet | |
| 3 | Richard Selachta | Rufous-backed Mannikin | |
| 2 | Richard Selachta | Cherry Finch | C 2185 (95) |
| 1 | Richard Selachta | Red Eared Waxbill | |

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association, Hanover, MA, October 21, 1995
Judge: Harold Bowles — 8 Exhibitors, 30 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 4 | T. Roche | European Greenfinch | J 112 (94) |
| 3 | Dianna Smith | Shaftail | C 1811 (89) |
| 2 | Jan Stachurski | Green Singing Finch | E 789 (95) |
| 1 | Dianna Smith | Choc. & White Crested Society | E 1512 (94) |

Great Lakes Avicultural Society, Grand Rapids, MI, October 21, 1995
Judge: Conrad Meinert — 8 Exhibitors, 29 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 3 | Mary Lou Terwilliger | Starling | |
| 2 | Patrick Vance | Chestnut-flanked White Zebra | D 3875 (95) |
| 1 | Mary Lou Terwilliger | Green Singing Finch | MM 43 (91) |

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society, Kansas City, MO October 21, 1995**REGIONAL SHOW: Region #4 - Mid West****Judge: Martha Wigmore — 5 Exhibitors, 44 Entries**

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 | Tom Rood | AOV-Yellow-beaked Zebra | D 4231 (93) |
| 4 | Gene & June Miller | Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow | E 112 (94) |
| 3 | Gene & June Miller | Fire Finch | B 14 (94) |
| 2 | Nita J. Haas | Silky Ringneck Dove | IPB XF 482 (95) |
| 1 | Tom Rood | Normal Zebra | D 5266 (95) |

Heart of America Hookbill & Finch Society, Kansas City, MO, October 22, 1995**Judge: Ray Johnson — 5 Exhibitors, 46 Entries**

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 | Gene & June Miller | Fawn Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow | E 25 (95) |
| 4 | Gene & June Miller | Fire Finch | B 14 (94) |
| 3 | Tom Rood | Normal Fawn Zebra | D 5267 (95) |
| 2 | Gary Easterlin | White Eye | |
| 1 | Earl & Shirley Courts | Owl Finch | |

Fresno Canary and Finch Society, Madera, CA, October 22, 1995**Judge: Mary Von Raesfield — 8 Exhibitors, 85 Entries**

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 8 | Sally Huntington | Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu | |
| 7 | Richard Pizzurro | Owl Finch | |
| 6 | Cathy Knight | Chocolate & White Society | E 1585 (93) |
| 5 | Sally Huntington | Orange-breasted Normal Zebra | D 6248 (95) |
| 4 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Rufous-backed Weaver | |
| 3 | Richard Pizzurro | Painted Finch | |
| 2 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Blue-cap Cordon Bleu | |
| 1 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Lavender Finch | |

Connecticut Association For Aviculture, Manchester, CT, Oct. 28, 1995
Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau — 13 Exhibitors, 50 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 6 | Dianna Smith | Rufous-backed Mannikin | |
| 5 | Tim Roche | Yellowhammer | |
| 4 | Chris Voronovitch | White Java | 1605 (91) |
| 3 | Tim Roche | Greenfinch | 393 (95) |
| 2 | Dianna Smith | Normal Shafttail | C 1811 (89) |
| 1 | Lisa Kurtz | Silver Zebra | D 8602 (94) |

Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society, Lexington, KY, October 28, 1995
Judge: Patrick Vance — 5 Exhibitors, 18 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | Bill Mullins | White-breasted Gouldian | 47 (94) |
| | Patsy Strickland | Pr. Blue-cap Waxibill | 32 (95) |
| | | | 29 (95) |
| | Steve Slates | Zebra | 3800 (95) |

Smokey Mountain Cage Bird Society, October 28, 1995
Judge: Ray Johnson

NO SHOW REPORT FILED

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society, Tulsa, OK, October 28, 1995
Judge: Steve Hoppin — 3 Exhibitors, 24 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 | Gene & June Miller | Yellow-rumped Fawn Diamond Sparrow | E 25 (95) |
| 2 | Gene & June Miller | Red-headed Parrot Finch | D 401 (94) |
| 1 | Gene & June Miller | Cuban Melodious | B 1034 (91) |

