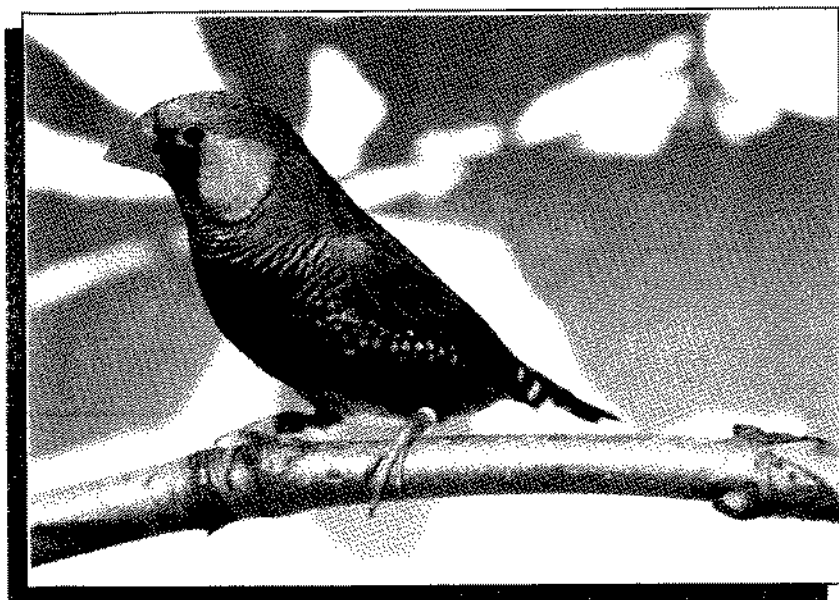




The NFSS Bulletin

Volume 15 No. 2

March/April 1998



Black Faced Zebra Finch

In This Issue:

The Black Faced Zebra Finch

The Bold & Beautiful Diamond Firetail

The Orange Weaver – An Exceptionally
Aggressive and Industrious Bird

The Painted Firetail Finch

Show Reports Part II



The National Finch and Softbill Society

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The NFSS Bulletin

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The Black Face Zebra Finch photograph on the cover of the Bulletin was taken by Mr. Frank Neilsen of Copenhagen, Denmark.

In This Issue:

The first section of the Bulletin will again focus on news within the Society. The President's Message, Open Letter to the Membership and Regional Roundup to name a few.

There are two Letters to the Editor in this issue. Jennifer Weikel, of Oregon State University writes the first letter. Jennifer solicits the help of the membership. And, the second letter written by Clint Harris our new Advertising/Promotions Manager poses some challenges to the membership.

You will find several responses from the membership in the section Contact Call. Seems as if the hybridization question posed in the January/February issue of the Bulletin has prompted several replies.

For those of you Zebra fans out there a detailed article written by Frank Nielsen on the rarer Black Face mutation might peek some interest.

Looking for insight with your Orange Weavers? Read the extremely detailed article written by Stuart Balfour who devotes a great deal of his time to the successful keeping and breeding of these magnificent creatures.

To those of you Diamond Firetail fans, Clint Harris shares his knowledge, experience and a touch of humor in his article about these beauties. And, Bruce Dixon gives us the knowledge and background we need to be successful at trying our hand at raising the rare Painted Firetail Finch. And, as promised the second half of the Show Reports are also included.

Deadline for the next issue is:
May 1, 1998

Mail, Fax or Email to:

Kerri McCoy

3412 Far Hill Circle

Birmingham, AL 35243

Fax: 205-972-8984

Email: jmccoy@mindspring.com

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The NFSS Bulletin

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From the Editor's Desk

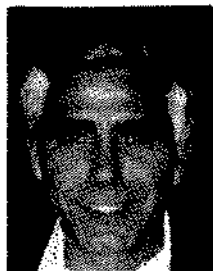
I always do this page last. Seems rather odd that the one item to go into the Bulletin that I do not rely on from others is the last to be complete. Perhaps that is because it is the hardest to finish. I rely on the wisdom and experience of the membership to fill this book. It is all of you that fill these pages, not myself. So I sit here late at night and think to myself "What do I want to convey to the membership this time?" More often than not I receive not a single brainstorm, but my mind always tells me "Ah Ker, it will come to you." And it always does.

I received a wonderful gift this month from a fellow hobbyist and dear friend. I will always cherish the beautifully hand made aviary and that he thought enough of me to see that I should have it, and to him I say thank you. Yet another dear friend and fellow hobbyist phoned this weekend. Her desire to see that her collection went to where she felt it should be was her prime concern. Because of this, all of her hard work to establish a rare species, combined now with my similar work should make our shared dream come to fruition sooner than either of us expect, and to her I also say thank you. Although I am certain it won't be long before either of them once again fills a new aviary with a new collection of birds. For we all know there are times when we have to let our feathered friends go they never truly leave us.

I've received a true "wake up call" in the past few days, and because of this awakening it has made me look upon life, my passions, and what I'm striving for in a whole new light. I will no longer let a single day pass me by without cherishing it. Each and every person in my life and every single warm-blooded feathered body in my home will forever be appreciated and never taken for granted. What I am trying to convey to all of you is give 110% of yourself each and every day. Make that effort to give of yourself in some way every day no matter how small a contribution it may be.

I have received numerous phone calls, faxes and emails from all of you, our membership. I thank each and every one of you for taking the time to get involved. And, I hope to hear from a lot more of you in the future. I hope that every one of you that I have communicated with came away with the feeling that YOU counted. That what you had to say; what you wanted to contribute was received with enthusiasm. I implore all of you to go after what you want. Reach for your dreams whether that be establishing a rare species, contributing your wisdom to our Society, taking a "newbie" under your wing or just plain taking the time to appreciate each and every bird in your collection. Do it now, don't wait. I have come to realize that if you don't make that effort that you may risk never having the opportunity to experience it at all. Give the above some thought and next time when the opportunity arises seize upon it. I promise you that the rewards you receive will far outweigh the effort you had to put into it.

Kerri Ann



President's Message

By Ron Castaner

I wish to thank each of you for the cooperation being extended during this transition period. No doubt you are aware of the positive changes taking place as board members create committees from the general membership to help implement various programs. This represents a great deal of time and energy being spent by each of the board members. I publicly thank each one of you for your dedication. The energy level is rising folks. Can you feel it? The NFSS website is under major construction and no doubt will develop into a most authoritative, informative place to visit.

The membership has increased by 164 members in the past four months! Let's not forget that this is YOUR club and it is up to each and every one to get involved. All board members have contact numbers listed in the Bulletin...volunteer your talents!

I have been inundated with calls from members regarding the first issue of the NFSS Bulletin, edited by Kerri McCoy. This is a quality publication containing information submitted by the general membership. This is our primary communication link and the format is designed to keep everyone informed as to the activities of the society. Kerri has conveyed to me that she is receiving a steady stream of articles from the membership. Keep it up and I thank you for taking the time to contribute.

Let's all focus on our interest in promoting the welfare of finches and softbills and set the politics aside. We need to concentrate on our reasons for existing as a society. The past successes of the NFSS can be attributed to those individuals who had the foresight and determination to create an organization to benefit aviculture. The future success of the NFSS depends upon our efforts to respond to the changing needs of aviculture today and in the future. Let's all take pride and the rewards shall follow.

Sincerely,

Ron Castaner

NFSS President

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NFSS PHOTOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

Perhaps many of you have taken photographs of your birds in the past, of which you have had reason to be more than just a little bit proud? Rather than keep them in the drawer or album, please think of sharing them with us, and all members of our society.

As part of the ongoing change to the Bulletin, we want to tap into the wealth of photographic talent we suspect exists out there amongst our membership, and use your work to further enhance our pages for the enjoyment and interests of our readers around the world.

All photographic work received will be eligible to win a range of prizes, which will include limited edition prints or T-shirt's. But we hope for many, the greatest prize will be the joy you receive in sharing your work with us all.

As always, be it articles, or photographs, you have something to contribute from your experience and experiences. Please take on the challenge, and help enrich both our bulletin and our love for our birds.

Contest Specifics:

Deadline for entries is May 15, 1998. Mail your entries to the Kerri Ann McCoy, NFSS 2nd Vice President and Bulletin Editor, 3412 Far Hill Circle, Birmingham, AL 35243. Photographs will not be returned unless specifically requested. NFSS reserves the right to publish any and all photographs in any NFSS publication.

The first, second, and third prize winners will be published in a future edition of the NFSS Bulletin.

Kerri Ann

1998 NFSS Article of the Year Award

The National Finch and Softbill Society is proud to announce the 1998 Article of the Year Award. There is a lot of talent out there among the membership and we would like to reward that talent.

You don't have to be Ernest Hemmingway to compete. Just take the time to sit down at your desk, on the couch or wherever you are most comfortable and share your bird related experiences with the membership.

There is no specific topic to adhere to. Wherever your experience and passion lies within aviculture is where we would like for you to focus.

As of January 1, 1998 any articles that have already been submitted to the Editor are included in the contest. All articles received by the Editor henceforth till the end of the year will also be considered candidates.

The announcement of the winner will be published in the January/February 1999 issue of the NFSS Bulletin. Further details on the award presented to the chosen candidate will be forthcoming in a future issue of the NFSS Bulletin.

Open Letter to the Membership

By Ron Castaner

During the first quarter board meeting in Tampa, Florida on February 14, 1998, Martha Wigmore resigned the position of Second Vice President and announced her decision to run for NFSS Treasurer. Martha felt it would be in the best interest of NFSS as the position of Treasurer will take all of her time and she would not be able to fulfill the duties of both positions.

The Board appointed Kerri McCoy to fill the position of Second Vice President ProTem. Kerri has proven to be quite an asset to NFSS.

The NFSS Board now announces the opening of nominations for the office of NFSS 2nd Vice President. Nominees must be current members of NFSS. Each nominee is asked to submit a paragraph stating his/her qualifications for 2nd Vice President. Qualifications and ballots will be published in the May/June NFSS Bulletin. Send nominations to Ron Castaner, NFSS President at 2678 Freeport Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406. Nominations must be received by May 1, 1998.

Duties of the 2nd Vice President according to the current Bylaws (Article 5, Paragraph 8) include Second Vice President: shall be second in line to the Presidency, the Second Vice President shall chair the Publishing Committee.

Article 7 Paragraph 3: Publishing Committee: The Publishing Committee chaired by the Second Vice President, shall be responsible for all publications of this Society. It shall produce and edit a BI-monthly bulletin for the membership of the Society. It shall produce a Handbook or Yearbook for the Society, and any other publications as directed by the Board of Directors. The NFSS Board encourages qualified members to consider serving NFSS in this position.

On another note, it has been brought to my attention that some of the members have found discrepancies with their membership benefits. Please be assured that we are in the process of rectifying the situation. A new record keeping system is being implemented which should alleviate further discrepancies with your membership. Should you notice any type of error (i.e. expiration date, publications not sent, etc.) please notify ANY board member and we will see that it is corrected.

Sincerely,

Ron Castaner
NFSS President
7777



Regional Roundup

News from the NFSS Band Secretary

By Eileen Laird

The start of 1998 has been very busy. In January alone I processed 165 orders containing 15,410 bands! My eyes and fingers are very sore from counting all these bands every night. The new bands we started to carry in 1997 are going well. I may end up having to order some more if the orders keep up through the remainder of the year.

Have you ever wondered how many finches we are banding? Over a three-year period I have mailed out over 100,000 bands! Keep the orders flowing and band every bird of every clutch.

Please note my new address:

Eileen Laird
NFSS Band Secretary
P.O. Box 2459
Goldenrod, FL 32733

I would like to take a moment to send a special thank you to my favorite Postal employees. They sure have made my job easier. They have gotten used to me coming in after work with a bundle of small packages. They know exactly what I am mailing. Thank you Dennis, Bill, Ellie, Doug, Diane and Linda.

News from the Judge's Panel Chairman

Please note that the Official Zebra Finch Standard will be published in the May/June edition of the NFSS Bulletin.

News from the Membership Director.

Noreene has informed me that the membership has increased by 164 members since November. Since beginning her appointment as the new Membership Director Noreene conveyed to me that there are issues/misnomers with membership that need to be attended to. She wanted me to convey to the membership to please be patient. Should you notice any errors with your

Membership benefits please contact any officer of the NFSS. For more information please read the Open Letter to the Membership on page 7.

Treasurer Position Voting Ballot:

You will all find a rip out ballot for the treasurer position in this issue of the Bulletin. Please take the time to cast your vote and mail your responses to Dale and Eileen Laird (Election Committee). On the back of the ballot you will find a short survey. I implore you to please fill it out. With your participation the Board of Directors will be better able to serve the needs/wants of the membership.

FinchSave Update:

By Daniel Almaguer

I apologize for the misinformation that was published in the January/February issue of the Bulletin and wish to retract the statement stating that open bands will be permitted as a last resort for the FinchSave Program. NFSS has worked diligently on developing the requirements and close bands are required for this program. The NFSS Board has agreed unanimously that the NFSS close bands must be utilized to keep the integrity of the FinchSave Program intact. Most species of finch can be close banded safely the day of fledging. After fledging the offspring grow very quickly so banding should be done within the first day or two of leaving the nest. This method can be utilized on difficult species that are parent raised without disturbing the parents and keeping with the requirements of the FinchSave Program. To date I have received several requests for the FinchSave information packages, and those of you I have not yet heard from I implore you to please get involved in making a difference with your finches and softbills. The FinchSave Committee is currently updating the FinchSave packages. Please be patient for receipt of the package will be well worth the wait.

I have recently selected a FinchSave Committee from several geographical regions to assist me with updating our FinchSave information sheets and new business decisions. Our new team consists of Dianna Rubly of Clermont, Florida works at SeaWorld Florida as an Aviculturist II. Clint Harris of Temple, Texas a dedicated knowledgeable NFSS member and breeder of several species of Australian and Asian finches. And, Luis Garcia, of Colorado Springs, Colorado also our current Region 5 Vice President, a talented finch expert whom has written in the NFSS Bulletin over the years.

This new team has a wealth of experience and will be a real asset to FinchSave over the next two years.

1998 National Finch and Softbill Society Census Update

By Daniel Almaguer

It has been brought to my attention that some members were confused with the annual census form located in the center of our last issue of the Bulletin. This census is for ALL members not just FinchSave. Addresses are not printed and only phone numbers and email addresses will be published in the Bulletin. Both closed banded and open banded birds are to be listed on this census form. FinchSave is a separate program and the application for that is located in the back end of the Bulletin. All finch and softbill species are to be included in the annual census. And, your participation is greatly appreciated.

