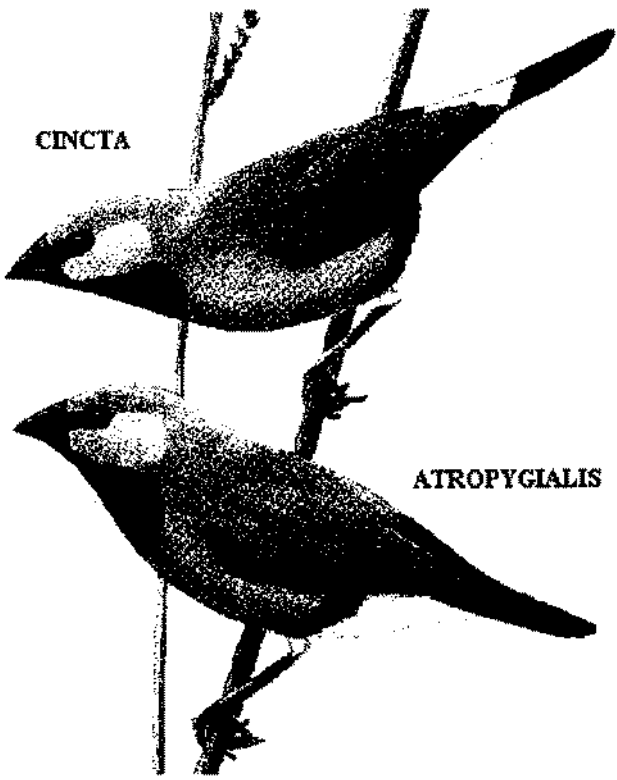


# The NFSS Bulletin

Volume 15 No. 1  
January/February 1998

CINCTA



ATROPYGIALIS



# The National Finch and Softbill Society

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<b>Awards Manager</b>	Ginny Allen	See Liaison Officer Above.
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<b>Region 5-Mountain</b>	Luis Garcia	Phone/Fax: 719-630-3785 Email: <a href="mailto:aves1@juno.com">aves1@juno.com</a>
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# BULLETIN CORRECTIONS

Please note the following  
corrections:

Inside front and back covers  
& page 69

Stephen Hoppin 4<sup>th</sup> VP  
Email address should read:  
[n2finchs@peganet.com](mailto:n2finchs@peganet.com)

Inside front cover & pg 70

Tom Rood Region 3 VP  
Email address should read:  
[tjrood@bnimhnet.com](mailto:tjrood@bnimhnet.com)

# The NFSS Bulletin

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**Publisher:** The National Finch and Softbill Society

**Editor:** Kerri Ann McCoy

**Asst. Wordprocessors:** Susan De Busk, Lynda Scott and Janice Trost

## Editorial Policy/Disclaimer:

The *NFSS Bulletin* is published bi-monthly by the National Finch and Softbill Society. The following deadlines normally apply to all aspects of the Bulletin: 1/1, 3/1, 5/1, 7/1, 9/1, 11/1. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Editor.

NFSS members are encouraged to submit articles, drawings, and photographs. NFSS reserves the right to edit and/or reject all editorial, photographic and advertising materials submitted to the *NFSS Bulletin* for publication. Photographs, when submitted shall become the sole property of NFSS and shall be subject to use in any and all NFSS program. We will return them to you after use, if requested.

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

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NFSS was saddened to learn of the sudden death on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1997 of Don Sparzak. Don was the husband of Marion "Miki" Sparzak, NFSS Panel Judge, former Treasurer and Membership Director.

Don and Miki were married 27 years and worked together to build a successful business and also enjoyed and participated in their many avicultural interests. Don was always there for Miki whether supporting her NFSS activities or feeding the baby birds when she was traveling. He will be missed by family and friends. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Miki and her family.

The Black-Throated Finch (or Parson Finch), on the front cover was reprinted with the kind permission of Simpson & Day. The artist is Mr. Nicholas Day. The CD Rom – Birds of Australia is available through Natural Learnings. Contact the NFSS Home Office for more information.

## In This Issue:

The 1998 version of the Bulletin is laid out a little differently than in the past. All order forms and NFSS specific information will be grouped together in the last section of the Bulletin. Previously, you may have had to remove the Band Order form, FinchShop order form, or Club Affiliation form from the center of your Bulletin. Grouping these forms together in the back of the Bulletin should alleviate the need to remove too much of your publication.

The beginning of the Bulletin will be devoted to specific Society "going-ons". You will find meeting minutes, regional roundups and the President's message all within this section. Always check the regional roundup article for up to date news happening within the Society. For those of you that are familiar with past Bulletins the "Regional Roundup" article was formerly entitled "News and Notes." That's about it. No map required, really.

Look for the new sections in the 1998 Bulletin. With contributions from the membership there is no reason why these new sections cannot continue. Don't be shy. Send your ideas in.

The first half of the 1997 Show Reports are included in this issue. The remainder will be published in the March/April edition.

There is a very detailed article on the Red Faced Parrot Finch provided by Bruce Dixon. An article entitled "A Safe Haven" by Eb Cravens will make us all take pause and think.

We are also introduced to the Caribbean Region in a rather uplifting way. Trying to breed Cutthroat Finches? Read how one member finally had success and how she did it.

We become familiar with our new President Ron Castaner in the "President's Message". The Annual Census form is also included in this issue of the Bulletin. On a more serious note, there is an article written by Dr. David Friddle, VM on the important new findings of the dreaded air-sac mite.

Tom Rood's article entitled "Showing is More Than Just Showing" will enlighten all members to the nature of the NFSS; there is room for every type of birdkeeper. And, for those of you that were unable to attend the All Zebra Finch and Society show this past summer, all the details are included in Martha Wigmore's article "Young Birds Take Honors at Specialty Show".

Wanting to try a new recipe in the birdroom? Take a glance at Ginny Allen's recipe in the new section "Food For Thought". Looking to build your own nest boxes? Check out Marc Riva's article in another new section entitled "Hands-on Finches". If you are a crossword or word search fan saunter on over to another new section entitled "Roost and Relaxation".

Deadline for the next issue is:  
March 1, 1998

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# The NFSS Bulletin

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## From the Editor's Desk

For those of us that have crossed paths this dialogue may seem redundant. But, there are infinitely more of you that are unfamiliar with my person. As your new Editor my beliefs, passions, and the reason why I applied for the Editor position in the first place are rather forefront issues. The Board has placed their faith in me to provide the membership with an authoritative, thought provoking, enticing publication. And, I fully intend to fulfill my responsibility to the best of my ability. My door is always open. Meaning, should you have concerns, thoughts, or even criticisms do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

My formal education focused on English. I do not have a mathematically, scientific, or medical mind and will never try to fill shoes that are too large for me. Instead, I will draw from my experiences and background. The analytical stuff I will rely heavily upon you, the membership. The former Editors of the Bulletin were truly gifted people and I only hope to be half as successful with the publication as they have been.

I am a bird hobbyist and breeder. My passion is for the birds. That is the ONLY reason why I applied for the Editor position for the NFSS. In other words, I have no hidden agenda. I wanted to give something back to aviculture, plain and simple.

I want to personally thank each and every person who took the time to answer the multitude of questions I had and will continue to have, since beginning my appointment as Editor. A special thanks to Robert Petrie and Martha Wigmore for sharing their wisdom. To Ginny Allen for always being there whether it be scanning documents at midnight, answering my barrage of emails, or just being a friend. To each member of the Board for trying to provide every detail needed to complete the Bulletin. A great big thank you to all of you that contributed to the contents of the Bulletin. To Bruce and Clint for their unfailing support and friendship. To my Husband whose computer and software prowess I have drawn upon heavily. And to my son, for being as understanding as a three-year-old can be, in allowing his Mother time to invest in this undertaking.

I met an individual on the Internet some months back who had a "signature" in her email messages that touched me. I immediately printed it out on nice paper, framed it and hung it in my birdroom. It pretty much sums up where I am coming from. It said...

**"Owning a pet is the best thing about being human. No other animal takes a completely different species into it's home, providing food and shelter, just for the pleasure of its company."**

p.f.

*Kerri*



## President's Message

By Ron Castaner

When it was first suggested that I run for the position of NFSS President I was very hesitant and pondered running for nearly a month; not because I was not interested in the position but, because I was unsure how I would be received by all members. Your response was tremendous. So many of you rallied behind me which in turn convinced me to run. To each of you I am truly grateful and I can only hope to meet your expectations. I also want to thank each and every one of you that took an active role in the elections. Because of member involvement, we had the largest turnout ever in the history of the NFSS.

As the newly elected NFSS President, I would like each of us to have the opportunity to experience the excitement and prosperity of a new term that will guide us into the new century. And, in return build a stronger membership and create numerous new friendships along the way. This is a "first time" experience for me and I have some rather large shoes to try and fill from my predecessors. I know we will not always see eye to eye on issues, but for the sake of our hobby and aviculture as a whole, I am sure we will be able to resolve any and all differences.

I would like to bring to your attention that we have elected one of the finest boards to represent the NFSS. We have compiled very knowledgeable and experienced people to represent you. I promise we will have an open door policy. A policy that will in turn enable each of you to contact any of the board members in an appropriate manner, and expect to receive a timely and prompt response. Please make the effort to involve yourself in bird clubs within your area, and the NFSS. Your time and effort will mean a great deal to everyone. Without the support from members we would not have a club. We need each and every one to lend a hand all year long, and in return have lots of fun. I would like to thank all of the board members and the National Cage Bird Show for this year's Nationals held in Denver, Colorado. This was a fantastic show, and everyone did an outstanding job. If any of you ever have the opportunity to attend the Nationals, please do so, it will be an experience to last a lifetime. Next year the Nationals will be held in Chicago, Illinois on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. I hope to see you there.



Special recognition and a heart felt thank you to the following NFSS members: Paul Williams, Charlie Anchor, Al Decoteau, and Harold Bowles for their many hours of hard work and for a job well done. And, to Tom Rood a heart felt thank you for an excellent job of judging the many entries, you can always count on Tom to make it very professional, interesting, and at times comical. This is what makes the NFSS enjoyable. Also, a very special congratulations to Carolyn Belisle of Necedah, Wisconsin. Carolyn won the prestigious KELLOGG TROPHY for 1997 with her beautiful Orange Headed Gouldian cock.

Don't forget our first show of '98 will be February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Florida State Fair in Tampa, Florida. Recommended hotel where most NFSS members are planning to stay is the Master's Inn. The rate is \$48.50 per night. The phone is (813) 621-4681. The hotel is located on I-4 at exit 8. This is one exit east of I-75 and only two exits from the state fair. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Dale Laird, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, or myself.

Let's guide the National Finch and Softbill Society into the new century and make everyone proud. This can only be attained with your help. I implore you to take the time and become involved.

Sincerely,

*Ron Castaner*  
NFSS President

turn your breeding success into an even bigger success



Join FinchSave.

Aviculture's foremost  
cooperative breeding program

## NFSS 4<sup>TH</sup> Qtr. 1997

### Board Meeting

Held: Denver, CO  
recorded 11/20/97

Recorded by Patrick Vance  
Executive Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by 1st Vice President, Charlie Anchor. Lacking a quorum no business could be undertaken.

Treasurer's Report, read by Charlie Anchor, submitted by Miki Spartzak:

\$10,241	NFSS Bulletin Expenses
\$3,138	Checking balance as of 11/19/97
\$4,096	Savings balance as of 11/19/97

P. Vance motioned that the Treasurer's Report be approved, seconded by Clarence Culwell. Motion passed.

Roll Call: Directors present were Charlie Anchor, Dr. Al Decoteau, Patrick Vance, Tom Rood, Clarence Culwell, and Julie Kern.

Julie Duimstra, FinchShop Director, spoke of adding new items to the FinchShop inventory. Placed request to make additional copies of the NFSS show cage plans, additional copies of past bulletins of the NFSS Bulletin where inventory is low. Request granted. Julie provided a report on FinchShop sales, expenses, and balances for the first three-quarters of 1997.

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter:	Sales:	\$532.00
	Expenses:	\$335.77
	Balance:	\$175.44

2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter:	Sales:	\$298.50
	Expenses:	\$75.44
	Balance:	\$100.00

3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter:	Sales:	\$209.00
	Expenses:	\$106.33
	Balance:	\$143.67

Dr. Al Decoteau, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, announced new apprentices to the Judge's Panel: Julie Kern, Julie Duimstra, Sally Huntington, Terri McAuliffe, Dennis Lewis, and Nazim Ali. Congratulations and best wishes to each.

Nominations were accepted for judge's names to be given to the National Cage Bird Show to judge the 1998 National in Chicago, Illinois. Nominated were Clarence Culwell, Conrad Meinert, and Martha Wigmore.

Tom Rood, Region 3 VP, spoke briefly concerning the Region 3 Regional show hosted by the Missouri Cage Bird Association in St. Louis. There was a great turnout with 106 entries in the finch and softbill division.

Clarence Culwell, Region 4 VP, spoke on the zebra finch standard and the tremendous amount of work involved. The standard is currently awaiting comments and suggestions from the membership. Clarence thanked fellow committee members Tom Rood, Martha Wigmore, and Sally Huntington for all of their hard work.

Meeting adjourned 7:53 p.m.

## NFSS General Meeting

Held: Denver, CO  
recorded 11/20/97

Recorded by Patrick Vance  
Executive Secretary

The 1st Vice President, Charlie Anchor, called the meeting to order at 9:08 p.m.

Charlie spoke on the state of the society, stating that the day to day business of the society was carried out during the past year.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Miki Spartzak, read by Charlie Anchor. The society, as of 11/19/97, has a balance of \$3138 in checking and \$4096 in savings.

Charlie announced the new officers for 1998-1999: President, Ron Castaner, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Dale Laird, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Martha Wigmore, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Daniel Almaguer, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Steve Hoppin, Membership Director, Noreene Taylor, Executive Secretary, Paul Williams, Treasurer, Lynda Bakula, Band Secretary, Eileen Laird, Editor, Kerri McCoy. Congratulations to all.

New Regional Vice Presidents for 1998-1999 are Kris Kroner for Region One, Armando Lee for Region Two, Tom Rood for Region Three, Clarence Culwell for Region Four, Luis Garcia for Region Five, Sally Huntington for Region Six. Results for Region Seven were not known at the time of the meeting and will be forthcoming.

Appreciation Awards were presented to outgoing Board Members: Charlie Anchor, Robert Petrie, Kristine Spencer, Dr. Al Decoteau, Miki Spartzak, Patrick Vance, Julie Kern and Cathy Knight.

Awards were presented to Champion Exhibitors for 1996: Sally Huntington, Dale and Eileen Laird, Alvin and Dixie Lee, Margie and Harold McBrayer, Tom Rood, Gene and June Miller, and Felipe Bonilla.

Awards announced/presented to Exhibitors of Champion Birds for 1996: Jacky Civitarese for her European Starling, two awards to Dale and Eileen Laird for their Persa Touraco and Java Rice bird, and to Patrick Vance for his Cinnamon Java.

Dr. Al Decoteau, Chairman of the Judge's Panel announced the new apprentices to the panel: Julie Kern, Julie Duimstra, Sally Huntington, Terri McAuliffe, Dennis Lewis, and Nazim Ali. These individuals have passed the written examination and now will begin their apprenticeships.

John Muscato, President of the Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, spoke on the 1998 National to be held in Pleasant Run, Illinois. The hotel has 475 rooms available and over 35,000 square feet of exhibition and vendor space.

Motion by Jan Starchurski to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Terri McAuliffe. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.



## Regional Roundup

### News from Region #3

By Tom Rood – Region 3 Vice President

First of all, I would like to begin this report by extending my sincere congratulations to all of the new NFSS officers recently elected for 1998-1999. I would also like to thank all of our past officers for their dedicated service to NFSS. Let's not forget our Nominating Committee for all the hard work they did in getting us a slate of officers for the next two years. Hopefully, NFSS will still remain to be very active and the number one source of finch and softbill information. We all need to support our new slate of officers and offer our help in any way we can.