Texas Bird Breeders & Fanciers Association, Temple, TX, October 28, 1995
Judge: Joe Krader — 10 Exhibitors, 85 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 8 | H. & M. McBrayer | Paradise Whydah | |
| 7 | F. & S. Hudson | Gouldian | 599 (91) |
| 6 | Clarence Culwell | Society | 379 (95) |
| 5 | F. & S. Hudson | Lilac Breasted Roller | |
| 4 | F. & S. Hudson | Spice Finch | |
| 3 | H. & M. McBrayer | White Eye | |
| 2 | Diane Hardman | Pr. Zebra | 5008 (95) 1433 (91) |
| 1 | F. & S. Hudson | Normal Zebra | |

Badger Canary Fanciers, Milwaukee, WI, October 28, 1995
Judge: Martha Wigmore — 7 Exhibitors, 29 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 3 | Liana Lada | White Java | K 204 (89) |
| 2 | J. and J. Muscato | White Java | CG 128 (92) |
| 1 | Sue Feldstein | Dilute Chocolate Society | BCF 218 (94) |

Florida West Coast Avian Society, October 29, 1995
Judge: Bill Parlee
NO SHOW REPORT FILED

Central California Cage Bird Club, Turlock, CA, November 4, 1995
Judge: Joe Krader — 8 Exhibitors, 48 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 5 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Cordon Bleu | |
| 4 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Cherryhead Finch | |
| 3 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Fawn Zebra | |
| 2 | Val Garcia | Red-headed Gouldian | |
| 1 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Chestnut-flanked Zebra | |

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton, Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada, Nov. 4, 1995
Judge: Patrick Vance — 104 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 9 | Barb & John Jasik | Red-faced Star Finch | (95) |
| 8 | Mike Manley | Pekin Robin | (95) |
| 7 | Mike Manley | Cuban Melodious | (95) |
| 6 | Rino Maragno | Pr. Chestnut-flanked White Zebra | (95) |
| 5 | V. and K. Aviaries | Rosy rump Waxbill | |
| 4 | Flikkema Aviaries | Pr. White Java | |
| 3 | Mike Manley | Heck's Grassfinch | |
| 2 | Markham Aviaries | White Self Society | |
| 1 | Mike Manley | White-belly Crimson Finch | |

Exotic Bird Club of Florida, Palm Bay, FL, November 4, 1995
REGIONAL SHOW: Region #2 - Southeast
Judge: Tom Rood — 7 Exhibitors, 70 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 7 | Dale & Eileen Laird | Normal Java | K 493 (94) |
| 6 | Phil Barth | Silver Ear Mesia | |
| 5 | Dale & Eileen Laird | Combassou | |
| 4 | Ron & Linda Castener | Yellow-face Star | B 793 (94) |
| 3 | Phil Barth | Fire Finch | |
| 2 | Phil Barth | Pintail Nonpariel | |
| 1 | Dale & Eileen Laird | Tricolor Nun | |

Georgia Cage Bird Society, Atlanta, GA, November 4, 1995
Judge: Clarence Culwell — 7 Exhibitors, 15 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | Sarge & Eva Duffey | Green Singing Finch | |
| | Conrad Meinert | Red-headed Finch | |
| | Floyd Barnett | Red-legged Honey Creeper | |

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Rolling Meadows, IL, Nov. 4, 1995
Judge: Laura Bewley — 15 Exhibitors, 70 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 7 | Liana Lada | Normal Zebra | |
| 6 | Bob and Sue Rahe | Bronze Winged Mannikin | GC 59 (95) |
| 5 | Muss Aviaries | Mynah | |
| 4 | Patrick Vance | Normal Java | |
| 3 | Steve Hopman | Black Cheek Waxbill | |
| 2 | MaryLou Terwilliger | Starling | |
| 1 | MaryLou Terwilliger | Society | E 1346 (95) |

Missouri Cage Bird Club, Eureka, MO, November 4, 1995
Judge: Brenda Geesey — 11 Exhibitors, 91 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 8 | Dennis Burhans | Mynah | |
| 7 | Dennis Burhans | Cherry Finch | |
| 6 | Dennis Burhans | Indian Silverbill | |
| 5 | Dennis Burhans | Parson Finch | C 529 (94) |
| 4 | Nita Haas | Dilute Society | E 1336 (92) |
| 3 | Dennis Burhans | Blue Capped Waxbill | |
| 2 | Earl Courts | Rock Bunting | |
| 1 | Nita Haas | Red-Eared Waxbill | A 510 (95) |