To date I have received a fairly steady response to the Annual Census report issued in the January/February issue of the Bulletin. However, as the numbers below indicate, we are a long way off from having the participation of the full membership. As of March 6, 1998 current totals are as follows:

AL - 2, CA-1, FL-3, IL-1, MI-1, MO-1, MT-1 NC-2, OH-1, PA-4, TX-3, WA-1 which equals 20 out of a total of 850 NFSS members.

Due to the slow response of the membership I am increasing the deadline. The previous deadline of March 25, 1998 has now been extended to April 25, 1998. I encourage all NFSS members to participate. My goal is to calculate the census and publish it late this summer. All census participants will receive notification that their census has indeed been received. Please let me know should you not be contacted within 7-10 days of mailing out your census.

Thank you all who have taken the time to fill out the 1998 Census. Please feel free to contact me anytime. I am here to help assist you in any way possible. May all your flocks be fruitful this spring! Contact me anytime at email: DRAFinch@aol.com.

News from the Education Committee

By Dale Laird

Let me introduce you to the newest undertaking for the Education Committee. Marc Riva is redesigning the NFSS website, located at: <http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Canopy/2450/> and has included a section called Educational Outreach for our committee to provide information to the finch community at large. The Committee consists of the 1st Vice President and all of the Regional Vice Presidents. Below is what we hope to be many of the various programs the Education Committee will organize.

“How do I do that?” That is what the NFSS Education Committee is here for. You do not have to be a member of NFSS to use this service. We will answer those Finch and Softbill “How do I do that?” questions. The Committee is chaired by the 1st Vice President, Dale Laird and includes each of the Regional Vice Presidents. Feel free to contact any of the members with your questions. If we do not know the answer we will find it and respond. Housing, caging, breeding, feeding, banding, genetics, fostering, nest size and style, handfeeding, live food, vitamin requirements, show tips, etc. The best of the questions will be run in the NFSS Bulletin.

The Educational Outreach contact points are:

Dale Laird email: dalel@magicnet.net

Kris Kroner email: kkroner@Erols.com

Armando Lee email: mlee@dc.sefflin.org

Tom Rood email: tjrood@bmmhnet.com

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

Luis Garcia email: aves1@juno.com

Sally Huntington email: huntington-center@worldnet.att.net

Rich Morales email: sunshine@tropicweb.net

Do you have suggestions for the Education Committee to cover? Email or phone any of the members and we will discuss it.

News from Region #3

By Tom Rood

With 1998 well under way by now, I am hoping all Region 3 bird clubs have sent in their affiliation fees to Ginny Allen and have their NFSS Panel Judges

selected. It's really getting late to accomplish these two items, so this is your reminder to do so.

I have just received word from John Muscato concerning the 1998 Grand National Cage Bird Show to be hosted by the Greater Chicago Cage Bird Association. John was in attendance at the March National Meeting held March 7-8 in St. Charles, Illinois. John reports that the National is returning to Chicago for its 50th Anniversary Show bringing the show home to where it began in 1949. The show will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort and Convention Center in St. Charles, Illinois. For reservations, call 630-584-6300 and mention the National Cage Bird Show for special room rates good until October 10th. The hotel has two pools, a workout room, two restaurants, and a dinner theater. The bird show will be held in the Mega Center which is 35,000 sq. ft. under one roof. For more information please contact John Muscato at 630-305-9043 or email him at Byrdman55@aol.com. You may also contact Bob Wild at 630-985-4416 or email him at rwild@kiwi.dep.anl.gov. We are proud to have the National Show in Region 3 again this year.

One of the earlier shows of the year also occurs in Region 3, that being the 13th Annual Show sponsored by the Illini Bird Fanciers. This show is held in Shelbyville, Illinois. We have scheduled Clarence Culwell of Texas as our NFSS panel judge. We usually average over 100 finch and softbill entries each year. I believe last year we had 125 entries which tied for the 4th largest show in 1997. As usual, I have offered a couple of "challenges" for Zebras and the whole Finch Division with several very nice special awards. Anyone wanting to show with us may contact me at (217) 774-5265 or email me at tjrood@bmmhnet.com. We would love to have you come.

I am hoping all other Region 3 shows are coming together by the time this is printed in the Bulletin. It will be nice to "stay at home" in 1998 by getting to judge a few Region 3 shows. I am looking forward to traveling to Milwaukee for the Badger Show, Toledo for the Toledo Bird Association Show, and Canada for the Essex-Kent Show. Y'all come!!

Hoping to hear from any and all Region 3 members or delegates in the near future.

News from the Publication's Department

By Kerri Ann McCoy

I wanted to take the time to introduce you to the talented individuals that have accepted to assist me with all that Publications entails. First off, I want to introduce the membership to the new Website Manager, Mr. Marc Riva. You can become more familiar with Marc if you read his short bio below. Secondly, I want to introduce you to the new Advertising/Promotions Manager, Mr. Clint Harris. You can also become familiar with Clint through his bio below. I have also asked two other gentlemen to be on the committee. They are Mr. Bruce Dixon and Mr. Steve Heller. To become more familiar with them you can also read their short bios below. Since being appointed ProTem 2nd Vice President I wanted to waste no time in beginning to dive into several worthwhile projects. And the above listed gentlemen provide the talent and the dedication for the Publication's Department to tackle all that is in front of us.

You have already been given the URL for the new NFSS website address in Dale Laird's Education Committee write-up. Should you be so inclined please stop by and take a look at its progress. We need the support and feedback of the membership!

Marc Riva's Bio:

Hello all, I am pleased to have been invited to join your team as the Website Manager for NFSS, a responsibility that I will take very seriously. I am a resident of Oshawa, Ontario, a manufacturing city that features among its assets the largest GM complex in Canada. I am a second generation architect and sole principal in a firm that specializes in residential, commercial and institutional design. A pioneer in Ontario in PC based computer aided drafting (CAD); I have worked with computers most of my professional life. I have many interests, but my passion for birds and aviculture goes back decades and I am fortunate that, in having my office adjoining my residence, I am able to tend to the needs of my somewhat demanding flock. I have been working to specialize with Parrot Finches but still have a number of breeding pairs of Gouldians and other Australians. Having a design and technical background, I particularly enjoy designing and constructing my own cages and aviaries. Unfortunately, with the time constraints of work and family, I am forever tinkering in the birdroom trying to materialize all the wonderful plans I have. I hope to contribute to NFSS with my knowledge of design and construction and my growing skills with web development.

Clint Harris Bio:

Greetings. My name is Clint Harris and I live in central Texas. While I hold a degree in Respiratory Therapy, I have spent most of my adult life as a builder and carpenter. I have operated a small home building business, as well as a little bird "cottage" business. I have kept and raised all types of birds since 1971, including lovebirds, cockatiels, Australian parakeets, conures and budgies. However, my addiction, I mean passion, is finches. I primarily raise grass finches, but am beginning to acquire some waxbills. In particular, I am focusing on the diamond firetail. I am attempting to achieve the same size and conformation in the fawns as the normals. I like to think that my bird philosophy is quite simple. We as aviculturalists have a moral obligation to continue, and improve upon the long-term viability of our beloved finches and softbills. To that end, I believe our community has reached a critical mass, in so far as their survival is concerned. It will be up to a dedicated core group of very focused and responsible breeders to guarantee that the next generation of bird keepers will enjoy the unparalleled beauty that we have been privileged to enjoy. This can only be achieved if we all set aside petty differences and personal agendas, and embrace a long-term vision to assure the preservation of these remarkable creatures.

Steve Heller Bio:

I started keeping homing pigeons when I was in my teens. Unfortunately, they're not allowed in all localities, so I graduated to cage birds. My first attempt at finches was 20 years ago. I built an indoor aviary similar in design to the one I currently have in my living room. It housed many pairs of finches, insuring NO success with any of them. Even a dope like me finally learned the hard way. Don't overcrowd, and you might be successful breeding some of your birds. I'm 48, and I own and operate a catering truck. You know, roach coach. I have 4 kids and gazillion dogs. My wife will probably bring home a dog while I'm typing this. I currently keep red headed parrot finches. Are there any other kinds? I thought so! I sincerely hope the NFSS will grow to become the premier finch club in the New World. It certainly could be.

Bruce Dixon's Bio:

My name is Bruce Dixon and I live in the state of Victoria, in southeastern Australia. My interest in birds commenced as a young child, at which time I can recall my grandparents having two aviaries of canaries. This must have been enough however, as the love of birds has stayed with me all of my life.

Like most kids starting off I commenced with the inevitable zebra finches, and budgerigars. Dropping out of bird keeping for a lengthy period of time, to raise a family of 4 children, and pursue another passion, that of raising stud sheep which thankfully was very successful albeit in a very small way, by Australian standards. Living today as I am in suburbia, and unable to maintain an interest in sheep, other than occasionally officiating as a judge, I have reverted to my old love of birds and aviculture in general. I do not consider myself a collector of birds; rather I tend to specialize in the breeding of:

- red faced parrot finches
- and more recently, the painted fire tail finch

My best friend recently suggested that I seem to have a passion for red, and this may well be the case. Other birds of considerable limited extent in my aviaries are Cordons, Cuban Finches, Gouldians, Owls, Black Hooded Siskins, and Scarlet Breasted Australian (neophema grass parrots)

My interests other than our birds include such widely diverse activities as

- pistol shooting at both state and national levels
- I am an accredited Australian coach in all pistol shooting disciplines
- I am a keen gardener
- I love writing, particularly poetry
- I love fishing, but never find the time
- I hit a mediocre ball at golf.
- assisting our current editor of the bulletin on the publications committee

Business wise, my background is predominantly in the corporate sector, having spent the greater working part of my life working for both north American, and Canadian corporations, which gave me the opportunity of visiting both countries on several occasions, as well as Asia, and Europe. More recently I commenced my own business and specialize in what I was trained in namely sales and marketing.

I am privileged to serve the NFSS and I trust that I can make a worthwhile contribution to our organization.

Letter to the Editor

To: NFSS Membership

Subject: Help Needed for Study on Conservation of Wild Birds

I work at Oregon State University and am doing work related to conservation of native forest-dwelling birds. As part of my research, I am conducting a study on the effects of timber harvesting on predation rates of bird nests. I will be placing "mock" nests out in the forest and measuring the frequency that eggs in the nest are destroyed. I will also use specially designed camera systems in which a remote trigger will allow the nest predators to take pictures of themselves!

Finch eggs are needed because they closely resemble the eggs of native birds. I am looking for people to supply finch eggs for this study. In total, I will need to collect 1000 eggs from U.S. breeders in the United States. I am also looking for breeders in Canada to supply an additional 1000 eggs for a similar study being conducted in forests in British Columbia.

I am looking for breeders to donate their infertile/unwanted finch eggs. Although eggs from any species of finch will work, eggs from other types of birds such as canaries and budgies are typically too large. Large-scale breeders will be most helpful, but even breeders of a few pair of finches can help. I will pay for ALL shipping costs for ANYONE who wishes to help and will provide special containers to use in storing eggs.

A summary of the project and the initial results will be published in a future issue of the NFSS Bulletin. Anyone who helps will be acknowledged in publications that develop from this project.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Weikel
Oregon State University
Email: weikelj@ccmail.orst.edu
(541) 737-7352

Letter to the Editor

To: NFSS Membership
Subject: Challenges

Dear NFSS Bulletin Editor:

Allow me to heartily comment you on a very excellent Jan/Feb issue. It greatly exceeded my already high expectations.

I would like to respectfully issue a threefold challenge to each member of our society, new, old, exhibitor, breeder, and conservationist alike. Like any large, divergent volunteer organization we are not perfect; we have a few warts. By recognizing the need to grow and evolve, we can ensure that the next generation of bird keepers can enjoy ALL species now available in American aviculture. But to do this effectively, we must lay aside some pervasive attitudes and reassess why we keep birds in the first place.

This is a people oriented society, and as such it is not the possession of a few semi-elite breeders or exhibitors. It belongs to all of us, and it is the average breeder/keeper who is the nuts and bolts of this important organization.

The challenges are as follows:

1. I challenge each member to solicit at least one new member this year. Surely each of us can talk up the NFSS to a friend or acquaintance.
2. I challenge each member to act as a mentor to a new member. This can be as simple as writing an article for the NFSS Bulletin, or posting information on various finch/softbill Internet sites. Or can be more personal and involved. The point is, we need to encourage and stimulate newer bird keepers, and a kind word of encouragement now and then goes a long way. May I remind all of us, that at some point in time, we all had our first pair of zebras or societies.

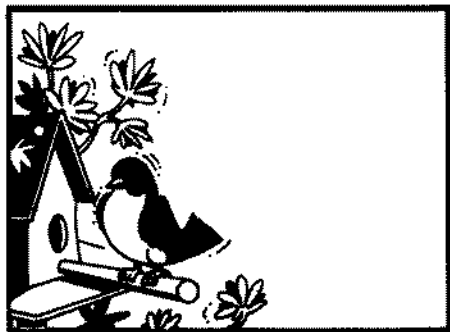
Letter to the Editor

3. I challenge each member to acquire and attempt to propagate one or more "common" species in their aviary. Soon we will no longer be able to import many of the "common" species in America. The very future of many of them is in our hands and the time to act is now.

The true meaning of a successful aviculturist may well be the content of his or her long-term vision and commitment to aviculture, and not the number of ribbons or plaques accumulating dust on a shelf nor by the black ink of a ledger. None of us can afford to let common waxbills and others be bred "by someone else". There is work to be done folks, and we cannot assume that someone else will do it. By acting in harmony, by sharing information, by propagating pure, untainted bloodlines, we can be proud to pass the baton to the next generation of bird keepers. Hopefully what we will hear from them is a resounding "Well done!" Thoughts and comments welcome. Peace and Love.

Clint Harris - Temple, TX
USA, Earth
Email: charris@vvm.com

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 L. Taylor for more information.



The Black Faced Zebra

By: Frank Nielsen
Denmark, Copenhagen

The Black Faced Zebra Finch is gaining in popularity. It has existed in Europe since the 1970's, but has only started to appear in large numbers on exhibitions in the 1990's. Australian breeders have had a Black Faced variety since the 1960's.

Description: A Black Faced Zebra Finch is basically a Normal Gray Zebra Finch with the following changes:



- ◆ The area between the tear mark and beak mark should be black on males and gray on females.
- ◆ The male breast bar is to be extended downwards so that the black color flows towards the legs.

- ◆ The extended breast bar should be at least 15 mm in height, but the more black on the belly, the better. This means that good birds will often have an underside that is completely black from breast bar to tail.
- ◆ On females, the color of the breast has also been extended downwards so that their undersides are gray rather than the usual fawnish color.
- ◆ The upper rump (which is the area between the wings, between the back and tail, and is normally white) should have an irregular black and white barring.
- ◆ The black marking behind the flank flows towards the legs.

Australian breeders distinguish between two forms of the Black-faced mutation: One is called Black Face and is identical with the European Black Face with the exception that the black breast/belly

color should stop between the legs. The other is called Black Bodied.