As far as Region 3 is concerned, I believe we are still very active in our finch and softbill hobby. This includes all facets of the hobby such as the breeding of birds, the sharing of information the exhibition of our birds, and the promotion of the National Finch and Softbill Society.

This past season (1997), I had the opportunity to attend a few Region 3 shows, either as an exhibitor or the judge. I must report that Region 3 is still a tough area to compete in. The Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club show was a super show to judge. They had a total of 100 entries with many different species on display. The quality of the birds was excellent, as was the condition of most of the exhibits. The Australians came to the front with some excellent entries. As a matter of fact, the first three birds in the Australian section went on to take the top three places on the top bench. I was very impressed with the number of bred and closed banded birds in the show. The exhibitors in that area are working very hard at breeding quality birds. Many of you would have been impressed to see the 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> place birds in the African Section all wearing NFSS closed bands. The 1998 National Cage Bird Show is going to be held in Chicago this coming November. This will be the National's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show. The very first National Show was also held in Chicago 50 years ago. With the birds I saw in Chicago this past year, along with some of the other birds being bred in Region 3, I can guarantee that you will be seeing many top quality finches and softbills in Chicago when November rolls around.

The one Region 3 show I did get to exhibit in was the Missouri Cage Bird Associate show held in Eureka Missouri. This show was the site of the NFSS Regional Show.

Once again, a very impressive entry of 106 birds was put before NFSS panel judge Patrick Vance. A good number of Australians, Africans, Zebras, Societies, and pairs were on display. Again, many members will be happy to know that a good number of

birds exhibited wore NFSS closed bands. To make the day more interesting and positive, I think the top ten birds in show were exhibited by seven different NFSS members.

Last August, many Zebra and Society finch breeders met in Grandview, Missouri for our 2<sup>nd</sup> "All Zebra and Society" show. This event was organized by Nita Haas in 1996 and it has turned out to be a fantastic and fun show. There were close to 25 societies and 100 zebras exhibited at the 1997 show. Exhibitors come from all parts of the country to participate in this show. The Best Zebra trophy went to Texas and the Best Society trophy went to New Jersey, so you can see that I'm not the only crazy person driving seven hours to show a zebra or society!!

Good news from Milwaukee, Wisconsin area; a phone call from a finch representative in the Badger Canary and Finch Society informs me that this club will again be affiliating with the National Finch and Softbill Society for 1998. Therefore, they will again have a NFSS affiliated show in their area. Welcome Back!

One final show note. One of the first shows held during the 1998 season will be the Illini Bird Fanciers show on June 6<sup>th</sup> in Shelbyville, IL. We always have a very nice show with a large finch entry. Anyone interested in exhibiting with the Illini club is certainly welcome to come down and show with us.

I'm hoping that by the time this report is printed and read, most Region 3 clubs will have renewed their affiliations. If not, please do it as soon as possible. We don't want to lose you during 1998.

I would certainly enjoy hearing from any NFSS members in Region 3 (or any region) should they have any news to report. If I can be of any help to anyone, please do not hesitate to contact me. "My coffee pot is always on."

### News from Region #5

By Luis Garcia – Region 5 Vice President (via email)

Luis being a newly elected Regional Vice President has got his work cut out for him this term. Luis conveyed to me his thoughts and ideas and I thought I would present them to you the best that I can.

NFSS members from Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico please contact your Regional VP, Luis Garcia. Luis is trying to unite all of you in Region 5. You can reach Luis by email, phone or mail.

Luis Garcia  
1345 Edith Lane  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
Phone: 719-630-3785  
Email: Aves1@jumo.com

First on the agenda is to establish a good communication network with all the affiliated clubs. Luis conveyed to me that fulfilling the wants/needs of the clubs in his area to be on the forefront.

With the cooperation of Region 5 affiliated clubs, Luis is hoping to establish a captive breeding program. Such a program would provide an open line between the Region 5 states in which birds needed for the captive breeding program can be located.

Another thought on the forefront for this new Regional VP is to unite the clubs within each state and create a statewide show in which all can benefit from.

### News from Region #7

By Rich Morales -- Region 7 Vice President

Please see separate article entitled "NFSS Meets Us: The Caribbean Region".

### NFSS Panel Judge Apprentice Update

By: Dr. AE. Decoteau

Congratulations! A lot of hard work has paid off for the below listed judge apprentices. All individuals have passed their tests and now have to apprentice three times under a NFSS panel judge approved by the Panel Chairman, Steve Hoppin. We wish them the best of luck.

Jerry McCauley -- Arizona

Dennis Lewis -- Florida

Nazim Ali -- New York

Sally Huntington -- California

Julie Duimstra -- Oregon

Julianna Kern -- Colorado

Teri McAulifee -- Colorado

### Annual Census

You all may have noticed the Annual Census form located in the middle of your bulletin. Please take the time to fill out the form and return it to the Census Manager, Daniel Almaguer. Your information is important to all of aviculture. Last year's Bulletin containing the Census results was one of the most popular Bulletins purchased from the FinchShop. Obviously, NFSS members found the census results valuable, so please take the time to ensure that this year's census is equally as rewarding.

### FinchShop Changes Address

Please note the new address for our FinchShop Manager, Julie Duimstra. If ordering items from the FinchShop make sure to mail to the new address listed on the FinchShop order form. Should you be taking the order form from an older issue of the Bulletin make sure to note the new address.

## NFSS Certifies Three New Judges

In 1997 NFSS certified three new judges; Armando Lee, Jacky Civitarese, and Christine Voronovitch. If you would like additional information on becoming an NFSS Judge, contact the Panel Chairman, Steve Hoppin.

## News from Region #4

By: Clarence Culwell (via telephone)

Clarence Culwell conveyed to me via telephone that he would like to set up a Regional Show. Any affiliated bird clubs within Region #4 should contact Clarence and Ginny Allen should they be interested in setting up a Regional Show.

## News from Region #6

### Meet your Regional Vice President

Sally Huntington, a psychotherapist by profession, has been an avid bird fancier since 1985. She is a life member and current (2<sup>nd</sup> term) President of the 250 member Finch Society of San Diego County. She is also a 3<sup>rd</sup> term board member of the San Diego Bird Show Committee and member of the Society of Parrot Breeders and Exhibitors. The daughter of a Minneapolis Veterinarian (NFSS member Dr. James Cutler), Sally came to aviculture equipped with the practical experiences of having worked in the family veterinarian hospital.

Her primary interests are with improving breeding programs of many finches and softbills. With outdoor and indoor aviaries in San Diego, Sally's birds, especially English Zebras, are in demand by breeders throughout the States. In 1997, she bred and banded Pekin Robins, normal and sea-foam (mutation) Parrot Finches, Gouldians, Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus and Blue Capped Cordon Bleus, in addition to English Zebras and Society finches. She has also set up (in cooperation with Dr. Cutler), three pair of Brazilian Cardinals. She is also an active participant in the AFA endangered Red Siskin project.

Sally enjoys bird shows as a relaxing bonus to her aviculturist interests, and especially as a social forum for meeting other bird fanciers. She has garnered many "Top Bench" show honors. Her Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu won the requisite 1996 Great American Bird Show, Best in Show. She has achieved a ranking of NFSS Champion Exhibitor in 1995, 1996, and according to recent point count, will do so in 1997 and will be considered an Exhibitor of Excellence. Having passed the judge's exam in late 1997, she will devote some time to completing her apprenticeship. Sally is also an active partner in the development of multi-purpose cages; which functions as a collapsible show cage and also as an easily disinfected hospital cage.

**Omission:** the photographs of the top Zebra and Society Finches at the 1997 Specialty show, published in the Sept/Oct 1997 Bulletin on page 5, were taken by Martha Wigmore from Elk River, Minnesota.

## Open Letter to the Membership

By Ron Castaner

Dear NFSS Members, It is with regret that I announce the resignation of newly elected treasurer, Lynda Bakula. The demands of her professional position have increased to the point that she felt she could not adequately serve NFSS.

Martha Wignore has been appointed by the Board to serve as Treasurer ProTem. She is also the newly elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and will serve in both positions until the election of a new NFSS Treasurer.

The NFSS Board now announces the opening of nominations for the office of NFSS Treasurer. Nominees must be current members of NFSS. Each nominee is asked to submit a paragraph stating his/her qualifications for treasurer. This will be published in the March/April NFSS Bulletin.

Send nominations to: Ron Castaner, NFSS President at 2678 Freeport Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406. Nominations must be received by March 7, 1997.

Duties of the NFSS Treasurer according to the current Bylaws (Paragraph 13) include:

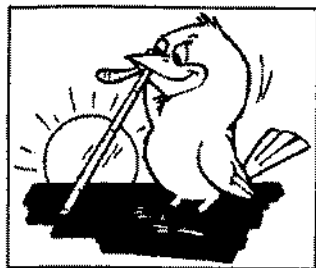
- ◆ The Treasurer shall prepare and submit to the Board, at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting, a budget indicating proposed income and expenditures for the upcoming year for approval by the Board.
- ◆ Shall be responsible for the collections and keeping of all Society funds and assessments.
- ◆ Shall maintain a bank account, and deposit Society funds into this account.
- ◆ Shall promptly deposit all Society funds and promptly pay with Society funds, kept in a checking account, all debts incurred by the Society.

The NFSS Board encourages qualified members to consider serving NFSS in this position.

Sincerely,

*Ron Castaner*  
NFSS President





## Food for Thought...

This issue's recipe thoughtfully provided by Ginny Allen of Opelika, Alabama.

### "Birdie Corn Bread"

Mix the following ingredients together in a large mixing bowl.

- 5 sterilized eggshells
- scraped cuttlebone
- ¼ cup sweet peas
- ½ cup sweet corn
- ½ cup broccoli
- 1 pkg. yellow corn meal mix
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup soy flour
- ½ cup baby cereal
- ½ cup wheat germ
- ½ cup dry milk

Add enough water to make it pourable (you want to achieve pancake batter consistency). If desired, add ¼ cup finch pellets but, it does color the corn bread. Vitamins and spirulina may also be added.

Spray a 6 x 9 pan (or an oblong baking dish) pour ingredients into pan and bake at 375 for 20 minutes. Make sure to check to see if the center is done before you remove it from the oven. Allow to cool. Cut into squares. Half of the corn bread can be frozen in squares, and sliced in half before serving. The other half can be put in a food processor and then frozen. Before using, mix with Cede, dried insects, and sprinkle with VMA powder from Noah's Kingdom.

Have a recipe you would like to share? We would like to hear about it. Send your ideas to the NFSS Bulletin Editor.

## NFSS Meet Us: The Caribbean Region

By: Rich Morales  
Caguas, Puerto Rico

*Dedicated to the first King of England, who centuries ago didn't know how to speak English and created the position of Prime Minister to translate.*

Shortly before Puerto Rico became a British colony for 155 days, Sir Francis Drake (the dragon of the seas), led his unsuccessful attack to steal all the gold brought by a fleet from Mexico and Peru led by Pedro Tello de Guzman. By commanding a fleet of 25 ships and 50 men on board each, he ordered them to burn all the Spanish vessels, floating on the bay. With the burning of the ships during the night he illuminated the bay to such a degree that he made an easy target for the gunners at Fort El Morro. His best captains were killed. He was narrowly missed and left Puerto Rico crying because he did not have a chance to seize the treasure he came to seek in this port. What an example of aggressive, destructive, intimidating, barbaric leadership!

In 1598, unlike his predecessor, George Clifford (Earl of Cumberland) showed up, but instead of firing cannon shots against the fort, he decided to starve the defenders to death. As a result we got tied to England for a little

while. In this second attempt to capture Puerto Rico, what angry cannons never accomplished, an epidemic of dysentery did. Chronic diarrhea broke among the British troops and England retreated. Clifford's military strategy allowed us to belong to England, but distance imposed a barrier to his leadership, so he succumbed.

Nothing captures best the hidden feelings of the people in that age than the words of Pablo Morales, a resident of Puerto Rico in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, who wrote, "The British, the Dutch and the French were demons in our past. They kept hunting us...But Spain, like Satan, possesses and subjects us to a harsh, mean, cruel, and despotic regime." A regime that lasted until 1898 which marks up a transition time. From the hands of an empire, which was a mere shadow of it's own self, Spain, we were ceded to an emergent world power: the United States.

The Puerto Rican national character is shaped by external events like invasion, storms, earthquakes, seaquakes, and hurricanes. England's short presence here allowed Spanish to remain as the mother tongue. English is widely spoken. Highly refined, culturally educated and spiritually oriented people in this land adopt it. Puerto Rico today is

a Commonwealth of the United States. It is classified as the veritable showcase.

Without leaders there is no vision. Without leaders there is no sense of direction. Don't advertise to me your past accomplishments! Let me know where you intend to lead this people... To me that is leadership!

Our needs allow leaders to be born. To awake! You and I lead. When we meet there is excitement and great expectation. One leaves the meeting reinvigorated, rejuvenated and renewed.

The mission of the leader is no other than to teach other people to lead. One must surrender to the temptation to be in the spotlight. My name, the award, the recognition, past conquests and prestige is irrelevant. Once one travels in this path, the thrill is to provoke people to take off, to elevate oneself no matter how many times one falls...like your birds when they begin to fly.

Lead the members of your region in flight and if nothing is happening ask yourself the following questions:

**A**re you present? Allow no divisions. Do not promote struggles. Hold no grudge, no resentment against anyone in your group. If anyone robs you of your time or takes advantage of you, seek no revenge. My wife Lourdes

taught me that "life takes care of it, and when punishment reaches the offender, one feels pity and compassion for them." If in your absence some asks, "where is he or she?", then you are present.

**W**ho is your enemy? A celebrity in the avicultural field, a genius in the academic world and a German now a resident in the U.S., Dr. Rhiner Erhart. A man recognized in many circles as one of the foremost authorities in the field of mutations of birds honored my family and empowered it with his visit. I still can hear the echo of his voice telling myself and my wise son, Carlos Alberto, the following anecdote, "There were tough times during the Second World War. Back at that time lots of prayers were done in every house of Germany. I still recall the American warplanes bombarding the refinery nearby our house. One day, as I returned from school, one of those planes spotted me. The pilot decided to have a little fun with me as he began to shower bullets from the sky. Lucky me, for he missed the target." From this story I gathered to share, to surrender, and give that which hurts the most to give is the best. Making false promise is like showing off; it belittles the spirit to the size of a dwarf.

Are you allowing others to succeed? I heard a Canary winner exhibitor in Miami say; "No one sells their best birds." Oh, I know. I've seen people who will not improve someone else's stock because they are rivals at the shows. Does this make sense to you? How many birds couldn't reach the highest standards because you wouldn't allow them to reach a place where someone may win thanks for your efforts?

Are you running? In this election I have decided to walk, not run. In that way I will have a chance to listen to our members; to shake their hands; to hear their comments, to mold our vision. Walk don't run. Listen, don't talk. The majority seems to be running. They go to the same places, react in the same way when things don't go the way they want them to go and disregard anyone who does not render cult to their personality.

Are you hooked on your vision? Sister Isolina Ferre is our new member. She breeds Canaries, Lovebirds and Finches. Who are we writing about? Sister must be God's favorite breeder in this planet. She is a soul breeder. She is constantly raising man's spirit in the image of God. I could tell if you are close to God if you represent to me the godlike ideals: to be faithful

decent, committed a giver. Sister is. Her presence to me is reminder that nothing will happen here unless we unify our spirituality, unless we unify people no matter who they are and what they think and what style of life they lead. Her eyes are a spiritual lighthouse. Her presence allows us to recharge our drive. No words need to be spoken. When we visit her we feel in another realm. From her I learned that great people can't be together all the time. They are scattered and doing work where ever they are needed. Sister teaches us to pray and to aspire to saintliness. When Mother Theresa of Calcutta visited Puerto Rico only one person in this island deserved a picture taken next to her, Sister Isolina Ferre, our living Puerto Rican saint. If you come to Puerto Rico's National Cage Bird Show with its earthly awards, you may enjoy a great reward, meeting our spiritual teacher and living saint. To think that in the past we had to read about the life of the saints, unlike today when we could meet and talk to them, person to person. We love you Sister! Read her book and you will be transformed lesson from our mentor, teacher and friend. Who is your enemy? In the long run our best friend.