Rose City Exotic Bird Club, Hillsboro, OR, November 4-5, 1995
Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau — 9 Exhibitors, 45 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 5 | Shirley Perkins | Owl Finch | |
| 4 | Julie R. Duimstra | Pearl-headed Amadine | |
| 3 | Shirley Dixon | Gouldian Finch | |
| 2 | Shirley Perkins | Gouldian Finch | |
| 1 | Shirley Perkins | Gouldian Finch | |

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society, Monroeville, PA, November 4, 1995
Judge: Miki Spartzak — 10 Exhibitors, 64 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 7 | E. Woody Hughes | Wattle Starling | |
| 6 | Donald Strause | Nonpariel | |
| 5 | Claire McBride | Diamond Dove | |
| 4 | Donald Strause | Red-headed Gouldian | 1266 (93) |
| 3 | Ralph Turkovich | Fawn Society | |
| 2 | Ralph Turkovich | Green Singing Finch | |
| 1 | Donald Strause | Chestnut-flanked Zebra | |

Texas Canary Club, Conroe, TX, November 4, 1995
Judge: Hal M. Koontz — 11 Exhibitors, 65 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 7 | F. & S. Hudson | Lilac-breasted Roller | |
| 6 | F. & S. Hudson | Shafttail | |
| 5 | H. & M. McBrayer | Whydah | |
| 4 | F. & S. Hudson | Silverbill | |
| 3 | Pierre Ata | European Greenfinch | |
| 2 | Ron & Von Heron | Yellow-faced Star | |
| 1 | Ernesto Barrera | Green Singing Finch | |

Golden Gate Avian Society, Tracy, CA, November 11, 1995
REGIONAL SHOW, Region 6, Pacific Coast
Judge: Marty Von Raesfeld — 13 Exhibitors, 105 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 9 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Lavender Waxbill | |
| 8 | Richard Pizzurro | Painted Finch | |
| 7 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Blue-capped Waxbill | |
| 6 | Sally Huntington | Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu | |
| 5 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Rufous Weaver | |
| 4 | Kathy Knight | Chocolate & White Society | 1585 (93) |
| 3 | Richard Pizzurro | Pearl-headed Silverbill | |
| 2 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Pekin Robin | |
| 1 | Alvin & Dixie Lea | Five-color Nun | |

Capital Area Avicultural Society, Baton Rouge, LA, November 11, 1995
Judge: Miki Spartzak
NO SHOW REPORT FILED

Delaware Valley Bird Club, Creamery, PA, Nov. 11, 1995
Judge: Clarence Culwell — 10 Exhibitors, 62 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 7 | Mary & Pat Krichten | Fawn Parson Finch | C (93) |
| 6 | Elwood Hughes | Wattled Starling | |
| 5 | Kyle Bolton | Normal Java | |
| 4 | Rick Szlachta | Cherry Finch | |
| 3 | Pat & Mary Krichten | Orange-wing Pytilia | C (95) |
| 2 | Sally Underhill | Greater Hill Mynah | |
| 1 | Donald Strause | Crimson Pileated | |

**National Cage Bird Show, Gulf South Bird Club,
 New Orleans, LA, Nov 17, 1995**
Judge: Roddy Gabel — 37 Exhibitors, 205 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 13 | Clarence Culwell | Chestnut-flanked White Zebra | |
| 12 | Eileen & Dale Laird | Persa Touraco | SPBE DJL 37 (94) |
| 11 | Earl & Shirley Courts | Yellow-throated Bunting | |
| 10 | Kyle Botton | Yellow Gouldian | 4056 (95) |
| 9 | Gene & June Miller | Fawn Diamond Sparrow | E 2595 |
| 8 | Miki Spzarak & Al Decoteau | Indian Hill Mynah | |
| 7 | Clarence Culwell | Chestnut-flanked Zebra | 1795 |
| 6 | Nita Haas | Dilute Society | E 1336 (92) |
| 5 | Patrick Vance | Pr. Society | E 4572 |
| | | | E. 4575 |
| 4 | Kerry Lauerty | Fawn Ringneck Dove | |

