



The NFSS Bulletin

Volume 15 No. 3

May/June 1998



Society Finches
Fred, Wilma & Babies

In This Issue:

Shipping and Receiving Birds
A Week in Paradise

Head Color Inheritance in Gouldian Finches
A Trip to the World Bird Championship Show
Finch Availability: Past, Present & Future Part II

L'il Bit

Learning about Ringneck Doves





Nederlands VITA SEED™

*What Champion Breeders
Feed Their Birds.*

Feed you birds what champion breeders feed worldwide.

Nederlands Vita Seed Diets are vitamin and mineral fortified through a unique pasteurization process that insures your birds receive the necessary nutrients.

Made with only first grade seeds and human-grade fruits and vegetables, Nederlands Vita Seed are the freshest pet bird diets available today. Also check out our new naturally preserved Nederlands Vita Krunch and T.L.C Hand Feeding Formula with active Lactobacillus.

Call The Higgins Group at 1-800-878-2666 for the distributor or dealer nearest you.



Our Best Customers Are Your Pets

The NFSS Bulletin

Home Office

3412 Far Hill Circle, Birmingham, AL 35243

Internet Address: <http://www.NFSS.net> (***)note new address)

Publisher: The National Finch and Softbill Society

Editor: Kerri Ann McCoy

Asst. to Editor: Bruce Dixon

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

Editorial Policy/Disclaimer:

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

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

Affiliated clubs have permission to reprint all articles unless marked "All Rights Reserved". "All Rights Reserved" articles require the author's written permission and all "reprinted by permission of" articles require written permission from the originating source. Opinions expressed in articles and published in the *Bulletin* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor; NFSS or it's Board of Directors.

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

Copyright 1997 The National Finch and Softbill Society.

The photograph on the cover of this issue of the NFSS Bulletin was taken by Robin Vallier of Rhode Island. It is also one of the entries for the NFSS Photo Contest.

The National Finch and Softbill Society

Officers

President	Ron Castaner	Phone/Fax: 561-585-2750 Email: birds@gekko.net
1st Vice President	Dale Laird	Phone/Fax: 407- 657-7989 Email: dale@magicnet.net
Regional VPs		
2nd Vice President	Kerri McCoy	Phone: 205-969-9177 Fax: 205-972-8984 Email: jmccoy@mindspring.com
Publications		
3rd Vice President	Daniel Almaguer	Phone: 407-894-3808 Fax: 407-894-6400 Email: DRAFinch@aol.com
FinchSave/Census		
4th Vice President	Stephen Hoppin	Phone: 941-997-2237 Fax: 941-997-NFSS Email: n2finchs@peganet.com
Judge's Panel, Stds. & Research		
Membership Director (Protem)	Eileen Laird	Phone/Fax: 407-657-7989
Executive Secretary	Paul Williams	Phone: 402-592-5488 Email: RolTide@ix.netcom.com
Treasurer	Martha Wigmore	Phone/Fax: 612-241-0071
Liaison Officer	Ginny Allen	Phone/Fax: 334-749-7168 Email: gndallen@earthlink.net
Club Del/Show Dates		
Band Secretary	Eileen Laird	Phone/Fax: 407-657-7989
President Emeritus	William Parlee	Phone: 860-569-0200 Email: BillHTFDCT@aol.com

Appointed Officers

Editor	Kerri McCoy	See 2 nd Vice President Above
Points Manager	Stephen Hoppin	See 4 th Vice President Above
FinchShop Manager	Julie Duimstra	Phone: 503-261-8788
Awards Manager	Ginny Allen	See Liaison Officer Above.
Advertising & Promotions Mgr.	Kerri McCoy	Phone: 205-969-9177 Fax: 205-972-8984 Email: jmccoy@mindspring.com
Website Manager	Marc Riva	Phone: 905-576-1901 Fax: 905-436-9872 Email: riva@rogers.wave.ca
Census Manager	Daniel Almaguer	See 3 rd Vice President Above

Regional Vice Presidents

Region 1-Northeast	Kris Kroner	Phone: 215-628-4143 Email: kkroner@Erols.com
Region 2-Southeast	Armando Lee	Phone: 305-270-1000 Email: ailee@bellsouth.net
Region 3-MidCentral	Tom Rood	Phone: 217-774-5265 Email: tjrood@brmhnet.com
Region 4-Midwest	Clarence Culwell	Phone: 817-220-5568
Region 5-Mountain	Luis Garcia	Phone/Fax: 719-630-3785 Email: aves1@juno.com
Region 6-Pacific Coast	Sally Huntington	Phone/Fax: 619-452-9423 Email: huntington-center@worldnet.att.net
Region 7-Caribbean	Rich Morales	Phone/Fax 787-745-4273 Email: sunshine@tropicweb.net

In This Issue:

Now that we are finishing our third issue for the year members should be becoming familiar with the layout of the Bulletin. The President's Message, Regional Roundup, and anything else directly Society news related is in this section.

Last issue's Contact Call question is answered in the Hand-on Finches section. Next, come with two of our members and Officers Dale and Eileen Laird on their chance of a lifetime trip to Costa Rica.

For you Gouldian fans review a fresh new approach to Gouldian genetics written by our members John Wilson and Bob Clark. Don't feel left out that you were unable to attend the World Show in Europe this past February for our member Bob Rittman takes us there.

Part 1 of Robert Petrie's Finch Availability article was published in the Nov/Dec issue of the Bulletin for those of you that want to refresh your

memories before reading Part II covered in this issue. Our membership is once again being solicited for help in two of our Letter's to the Editor.

A Bridge's of Madison County "bird style" will tug on your heart strings in Lynn Latham's article. And, for you dove fans Candice Patrick uncovers the secrets to the color mutations of the Ringneck Dove.

Deadline for the next issue is:
July 1, 1998

Mail, Fax or Email to:
Kerri McCoy

3412 Far Hill Circle
Birmingham, AL 35243

Fax: 205-972-8984

Email: jmccoy@mindspring.com

turn your breeding success into an even bigger success



Join FinchSave.

Aviculture's foremost
cooperative breeding program

The NFSS Bulletin

Volume 15 No. 3

May/June 1998

Section 1

In This Issue	3
From the Editor's Desk	5
President's Message	6
Regional Roundup	8

Section 2

Contact Call	11
Hands-on Finches	12
A Week in Paradise	17
Head Color Inheritance in Gouldian Finches	20
A Trip to the World Bird Championship Show	27
Finch Availability: Past, Present and Future.... Part II	31
Letter to the Editor	37
L'il Bit	43
Learning about Ringneck Doves	45

Section 3

NFSS Election Ballot	49
NFSS Affiliates, Delegates, and Shows	50
1998 Show Dates	55
1998 Affiliation Agreement	59
Board of Directors 1998-99	60
FinchSave	62
NFSS Website Information	63
Membership Application	64
Band Order Form	66
Guide to Ordering Closed Leg Bands	67
Leg Banding Procedure	69
Classifieds	70
NFSS Judge's Panel 1998	71
FinchShop Order Form	72

From the Editor's Desk

Do any of you get those approving smiles from Grandmothers while in the grocery store? If you are a bird person, I'm sure you do. Afterall, your cart is full of every conceivable item available from the produce section. The potato chips, tv dinners, and just plain junk are cleverly hidden beneath the cucumbers, apples, broccoli and spinach.

I had a brand new kitchen put in not that long ago and while glancing through some "how to make your home beautiful magazine", I realized that my kitchen window sills were not home to blue glass vases, or pretty wood figurines, or ceramic painted jars holding sugar. My window sills are home to the old peanut butter jars full of vanodine with soaking feeding syringes and pipettes. In fact, every conceivable item related to birds resides on that sill. Extra food and water cups for shipping boxes; those stray pieces of millet spray holders that broke apart that I have been meaning to fix but never seem to get around to doing; post it notes with band numbers of birds I just banded that need to be logged into the computer, etc. It drives my husband crazy that it would require a full ten minutes to remove all that resides on that sill in order to be able to close the window. But that sill is my lifeline. Everything I need in a pinch is there.

I probably buy more vacuum cleaner bags in a year than ten non-bird people do. I have been known to be in line at a store and get a funny look from the person behind me only to discover that there is bird poop on my shoulder and stray pieces of bermuda grass stuck in my hair. I am sure that these scenarios are familiar to most if not all of you. I have come to the conclusion that bird people are indeed a breed all their own. Ask us if we care about the seed husks residing on our coffee tables, or nest boxes drying in the sun on our front porch.

I was devastated to find that my recycling bin where I collect fresh clean newspaper for the bird flights had been removed. I was fortunate to find the new location but unlucky to discover that this bin was considerably deeper and would require climbing inside of it to retrieve the newspaper I so desperately needed. Of course, what else are younger sisters for other than to assist you with unpleasant tasks, and we spent the next hour inside the bin collecting newspaper while getting weird stares by all that happened to drive by.

I have come to realize that my home will never be spotless, that I will be forever referred to as the weird lady with the birds. But for me the trade off is worth it, the keeping and enjoyment of the beautiful birds is worthy of the bird poop on my shoulder any day.

I would like to thank Ms. Jenni Jackson of JJ's Jungle Birds, who provided me with the latest edition to my family, our baby African Gray Parrot, "Kincaid". Jenni went above and beyond the call as a breeder and to you I truly say thank you! And to Ginny, and Ron, and Noreene, and Melba a big thank you to each of you for caring for Kincaid, feeding her, traveling with her, and bringing her home to me.



President's Message

By Ron Castaner

Establishing a specific species aviary is a challenging objective. Many facts need to be considered including climate and the age and general health of the breeding stock. Very often a pair or two of birds will settle down quickly within their new environment and breed successfully and there is the temptation to consider them established. My experience is that disaster often strikes. Perhaps a breeding hen dies. The remaining birds continue to enjoy their home but do not produce quality clutches. Gradually the little colony fades away. This scenario makes the point that it requires much thought and patience to be a successful breeder of any species of birds, not just finches.

I believe that aviculturists should adopt an individual approach when establishing their chosen species. The specialist breeder is oftentimes very successful and the reasons why are not hard to understand. They choose their own specie, the conditions it needs, the climate it requires, the feeding habits etc. and are "fine tuned" to the specie. They choose their stock carefully, inbreeding is controlled, and the end result is healthy stock producing good quality, healthy young. The satisfaction and fulfillment resulting from this form of aviculture is undoubtedly great.

Some aviculturists prefer to establish a mixed collection and enjoy their birds in all their variety but seldom achieve great breeding success. It is pleasant and rewarding to maintain a well housed collection of attractive finches, breed a few, replace a few, but does this really benefit aviculture? My plea is for those of us who do keep a mixed collection to select atleast one or two specific species with which we have had reasonable success and build a breeding program with these continually improving the quality and maintaining a large enough flock to ensure success. It is important to keep accurate records. A simple index card system recording birds bought, bred, exchanged, or sold is necessary. Any method, which records events is suitable providing it is accurate and kept current.

I am asking all members to please write about their experiences breeding finches, especially those that are considered rare or hard to breed. Efforts should be made by responsible aviculturists to breed from the stock they possess in order to preserve the species in captivity. Avicultural conservation is now more important than ever.

Participate in the FINCH SAVE program and the NFSS Annual Census. This will keep you informed of species being bred and by whom and may be a source for a needed bird in your breeding program. NFSS Classifieds are free to FINCHSAVE participants.

Please keep this thought in mind. The people who serve NFSS do so "voluntarily" with a lot of work and very little reward or thanks. Many members have contributed much to NFSS and I know there are other members willing to help in some way. Contact a board member and offer your services, get involved and contribute in some manner to the avicultural community through involvement in NFSS.

Sincerely,

Ron Castaner
NFSS President

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



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

12 months subscription is £15 Sterling ; U.S.A.- \$30 personal cheque accepted

'ESTRILDID FORUM'

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



Regional Roundup

Meet Region 1 VP Armando Lee

My name is Armando Lee and I reside in beautiful Miami in South Florida, the Sunshine State. Our local climate allows me to keep and breed birds inside and out for most of the year. My love for birds started when I was very young, as far back as I can remember we always had atleast one bird in our house, sometimes "too many birds" according to my Mother.

Since childhood I've kept parakeets, cockatiels, lovebirds, parrots, canaries and finches. Presently, I have an African Grey and three lovebirds as pets, and a breeding flock of canaries and finches. I specialize in Australian finches but there is a member from every continent of the world in my collection. Aware of the ban on importation of the more common species, lately I've been working with waxbills and weavers obtaining satisfying results. Last year I became a member of a very special group that is working towards the recovery of the Venezuelan Red Siskin.

I have learned a lot from the bird shows I attend and my desire to help others motivated me to become a judge. Today I am an NFSS Panel Judge and a National Colorbred Canary Judge. I believe a judge should be a teacher and a good will ambassador of aviculture.