Is he a member of the Society? To my dismay he was not, but I signed him up donating a free

membership. Why? Three years ago he arrived to conduct his course of Tropical Ecology and he brought some Lady Gouldians to Chris, at #1 guest house. Two years ago he delivered a cage from Corners Unlimited so the visitors could enjoy the most spectacular presence of the birds at Numero Uno GuestHouse. (What a play to stay in Puerto Rico. It's the best). A year ago, Chris goes to watch our Regional Show in Ponce and becomes a member of NFSS. Dr. Rhiner Erhart did this and much more.

**A**re you showing your birds? If you do not bring your birds to show, then you are not contributing. While looking at my stock, Dr. Erhart saw a fawn shafttail and it was love at first sight. "Wow! What a bird!" That to me meant "bring it to the show. It is a winner." A day later Dr. Decouteau stopped while judging the finches and said, "this is the best bird I have seen so far." Let me share a secret with you. The winning bird belonged to Brenda Geesey. When she brought the bird during a New Year's Eve, very late at night, while everyone slept, a youngster dropped a dozen firecrackers into our aviary. The blast caused heavy casualties. Brenda will recall how I cried when I was notified about the casualties. The bird Dr. Decouteau judged was one that survived the bombing and won in show a first place. Be

patient for sorrow leads to joy in life.

Are you showing when things get tough? In 1996 when Hurricane Hortense hit Puerto Rico, electricity was shot down, water did not reach the house, the television transmission collapsed, and the only thing that worked during the night was the telephone line. That night my wife and I prayed like during the bombing nights of Erhart in German. We made dozens of petitions that night. Two people called us before God had a chance to answer our prayers that night, Brenda Geesey and Bruce Evanick from Algiers Point in New Orleans. They both taught me a lesson of pure, detached, spiritual leadership.

**H**ave you kept your promises? Once upon a time I met a breeder teacher who showed and met a man who wanted to become his disciple. The teacher offered to give a pair of birds from his stock to the student so he could win awards and recognition at the show. I did not ask for the birds. I did not need the birds. A promise was not fulfilled and I learned a great lesson. Some people offer with their mouths what they are not willing to surrender. I pray now that when I make a promise I'll have the courage of democracy, the real wonder of technology, the leader worldwide in the field of telecommunications

and pharmaceutical products; third most important market of consumers for material goods that are being done in the United States. There is a free enterprise system where the ambition of the old and the young are respected. No concentration camps. No rows to buy food at the grocery store. You will never see dozens, hundreds, thousands of people begging for money on the sides of the streets. We hate sowing seeds of racial prejudice. We abominate sowing seeds of religious fanaticism. There are Universities scattered all over the island and in my generation out of five people, three have earned degrees from the institutions of higher learning. Our economy shifted from one fully dependent on the agricultural field into one that depends on the new industries and it is facing silent transition into the age of information. Unlike the first King of England, we speak and write English. It is obligatory, mandatory, compulsory, you are requested, required, forced and it is an obligation to speak the language of Shakespeare in this land.

While watching all this growth in the last forty years of my life, as a man whose not a blue blooded kid, and who has experimented a lot in scarcity, needs, penury, misery, and great limitations in life. I am equipped to write to all of you some

reflections about leadership, for election time approaches. So let me share with you a few things that I've learned in the years I've been Vice President of NFSS in the Caribbean Region.

#### On Leadership!

Thanks to the poor, leaders are borne! Thanks to limitations, leaders are borne! Thanks to problems, leaders are borne! Thanks to the lazy, leaders are borne! Thanks to indifference, leaders are borne! Thanks to the greedy, selfish and ambitious; leaders are borne! Thanks to the immoral people, leaders are borne! Thanks to people of the lie, leaders are borne! Without leaders, there is no faith! Without leaders, there is no hope! Without leaders, there is no example! Without leaders, there are no gods!

Sister Isolina Ferre: in quest of a vision. Paulist Press, 1997. Nuns are not boring people. You'll be surprised.

Who is the leader? You are. Stop looking somewhere else. You will continue to be a leader as long as you detach yourself from ambition that corrupts.

The leader has no time for gossip!  
The leader never attempts to destroy another person's potential for stardom!  
The leader never gets tired of helping!  
The leader is a center and a powerhouse of love!  
**Lead my friend!**



## Contact Call

- ◆ I received an inquiry from a person wanting to purchase owl finches. It wasn't until I read further into the letter than it became apparent that the person inquiring about the birds wanted to use them in a University funded research project on hybridization. The crossing of owl and zebra finches to be exact. I am not a supporter of hybridization and told the solicitor in polite terms that I would not sell any of my stock to him/her. I would be very interested to hear the viewpoints from the membership on this topic.

Kerri McCoy – Birmingham, AL

Here's how it works:

Have a question, send it in. Have a thought on a topic listed in Contact Call or even a new topic, send it in.

With the contribution of the membership Contact Call can be an avenue for NFSS members to voice their concerns, questions, or opinions.

Send to:  
Kerri McCoy  
NFSS Bulletin Editor

## Young Birds Take Honors at Specialty Show

By: Martha Wigmore, Elk River, MN.

What's it take to shore up one aspect of our hobby? The Specialty Show is working some magic in the Zebra finch fancy. The Second Annual All Zebra and Society Finch Show was held on August 2, 1997 in Grandview (Kansas City), Missouri. Young birds continue to show the tremendous progress made by both Zebra and Society breeders across the country.

Paul Williams of Papillion, Nebraska, a panel judge with NFSS as well as a respected canary breeder and judge, placed the birds at this year's Specialty. It was advertised that Mr. Williams himself exhibits a certain amount of showmanship at every event he adjudicates, or is it simply that he is easily "encouraged" by the gallery? In any event, Paul supplied highly effective visual aids in explaining certain judging criteria, including his personal illustration of top dome (see photograph below). Paul was impressed with the



birds, and quite sincerely the exhibitors were equally impressed with his placement of the 116 birds entered.

Best Zebra in Show, Best Normal Gray, and Best Unflighted was Harold and Margie McBrayer of League City, Texas (see photograph page 40); Best Fawn was Tom Rood of Shelbyville, Illinois; Best Chestnut-flanked White was Bob Vargo of Mountainside, New Jersey; Best Pied was Nita Haas of Raymore, Missouri; Best White was Moses Linn of Kansas City, Missouri; Best Lightback was Charlie Anchor of Addison, Illinois; Best Florida Fancy



was Jamie Jackson of Shawnee, Kansas; Best Phaeo was Clarence Culwell of Springtown, Texas; Best Silver was B. Vargo; Best Crème was T. Rood; Best Orange Breasted was J. Jackson; Jackson; Best Black Breasted was J. Jackson; Best AOV was C. Culwell; Best Pair was T. Rood; and Best Novice was Pat and Dan Sholtes of Grimes, Iowa. There were eleven exhibitors of Zebra Finches with 94 entries.

**B**est Society in Show, Best Chocolate Self, and Best Unflighted was Bob Vargo of Mountainside, New Jersey (see photograph page 40); Best Chocolate and White was Nita Haas of Raymore, Missouri; Best Fawn Self was Clarence Culwell of Springtown, Texas; Best Fawn and White was N. Haas; Best Fawn Dilute was Dennis Burhans of Lake St. Louis, Missouri; Best Chestnut Self was C. Culwell; Best Chestnut and White was N. Haas; Best Crested was C. Culwell; and Best Pairs was Jackie Bourey-Meyer of Decatur, Illinois. There were five exhibitors of Society Finches with 22 entries.

**O**ne may certainly ask, why not move this Specialty Show to other cities around the U.S.? At present it's hard to argue with a few terrific volunteers (thank you, Nita Haas and Warren Lillygren), and with the earnest and generous support of exhibitors throughout the central U.S. But, Bob Vargo's experiences at the Specialty demonstrate that it is a trip well worth taking from any distance, even from the coasts.

**A**s we visit all-bird shows around the country, there's more Zebra talk than ever. And plenty of renewed efforts with the birds in birdrooms – with both the new and old mutations. A little-big show can go a long ways in this hobby.

**P**lan on attending the third annual All Zebra and Society Finch Show on August 8, 1998 in the Kansas City, Missouri area. U.S. fanciers are privileged to have U.K. Zebra Finch Society judge and official, Ms. Margaret Binns from Manchester, England judging this year's event. For more information contact Ms. Nita Haas at (816) 331-5285.

## The Finches Who Lived in the Closet

By: Gail K. Kaitschuch,  
Augusta, GA.

The Cutthroat Finch (*Amadina fasciata*), also known as the Ribbon Finch is a 4-1/2 inch bird originally from Africa. Although classified as a prolific breeder, it can also be a challenge as many have the tendency to throw out nestlings or refuse to feed them. Sometimes they will incubate and feed until the last egg is hatched, then begin tossing babies. Because nestlings are black in color when born and tend to beg with necks held straight up, many Mannikin and Australian finches, such as societies and Zebras refuse to foster them.

I had problems getting mine to raise babies until I began following suggestions originally published in *Finch and Canary World*. I moved one pair into a large cage measuring 4 ft. by 2 ft. by 3 ft. Plantings were kept to a minimum and one perch was placed near the top of the cage and the other near the bottom to encourage exercise. To keep human contact to a minimum, the cage was moved to the only room in the house where light and contact could be controlled, an unused closet. Vitamines were placed in the closet and a timer was used to turn the lights on at 6:30 a.m. and off at 9:00 p.m. Human contact was limited to twice a day to replenish food and water.

The protein needs of these finches may be greater than those of Australian finches. Fortified finch seed was provided, as was egg food. The egg food posed the greatest challenge; I live in a hot humid climate and am gone during the day. My solution was to increase protein through the use of gamebird pellets and dried cat food, blended to a fine powder. Both products are 30% proteins. These were added to a mixture of cornbread crumbs, wheatgerm, hard-boiled eggs, and eggshells, ground cuttlebone and dried fruits and vegetables. The egg food is kept in the freezer and sprinkled over the seed. Mealworms were also tried but were ignored.

These changes seemed to have worked. Within two weeks of "going into the closet", the hen began laying and the pair began incubating. A large finch nest was used and a second "bachelor" nest (ignored by the pair) was hung in the cage. To prevent the pair from throwing out nestlings after all had hatched, a "dummy egg" (infertile egg), was added to the clutch of fertile eggs. The pair continued to sit on the infertile egg and feed their four babies until they had fledged.

This may not be the answer to every Cutthroat Finch owner's problems but if you are having problems getting them to raise their own babies, you might want to try some of the things I have outlined in this article. Good luck.

## A Safe Haven

By Eb Cravens

U.S. aviculture now embodies a restless striving for maturity, a sort of birdkeeping middle age. It seems a goodly portion of those of us who love and keep avian species are finding that mankind's view of the earth around us is changing so quickly that many of the reasons we began keeping birds in the first place are no longer adequate. On all sides, we find ourselves bombarded with questions about avian conservation measures, hybridization, pet industry standards of care, breeding farms whose success is measured in numbers of offspring, and the overall quality of birds we hatch and raise.

Certain moral dilemmas may have been up with others in aviculture and had the courage to campaign for "no more wild captured pets" just as with the endangered whale, the gorilla, the orca; someone had to be first to shout "no more trapping".

Now the ethical questions in aviculture abound on different fronts. Can we maintain our present captive gene pools indefinitely? Will we be able to find a way to preserve in the U.S. the lusterless species with limited appeal? Does our desire for new

and rare mutations drown our love for the natural nominate species?

Where does each of us stand as the Europeans, South Africans, and the rest of the world's birdkeepers begin to argue out the question of wild caught imports in their own bird clubs and legislative corridors. Truly this "middle age" of American aviculture is an era fraught with mid life crisis.

...what we bird  
lovers and  
breeders can offer  
our flocks is a  
"safe haven".

It is clearly not a time when U.S. birdkeepers can stoically sit back and breed and sell their baby birds while turning away from such serious considerations. What is needed is professionalism in the aviary, and cooperation among these working with the best interest of the birds in mind.

World ecology is changing at a dizzying rate. Species, plants, and animals are being uprooted and transported thousands of miles to new continents; there to be kept, bred, even to escape and once again take root. Nurseries and commercial greenhouses are changing the vegetative zones across North America so fast that scientists cannot be sure just which species will be prevalent in a given area five, ten, or twenty years hence.

In the face of such odds, many aviculturists talk of re-release of captive-bred birds into the wilds as totally unrealistic. Others, including myself, consider it a dream. As optimists we believe knowledge of techniques necessary to accomplish such goals will increase. Perhaps whole preserves for donated exotic birds will become a reality in this or other countries.

In the meantime, what we bird lovers and breeders can offer our flocks is a "safe haven". A place free from harm, stress, or un-due danger where the birds can live out their lives with as much happiness and contentment as we can provide.

A safe haven, a place of rest and protection on the road from here to there. At it's best such a haven will mimic the native environment of the species being kept. Afterall, green is green and wood and water are the same everywhere.

When I first became committed to natural methods of birdkeeping, I thought the most difficult part would be feeding wild crafted and raw foods and the providing of green materials and branches for my flock to perch within and chew upon. But, in truth the hardest part of birdkeeping naturally is keeping the interest and mental stimulation of my birds satisfied. There is always a cage whose occupants

would like more wildflowers, another rotting log, new potted plants, a change in toys, more frequent baths, or a companion with which to breed. Natural birdkeeping is ceaseless work. A safe haven means a living habitat in which my birds are as comfortable and as home as possible.

A brief word about this term "bird collection". A speaker at a recent AFA national convention stated that there is "no cure once a person gets the bug for birds", and that presently he has 2000. I disagree. A single pair of budgies can cure the "bug" for birds in some of the most devoted birdkeepers of America. It is not the number of birds I keep that makes me a praiseworthy aviculturist. It is not the indulgence of desire for more or newer or more expensive species, which satisfies. It is the love and fascination of the birds themselves; the birds as birds, not income producers, status symbols or parts of an out of control collection. I do not keep a collection of avian species anymore than I keep a collection of apple trees, or a collection of dogs or cats.

Years ago, I found myself more excited about the acquisition of a new bird than the prospect of caring for it or learning from it. I took a serious look at what I wanted from my avicultural hobby, and realized

it was to be close to the wonderful winged creatures.

A safe haven. As soon as the amount of work involved in taking care of your flock increases to the point when you can no longer get close to each and everyone of the birds; it's time to take a look at your motives. There is only so much time to give, and whenever there is a breeder who gets burnt out and sells his flock.

Whenever there is a relationship break-up over avicultural workload and stress; whenever there are avian things being shuffled and dealt from one keeper to another; split up and shipped out; sold, then I feel sad. It is hard enough keeping birds content and long lived in one site. To transfer them when one is tired of the commitment is a type of avicultural failure.

A safe haven. I now find myself cutting back the number of pairs I keep in order to give more time to each aviary. As I learned to let go my need to own new and finer species, my satisfaction began to come in different forms. Watching one of my own handfed amazon pets grow and develop. Learn to fly along living trees. Reach puberty and begin to love a mate of it's own species, and perhaps to raise a clutch of it's own, while still trusting me enough to come to my shoulder for a head scratch and treat; this is aviculture for me. This is only

possible when I have an open cage space, which allows me to keep my favored offspring and not sell and ship them traumatically to a strange home after weaning.

For me, aviculture with a smaller flock is infinitely more rewarding. There are fewer day to day factors I feel guilty about; fewer neglected fine points in my aviaries with limited funding. I now find I can plan and build larger tree flights, offer foods purchased in organic and health food stores, and spend greater amounts of time with each and every chick.

Not only is my hobby breeding operation tidier, more streamlined and efficient, but I now have more time for a private life beyond my birds. Cutting back my number of species (as expert friends have been noting for years), allows me to gently increase the number of pairs of each species I keep. Each pair becomes a favored project, so to speak, to which I focus problem solving energies, and from which I glean new insight and learning.