Santa Clara Canary and Exotic Bird Club, Santa Clara, CA, Nov. 25, 1995
Judge: Clayton Jones — 11 Exhibitors, 51 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 6 | Richard Pizzurro | Painted Finch | |
| 5 | Cathy Knight | African Silverbill | |
| 4 | Cathy Knight | Chocolate & White Society | E 1585 (93) |
| 3 | Richard Pizzurro | Orange Bishop | |
| 2 | Ed & Sharon Johnson | Nonpariel | |
| 1 | Richard Pizzurro | Shafttail | |

New England Finch Fanciers, East Hartford, CT, Nov. 25, 1995
Judge: Laura Bewley — 15 Exhibitors, 69 Entries

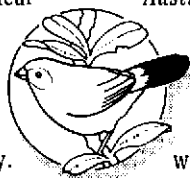
| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 7 | Val Marques | European Goldfinch | |
| 6 | Laura MacDonald | Cutthroat | |
| 5 | Sally Underhill | Indian Hill Mynah | |
| 4 | Nizane Ali | Shafttail | |
| 3 | Donald Strause | Zebra | D 1588 (95) |
| 2 | Alfredo Robles | Bunting | |
| 1 | Sally Underhill | Pr. Starling | |

National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries, Elk Grove Village, IL, Nov. 25, 1995
Judge: Conrad Meinert — 10 Exhibitors, 40 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|--------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 5 | John & Jane Muscato | Red-headed Gouldian | GC 13 (93) |
| 4 | Liana Lada | Fawn & White Society | D 3206 (94) |
| 3 | Liana Lada | Normal Zebra | |
| 2 | John & Jane Muscato | White Java | GC 130 (92) |
| 1 | Dave & Cathy Wiegele | Cuban Olive Finch | |

THE ESTRILDIAN

The Estrildian is an ornithological journal produced for the purpose of relating the most up to date information on all species belonging to the family Estrildidae both in the wild and in captivity.



Australian finches. The aviculturist and the scientist have much to offer each other and the ESTRILDIAN brings together like-minded enthusiasts from around the world, contributing towards keeping the interest in this most fascinating family of birds vibrantly active.

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**10, Gable Terrace, Wheatley Hill, County Durham. DH6 3JT,
ENGLAND**

Aviary Association of Kern County, Bakersfield, CA, Dec. 2, 1995
Judge: Hal M. Koontz — 5 Exhibitors, 53 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 6 | Dixie & Alvin Lea | Orange-check Waxbill | |
| 5 | Dixie & Alvin Lea | Rufous Back Weaver | |
| 4 | Sally Huntington | Bluc-cap Waxbill | |
| 3 | Sally Huntington | Pearl-head Amadine | |
| 2 | Cathy Knight | Indian Silverbill | |
| 1 | Sally Huntington | Bluc-faced Button Quail | L 536 (95) |

**Puerto Rican National Show, Organizacion Puertorriquena
 de Aves Exoticas Inc. Bayamon, PR, Dec. 2, 1995**
REGIONAL SHOW, Region 7, Caribbean
Judge: Miki Spartzak — 34 Exhibitors, 100 Entries

| Points | Exhibitor | Species | Band # (Yr) |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 9 | Samuel Figueroa | Melba | |
| 8 | Julio Mateo | Red-faced Parrot Finch | C 954 (95) |
| 7 | Julio Mateo | Blue-cap Cordon Bleu | B 642 (95) |
| 6 | Julio Mateo | Normal Shafttail | C 951 (95) |
| 5 | Victor Torrellas | White Society | 4481 (95) |
| 4 | Julio Mateo | Fawn Shafttail | C 942 (95) |
| 3 | William Sampson | White-breasted Gouldian | 1146 (91) |
| 2 | Alfredo B. Rogueras | Spice Finch | E 1931 (95) |
| 1 | Victor Torrellas | Crested Society | 4481 (95) (sic) |

Proposed Parson Finch Standard

(Black-throated Finch)

Poephila cincta

Any comments should be sent to:

Dr. Al Decoteau
P.O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| CONFORMATION | 45 POINTS |
| Head, Body, Legs & Feet | 25 points |
| Wings | 15 points |
| Tail | 10 points |
| CONDITION | 25 POINTS |
| COLOR AND MARKINGS | 20 POINTS |
| STANCE | 10 POINTS |

CONFORMATION (45 POINTS) **(Distributed as follows)**

HEAD, BODY, LEGS & FEET: 25 POINTS The beak, head and body should equal 3 inches, excluding the tail. The body should appear trim and muscular with the cobbiest points on the chest and shoulders. The chest should have a smooth curve. The body should only taper slightly in width, and less in depth to the point where the legs appear from the feathering. From the back of the legs to the tail, the body should taper more gradually but should still appear full. A small portion of the thigh will show below the body and should be of some substance. The back should leave the contour of the neck and carry a straight line to the tail. It should be slightly rounded from shoulder to shoulder and continue a decreasing contour to the tail.

The upper and lower mandible should be smooth, clean, and meet evenly and be free of imperfections. The head should have a gently rounded crown. The broadest point should be just behind the ears. Eyes should be bright and set just above the point where the mandibles meet. From all views the neck should appear broader than the head, and should increase slightly as it approaches the shoulders. The head and neck, less the beak, should equal in

length. Legs should be equal, parallel, clean and free of from any scaling. Missing toes or nails should be faulted. Nails should be suitable in length to assure proper grip.

TAIL: 15 POINTS The tail should be no longer than two inches. It should follow the top and bottom line of the body smoothly with the upper and under coverts. There should not be any elongated central tail feathers. The tail feathers should all be the same length.

WINGS: 10 POINTS The wings should be neat and compact and be carried very close to the body. The tips should just meet over the center of the upper tail coverts without crossing or drooping. All flight feathers and coverts must be present, smooth and clean.

CONDITION (25 POINTS)

The Parson Finch should always appear very neat and clean and be in immaculate condition at all times. The feathers, skin, and beak must be clean, smooth and lustrous. The body feathering should be very smooth and look as one big feather, meaning that all feathers should be very tight to the body. Eyes should be bright and the bird should appear alert, vital, and agile.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (20 POINTS)

Head is silvery gray. Beak, throat patch, and a streak from the base of the beak to the eyes are black. Back is fawn and more brown on the wings. A black bar is over the rump. Under tail coverts are white and tail black. Cinnamon is on the breast and underparts. Flanks have a black patch and under tail is white. Feet are reddish. Overall length five inches. Three inch body and two inch tail.

STANCE (10 POINTS) (INCLUDING CAGING AND PRESENTATION)

The Parson Finch should stand at about 40 to 45 degrees and not crouch on the perch. It should not be faulted for taking an occasional head down and rump up position, as this is a natural curiosity position. The Parson Finch should be steady and stand looking at the judge, not showing any sign of fear or nervousness. A standard finch box is highly recommended when showing the Parson Finch.

NFSS Affiliates, Delegates & Shows

(Listing as of March 1, 1996)

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society

Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168

Show August 31, 1996

Montgomery, AL

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Rocket City Cage Bird Club

Ron Clifton (205) 852-7155

CALIFORNIA

Aviary Assn. of Kern County

Willis & Velva Baker (805) 765-6110

Show December 7, 1996

Taft, CA

Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld

Capitol City Bird Society

Dare B. Cagle (916) 944-2437

Show October 19&20, 1996

Placer County Fairgrounds

20th Anniversary Show

Roseville, CA

Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld

Finch Society of San Diego County

Sharon Russell (619) 273-2005

Show November 2, 1996

San Diego, CA

Fresno Canary and Finch Society

Dixie Lea (209) 584-3764

Golden Gate Avian Society

Claudia Salo (510) 455-9909

Show November 9, 1996

Livermore, CA

Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club

Neil Crowley (408) 258-4601

Show November 30, 1996

Santa Clara, CA

Panel Judge Marty Von Raesfeld

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

Julie Kern (303) 753-6145

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture

Chris Voronovitch (203) 649-8220

Show October 26, 1996

Manchester, CT

Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

New England Finch Fanciers

Russell Armitage, Jr. (203) 756-1753

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida

Phil Barth (305) 426-5340

Show August 24, 1996

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

Central Florida Bird Breeders

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

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami

Armando J. Lee (305) 270-1000

Show November 30, 1996

25th Anniversary Show

Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Exotic Bird Club of Florida

Jonathan Jones (407) 724-9498

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

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

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.