For 27 years I have been happily married to my wife who accompanies me to the bird shows, and we have three daughters who also on occasion join us. Everyone assists me with the upkeep of my demanding flock.

Professionally I am a certified General Contractor and a licensed Real Estate Broker in the state of Florida. I am the founder and director of several companies working in real estate developing and sales, general construction and property tax consultation. I am constantly building new cages and improving my aviaries (once a builder, always a builder).

I live the "American Dream" and I believe in the golden rule: hard work and honesty definitely pays off and what you get out of anything is in direct proportion to what you put in. Devote your time and talents to your bird hobby and enjoy your rewards. Finally, I invite everyone in my region or anywhere else to contact me. The reason I ran for Regional VP was to be the liaison for the people and the NFSS.

News from the Editor and Membership Director

By Kerri McCoy

Members please take the time to fill out a change of address form should you change residence. The post office has been forwarding any mailings but the charge to forward the NFSS Bulletin is 50 cents per forward. Needless to say I have been spending a lot of time with my postmaster lately dolling out the quarters.

Also, the Membership Director, Noreene has asked me to please notify the membership to use their member numbers on any correspondence they may send in to her. We are all in the computer by membership number and it makes locating a member by name versus number a lot more time consuming. Thanks for your attention in these matters.

Omission:

Please note that Ms. Anney Doucette drew the black and white drawing of the Diamond Firetail that was seen in Clint Harris' article in the March/April edition. You will see several of her drawings in the issues to come. Thank you very much Anney for sharing your talent with the membership!

Delay:

The Zebra Finch Show Standard that was supposed to be published in this issue will be delayed until the July/August issue. The Judge's Panel Chairman wants to make sure that the Standard is reviewed once last time before its publication.

Annual Census -- the Last Hurray!

By Daniel Almaguer and Kerri McCoy

You will notice yet another copy of the Annual Census being run in this issue of the Bulletin. No the Editor was not asleep, the insert was intentional. We have broken the record for last year on the total number of census submittals and felt we would give the membership one last shot and filling it out. For those of you that have not yet submitted your census please reconsider and take the time and fill it out and submit by 8/1. Your effort will be to the benefit of all members.

News from Region 3

By Tom Rood

With the summer season in full swing now, Region 3 NFSS members will be busy evaluating their 1998 breeding seasons. I'm hoping many consider their season a success with lots of young birds of all species on the perches. I banded lots of young zebras, but at this point (May 10), I'm not giving too many a

second look as I go about my feeding and cleaning chores. I guess I've just donated lots of \$.15's to the NFSS band secretary!!

By the time this report gets into print, one of the early shows of the season will already be over. The Illini Bird Fanciers 13th Annual Show was slated for June 6. I'm hoping we will be able to show our panel judge, Clarence Culwell, lots of quality finches. We have always had a good entry of NFSS finches with lots of good finch fun and fellowship.

Another major activity happens this summer in Grandview, Missouri. Nita Haas has been very busy organizing the 3rd Annual All Zebra and Society Finch Show. This show is scheduled for August 8 at the Super 8 Motel in Grandview. Nita is planning to bring Margaret Binns from Manchester, England over as our judge. The past two years have had Zebra entries right at the 100 mark with the Society entry at around the 30 mark. This year Nita is really trying to promote the exhibition of some of the rarer mutations of Zebras by providing two separate divisions. Anyone really interested in seeing some quality Zebras in many different colors and mutations should plan on attending this show. For more information, please give Nita a call at (816) 331-5285.

Region 3 members in the Michigan area will be glad to know that our Regional Show has been awarded to the Motor City Bird Breeders. Their show is being held on October 24th in Warren, Michigan. Mr. Paul Williams from Nebraska is scheduled to judge their Regional. Paul is very knowledgeable and always provides plenty of entertainment as he is judging. Anyone wishing further information about the Regional Show should contact Ron Girling at (810) 751-8265. Ron is the NFSS delegate for the Motor City club.

Finally, don't forget that the "Show of Shows" will also be held in our region this year. I am talking about the Grand National Cage Bird Show this coming November. The Chicago Cage Bird Club is hosting this show, and they will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National. This is special to the Chicago club since the very first National was held in Chicago. I'm sure lots more information will be made available in the coming months, but feel free to contact our NFSS delegate for the Chicago Cage Bird Club, John or Jane Muscato at (630) 305-9043. Our good friend from Texas, Mr. Clarence Culwell, has the honor of judging the NFSS division at the National.

I am hoping any members in Region 3 will contact me should they have any questions or need any help concerning the National Finch and Softbill Society. My phone number is (217) 774-5265. My email address is tjrood@bmmhnet.com. Best of luck to all NFSS Region 3 members!

News from Region 6 "Winging it in the West"

Well, 'ole el Nino soaked flights throughout region 6...but despite the fact it brought out plenty of mildew and red mites to be dealt with, it has not dampened our breeding season nearly as much as expected. Even with temperatures unseasonably up and down, six times more than enough rainfall and a lot of soaked and cranky aviculturists, no one has reported a less than normal hatching of the "usual suspects" – Goulds, Societies, Waxbills, Zebras, etc. That pleases us, but we are also pleased because some breeders were able to bring us some rare and more unusual hatchlings. In Oregon, Jan Baldwin has succeeded in hatching Senegal Fire Finches; Jerry Seler is raising Cherry Finches; Paul Hansen, of the "Finch Connection" has hatched Green Singers and Red Siskins; Annetta Mullins hatched Golden Song Sparrows and Pekin Robins; while Julie Duimstra (our FinchShop Manager) has hatched a few Orange Rumped Diamonds and Chestnut Breasted Mannikins. Down in not-so-sunny central California, long time enthusiast Steve Payne has had good fortune raising the Phaeo Zebra mutations, and a healthy batch of Scaly Crown Weavers, and in his spare time has husbanded some Brimstone Canaries. Nearby Richard Pizzurro has been cranking out a strong line of Black and White Mannikins. Further south, in San Diego, Sally Huntington's Pekin Robins have hatched one clutch. She is hand feeding one of the males to see if Pekin Robin energy can be contained at all. Scott Golden hopes to have another good year with Forbes Parrot Finches. In April, Pomona (just east of Los Angeles) hosted the "All American Pet Expo" which included a close look at every conceivable animal being raised in the US, and also offered a bird show boasting 42 finches and softbills. Sally Huntington's Male light-backed Zebra took first ribbon. Meanwhile, in Oregon, the Finch Connection hosted an official-unofficial bird show permitting Julie Duimstra to fledge her judging talents (she is one of 4 NFSS apprentice judges for 98). Best in Show was taken to the mantel by Dave Hallow by his prized Normal Gray Zebra cock. Our next region 6 event is the Pomona Fairground's BI-annual bird mart, June 13-14, which calls in at least a hundred breeders and buyers from throughout the region. A good time to see old familiar faces, and new things for aviculture.



- ◆ Responses to the Contact Call question on preparing for importation asked in the March/April issue:

Please read article "Hands on Finches" on following page for more information.

Hands-on Finches

Subject: Shipping and Receiving
Birds

By: Kerri McCoy
Birmingham, Alabama

Shipping: Aside from devoting my time as Editor of the NFSS I have a small bird breeding business here in Alabama. Most of my sales are to out of state customers, which requires me to ship stock on a regular basis. The below information is a guide to help step anyone through the shipping and as important the receiving process.

I use the United States Postal Service as my primary shipper. I have had much success with the USPS and rely on them heavily for all of my shipping needs. And, to date they have never let me down.

Planning on shipping? Start with the basics. A USPS approved shipping container is the first and foremost step to successful shipping. Horizon Micro-Environments is the company that I purchase all of my shipping containers from. (See their ad on the inside back cover of the Bulletin). The majority of the problems that I hear about with shipping are caused by breeders



using shipping containers other than USPS approved containers.

The Horizon "Mini" shipping containers come complete with food and water cups and perches. There are directions included with your box shipment that will step you through the assembly process. It's kind of like riding a bicycle. Once you learn how to do it once you never forget.

The day before my shipping date I put all birds that are to ship the next day on Ornalyte (an electrolyte replacement). I usually prepare the shipping box the night before to save myself time in the morning. I line the bottom of the box with newspaper, which keeps the box clean of droppings. I assemble the food and water cups. Hint: Tape down the food and water cups inside the holder. I have found that cups that are not taped down at times are knocked out of

their holder and any water is therefore lost.

The water cup itself is stuffed with a paper towel to help hold the water in. I have found this method to prove most successful. The food cup is filled with seed and extra seed is scattered on the floor of the box. I add spray millet and a slice or two of cucumber or apple for an additional moisture source.

Hint: On the outside of the box I write my phone #. I always take this extra precaution should the express mail airbill somehow be removed from the box. To date this has never happened but, "better safe than sorry". I usually keep a stack of airbills here at the house so that I can fill them out at home versus at the post office. This also allows me to notify the customer of the airbill number should a problem arise and the package needs to be tracked.

The drop-off time for a guaranteed overnight express mail will vary from zip code to zip code. Hint: Call ahead to your P.O. to find out what the "cut-off" time is for your package. It can be 12 noon, or 2:30 p.m. or even 5 p.m.

My box ready the night before, all that is ahead of me is catching up the birds and putting them into the box. Hint: I

always tape the round plastic doors that cover the entrance and exit holes of the box. Again, better safe than sorry.

Here is Birmingham I am fortunate and am able to drop the birds off right before the truck goes to the airport. I know some breeders bypass the transport to the airport and drop them off directly at the Postal Service Air Cargo office. Use whatever method works best for you.

You can always track the package by calling #800-222-1811 and entering the tracking number. Hint: Don't bother trying to track them until the evening of the day you shipped. It takes that long for the package to be put into the system. For those on-line you can also track express mail packages by typing in the following URL: <http://www.usps.gov/cttgate/>

Should you ever have a problem with a package that has not arrived as scheduled, call the 800# on the airbill and ask for the "Research Dept." and ask them to put a trace on the package. Hint: Mentioning that the package contains live animals will upgrade the trace to "emergency status". I ask that all of my customers let me know when they receive the birds to put my mind at ease.

Receiving: I think that perhaps the receiving portion of bird shipping is the most important. For should you not provide the needed care for the birds they may succumb to illness brought on by the stress of shipping.

Instruct all of my customers to provide all food and water in large bowls, in the bottom of the cage in preparation for the birds' arrival. I had a customer once almost lose four pair of birds because she provided tube water feeders, which my birds were unfamiliar with and therefore dehydration set in. **Hint:** The most important thing to remember is that unless you are told otherwise do not assume that your new arrivals are familiar with tube water feeders. Put food and water out in the open where it will easily be found!

I normally set up flights or cages for new arrivals the night before. I provide Ornalyte in the water for a few days and leave spray millet, bowls of dry Proteen 25 and seed available at all times. **Hint:** Avoid all greens during the adjustment period for it may bring on diarrhea.

Quarantine your new arrivals for a period not less than one month perhaps longer. It doesn't matter whether the birds you are receiving are from your best friend or an importer. Practicing proper quarantine will help reduce the risk

of affecting your current stock should the new arrivals be harboring an illness of any sort.

Providing a warm environment is very important, especially if you are dealing with stressed birds. I normally keep temperatures in the 80-degree range for all new arrivals. Depending upon your post office you will either receive a call to come and collect your bird shipment or they will be delivered directly to your door.

I have found with the Horizon Mini boxes that holding a net up to the opening is a much better way to remove the birds from the boxes. No net and guaranteed you are going to spend the next half-hour chasing birds around the house.

I normally write down the band numbers of the new arrivals as I remove them from the box to save me the trouble of doing it later. The birds are released into their quarantine cages and after a short inspection to see all are okay I try and leave them alone as much as possible to allow them time to rest from the shipping and adjust to their new environment.

Receiving Imports: I thought I would elaborate a little bit on receiving imported birds to help answer the question posed in Contact Call from the March/April edition of the Bulletin.

Last month a group of us imported 130 birds from Canada. We all split the cost of the shipping, custom's fees, vet certificate fees etc. I agreed to be the recipient of the imports and ship them out to the individuals after a short resting period, provided all were in condition to be shipped.

Because of the mild climate here in Alabama I was afforded the luxury of setting up my garage as a quarantine area for the imports. There is no air exchange or return vents in the garage so therefore little risk of air exchange into my home or existing birdroom.

As stated above, I provided food, water, spray millet and Proteen 25 in large bowls in the bottom of all flights. I received the birds at 10 am in the morning and locked myself in the bathroom to remove the birds from the shipping crates. The bathroom being pathetically small provided me with a small space to work in should any birds get loose.