On a Black Bodied, the breast bar is not only extended downwards all the way to the tail, but also upwards

to the lower beak. In addition Black Bodied males do not have the characteristic flank spots, but instead completely orange flanks. European breeders have chosen to only accept one standard and instead use combinations with the Black Breasted mutation to increase the black area below the beak, but since the Black Breasted mutation is not available in Australia, this is not an option for the Australians.

Show Faults: The most common of all show faults on Black Faced birds is that the black areas are too light and faded. This is simply a matter of selection; keep selecting darker and darker birds for breeding and eventually they will be dark enough. Black Faced combined with either Lightback, Chestnut Flanked White or Fawn are likely to have significantly lighter black areas than normal Black Faced birds do. The same goes for Black Faced birds that are split for any of these varieties.

There is a tendency for birds that have a really intense black color to lack the white flank spots so that the flanks are just orange. Again, this is a show fault that should be eliminated through selection. Since Black Faced is often combined with Orange Breasted and/or Black Breasted, other common show faults on 'pure' Black Faced birds are orange

feathers in the otherwise black breast bar and cheek patches with uneven edges.

Breeding: Black Faced is an autosomal dominant mutation. That is a great advantage when breeding these birds, since this means that a zebra finch is either black faced or it isn't - there are no hidden genes. The dominant heredity means that it is possible in each generation to mate Black Faced to pure gray in order to improve type, size and posture. There is no reason to mate Black Faced to Black Faced, since, in my opinion, this does not improve color. It is still being debated whether there can be double-factor black faced birds, i.e. birds that will breed 100% black faced chicks no matter what they are mated to. Personally, I seriously doubt it, since we should have clearer indications of this by now if they did.

When purchasing Black Faced Zebra Finches, it is important to keep in mind that zebra finches with vitamin deficiencies or kept under inadequate lighting often will become over-melanised. Put simply, that means that they become darker than their genes tell them to, and they often look exactly like real Black Faced Zebras. But since they aren't genetically 'real' Black Faced Zebras, they will eventually lose the color again.

When I pair up birds for breeding, I prefer to select a black faced male with a good, intense color more or less without regard to his type and size, and a normal gray female selected primarily for type and size.

The reason why I usually select the male for color and female for type and size, and not the other way around, is that the Black Faced characteristics are much more evident on males than females.



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and bring lost birds home

The Orange Weaver - An Exceptionally Aggressive and Industrious Bird

By Stuart Balfour "The Birdman"
Fremont, California

Taxonomy: Whenever I acquire any new bird, I always want to know: how is the animal different from other animals, and how is it similar to other birds? So let me place the Orange Weaver in context - in the Animal kingdom, among the higher animals in phylum Chordata, those with backbones and spinal chords which includes humans; in class Aves of all birds; in order Passeriformes, the finches and related soft-billed birds; in family Ploceidae, the African weavers, whydahs and sparrows; genus Euplectes, one of several weaver/whydah genera including Pluceus; Quelea, Sporopipus, Vidua (the parasitic whydahs), and Passer (the sparrows, including Passer domesticus, the house sparrow); species orix, the native African Red Bishop Weaver, and franciscanus, the African Orange Bishop weaver. It seems likely that the domestic stock of orange weavers is a mixture of wild caught orix (which loses its red color after importation) and franciscanus, and captive domestically bred bishop weavers, which has become a nominate subspecies. The most common

designation of that subspecies is orix.

Habitat: The Orange Weaver (Euplectes orix orix) progenitor species are native of sub-Saharan Africa, from Senegal in the west, to central Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia, and down as far as Uganda and Kenya. It is a member of a large family of skillful nestbuilders, which includes the common American house sparrow. They are closely related also to the African whydahs, and some ornithologists place non-parasitic species of whydah in the weaver family.

Red Bishop Weavers in their native habitat are so named because the collar and other feathers are more reddish than orange there, though the red fades soon after native birds are imported. No one has accurately identified what element of their native environment is responsible for the reddish color, but the Red Bishop Weaver cock is invariably orange/yellow when in season in captivity.

Characteristics: The Orange Weaver cock has seasonal coloration, being a mottled brownish tan (tinged with green in very young birds) when out of season. The coloration follows a Southern Hemisphere pattern,

appearing in late summer and lasting till early winter. The collar and back of the neck, tail and wings change to a brilliant orange. The breast and abdomen and top of he head and face change to shiny black. The bill also becomes dense black. The girth and spread of the feathers also increases so the bird appears much larger than he really is, when in color. Hens do not change color, and are somewhat slimmer than cocks. The onset of color does not appear until the second seasonal cycle after fledging, and for this reason young weaver cocks before the first seasonal molt are frequently sexed as hens.

General Behavior Along with its impressive color, is has an equally impressive temperament. The Orange Weaver is about the most aggressive and destructive finch type bird you can own. It is not a social bird. It commands a large territory and will give its life in defense of its nests rather than abandon its young or surrender its territory. I say "nests", because it is markedly polygamous in the wild, commanding a harem of as many as fifty hens.

In captivity, pairing the weavers is haphazard. I do know that random pairing simply is ineffective. The cock must have a choice of several hens, and if the territory is large enough, he may claim them all, but only mate with one or two. He will

mate with as many hens as he has space to build isolated nests. My own observation leads me to believe that a space at least 12'x12' will be required per nest. You must never place two weaver cocks in a cage together while in color, nor in any aviary which is smaller than double the above size. The weaver is a powerful and persistent defender, and can easily kill other birds, even other weavers, including his mates, if his territory is cramped. It will not be safe to keep other birds in a weaver aviary when the weavers are nesting, even other very aggressive birds. The weaver will overpower them all, or sacrifice his life attempting to eject anything that intrudes on any of his nests. The weavers cannot be bred in any cage.

The weavers are much more manageable during the offseason, and it is possible to keep 3-5 cocks and hens together in a spacious cage, maybe 4'x3'x3'. Even though I have done so, I do not recommend that weaver cocks be confined more than one in any cage. They are very unpredictable and savage when anything is wrong, like the food running low. There are very few acceptable cohabitants for weavers whether in an aviary or cage (and none when the weavers are in color): whydahs, Purple Grenadiers, Aurora and Melba finches, Twinspots, other weaver species (but be very careful

here, when housing weaver cocks of different species together). When the weavers color in, the other birds must be removed, or they will be harried and attacked.

Nest Building: The most remarkable attribute of the weaver cocks, from which they take their name, is their nest building prowess. In this sense, the "weavers" with which we are familiar - the American sparrows - have lost their heritage, and make poor thumb-like nests of sticks and twigs. The African weavers all make densely woven and intricately knotted deep cup-like nests with a reinforced circular opening on one side. The nests are just wide enough for a single adult bird to occupy, but deep enough to hold the hen and chicks. The nest often contains more than one chamber, or a chamber and a mat-like roost. The nest may be built and reorganized several times before the cock is finished, and he may come back later and add on to it.

The best materials for nest building are fine strong fibrous grasses like raffia and fountain grass. But the weavers are marvelous with man-made materials like string, bread ties and thread, and will cannibalize just about anything that can be carried in their beaks and tied in a knot. I've seen them gather human hair they plucked off the carpet. I've never seen the weavers make a

production out of lining their nests, but they do pick up feathers and fuzz from here and there and carry them to the nest. It would take a human a very long time to clip a weaver nest from its mooring, and the nest would be destroyed in the process. The nests are so durable and defensible that other birds preferentially seek out weaver nests in the wild instead of building their own. The weavers weave continuously during the offseason and well into the mating season, making as many nests as there are reasonable scattered places to make them. Weaver hens do not take part in the building of the nests, and mates are not selected until several nests are available to show.

There are some other aspects of nest building that are important. When available, the weaver will select only "green" grass and twigs with which to make the nest, and it's said that in the wild, any nest which dries out before it is completed will not be selected by a hen, and it is therefore abandoned. In captivity, weavers will weave and continue to complete nests with anything that is available. It also seems that the weavers are inclined to build nests over or very near water. I've not noted that the Bishop Weavers are strongly inclined this way, but the Village Weavers most certainly are.

Territoriality and Mating: The weaver cock's nest building prowess is an integral part of the weaver's claim on its territory, something like the scent a dog deposits on its turf, and it is also an essential part of the selection and mating process. A weaver will never accept a box or basket or any other kind of nest, and will if he is able, destroy or cannibalize it for his use. The nest of a weaver establishes a zone from which he will exclude all other birds on pain of death, and together, a ring of weaver nests establishes a strongly defended territory, upon which no other weaver cock will intrude. Other birds will be weakly tolerated in the territory as long as they do not infringe on the exclusion zone of a nest. When the weaver has several completed nests to show, he will select among his harem or court a weaver hen passing through, and escort the selected hen to several of his nests. If the hen selects a nest, she settles there, perhaps after adjusting the nest somewhat, and mating and laying take place within a few days there after. If the hen does not select a nest, the cock drives her away from his nests and selects another hen. The quality of the nest, however the birds judge quality, is an important part of the hen's selection criteria in the wild and in captivity. My most industrious nest builders build the

best nests, and command the most attention from the hens. However, the common experience with the weavers is that they build and build and build but rarely mate.

After the nest is established, the cock takes no further part in the brooding and feeding of the nestlings. The cock will occasionally feed the fledglings. After fledging, the young do not return to the nest, and leave the cock's territory immediately after independence.

The mating dance is quite dramatic. I've seen it only a few times, because evidently the dance is done early in the morning before I generally arise. The cock puffs up his feathers to the size of a softball, and forcefully and rhythmically flapping his wings, "floats" in the air 6-8 feet horizontally across the sight of the hen who may or may not be airborne, all the while uttering an intimidating and savage screeching. He appears to be a very large and angry bird positioning for assault. It's the most impressive bird display I've ever seen. And you will never see it in any cage.

Feeding The weavers are highly insectivorous both during the offseason and while nesting. It is more than a preference for insects - weavers maintained on seed will change color slowly, incompletely, exhibit feather abnormalities,

or fail to change color seasonally at all. Young weavers who have inadequate protein will be underweight and sparsely feathered, and will mature into sickly birds. An insectivorous diet also increases the territorial and aggressive behavior of the weavers, and tends to bring on the mating cycle. Adult birds in the offseason after molt can be maintained on seed, but this is not the preferred diet of the birds, and not recommended. Greens are also a large part of the birds' diet, and they will destroy any plants that are available to them, even hardy large bushes, either to eat or to use as nesting material.

Vocalizations: The weaver does not have anything approaching a song. The characteristic sounds are a lispng sound that rises to a high pitched and demonstrative screech when the birds are excited or angry. Cocks make a grinding gravel sound while bobbing up and down with their feet anchored both to announce territoriality and as a mating call. When immediately in front of an available hen, a weaving motion is added, in addition to puffing the feathers, as part of the initial courting ritual. The weavers have a few other vocalizations, like an endearing little "o-o o-E-o" that is usually a prelude to some other vocalization, but nothing melodious or pleasant. They are quite raucous during the

day.

A Learning Experience: Keeping the weavers is a fascinating learning experience. After years and years of observing my weavers, I only last week observed something I had never noticed before. My weavers are free flying in the living room, except for an injured one I kept in a hospital cage in my bedroom. Night after night the injured weaver skitted back and forth in its cage after lights out, when it had seemed at rest just before dark. After several nights of this, I understood that something the weaver needed was not being given; something about the dark, about the cage. So I finally released the weaver into the room just before dark, and observed what it would do. It circled the room energetically. Searching, examining corners and roosts. It finally selected a most particular roost, the only space like it in the room. The characteristics of that space were that it was shielded on three sides, with something jutting out to perch on, and just large enough for the bird to occupy to the exclusion of other birds (if there were any others). The front and back were open, and one side partly open, enough for the weaver to have three escape paths if necessary.

After seeing that, I recalled that locating my free-flying weavers at dusk was impossible, and I had

never ascertained where they went. This time, I carefully searched for them, and each weaver of the bunch had located, and one had built, a shelter of this kind, and settled there at night! There are not so many places like that in the room, and they had found them all. On reflection, I understand how vital it would be for the weaver to as strongly defend itself at night, as it defends its territory in the day: it is highly polygamous, and many lives and nests may depend upon his strength. That is why the unshielded weaver was restless after dark. You learn about the weavers in just this way, if you pay attention to what the bird tells you.

The Nature of the Bird: The weaver is a proud and temperamental bird, unusually perspicacious about its territory and environment, and indefatigably industrious. The territory of the weaver is not just space he lives in; the command of space, the weaving of nests, and his fearless defense of them, are part of the nature of the bird. The nature of the bird and the nature of his environment are one, and must not be severed. The weaver cannot be kept in any cage. I believe that weavers confined to cages will live short and unsatisfactory lives.

though none I think so bold and beautiful as the Red Bishop (Orange) Weaver. I would recommend the weavers to those that have spacious and planted aviaries, with open water, but this is not a bird for a beginner. It is one bird whose nature is not suited to being captive, and it would be better if it were not.

I own several other weaver species,



Contact Call

New Question from the membership:

- ◆ A group of us, some having had birds shipped before and some of us without that experience had a group of birds shipped in from Canada. I would be very interested in hearing the experiences and do's/don'ts on the proper care of receiving birds that have been shipped.

Candice Cranmore - Tifton, Ohio

- ◆ Responses to the Contact Call question on hybridization from the January/February issue:

In answer to your request on the topic of a university student wanting to obtain an owl finch and breed it with a zebra finch, well it gave me some food for thought. I don't think that the cross would prove very much and how would it benefit the birds that hatched? If that is possible for these species. The student would probably have better luck working with plants rather than birds. Peas work well...

Candice Patrick - Pensacola, Florida

Regarding the "Contact Call" published in the Jan/Feb '98 NFSS Bulletin I found it imperative to respond and share my viewpoint which I hope will be shared by many NFSS members.

As a breeder (primary) and exhibitor (secondary) of finches and softbills for the past twenty years, I have witnessed the availability of both common and rare finches and softbills dramatically change with the implementation of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 (the "no more imports" law). Prior to this we had relatively easy access to various finch and softbill species whether to increase diversified

genetic bloodlines within our breeding program or simply to initiate breeding of another species. Unfortunately, because of this law, today the American aviculturist is finding it quite an unnerving challenge to find domestic or imported stock to enhance their breeding programs.

As a past president of the NFSS, I know the Society was founded with a shared approach to the entire field of aviculture. I have great respect for this. Yet, many years ago NFSS adopted policy not to condone interspecies hybridization. I have never regretted being a part of this decision making process.

It is difficult enough for breeders to continue with their preservation efforts of finch and softbill species in the U.S. due to the limited access to desired breeding stock. To intentionally use our diminished, domestic, genetically pure bloodlines to produce what many consider a mule or dead end is inconceivable and a contradiction to our current philosophy which many aviculturists, including our editor, subscribed.

