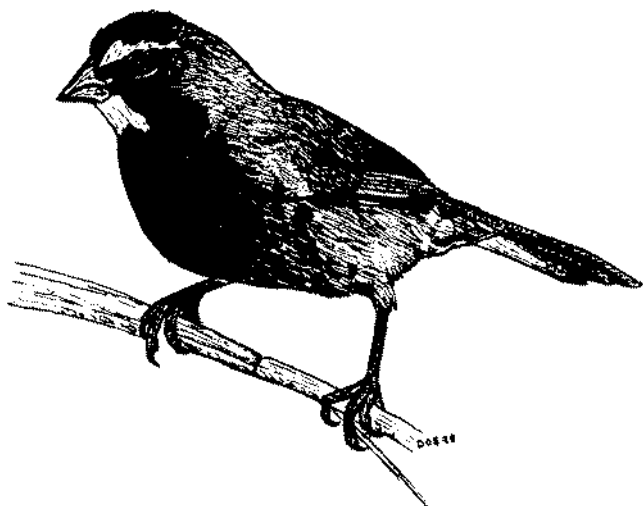


# THE NFSS BULLETIN

VOLUME 15 NO. 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1998



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- BREEDING THE OLIVE FINCH
- RECORDING VOCALIZATIONS OF FINCHES
- EGG REPAIR
- SUCCESSFUL CURE OF  
STARGAZING/TWIRLING  
CLEAR EGGS
- NFSS CENSUS PART II
- NFSS SURVEY RESULTS
- FINCHSAVE BREEDER CARD PULLOUT



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# The NFSS Bulletin

Home Office

3412 Far Hill Circle, Birmingham, AL 35243

<http://NFSS.net>

**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

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The Olive finch drawing on this issue's cover was designed by Dylan Burge of Chico, CA.

# The National Finch and Softbill Society

## Officers

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

## Appointed Officers

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

## Regional Vice Presidents

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

## In This Issue:

This issue you will find lots of information from several of the Board of Directors. The President's Message, a Message from the First Vice President, and NFSS Show Bench News by the Judge's Panel Chairman are to name a few.

The Regional Roundup section is included as usual. Please take the time to read the information contained therein. It is the one avenue the Society has to convey news, updates, etc. to the membership.

Due to the large number of late entries for the NFSS Census, the Census Manager Daniel Almaguer decided to incorporate a Part II of the Census in this issue. Of benefit to all members is a pull out sheet created by the FinchSave committee that can provide organization of your aviary breeding program.

The Hands-on Finches section returns with this issue. This issue's topic is an aviary profile of one of our NFSS members, Bruce Dixon.

Look for more aviary profiles in the issues to come. Recording Vocalizations of Finches: Recommendations by Luis F. Baptista gives everyone the basics for recording vocalizations in your own aviary. Looking for a new challenge? Check out Dylan Burge's article on Raising Olive Finches. Also, ever needed to repair a damaged egg? Sandra Bernard shares her experiences and successes with us. And I am sure all of us have experienced clear eggs. Take an informative look at the causes with Dr. Doneley's article. For anyone who has or is experiencing stargazing/twirling among any of their stock learn what worked for one breeder. And, last but not least, the NFSS survey results are within.

Deadline for the next issue is:

November 1, 1998

Mail, Fax or Email to:

Kerri McCoy

3412 Far Hill Circle

Birmingham, AL 35243

Fax: 205-972-8984

Email: [jmccoy@mindspring.com](mailto:jmccoy@mindspring.com)

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# The NFSS Bulletin

Volume 15 No. 5

September/October 1998

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## From the Editor's Desk

Well, here it is September and issue number 5 is about to go to the printer. In January, when I tackled my first Bulletin I would have never thought that I would make it to today. But, here I am. My family has grown accustomed to the dining room becoming the National Finch and Softbill Society Bulletin storage area. Precious free desk space is hard to come by here but rarely do I hear a complaint. Why? Because my family knows that all of this is important to me. My involvement in birds whether through NFSS, my birdroom or supporting local clubs brings me great enjoyment. I like being involved!