I was shocked to find that 130 birds were all contained within 2 crates measuring 20 inches long x 20 inches deep x six feet tall. I removed the birds one at a time so that I was able to keep track of the order and make sure that the entire order was present and accounted for. The whole removal process

took 2 ½ hours. The species included: Western Bluebills, Cutthroats, Red Head Finches, Gouldians, Owls, Parson, Red Faced Parrot Finches, Chestnut Breasted Mannikins, Diamond Sparrows, Green Singers, Strawberries, Senegal Fire Finches, Sydney Waxbills, Isabel Star Finches and Painted Firetails.

All birds were alive upon arrival. However, within a few hours many began to exhibit symptoms of stress. Any birds that exhibited stress were provided with additional heat via a ceramic heat light. Keeping temperatures as warm as possible is extremely important! Eventually all birds that were "under the weather" were housed together so that I was better able to monitor their situations.

Those that have imported are familiar with the 24-hour guarantee given by the importer. Some even go only so far as to guarantee live delivery only. Our shipment arrived on a Friday and during the course of the weekend I lost three birds. During a few days of the following week I lost two more. And a sixth was lost just this past week. All those that were lost arrived in terrible condition to begin with. None responded to any type of antibiotic or heat therapy. There are times I truly believe in a good friend's motto "A sick finch is a

ead finch". For I exhausted all avenues to try and save those that were lost.

Those that survived are doing wonderfully. All birds were treated for mites as a precaution and some birds (with owner's permission) were also treated with Ivermectin and Avitrol Plus as a further precaution.

Everyone has been shipped to their respective homes and the birds that I purchased for myself are doing great and will remain in quarantine for yet another month.

I have to say the whole thing was an excellent learning experience. Would I do it all again? Probably.

Franklin's Planted Aviary

FINCH and SMALL BIRD SUPPLY CATALOG

We offer a full line of small bird products at a GREAT price!

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| *Wood Products | *Plastic Cups |
| *Nets | *Bird Books |
| *Bird Seed | *Nest Baskets |
| *Aviary Products | *Bands |
| *Misc. Products | *Nest Materials |

Your one stop bird shop!

For catalog mail or fax request to:

Franklin's Planted Aviary 8901-B Murray Ave., Gilroy, CA 95020

(408) 842-0313 or Fax (408)846-9594

Visit our web site @ www.plantedaviary.com

A Week in Paradise

By: Dale & Eileen Laird
Goldenrod, Florida

It is our second day in the Rain Forest and we see an amazing 48 different species of birds... before breakfast!!! We started at 5:30 a.m. as daylight was just breaking over the canopy. Coffee is being served on the balcony of the lodge and the Montezuma Oropendola, not currently breeding or without nests, have started to fly back in and start their loud courtship song and dance. Admittedly this is an artificial environment in the mornings, as Jay is placing bananas and rice out for the birds. The Parrots, Toucans, and Aracaris do not come in to feed but are so prevalent they are easy to spot close by. The Parrots land in a tree right in front of us and raise a bit of a ruckus several times a day.

Eileen & I spent a week in Costa Rica; the first three days in the Rain Forest at a lodge call the Rancho Naturalista. An American named John Erb owns it, but what makes it special is the bird guide, Jay Vandergaast. He has the talent to not only identify the various species from their calls but also to call them in for visual identification. John's daughter, Lisa Erb, professionally manages Rancho Naturalista. The price included everything we could possibly need,

all activities, food, guided trips into the Rain Forest, horseback riding, and even laundering of our clothes every day. The food was above average and very plentiful. We could think of nothing they could have done better.

The normal day starts on the balcony at 5:30. Breakfast at 7:00, bird watching from 8:00 to 11:30 from well maintained trails in the mountainous rain forest, and lunch at 12:00. From 12:30 to 2:00 you are on your own for a siesta or enjoying the Hummingbird feeders. At 2:00 Jay leads us out for an afternoon of bird watching until 5:30 and then supper at 6:00. For the very adventurous there is night spotting of owls and mammals. (We never did this) By 9:00 almost everybody is ready for bed. The only break from this routine was that Eileen and I took a 4 hour horseback ride. Up and down various mountains, across several streams and one river so deep the horse's stomachs were wet. I am not sure at what point in the ride Eileen informed me I owed her trips to both Alaska and Hawaii for this one.

All together we saw about a hundred species of birds over a three-day period. The list follows: Broad Winged Hawk, White Tipped Dove, Pink Beaked Dove, Crimson-Fronted Parakeet, White Crowned Parrot, Brown Hooded

Parrot, Striped cuckoo.

Violet-Headed Hummingbird,
White-Necked Jacobin,
Rufous-Tailed Hummingbird,
Snowcap Hummingbird, Little
Hermit Hummingbird, Green
Hermit Hummingbird, Long-
Tailed Hummingbird, Green
Violet-Ear Hummingbird.

Resplendent Quetzal, Collard
Trogon, Broad-Billed
Motmot, Ringed Kingfisher, Keel-
Billed Toucan, Collarded Aricari,
Brown Jay, Rufous-Winged
Woodpecker, Golden-Olive
Woodpecker, Black-Cheeked
Woodpecker, Lineated
Woodpecker, Hoffman's
Woodpecker.

Checker-Throated Antwren,
Dot-Winged Antwren,
Immaculate Antbird, Wing-Banded
Antbird, Lesser Kiskadee,
American Kestrel, Boatbilled
Flycatcher, Slate-Headed Tody-
Flycatcher, Masked Tityra, White
Crowned Mannakin, Plain Wren,
Bay Wren.

Tennessee Warbler, Kentucky
Warbler, Yellow Warbler,
Chestnut Sided Warbler, Scarlet
Tanager, Summer Tanager,
Northern Oriole, Rose-Breasted
Grosbeak, Green Honeycreeper,
Reglegged Honeycreeper,
Bananaquit, Golden Crowned
Warbler, Black-Cheeked Warbler,

Collared Redstart, Blue-Hooded
Euphonia, Thick-Billed Euphonia,

Golden-Hooded Tanager, Bay-
Headed Tanager, Rufous-
Winged Tanager, Blue and Gold
Tanager, Blue & Gray Tanager,
Palm Tanager, Crimson Collared
Tanager, Flamed-Rumped
Tanager, Scarlet-Rumped Tanager,
Crimsoned-Backed Tanager,
White-Winged Tanager, Olive
Tanager, White Shouldered
Tanager, White-Lined Tanager.

Black-Headed Saltator, Buff-
Throated Saltator, Black
Stripped Sparrow, Variable
Seedeater, Yellow-faced Grassquit,
Rufous-Collared Sparrow,
Montezuma Oropendola, Bronzed
Cowbird, Giant Cowbird, Dusty-
Backed Jacamar, Gray-Headed
Chachalaca, Sunbittern, Slaty
Antshrike, Social Flycatcher, and
Common Tody-Flycatcher.

Following three days in the rain
forest we went to San Jose for
4 days and took day trips to
volcanoes, river cruises, and orchid
gardens. We had a fantastic time.
If you are thinking about going and
are a little concerned about the food,
water, and political stability, not to
worry. We ate and drank whatever
we wanted without problems. The
country disbanded their army many
years ago and spent their money on
bringing infrastructure and health
care to even the most remote areas.

We found everybody to be warm and friendly.

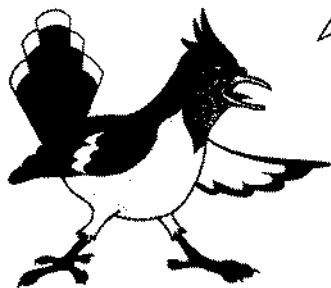
If we were to change anything we would have taken two good pair of binoculars with us and would not have stayed in downtown San Jose. The city was nice enough but it did add additional travel time for us every day.

If you want to go give the folks at Rancho Naturalista a call:

Rancho Naturalista
Dept. 1425 Box 025216
Miami, FL 33102-5216

011-506-267-7138 (phone & fax)
johnerb@sol.racsa.co.cr (e-mail)

**WHEN IS
YOUR NFSS
MEMBERSHIP
DUE FOR
RENEWAL?**



RENEW TODAY!

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

How to read your mailing label:

Your mailing label shows the issue through which your membership is paid (i.e. Expire: 01/01/98). If you have not renewed your membership by the time of the mailing of this issue you will see highlighted the sad tidings: **LAST ISSUE.**

Head Color Inheritance in Gouldian Finches (*Chloebia gouldiae*)

By: John Wilson
San Francisco, CA
& Robert Clark
Hereford, TX

Much of the difficulty in understanding the inheritance of head color in Gouldians results from the expectation of a clear hierarchy of dominance. Unfortunately, such a pattern doesn't exist. The actual expression of head color is more along the lines of the children's Rock, Paper, and Scissors game. Black covers yellow and red covers black, but yellow covers red. Were the relationships even this simple little if any confusion would remain and repeated efforts to clarify, such as this would not be needed. The glossary and definitions that follow reflect an effort to simplify the subject or at least cut it into bite-sized pieces. The genetics terms that follow are the same ones used in describing the inheritance of body color.

Glossary of Terms

Genotype: genetic makeup of the individual.

Phenotype: gross appearance of the individual, regardless of genetic makeup.

Loci (pl) Locus (sing): a specific location of a trait (gene) on a chromosome. Gene pairs have matching loci, each which carries a single gene.

Autosomal: those characteristics inherited on gene pairs. These may be recessive, co-dominant, or dominant.

Sex-linked: those characteristics inherited on the male sex chromosome. These may be inherited singly, or in pairs by males as a single copy in the female.

Homozygous: the presence of two alike genes at the two matching loci of a gene pair (2 yellow head genes are an example). A term generally applied to autosomal genes, but could also be applied to sex linked inheritance in males. However, the term double-factor (DF) for this sort of sex linked inheritance seems to be the more accurate, and clearer terminology, and is what will be used here.

Heterozygous: the presence of two dissimilar genes at the two loci of a gene pair. A term also generally applied to autosomal genes (a single yellow head gene is an example). This could also be applied to sex linked inheritance in males, but for clarity, this situation will be termed single-factor (SF).

Recessive: factors expressed in the phenotype only when present on both loci of a gene pair (DF or homozygous). These are hidden when carried as single factors.

Dominant: factors expressed in the phenotype when present on only one locus of a gene pair (SF) are considered dominant. See "Sex Linkages" for exceptions.

Split: abbreviated "/". Synonymous with heterozygous and generally only used to refer to hidden traits. Used in describing both autosomal traits and sex-linked traits in males.

SF: single-factor. Only a single gene for a trait is present. Sometimes used interchangeably with "heterozygous" when referring to autosomal traits.

DF: double-factor. Two genes for a trait are present. Sometimes used interchangeably with "homozygous" when referring to autosomal traits.

Sex Linkage: Because the genes for red head color are sex-linked and one of these genes is required for the expression of yellow head coloration, a clear understanding of sex linkage is necessary to understand the inheritance of both red and yellow head traits.

By definition, sex-linked traits are carried on the male sex chromosome (X-chromosome), while other traits are carried on the autosomal chromosomes. This is a very important distinction. All autosomal chromosomes are carried

in pairs by birds of both sexes. Male birds carry two sex (X) chromosomes and female birds carry only one sex (X) chromosome. This is exactly opposite the situation in mammalian genetics. In Gouldian males, where two (X) sites are available, inheritance is similar to autosomal inheritance. In females, there is a single (X) site, and any gene present will be fully expressed when present as a single copy, whether co-dominant, recessive, or dominant. As an example, a yellow hen carries a single co-dominant gene for yellow back color yet fully expresses yellow back, not dilute back.

It is simplest to describe the mechanism of Gouldian head color inheritance by referring to the black headed bird as the normal state and noting the effect on the black headed bird when it inherits one or more genes for red head or yellow head. All possible head color combinations can be described by this method without the added confusion of black headed inheritance. The actual mechanisms by which head colors are produced are described below.

Chemistry and Mechanisms: Research data has shown that melanin is the only pigment involved in head coloration in black headed Gouldians. Canthaxanthin (a beta-carotenoid), is the only pigment present in the head feathers

of red headed Gouldians, white lutein epoxide (an alpha-carotenoid) is the only pigment present in the head feathers of yellow-headed Gouldians. The distinction of alpha and beta carotenoids is important since it strongly implies that red and yellow headedness are truly separate traits with completely separate metabolic pathways for head pigmentation, rather than one simply being a derivative of the other.

There are additionally very distinct differences in the feather structure on the heads of black headed versus red or yellow headed birds. Specifically, the barbs are flattened and lack barbules in areas of pigment in the red or yellow headed birds, presumably allowing for better presentation of the color. This finding strongly suggests a second (structural) gene at play in the determination of head coloration. It would also suggest that either this second gene is tightly linked to the gene determining red head color, or alternatively, that this gene is suppressed by the genetic black head.

Head color: Black head is the most prevalent Gouldian head color in the wild, and probably represents the original Gouldian head color. Black head is inherited as a sex-linked recessive to red head. Many prefer to think of this

as the absence of any red head color modifier genes.