Steve Hoppin – NFSS 4th Vice President and Judge's Panel Chairman, N. Fort Myers, Florida

I write this in hopes that perhaps people will be more tolerant of others in regard to how they view the practice of hybridization and maybe share a little insight on this very controversial issue. First, let me point out the hybrids have been with us for a very long time. But let me try to concentrate on the issue of finches and related birds. The color bred Canaries (with red factor) and the Bengalese or society finches are hybrids. These birds have brought great pleasure and enjoyment to those who breed and keep these birds. Also to note is that birds in the wild do hybridize and not just on rare occasions. There are two species of birds that some scientists and ornithologists feel are natural hybrids (one of the latest Bird talk magazines makes mention to this.) I would also like to add that a bird called the "Dusky Seaside Sparrow" now extinct was hybridized with a close relative to try to save it from extinction with the cooperation of the Government Wildlife agency. They where unable to accomplish this because the males (only ones left) died before they could be bred back enough times to produce 99% pure birds. In the United Kingdom and most of Europe many experienced "Finchers" hybridize finches and produce mules. While the only hybrid finches allowed at NFSS shows are Bengalese (Societies), whereas many of the big shows in the U.K. and Europe have hybrid and mule sections for the finches/canaries. Here are some arguments made by some who condemn the practice of hybridization.

First, some feel that responsible Aviculturists would never hybridize. Many of the birds we import into this country are birds from Europe and U.K. and many of the "new" mutations and large "cobby" English Zebras come from them. The Europeans have been successful in preserving and propagating a large number of species of finches that are no longer available in the wild. As mentioned they produce mules, which are not easy to produce, and some of them are spectacular. At some shows there are a variety of different hybrids exhibited.

Second, The argument is used that Aviculture is in the shape it is in and is suffering because of hybridization. I fail to see this and see no facts to back this up. There are several reasons why finch aviculture is in the trouble it's in in some areas but none seem to stem from hybrids.

Third, When someone hybridizes birds they are trying to play God. Birds in some instances hybridize in the wild with no interference from man. Yet man creates "mutations" and fosters birds to other species that would never occur in the wild.

On the other hand there are areas of concern when it comes to hybridization. Already with hookbills some of the rarer sub-species are disappearing and harder to find. They are concerned that the inter-related breeding of close sub-species will eliminate some of the more unique sub-families species of birds. Another concern is the "fake" species of parrot finches that have been produced for greed. Parrot finches are closely related as are the munias and mannikins, care needs to be taken to continue pure lines of these birds as the offspring are fertile in most cases. Also there is the area of some of the Australian Shaftail mutations, the cremes and the fawns, some feel when the mutation popped up it was crossed over to the other species and then bred back to produce as pure as bird as possible with the Mutation. Is this practice ethical? Would you own one of these hybrid birds?

In closing, I hope this will not be another issue to divide us, we are divided enough and there are not that many "finchers" around. Let us take the concerns to heart and let's tolerate each other as to how each of us would like to enjoy our hobby and stand united with other issues that need to be addressed.

Look at the laws being made to hamper our rights as aviculturists. Birds are being banned locally, some of them finches. It upsets me to see more and more finches put into CITIES Appendix 3. Just recently the Pekin robin and Silver-eared Mesia were put on this list. And there are already many other finches on that list. Yet Europe and the U.K. can get these birds freely but we cannot! Also not enough is being done to propagate some of the rarer finches in this country. Instead of whining about about the perils of hybridization I for one would like to know what we can do to combat these most serious issues and what solutions might be at hand to help work these problems out.

Ivan Hartley - Plant City, Florida

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The Bold & Beautiful Diamond Firetail

By Clint Harris
Temple, Texas

*Respectfully and
lovingly dedicated
to Bruce Dixon.*



This article on the diamond firetail, *Emblema guttata*, is intended to be an overview from some personal experiences with this enormously striking native Australian bird. Like my mate, Bruce Dixon, and his recent article on the red head parrot finch, my foray into the world of the diamond firetail will be anecdotal in nature.

Description: Adult male; general color above including wings, brow; rump and upper tail culverts bright crimson; tail feathers black; forehead, crown of head and hind neck ashy gray; lores black; throat white; broad band on fore neck black; sides of foreneck and flanks black, each feather having a subterminal white spot; breast, abdomen, and under tail culverts white, sometimes interspersed with a few reddish feathers; bill vinous red, tending toward mahogany, with lilac shade at base; legs and feet dark gray; iris red. Adult hen very similar although in older pairs usually smaller, has narrower black band on foreneck, and brown lores.

It is one of four firetails found Down Under. The others, *e.picta*, *e.bella*, *e. oculata*, will be addressed in future articles. It is more often called a diamond sparrow, which is misleading, as it is not a sparrow at all. This firetail is easily one of the most visually striking birds in the world and is a very desirable addition to any bird room. It is bold, inquisitive, and even fearless.

Acquisition: As with any new aviary subject, one should be vigilant in securing robust, unrelated pairs. When possible, obtain NFSS closed banded specimens. Although I have not found the firetail to be as choosy as the Gouldian when selecting a mate, the ideal would be to obtain 2-3 pairs and allow the birds to select their own partner. Prospective birds should be alert, active, with feathers close to the body. Reject any bird that appears fluffy has a dirty vent, drooping wings, or nasal discharge.

Accommodation: Diamond firetails are strong flyers and the beauty of their plumage is magnified in full flight. They are ideal aviary subjects in a mixed community, provided that there is no over crowding, and there is abundant natural cover for smaller, passive birds. These birds also do

very well in a cage. The minimum dimensions should not be less than 32"X24"X16". I line my cages with several layers of newspaper. Preferably those featuring photos of President Clinton. Next I place several handfuls of coastal bermuda hay. I use cattle grade, purchased from my local feed store (\$4.50 per #100 bale). This lends a more natural appearance, plus acts as a cushion for newly fledged chicks. The hay has a fresh, sweet smell and the firetails take great delight in foraging through the stems. Every week or so, I add another small handful and this stimulates new wonderment. The firetails investigate at once, and this provides them with many hours of diversion. I use natural branches of varying diameters to allow for optimum feet and leg exercise. Warning, be certain that any branches are absolutely free from pesticides. Natural lighting is provided, augmented by full spectrum lights. My birds seem to enjoy the tapes of President Reagan's State of the Union Addresses I continually play, as the firetails are very productive and model aviary subjects.

Sexing: Ah yes, the joys of sexing monomorphic birds. At a glance the birds are identical especially young birds. Subtle differences become apparent as the birds mature. I have found full growth is

not attained in some birds until their 14-16 month. Breeding should not be attempted until birds are at least 9 months old. There are various ideas about sexing visually, such as beak color (attaining a rich mahogany in mature cock birds), color intensity of the eye ring, skull size etc. In all honesty, I have observed that cock birds are very keen to demonstrate their sexual prowess to any hen within a three county radius by about 4-5 months. This display becomes more elaborate and refined as they mature. The cock will begin to call, carry absurdly long grass stems, head and neck feathers become erect and they will engage in their singularly unique bobbing display. Similar to the Gouldian, but significantly more exaggerated. Where a Gouldian will hop up and down off the perch, the firetail grips the perch in a dramatic rise and fall, with the head cocked and turned upward. He will also cause his head and neck feathers to become erect to a point of appearing almost twice his size. All the while the cock holds the longest grass stem he can find in his beak and makes a very strange meowing/growling type call. Meanwhile, the hen, providing she has not already flown away, merely looks at the cock, as if saying, "You talking to me?" If she does not fly away, copulation will follow. I have observed the cock will retain the grass stem during the act.

Again because of their fearless nature, I can stand within two feet and observe this comical display. The song of the male diamond firetail consists of a long series of very low raspy calls. Both sexes are very vocal, being perhaps the most vocal of all the grass finches.

One interesting note. Our 12-year-old daughter, Jennifer, helps me with the birds. She has a very unique skill and can perfectly mimic the calls of several species, including the firetails. This never fails to solicit an immediate response. Truly amazing.

Mating: As noted above. Cock birds will also hold feathers in their beaks by the quill. Mine seem to prefer white feathers. Also, when offered a choice of dry or green grass stems, mine will take the dry stem every time. I offer two types of wooden nest boxes. The classic Gouldian style and a half open type. Pairs in my possession are divided equally between their preference. The cock is known to also build a very elaborate elongated structure. Mine have yet to thrill me with such architectural marvels. Some pairs build very extensive domed type nests. Others do nothing more than lay on the grass base I provide as a starter. My firetails have carried in things such as eggshell, leaves, lettuce leaves, shredded newspaper and cucumber slices. Cocks will continue to carry

in material even after the hen is on eggs. I have observed the hen adjusting these new grass stems. If a portion of the stem happens to protrude out the top or side of the box, the cock bird will go to great lengths at pulling it completely out. Cock birds will also continue to hold grass stems and call after eggs are present. The usual clutch size is 4-5 eggs, with the hen doing the majority of the incubation. The changing of the guard occurs in the nest. Hens are very tolerant to nest inspection, but I limit that to necessity. Hens return to the nest immediately. Incubation will generally begin in earnest by the second egg. The eggs are large and oval in shape. Clutches of up to eleven have been reported by a breeder in Oklahoma. Mine have never exceeded 5. Incubation time is about 13-15 days. This varies with individual birds, temperature, and humidity and whether or not there is a Republican in the White House. Since firetails are extremely keen bathers, there is little problem of maintaining the proper level of humidity to insure that the eggs hatch.

Babies are born pink and naked with a few white feathers, as opposed to the parson finch, which is very dark and fuzzy. They also have a white smooth band that defines the outer edge of their

mouth. And what a mouth! Folks, you can park a Buick in the mouth of a baby firetail. They are very easy to syringe feed. By day 12 or so, they get quite vocal. The begging call is both distinct and LOUD. They are very insistent babies, especially when fledged. They have no problem letting Mom and Dad know when it is chow time. Birds in my possession fledge at 21 to 24 days. I prefer to leave them with parent birds for at least 3 weeks, and when I have observed them eating on their own for one week. Pairs in my birdroom have successfully reared 3 consecutive clutches of strong, healthy youngsters, so long as they are maintained on a high protein diet.

Diet: I will detail what I feed my birds. I do not claim that this is THE diet, but one that has been successful for me. Always available are the following: dry seed (60% white millet, 25% canary, 5% German millet, and 10% red millet). The later two they seem to eat little of, but they do eat some. A fine commercial finch grit, to which I add oyster shell, ground baked hens eggshell, and fine charcoal. Whole hens egg shell (well rinsed and nuked), a commercial dry supplement. There are several good ones available (Abba Green, Proteen 25, CeDe), but I use Proteen 25 and it is devoured with a passion. Naturally, clean, cool, fresh water is always

available. Sprouted seed is fed twice daily to feeding hens, as is a hard-boiled egg base recipe. Three times per week I offer sliced cucumber and diced Romaine lettuce. I sprinkle VMA powder from Noah's Kingdom onto the greens. I alternate with kale, collared greens, and turnip greens. The darker leaves provide the most nutrition. Spray millet is given as a treat. I also offer seeding grass heads when in season. Johnson grass being a favorite. If you want to see birds go berserk, tie several stalks of ripe seed heads to the perch and watch a feeding frenzy. I get the impression it conjures up primordial visions of their ancestors flying amongst tall waves of grasses in their native Australia. Again, I urge caution when providing such items. I obtain mine from the ranch of a friend who I know does not, at any time, use chemicals. I do not offer live food. I do not know many breeders that do. The high levels of protein in the dry supplement and the egg food seem to fulfil all their protein requirements. However, Klaus Immelman notes in his classic work, that all the grass finches consume vast numbers of insects in the wild. My personal belief is that sprouted seed is the great equalizer. They relish it. I also feel that fresh greens are important. I have also offered sliced apple, orange, bell pepper, English peas, and zucchini. These are largely

ignored, although I am sure it varies greatly from bird to bird. The hard-boiled egg base supplement contains vitamins. As long as I can strictly provide fresh water daily, I also add a liquid calcium and iron supplement to the drinking water. Bathing water is offered 3 times per week, and is enjoyed with obvious abandon. These birds are not dippers. They are drenchers!

Environment: I live in a neighborhood in central Texas, so I keep my birds in an enclosed bird room. I fear the implications of insecticide over spray from neighboring yards. I maintain an average winter time temperature in the low 70's, but allow the temperature to dip to the high 60's at night. I think it is unnatural for birds not experience a modest fluctuation in temperature, so long as a draft is not present. I provide at least 15 hours of light per day via windows and full spectrum lights. In Texas, we have little problem maintaining proper humidity. I heat my room with an electric heater/humidifier. I also keep several plants in the room. In the summer months temperatures reach the upper 90's with no apparent adverse effects. Bathing water is offered daily at that time.

Mutations: There are at least two very attractive mutations that I am aware of. The fawn and the yellow tail, the later

being found in both the normal and the fawn. The yellow tail is recessive, while the fawn is sex linked. A pied and silver were raised in the aviaries of Clarence Culwell of Springtown, Texas some years ago. Unfortunately neither survived to establish these unique mutations.

Summary: The diamond firetail is easily one of my favorite grass finches. Because of their striking beauty, fearless nature, and wildly unique breeding behavior, they make a most welcome and fascinating addition to any bird room. While I would not characterize the firetails, as a beginner bird in so far as breeding is concerned, neither are they a difficult subject. Novice and advanced breeders alike will take great delight, and be keenly rewarded by this amazing little aviary jewel. The long-term prognosis for this bird is fairly good. The challenge for aviculturalists will be to selectively breed to ensure strong, robust pure bloodlines. Thoughts and comments welcome. Peace and love.

"Australian Finches", Klaus Immelman; 1963

Please note: the Editor chose to allow the presidential remarks written above for they lend humor to the article. The author's views do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the NFSS.

The Painted Firetail

Finch (*Emblema picta*)

By Bruce Dixon

Melbourne, Australia

From the outset can I say how much I regret that the American market has seemingly closed their mind to this most delightful and most beautiful of Australian finches? It truly is a treasure of the bird world, and whilst as I say I regret your reluctance which is no doubt prompted by price, (a question of supply and demand), surely this would indicate that any aviculturist worth his or her title of aviculturist who is prepared to get off their butt, and start seriously looking at breeding this little bird may well reap the long term benefits of not only re-establishing it on the American market, but gaining enormous pleasure for themselves along the way.

This beautiful little bird, is truly not much larger than a zebra finch, only marginally heavier, and in reality should be as easy to breed. Providing, and it is a large proviso that a few of the fundamentals that the bird lives with in the wild are provided to it in it's captive situation within your aviary. And those fundamentals are so easy to provide you will be staggered how easy, but can make the difference between breeding success and total failure. Perhaps it has been the

failure of breeders to understand these requirements that has led to the fall in its popularity, when success has not been forthcoming.