And the extra time I now have for myself, I'm using it to begin to work on my own life's safe haven.

This article was originally published in the American Society of Aviculture newsletter. We thank ASA for their kind permission to reprint this work.

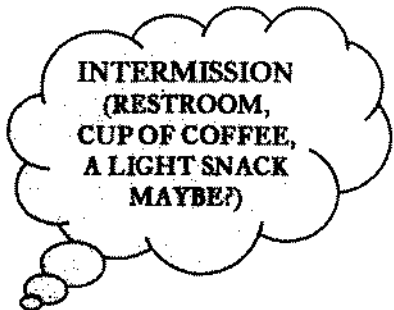
## Showing is More Than Just "Showing"

By Mr. Tom Rood,  
Shelbyville, IL

My original intent for this article was to just give a report of the finch and softbill division at the National Cage Bird Show held this past November in Denver, Colorado. Having had the honor of being the NFSS panel judge for the Denver National, I took some notes during my judging with the idea of writing up a nice article for the Bulletin. However, when this idea was presented to our new editor, Kerri McCoy, she conveyed to me the fact that many members were wanting articles other than information about the exhibition of birds and that she was receiving word from many people that the NFSS was strictly a "show club". At about the same time that I was in contact with Kerri, I received several email messages from one of our board members along the same lines. Not being a member of one of the many chat lines on the Internet, I understand that we have prospective NFSS members who also worry that the organization is strictly a "show club" which makes them hesitant to join.

With this in mind, I decided to try to combine all facets of our hobby into this article. First of all, I am a firm believer that the National Finch and Softbill Society has plenty of room for all types of members. There are members out there who are excellent bird breeders and join NFSS to receive the publications put out by the club. These members are very happy participating in this part of the hobby. I know they could share a wealth of information with us and I urge them to put their knowledge on paper and submit their experiences for publication in the Bulletin. There are members out there who just have a few finches or softbills as pets. Just recently, I talked with a lady who has a couple of small aviaries built in her house stocked with finches for her own enjoyment. NFSS most certainly has room for this type of hobbyist. I wonder how many of those members are out there with birds that we would give anything to own? There are NFSS members out there who breed large numbers of finches for the purpose of selling them. Should these people be a welcome part of our hobby? Of course they should be as they are providing a service by getting finches into the hands of other interested breeders. I wonder how many of us started with just a pair of finches or a few odd birds in a decorative flight cage?

Another group of dedicated NFSS members includes those who are very serious about the breeding of finches and softbills. My, what would we do without these people? These are the people who study the habits and environments of our various finches and softbills trying to duplicate these conditions in their own birdrooms and aviaries. These are the people who have a wealth of knowledge that we rely on when we have our own questions concerning a specific breed or variety. These are the people for whom our NFSS FinchSave program was designed – a program in which many members participate. Sometime take a few minutes and check out our NFSS Census. It is very interesting to see all of the breeds and varieties of finches and softbills being bred out there. Thank goodness we have those members active in this aspect of our hobby.



**INTERMISSION  
(RESTROOM,  
CUP OF COFFEE,  
A LIGHT SNACK  
MAYBE?)**

If you are still with me, THANK YOU! If not, shame on you because you will miss the free prize at the end of this article!!

Well, this part of my article deals with the showing or exhibition of birds, and YES there is room for us too. Finally, I get to the reason this article is entitled what it is. I will admit to you that I do enjoy the exhibition part of our hobby, and I make no excuse for this admittance, nor do I apologize.

There is room in the NFSS for bird shows and they do provide a service to our hobby. But, I feel that "showing is more than just showing". I honestly believe that most of the exhibitors in our hobby exhibit their birds for more than just to win a ribbon or trophy. If this were true, we would not need seating space for the gallery, and many exhibitors would just send their birds with other friends intent on collecting their ribbons when the friend returns with the birds.

For those NFSS members, non-members, and prospective members in attendance at the Denver National, the finch and softbill division was certainly more than just showing birds. Imagine the expense involved in attending the Denver National. At least three days in a hotel room, all meals, round trip airline tickets, rental

cars, gas, etc. etc. All of this for a \$.25 ribbon or a \$2.00 rosette? I really don't think so.

If you were able to attend the National you got in on a two-day finch and softbill workshop. The judging was held on Friday. There were a total of 198 entries shown by

...encourage you to give some of your knowledge back to the NFSS.

thirty-one exhibitors. We started judging at 9:00 a.m. and finished at

about 5:00 p.m. During that time, there were constant finch and softbill discussions going on. Birds were passed around the gallery, exhibitors were invited to walk up to the judging bench on occasion to view the exhibits under the lights, questions were asked of the judge, and the judge in turn asked questions of the gallery. While all of this was going on, several "unusual" cages were presented the judge as is typical of a certain group of finch people. In other words, we did have a good time throughout the day of judging.

On Saturday, all of the finch exhibits were open to the public and the exhibitors for close up viewing. There were so many discussions doing on that you had to pick and choose which ones to listen to. There is no way you could leave

the National without learning something new about the breeding of finches and softbills. Many new finch hobbyists left Denver enthused about the hobby, and many of us "old-timers" left anxious for the new breeding season to begin.

Showing does help other aspects of the finch hobby. Where would most of us have the opportunity to view so many species of finches and softbills at one time other than at a bird show? The quality and condition of most of the birds on display made for a beautiful representation of our hobby. The softbills were probably down in numbers, but the quality was there. It's odd, but most of the softbills at the Denver show were small ones. I think the largest softbill there was a Pekin Robin. A beautiful Zosterops took the award for Best Softbill and ended up 7<sup>th</sup> Best in Show. Oh yes, there were some cage bred and closed banded Pekin Robins entered in the show!

The Zebra section was supported by 46 exhibits with some very nice birds on display. LOTS of unflighted Zebras were representing many of the color mutations. As a matter of fact, the top three Zebras were all unflighted. The section was won by a gray male who went on to win 6<sup>th</sup> Best in Show. We had a good discussion



about pied Zebras due to the bird I put up as 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Zebra. A few of the newer color mutations were exhibited and the quality is getting much better year after year.

The 55 Australians were super with the top 4 Australians taking 4 of the 5 top places in the whole show (plus the Kellogg Trophy). Australians took 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> in show. A beautiful Orange-headed Gould won the section and the Kellogg Trophy for Best in Show. He was followed by two diamond sparrows and a Redheaded Gould.

The section of 42 African finches is the one I remember the most. When it got down to the last 12 or 13 Africans, I really hated to send any of them back. But, a super little Firefinch came out on top. He also took 3<sup>rd</sup> Best in Show.

I could go on and on about the birds shown at the National, but I think you are getting the picture. Exhibiting is where our NFSS members get to "showcase" all of the beautiful breeds and varieties to the public. I wonder how many of us saw our first Honeycreeper, Paradise Whydah, Violet-eared Waxbill, or Blue-backed Gouldian at a show? How many of us went home wanting to breed these varieties ourselves?

I do feel there is room in this great hobby of ours for all facets of the finchdom. No matter which part of the hobby you choose to participate in, I wish you the best of luck and encourage you to give some of your knowledge back to the NFSS.

P.S. There is no free prize at the end of this article, but I did get you to read it all. Sorry, there are times when one goes to desperate measures.

## The Red Faced Parrot Finch

(*Erythrura Psittacea*)

By: Mr. Bruce Dixon,  
Melbourne, Australia



In setting out to write this basically simple article, I do so on the basis that despite my searching, I could not find a volume of any nature devoted to this particular breed. Whilst they do gain mention in books written on foreign finches; I found the information, whilst valuable, did not in my opinion, do just to this magnificent little bird.

The enjoyment that I have gained in breeding the species has been invaluable. And, whilst not my first choice of bird when starting off in aviculture; it has possibly been instrumental in not only maintaining my interest, but making me really hungry to find out more and more about this delightful aviary character. And, characters they certainly are.

This article then is not designed or written as an authoritative text on the breed, but rather as an introduction that I wish I had received, and as such I trust that you find that it assists you.

Latin Name: *Erythrura Psittacea*  
Sub species: nil  
Size: 115mm  
Weight: 15 grams  
Origin: New Caledonia  
Habitat: Open country bordering forested areas, and at any altitude where the habitat is suitable.  
Climate Base: In it's original habitat being on the same latitude as Townsville. Ideally when first introduced to Australia, it was more suited to areas north of Sydney but over time has adapted well to southern Australia and seems to thrive providing normal prudent precautions are taken to prevent cold winds and draughts.

**A**viary Requirements: Frankly, I don't think it really matters. Whilst ideally they may prefer a large well-planted aviary, with plenty of flight space. This should not be seen as a detriment to the new breeder with limited space available. My original aviary was 9ft. long x 7ft. wide x 8ft. high and was more than adequate to cope with up to 3 pairs.

Provision should be made at the outset to be able to install slotted tracking on the front of the aviary, to slide in either Perspex or Polycarb sheets during the winter months, to keep out the winds, and help in some small part to keep heat in. In talking to some breeders, in the earlier days, cooler climate breeders were plagued with the same problems with the red faced, as that faced by gouldian breeders.

Over time the breed has adapted well to cooler climates. In my own case, being virtually on the shoreline of the coast, temperatures in the aviary get down to levels that are not comfortable for me, let alone birds, but they seem to thrive and prosper providing normal, sensible precautions, are taken to prevent direct wind contact. Prospective breeders therefore should not be intimidated. However be aware that when purchasing birds, I'm more inclined to purchase from a breeder that does not use artificial heating sources. The chances of them "hardening" to outside unheated situations would appear to be greatly improved, and you minimize potential losses. They do however like some cover within aviary, which can be achieved by planting bushes suitable to your area, or alternatively putting up appropriate brush, which even when dry seems to provide cover adequate for their needs.

Having said all that, give them food, water, and nesting material, and I think they would breed, and thrive in an outside "dunny". If within your aviary, you have the facility to grow a seeding grass, then you are guaranteeing yourself a happy flock of parrot finches.

**C**oloration: As if aviculture is not challenging enough, this species is "monomorphic". In other words both sexes look the same and whilst this may lead to some consternation early in the career of the new breeder; with time and practice, and more importantly by observation, you will be able to differentiate between the sexes, (see separate note).

The body color of the bird is green. It is a green, however hard to describe, light to be described as olive. I've heard it described as grass green. But for those reading this who are also gardeners, I'm more inclined to liken the green to the new foliage on a daisy bush, a really lovely usually uniform color. The head, brow, and a predominant part of the chest area, is a beautiful crimson scarlet. This scarlet area is also carried to rump area of the bird. But instead of being the vivid crimson, tends to be more of a vermilion color. Fledgling birds tend to be of a dull olive color.

In the nest the youngsters have the most startling iridescent blue "gape" (corners of beak). No doubt, there to help parent birds locate the gaping mouths of chicks, when entering the darkened nest, from the natural light of the aviary.

**V**isual sexing: not easy with the fledgling young you have no hope, so don't try. Everyone you speak to, or every book you read will, give you a different interpretation on how to carry out this task.

- (1) The male has a trill call (good luck with your observations).
- (2) The male tends to be slightly larger than the female.
- (3) The female tends to have a slightly rounder head.
- (4) The color of the female may be slightly duller than the male (this method is iffy depending on the time of the year) as the color density will be dictated by the bird's own condition and a host of other variables.
- (5) The secret seems to be in the eye (yours and the birds). The black line of color that extends through the eye plumage, seems to extend back further towards the neck of the male than it does in the female.

- (6) If all else fails, surgical sexing. But, do yourself a favor; ask someone that knows more than you do.

**B**reeding: In captivity, red faces seem happy to accept any form of nesting accommodation, from a standard "gouldian" or "budgerigar" nesting box, to a wicker or cane elongated tube. In the wild, they will choose cracks in walls, holes in fences. And, deserted homes offer a multitude of nooks and crannies from where they will set up home.

The hen, in my experience seems to be the predominant nest builder and does so with enormous vigor, moving vast quantities of nesting materials quickly and efficiently.

Mine seem to show a preference for well-dried pampas grass, which is both soft and pliable. Soft well-dried grass or teased strands of hessian, cut to manageable lengths are preferred as well. The nest at best could be described as "squeezy" with such an abundance of material being crammed in; you could be excused for wondering if there is room for occasionally both parents, as well as newly hatched chicks.

The height of positioning the nest in the aviary, I can only speak from my own experience is between 1.5 to 1.8 meters. But again that's not to

say, having found a nest box they like at a lower level, that they won't accept that, and happily set up home in it.

Between four and six eggs seem to constitute the lay, both parents sharing the incubation, which they do with tremendous dedication. And, whilst it is not uncommon to see both of them in the open aviary; their timing in returning to the nest is impeccable.

Red faces are highly tolerant to nest inspection. But having said that, I still suggest that you treat this tolerance as a privilege, and don't abuse it. As a result of your nest inspection, should you find a chick or chicks with a skin color that is darker than you would normally expect, this may indicate dehydration. This may suggest that you need to check your breeding diet, and may call for additional green feed, or live food, such as mealworms or maggots.

Contrary to what I have read from other breeders, regarding the pair ceasing to brood at ten days, I have not found this to be the case. In fact to the contrary, I have found that they will brood up until a couple of days of fledging. This may well be a climatic situation, and depend on where the breeder is based geographically. It may also depend on how many chicks are in the nest. The fewer the chicks, the

longer they brood. Incubation takes thirteen days. Be inclined to allow an extra day, particularly in cooler areas. The young fledge at 21 days, but as with incubation don't be too concerned if that varies marginally in cooler areas by a couple of days.

Again contrary to what I have read in other articles written on the breed, which may indicate that the fertility rate is poor, such has not been my experience; with fertility rates varying between 80 to 90 percent. These rates may well be influenced by; diet climatic conditions, or the individual pair. The latter point on individual pairs is not to be underestimated. Getting a good pair to start with, is always a bit of a lottery, but if you have, that is the avicultural equivalent of winning the lottery. All of the desirable characteristics in this pair have a higher than average chance of being passed on to their progeny.

For the first week, the newly fledged remain at about 90% dependent on the parents for feeding. But within that first week it will be observed, that despite the cajoling of the young, the parents go to inordinate lengths to introduce the young to the feed station; and almost guide them in the feeding procedure. It is within this first week that the fledgling commences

to take on the distinctive color of the breed. Whilst the juvenile color remains pretty much the same, the tail commences to redden, and the chest feathers become a dull bronze, not unlike the chest color of a swallow. At approximately four weeks, the fledgling young get their first hint of red appearing in the chest area, usually in the upper extremities of the chest. You may read in other articles that the fledgling young, having left the nest, do not return to it. Don't believe it.

Cooler climate breeders can vouch for the fact, that not only do they return to the nest; they may well return to a new nest in which they were not hatched. Characteristic of the breed, the parents may have well set up a new nest, and be sitting on a new brood, prior to the fledging of the last.

Now realistically you may believe you have a problem, particularly in light of the fact, that you should not move the original fledged young out fewer than four weeks. Somehow, the parent birds solve the problem themselves and it is not uncommon to see the nuisance young gently evicted by a parent. Nature seems to take care of itself and as this only seems to occur in the first week of fledging, you should not be unduly concerned. Believe me, it will take

care of itself. I had one group of fledglings, who took great delight in checking on their siblings every day. Poking their heads into the nest, confusing the heck out of the chicks, who thinking it was their parents, cried out consistently to be fed.

Don't be too anxious to put your marker rings on the fledglings. Four weeks is adequate. While on the subject of marker rings and this can happen to anyone; you have great pair of birds that you have either purchased or bred that has no marker rings for one reason or another. How do you keep track of them, and how do you record them for later use?

Don't panic as usual their is an answer, and it does not only apply to red faces. Ask your wife for a lipstick that is not kiss proof. Apply this lipstick around the entrance to the nest, the coming and going of the parent birds will obviously leave traces on the bird that you wish to identify. The rest of the job of ringing the birds is then up to you, (but you don't have to kiss them).

**B**reeding Diet: The following diet has been successful for me. The individual breeder will have variations that will work for them, and that's fine. Don't be afraid to change or modify.