John Floyd (813) 677-7679

Sun Coast Avian Society

Joc Ventimiglia (813) 392-9391

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society

Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

Show October 12, 1996

Orlando, FL

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

GEORGIA**Georgia Cage Bird Society**

Candy Wright (404) 633-4364

Show November 2, 1996

Marietta, GA

40th Annual Show & Fair

Panel Judge: Earl Courts

HAWAII**Honolulu Canary and Finch Club**

Kathy Perreira (808) 839-2269

ILLINOIS**Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club**

Jane Muscato (708) 305-9043

Show November 2, 1996

Rolling Meadows, IL

Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Illini Bird Fanciers

Jan Marcott (217) 347-9690

Show June 1, 1996

Panel Judge Clarence Culwell

Shelbyville, IL

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

Stephan V. Hopman (815) 469-8455

Show November 30, 1996

Elk Grove Village, IL

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Springfield Pet Bird Club**INDIANA****Indiana Bird Fanciers**

Conrad Meinert (219) 269-2873

Show October 12, 1996

Ft. Wayne, IN

Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

IOWA**Mid-America Cage Bird Society**

Rhoda Shirley (515) 243-1511

Show October 5, 1996

Des Moines, IA

Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

KANSAS**Kansas Avicultural Society**

Jim Cowan (316) 263-8835

Show October 11 & 12, 1996

Wichita, KS

KENTUCKY**Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society**

Patricia Wilkins (606) 271-0273

LOUISIANA**Capital Area Avicultural Society**

Tim Schexnaydre (504) 562-3579

Gulf South Bird Club, Inc.

Jeanne Murphy (504) 833-4241

MARYLAND**Baltimore Bird Fanciers****Maryland Cage Bird Society**

Theresa Brown (301) 735-7662

MASSACHUSETTS**Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc.**

Dianna Smith (508) 540-3214

Show October 19, 1996

Hanover, MA

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

MICHIGAN**Great Lakes Avicultural Society**

Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163

Show October 19, 1996

Rockford, MI

Panel Judge: Miki Spartzak

Mid-Michigan Bird Club

Mary Lou Tewilliger (517) 463-5695

Mid-West Cage-Bird Club, Inc.

Patrick Vance (810) 443-0643

Show September 21, 1996

Roumlus, MI

Panel Judge: Bill Parlee

**NFSS
INTERNATIONAL
AFFILIATES**

CANADA

**Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society
of Ontario**
Jim Marks (416) 292-3852

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton

**Durham Avicultural Society of
Ontario**
Vincent Moase (905) 723-1978

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society
Alfred Mion (519) 948-6398
Show October 18, 19, & 20, 1996
Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Panel Judge: Paul Williams

**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-Ingles,
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.

Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.
Robert Zalewski (313) 356-5942
Show October 26, 1996
Warren, MI
Panel Judge Harold Bowles

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

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avic. Society
Nita Haas (816) 331-5285
Show October 19, 1996
Raymore, MO
Panel Judge: Patrick Vance

**Heart of America Hookbill & Finch
Society**
Moses Linn (816) 523-4661
Show June 8 & 9, 1996
Grandview, MO
Panel Judge: Miki Spartzak &
Harold Bowles

Missouri Cage Bird Association
Richard & Rose Dickman
(314) 928-3444
Show November 1 & 2, 1996
Eureka, MO
Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Bird Club, Inc.
Gail Ranshaw (505) 822-1483
Show September 28, 1996
Albuquerque, NM
Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

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
Exhibition August 10, 1996
Rochester, NY

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society

April Blazich (919) 851-8079

Smokey Mtn. Cage Bird Society

Jim Cody (704) 686-5157

OHIO

Cleveland Cage Bird Society

Arnctte Howard (216) 337-7654
Show October 12, 1996
Parma, OH
Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Fort Defiance Bird Club

Larry Endsley (419) 263-2795
Show September 28, 1996
Defiance, OH
Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

Toledo Bird Assn. & Zebra Finch Club

of America

Rick Yunker (419) 691-9432
Show September 28, 1996
Toledo, OH

OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma

Gene and June Miller (405) 382-7066
Show September 28, 1996
Oklahoma City, OK
Panel Judge: Marty von Raesfeld