I would really like to think that this simple article might persuade you to rethink your position on this little gem. And a gem it truly is to any aviary situation. To understand the bird you must first understand it's roots and origins in my country of Australia, knowing these origins unlocks the mystery of perhaps why you have experienced difficulties in breeding the species.

The painted firetail finch is a true desert dweller of Australia. If you understand this base premise of knowing where the root stock originates you will have a much better understanding of some of the specialized requirements of this diminutive bird of the desert.

The bird lives in some of the most inhospitable and hostile areas of Australia, extending from western Queensland; through to Derby on the coast of western Australia they can be found in largely spinifex country. Country with very light stands of low scrubby bush, usually well interspersed, and usually established around permanent, or semi permanent waterholes.

Temperature extremes in these areas can vary between 39 Fahrenheit at the low end, to 112 Fahrenheit at the high end. The bird therefore has a great tolerance for extremes, but has a very low tolerance for damp moist conditions. And, were they kept in this condition for long periods of time could lead to a high mortality rate.

The bird spends enormous amounts of time on the floor, and if you can provide a base floor that is predominantly something like a coarse river sand, this is the birds ideal.

If you can also provide some rocks, of various sizes around the aviary floor, you will be amazed at the amount of time the birds will spend happily sitting on these rocks. If by chance you can obtain volcanic type rocks, the birds love picking out the various minerals they can extract from small crevasses within these rocks. Other than rocks I provide natural perching material as opposed to dowel, which the birds seem to prefer.

Visual sexing: The birds are sexually dimorphic. The cock bird having far greater concentrations of red on the throat, and chest area, often extending from throat to vent, but more often concentrated on the throat and chest. Whereas, the hen tends to

have less concentration on the throat and chest. Adult birds are very easy to sex, whereas juveniles can at best be difficult.

Nesting sites and materials: Understanding this aspect of the bird is in my opinion the key, master this simple aspect of the birds make up, and you will breed successfully.

This little bird, one of several, no matter how far removed from it's root stock of native wild birds will always revert to type in its choice of nesting site and the use of nesting materials. If you understand this and provide the bird with these simple needs then I'm sure success will follow for you.

I can only speak with any authority on breeding the bird in open flights, my peer breeders in this country in the majority of cases, use the same methods, and all enjoy prolific success.

A planted aviary is the ideal choice, a non planted aviary will likewise suffice providing brush and cover is supplied in abundance, the choice of nesting site, will vary depending on individual birds.

Some will construct a nest 2ft off the floor, others will go just a little higher but it is most unusual to go any higher than 5ft. Some birds have been known to nest on the ground although this is considered

unusual. Remember this as I said earlier it is a desert dweller, and in many cases not blessed in the wild with stands of large trees or bushes, hence the lower than normal choice of nesting site.

If the bird is building a natural nest, which is their preferred option, they **MUST** have access to a vast quantity of small twigs. These twigs should be no thicker than a matchstick. In fact that could be a little too thick. But small thin twigs varying in length from 2 inches to a maximum of 4 inches. If these twigs have twists in them all well and good the bird will use these to advantage in the shaping of the nest. But also make sure that a high percentage of straight ones are also available to it.

The bird will use these twigs to construct a small beautifully engineered platform. And the reason for so doing is well established in the birds' genes. In the desert, building close to the ground, spear like spinifex grass would grow swiftly up from underneath and the spear like ends of this grass could penetrate into the nesting chamber killing the young unfledged chicks. Having constructed the platform the bird will then construct the nesting chamber using any soft pliable grass available to it.

The cock bird is the predominant nest builder, and does so with an energy and zeal that is truly amazing. The hen will assist in the decorating and the finishing off of the nest. But, the cock bird may take up to two days to construct the platform, one twig at a time. He will also use small pebbles, charcoal (see separate note) and has been known to use strips of tissues that have been provided for that use.

Don't be unduly concerned if when the hen is actually sitting on eggs that the cock bird continues to build and or improve the structure of the nest in ferrying small twigs and grass to and fro.

Can I suggest to you that after two days, any remaining twigs that are on the floor of the aviary be removed entirely? As failure to do so will result in a platform of monumental proportions, and take far too much energy out of the bird in his diligent approach to using every one of them.

If your aviary does not lend itself to the provision of brush and natural cover, you should not feel that you can not breed the bird, other nesting alternatives are:

- roll up a length of bird wire into a tube say 7 inches long and 5 inch diameter, position another section of bird wire in a way that closes in half of what will be the entrance area, and fully enclose

the back section with bird wire.

▪ a jam/conservé tin with half the top lid removed, leaving half in its originally manufactured position, and simply make safe by ensuring any sharp edges are removed.

Ensure that twigs and pliable grass are still provided however the bird will not accept man made boxes.

As I said earlier this simple attention to the birds nesting requirements may make the difference between success and failure for you.

Charcoal: This bird, probably more than any other has a great reliance on charcoal. And I have known breeders in this country who will maintain that they bring their birds into breeding condition by ensuring that additional quantities of charcoal are provided to the bird at strategic times of the year.

I mix a powdered and semi lumpy mix into the grit that I provide to my birds and they take it with relish. You will also find that the bird seemingly instinctively knows that charcoal is a natural absorbent medium and will provide the material to the bottom of the nesting chamber.

Diet: Any dry seed diet regime you are currently providing will suffice for this bird, strangely

enough unlike many other breeds they are not as readily responsive to supplements, other than commercially prepared egg and biscuit mix, to which a hard boiled egg has been added.

They have a love for seeding grass heads, but will also take broadleaf greens if seed grass is not available. Whilst in the wild the natural live food available to them are termites, they will take mealworms with gusto. And as such these are ideally introduced to them a good month from the onset of the breeding season. The bird as previously stated does spend a lot of time on the floor, and as such, if a natural floor is provided gather ants and other insects that may be available to them.

Fresh water as with any other bird should be available to them at all times, unlike parrot finches however the painted does not have the same love of bathing.

Aviary characteristics: Some people will claim that this bird is timid. To the contrary, I find it almost loving in its nature. Mine wait for me at the aviary door, and are undisturbed should I meet them at their feed station, not flying off in panic.

The bird has a truly beautiful call, almost plaintive in its appeal. Prior to copulation, which usually takes place in the open aviary, the cock bird sings to the hen over a period of anything up to 2 minutes. It is only after the completion of its song that copulation takes place.

The bird is totally non-aggressive, and is therefore compatible in a mixed collection. Minor irritation rather than aggression may take place if another bird intrudes into what is perceived as their territory when nest building is taking place. But this is certainly not belligerent aggression and usually only lasts for a few seconds with the interloper being chased off by the cock bird.

The breeding season for the bird is quite lengthy if all the conditions are right, care should be taken to shelter them from cold draughty conditions, and above all else avoid prolonged exposure to damp.

The bird has the almost amazing knack of being able to amuse itself, non-stop with the smallest and most trivial of things, be it rolling a small pebble, or harassing a grass seed. The bird also has a semi hovering capability, semi only in as much as it does it without a great deal of finesse and aplomb but it helps I'm sure in the capture of flying insects in its vicinity, and aids in it's nest building activities.

Summary: Depriving yourselves of this jewel as part of your avicultural interest is indeed so very sad, for those who are prepared to re-think, and perhaps try this little guy I'm sure you will find it will bring you so much pleasure and reward.

I hope that some of the things that I have tried to communicate in this article may help those who have tried before and failed. And like many things if I have given you a couple of small tips that will enable you to work with the bird, and provide those simple basics that will work with the birds own gene requirements for nesting and husbandry. I'd like to think it will bring you prolific success.

In reality it should be as easy to breed as the common zebra finch, unfortunately at the moment I can understand why the price you have to pay may be a major stumbling block.

NFSS ELECTION BALLOT

Treasurer – Term 1998-99

Candidate Bios:

Martha Wigmore
Elk River, Minnesota

With everything in the NFSS Publications area running well under acting Second Vice President and Editor Kerri McCoy, Martha is happy to be able to offer her abilities to NFSS for the 1998-99 term as Treasurer. With an M.B.A. in Finance and an undergraduate degree in Economics, Martha has worked for nearly ten years in managerial finance and accounting for international semi-conductor and super-computer manufacturing firms. Martha's care and attention to detail and her responsiveness to NFSS' membership has been evident over the years in her services as an NFSS Panel Judge, as NFSS Bulletin editor in 1994 and 1995, and in numerous other projects she has prepared for our membership and Board. These include the making of finch and softbill educational display boards, providing input on standards and many other committees, and delighting in bringing "special bird" exhibits to selected shows. As acting Treasurer this winter, Martha has established a new accounting system for NFSS and assembled a 1998 budget. She would enjoy this opportunity to continue to serve finch and softbill owners as Treasurer of the National Finch and Softbill Society.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR VOTE FOR NFSS TREASURER BELOW:

_____ Martha Wigmore

_____ Write In _____

Please detach and mail by 1 June to:

Dale & Eileen Laird
P.O. Box 2459
Goldenrod, FL 32733

Would you also fill out the survey so that the Board of Directors can better meet the needs of the membership? Thank you.

NFSS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

1. So far this year I would rate the performance of the newly elected NFSS Board in representing the needs of the membership as (✓ box)

Excellent Better than Average Average Poor Undecided

2. Do you think that the NFSS Bulletin has a "balanced" content?

Yes
No
Undecided

3. I would be interested in new/additional items being available for purchase through FinchShop.

Yes
No
Undecided

4. I have not previously joined FinchSave because (✓ all that apply)

Requirement of program to close band my offspring
Don't keep the birds that are eligible
Have not seen any incentive to join
Do not want to have to fill out yearly report
What's FinchSave?

4. I have not mailed in my yearly census because (✓ all that apply)

Don't have time
See no purpose
Confidentiality reasons
What Census?

5. I am pleased with the benefits I receive through my NFSS membership (i.e. publications, band purchasing, membership, "customer service")

Yes
No
Undecided

6. I would be interested in programs through Educational Outreach (i.e. how to tube feed offspring, how to band offspring, help with questions on difficult to breed species, etc.)

Yes
No
Undecided

7. I am interested in seeing the NFSS website become an authoritative, valuable, information tool

Yes
No
Undecided

8. I like having access to affiliated clubs in my area and listings of upcoming shows

Yes
No
Undecided

9. I would like to see more advertising in NFSS publications?

Yes
No
Undecided

10. I would be interested in purchasing a "special" publication by the NFSS

Yes
No
Undecided

11. The content of the special publication that would interest me would be

Focus on Waxbills (breeding, care, etc.)
Focus on Parrot Finches (breeding, care etc.)
Focus on Gouldian Finches
Focus on recipes, helpful hints, general bird care
Top Ten List (ten birds that are in the most need of
preservation, with details on management, successful breeding, etc.)
Other (please list) _____

12. If I were the NFSS President the most important issue to tackle would be? _____

13. If I were the NFSS Bulletin Editor I would focus my efforts on? _____

14. I would like to see the following ACCOMPLISHED by NFSS this year. _____

15. I would like to see the following CHANGED by NFSS this year: _____

The NFSS Board of Directors thanks you for taking the time to fill out this survey. By giving us a few minutes of your time we hope to better serve the membership.

The National Finch and Softbill Society 1997 Show Report Part II

Update: the Champion Exhibitors of 1997 listed in the January/February Bulletin now include Alvin & Dixie Lea with 68 points.

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK, September 27, 1997
Judge: Paul Williams—4 Exhibitors, 63 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	7	Harold & Margie McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
2	6	Gene & June Miller	Red-headed Gouldian	D66-97
3	5	Harold & Margie McBrayer	Strawberry Finch	
4	4	H & M McBrayer	Parson Finch	
5	3	H & M McBrayer	White Eye Zosterop	
6	2	H & M McBrayer	Spice Finch	
7	1	H & M McBrayer	Self Chocolate Society Finch	
8		Gene & June Miller	Parson Finch Pair	D957-97, D959-97
9		H & M McBrayer	Normal Gray Zebra	
10		Gene & June Miller	Cuban Melodious	B14-96

ATTENTION FINCH EXHIBITORS!

Illini Bird Fanciers 13th Annual Show
Saturday June 6, Shelbyville, Illinois
NFSS Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell (Texas)
Average Entry: 100+

**For info/catalog contact Tom Rood, 313N Broadway,
Shelbyville, IL 62565, (217) 774-5265**

***Ask about Tom's Special "Sound Mind and Body" Zebra Finch
Challengell Lots of Special Awards!***

New Mexico Bird Club, New Mexico Fairgrounds, NM, September 27, 1997
 Judge: Conrad Meinert—5 Exhibitors, 22 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	3	Chuck Galusha	White Breasted Gouldian	D8334-95
2	2	Chuck Galusha	Normal Shafttail	C2051-96
3	1	Chuck Galusha	Chestnut/White Society	E2239-93
4		Chuck Galusha	Red Front Gouldian	D8350-95
5		Chuck Galusha	Chocolate/White Society	
6		Michael Sung	Rainbow Bunting	
7		Chuck Galusha	Crested Fawn Society	E2742-97
8		Hunter Holdcroft	Zebra Pair	
9		Chuck Galusha	Normal Java Rice Bird	
10		Kay Westgate	Mouse Bird	

Fort Defiance Bird Club, Defiance, OH, September 27, 1997
 Judge: Charles Anchor—7 Exhibitors, 43 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Patrick Vance	Zebra	D3875-95
2	4	Larry Endsley	Parrot Finch	8197-96
3	3	Patrick Vance	Gouldian Pair	D4268-96
4	2	Charles Schmidt	Zebra Pair	JW120AAC -96 JW18AAC- 96
5	1	Patrick Vance	Society Finch	
6		Earl Race	Java Rice Bird	
7		Patrick Vance	European Siskin	
8		Patrick Vance	Silver-eared Mesia	
9		Patrick Vance	Pearl-headed Amadine	
10		Denise Dixon	Orange Bishop Weaver	

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders, Livonia, MI, October 4, 1997
 Judge: Christine Voronovitch—7 Exhibitors, 75 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	7	Patrick Vance	Pearl-headed Amadine	
2	6	Hisham & Michelle Bassiouni	Silver Gouldian	BA199-97
3	5	Patrick Vance	Crested Society	
4	4	Patrick Vance	Eurasian Siskin	
5	3	Patrick Vance	Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	K211-97
6	2	Charles Schembri	European Goldfinch	
7	1	Charles Schembri	Green Singing Finch	
8		John & Jane Muscato	Lightback Zebra Finch	D6083-95
9		Charles Schembri	Bicheno Pair	
10		Patrick Vance	Silver-eared Mesia	