The breeding diet should be introduced a couple of weeks prior to the introduction of your chosen nesting boxes.

### *Soaked seed*

7 parts plain canary seed  
1 part red panikin  
1 part yellow panikin  
1 part canola

When analyzing the remains of the seed at the end of the day, by far the most popular seed taken was canary. Commercial egg and biscuit mix 80% dry.

I have not found that the addition of hard-boiled egg is necessary. Which is not to say that it shouldn't be added if you desire. Mealworms whilst offered, may initially be rejected. And, even whilst feeding the pre-fledged young, I found that mine showed a distinct preference for sprouted seed, and seed heads. Particularly "Johnson grass", getting stuck into the stalk first, extracting either a juice or pulp, but either way being on the floor almost before the grass lands on the aviary floor.

The fledgling young take live food, such as mealworms with tremendous gusto. They will take literally any size worm, and if to big to take in one hit, will suck the pulp out of the worm. Green food, on the other hand, takes them about two weeks to come to grips with, but

having discovered it, like live food, their appetite is fairly insatiable.

As with all other breeds, fresh water should be available at all times, water having a greater relevance to red faces than most other finches (see separate note under "aviary habits").

Whilst the breed spend a great deal of time on the floor, I find that apart from seeding grass, I prefer to use an elevated feeding platform for their regular feeding. The red faced is a voracious feeder, and spends an enormous amount of time at the feeding station. However, on the old principal of "energy out equals energy in" taking into account the vivacious nature of the bird and the amount of time that it is always on the move, its feeding habits are not totally surprising.

**C**haracteristics and Aviary Habits: The "red faced" is a true delight to have in a mixed aviary or as a colony breeder. They have a natural inquisitive nature, and seem to have the happy knack of recognizing the breeder immediately and greeting them at the aviary door. Sounds ridiculous but you may well find this is your own experience.

As mentioned earlier, the breed is totally vivacious, totally energetic, and always on the move, be it on the ground or on the wing.

They have a gentle nature. I have seen a pair of mine intimidated by a couple of Cordons. This characteristic makes them an ideal choice, for a mixed aviary and an ideal choice for a new breeder.

Water plays an enormous part in the life of a red faced quite apart from sustaining its life; they love jumping in and out of it. Bathing will take place a couple of times a day, summer or winter and I am led to believe by other breeders should for any reason they neglect this bathing ritual, they begin to look, totally "ratty".

One truly delightfully side effect of this bathing habit is to observe other finches jumping into the water with the red faces and emulate the activity, usually not with the same finesse.

I can recall with some skepticism reading in "Russell Kingston's" excellent volume "A Complete Manual for the Keeping and Breeding of Finches", the anecdote that he used to describe the breeder in Tasmania, who was required by his red faces to chip the ice off of their water container, in order that they may get their daily bath. Now, I am not as skeptical, and would believe it to be very true. Next to food, water is possibly one of the most important considerations in

the life of a Red Faced Parrot Finch.

The bonding of parents to the fledglings whilst I'm sure is not in itself unique, does make for fascinating observation. In the early days after emergence from the nest, the boisterous, rough and tumble of the youngsters as they clamor their parents for food, is done with such incredible gusto, that allowing for their size; they do knock the larger parents off the perch. Or have alternatively been seen actually sitting on the parents' back! You can be pretty sure that at this point, knowing red faces you may perceive that you have a problem, particularly if you have another brood in the nest. Should you remove the current fledglings, when you see that the live food, that should be destined for the new brood is being devoured at a rate hard to believe by the fledglings; and, actually and vigorously competing with the parent for the live food? Under four weeks no. After that your decision.

A characteristic also of the red face, is their almost semi-nocturnal nature. They are always last to roost at night, and can be seen still on the food station, or darting around the aviary when you have the house lights on. Conversely, they are first to stir in the morning, and yes



you're right, they are back on the food platform, well before the other aviary inhabitants have stirred. The pair bonding of the adult birds is very strong, and in the aviary they are seldom seen apart. However, should either one die, a new partner should be introduced as soon as possible. It is always advisable to have more hens in your colony than cock birds. For apart from keeping them honest, it does minimize potential conflict between males, which whilst not deadly, may result in a few feathers missing.

**W**orming: As the bird does spend a lot of time foraging on the floor you should expect that you are going to need to deal with a worm burden. Some school of thought may indicate that parrot finches per say do not respond well to worming. The following works for me, and was given to me by the person from whom I purchased my first pair of birds, and whose opinion I value highly; 80 mils of water, 1.5 mils of Avitrol Plus, 2.0 mils of strawberry topping. The strawberry topping seems to make it more palatable without affecting the efficacy of product. Use your own judgment on how often you dose, but 3 or 4 times a year would seem appropriate, particularly if you are feeding live food.

**S**ummary: This brief article has tried to stay away from the technical nature of color mutations, and the myriad other aspects that will attract breeders looking for other challengers. Rather I have tried to document incidental and everyday occurrences that I have encountered, in the hope that new breeders and perhaps breeders of long experience may find of interest and perhaps assistance. If so then it has been worth the time and effort. Whilst perhaps further down the track I may find a species or breed that excites me more, and I guess that is what aviculture is all about. But in the meantime, I will continue to gain many hours of enjoyment and delight in the observation and keeping of this delightful little bird. And perhaps suggest that if you have both the space and inclination, why not consider adding a pair to your collection. I suspect you may enjoy the experience.

## FinchSave Program

By: Daniel Almaguer

Howdy to all NFSS members. Please allow me to introduce myself. I am native of Gonzales, Texas living in Orlando, Florida. For the past six years I have been working for Walt Disney World Company at Epcot Guest Relations. I would opportunity to work with FinchSave and especially my mentors of NFSS who have inspired me to take the challenge of a lifetime! I have been breeding finches for twenty something years and hope to make a difference with FinchSave in 1998-99.

I encourage ALL NFSS members to become participants in our FinchSave program. The opportunity to develop networks, locate needed species, and assist each other in becoming more knowledgeable in the keeping and breeding of finch and softbill species are all fundamentals of the FinchSave program. Participants are no longer required to have a minimum number of pairs but are encouraged to start with atleast 3 unrelated pairs of birds if at all possible. The participation **EACH** and **EVERYONE** is crucial to the success of fellow breeders working with the same species.

### FinchSave Requirements:

- ◆ Participants must be current NFSS members.
- ◆ Participant must agree to close band young with the recommended size of NFSS bands. I understand parent raised birds and rare species require little if no disturbance; and open bands will be accepted as a last resort.
- ◆ Participant must agree to complete a brief annual report.
- ◆ Because of their known availability or questionable genetic purity the following species are excluded from the FinchSave program: Zebra Finches, Gouldian Finches, Heck's Grassfinches (Shaftails), Java Rice Birds, and Bengalese (Society) Finches.

Our goals include providing the opportunity for communication between participants with regular updated rosters; free FinchSave ads in the Bulletin's classified section to assist in locating, trading, and buying or selling stock. Kerri McCoy our NFSS Bulletin Editor has created a section for FinchSave materials and our application to be included in every issue of the Bulletin; in lieu of a

separate application and newsletter as was done in the past.

I encourage any and all feedback and suggestions from NFSS members regarding what you would like to see FinchSave accomplish over the next 2 years. Should you be trying to locate a specific species to complete a pair, please feel free to contact me via phone, fax, mail, or email. Your participation will help strengthen the impact of the FinchSave program in establishing a dedicated consortium of breeders of finches and softbills.

Sincerely,

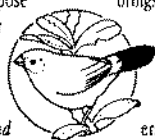
*Daniel Almaguer*

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

FinchSave/Census Manager

## THE ESTRILDIAN

The Estrildian is 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. Within its 124 species are all of the Waxbills, Parrot-finches, Mannikins and Australian finches. The aviculturists and the scientist have much to offer each other and the ESTRILDIAN



brings together like-minded enthusiasts from around the world. The magazine is sent to 13 different countries ranging from Australia to Puerto Rico and has many leading Zoo's, Aviculturists and Researchers as both members and contributors. With well over 100 members in the U.S.A. we have now been able to reduce our overseas subscription rates.

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'ESTRILDID FORUM'

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

ENGLAND



## The 1998 National Finch and Softbill Society Census



The NFSS Annual Census continues to be a valuable service for finch and softbill breeders. Through the voluntary census, NFSS is able to identify breeders of finches and softbills being bred in captivity. Unfortunately, the current status of bird importations has had a detrimental effect on breeders trying to obtain new bloodlines. The census results that are published in the NFSS Bulletin, provide the necessary information to assist various breeders in locating avian stock, locating others with shared interests, and continuing preservation efforts. Please take a few minutes and review and fill out this census form. The information you share with your fellow NFSS members will assist aviculture and help preserve finch and softbill species in captivity in the years to come.

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR CENSUS TODAY! NFSS WILL PUBLISH/RELEASE ONLY YOUR PHONE NUMBER.**  
(all other personal information will remain confidential)

Send completed form to:  
**FinchSave/Census Manager**  
**Daniel Almaguer**  
 P.O. Box 533015  
 Orlando, FL 32853-3015  
 Phone: (407) 894-3808  
 Fax: (407) 894-6400  
 Email: [DRAFinch@aol.com](mailto:DRAFinch@aol.com)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NFSS Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send  
in your  
Census by  
3/25/98**

Species (specify type)	# in Flock			Source Domestic/Import	Breeding Yes/No	# of Generations	Housing Cage/Aviary	Environment Indoor/Outdoor	Method Parents/Foster	Bands Closed/Open/None
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Bob Vargo (right), winner of Best Society in Show at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual All Zebra and Society Finch Show is pictured here with Judge Paul Williams. Photograph by Tom Rood.



Harold and Margie McBayer (pictured below) won Best Zebra in Show at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual All Zebra and Society Finch Show. Photograph by Tom Rood.



Christine Voronovitch , one of our new NFSS judges (pictured left) with the show winner at Florida West Coast Avian Society.



Jacky Civitarese (pictured left) another of our new NFSS Judges, at the Baltimore Bird Fanciers Show.

Armando Lee, another of our new NFSS Judges, pictured right with the Top Bench at the Greater Brandon Avian Society Show.



Pictured left, a tough African Section at the Nationals.

## Air Sac Mites

By: David Friddle, DVM  
Birmingham, AL

A common respiratory problem seen in Gouldian finches and less frequently in canaries is caused by air sac mites (*Sternastoma Tracheacolum*). The life cycle of the mite is still not known but is probably spread to nestling birds from the regurgitated nutrients by the parents. They can be coughed up from the trachea and swallowed and passed orally or through the stool. Food and water can also be contaminated from coughing and sneezing.

Owners and aviculturists may see a progressive loss of condition in these birds, respiratory distress, wheezing and squeaking sounds, coughing, sneezing, discharge from nares, loss of voice, gasping, and occasionally head shaking. Birds rarely die from this but it can have a long-term effect on the flock in both health and economics.

A positive diagnosis can be made by trans-illumination of the trachea using a pinpoint light source shining through the skin and "windpipe". The mites are tiny black specks within the trachea. As they are not always seen in this manner you may have to treat based on clinical signs in these birds. If

lab work can be performed there is often an increase in a certain white blood cell called a basophil.

There have been a variety of treatments documented over the years. One involves placing a No-Pest Strip (diclorvos) by the cage and covering it for an hour monitoring the birds very carefully for evidence of wobbling and toxicity. The strip should be aired out for 1-2 days prior to use. They can also be used to hang in the aviary but away from contact with the birds. This treatment has the potential to be more harmful to the birds than the mites and its use is very questionable.

More commonly Ivermectin is used. Various regimens have been used and the choice can be selected due to a variety of factors - is it a single bird or flock; are the birds easily handled or highly stressed; what is the degree of infestation; and possible resistance of the mites. An easy way to treat is using 0.1% Ivermectin (1:10 dilution with propylene glycol) topically on the bare skin on the lower neck over the jugular vein area using approximately one drop. A small amount of alcohol on a swab may be necessary to view the skin through the feathers. This is simple and fast and works well in many birds. A disadvantage is inconsistency of absorption of active ingredients. Another choice is to dilute 1:10 in

saline and dose orally at 0.05mg (1 drop or 0.05ml) once every 2 weeks for 1-3 applications (some literature has up to 6 treatments needed for a difficult infestation). Saline dilution may have a precipitate but this does not seem to change the effectiveness. This is a dose of 50 micrograms and is at the high end of the therapeutic range and should be reserved for resistant mites. The normal dose recommended is 400 micrograms/kg and can be achieved with a 1:50 dilution and giving 1 drop.

Propylene Glycol is not used for oral administration due to its potential aspiration into the trachea and resulting damage to it. Some have used the more dilute dosage (1:50 with saline) orally once daily for 3-4 days. Some also inject the medication IM every 2 weeks or once daily for 3 days (400 micrograms/kg) but this is extremely stressful to the birds and aviculturists. Always mix the Ivermectin and diluent fresh for each treatment. Evidence of over-dosage would be sleepiness, trouble standing, and drooping head. These signs will be seen within 10-60 minutes. Water dishes may need to be removed during this time as drowning could occur. As a precaution each breeder should test the dosing on a few birds prior to treating the entire flock. With a

flock problem it is wise to retreat prior to each breeding season.

If the respiratory problems do not clear up after treatments then there are several other opportunists, viruses, or bacteria (enterococcus) that can cause primary and secondary problems. Use of immune system stimulants may be helpful. It is best to seek veterinary assistance for these problems.



## Hands-on Finches

Subject: Nests and Nesting Sites

By: Marc Riva, Ontario,  
Canada

I suppose we could say that there are as many types of nests as there are species of finches and we could take it even further and note that there are preferences from one pair to another within a species. There are however some generalities we can make. It is important to obtain as much information as possible, about the species we are trying to breed, so that we may emulate their nesting environment as closely as we can.

Cavity nesters such as the Gouldian Finch are perhaps the easiest finches to accommodate in that they are quite happy in a nest box. The advantage of a nest box is that it is very easy to construct and clean and it can be mounted outside the cage or aviary for easy access. If plank wood is available that is the ideal material for this project so as to minimize the risk of toxic gases emitted by plywood glues. If plywood must be used, as is normally the case, then it may be wise to seal the box, inside and out, with a good quality plastic enamel paint. Box dimensions will vary between species but an 8" cubed overall size seems to be a good average. Some of the smaller boxes available commercially are not

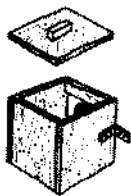


suitable as when they are stuffed with nesting materials by the parents there is insufficient space inside. There are some dangers to overly large boxes also in that occasionally the clutch of eggs is split into two and some of the eggs may end up not being properly incubated.

The construction of the box is dictated by the eventual location for mounting. Since an outside mount is the preferred setup, the instructions that follow are based on that premise. I am also assuming that the nest will be mounted on a solid panel of a box cage or aviary. Variations of this nest box that can be mounted to cage wire can also be easily built. You will need a section of 3/8" G2S fir plywood about 16" by 24" in size to complete the project.

Using a table or radial saw cut two pieces of plywood of 8" by 8" for the two gable ends. Cut a piece with the dimensions of 7 1/4" by 8" for

the back and a piece 7-1/4" by 7-5/8" for the bottom panel. Because the opening to the nest from the cage is through a plywood panel, the only front to the nest box that is required is a strip with a dimension of 7 1/4" by 3/4" connecting the two gables at the very top. A lid of 8" by 8" should also be cut. The sections, with the exception of the lid, can now be glued and nailed together to form a 5-sided cube with one side mostly open and the top completely open. The lid, with the addition of a small handle, will simply be placed



on top and will sit square by adding small retaining strips of wood on the inside face of the lid.

Alternatively, a hinge can be

added but is really unnecessary. A hole with 1 1/2" diameter is drilled into the box cage panel where the nest box is to be mounted. "L" brackets are fastened to each side of the nest box with tiny screws and in turn to the outside of the box cage so that the opening to the nest is centered about 1 1/2" below the underside of the lid. Certain species of finches will not use a small round hole as access to the nest box; in that case the opening should be square and larger.