Red head inherits as a sex-linked trait, dominant over black head. Males may carry none (black head), one (SF red head) or two (DF red head) genes for red head. Since these genes are carried on the male (X) chromosome, the hen carries only a single copy of the gene. Hens may carry none (black head) or one (red head) gene for red head. Because the single (X) chromosome of a red headed hen must carry the red head gene and will be passed to every male offspring, all male offspring of a red headed hen will also be red headed, unless they inherit two yellow head genes (yellow head). Any easy means of remembering this relationship is that all black headed males have black headed mothers. The reverse of this statement is red headed mothers produce all red headed or yellow-headed sons. Red headed males can produce offspring of all three head colors depending on the genotypes involved.

Yellow head is most easily thought of as a double or combination mutation, even though that has been shown to be not precisely correct (see Chemistry and Mechanisms). The yellow head mutation inherits as an autosomal recessive trait requiring two genes for expression, but also requires the presence of

at least one red head gene in order to be expressed. Offspring from yellow headed pairs may be black headed (with yellow beaks) hens only, (note this only occurs when the male is SF for red head) or yellow headed (cocks and hens) when the male is DF for red head.

From the above description it becomes apparent that either sex may carry a single yellow head gene without its expression. This is a hallmark of recessive inheritance. For a bird to be black headed, it must carry the black head gene on all its X-chromosomes (1 for the hen, 2 for the cock). However, a bird may be phenotypic (visual) black head while also being a genetic yellow head. These birds carry two yellow head autosomal genes while also carrying black head genes on their X-chromosomes. These birds will, however, have yellow-tipped beaks. Black headed birds that are heterozygous for yellow head will have red-tipped beaks, as will those that aren't carrying a yellow head gene. A bird which carries a single red head sex-linked gene will always be a visual red head unless also carrying two autosomal recessive yellow head genes, in which case it will be a phenotypic yellow head.

To obtain a yellow headed Gouldian, the bird must be both genetically yellow headed (carrying

2 yellow head genes), and must also be a "genetic" red head. Both sexes may be heterozygous for yellow head without expressing any visual evidence of this state.

Putting it all together: Two tables are included with this article. Table 1 is a Phenotype/Genotype table, showing all possible genotypes of head coloration and the corresponding phenotypes. Table 1 treats the absence of an "R" gene at the Red locus as being the same as the presence of a black head gene at the same locus. Of nine possible combinations, only six can be females; the three genotypes having two genes for red are always males. Each genotype is assigned a number 1-9. Reading across is TYPE NUMBER (our assigned number), PHENOTYPE (visual description), SEX (the sexes that may possess that particular genotype), CHROMOSOME COUNT ("R" and "Y" representing the individual genes of the specific genotype), and GENOTYPE (the genetic description).

Table 2 is a breeding outcome chart using the Genotype numbers from Table 1 to show all possible breeding results by genotype/phenotype. Nine male genotypes are listed along the left margin and six female genotypes across the top. Reading across are

two lines of boxes for each male genotype, the upper representing male offspring and the lower representing female offspring. The boxes at the intersections of the horizontal lines and vertical columns contain numbers which

correspond to the numbers in Table 1 and represent all possible genotypes that can be produced by that specific pairing. This chart does not attempt to address the probability of any specific outcomes.

Table 1

	Phenotype	Sex	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Genotype
1	Black Head	♂♀					Black Head
2	Black Head	♂♀			Y		Black Head, SF Yellow H.
3	Black Head, YTB	♂♀			Y	Y	Yellow Head - not expressed
4	Yellow Head	♂♀		R	Y	Y	Yellow Head, SF Red H.
5	Yellow Head	♂	R	R	Y	Y	Yellow Head, DF Red H.
6	Red Head	♂	R	R	Y		Red Head, SF Yellow H.
7	Red Head	♂♀		R	Y		SF Red H., SF Yellow H.
8	Red Head	♂	R	R			D.F. Red Head
9	Red Head	♂♀		R			S.F. Red Head

Table 2

		Sex of Offspring	Dams					
			♀1	♀2	♀3	♀4	♀7	♀9
S i r e s	♂1	♂	1	1,2	2	7	7,9	9
	♂1	♀	1	1,2	2	2	1,2	1
	♂2	♂	1,2	1,2,3	2,3	4,7	4,7,9	7,9
	♂2	♀	1,2	1,2,3	2,3	2,3	1,2,3	1,2
	♂3	♂	2	2,3	3	4	4,7	7
	♂3	♀	2	2,3	3	3	2,3	2
	♂4	♂	2,7	2,3,4,7	3,4	4,5	4,5,6,7	6,7
	♂4	♀	2,7	2,3,4,7	3,4	3,4	2,3,4,7	2,7
	♂5	♂	7	4,7	4	5	5,6	6
	♂5	♀	7	4,7	4	4	4,7	7
	♂6	♂	7,9	4,7,9	4,7	5,6	5,6,8	6,8
	♂6	♀	7,9	4,7,9	4,7	4,7	4,7,9	7,9
	♂7	♂	1,2,7,9	1,2,3,- 4,7,9	2,3,4,7	4,5,6,7	4,5,6,- 7,8,9	6,7,8,9
	♂7	♀	1,2,7,9	1,2,3,- 4,7,9	2,3,4,7	2,3,4,7	1,2,3,- 4,7,9	1,2,7,9
	♂8	♂	9	7,9	7	6	6,8	8
	♂8	♀	9	7,9	7	7	7,9	9
	♂9	♂	1,9	1,2,7,9	2,7	6,7	6,7,8,9	8,9
	♂9	♀	1,9	1,2,7,9	2,7	2,7	1,2,7,9	1,9

Using Table 2

Known Genotypes: when the genotypes of a pair are known, possible outcomes may be read at the intersection of the male and female genotypes.

Unknown Genotypes: if genotypes are unknown it is still possible to know something about the possible outcomes. Phenotypes are grouped in both tables allowing easy location of possible outcomes by phenotype. Example: Red headed cock (6,7,8,9) X red headed hen (7,9) would include all outcomes listed in the 16 boxes representing the intersection of these phenotypes.

Determining parents genotype by outcome: Phenotypes of offspring can be used to refine what is known about the parent's genotype. In the previous example (RH x RH) production of any yellow heads (4,5) means that the cock is either a #6 or #7 and the hen is a #7. Only boxes at intersections of these genotypes contain the correct outcomes. Should a #3 BHYTB also be among the offspring the exact genotypes of the pair are identified. The cock and the hen are both #7 genotype.

Hopefully this article has provided a fresh approach to the inheritance of head coloration in Gouldians as well as helping to clarify sex-linked inheritance, especially as it relates to head coloration.

We wish to extend our thanks to Dr. Luis Baptista for his assistance in locating materials for this article.

References:

1. Brush AH, Seifried H: Pigmentation and Feather Structure in Variants of the Gouldian Finch, *Peophila Gouldiae*. *The Auk* 85:416-430, 1968.

Note: This article is "All Rights Reserved". No part of this article may be reprinted without the express written permission of the authors.

Any questions/comments regarding this article should be sent directly to the NFSS Editor and all information will then be forwarded to the authors.

A Trip to the World Bird Championship Show

By: Bob Rittman
Weehawken, New Jersey

When I discovered that the World Show was being held in Zutphen, Holland this year, it did not take me long to make up my mind to go. I could also see two friends whom I only know through correspondence and phone calls, and see the show at the same time. I arrived in Amsterdam on the 2nd of February and took a train to my hotel and the show in Zutphen. The next morning it was a fifteen-minute walk through the narrow cobblestone streets with views of the magnificent old architecture all around me.

After paying the admission to the show (about \$7.50), you enter the venue, which is immense.

After a quick look around, I went into the dining hall to meet my friend Fred Panjer. Fred is a fifteen-time world champion winner with Japanese Meeuwen as they say in the Netherlands, or Bengalese as they are called in England, and Societies as they are called in the United States. Fred has specialized in the Japanese Meeuwen for over thirty years.

Fred arrived with Jan Wigmore and Mrs. Van der Reek. After introductions we had a bite to eat at the dining hall where Fred and Jan presented me with a book that was titled The Japanese Meeuwen book which they co-authored in 1985. They also inscribed it for me. Mr. Van der Reek is the President of the local bird club of which Fred is Vice President (see photograph below).

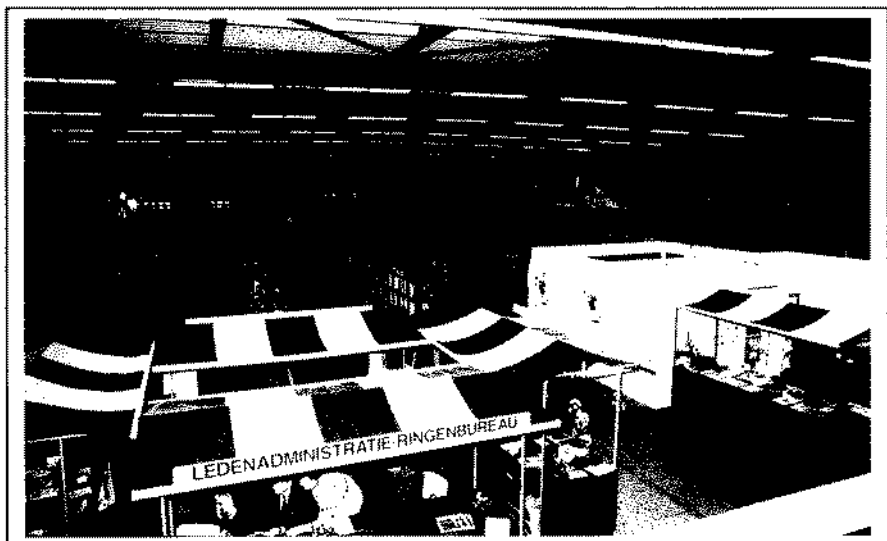
Once inside the show hall, Fred proceeded to explain to me what he felt was good and bad on



each of the Japanese Meeuwen. According to the catalog there were 335 of the breed entered and we looked at every one! Next we looked at all the other types of finches in that hall (see photograph below from left to right S.v.d. Reek, F. Panjer and B. Rittman).

the train on Thursday and spend the day at Fred's home.

On the walk back to my hotel, I met three birdkeepers who drove over from England. They were looking for the show hall but as the show was closed for the day



Then it was on to the smaller hall that housed all of the hybrids. It seems to me that breeding hybrids in Europe is very popular, not only with European birds but other types as well. Two of the most impressive and vividly colored hybrids were a redheaded normal Gouldian/Tri-colored Parrot Finch cross and the other was a Crimson/Star Finch cross. The next hall exhibited all of the hookbills and some dove and quail. Before the close of the show for the day we made plans for me to take

we planned to meet the next day.

I spent this day taking more photographs and checking out all of the vendors at the show. There were atleast five of the well known egg food makers there, along with eight to ten seed companies each selling ten to twelve different seed mixtures. Other vendors had everything for sale, from cage fronts to wooden mousetraps. They had different and interesting bird supplies that you cannot find here in the States. I could have filled a

whole plane myself if I bought everything that interested me!

The next day I was on a train to Fred's home. The train system in Holland is very efficient and the signs at the station are not so hard to figure out. The ride was about one and half-hours long. Fred drove me to his home, where I met his wife and three sons. He showed me the medals and silver trophies that he won this year with his Japanese Meeuwen. Then it was off to his birdroom. For someone like me whose interest lies with the Japanese Meeuwen, this was Utopia! The color, size and conformation of his birds were a sight to see! The black-brown, red-gray, black eye whites, albino and variegated all were there.

After taking some photographs, he showed me his collection of Bengalese information. After a delicious Dutch dinner prepared by his wife, a little more Bengalese discussion and then back to the station for the return trip to my hotel.

The next day I met my other good friend Sonja Koning at the train station. We walked to the show where we looked at the waxbills. Sonja is very knowledgeable with the waxbills and all birds for that matter. She translated the names of the birds that were used to make the hybrids. We looked at the booksellers' tables.

There are so many books that we do not have access to here in the States, but they are written in Dutch or German.

Sonja pointed out the white Cutthroat and the Timor Zebras. The white Cutthroats are a white color with the red throat. The Timor Zebras are sub-species of the normal zebra but are very small, almost waxbill size. There was also the Eumo Zebra with a gray cheek, gray throat, and black belly.

On Sunday, the last day of the show, I met Fred again. He was there to pick up his birds and the medals he had won. One of the medals was another gold for the best black-brown Bengalese, a silver medal for the black-brown stam (showing a team of four birds of the same sex and year and all look alike), and a gold for a red-gray. We looked at the Japanese Meeuwen once more.