Ft. Worth Bird Club, Ft. Worth, TX, October 4, 1997
 Judge: Steve Hoppin—7 Exhibitors, 87 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	8	Harold & Margie McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
2	7	H & M McBrayer	Parson Finch	
3	6	H & M McBrayer	Yellow Throated Bunting	
4	5	Gene & June Miller	Fawn Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow	E25-95
5	4	Gene & June Miller	Cuban Melodious	
6	3	H & M McBrayer	Spice Finch	
7	2	H & M McBrayer	Self Chocolate Society Finch	
8	1	H & M McBrayer	Normal Grey Zebra Finch	D4583-97
9		H & M McBrayer	Pair White Eye Zosterops	
10		Gene & June Miller	Red-headed Gouldian	D66-96

KAYTEE GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW, Manchester, NH
 October 4, 1997 Judge: Daren Decoteau—19 Exhibitors, 99 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	8	Alfredo Roules	Gold Breasted Bunting	823-95
2	7	Charley Angel	Diamond Sparrow	E9464-97
3	6	Bob Vargo	CFW Zebra Cock	D11350-95
4	5	Tim Roche	European Siskin	
5	4	Laura MacDonald	Dilute Chestnut Society	D5948-97
6	3	Donald Strause	Parson Finch	D1628-95
7	2	Bob Vargo	CFW Zebra Hen	15906-95
8	1	Bob Vargo	Blue Bodied Gouldian	669-96
9		Laura MacDonald	Cutthroat Finch	E3933-96
10		Kathleen Viewig	Blue-capped Waxbill Pair	E1596-97 E1591

Mid American Cage Bird Society, Des Moines, IA, October 4, 1997
 Judge: Tom Rood—6 Exhibitors, 40 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Carolyn Belisle	Yellow-headed Gouldian Cock	D8162-96
2	4	Carolyn Belisle	Green Singing Finch	C1966-97
3	3	Bob and Lynn Almy	Normal Gray Zebra Cock	D1049-96
4	2	Carolyn Belisle	Green Singing Finch	C1965-97
5	1	Jeanne Murphy	Orange Weaver	
6		Bob & Lynn Almy	Chocolate/White Society Hen	
7		Bob & Lynn Almy	Normal Java Rice Bird	K772-96
8		Nita Haas	CFW Zebra Hen	D3448-97
9		Nita Haas	Pied Zebra Cock	D4829-97
10		Nita Haas	White Society	E377-96

Indiana Bird Fanciers, Fort Wayne, IN, October 11, 1997
 Judge: Miki Spartzak—32 Exhibitors, 63 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	7	Conrad Meinert	Queen Whydah	
2	6	Patrick Vance	CFW Zebra	3540-96
3	5	Jan Bishop	Cutthroat	
4	4	Carolyn Belisle	Orange-Headed Gouldian	D8162-96
5	3	Patrick Vance	European Siskin	
6	2	Sandra Race	Normal Java Rice Bird	
7	1	Patrick Vance	Crested Fawn Society	
8		Charles Anchor	Pied Zebra	
9		Carolyn Belisle	Green Singing Finch	1965-97
10		Charles Anchor	Normal Zebra Pair	

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society, Orlando, FL, October 11, 1997
 Judge: Tom Rood—7 Exhibitors, 60 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	7	Dale & Eileen Laird	Pearl-headed Amadine	
2	6	Jerri Wiesenfeld	Normal Java Rice Bird	K684-95
3	5	Dale & Eileen Laird	Red-faced Star	
4	4	Steve Hoppin	Red-cheeked Cordon Blue	B484-97
5	3	Steve Hoppin	Parson Finch	
6	2	Jerri Wiesenfeld	Normal Java Rice Bird	K421-91
7	1	Dale & Eileen Laird	White Eye Zosterop	
8		John Floyd	White Java Rice Bird	
9		John Floyd	Normal Gray Zebra Cock	D1374-91
10		John Floyd	Cutthroat Cock	E982-97

NY Finch and Type Canary Club, Mineola, NY, October 11, 1997
 Judge: Bill Parlee - 18 Exhibitors, and 84 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	8	Dan Johnson	Green Singing Finch	
2	7	Carol Garrison	Pied Society	
3	6	Manny Robles	Rainbow Bunting	
4	5	Charlene Weel	Red-headed Parrot Finch	
5	4	Charles Angell	Shaftail	
6	3	Robert Vargo	Normal Zebra	
7	2	Manny Zorb	Siberian Goldfinch	
8	1	Carol Garass	Pied Society	
9		Sharon Ramkisson	Red-headed Gouldian	
10		Robert Vargo	Normal Zebra	

Great Lakes Avicultural Society, Grand Rapids, MI, October 18, 1997
 Judge: Conrad Meinert, 6 Exhibitors, and 25 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	3	Mary Lou Terwilliger	White Java Rice Bird	K392-91
2	2	Mary Lou T.	Dilute Silver Zebra	D4147-97
3	1	Angie Porter	Frosty Ash Pearled Ringneck Dove	ADA603
4		Mary Lou T.	Chocolate Self Society	E639-96
5		Denise Dixon	Cutthroat	
6		Mary Lou T.	Pied Zebra	D11125-95
7		Angie Porter	Frosty Ice Ringneck Dove	ADA6701
8		Mary Lou T.	Normal Grey Zebra	K174-94
9		Mary Lou T.	Chestnut Crested Society	E647-94
10		Denise Dixon	Spice Finch	

Sun Coast Avian Society, St. Petersburg, FL, October 18, 1997

Judge: Christine Voronovitch, 5 Exhibitors, 41 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Dale & Eileen Laird	White Eye Zosterop	
2	4	Steve Hoppin	Parson Finch	
3	3	Steve Hoppin	Black-head Siskin	
4	2	Steve Hoppin	Red-headed Parrot Finch	
5	1	Dale & Eileen Laird	Combassou	
6		Dale & Eileen Laird	Red-faced Star	
7		Joy Johnson	White Java Rice Bird	
8		John & Amanda Floyd	Pair Owl Finches	
9		John & Amanda Floyd	Normal Gray Zebra Cock	D97 3822
10		John & Amanda Floyd	European Greenfinch	

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society, Grandview, MO, October 18, 1997

Judge: Earl Courts, 7 Exhibitors, 55 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	6	Dennis Burhans	Diamond Sparrow	
2	5	Moses Linn	European Starling	
3	4	Carolyn Belisle	Green Singing Finch	C1966-97
4	3	Dennis Burhans	Pair Parson Finches	
5	2	Jamie Jackson	Zebra Hen	D6169-96
6	1	Dennis Burhans	Gouldian	
7		Nita Haas	Zebra Hen	D3449-97
8		Dennis Burhans	Society	
9		Nita Haas	Ringneck Dove	AFA NJH2-97
10		Nita Haas	Society Finch	

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Towson, MD, October 18, 1997

Judge: Jacky Civitarese, 5 Exhibitors, 25 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	3	Woody Hughes	Red-headed Barbet	
2	2	Donald Strause	Parson Finch	D1640-95
3	1	Woody Hughes	Wattled Starling	
4		Russ & Kathy Temple	Java Rice Bird	
5		Woody Hughes	Blue-capped Cordon Bleu	
6		Woody Hugles	Gold-breasted Waxbill Pair	
7		Woody Hughes	Fawn/White Society	
8		Donald Strause	CFW Zebra	D3153-96
9		Woody Hughes	Black-crested Finch	
10		Donald Strause	Parson Pair	D1638-95, D1632-95

Gulf South Bird Club, New Orleans, LA, October 18, 1997

Judge: Miki Spartzak, 5 Exhibitors, 41 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Harold & Margie McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
2	4	H&M McBrayer	St. Helena	
3	3	H&M McBrayer	White Eye Zosterop	
4	2	H&M McBrayer	Shafttail	
5	1	H&M McBrayer	Chocolate Self Society	
6		H&M McBrayer	Aurora	
7		H&M McBrayer	Yellow Throated Bunting	
8		H&M McBrayer	Black Breasted Zebra Pair	
9		H&M McBrayer	Normal Gray Zebra	D4583-97
10		Jeanne Murphy	Penguin Zebra	

Motor City Bird Breeders, Warren, MI, October 25, 1997
 Judge: Dr. A.E. Decoteau, 10 Exhibitors, 50 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	6	Patrick Vance	White Java Rice Bird	
2	5	Patrick Vance	Red-headed Gouldian	D4268-96
3	4	Patrick Vance	European Siskin	
4	3	Patrick Vance	Pied Star	C1020-95
5	2	Patrick Vance	CFW Zebra	D3540-96
6	1	Patrick Vance	Fawn/White Society	
7		Patrick Vance	Red-headed Gouldian	D3955-97
8		Patrick Vance	CFW Zebra	D3875-95
9		Patrick Vance	Crested Society	
10		Patrick Vance	Bicheno (Owl) Finch	

Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc., Hanover, MA, October 18, 1997
 Judge: Charles Anchor, 6 Exhibitors, 48 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Tim Roche	Cinnamon European Greenfinch	112
2	4	Kathy Vieweg	Red-headed Gouldian	D5962-97
3	3	Kathy Vieweg	CFW Zebra Pair	E4641-96, D12207-96
4	2	Janice Inman	Fawn Zebra Hen	D5238-95
5	1	Tim Roche	European Goldfinch	241
6		Kathy Vieweg	Blue-capped Waxbill	E1591-97
7		Laura MacDonald	Cutthroat Finch	E3933-96
8		Laura MacDonald	Shafttail Finch	
9		Kathy Vieweg	AOV Zebra Hen	E1599-97
10		Tim Roche	European Greenfinch	215

Connecticut Association for Aviculture, Manchester, CT, October 25, 1997
 Judge: Christine Voronovitch, 9 Exhibitors, 57 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	6	John H. Haas	Pekin Robin	
2	5	Chester Kolocziejczyk	Orange Bishop	
3	4	Laura MacDonald	Black-headed Gouldian	
4	3	Katy Secor	Green Singing Finch	
5	2	Alfredo Rubles	Rainbow Bunting	85 823
6	1	Donald Strause	Parson Pair	950 1628,950 1632
7		Dianna Smith	Diamond Dove	L141
8		Janice Inman	Black Breasted Zebra	CA347-96
9		Donald Strause	CFW Zebra	E482-97
10		Dianna Smith	Crested Society	E1291-97

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers, Temple, TX, October 25, 1997
 Judge: Clarence Culwell, 5 Exhibitors, 53 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	6	Harold & Margie McBrayer	Normal Gray Zebra Cock	D4583-97
2	5	H & M McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
3	4	H & M McBrayer	Shafttail	
4	3	H & M McBrayer	Aurora	
5	2	H & M McBrayer	Spice Finch	
6	1	H & M McBrayer	Yellow-throated Bunting	
7		H & M McBrayer	Society	
8		H & M McBrayer	Rosy-rumped Waxbill	
9		H & M McBrayer	Twinspot	
10		H & M McBrayer	White Eye Zosterop	

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society, Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 25, 1997
 Judge: Miki Spartzak, 6 Exhibitors, 30 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	4	Gene & June Miller	Fawn Diamond Sparrow	E2595
2	3	Earl & Shirley Courts	Queen Whydah	
3	2	Gene & June Miller	Parson Finch	D944-97
4	1	Gene & June Miller	Red-headed Gouldian	D664
5		Gene and June Miller	Firefinch Pair	B113-97, B163-97
6		Gene & June Miller	Red-headed Parrot Finch	
7		Jim Warrens	Starling	
8		Gene & June Miller	Firefinch	B121-97
9		Gene & June Miller	Gouldian	D910-97
10		Earl & Shirley Courts	Green Singing Finch Pair	

Fresno Canary & Finch Club, Madera, CA, October 25, 1997
 Judge: Clayton Jones, 14 Exhibitors, 135 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	10	Sally Huntington	CFW Zebra	D13383-96
2	9	Richard Pizzurro	Black Belly Fire Finch	
3	8	Alvin Lea	White-hooded Nun	
4	7	Sally Huntington	White Society	E180-97
5	6	Alvin Lea	Silverbill	
6	5	Alvin Lea	Bishop Weaver	
7	4	Alvin Lea	Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu	
8	3	James Cuttler	Cape Dove	
9	2	John Astorino	White Society Pair	
10	1	Sally Huntington	Red-headed Gouldian	D12128-95

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society, Monroeville, PA, November 1, 1997
 Judge: Dr. A.E. Decoteau, 5 Exhibitors, 31 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	4	Donald Strause	Parson Finch	D1640-95
2	3	Woody Hughes	Black-crested Finch	
3	2	Margie Jonnet	Ringneck Dove	
4	1	Woody Hughes	Wattled Starling	
5		Woody Hughes	Blue-capped Waxbill	
6		Donald Strause	Red-headed Gouldian	D1266-93
7		Ray Slemok	Normal Gray Zebra	
8		Woody Hughes	Fawn/White Society	
9		Woody Hughes	Red-crested Barbet	
10		Donald Strause	Parson Pair	

Texas Canary Club, Houston, TX, November 1, 1997
 Judge: Clarence Culwell, 4 Exhibitors, 46 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Harold & Margie McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
2	4	H&M McBrayer	Normal Shafttail	
3	3	H&M McBrayer	Crimson-winged Aurora	
4	2	H&M McBrayer	Chocolate Self Society	
5	1	H&M McBrayer	Normal Gray Zebra	D4583-97
6		H&M McBrayer	Spice Finch	
7		H&M McBrayer	Rosy-rumped Waxbill	
8		H&M McBrayer	White Eye Zosterops	
9		H&M McBrayer	Peters Twinspot	
10		H&M McBrayer	Normal Grey Zebra	

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Rolling Meadows, IL, November 1, 1997
 Judge: Tom Rood, 19 Exhibitors, 100 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	9	Carolyn Belisle	Orange-headed Gouldian	D8162-96
2	8	Dennis Burhans	Normal Shafttail	
3	7	Dennis Burhans	Parson Finch	
4	6	Bob & Sue Rahe	Violet-eared Waxbill	
5	5	Bob & Sue Rahe	Lavender	GC10-97
6	4	Bob & Sue Rahe	Bronze-winged Pair	GC 58-97 & 59-97
7	3	Dennis Burhans	Dilute Society	
8	2	Carmel Schembri	Goldfinch	
9	1	Dennis Burhans	Dilute Society	
10		Carolyn Belisle	Green Singing Finch	C1966-97