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society

Doug Paris (918) 446-2447
Show October 26, 1996
Tulsa, OK
Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

OREGON

The Finch Connection

Kristine Spencer (206) 253-4572

Rose City Exotic Bird Club

PENNSYLVANIA

Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society

Donald Strause (610) 926-5210
Show September 28, 1996
Grantville, PA
Panel Judge Hal Koontz

Chester County Bird Breeders

Lorraine LaBoyne (610) 269-6003
Show September 14, 1996
Kimberton, PA

Delaware Valley Bird Club

Kris Kroner (215) 628-4143

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society

Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 363-6438

Northeastern Penn. Cage Bird Club

Gary Fino (717) 829-3891

PUERTO RICO

Organización Puertorriqueña de Aves

Jacky Civitares (787) 752-4433
Show December 7, 1996
Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

Exoticas, Inc.

Rafael Echevarria (809) 795-5718

SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Cage Bird Club

Melvin Yoder (803) 459-5319
Show September 21 & 22, 1996
Anderson, SC
Panel Judge: Harold Bowles
& Conrad Meinert

TENNESSEE**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

Eva Duffey (615) 361-5939

Show October 5, 1996

Nashville, TN

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

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

Show October 6, 1996

Arlington, TX

Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

Show October 26, 1996

Temple, TX

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Texas Canary Club

Chris Davis (713) 361-3364

Show November 2, 1996

Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

VIRGINIA**Peninsula Cage Bird Society**

Linda Oja (804) 874-8581

WISCONSIN**Badger Canary Fanciers Ltd.**

Evon Van Ornum (414) 233-4362

Show October 12, 1996

Milwaukee, WI

Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Changing Your Address?

Let NFSS be the first to greet
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Please send this form
or this information to

Lynda Bakula

NFSS Membership Chairman

P.O. Box 3232

Ballwin, MO 63022
Club delegates should also send
their change of address
separately to
Jerry McCawley
NFSS Liaison Officer
506 Candlewyck Rd

Name _____ Membership # _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

1996 Chronological Show List

February

2/17 FL (161 entries)

Florida State Fair
Exotic Bird Show
Day 1
(Daren Decoteau)

2/18 FL (150 entries)

Florida State Fair
Exotic Bird Show
Day 2
(Harold Bowles)

April

4/18 WA

Pacific NW Spring Bird
Expo
(Dr. Al Decoteau)

4/19 WA

Pacific NW Spring Bird
Expo
(Conrad Meinert)

4/19 WA

Pacific NW Spring
Bird
(Harold Bowles)

June

6/1 IL

Illini Bird Fanciers
(Clarence Culwell)

6/8 MO

Heart of America
Day 1
(Miki Sparzak)

6/9 MO

Heart of America
Day 2
(Harold Bowles)

August

8/24 FL

Aviary & Cage Bird of
South Florida
(Charles Anchor)

8/31 AL

Central Alabama
Avicultural Society
(Conrad Meinert)

September

9/14 PA

Chester County Bird
Breeders

9/21

Palmetto Cage Bird
Day 1
(Harold Bowles)

■ MI

Mid-west Cage Bird
Club
(Bill Parlee)

■ NH

Birds of a Feather
(Dr. Al Decoteau)

9/22 SC

Palmetto Cage Bird
Day 2
(Conrad Meinert)

■ NM

New Mexico Bird Club
(Charles Anchor)

9/28 OH

Ft Defiance Bird Club
(Dr. Al Decoteau)

■ PA

Central Pennsylvania
Cage Bird Club
(Hal Koontz)

■ OK

Bird Fanciers of
Oklahoma
(Marty von Raesfeldt)

October

10/5 FL

Kaytee Great American
Bird Show
(Stephen Hoppin)

■ IA

Mid-America Cage Bird
Society
(Martha Wigmore)

■ TN

Middle Tennessee
Cage Bird Club
(Conrad Meinert)

■ TX

Fort Worth Bird Club
(Paul Williams)

10/11 & 10/12 KS

Kansas Avicultural
Society

10/12 FL

Sunshine State Cage
Bird Society
(Clarence Culwell)