There were over 22,000 birds entered in the show! The majority of them were from Holland, Belgium, Germany, and a good showing from France and Italy. On the first day that the show is open to the public they estimated that there were 30,000 people present. The birds are brought to show on January 23 for the foreign entries, and the next day the Dutch birds are entered. The entries are judged from the 25th to the 28th.

The show is open to the public from January 31 to February 8.

I left with the following observations. We in the United States are far behind the European bird breeders. In Europe people keep and breed birds for the challenge and enjoyment. Over here for a lot of birdkeepers it turns into a get rich quick dream and quality goes out the window. I saw buses from countries all over Europe at the show, the people from the buses could buy a carrying cage and a bird and take them home. Here to get the same birds you have to pay up to several times the price you paid for the bird to go through quarantine.

How can you get enthusiastic about improving your line or bringing in a new type of bird when you have the expense of a quarantine and "red tape" hanging over your head? You're limited to using the birds that are here. I'm not saying that the birds here are not good, but if you saw what's in Europe you'd know what I'm talking about. We should try and improve our birds now because it's only going to get harder in the future.

To sum it up - the trip was a wonderful and thoroughly educating experience. I would recommend that if anyone has the opportunity to see a World Show they should take it. I'm certainly glad that I did!

**TWO NOTED FOOD CRITICS
TELL IT LIKE IT IS...**



"NOW HERE'S A MEAL WITH CLASS!"

Bulk Sizes: Mini, Small, Medium, Large, & Mixed		Count Orders - Medium Size Only	
2,000	\$9.75	30,000	\$82.00
3,000	\$12.00	40,000	\$101.00
5,000	\$16.25	50,000	\$117.50
10,000	\$30.50	60,000	\$132.25
20,000	\$64.00	100,000	\$204.00

Mealworm Count	Dozen
50	7.32
100	10.44
500	30.24

We Trust You... Your Credit Is Good With Us!

CRICKETS- We carry all sizes to meet your pet feeding requirements. CALL FOR INFO

RAINBOW MEALWORMS
In California, please add 8.25% sales tax. FOB Compton.
Packing and Handling charge on Mealworms.

126 E. Spruce St. • P.O. Box 4907
Compton, California 90224
(800) 777-9676 • Orders Only
(310) 635-1494 • Inquiries

Finch Availability: Past, Present and Future and the Need for Cooperative Breeding Programs (Part II)

By: Robert Petrie
Kansas City, MO

**Authors note. This is part II of a workshop I had the privilege of giving at the 1997 AFA annual conference. I gave this talk to help spark some more interest in our FinchSave program. I felt the membership might enjoy the talk. Part I of this article was printed in the Nov/Dec 1997 Bulletin, vol. 14 no. 6. If you need a copy of that issue you can purchase one through NFSS' FinchShop.*

The first part of this article ended with a list of finch species known in American Aviculture and a probability number assigned to each species. This article starts with a few graphs derived from that list.

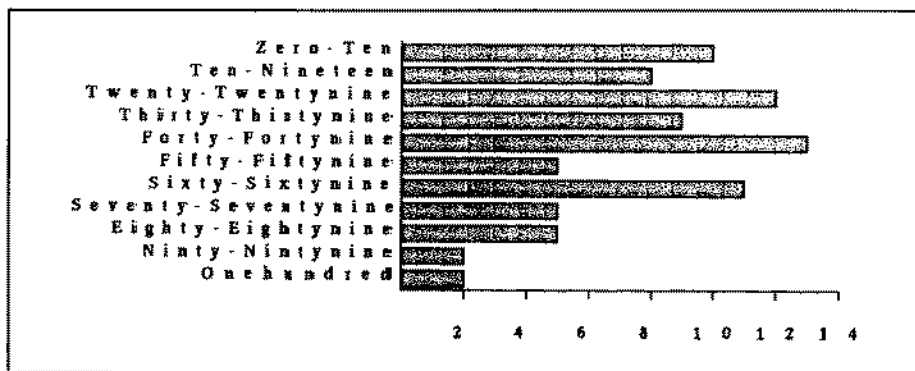


Chart 5. Graph of the groupings of the probability numbers of the species of the Family Estrlididae.

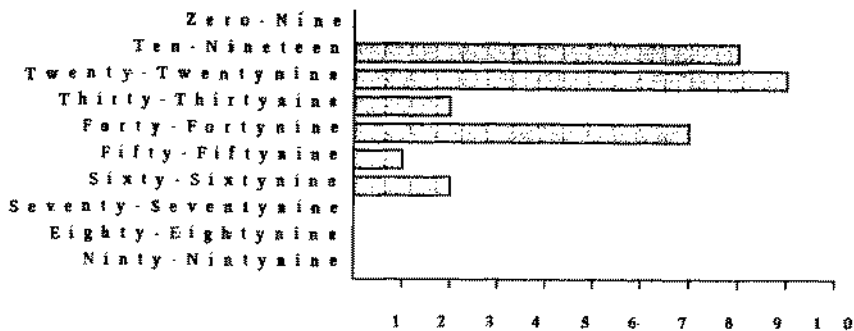


Chart 6. Graph of the groupings of the probability numbers of the species of the Family Fringillidae.

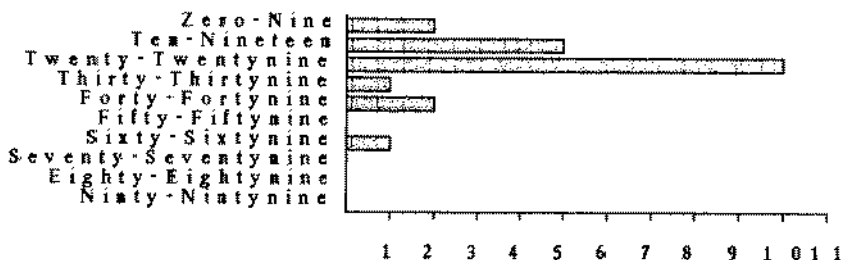


Chart 7. Graph of the groupings of the probability numbers of the species of the Family Ploceidae.

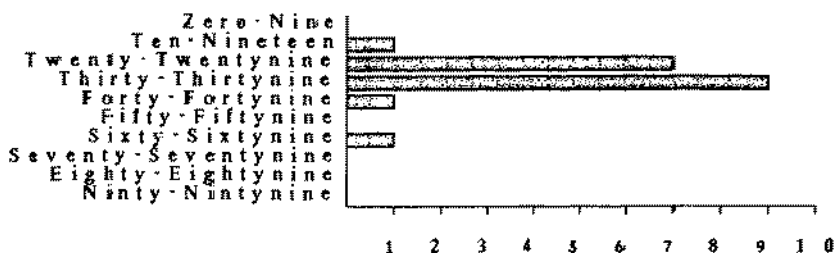


Chart 8. Graph of the groupings of the probability numbers of the species of the subfamily Emberizinae.

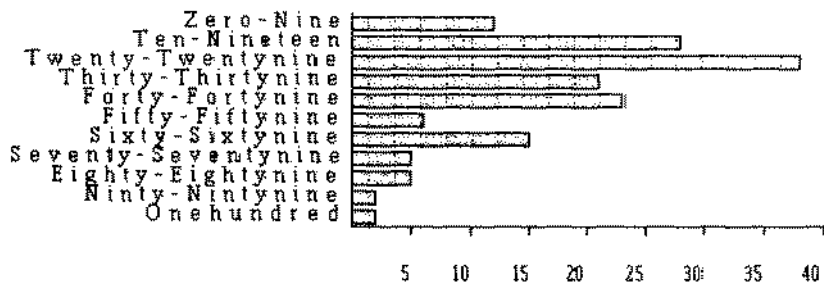


Chart 9. Graph of the groupings of the probability numbers of all the Families and Subfamily of finches.

Charts 5 through 9 were derived by grouping the probability number of the each species into categories. The categories were 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99, and 100. As we can see from the charts that only the Family Estrildidae had a reasonable number of species above the halfway mark. The family Fringillidae was next to have its number peak higher. The Family Ploceidae and the Subfamily Emberizinae and all finches grouped together had their peaks in the 30-40 range. When we average the probability numbers they come out to Estrildidae-42, Fringillidae-31, Ploceidae-24, Emberizinae-32, and all finches-32.

All the average probability numbers for the Families and Subfamily are fairly close. Estrildidae and then Fringillidae had the greatest spread of numbers that means a number of species that rated quite high and quite low on the probability of their presence in American aviculture. Overall the group, finches, rated fairly low on the probability scale meaning that most species either were not reproduced enough and/or there is not a sufficient sized population in North America.

Several decades ago the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which is the central affiliation of almost all North American zoos and is known as the AAZA, realized that several well-known species of animals were becoming extremely rare in the wild and further imports would not be possible. Most likely some captive individuals maybe needed for release into the wild to help the natural population. With this realization it became apparent that there was a need to manage the entire North American captive population as a whole. Without any further wild imports the population would need to be managed to minimize inbreeding and maintain as much of the original genetic variability as possible.

The AAZA created what is called SSPs, which stands for Species Survival Plans; for certain designated species of animals that it deemed critically endangered. Our own Red Siskin Recovery Plan is designed from SSPs. Do to the limited space in North American Zoos no population would be large enough to maintain genetic diversity indefinitely. SSPs; therefore, are set up to manage the species for specific lengths of time. In order for those species to be managed to maintain genetic diversity and avoid inbreeding for those lengths of time there was a minimum number of individuals needed to begin the program. Longed lived species like Elephants, with generation times of 20-30 years, the minimum beginning number can be much smaller than a shorter lived species like finches, which have generation times of 1-2 years.

To give us some an idea of the very lowest minimum beginning number we would need for a finch species let us do some very simplified calculations. Let us also assume we managed our species so they do not reproduce until their third year giving a lengthen generation time of 3 years and we are going to manage them for just 20 years in captivity. There would be about seven generations in that twenty years.

Considering that unrelated pairings decreases exponentially with each successive generation. From that we can work backwards to calculate that, with a stable population, we would need a minimum of 124 pairs to prevent inbreeding and maintain genetic diversity. Earlier we tallied 152 species of finches that might possible be in American aviculture. If we need a minimum of 124 pairs of 152

species that would calculate to needed space for atleast 18,848 pairs in our collections and this is assuming that all pairs reproduce. This number is a bare minimum for those 152 species for just 20 years.

In my 18 years of working with fellow aviculturists I have noticed that the majority of finch enthusiast maintain just a couple of pairs of finches. The much larger collections are typically the minority. Just to give us and idea of the possible available space for finch pairs in American aviculture, I would estimate an average of 10 pairs of finches per finch breeder is rough but realistic. For each person with 20 to 50 pairs of finches there is atleast 4 to 10 people with just a couple of pairs. If that estimation would prove correct that would mean we would need around 2000 ($18,848/10 = 1885$) finch breeders here in the US. A national organization dedicated primarily to finches, The National Finch and Softbill Society, has an annual membership around 800. If NFSS' membership were to make up 40% of the number of finch breeders in the US, then the requirement of 2000 finchbreeders would be possible. If all our assumptions were true then it would hypothetically be possible to maintain all those species in captivity.

Our hypothetical situation would only work if there were no more than 124 pairs of each species. We know that for many of the common species, like Societies, Zebras, Goulds and Owls, there are far more than 124 pairs in the US. All those additional pairs over 124 take away from possible available space for other species. Our situation also assumes that all pairs will reproduce and we all know that doesn't always hold true. Most of the figures are rough estimates and we took quite a few assumptions, but without any concrete numbers we must settle for estimations. I don't think many of us want mandatory recording of our collections. Any voluntary survey of the species held and numbers of them would be far from complete. So in order for us to maintain our own privacy of our aviaries we are going to have to continue to work with rough estimates and assumptions. If these estimations are even close, they show that of the mere 20% of the known finch species in the world that are, or were, found in American aviculture we do not have enough available space for viable captive populations of all them. Some further imports will be necessary.

All this does give us an idea of availability of some of the finch species. Many of the species we are familiar with will have a captive population here in America and will not need further imports to maintain the population. The rarer species; on the other hand, will need some further imports into the country if we are going to see any of them in our aviaries. The Wild Bird Conservation Act was enacted to stop the total reliance on wild-caught birds for pets and to protect wild populations. Those species not listed in CITES, Convention of International Trade in Exotic Species, have no regulations banning their importation. Only those CITES listed

species are regulated, but with the growing human population, especially in the third world countries of Asia, Africa, and South America, more and more species will continue to be added to the CITES list.

Those species, which are the majority, listed under the appendices II or III of CITES are not the critically endangered ones. They are the rare or unknown status species. Appendix II and III species can be imported with a cooperative breeding program permits. In order to receive permits we aviculturist will need to prove we can and do actually establish finch species in captivity. It has been done with the majority of Australian finches but there is no numbers for written proof of the fact. Enrolling and participating in voluntary cooperative breeding programs, such as the Red Siskin Recovery project and NFSS' FINCHSAVE program, we aviculturists can compile the needed information to prove to the Fish and Wildlife Service that we can and do create viable captive populations of the species of finch that we wish to keep. By doing this voluntarily on our own we could still maintain some of our privacy from the federal government and still import some of those rarer exotic species.