Finch Society of San Diego - Day 1, Del Mar, CA, November 2, 1997
 Judge: Joe Krader, 10 Exhibitors, 88 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	8	Sally Huntington	Red-headed Gouldian	D12128-96
2	7	Sally Huntington	Lightback Zebra Cock	D580-97
3	6	Larry Buza	Toucanettes	
4	5	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Blue-capped Waxbill	
5	4	Jim Cutler	Cape Dove	
6	3	Jim Cutler	Button Quail	
7	2	Sally Huntington	Silver Zebra Pair	D634-97, D632-97
8	1	Steve Payne	Black-headed Gouldian	D13014-96
9		Sally Huntington	Pearl-headed Silverbill	
10		Steve Payne	White-headed Nun	E2305-96

Finch Society of San Diego – Day 2, Del Mar, CA, November 2, 1997
 Judge: Hal Koontz, 10 Exhibitors, 87 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	8	Sally Huntington	Pearl-headed Amadine	
2	7	Sally Huntington	Blue-capped Waxbill	
3	6	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Rufous-backed Weaver	
4	5	Jim Cutler	Button Quail	
5	4	Steve Payne	Timor Sparrow	
6	3	Alvin & Dixie Lea	White-hooded Nun	
7	2	Jim Cutler	Cape Dove	
8	1	Sally Huntington	Lightback Zebra Cock	D580-97
9		Katy Lockwood	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	
10		Steve Payne	Silverbill Pair	C1599-96, C2948-95

Georgia Cage Bird Society, Marietta, GA, November 1, 1997
 Judge: Paul Williams, 5 Exhibitors, 42 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Dale & Eileen Laird	Superb Starling	
2	4	Ginny Allen	Red-faced Star	C2378-95
3	3	Dale & Eileen Laird	Pearl-headed Amadine	
4	2	Dale & Eileen Laird	Red-crested Touraco	M1-97
5	1	Dale & Eileen Laird	CFW Zebra Pair	D12133-97, D6449-97
6		Dale & Eileen Laird	Paradise Whydah	
7		Jackie and Bill Hite	Orange-headed Gouldian	
8		Dale & Eileen Laird	Normal Shaftail	
9		Dale & Eileen Laird	Tricolored Nun	
10		Dale & Eileen Laird	Combassou	

Golden Gate Avian Society, Pleasanton, CA, November 8, 1997
 Judge: Clayton Jones, 11 Exhibitors, 125 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	10	Sally Huntington	CFW Zebra	D13383-96
2	9	Rich Pizzurro	Blue-capped Waxbill	
3	8	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Silverbill	
4	7	Sally Huntington	Red-headed Gouldian	D3910-96
5	6	Jim Cutler	Button Quail	
6	5	Sally Huntington	Blk Belly Fire Finch	
7	4	Sally Huntington	Society	E180-97
8	3	Ed & Sharon Johnson	Zebra	
9	2	Steve Payne	White-hooded Nun	C1609-96
10	1	Sally Huntington	Silver Zebra Pair	D618-97, D635-97

Missouri Cage & Bird Assoc., Eureka, MO, November 8, 1997
 Judge: Patrick Vance, 16 Exhibitors, 106 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	9	Tom Rood	Fawn Zebra Male	D2166-97
2	8	Dennis Burhans	Dilute Society	
3	7	Carolyn Belisle	Orange-headed Gouldian	C8162-96
4	6	Darla Dandree	Glossy Green/Blue Starling Hen	
5	5	Dennis Burhans	Parson	
6	4	Earl & Shirly Courts	Queen Whydah	
7	3	Tom Rood	B/W Seedeater	
8	2	Bonnie Leader	Goldfinch	
9	1	Jackie Meyers	CFW Zebra Cock	E3001-97
10		Bonnie Leader	Red-headed Parrot Finch	

Canary and Finch Society, League City, TX, November 8, 1997
 Judge: Paul Williams, 10 Exhibitors, 50 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	6	Harold & Margie McBrayer	Paradise Whydah	
2	5	H&M McBrayer	Shaftail	
3	4	H&M McBrayer	Peter's Twinspot	
4	3	H&M McBrayer	White-eyed Zosterops	
5	2	H&M McBrayer	Normal Zebra Finch	11397-97
6	1	Charles Gulick	Silver-eared Mesia	
7		Debbie Eaton	Diamond Sparrow	23-95
8		H&M McBrayer	St. Helena Waxbill	
9		H&M McBrayer	White-breasted Gouldian	
10		H&M McBrayer	Yellow-throated Bunting	

Connecticut Canary & Finch Club, Newington, CT, November 15, 1997
 Judge: Dr. A.E. Decoteau, 8 Exhibitors, 47 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Michael Marcotrigiano	Chocolate Society	
2	4	Woody Hughes	Black-crested Finch	
3	3	Donald Strause	Parson Finch	9516-90
4	2	Woody Hughes	Red-headed Barbet	
5	1	Nizam Ali	Normal Gray Zebra Cock	D343
6		Michael Marcotrigiano	Dilute Choc/White Society	
7		Laura MacDonald	Cutthroat	E3933-96
8		Nizam Ali	Parson Finch	2122
9		Nazim Ali	St. Helena Seedeater	
10		Donald Strause	CFW Zebra	D3153-95

NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW, Denver, CO, November 21, 1997

Judge: Tom Rood, 31 Exhibitors, 198 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	13	Carolyn Belisle	Orange-headed Gouldian	D8162-96
2	12	Julie Duimstra	Normal Diamond Sparrow Hen	E173-97
3	11	Stephen Hoppin	Fire Finch	B458-96
4	10	Julie Duimstra	Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow	E1732-97
5	9	Gene Miller	Red-headed Gouldian	D108-96
6	8	Harold & Margie McBrayer	Normal Gray Zebra	D4583-97
7	7	H & M McBrayer	Zosterops	
8	6	Stephen Hoppin	Black-crested Finch	E2331-92
9	5	Carmel Schembri	European Goldfinch	
10	4	Dennis Burhans	Dilute Society	

Cascade Canary Breeders Association, Fife, WA, November 29, 1997

Judge: Conrad Meinert, 7 Exhibitors, 44 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	5	Julie Duimstra	Yellow-rumped Diamond Sparrow	97E 1732
2	4	Faye Silverstein	Normal Shafttail	
3	3	Faye Silverstein	Pekin Robin	
4	2	Julie Duimstra	CFW Zebra	95D 12156
5	1	Julie Duimstra	Chestnut Society	95E 3249
6		Julie Duimstra	Pair B/W Mannikins	
7		Julie Duimstra	Tri-color Nun	
8		Rose Evans	Parrot-billed Seedcracker	
9		Rose Evans	European Goldfinch	
10		Julie Duimstra	Silver Dilute Zebra	96D 13344

NIROC, Elk Grove Village, IL, November 29, 1997
 Judge: Charles Anchor, 10 Exhibitors, 50 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	6	Darla Dandre	Glossy Starling	
2	5	Steve Hopman	Black-headed Gouldian	C877-97
3	4	Carmel Schembri	European Goldfinch	
4	3	Darla Dandre	Pekin Robin	
5	2	Robert Wild	Silver Zebra Hen	GC117-96
6	1	Jan Bishop	Red-headed Gouldian	DP419-95
7		Jan Bishop	Cutthroat Hen	
8		Chuck & Nancy Serchuck	Choc/White Society	
9		Steve Hopman	Black-headed Waxbill	B543-97
10		Steve Hopman	Pied Red-headed Parrot Finch	415-96

Aviary Association of California, Santa Clara, CA, November 29, 1997
 Judge: Joe Krader, 10 Exhibitors, 67 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	7	Richard Pizzurro	Shaftail	
2	6	Alvin & Dixie Lea	CFW Zebra	
3	5	Richard Pizzurro	Blue-capped Waxbill	
4	4	Sharon Johnson	CFW Zebra Pair	
5	3	Alvin & Dixie Lea	Pekin Robin	
6	2	Richard Pizzurro	Chocolate Self Society	
7	1	Cathy Knight	Owl Finch	
8		Sharon Johnson	Gold-breasted Bunting	
9		Alvin & Dixie Lea	White-headed Nun	
10		Alvin & Dixie Lea	Diamond Dove	

Florida West Coast Avian Society, Palmetto, FL, November 30, 1997
 Judge: Stephen Hoppin, 6 Exhibitors, 35 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	4	Dale & Eileen Laird	TriColor Nun	
2	3	Bobbi Keenan	Gold-breasted Waxbill	B552-97
3	2	Dennis Lewis	Orange Bishop Hen	
4	1	Johmanda Aviary (John Floyd)	Cutthroat Cock	E981-97
5		Dale & Eileen Laird	White Eye Zosterops	
6		Bobbi Keenan	Gold-breasted Pair	B551-97, B1431-97
7		Dale & Eileen Laird	Diamond Sparrow	
8		Dale & Eileen Laird	CFW Zebra Hen	D5931-97
9		Johmanda's Aviary (John Floyd)	White Java Rice Bird	
10		Joy Johnson	Indian Silverbill	

El Nacional de Puerto Rico (6th), Carolina, PR, December 6, 1997
 Judge: Dr. A.E. Decoteau, 16 Exhibitors, 120 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	10	Alfredo Brugueras	Red-headed Yellow Gouldian	C2479-94
2	9	Jacky Civitarese	CFW Zebra Hen	
3	8	Jacky Civitarese	CFW Zebra Cock	
4	7	Juan Rios	Fawn Shaftails	
5	6	Alfredo Brugueras	Red-headed Gouldian	D733-96
6	5	Juan Rios	Dilute Fawn Society	
7	4	Alfredo Brugueras	Dybowski's Twinspot	
8	3	Alfredo Brugueras	CFW Zebra Hen	D12483-96
9	2	Nelson Febres	Silver Diamond Dove	
10	1	Alfredo Brugueras	Cutthroat	

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami, Hialeah, FL, December 6, 1997
 Judge: Tom Rood, 9 Exhibitors, 68 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	7	Armando Lee	Red-legged Honeycreeper	
2	6	Dale & Eileen Laird	Pearl-headed Amadine	
3	5	Dale & Eileen Laird	Combassou	
4	4	Dale & Eileen Laird	Troupial	
5	3	Armando Lee	Normal Shafttail	
6	2	Carrie Efstathion	Ringneck Dove	
7	1	Dale & Eileen Laird	Tricolor Nun	
8		Armando Lee	Yellow-headed Gouldian	
9		Daniel Gonzales	Red-legged Honeycreeper	
10		Armando Lee	Saffron	

Sociedad de Avicultores Puertorriquenos, Bayamai, PR, December 27, 1997
 Judge: Stephen Hoppin, 9 Exhibitors, 53 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	6	Victor Torrellas	Red Head Gould	E12714
2	5	Julio C. Mateo	Blue Faced Parrot Finch	
3	4	Rafael Echevannig Jr.	Orand Head Gould	
4	3	Julio C. Mateo	Pr Cinnamon Cherry Finch	C727-97
5	2	Caleb Alvarez	Star Finch	
6	1	Luis A. Vazquez	White Java Rice	
7		Julio C. Mateo	Red Head Parrot Finch	
8		Julio C. Mateo	Florida Fancy Zebra	D4428
9		Victor Torrellas	Fawn Crested Society	E1058-97
10		Jose Figueroa	Pr. Orange Bishop	

1998 Show Dates

APRIL:

The Finch Connection Bird Club
"Feather Show"

When: 4/18

Where: Turner, Oregon

Judge: Ms. Julie Duimstra

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

The All American Family Pet
Expo.

When: 4/17, 4/18 and 4/19

Where: Pomona, California

Judge: Mr. Harold Bowles (4/18)

Delegate: Ms. Sharyn Bolivar (310)
323-4788

Details: Being held at the
Fairgrounds. Same place as
Pomona Bird Mart.

JUNE:

Illini Bird Fanciers

When: 6/6

Where: Shelbyville, IL

NFSS Judge: Clarence Culwell

Delegate: Mr. Tom Rood

(217) 774-5265, Email:

tjrood@bmmhnet.com

Details: Being held at Shelby
County 4-H grounds, Shelbyville,
IL. Contact: Rich Rowan (815)

756-9566, Email:

RROWAN@aol.com.

AUGUST:

Midwest Zebra & Society Finch
Club

When: 8/8

Where: Grandview, Missouri

Judge: Ms. Margaret Binns
(England)

Delegate: Ms. Nita Haas (816)

331-5285, Email:

TJHAAS@OASISKC.net

Details: Being held at Super 8
Motel in Grandview, MO.

The Aviary and Cage Bird Society
of South Florida

When: 8/22

Where: Ft. Lauderdale, FL

NFSS Judge: Mr. Armando Lee

Delegate: Ms. Carrie Efstathon
(954) 432-3349. Email:

carrie2@juno.com

Details: Being held at War
Memorial Coliseum. Contact:

Melba Wilkat, President (954)

792-6017, Email:

al_n_melba@juno.com

SEPTEMBER:

Central Alabama Avicultural
Society

When: 9/5 & 9/6

Where: Montgomery, AL

NFSS Judge: Harold Bowles

Delegate: Ginny Allen (334) 749-

7168, Email:

gndallen@earthlink.net

Details: Contact Michael Wolfe

mwolfe@mindspring.com

Bay Area Cage Bird Club

When: 9/5 & 9/6

Where: Galveston, TX

NFSS Judge: to be announced
Delegate: Margie McBrayer (281)
338-2814
Details: Being held at the Moody
Center, Galveston, TX

SEPTEMBER:

Toledo Bird Association
When: 9/19
Where: Toledo, Ohio
NFSS Judge: Tom Rood
Delegate: Mr. Rick Yunker (419)
691-9432, **Email:**

OPRRLY@UOFTO1.UTOLEDO.edu

Details: Being held at Holiday Inn
Maumee, Ohio.

**Finger Lakes Cage Bird
Association "Pet Bird Show &
Expo"**

When: 9/27
Where: Waterloo, NY
NFSS Judge: to be announced
Delegate: Rena House (315) 252-
7673, **Email:** rrouse@localnet.com
Details: Being held at Holiday Inn.