The other type of nest site commonly provided is the wicker basket. Its use can be frustrating to the aviculturist as access to the eggs and young is difficult and often impossible. Cleaning and maintenance is also less than ideal. Despite its shortcomings, it is the preferred nest for a number of species of finches. To maximize its desirability as a nesting site I recommend improving on the normal practice of simply fastening the wicker basket to the cage/aviary wire. Firstly, you should only purchase the larger basket, as the small one commonly available is unsuitable for any species I am aware of.

Cut a 12" wide by 16" high section of hardware cloth (1/2"x1/2" galvanized wire netting) and cut and bend in the edges so that it is snag proof. Better still construct a 1x2 wood frame and stretch a somewhat larger piece of hardware cloth over it, tucking the edges behind. Fasten the nest basket to the hardware cloth, more or less in the middle. Make up bundles of dried grasses and tie them to the cloth so that it is completely covered and the nest is fully surrounded. Tie gnarled twigs to the structure to provide perching then fasten the assembly to the flight/aviary walls. There are many variations to this setup limited only by your imagination. Try attaching multiple baskets to the structure and adding

three-dimensionality by making it a corner unit. The more intricate the better, you may even find that the birds will ignore the basket(s) and use the surrounding framework to build their own engineered nest.

Finally for those species that absolutely refuse to utilize the nests we can provide, we can help them along by creating structures that may indicate to them an ideal location to build.

Experiment with fastening a section of hardware cloth rolled into a tube to the side of the flight. Be sure that all edges are snag-proof. Provide as much cover as possible again by adding bundles of grasses and twigs and provide lots of nest building material in varying degrees of coarseness. Sit back and enjoy, your birds will do the rest.

Have an idea for Hands-on Finches you would like to share? We would like to hear about it. Send your ideas to the NFSS Bulletin Editor.

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## Roost and Relaxation



Bengalese	Sunbirds
Cutthroat	Snipe
Firetail	Sparrow
Gouldian	Swallow
Hornbills	Touraco
Mannikins	Twinspots
Mesia	Tanager
Mynah	Turkey
Pekin Robin	Waxbills
Silverbills	Woodpecker
Siskins	Wren
Star	Zebra
Starling	

### Word Search



## Comments from Your New Judge's Panel Director

By Steve Hoppin

I want to thank the NFSS membership for allowing me the opportunity to serve you once again on the NFSS Board of Directors. In the position of Fourth Vice President, I plan to continue the work of my predecessor, Dr. Al Decoteau; one of the most devoted and dedicated founding officers of NFSS.

I accept the responsibility of the office of the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President and will fulfill the duties of the Judges Panel Director as outlined in the Judge's Handbook. Al is the only NFSS member to have ever held this office; he knows it well, and graciously has offered his expertise to me should I have any questions or concerns.

I have received a summary of all statistics up to the end of 1997. Beginning January 1998, I will receive all information directly from the judge's panels and all affiliated clubs.

Having previously held both elected and appointed NFSS offices; my philosophy concerning the Society remains the same. I continue to believe that we, as a collective group, should recognize that our

membership's needs are primary, improvement is possible, quality is everyone's job, and people deserve respect. Keeping these beliefs in mind, let us recap a few responsibilities, standards, and explore the upcoming show season of 1998!

Should you have needs, concerns, or questions you wish to bring to my attention please feel free to contact me. Simply refer to the inside cover of the NFSS Bulletin or the Judge's Panel listing, contact information is there for your convenience. I will respond as quickly as possible.

In addition, the Judge's Handbook offers practical information that will keep you current with the Judge's panel rules and regulations. If you are in need of a copy, Julie Duimstra has assured me that FinchShop has plenty of copies available.

To the Panel of NFSS Judges, I will look forward to hearing directly from each of you as you respond to my recent inquiry regarding possible classification changes. Please remember that March 1, 1998 is the deadline to submit your judge's dues and a listing of shows you will be judging in 1998. All Apprentice Judges can feel free to contact me as needed.

As we enter the new year shall we improve a couple Standards?

According to a few NFSS Judges, the Official Parson and Cutthroat Standards published in the July/August 97 Bulletin could use additional revision. Effective immediately both Standards shall be considered reopened. I would like to invite the entire membership including all Panel Judges and aviculturists keeping and/or breeding either or both species, to revisit the published standards and send your comments and suggestions to me no later than March 25, 1998.

On another note, the revised Zebra Finch Standard proposal published in the same Bulletin issue has now become official. Look forward to this new standard (with one minor change), to be published in a future Bulletin.

Once again, improvement is possible. Initiated by the prior Judge's Panel Director, Dr. Al Decoteau, after several months of collaboration between myself and Martha Wigmore; new Judge's Panel tests have been completed and will be proofed and tested by existing Panel Judges in February 1998.

In 1998, a committee consisting of two Panel Judges and myself will start a continuous review of Judge's tests in order to keep them current and accurate. We plan to provide a curriculum from which Judge's Panel applicants can study as well as

existing Judges can remain current. This committee will be comprised of a three-person board to receive questions and to address any Judges or Apprentice Judge's concerns. If you are currently an active Panel Judge and have the desire to be on this committee, please forward a letter of desire at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to working with all the Panel Judges and the membership of NFSS in 1998. I am excited about my new position and hope that my enthusiasm and dedication to aviculture will benefit NFSS.

## The National Finch and Softbill Society 1997 Show Report

Within NFSS, there were 52 shows reported to the Panel Judge Chairman for 1997 with a total of 3215 birds exhibited, and an average of about 62 birds per show. The top ten shows reported include:

Show	Site	Judge	Entries
National Cage Bird Show	Denver, CO	Tom Rood	198
Fresno Canary and Finch	Madera, CA	Clayton Jones	135
Florida State Fair Day 1	Tampa, FL	Martha Wigmore	133
Illini Bird Fanciers	Shelbyville, IL	Earl Courts	125
Golden Gate	Pleasanton, CA	Clayton Jones	125
6 <sup>th</sup> National of Puerto Rico	Carolina, PR	Dr. Al Decoteau	120
ACBS	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Paul Williams	120
Florida State Fair Day 2	Tampa, FL	Bill Parlee	114
Missouri Cage Bird	Eureka, MO	Patrick Vance	106
Greater Chicago	Rolling Meadows, IL	Tom Rood	100

### 1997 Exhibitor Awards

#### The Exhibitors of Excellence in 1997:

Name	Total Points
Sally Huntington	269
Harold and Margie McBryer	246

#### Champion Birds in 1997:

Bird Species	Owner	Band #	Points
Orange-headed Gouldian Finch	Carolyn Belisle	D8162-96	52

### 1997 Champion Exhibitors in NFSS:

Exhibitor	State	Total Points
Harold and Margie McBrayer	Texas	125
Stephen Hoppin	Florida	110
Dale and Eileen Laird	Florida	79
Sally Huntington	California	75
Patrick Vance	Michigan	65
Dennis Burbans	Missouri	61

### 1997 Individual Bird Reports

Please see the March/April Bulletin for NFSS birds with twenty or more points earned in years PRIOR to 1997. This list covers birds exhibited in 1997.

Bird Species	Owner	Band #	Points
Black-crested Finch	Stephen Hoppin	E2331-91	37
Fire Finch	Stephen Hoppin	B458-96	32
Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow	Gene and June Miller	E25-95	30
Normal Grey Zebra Cock	Tom Rood	D1621-94	27
Orange Breasted Normal Gray Zebra Cock	Sally Huntington	D6248-95	25
Parson	Donald Strause	D1640-95	22
CFW Zebra Cock	Bob Vargo	D11350-95	22
Normal Grey Zebra Hen	Tom Rood	D386-96	20
Red-headed Gouldian	Sally Huntington	D12128-95	20
CFW Zebra	Sally Huntington	D13383-96	20

Note: Birds not earning points in a two year period will be dropped from the list starting in 1997. They will however remain on the Master List.



## Results of 1997 NFSS Shows

Heartland Avian Society, Sebring, FL, January 25, 1997  
Judge: Stephen Hoppin—5 Exhibitors, 34 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	4	Felipe Bonilla	Dilute Fawn Society	E3391-96
2	3	Dale & Eileen Laird	Superb Starling	
3	2	Felipe Bonilla	Normal Zebra	D5154-91
4	1	Felipe Bonilla	CFW Zebra Hen	D11449-96
5		Dale & Eileen Laird	Pearl-headed Almadine	
6		Felipe Bonilla	Black Cheek Black Face Zebra	D15580-95
7		John Floyd	Cutthroat	D15813-95
8		Dale & Eileen Laird	Yellow-rumped Serin	
9		Dale & Eileen Laird	White Eye Zosterop	
10		Dale & Eileen Laird	Fire Finch Hen	B1701-95

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### An Analysis of a Sample of Cuttlebone

Calcium	85% (Calcium Carbonate)
Acid insolubles	1.4%
Moisture content	2.3%
Organic content	8.9%
Potassium	63 mg/kg
Total Phosphate	20 mg/kg
Magnesium	0.42% (Magnesium Carbonate)
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	8,3000 mg/kg
Zinc	167
Iron	101
Cobalt	19
Copper	11
Manganese	8

Heavy Metals (mg/kg = parts per million)

The above material was first published in Bird Talk Magazine, February 1998 issue.  
Author of above was Mr. Dick Schroeder. We thank both BirdTalk and Mr. Dick  
Schroeder for their permission to reprint this material.

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show-Day 1, Tampa, FL, February 15, 1997  
Judge: Martha Wigmore—21 Exhibitors, 133 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	10	Dale & Eileen Laird	Fire Finch Hen	B1701-95
2	9	Steve Hoppin	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	A690-96
3	8	Jerri Wiesenfeld	Pied Java Rice Bird	K432-91
4	7	Steve Hoppin	Bamboo Parrot Finch	D11449-96
5	6	Jerri Wiesenfeld	White-hooded Nun	
6	5	Dale & Eileen Laird	Troupial	
7	4	Sally & Vince Huntington	Orange Breasted Normal Gray Zebra	D6248-95
8	3	John & Amanda Floyd	Pekin Robin	
9	2	Jerri Wiesenfeld	Normal Shafttail Cock	C361-96
10	1	Steve Hoppin	St. Helena Waxbill Pair	A681-96, A869-96

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show - Day 2, Tampa, FL, February 16, 1997  
Judge: Bill Parlee —15 Exhibitors, 114 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	9	Steve Hoppin	Red-headed Parrot Finch	D12753-96
2	8	Steve Hoppin	Fire Finch Cock	B458-96
3	7	Steve Hoppin	St. Helena Waxbill Pair	A681-96, A869-96
4	6	Sally Huntington	Red-headed Normal Gouldian	D7876-94
5	5	Dave Dollar	Spice Finch	
6	4	Steve Hoppin	Bamboo Parrot Finch	
7	3	Dale & Eileen Laird	Troupial	
8	2	John & Amanda Floyd	CFW Zebra Cock	D1356-93
9	1	Steve Hoppin	Black-headed Siskin	
10		Steve Hoppin	Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu Cock	B454-96

Organizacion Puertorriquena de Aves Exoticas, Ponce, Puerto Rico,  
February 23, 1997

Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau—11 Exhibitors, 47 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Richard Morales	Fawn Shafttail	
2	4	Juan Ramon Rios	Diamond Sparrow	
3	3	Alfredo Brugueras	Gouldian	C2479-94
4	2	Alfredo Brugueras	Zebra	D12926-95
5	1	Victor Torrellas	Society	D3660-96
6		Alfredo Brugueras	Zebra	D9245-95
7		Alfredo Brugueras	Zebra	D11440-96
8		Marcellino Rivera	Pintailed Nonpareil	
9		Ramon Fernandes	Cordon Bleu	
10		G. Alejandro	Pair Zebras	

Pacific Northwest Bird Show, First Show, Puyallup, Washington,  
April 18, 1997

Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau—1 Exhibitor, 6 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1		Faye Silverstein	Diamond Firetail	
2		Faye Silverstein	Pearl-headed Almadine	
3		Faye Silverstein	Peter's Twinspot	

Pacific Northwest Bird Show, Second Show, Puyallup, Washington,  
April 18, 1997

Judge: Miki Spartzak—1 Exhibitor, 6 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1		Patreetzia Munk-Silverstein and Faye Silverstein	Diamond Firetail	
2		Patreetzia Munk-Silverstein and Faye Silverstein	Pekin Robin	
3		Patreetzia Munk-Silverstein and Faye Silverstein	Pearl-headed Almadine	

Pacific Northwest Bird Show, Third Show, Puyallup, Washington,  
April 19, 1997

Judge: Conrad Meinert—1 Exhibitor, 6 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1		Faye Silverstein	Diamond Sparrow	
2		Faye Silverstein	Cherry Finch	
3		Faye Silverstein	Pekin Robin	



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Illini Bird Fanciers, Shelbyville, IL, June 7, 1997  
Judge: Earl Courts—22 Exhibitors, 125 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	10	Dennis Burhans	Fawn Diamond Sparrow	
2	9	Tom Rood	Normal Grey Zebra Pair	D1621-94, D386-96
3	8	Tom Rood	Normal Grey Zebra Cock	D4266-93
4	7	Bob and Sue Rahe	Violet-eared Waxbill	
5	6	Leonore Holtzinger	Green Singing Finch	
6	5	Dennis Burhans	Normal Shafttail	
7	4	Bob & Lynn Almy	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K55-95
8	3	Rose & Rich Dickman	Normal Red-headed Gouldian	D751
9	2	Nita Haas	Dilute Society	E732-95
10	1	Charles Anchor	European Greenfinch	

Heart of America Hookbill & Finch Society, Grandview, Missouri,  
June 14, 1997

Judge: Earl Courts—4 Exhibitors, 22 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	3	Nita Haas	Fawn Zebra Hen	D2626-96
2	2	Nita Haas	Chocolate/White Society	E409-96
3	1	Nita Haas	Normal Grey Zebra Hen	D3488-97
4		Moses Linn	Green Singer Pair	
5		Nita Haas	CFW Zebra Hen	D3452-97
6		Warren Lillygren	Silver-eared Mesia	
7		Nita Haas	Chocolate/White Society	E408-96
8		Nita Haas	Dilute Society	E732-95
9		Warren Lillygren	Pekin Robin	
10		Nita Haas	Zebra Pair	D405-96, D2592-96

Organizacion Puertorriquena de Aves Exoticas, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico,  
June 22, 1997

Judge: Miki Spartzak—11 Exhibitors, 53 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	6	Victor Torrellas	Society	
2	5	Juan Rios	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	
3	4	Alfredo Brugueras	CFW Zebra	
4	3	Victor Torrellas	Red-headed Finch	
5	2	Raman Fernandes	Masked Finch	
6	1	William Sampson	Pied Java Rice Bird	
7		W. Luis	Cutthroat	
8		Juan Rios	Diamond Sparrow	
9		Jacky Civitarese	Fawn Society	
10		Juan Rios	Star Finch Pair	

Aviary and Cage Bird Society of South Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, FL,  
August 23, 1997

Judge: Paul Williams—16 Exhibitors, 120 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	10	Dale & Eileen Laird	Spreo Starling	
2	9	Nora Trincado	Blue Bodied Gouldian	D3325-97
3	8	Stephen Hoppin	Bamboo Parrot Finch	
4	7	Kerri McCoy	Fawn Zebra Cock	D13704-96
5	6	Stephen Hoppin	Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu	B484-97
6	5	Stephen Hoppin	Black-headed Siskin	
7	4	Sally Huntington	CFW Zebra Pair	D548-97, D561-97
8	3	Stephen Hoppin	Fire Finch	B458-96
9	2	Carrie Efstathion	White Wing Dove	
10	1	Nancy Keeler	Chocolate Society	

Midwest Cage Bird Club, Inc., Westland, Michigan, September 6, 1997  
 Judge: Clarence Culwell—6 Exhibitors, 34 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	4	Denise Dixon	Spice Finch	
2	3	Patrick Vance	Fawn Cherry	
3	2	Patrick Vance	Pearl-headed Almadine	
4	1	Patrick Vance	CFW Zebra Cock	
5		Patrick Vance	Fawn/White Society	
6		Patrick Vance	Pied Star Finch Pair	
7		Earl & Sandy Race	Normal Java Rice Bird	
8		Carol Schmidt	White Zebra	JWI-96- 20AAC
9		Patrick Vance	Normal Red-headed Gouldian	
10		Patrick Vance	Silver-eared Mesia	