References:

Bates, H. and Busenbark, R., 1970, *Finches and Softbilled Birds*. New Jersey, T.F.H. Publications

Brookes, M. and Birkhead, T., 1991, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology*. New York, Cambridge University Press.

Clement, P., Harris, A. and Davis, J., 1993, *Finches and Sparrows: An Identification Guide*. New Jersey, Princeton University Press

Grzimek PhD, B., 1973, *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia*; vol 9. New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co.

Harman, I. and Vriends PhD, M., 1978, *All About Finches and Related Seed-eating Birds*. New Jersey, T.F.H. Publications

Trollope, J., 1992, *Seed-eating Birds: Their Care and Breeding*. New York, Sterling Publishing Co.

Vriends PhD, M., 1987, *The Complete Book of Finches*. New York, Howell Book House Inc.



The 1998 National Finch and Softbill Society Census



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

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

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Fax: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

NFSS Member # _____ Date of Application: _____

**Please send
in your
Census by
8/1/98**

Species (specify type)	# in Flock			Source Domestic/Import	Breeding Yes/No	# of Generations	Housing Cage/Aviary	Environment Indoor/Outdoor	Method Parents/Foster	Bands Closed/Open/None
	M	F	?							
				✓ box	✓ box	1 2 3 4 5 6 ✓ box	✓ box	✓ box	✓ box	✓ box
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Letter to the Editor

To: NFSS Membership

Subject: Research into Finch Species Relationships

What is the project?

We're working on relationships among the estrildid finches. We have samples for DNA for most species of finches, and we have good success working with a single tail or wing feather from a bird. The base of the feather quill has a lot of DNA.

How are samples provided?

Easy to send. Put a feather in an envelope with the name of the kind of bird. If more than one bird, wrap each bird's feather separately with the name and mail to me at the museum address listed below. If you can send a photo of the bird that will help me keep a record of it.

What species are needed?

We have samples of most kinds of finches but not all. Here is a list of what we do not have available. Anything on this list would be most welcome.

Names follow Clement's "Finches and Sparrows (mostly)

Africa:

Estrilda nigriloris, black-faced waxbill

Estrilda kandti, Kandt's waxbill

Estrilda poliopareia, Anambra waxbill

Estrilda (paludicola) ochrogaster, Abyssinian waxbill,

Estrilda rufibarba, Arabian waxbill

Lagonosticta (larvata) vinacea, vinaceous firefinch

Parmoptila jamesoni, Jameson's antpecker

Pyrenestes s. sanguineus, W African scedcracker (brown back)

Ortygospiza locustella uelensis, northern locust finch

Spermestes (bicolor) nigriceps, red-backed mannikin

Pholidornis rushiae, tit-hylia (estrildid?)

Australia:

red-eared firetail, *Emblema oculata*

beautiful firetail, *Emblema bella*

crimson finch, *Neochmia phaeton*

Other Australasia:

- Lonchura leucogastroides, Javan munia
- Lonchura maja, white-headed munia
- Lonchura pallida, pale-headed munia
- Lonchura fuscans, dusky munia
- Lonchura kelaarti, rufous-bellied / black-throated munia
- Lonchura (malacca) quinticolor, five-colored / chestnut-and-white munia

New Guinea:

- Oreostruthus fuliginosus, crimson-sided mountain finch
- Lonchura tristissima, streak-headed munia
- Lonchura (tristissima) leucosticta, white-spotted munia
- Lonchura nevermanni, gray-crowned munia
- Lonchura stygia, black mannikin
- Lonchura grandis, great-billed mannikin,
- Lonchura montana, snow mountain mannikin
- Lonchura monticola, alpine mannikin
- Lonchura teerinki, grand valley mannikin
- Lonchura vana, grey-banded mannikin
- Lonchura caniceps, grey-headed mannikin
- Lonchura spectabilis, hooded munia
- Lonchura hunsteini, mottled munia,
- Lonchura melaena, thick-billed / Bismarck munia
- Lonchura forbesi, New Ireland munia
- Lonchura (forbesi) nigerrima, New Hanover Munia

Parrot Finches:

- Erythrura viridifacies, green-faced parrotfinch
- Erythrura tricolor, tricolored / blue-breasted / Forbes parrotfinch
- Erythrura coloria, red-eared/ Mindanao / Mt Katanglad parrotfinch
- Erythrura papuana, Papuan parrotfinch
- Erythrura cyaneiventris, red-headed parrotfinch
- Erythrura (cyaneiventris) regia, New Hebrides parrotfinch
- Erythrura kleischmidti, pink-billed / Fiji parrotfinch

Robert B. Payne, Curator of Birds and Professor of Zoology

c/oUniversity of Michigan

3019 Museum of Zoology

1109 Geddes Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079 USA

Phone: 734-647-2208, Fax: 734-763-4080, Email: rbpayne@umich.edu

Letter to the Editor

To: NFSS Membership

Subject: Shelter for Disabled Domestic Birds

Hello! My name is Marcia Kolb and I am the founder and director of Cloudcuckooland Shelter for Disabled Domestic Birds. We take everything from finches to large parrots. Babies born disabled and adults disabled since birth or with non-contagious, degenerative diseases. No wild birds. We also have a number of able-bodied parrots forming, in toto, a "blended classroom" of sorts. The disableds learning from the able-bodied and the reverse. (We of course learn from them all!) We wanted to let breeders know that we were here.

Our non-profit status is in the works. We have a national advisory board and vet-inspected facilities, with a vet who visits here as need be. We also have a fast growing website, with nearly 3200 visits in just over 3 months. We are striving to act as an international forum for those individuals and shelters that care for same. Several companies have generously donated products to us -- Zupreem and Lafebers in quantity as well as others. We put donors on our special donor page with a link back to your website and our donors have had good response from being on the Cloudcuckooland website. Too, with our non-profit status already underway, anything you could donate would be deductible on next year's taxes.

Of course cash is always needed here. We currently have 25 parrots indoors (about 50 finches and small birds fly free in an outdoor greenhouse aviary) and are expecting 4 more disableds coming in very soon. Our numbers are rising all the time. Incoming are 2 disabled baby sun conures, a disabled baby bare-eye cockatoo, and a disabled adult Alexandrine. Indoors we have 14 tiels and up to the small cockatoos. We never know what will come in, so food, cages, toys and playgyms of all sizes are needed. Anything you could donate would be wonderful. Please visit our website to see more about us, and call if you have any questions. Our phone number is 910-675-8098. The website address is: www.cloudcuckooland.com.

Nylon Netted Flights and Cages

Ecotone . . . "Our Birds Love It"

Seventeen Good Reasons To Buy The NEW Ecotone

Customers Rate Ecotone A+

- as a safe environment
- providing effective containment
- in a low-stress
- spacious natural setting
- beautifully designed
- for small to mid-sized birds:
hookbills, softbills, finches



Our New Models Offer

- Soft netted walls
- 171 color combinations
- new designs in wood
- 3 models and 11 sizes
- low maintenance
- easy cleaning



We Are The Best Value Around

- unobstructed view of birds
- full range of options
- customized designs
- sizes to 3'D x 5'W x 6'H
- prices from \$409.95



• Sales (919) 851-8593 • Fax (919) 783-0437 • PO Box 37396, Raleigh NC 27627

Manufactured by Lions Industries For The Blind



The Avian Medicine Chest™

Specializing in Natural Solutions to Bird Health

DISCOVER MOTHER NATURE'S SECRET

At last! Bird health products that work with Mother Nature's own unique healing powers! We carry an extensive selection of Natural Products designed to improve the health of your birds
... and they are reasonably priced

The Avian Medicine Chest™ is dedicated to the prevention and remedy of illness in birds through the use of:

herbs • minerals • vitamins • healing • microbials

- **FEATHER PICKING?**
- **BACTERIA PROBLEMS?**
- **CHRONIC SICKNESS?**
- **BREATHING PROBLEMS?**
- **FUNGUS PROBLEMS?**
- **ORGANICALLY CLEAN
YOUR FACILITY?**

Prevention is the best medicine!

Call for details and to order!

Call: (712) 647-2079

SPECIAL BONUS!!!

Each new customer will receive:

- Our quarterly newsletter
- A free consultation

EDUCATION IS THE FIRST STEP TO HEALTH & FITNESS

INTRODUCING—NOAH'S KINGDOM® Whole Life Cycle Products for Birds
WHOLE FOODS—made with a complete mix of human-grade ingredients – all in their natural states – All the very wholesome components necessary for the health, fitness & well being of your feathered friend.

VMA PLUS—a whole food supplement containing Spirulina and Bee Pollen, super-foods to feed the planet! A fortifying mixture of 100% human-grade ingredients, including Lecithin, Kelp and a special blend of 12 herbs.

SKIN & FEATHER CONDITIONER—a mixture of the highest-quality certified organic oils to bring out the natural glow of your bird: unrefined cold-pressed Flax, Soy, Sunflower, Sesame, Pumpkin Seed and Borage Oils containing 'Essential Fatty Acids' (EFAs)-Omega 3, 6, 9 and GLA.

Yes indeed, unconditional love deserves uncompromising quality. This is why we took special care in developing a full line of nourishing products. If your loving bird is unhappy with our Whole Life Cycle program. for any reason, you can return any unused portion for a full refund.

OUR INGREDIENTS TELL IT ALL!

CALL 800-662-4711 (NOAHS11)

Mention The National Finch & Softbill Society and receive
15% off your first order

Call for breeder & wholesale pricing

We also manufacture a complete line of dog & cat products.



POB 8277, Red Bank, NJ 07701

(732) 933-1001, (732) 933-0505 (F). mkatzman@monmouth.com

FROM NATURE ... TO NOAH ... TO YOU

L'il Bit

By: Lynn R. Latham
Alpharetta, Georgia

Dear Kerri: I received my issue of the NFSS Bulletin today, read the Contents, and turned immediately to your story, "Life with Oonie" (published in Nov/Dec issue). It certainly touched my heart because I have an equally dear hand fed finch. Although I have many dearly loved birds: 4 parrots, a canary and naturally countless finches; this one has especially touched my life.

Little Bit was the sole surviving chick in a clutch of society finches. I could see glimpses of her in the nest and her appearance was one I find especially appealing – lots of white about the face and head. When she was about 3 weeks old, I peeked into the nest to gauge when she might be ready to fledge, when, to my horror, I noticed that her leg was pointing skyward. I snatched her out of the nest, and not only was her leg horribly splayed, but one eye appeared to be half the size of the other! I telephoned my vet and rushed her in for a check. We hobbled her leg with vet wrap and treated the eye with ophthalmic ointment. The vet gave me the bad news: I would have to hand feed (something I have never done before), but she knew I could handle it.

The next morning began the routine of packing up baby and baby related equipment and taking her to work with me. I seem to rushed in the morning and hand feeding so intimidating and time consuming, that I would put poor hobbled Little Bit in her butter tub into the cage and her Mom would feed her before I left for work. My boss endured 4 weeks of me bringing this little bird to work and hand feeding constantly. Little Bit maintained such spirit, enthusiasm and cooperation throughout the ordeal of inexperienced me feeding her. She was and is a cuddler.

Now, at 2-1/2 years old, she remains without a doubt the sweetest, gentlest soul I have ever known. When she hears me open the front door each evening, she cries are loudest of all the birds with joy at my return. Her handicap accessible cage sits on my bedroom dresser in front of a mirror, and before I uncover her cage in the morning, I can see her reflection in the mirror, trembling with anticipation at seeing me. She has some interest in the other society finches, and from time to time I will put her cage with them for a few minutes, but she just can't manage without her handicap perches and special nest. She has continuing problems with her eye – it waters constantly and from time to time

becomes crusty and will glue itself shut. She seems grateful when I take a soft, damp cloth and gently wipe away the crustiness and she rubs her head against the cloth as if she enjoys her "bath". I would give anything if she were just a normal finch, like all of the others. But, knowing and loving her has added dimension to my love of birds - all birds, inside and outside - and I will always remember and treasure the great privilege I have been given in having this tiny, special bird to love.

I handraised an abandoned Gouldian finch from day one. Much more difficult, much more time consuming, much scarier. He too went to work each day, where I lost 15 minutes from each hour in feeding him. He went to dinner parties, meetings, everywhere I went. Today he is a beautiful, funny, opinionated, spirited bird who is the darling of all my bird friends. He knows no strangers, sings and dances on my finger and attempts to mate with my big toe! He too is a special treasure but still, Little Bib is the one whose love brings tears to my eyes and a smile to my lips as I kiss her tiny head.