■ IN

Indiana Bird Fanciers
(Charles Anchor)

■ OH

Cleveland Cage Bird
Society
(Tom Rood)

■ WI

Badger Canary & Finch
Club
(Paul Williams)

10/19 Ontario

Essex-Kent Cage Bird
Society
(Paul Williams)

■ CA

Capitol City Bird Soci-
ety Inc
Day 1

Region #6 Show
(Marty von Raesfeldt)

■ MA

Massachusetts Cage
Bird Show
(Conrad Meinert)

■ MI

Great Lakes Avicultural
Society
(Miki Sparzak)

■ **MO**

Greater Kansas City
Avicultural Society
(Patrick Vance)

■ **NY**

New York Finch & Ca-
nary Type Club
(Laura Bewley)

10/20 CA

Capitol City Bird Soci-
ety Inc.
Day 2
Region #6 Show
(Marty von Raesfeld)

10/26 CT

Connecticut
association
for Aviculture
(Daren Decoteau)

■ **MI**

Motor City Bird
breeders
(Harold Bowles)

■ **OK**

Oklahoma Cage Bird
Society
(Ray Johnson)

■ **TX**

Texas Bird Breeders &
Fanciers Association
(Tom Road)

November

11/1 MO

Missouri Cage Bird
Day 1
(Martha Wigmore)

11/2 CA

San Diego Bird Show
Day 1

■ **CO**

Rocky Mountain Soci-
ety of Aviculture
(Hal Koontz)

■ **IL**

Greater Chicago Bird
Club
(Paul Williams)

■ **GA**

Georgia Cage bird
Society
(Earl Courts)

■ **LA**

Baton Rouge
(Miki Sparzak)

■ **MO**

Missouri Cage Bird
Day 2
(Martha Wigmore)

■ **PA**

Greater
Pittsburgh
(Conrad Meinert)

■ **TX**

Texas Canary Club
(Laura Bewley)

11/9 CA

Golden Gate Avian
Society
(Clayton Jones)

■ **FL**

Exotic Bird Club of
South Florida
(Martha Wigmore)

11/14, 11/15, & 11/16 MI

National Cage Bird
Show
(Stephen Hoppin)

11/30 CA

Santa Clara Valley Ca-
nary & Exotic Bird Club
(Marty von Raesfeld)

■ **FL**

Colorbred Canary Club
of Miami
(Stephen Hoppin)

■ **IL**

National Institute of
Red/Orange Canaries
Day 1
(Clarence Culwell)

December

12/1 IL

National Institute of
Red/Orange Canaries
Day 2
(Clarence Culwell)

12/7 PR

Organizacion Society of
Puerto Rico
(Daren Decoteau)

12/7 CA

Aviary Association of
Kern
(Marty von Raesfeld)

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FINCHSHOP

the National Finch and Softbill Society store

| ITEM | QTY | SIZE/ STYLE | PRICE EACH | TOTAL AMT |
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| NFSS Gouldian Pin | | | \$6.00 | |
| Eric Peake Lithograph <i>The Diamond Firetails</i> Signed by the artist | | | \$35.00 | |
| Name Badge (members only) | | Print name at bottom of form. | \$5.00 | |
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| -1993 and earlier issues | | | \$3.00 | |
| 1995 NFSS Handbook (Membership Yearbook) | | Includes Census, Index & much more (Jul/Aug '95 issue) | \$4.00 | |
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- # 3 Cage Softbills

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Corvallis, OR 97330

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(541) 757-3117

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

GUIDE TO ORDERING NFSS CLOSED LEG BANDS

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

size "A"

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

size "B"

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

size "C"

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

size "D"

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

more size "D"

most smaller Mannikins
most Twinspots

size "E"

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

size "G"

European Goldfinch
Magpie Mannikin
other large Mannikins
small Tanagers

size "J"

Pekin Robin
Silver-eared Mesia
other small softbills

size "K"

Java Rice Bird
Red-crested Cardinal
Saffron
Shama Thrush

size "L"

Diamond Dove
other small doves
Quail
other softbills

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

BAND ORDER FORM

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

NO RUSH ORDERS!
Allow 30 days from receipt of your order for delivery. *Cashier's Check or Money Order will expedite your order.* Anticipate your needs to avoid frequent re-orders.

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

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