Chester County Bird Breeders, Kimberton Fire Cty., PA, September 13, 1997  
 Judge: Conrad Meinert—6 Exhibitors, 25 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	3	Sara Underhill	Superb Starling	
2	2	Pat & Mary Krichten	Parson Cock	CA7-93
3	1	Bob Vargo	CFW Zebra Cock	D11350-95
4		Pat & Mary Krichten	Yellow-winged Pytilia	C4009-95
5		Sara Underhill	Fawn Shafttail	
6		Bob Vargo	Chocolate Society	E676-97
7		Russ & Kathy Temple	Normal Java Rice Bird	
8		Bob Vargo	Normal Grey Zebra	D709-96
9		Bob Vargo	CFW Zebra Hen	D15906-96
10		Sara Underhill	Chocolate/White Society	

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Tampa, FL, September 13, 1997  
Judge: Armando Lee—11 Exhibitors, 61 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	7	Dale & Eileen Laird	Superb Starling	
2	6	Steve Hoppin	Bamboo Parrot Finch	
3	5	John & Amanda Floyd	Zebra	D1374-93
4	4	Ron Castaner	Fawn Shafttail	D562-92
5	3	Steve Hoppin	Fire Finch	B458-96
6	2	Dale & Eileen Laird	Red-faced Star	C2492-94
7	1	Ginny Allen	Society	
8		Joy Johnson	White Java Rice Bird	
9		Steve Hoppin	Fire Finch Pair	B460-96, B457-96
10		Dale & Eileen Laird	CFW Zebra	

The Toledo Bird Association, Toledo, OH, September 27, 1997  
Judge: Patrick Vance—9 Exhibitors, 42 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	John & Jane Muscato	CFW Zebra Cock	D6203-97
2	4	Hisham & Michelle Bassiouni	White Breasted Blue Gouldian	BA200-97
3	3	Rick Yunker	Pied Java Rice Bird	K 216-96
4	2	Alfred & Julianne Mion	Green Singing Finch	
5	1	Carmei Schembri	Greenfinch	
6		Hisham & Michelle Bassiouni	White Breasted Silver Gouldian	BA199-97
7		Carmel Schembri	Bicheno (owl) pair	
8		Robert Wild	Cinnamon/White Society	E5651-97
9		Alfred & Julianne Mion	Cordon Bleu	
10		Rick Yunker	White Java Rice Bird	K215-96



## NFSS Affiliates, Delegates and Shows

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
AL	Central Alabama Avicultural Society Show dates: 9/5	Ginny Allen	(334) 749-7168
AL	Rocket City Cage Bird Club	June C. Hendrix	(205) 776-2992
CA	Aviary Association of Kern	Willis/Velva Baker	(805) 765-6110
CA	Capitol City Bird Society	Mariana Mejia	(916) 452-2037
CA	Finch Society of San Diego County Show dates: 11/7 & 11/8	Sally Huntington	(619) 452-9423
CA	Fresno Canary and Finch Society	Dixie Lea	(209) 584-3764
CA	Golden Gate Avian Society	Cathy Knight	(510) 634-5068
CA	Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club	Neil Crowley	(408) 258-4601
CO	Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture	Julie Kern	(303) 753-6145
CT	Connecticut Association for Aviculture	Christine Voronovitch	(860) 649-8220
FL	Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida Show dates: 8/22	Carrie Efstathion	(954) 432-3349
FL	Central Florida Bird Breeders	Eugene F. Goss, Jr.	(407) 957-1274
FL	Colorbred Canary Club of Miami	Armando J. Lee	(305) 270-1000
FL	Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show Show dates: 2/14 & 2/15	Dale Laird	(407) 657-7989
FL	Exotic Bird Club of America	Jon Jones	(407) 724-9498
FL	Florida West Coast Avian Society	Todd Etzel	(941) 322-2023
FL	The Greater Brandon Avian Society	John Floyd	(813) 677-7679

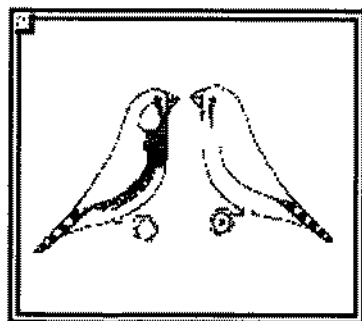
State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
FL	Heartland Avian Society Show dates: 2/22	Maxine June	(941) 465-9358
FL	Suncoast Avian Society, Inc.	Joe Ventimiglia	(813) 392-9391
FL	Sunshine State Cage Bird Society Show dates: 10/3-10/4	Dale Laird	(407) 657-7989
GA	Georgia Cage Bird Society	Derrel Ward	(770) 941-3006
HI	Honolulu Canary & Finch Club	Kathy Perreira	(808) 839-2269
IL	Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club Show dates: 11/19 - 11/21	Jane Muscato	(630) 305-9043
IL	Illini Bird Fanciers	Jan Marcott	(217) 347-9690
IL	National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries	Stephen V. Hopman	(815) 469-8455
IN	Indiana Bird Fanciers	Conrad Meinert	(219) 269-2873
IA	Mid-America Cage Bird Society	Rhoda Shirley	(515) 243-1511
KS	Kansas Avicultural Society	Sharon Mills	(316) 687-2497
KY	Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society	Ms. Boo Shea	(606) 744-3481
LA	Gulf South Bird Club, Inc.	E.J. Nagel Jr.	(504) 271-1840
MD	Baltimore Bird Fanciers	Miki Sparzak	(410) 282-9233
MA	Massachusetts Cage Bird Association	Dianna Smith	(508) 540-3214
MA	Aviculturists of Greater Boston, Inc.	Laura K. MacDonald	(781) 961-6952
MI	Great Lakes Avicultural Society	Dianna Hugo	(616) 842-0163
MI	Lansing Caged Bird Club, Inc.	Mary Rue	(517) 394-1047
MI	Mid-West Cage Bird Club, Inc.	Patrick Vance	(810) 443-0643
MI	Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.	Ron Girling	(810) 751-8265
MI	Society of Canary and Finch Breeders	Patrick Vance	(810) 443-0643

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
MO	Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society	Nita Haas	(816) 331-5285
MO	Heart of American Hookbill and Finch Society	Moses Linn	(816) 523-4661
MO	Missouri Cage Bird Association Show dates: 11/6 & 11/7	Richard & Rose Dickman	(314) 928-3444
NH	Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society	Lisa Armitage	(603) 624-6074
NM	New Mexico Bird Club, Inc.	Gail Renshaw	(505) 822-1483
NY	Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association	Rena Rouse	(315) 252-7673
NY	New York Finch and Type Canary Club	Barbara Kulak	(718) 967-6899
NY	Rochester Cage Bird Club	Patrick Goonan	(716) 288-5653
NC	Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society	April Blazich	(919) 851-8079
OH	Cleveland Cage Bird Society	LaVerne Winfield	(216) 886-1633
OH	Fort Defiance Bird Club	Larry Endsley	(419) 263-2795
OH	Toledo Bird Association and Zebra Finch Club of America Show Dates: 9/26	Rich Yunker	(419) 691-9432
OK	Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma	Gene & June Miller	(405) 382-7066
OK	Oklahoma Cage Bird Society	Laura Bewley	(919) 446-3999
OR	The Finch Connection Show dates: 4/18	Paul Hansen	(503) 581-8208
OR	Rose City Exotic Bird Club	Faye Silverstein	(503) 788-3753
PA	Chester County Bird Breeders	Lorraine LaBoyne	(610) 269-6003
PA	Delaware Valley Bird Club	Kris Kroner	(215) 628-4143
PA	Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society	June & Ralph Turkovich	(412) 379-5819

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
PA	Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society	June & Ralph Turkovich	(412) 379-5819
PA	Seven Mountain's Exotic Bird Club	Kathy Temple	(814) 832-2150
PR	Organizacion Puertorriquena de Aves Exoticas, Inc.	Jacky Civitarese	(787) 752-4433
PR	Sociedad de Avicultores Puertorriquena	Rafael Echevarria	(787) 795-5718
TN	Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club	Eva Duffey	(615) 361-5939
TX	Alamo Exhibition Bird Club	J.T. Payne	(210) 695-8181
TX	Bay Area Cage Bird Club	Margie McBrayer	(281) 338-2814
TX	Canary and Finch Society	Noma Johnson	(281) 930-9393
TX	Fort Worth Bird Club	Clarence Culwell	(817) 220-5568
TX	Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers	Clarence Culwell	(817) 220-5568
TX	Texas Canary Club	Chris Davis	(281) 261-3364
VA	Peninsula Cage Bird Society	Marian "Bea" Rogers	(757) 484-6001
WA	Cascade Canary Breeders Association	Don Armstrong	(206) 329-9346
Canada	Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario	Paul Harrison	(905) 579-9078
Canada	Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society	Alfred Mion	(519) 948-6398

Would like to request if possible, for all affiliated clubs that publish a club newsletter to please send a copy to the NFSS Editor. It would be most appreciated.

<b>International Correspondents</b>			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Contact Info.</b>
Australia	Queensland Finch Society	Gavin Dietz	P.O. Box 1600, Coorparoo DC 4151 Queensland, Australia
Great Britain	The Estrildian	Howard Robinson	10 Gable Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham. DH6 3JT, England
Great Britain	The Waxbill Finch Society	Buzz Hope-Ingليس	10 Litchfield Close, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 3UU, England
Great Britain	Zebra Finch Society, England	Margaret Binns	97 Bent Lanes, Davyhulme, Nr. Urmston, Manchester, M31 8WZ England
New Zealand	New Zealand Finch Breeders Assoc.		293 Albany Highway Albany, New Zealand



## **Midwest Zebra & Society Finch Club**

### **Third Annual Specialty Show**

**August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1998  
Kansas City, Missouri**

● **Featuring**

- Renowned British Judge/Breeder Margaret Binns
- Lots of FUN
- Learning Opportunities
- Largest Zebra Finch entry in U.S., 1996 and 1997

Contact **Nita Haas** - Show Manager (816) 331-5285

## 1998 Show Dates

### Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show

When: February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

Where: Tampa, Florida

NFSS Judge: Mr. Paul Williams  
(2/14)

NFSS Judge: Mr. Hal Koontz  
(2/15)

Delegate: Mr. Dale Laird (407)  
657-7989

Details: Recommended hotel where most NFSS members are planning to stay is the Master's Inn. The rate is \$48.50 per night. The phone is (813) 621-4681. The hotel is located on I-4 at exit 8. This is one exit east of I-75 and only two exits from the state fair.

### Heartland Avian Society

When: February 22

Where: Sebring, Florida

NFSS Judge: Mr. Armando Lee

Delegate: Ms. Maxine June  
(941) 465-9358

Details: Sebring Agricultural Civic Center on the corner of George and US27 south. Hours 9-5.

### The Finch Connection Bird Club "Feather Show"

When: 4/18

Where: Turner, Oregon

NFSS Judge: Ms. Julie Duimstra

Delegate: Ms. Paula Hansen (503)  
581-8208

Need a gift for that "hard to buy for" someone? Why not give a gift certificate entitling the recipient to a one year NFSS membership? A beautiful full color personalized gift certificate, will be sent to the gift recipient of your choice. Contact the Membership Director, Noreene Taylor for more information.



**The Aviary and Cage Bird Society  
of South Florida**

When: 8/22

Where: Ft. Lauderdale, FL

NFSS Judge: Panel Judge still to  
be selected

Delegate: Ms. Carrie Efstathion  
(954) 432-3349

Details: Being held at War  
Memorial Coliseum.

**Toledo Bird Association and Zebra  
Finch Club of America**

When: 9/26

Where: Toledo, Ohio

NFSS Judge: Panel Judge still to  
be selected

Delegate: Mr. Rick Yunker (419)  
691-9432

**Sunshine State Cage Bird Club  
"The Kaytee Great American Bird  
Show"**

When: 10/3 & 10/4

Where: Orlando, Florida

NFSS Judge: Mr. Harold Bowles  
(10/3)

Delegate: Mr. Dale Laird (407)  
657-7989

Details: Being held at the Radisson  
Plaza Hotel, 60 S Ivanhoe Blvd.,  
Orlando, Florida. For more  
information contact: Debbie Ratliff  
(407) 365-7628, David Dollar  
(813) 937-5447. Cash and special  
awards will be given to the top three  
winners and division winners.

**Missouri Cage Bird Association**

When: 11/6 & 11/7

Where: Eureka, MO

NFSS Judge: Panel Judge still to  
be selected

Delegate: Rich & Rose Dickman  
(314) 928-3444.

Email: [skdatl@inlink.com](mailto:skdatl@inlink.com)

Details: Held at Day's Inn, Eureka,  
MO.

**Finch Society of San Diego County**

When: 11/8 & 11/9

Where: Del Mar, California

NFSS Judges: Panel Judge still to  
be selected

Delegate: Ms. Sally Huntington  
(619) 452-9423

**Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club  
"The National Cage Bird Show"**

When: 11/19-11/21

Where: Chicago, Illinois

NFSS Judge:

Delegate: Ms. Jane Muscato or  
Mr. John Muscato (630) 305-  
9043,

Email: [JAMJDM923@aol.com](mailto:JAMJDM923@aol.com)

Details: Pheasant Run Resort and  
Convention Center, 4051 East  
Main Street, St. Charles, IL. For  
reservations call 800-999-3319  
(mention NCBS for special \$109  
rate). Reservations must be made  
by 10/10 to receive special NCBS  
rate. For general information call  
Bob Wild (630) 985-4416.

Email: [rwild@kiwi.dep.ani.gov](mailto:rwild@kiwi.dep.ani.gov) or  
Delegate listed above.



## FinchSave Application

Interested in joining FinchSave? Please fill out the below preliminary information and send to the FinchSave Manager, Mr. Daniel Almaguer. Upon receipt of this form you will receive a complete information package outlining all aspects of the FinchSave Program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to accomplish through FinchSave?: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed form to:  
FinchSave Manager  
Mr. Daniel Almaguer  
P.O. Box 533015  
Orlando, FL 32853-3015  
Phone: (407) 894-3808  
Fax: (407) 894-6400  
Email: DRAFinch@aol.com

Thank you for supporting aviculture's foremost  
cooperative breeding program.  
You CAN make a difference!





# The National Finch and Softbill Society

## 1998 Affiliation Agreement

**Ms. Ginny Allen**  
**Affiliation Manager**  
 307 Brookwood Ct.  
 Opelika, AL 36801  
 Phone: (334) 749-7168  
 Email  
 gndallen@earthlink.net

### How to Affiliate:

- Select a current NFSS member to represent your club.
- Send in the appropriate fee and this form to the Affiliation Manager.