Those who think finches aren't "companion birds" haven't been blessed by the special love these little ones bring.

Learning about Ringneck Doves

By: Candice Patrick
Pensacola, Florida

People who stop by my tables at bird fairs are often surprised to see how gentle Ringneck Doves are and all the colors that have now been produced by these birds. Over 70 different colors have been documented although some are still in the "experimental stage" to test for breeding pureness.

With approximately 35 official colors, the future looks interesting for the doves. To add to the colors, there are the feather types: normal, silky, and crested. The silkies cannot fly due to the barbs on their feathers not interlocking. They are similar to semi-plume feathers. When one breeds silkies, one bird needs to be normal and its mate a silky. Otherwise, the offspring may be "too silky" or the feathers may grow straight up or backwards making it uncomfortable for the baby bird as well as posing a risk from drafts and moisture on the skin.

Most people are familiar with the brown doves and the white doves. The brown ones are usually fawns. The dark brown ones (that are close to the same color as the wild Mourning Doves that most everyone sees in their

yards) are called "wild-type" or "wild". People often confuse the Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia deaoccto*) with the Ringneck Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*). The Ringneck Dove is also known as the Ringed Turtle-Dove. The Eurasian Collared Dove is atleast an inch or more larger than the Ringneck. It also has a very conspicuous white border around the black neck ring as well as gray undertail coverts. The Ringneck's undertail is white. The Eurasian Collared Dove can be found in Florida (over 100,000 strong), Georgia, Louisiana, and Alabama. There may also be some near Chicago, Illinois.

A few of the colors that have been developed over the years include: Frosty, Frosty Ash Pearled, Peach, Apricot, Frosty Ice, Pink, Roan, Grizzled, Tangerine, Violet Neck, Orange Neck, Silver Ivory, Rosy, Chimnoy, Platinum, Sunkist, Bulleyed White, Orange, Orange Whiteback, Tangerine Whiteback, Ash, Crème, and the Pies (orange, peach, wild, fawn, crème, etc.). Silkies come in all colors as well as pied. The crested are available in a few colors and are still hard to find.

Some of the white dove colors include: ivory, frosty ice, albino, crème, pink, bull-eyed white, normal white, etc. There are even varieties within the colors. Ivory

Eye Color: is it red, orange, red-orange, yellow, mottled, or green?

Beak: is it black, slatey gray, flesh (pinkish) color or flesh tipped in black?

Neckring: is it pure white, gray, or black? On some white birds the ring may be very faint.

Wings (primaries): are they white, mixed colors, gray, or very dark brown/black?

Tail: is the tail snow white, mixed colors, having some gray on the underside or a fairly solid color?

Head and Chest: are they the same color as the body of the bird or a different color altogether?

Body: is it a solid color or two or more colors?

Do keep this in mind. The eye colors can change on young birds as well as the feather colors. Some birds must go through two or more molts before their true color is seen (such as violet necks). This is where good record keeping can play an important role. A dove can produce a color from several previous generations. A throwback may come from as far back as 8 generations.

During the first year determining the sex of a dove can be tricky. Both sexes can coo and bow. A young male 2 months of age may start attempting his first coos. Usually it is a bit later. When the hens coo it is a softer and sometimes lower pitched sound.

Cocks have been seen bowing and cooing and trying to breed with both hens and other cocks. Birds can start breeding as early as 8 months, but I like to wait until they are a full year before setting them up for breeding. On adult birds, sexing is a bit easier. Feel at the vent for the pubis bones. On the cock, the two bones will be close together. The hens will be further apart to allow passage of the egg. For a real novice, check a hen that has just finished laying her eggs. There is a big difference in the width of the cock and hens bone placement at the vent.

Another way is to breed only certain colors. Some colors are crossed sex-linked. For example, if the cock is a fawn and the hen is a white the possible offspring will be #1 both white, #2 both fawn, or #3 one white and one fawn. Usually it is #3. Since the hen is white, we know that the cock is the white baby and the hen must be the fawn baby. Let's reverse the situation. A white cock is bred to a fawn hen. The white baby is a hen and the fawn baby is a cock. Other colors are cross sex-linked also.

The future is anyone's guess with the colors available on Ringneck Doves. New colors come to light each year. Careful record keeping and banding (with closed leg bands), are both big parts in

breeding of doves and especially when dabbling with all the new colors. Happy Doving!

Note: Candice Patrick is the owner of Snowfire Farm Aviary and is a multi-champion silky dove breeding and exhibitor.

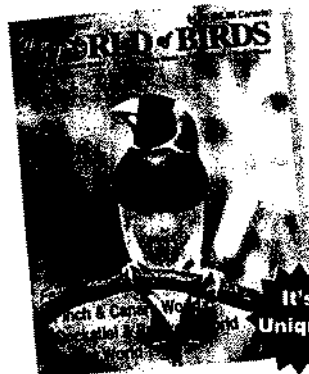
Please note: The below show report was not received in time to be published in the March/April edition of the Bulletin. Should any club be aware of a show report that has not yet been published please contact the editor.

Rose City Bird Club, Portland, OR, November 8, 1997
 Judge: Bill Parlee, 10 Exhibitors, 60 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	7	Julie Duimstra	CFW Zebra Finch	D12156-95
2	6	Julie Duimstra	Orange-rumped Diamond Sparrow	BC289-94
3	5	Paul Hansen	Red-headed Gouldian	
4	4	Julie Duimstra	Lightback Zebra Finch	D13344-96
5	3	Faye Silverstein	Black-headed Gouldian	
6	2	Faye Silverstein	Normal Java Rice Bird	
7	1	Julie Duimstra	CFW Zebra Finch	D6373-97
8		Paula Hansen	Blue Capped Waxbill	
9		Julie Duimstra	Black/White Mannikin Pair	
10		Faye Silverstein	Pekin Robin	

Seacoast Publishing Proudly Introduces:

Your **WORLD of BIRDS** Magazine
Published Quarterly
Cockatiel & Parakeet World • Finch & Canary World • Parrot World • Birder World



The Accent is on Quality!

The Key Concept: All three magazines will have their own section, complete with cover page, table of contents, and separate articles!

This colorful new magazine will offer you a fresh and innovative approach to *Your World of Birds*. Become a better owner, discover the secrets of the experts, and benefit from their valuable advice on to care for, breed, and show these popular birds. It's bigger and better than ever! Only \$19.95 per year. This is.....

Your World of Birds! Subscribe Today!

Published Quarterly

- INFORMATIVE ARTICLES • BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHS • FEATURED COLUMNISTS • FUN STORIES • INFORMATION ON AVIAN RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION! • A SPOTLIGHT ON NATIONAL ZOOS AND AVIAN PROGRAMS • A BREEDERS CORNER • CLASSIFIED ADS • SURPRISES!

Featuring:

- Cockatiel & Parakeet World
- Finch & Canary World
- Parrot World

It's Unique!

• **Subscribe for two years to *Your World of Birds* magazine, for \$38.95, and Receive a Free Copy of The Bird Care Handbook and Resource Guide, a \$7.90 Value!**

The Bird Care Handbook and Resource Guide is a valuable manual of practical information on how to take proper care of aviary and companion birds utilizing the advanced avicultural concepts of the 90's. Wonderfully beneficial for individual bird owners, it is also ideal for Pet Stores, Veterinary Clinics, Bird Clubs, and Bird Breeders who need a high quality, reasonably priced information source to give to their members and clients! You will benefit from articles written by 25 well-known aviculturists on Finding the Right Bird, Nutrition, Housing, Veterinary Care, Breeding, Feather Plucking, First Aid, Household Emergencies, Busting the Myths, and Sale Toys to name a few. Generous wholesale pricing begins with as few as 12 copies. (84 pages in Color!)



All current subscribers will be receiving this exciting new magazine!



Yes, I would like to subscribe to *Your World of Birds*!

1 year- \$19.95 2 years-\$38.95 Sample-\$6.50

No Billing • Please Make Checks payable to Seacoast Publishing • Canada & Mexico add \$9.00 • Foreign add \$29.00



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Apt No: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Credit Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____

I am subscribing for two years, Please send a Free Copy of the Bird Care Handbook

Please send Only *The Bird Care Handbook* for \$7.90 postpaid Amt. Encl.: \$ _____

For Fastest Service, Call 1.800.864.2500 (orders, only please!)

Office/Inquiries (408) 655.3500 • Fax: (408) 655.3950

Web: <http://www.seacoastpub.com> • Email: seacoast@seacoastpub.com

Please return this card with your check, money order, or credit card information to:

Seacoast Publishing • 850 Park Avenue • Monterey, CA 93940



NFSS ELECTION BALLOT 2nd Vice President – Term 1998-99

Candidate Bios:

Kerri Ann McCoy
Birmingham, Alabama

As current Editor of the NFSS Bulletin Kerri is interested in broadening her responsibilities in the area of Publications for the NFSS. She grew up in Fairfield County, Connecticut and attended Northeastern University in Boston, MA and majored in English. Starting at the age of fourteen, she worked for a large boarding kennel in the northeast. After college, she worked for ABB Environmental Systems in Norwalk, CT for six years, before relocating to the Birmingham, AL area. Her business background lies in the Sales, Marketing and Precontract.

Currently Kerri is a stay-at-home Mom with a four-year-old son. Aside from being Editor for the NFSS, she is self-employed running her own bird breeding business.

Her interest in birds began as a child and at present she keeps a wide variety of Finch species, two hand raised Lovebirds, and an African Gray Parrot.

She would welcome the opportunity to be elected 2nd Vice President of the National Finch and Softbill Society and continue to devote her efforts to what she views as a worthwhile organization.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR VOTE FOR NFSS 2nd VP BELOW:

_____ Kerri McCoy

_____ Write In _____

Please detach and mail by 1 August to:

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

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	Golden Gate Avian Society, Inc.	Steve Payne	(925) 449-1252
CA	America's Family Pet Expo Show dates: 4/18	Sally Huntington	(619) 452-9423
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 Show dates: 11/27, 28 & 29	Al Seminerio	
CO	Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture Show dates: 10/16-10/18 Mountain Regional Show!	Glenda Pullum	(303) 937-1498
CT	Connecticut Association for Aviculture Show dates: 10/24 Northeast Regional Show!	Laura Sherman	(914)266-5617
FL	Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida Show dates: 8/22 Southeast Regional Show!	Carrie Efstathion	(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
GA	Georgia Cage Bird Society Show dates: 11/7	Derrel Ward	

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	Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc. Show dates: 9/12	John Floyd	(813) 677-7679
FL	Sunshine State Cage Bird Club Show dates: 10/3-10/4 Kaytee Great American Bird Show	Dale Laird	(407) 657-7989
HI	Honolulu Canary & Finch Society	Kathy Perreira	(808) 844-3629
IN	Indiana Bird Fanciers Show dates: 10/10	Conrad Meinert	(219) 269-2873
IL	Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club Show dates: 11/19 - 11/21 The National Cage Bird Show	Jane & John Muscato	(708) 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
MA	Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc. Show dates: 10/17	Dianna Smith	(508) 540-3214
MI	Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc. Show dates: 10/24 Mid-Central Regional Show!	Ron Girling	(810) 751-8265

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
MI	Great Lakes Avicultural Society Show dates: 10/17	Diana Hugo	(616) 842-0163
MI	Society of Canary and Finch Breeders Show dates: 10/3 & 10/4	Patrick Vance	(248) 443-0643
MO	Missouri Cage Bird Association Show dates: 11/6 & 11/7	Richard & Rose Dickman	(314) 928-3444
MO	Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society Show dates: 10/17	Nita Haas	(816) 331-5285
MO	Heart of American Hookbill & Finch Society Show dates: 6/13	Moses Linn	(816) 523-4661
MO	Midwest Zebra & Society Finch Club Show dates: 8/8	Nita Haas	(816) 331-5285
NM	New Mexico Bird Club Inc. Show dates: 9/26	Gail Ranshaw	(505) 822-1483
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
NY	New York Finch & Type Canary Club Show dates: 10/17	Stan Kulak	(718) 967-6899
OH	Cleveland Cage Bird Society Show dates: 10/17	Tim Howard	(330) 337-7654
OH	Fort Defiance Bird Club Show dates: 9/26	Larry Endsley	(419) 263-2795
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	Paula Hansen	(503) 581-8208
PA	Delaware Valley Bird Club	Kris Kroner	(215) 628-4143

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
PA	Northeastern Pennsylvania Cage Bird Club	Gary Fino	(717) 868-1057
PR	Organizacion Puertorriquena de Aves Exoticas, Inc. Show dates: 12/5 Caribbean Regional Show!	Jacky Civitarese	(787) 752-4433
TN	Southeast Tennessee Avicultural Society	Janet Burrell	(423) 472-1306
TN	Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club Show dates: 10/3	Eva Duffey	(615) 361-5939
TX	Bay Area Cage Bird Club Show dates: 9/5 & 9/6	Margie McBayer	(281) 338-2814
TX	Fort Worth Bird Club Show dates: 10/2 & 10/3	Clarence Culwell	(817) 220-5568
TX	Texas Bird Breeders Assoc. Show dates: 10/24 & 10/25 Midwest Regional Show!	Clarence Culwell	(817) 220-5568
TX	Alamo Exhibition Club	J.T. Payne	
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	Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario Show dates: 10/25-10/27	Vincent Moase	(905) 723-1978
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

International Correspondents

Country	Club Name	Contact	Contact Info.
Australia	Queensland Finch Society	Gavin Dietz	P.O. Box 1600, Coorparoo DC 4151 Queensland, Australia
Australia	The Avicultural Society of Australia, Inc.	Graeme Hyde	52 Harris Road Elliminyt, Victoria 3249 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, M41 8WZ England
New Zealand	New Zealand Finch Breeders Assoc.		293 Albany Highway Albany, New Zealand

1998 Show Dates

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.