OCTOBER:

**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.

Mid-America Cage Bird Society

When: 10/3
Where: Des Moines, Iowa
NFSS Judge: Martha Wigmore
Delegate: Rhoda Shirley (515) 243-
1511
Details: Being held at Best Western
Des Moines International, 1810
Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA
50315

Forth Worth Bird Club

When: 10/2 and 10/3
Where: Ft. Worth, TX
NFSS Judge: Paul Williams
Delegate: Clarence Culwell (817)
220-5568
Details: Being held at Will Rogers
Memorial Center, Poultry Barn,
3301 W. Lancaster Avenue, Ft.
Worth, TX 76107

**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club,
Inc.**

When: 10/3
Where: Nashville, TN
NFSS Judge: to be announced
Delegate: Eva Duffey (615) 361-
5939
Details: Being held at the State
Fairgrounds, Creative Arts -
Annex Bldg. Nolensville, Road
Nashville, TN

**Society of Canary & Finch
Breeders**
When: 10/3 & 10/4
Where: Livonia, MI
NFSS Judge: Charles Anchor
Delegate: Patrick Vance (248) 443-
0643

OCTOBER:

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma
When: 10/10
Where: Oklahoma City, OK
NFSS Judge: Clarence Culwell
Delegate: Gene L. Miller (405)
382-7066
Details: Being held at Ramada Inn
39th Street Expressway, Oklahoma
City, OK

**Connecticut Association for
Aviculture, Inc.**
When: 10/14
Where: West Hartford, CT
NFSS Judge: William Parlee
Delegate: Laura Sherman (914)
266-5617, email: chirps@juno.com
Details: Being held at American
School for the Deaf, North Main
St., West Hartford, CT

Suncoast Avian Society, Inc.
When: 10/17 & 10/18
Where: St. Petersburg, FL
NFSS Judge: to be announced
Delegate: Joe Ventimiglia (813)
392-9391
Details: St. Petersburg Coliseum,
535 4th Avenue N, St. Petersburg,
FL 33701

Cleveland Cage Bird Society
When: 10/17

Where: Middleberg Heights, OH
NFSS Judge: to be announced
Delegate: Tim Howard (216) 337-
7654
Details: Being held at Tri-City
Senior Center, 16699 Bagley Road
Middleberg Heights, OH Contact:
Linda Brandt (330) 364-6198,
Email: jumbo6@bright.net

Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.
When: 10/24
Where: Warren, MI
NFSS Judge: Paul Williams
Delegate: Ron Girling (810) 751-
8265
Details: Being held at Italian
Community Cultural Center 28111
Imperial Drive, Warren, MI 48092

Badger Canary and Finch Club
When: 10/24
Where: Waukesha, WI
NFSS Judge: Tom Rood
Delegate: Sue Feldstein (414) 968-
4514
Details: Being held at Expo Center

Texas Bird Breeders
When: 10/24
Where: Temple, TX
NFSS Judge: to be announced
Delegate: Clarence Culwell (817)
220-5568

NOVEMBER:

Florida West Coast Avian Society
When: 11/1
Where: Palmetto, FL
NFSS Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau
Delegate: Joy Johnson (941) 966-
6238

Details: Being held at Manatee Civic Center, 1 Haben Blvd. Palmetto, FL

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society
When: 10/16, 10/17 & 10/18
Where: Windsor, Ontario Canada
NFSS Judge: Tom Rood
Delegate: Alfred Mion (519) 948-6398

Details: Being held at Fogolar Furlan Sports Complex, 1600 E.C. Row, North Service Road, Windsor, Ontario Canada.

NOVEMBER:

Missouri Cage Bird Association
When: 11/6 & 11/7
Where: Eureka, MO
NFSS Judge: to be announced
Delegate: Rich & Rose Dickman (314) 928-3444.
Email: skdatl@inlink.com
Details: Held at Day's Inn, Eureka, MO.

Finch Society of San Diego County
When: 11/7 & 11/8
Where: Del Mar, California
NFSS Judges: 11/7 - Daren Decoteau, 11/8 Clayton Jones
Delegate: Ms. Sally Huntington (619) 452-9423 email: huntington-center@worldnet.att.net

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club
"The National Cage Bird Show"
When: 11/19-11/21
Where: Chicago, Illinois
NFSS Judge: to be announced

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

Email: Byrdman55@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.

Fmail: rwild@kiwi.dep.anl.gov or Delegate listed above.

National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries

When: 11/28 & 11/29
Where: Chicago, Illinois
NFSS Judge: to be announced
Delegate: Steve Hopman (815) 469-8455

DECEMBER:

Organizacion Puertorriquena de Aves Exoticas
When: 12/5
Where: Carolina, Puerto Rico
NFSS Judges: Marion Spartzak
Delegate: Jacky Civitarese (787) 752-4433 **Email:** Lix4me@aol.com

NFSS Affiliates, Delegates and Shows

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
AL	Central Alabama Avicultural Society Show dates: 9/5	Ginny Allen	(334) 749-7168
CA	Aviary Association of Kern	Willis/Velva Baker	(805) 765-6110
CA	Finch Society of San Diego County Show dates: 11/7 & 11/8	Sally Huntington	(619) 452-9423
CA	Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club	Darrell Brewer	
FL	Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida Show dates: 8/22	Carrie Efstathon	(954) 432-3349
FL	Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show Show dates: 2/14 & 2/15	Dale Laird	(407) 657-7989
FL	Florida West Coast Avian Society Show dates: 11/1	Joy Johnson	(941) 966-6238

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 aviculturist and the scientist have much to offer each other and the ESTRILDIAN



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

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
FL	Heartland Avian Society Show dates: 2/22	Maxine June	(941) 465-9358
FL	Suncoast Avian Society, Inc. Show dates: 10/17 & 10/18	Joe Ventimiglia	(813) 392-9391
FL	Sunshine State Cage Bird Society Show dates: 10/3-10/4	Dale Laird	(407) 657-7989
IL	Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club Show dates: 11/19 - 11/21	Jane Muscato	(630) 305-9043
IL	Illini Bird Fanciers Show Date: 6/6	Tom Rood	(217) 774-5265
IL	National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries Show dates: 11/28 & 11/29	Stephen V. Hopman	(815) 469-8455
IA	Mid-America Cage Bird Society Show dates: 10/3	Rhoda Shirley	(515) 243-1511
KS	Kansas Avicultural Society	Chris Gunderson	(316) 685-9364
MA	Aviculturists of Greater Boston, Inc.	Laura K. MacDonald	(781) 469-0557
MI	Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc. Show dates: 10/24	Ron Girling	(810) 751-8265
MI	Society of Canary and Finch Breeders Show dates: 10/3 & 10/4	Patrick Vance	(810) 443-0643

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
MO	Missouri Cage Bird Association Show dates: 11/6 & 11/7	Richard & Rose Dickman	(314) 928-3444
MO	Midwest Zebra & Society Finch Club Show dates: 8/8	Nita Haas	(816) 331-5285
NY	Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association Show dates: 9/27	Rena Rouse	(315) 252-7673
NY	Rochester Cage Bird Club	Patrick F. Goonan	(716) 288-5653
OH	Cleveland Cage Bird Society	LaVerne Winfield	(216) 886-1633
OH	Toledo Bird Association Show Dates: 9/19	Rich Yunker	(419) 691-9432
OK	Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma Show dates: 10/10	Gene L. Miller	(405) 382-7066
OR	The Finch Connection Show dates: 4/18	Paul Hansen	(503) 581-8208
PA	Delaware Valley Bird Club	Kris Kroner	(215) 628-4143

NEW BOOK!!

Standard and Obsolete American English Names for Estrellid Finches (Australian and African grass finches and waxbills, Family Estrellidae) by Robert B. Hole, Jr., 44 pages, publ. Feb 1998.

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PA	Northeastern Pennsylvania Cage Bird Club	Gary Fino	(717) 868-1058
PR	Organizacion Puertorriquena de Aves Exoticas, Inc.	Jacky Civitarese	(787) 752-4433
TN	Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club Show dates: 10/3	Eva Duffey	(615) 361-5939
TX	Bay Area Cage Bird Club	Margie McBrayer	(281) 338-2814
TX	Fort Worth Bird Club Show dates: 10/2 & 10/3	Clarence Culwell	(817) 220-5568
TX	Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers	Clarence Culwell	(817) 220-5568
TX	Texas Canary Club	Donald L. Peters	(281) 259-7951
VA	Peninsula Cage Bird Society	Marian "Bea" Rogers	(757) 484-6001
WI	Badger Canary & Finch Club Show dates: 10/24	Sue Feldstein	(414) 968-4514
Canada	Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society Show dates: 10/16, 10/17 & 10/18	Alfred Mion	(519) 948-6398
Canada	Manitoba Canary & Finch Club	Kim Cameron	(204) 782-5554

Country	Club Name	Secretary	Address
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-Ingilis	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



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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
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Thank you for supporting aviculture's foremost
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The National Finch & Softbill Society 1998 Affiliation Agreement

Ms. Cindy 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.

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
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"Third Best in Show" Plaque (6" x 8")	\$25.00
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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
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Club Name: _____	Show Date: _____
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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.

The National Finch and Softbill Society Homepage

Visit NFSS at:

<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Canopy/2450/>

Browse our site for information on:

FinchSave

Upcoming Shows

Conservation Efforts

Publications

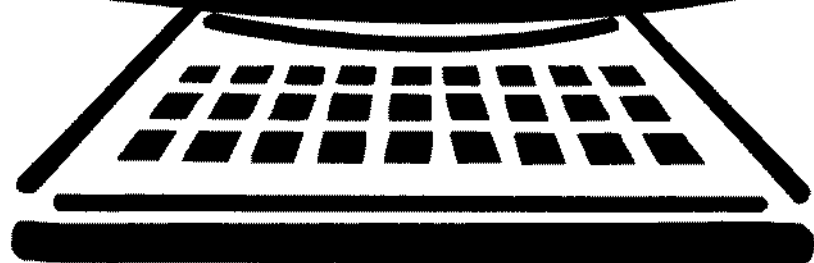
Articles

Membership Information

and valuable links to other bird related sites

Check out the new NFSS Website!

Contact the Website Manager,
Marc Riva for more information.



The National Finch and Softbill Society

Welcomes Finch and Softbill Breeders & Enthusiasts!

Name: _____

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Phone Number _____ Email: _____

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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

Mail form and
payment payable to

NFSS:

Eileen Laird

NFSS Band

Secretary

P.O. Box 2459

Goldenrod, FL

32733-2459

(407) 657-7989

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.

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Band Size	# of Strings	Price per String	Total Amount
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C		\$2.75	
D		\$2.75	
E		\$2.75	
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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:

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Subtotal: _____

Insurance: _____

Total: _____

Name: _____ NFSS # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

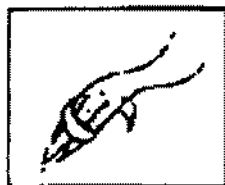
Pagoda Mynah								▲			
Painted Finch		▲									
Parrot Finch (most other)			▲								
Pekin Robin						▲					
Peter's Twinspot				▲							
Pictorella Finch			▲								
Pileated Finch		▲									
Pintailed Nonpareil			▲								
Plush Capped Jay										▲	
Pytilias			▲								
Quail								▲			
Quail Finch	▲										
Red Crested Cardinal							▲				
Red Eared Waxbill	▲										
Red Head Parrot Finch			▲								
Ring Neck Dove										▲	
Rufous Backed Mannikin	▲										
Saffron Finch							▲				
Shaftail Finch			▲								
Shama Thrush							▲				
Silver Eared Mesias							▲				
Silverbills			▲								
Siskins				▲							
Society Finch				▲							
Softbills (other small)							▲				
Softbills (other)								▲			
Spice Finch				▲							
Star Finch			▲								
Strawberry Finch	▲										
Sunbirds (large)									▲		
Superb Starlings										▲	
Tanagers (small)						▲					
Toucanettes										▲	
Toucans (large)											▲
Toucans (small)											▲
Touracos (large)											▲
Touracos (small)										▲	
Twinspots (most)				▲							
Waxbills (small)	▲										
White Tailed Jay										▲	
Yellow Rumped Finch				▲							
Zebra Finch				▲							

Leg Banding Procedure

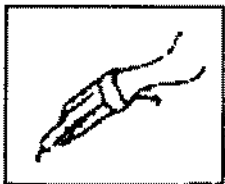
Courtesy of
The National Finch and Softbill Society



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

FOR SALE: Diamond Sparrows (normals, fawns, and yellow rump), Fire Finches, Cuban Melodious, Owl Finches. Will Ship USPS. Gene Miller, Seminole, OK (405) 382-7066 J/A 98

FOR SALE: Show Cages all sizes. Send SASE please to: Doug Yucker, 15297 220th Street, Counsel Bluff, IA 51503 (712) 323-3933 S/O 98

WANTED: Cherry hens.
FOR SALE OR TRADE: Stars, Parsons, Shaftails and Societies. NFSS close banded. Anyone with info. regarding emblema oculata or emblema bella, please contact me. Clint Harris, Temple, TX (254) 770-1986, Email: charris@vvm.com M/J 98

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:
Clint Harris

NFSS Advertising/Promotions Mgr.
3106 Glenwood Drive
Temple, TX 76502
Phone: (254) 770-1986
Fax: (254) 770-1089
Email: charris@vvm.com

TRADE: Senegal Fire Finches, Split Crème Parson Finches, NFSS close banded, parent raised.

WANTED: Additional Isabel/Cinnamon Stars (prefer close banded and parent raised) Kerri McCoy (205) 969-9177 M/J 98

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 125th 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

Charles Anchor 630 Lake Park Drive Addison, IL 60101 630-543-3757	Stephen Hoppin Panel Chairman 3836 Hidden Acres Circle N. Fort Myers, FL 33903 Phone: 941-997-2237 Fax: 941-997-NFSS Email: n2finches@peganet.net	William G Parlee 631 4N Talcottville Rd Vernon, CT 06066 203-569-0200
Laura Bewley 415 W. Main Street Atlanta, TX 75551-2524 903-796-4521	Ray Johnson 175 Stoneridge Way Fayetteville, GA 30214 404-461-8675	Tom Rood 313 N. Broadway Shelbyville, IL 62565 217-774-5265
Harold Bowles 230 College Circle Cedartown, GA 30125 770-748-4627	Clayton Jones P.O. Box 266 Soquel, CA 95073 408-728-8676	Marion Miki Spartzak 517 Old North Point Rd Baltimore, MD 21224 410-282-9233
Earl Courts 1807 NE Colburn Lee's Summit, MO 64063 816-524-0921	Hal M. Koontz 2604 Auburn Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93306 805-872-1063	Patrick Vance 18175 Avilla Lathrup Village, MI 48076 810-443-0643
Jacky Civitarese A-1 Calle 1 Quintas de Country Club Carolina, P.R. 00982 787-752-4433 Fax: 787-752-4433	Christine Voronovitch 38 Liberty Street Manchester, CT 06040 860-649-8220	Joseph Krader 29831 Weatherwood Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 714-692-8051
Clarence Culwell 250 Horseshoe Drive Springtown, TX 76082 817-220-5568	Armando Lee 6811 SW 89 th Ct. Miami, FL 33172 305-270-1000	Martha Wigmore 18193 Boston St. NW Elk River, MN 55330 Phone/Fax: 612-241-0071
Dr. Al Decoteau P.O. Box 369 Groton, MA 01450 603-672-4668 Fax: 603-672-3120	Brian Mandarich 4743 E. Hedges Avenue Fresno, CA 93703 209-255-6508	Paul S. Williams 703 Donegal Drive Papillion, NE 68046 402-592-5488
Daren Decoteau 89 Pleasantview Avenue Stratford, CT 06497 203-377-2049	Conrad Meinert 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.