Ck Box	Description	Cost
	Base Affiliation Fee. This fee entitles your organization to the publications and privileges of NFSS.	\$20.00
	Service/Breeder Award Plaque (7" x 9") with NFSS logo. This can be engraved with any information provided by the club.	\$25.00
	"Best in Show" Plaque (7" x 9")	\$25.00
	"Second Best in Show" Plaque (6" x 8")	\$25.00
	"Third Best in Show" Plaque (6" x 8")	\$25.00
	"Best Softbill in Show" Plaque (6" x 8")	\$25.00
	Rosettes. Ten long streamer rosettes for the ten best finches or softbills, plus one best unflighted rosette. Unflighted birds are those that are closed banded with 1998 bands.	\$35.00
	Unflighted 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> place rosettes.	\$7.00
<b>Total Amount of check payable to NFSS:</b>		

Club Name: _____	Show Date: _____
Club Officer: _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	Email: _____
Club Delegate: _____ NFSS #: _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	Email: _____

## NFSS Board of Directors 1998-99

### President

Mr. Ron Castaner  
2678 Freeport Road  
W. Palm Beach, FL 33406  
Phone/Fax (561) 432-3667  
Email birds@magg.net

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Regional V.P's  
Mr. Dale Laird  
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Goldenrod, FL 32733-2459  
Phone/Fax (407) 657-7989  
Email dalel@magicnet.net

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Publications  
Ms. Martha Wigmore  
18913 Boston St. SW  
Elk River, MN 55330-1155  
Phone/Fax: (612) 241-0071  
Email: NEWWIG@aol.com

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

FinchSave/Census Mgr.  
Mr. Daniel Almaguer  
P.O. Box 533015  
Orlando, FL 32853-3015  
Phone (407) 894-3808  
Fax (407)-894-6400  
Email DRAFinch@aol.com

### 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President

Judge's Pnl, Stds/ Research  
Mr. Stephen Hoppin  
3836 Hidden Acres Cir.  
N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903  
Phone (941) 997-2237  
Fax: (941) 997-NFSS  
Email n2finches@peganet.net

### Membership Director

Ms. Noreene Taylor  
2980 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312  
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Fax: (954) 583-0083  
Email noreenet@aol.com

### Executive Secretary

Mr. Paul Williams  
703 Donegal Drive  
Papillion, NE 68046  
Phone (402) 592-5488  
Email  
RolTide@ix.netcom.com

### Treasurer ProTem

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18913 Boston St. SW  
Elk River, MN 55330-1155  
Phone/Fax (612) 241-0071  
Email: NEWWIG@aol.com

### Liaison Officer

Club Delegates, Show  
Dates, Awards Mgr.  
Ms. Ginny Allen  
307 Brookwood Ct  
Opelika, AL 36801-3657  
Phone/Fax (334) 749-7188  
Email  
gndallen@earthlink.com

### Band Secretary

Ms. Eileen Laird  
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Goldenrod, FL 32733-  
2459  
Phone (407) 657-7989

### President Emeritus

Mr. William Parlee  
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Vernon, CT 06066  
Phone (203) 528-1458

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Phone: (503) 261-8788

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Fax (205) 972-8984  
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jmccoy@mindspring.com

### Website Manager

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780 Oak Grove Rd #A108  
Concord, CA 94518  
Email: rhole@interaktv.com

### Regional Vice President

Region 1 - Northeast  
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433 Houston Road  
Ambler, PA 19002  
Phone (215) 628-4143  
Email kkroner@Eros.com

**Regional VP**

**Region 2 – Southeast**

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Miami, FL 33173  
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Email mlee@dc.seflin.org

**Regional VP**

**Region 3–Mid-Central**

Mr. Tom Rood  
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Phone (217) 774-5265  
Email tjrood@bnmhnct.com

**Regional VP**

**Region 4 – Midwest**

Clarence Culwell  
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Springtown, TX 76082  
Phone (817) 220-5368

**Regional VP**

**Region 5 – Mountain**

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1345 Edith Lane  
Colorado Spring, CO  
80909  
Phone/Fax 719-630-3785  
Email aves1@juno.com

**Regional VP**

**Region 6 – Pacific Coast**

Ms. Sally Huntington  
5634 Carnegie Street  
San Diego, CA 92122  
Phone/Fax (619) 452-9423  
Email huntington-  
center@worldnet.att.net

**Regional VP**

**Region 7 – Caribbean**

Mr. Rich Morales  
Urb. Valle San Luis  
Via San Luis #257  
Caguas, PR 00725  
Phone/Fax (787) 791-4500  
Email  
sunshine@tropicweb.net

**Note:** Please phone ahead to the desired party before telefaxing. Many individuals share phone/fax lines or have to set fax software or machine to receive.

## Changing your Address?

Allow NFSS be the first to greet you at your new home!

Kindly send this form to:

NFSS Membership Director  
Noreene Taylor  
2980 Southwest 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Fort Lauderdale FL 33312

Club Delegates also send to:

NFSS Liaison Officer  
Ginny Allen  
307 Brookwood Ct.  
Opelika, AL 36801

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

## The National Finch and Softbill Society Homepage

Visit NFSS at:

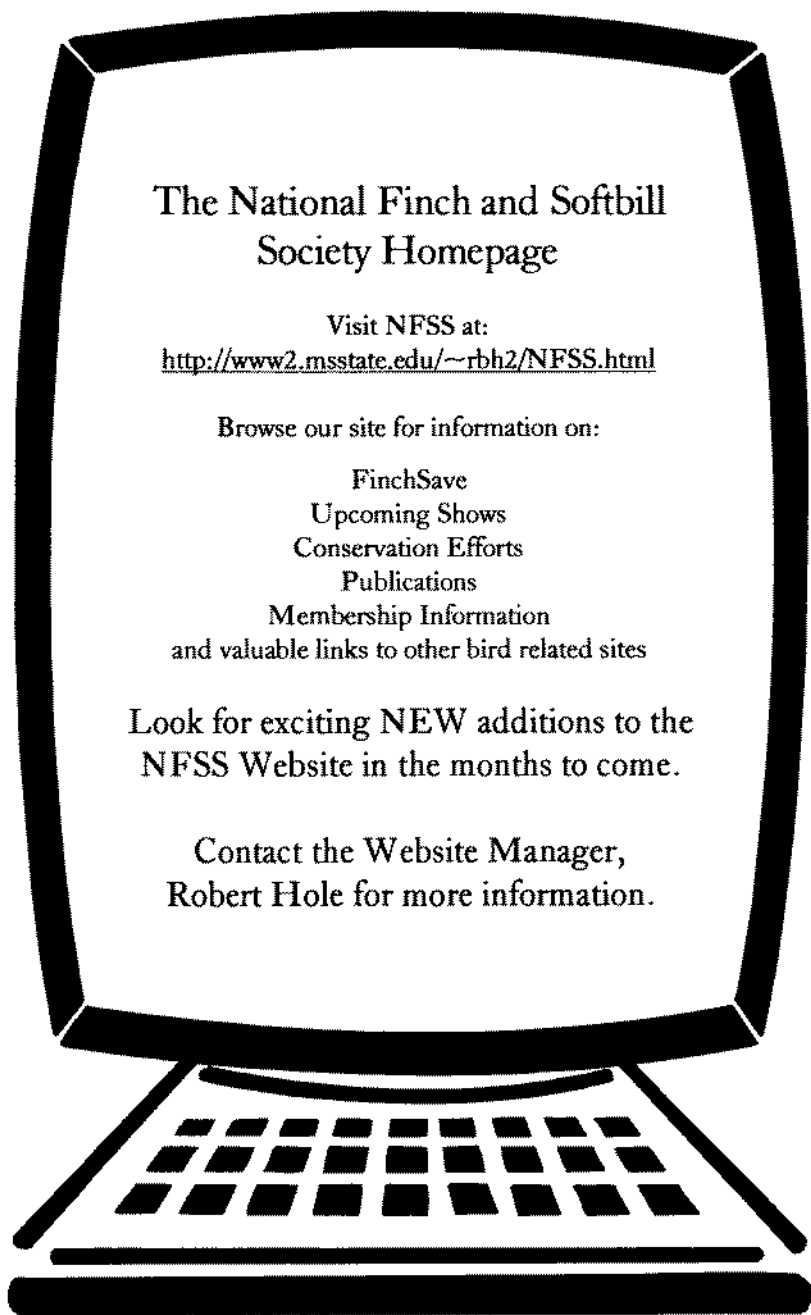
<http://www2.msstate.edu/~rbh2/NFSS.html>

Browse our site for information on:

FinchSave  
Upcoming Shows  
Conservation Efforts  
Publications  
Membership Information  
and valuable links to other bird related sites

Look for exciting NEW additions to the  
NFSS Website in the months to come.

Contact the Website Manager,  
Robert Hole for more information.



## The National Finch and Softbill Society

Welcomes Finch and Softbill Breeders & Enthusiasts!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Renew NFSS #? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Dues:

Single: \$20  Dual: \$25\*  Junior (under 16) \$12.50

\* 2<sup>nd</sup> name for Dual Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. (& Puerto Rico) 1<sup>st</sup> class mailing add \$5.00

Canadian add \$5, Foreign add \$10 (Please send US funds.)

Canadian and foreign subscriptions mailed 1<sup>st</sup> class.

NFSS thanks you for your support!

Mail Application and  
Check Payable to NFSS:  
Noreene Taylor  
Membership Director  
2980 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
33312



**Come Join Us!**  
Send in your  
application today!

## The National Finch and Softbill Society Membership Benefits

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

- ◆ **NFSS Bulletin** - Our bi-monthly Bulletin connects you with other finch and softbill keepers around the country. It includes articles on diet, breeding, management, species specific article and the numerous experiences of other aviculturists. NFSS also keeps you abreast of the news on legislation.
- ◆ **FinchSave** - The goal of FinchSave is to establish and maintain all finch and softbill species in American aviculture. All members are encouraged to enhance the propagation of finches and softbills.
- ◆ **Census** - The annual NFSS census can connect you with other breeders for the purpose of exchanging information or breeding stock.
- ◆ **Leg Bands** - NFSS offers to members, closed traceable leg bands in fifteen (15) sizes.
- ◆ **Affiliations** - Your club can affiliate and receive plaques and rosettes as show awards. Non-show clubs too can affiliate and receive service awards for members. Speakers are available, with slide programs that feature finches and softbills.
- ◆ **National Show** - All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the NFSS National Show. An International Patronage Exchange brings awards from foreign countries.
- ◆ **Judge's Panel** - Comprised of individuals who have completed the apprenticeship program. All NFSS Panel Judges judge by the NFSS Standard of Judging; are approved by the Board of Directors; and are available to local clubs.
- ◆ **Standards** - By mid year 1995, NFSS had exhibition standards for twelve species, including the first standard for softbill species, and several more in the works.
- ◆ **Champions** - NFSS sponsors a "Champion Exhibitor" and "Champion Bird" awards program. Both reward high achievements on the show bench.
- ◆ **FinchShop** - The sales division of NFSS offers various items for sale to members. The profits are used to support the Society's numerous programs.

## 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. There is no choice of numbers.

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

Orders processed weekly as received. Cashier's Check or Money Order will expedite your order. Please, no mail requiring signatures.

Mail form and  
payment payable to  
NFSS:  
Eileen Laird  
NFSS Band  
Secretary  
P.O. Box 2459  
Goldenrod, FL  
32733-2459  
(407) 657-7989

Band Size	# of Strings	Price per String	Total Amount
A		\$2.75	
B		\$2.75	
C		\$2.75	
D		\$2.75	
E		\$2.75	
G		\$2.75	
J		\$2.75	
K		\$2.75	
L		\$2.75	
M		\$2.75	
R		\$2.75	
S		\$2.75	
T		\$2.75	
U		\$2.75	

**Postal Insurance:**

Under \$50 - \$.75

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

Over \$100 - \$2.50

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

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_





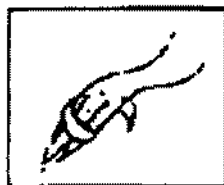


# Leg Banding Procedure

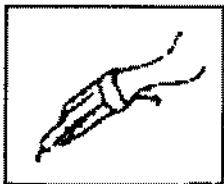
Courtesy of  
The National Finch and Softbill Society



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



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



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



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



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

# THE CLASSIFIEDS

**WANTED: BUY OR TRADE**  
Parrot Finches: Blue Faced, Red-headed, Lutino, Pearle's, Bamboo, Blue Breasted (Forbes) and Mindanao. FL- Daniel Almaguer (407) 894-3808, Email: DRAFinch@aol.com

**WANTED: BUY OR TRADE**  
Brazilian Cardinals. CA - Gary Roulston (562) 691-2473

**TRADE:** Blue-faced Parrot Finches.  
**FOR SALE:** Lutino Parrot Finches TX - Barrett Pierce (806) 376-6814

**FOR SALE:** Pied Star Finches, CLOSE BANDED.  
IL - Steve Hopman (815) 469-8455.

**TRADE:** Normal Red-faced Stars, Heck's Shaftails and Normal Diamond Firetails.  
**WANTED:** Beautiful Firetails (Emblema Bella) TX - Clint Harris (817) 770-1986

**FOR SALE:** Red-headed pied, Seagreen, Blue-faced, and Blue Breasted Parrot Finches, Peter's Twinspots, Dybowski's Twinspots, Green Singers, Green Avadavats, Goldbreasted Waxbills, Black Capped Waxbills, and Black-checked Waxbills. **NO SHIPPING.** FL - Rolando Hurtado (305) 828-3002.

**NFSS Bulletin Advertising Rates**  
**Display (camera ready) Ads:**  
Full page: \$50/issue, \$200/year  
Half Page: \$30/issue, \$120/year  
Qtr. Page: \$20/issue, \$80/year  
Inside Cover: \$70/issue, \$300/year

**Classified Advertisements**  
FinchSave: **FREE** to participants  
Other: \$.15 per word, per issue

**Deadlines:**  
1/1, 3/1, 5/1, 7/1, 9/1, 11/1  
for next bi-monthly issue

Send ad and payment  
(payable to NFSS) to:

Kerri McCoy

NFSS Bulletin Editor

3412 Far Hill Circle

Birmingham, AL 35243

Phone: (205) 969-9177

Fax: (205) 972-8984

Email: jmcocoy@mindspring.com

FinchSave classified ads run **FREE** of charge to FinchSave participants. All readers are welcome to respond to FinchSave ads. Classified ads (other than FinchSave) are \$.15 per word, per issue.

# FINCHSHOP

The National Finch and Softbill Society Store

ITEM	QTY	SIZE / STYLE	EA.	TDL.
<i>NEW NFSS T-shirt</i> Design! Ten Colorful Finches in Stalks of Grass	➔	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL ✓Check your choice. All T-shirts are '50/50 blend - White	\$18.00	
VIDEO "The Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction"		Members & Affiliates	\$17.00	
		Non-Members	\$22.00	
NFSS Show Cage Plans	➔	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #3 ✓Check your choice	\$4.00	
Set of all 3 Show Cage Plans		SAVE \$2.00 by ordering all three!	\$10.00	
NFSS Plastic Water Bottle			\$6.00	
NFSS Zebra Pin			\$6.00	
NFSS Gouldian Pin			\$6.00	
Eric Peake Lithograph <i>The Diamond Firetails</i> - Signed by the artist			\$35.00	
NFSS Name Badge (Members Only) Comes with one line of engraving <i>print name clearly*</i>		Second line of engraving, add \$1.00. For optional magnetic backing, add \$1.50	\$7.50	
Past Bulletin Issues 1994 and later issues			\$4.00	
Past Bulletin Issues 1993 and earlier issues			\$3.00	
1997 NFSS Handbook (Membership Yearbook)		Includes Annual Census & much, much more! (Jul / Aug '97 issue)	\$4.00	
NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards		In handsome 3-ring binder!	\$15.00	
Shipping and Handling: Orders \$10 and under add \$2.00, Orders \$10.01 and over add \$3.00 \$ _____			Total: \$	

NFSS Member# \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and payment (check or money order made payable to NFSS) to:  
FINCHSHOP, Attn: Ms. Julie Duimstra  
4201 NE 125<sup>th</sup> Place #163, Portland, OR 97230, Email: GENESISNW@aol.com

### NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS

#1 Cage - Finches up to and including Zebras, #2 Cage - Finches larger than Zebras,  
#3 Cage - Softbills

**NFSS Panel of Judges 1998**

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<b>Dr. Al Decoteau</b> P.O. Box 369 Groton, MA 01450 603-672-4668 Fax: 603-672-3120	<b>Brian Mandarich</b> 4743 E. Hedges Avenue Fresno, CA 93703 209-255-6508	<b>Paul S. Williams</b> 703 Donegal Drive Papillion, NE 68046 402-592-5488
<b>Daren Decoteau</b> 89 Pleasantview Avenue Stratford, CT 06497 203-377-2049	<b>Conrad Meinert</b> 1212 E. Circle 300 South Warsaw, IN 46580 219-269-2873	For information on the NFSS Judge's Panel, please contact the Panel Chairman, Mr. Stephen Hoppin.