Heart of American Hookbill and Finch Society

When: 6/13

Where: Super 8 Motel

Grandview, MO

NFSS Judge: Conrad Meinert

Delegate: Earl Courts (816) 554-3922

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

REGIONAL SHOW

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

Greater Brandon Avian Society

When: 9/12

Where: Florida State Fair
Grounds... Tampa, FL

NFSS Judge: Tom Rood

Delegate: John Floyd (813) 677-7679

Email: johmanda@gte.net

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.

Fort Defiance Bird Club

When: 9/26

Where: Defiance, OH

NFSS Judge: Conrad Meinert

Delegate: Larry Endsley

(419) 263-2795 Email

D.Siebeneck drs@defnet.com

New Mexico Bird Club, Inc.

When: 9/26

Where: 7100 Lomas NE(K-Mart)
Albuquerque, NM

Delegate: Gail Ranshaw
(505) 822-1483 Email

ransan@swcp.com Contact:

J. Huffman Email:

Awindsong2@aol.com

Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario

When: 9/25-27

Where: Pickering Recreation Center -
Pickering, Ontario

Delegate: Vincent Moase

(905) 579-9078 Contact:

Paul Harrison (905) 579-9078

FingerLakes Cage Bird Asso.

"Pet Bird Show and Expo"

When: 9/27

Where: Waterloo, NY

Delegate: Rena House (315) 252-
7673, Email: rrrouse@localnet.com

Details: Being held at Holiday Inn

OCTOBER:

Sunshine State Cage Bird Club "The
Karyee 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

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association

When: 10/17

Delegate: Dianna Smith

(508) 540-3214

Connecticut Association for Aviculture,
Inc.

REGIONAL SHOW

When: 10/24

Where: West Hartford, CT

NFSS Judge: William Parlee

Delegate: Laura Sherman (914) 266-
5617, email: inthechirps@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: Conrad Meinert

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

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

Essex-Kent Bird Society

When: 10/16-18

Where: Fogolar Sports Complex Windsor, Ontario

NFSS Judge: Tom Rood

Delegate: Alfred Mion
(519)948-6398

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

When: 10/17

NFSS Judge: Armando Lee

Delegate: Nita Haas

(816)331-5285 Email

TJHAAS@OASISKC.net

Great Lakes Avicultural Society

When: 10/17

Where: Rockford Middle School Rockford, MI

NFSS Judge: Charles Anchor

Delegate: Diana Hugo

(616)842-0163 Email

hugo@iserv.net

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

REGIONAL SHOW

When: 10/16-18

Where: Denver, CO

NFSS Judge: Ray Johnson

Delegate: Glenda Pullum

(303) 937-1498

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

6th Annual Show

When: 10/17

Where: Mineola, New York (Long Island)

NFSS Judge: to be announced

Delegate: Stan Kulak 718-967-6899

Details: Being held at Knights of Columbus Hall, 186 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, (L.I.), NY. Cash, trophies, and rosettes will be awarded. For additional information contact Chris Taylor (718) 454-5288 or Stan Kulak listed above.

Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.

REGIONAL SHOW

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 Association

REGIONAL SHOW

When: 10/24,25

Where: Temple, TX

NFSS Judge: Day 1..

Day 2..

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

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.

NOVEMBER:

Finch Society of San Diego County

REGIONAL SHOW

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

Georgia Cage Bird Society

When: 11/7

Delegate: Derrel Ward

Contact: Bill McElveen (770) 926-3830

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.

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

Santa Clara Valley Canary Club and Exotic Bird Club

When: 11/27-28

NFSS Judge: Clayton Jones

Delegate: Al Seminero

Contact: Doreen Waugh

(510)794-0517

GLOSTERMAN@juno.com

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

REGIONAL SHOW

When: 12/5

Where: Carolina, Puerto Rico

NFSS Judges: Marion Spartzak

Delegate: Jacky Civitarese (787) 752-4433 Email: Lix4me@aol.com



The National Finch & Softbill Society 1998 Affiliation Agreement

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

How to Affiliate:

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

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

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

NFSS Board of Directors 1998-99

President

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

1st Vice President

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

2nd Vice President

Publications ProTem
Ms. Kerri Ann McCoy
3412 Far Hill Circle
Birmingham, AL 35243
Phone (205) 969-9177
Fax (205) 972-8984
Email imccow@mindspring.com

3rd Vice President

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

4th Vice President

Judge's Pnl, Stds/ Research
Mr. Stephen Hoppin
3836 Hidden Acres Cir.
N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903
Phone (941) 997-2237
Fax: (941) 997-NFSS
Email n2finchs@peganet.com

Membership Director

Noreene L. Taylor
2980 SW 22nd Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
Phone (954) 321-8539
Fax: (954) 583-0083
Email noreenet@aol.com

Executive Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Liaison Officer

Club Delegates, Show
Dates, Awards Mgr.
Ms. Ginny Allen
307 Brookwood Ct.
Opelika, AL 36801-3657
Phone/Fax (334) 749-7168
Email
gndallen@earthlink.net

Band Secretary

Ms. Eileen Laird
P.O. Box 2459
Goldenrod, FL 32733-
2459
Phone/Fax (407) 657-7989

President Emeritus

Mr. William Parke
631 Talcottville Rd, Apt. 4N
Vernon, CT 06066
Phone (860) 569-0200
Email:
BillHTFDCT@aol.com

Regional VP

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

Regional VP

Region 2 - Southeast
Mr. Armando Lee
8920 SW 68th St.
Miami, FL 33173
Phone (305) 270-1000
Email ajlee@bellsouth.net

Regional VP

Region 3 - Mid-Central
Mr. Tom Rood
313 N Broadway
Shelbyville, IL 62565
Phone (217) 774-5265
Email tjrood@brnmhnet.com

Regional VP

Region 4 - Midwest
Clarence Culwell
250 Horseshoe Drive
Springtown, TX 76082
Phone (817) 220-5568

Regional VP

Region 7 – Caribbean

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

Regional VP

Region 6 – Pacific Coast

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

Regional VP

Region 5 – Mountain

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

Appointed Officers

FinchShop Manager

Ms. Julie Duimstra
4201 NE 125th Place
#163
Portland, OR 97230
Phone: (503) 261-8788

Website Manager

Mr. Marc Riva
303 Elite Court
Oshawa, Ontario, L1J7V3
Canada
Phone: (905) 576-1901
Fax: (905) 436-7125
Email: riva@rogers.wave.ca

NFSS Editor

Ms. Kerri Ann McCoy
3412 Far Hill Circle
Birmingham, AL 35243
Phone (205) 969-9177
Fax (205) 972-8984
Email
jmccoy@mindspring.com

**Advertising &
Promotions Manager**

Mr. Clint Harris
3106 Glenwood Drive
Temple, TX 76502
Phone: (254) 770-1986
Fax: (254) 770-1089
Email:
charris@vvm.com

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.

FinchSave Application



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

Name: _____ NFSS # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

What would you like to accomplish through FinchSave?: _____

Send this completed form to:

FinchSave Manager

Mr. Daniel Almaguer

P.O. Box 533015

Orlando, FL 32853-3015

Phone: (407) 894-3808

Fax: (407) 894-6400

Email: DRAFinch@aol.com

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

The National Finch and Softbill Society Homepage

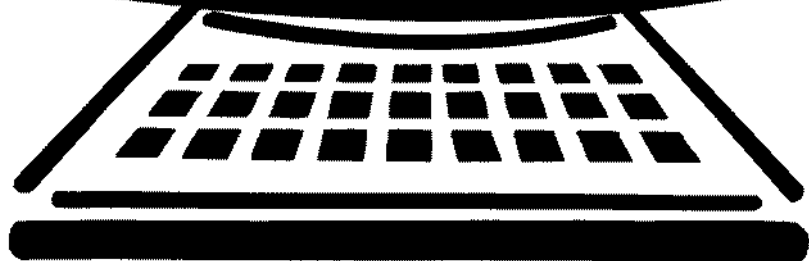
Visit NFSS at: <http://www.NFSS.net>

Browse our site for information on:

FinchSave
Upcoming Shows
Conservation Efforts
Publications
Articles
Photo Gallery
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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

New Member? _____ Renew NFSS #? _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Annual Dues:

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

* 2nd name for Dual Membership: _____

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

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

Canadian and foreign subscriptions mailed 1st class.

NFSS thanks you for your support!



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.

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

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

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

Postal Insurance:

Under \$50 - \$.75

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

Over \$100 - \$2.50

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

Subtotal: _____

Insurance: _____

Total: _____

Name: _____ NFSS # _____

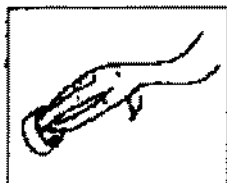
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

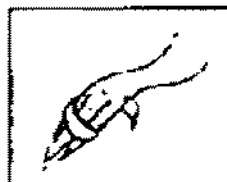
Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Leg Banding Procedure

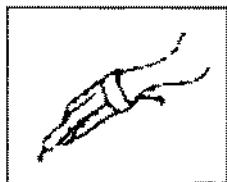
Courtesy of
The National Finch and Softbill Society



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



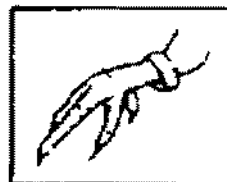
Have the bands, a toothpick (or other small blunt instrument) and some lubricant ready. Be sure you have the bands "right side up" for easier reading.



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



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



Check on the chick the next few days to be sure that the band has not slipped off and that there are no scrapes or irritations on the foot or 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 Wecker, 152nd 220th Street, Counsel Bluff, IA 51503 (712) 323-3933 S/O 98

FOR SALE: Red-headed Parrot Finches and Goldbreasted Waxbills. NFSS 98 banded. Shipping. Call Rose in Florida at 941-992-6331 J/A 98

NFSS Bulletin Advertising Rates
Display (camera ready) Ads:
Full page: \$50/issue, \$200/year
Half Page: \$30/issue, \$120/year
Cont. 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 76762
Phone: (254) 770-1986
Fax: (254) 770-1987
E-mail: charris@vvm.com

WANTED: Hen cuban melodious, hen blue cap waxbill. Would like to correspond with anyone with experience and knowledge regarding the Sydney Waxbill (aka Red Browed Finch) Clint Harris, TX (254-770-1986) email: charris@vvm.com J/A 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.

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.

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>prints 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	
1998 NFSS Handbook (Membership Yearbook)		Includes Annual Census & much, much more! (Jul / Aug '98 issue)	\$4.00	
NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards		In handsome 3-ring binder!	\$15.00	
Shipping and Handling: Orders \$10 and under add \$2.00, Orders \$10.01 and over add \$3.00 \$ _____			Total: \$	
NFSS Member# _____ Name _____ Phone: _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____				
Mail form and payment (check or money order made payable to NFSS) to: FINCHSHOP, Attn: Ms. Julie Duimstra 4201 NE 125 th Place #163, Portland, OR 97230				
NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS				
#1 Cage - Finches up to and including Zebras, #2 Cage - Finches larger than Zebras, #3 Cage - Softbills				

Horizon Micro-Environments

Bird

Natural Environmentally-Secure Transporters

N.E.S.T.

Designed with comfort & safety a top priority. Makes it impossible for careless handlers to block air vents, lets heat rapidly escape and prevents CO² build-up. Over 15 times more ventilation than our nearest competitor!

1-800-443-2498

<http://www.negia.net/~horizon>

You don't have to be a professional aviculturist to realize viruses and diseases are lurking everywhere, and that mental & physical stresses are overwhelming.

Give your birds that needed protection, and yourself some piece of mind.

*The "all new" OMNI N.E.S.T. for 1998 is finally here!
and we still pay the freight* on orders over \$ 98.00.*

Call for details and our free color brochure

Background photos: *Economy N.E.S.T. and the Mini N.E.S.T.*