We had a show sponsored by our local club, Central Alabama Avicultural Society last weekend. Four NFSS Officers attended and several new to exhibition hobbyists were present. Ginny Allen was show secretary, Michael Wolfe was steward, and I handled awards. Did any of us have experience in these roles? Nope. Did we learn? Sure. Did we have fun? You betcha.

Dale and Eileen Laird drove up from Florida and brought several birds that the majority of the gallery had never set eyes on before. Many got to see their first Red Crested Touraco, and were lucky to witness the handfeeding of baby Persa and Red Crested Touracos. There is much more to a show than just the exhibition. Our lively group was even drawing the attention of the Hookbill and Cockatiel galleries.

I received a letter and an article in the mail last week from one of our members. His letter stated that he was contributing the article because of the NFSS President's call for involvement by the members. He took the time to get involved. And, I applaud him.

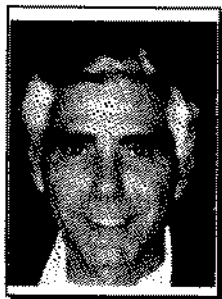
As I typed up the NFSS Survey results I came away with the impression that the membership wants everyone to get more involved, support and strengthen the Society. Be proactive, initiate involvement. Want to have NFSS officer support at your local show? Ask your Regional Vice President for his/her support. You don't have to be in California or Florida to have an NFSS representative present. Take a look at your Board of Director's listing. There are Officers all over the country.

Bravo, to the affiliated clubs who requested NFSS materials to display at local shows. Bravo, to the members who have mailed in photographs and articles. Thanks to all of you for getting involved.

"Joe Smith" isn't going to know about NFSS if YOU don't tell him about it. "Mary Brown" isn't going to see her first Scaly Crowned Weaver if don't bring the bird to your next fair or show. The NFSS Officers are not what makes this Society strong, it is the membership as a whole.

The members want to see the National Finch and Softbill Society grow. Now, what are YOU going to do about it?

*Kerri Ann*



## President's Message

By Ron Castaner

Now that the show season is in full gear, please consider attending a show in your region. It is not necessary to exhibit your birds. Make it a family affair, greet new people, share quality time with old friends, have dinner together, exchange knowledge, buy supplies...all of these are part of the show season. Scheduled shows can be found on our website at [NFSS.net](http://NFSS.net) or in the NFSS Bulletin.

NFSS members should become more involved at the local level. Join a club and share your knowledge. Many members here in South Florida prepare short programs on the care of finches whether it be banding, crop feeding, nail cutting, nesting procedures, housing variations, and general health care.

All of us are aware that the free importation of many finches is a thing of the past. It is imperative that we strive to preserve what is available before they are gone forever. Consider joining the NFSS FinchSave Program.

Should any club or individual member desire assistance from NFSS, contact your Regional Vice President or myself. Our doors are always open and we are anxious to help you. Our names and contact information are published in the NFSS Bulletin and can also be found on the NFSS website.

The NFSS Board has been very busy. We feel we have come a long way in the past few months. I hope to move the Society forward during my term in office. I want to thank the NFSS Board of Directors for their hard work. More importantly, I thank you, the members, for without you there would not be a National Finch and Softbill Society.

Sincerely,

*Ron Castaner*  
NFSS President



## Changing your Address?

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

Kindly send this form to:

NFSS Membership Director  
Ms. Eileen Laird  
P.O. Box 2459  
Goldenrod, FL 32733-2459

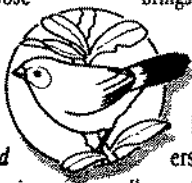
Club Delegates also send to:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

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## Open Letter to the Membership

By Ron Castaner

Dear NFSS Members, It is with regret that I announce the resignation of the elected Membership Director, Noreene Taylor. The demands of her professional position have increased to the point that she felt she could not adequately serve NFSS.

Eileen Laird has been appointed by the Board to serve as Membership Director ProTem. She is also the elected Band Secretary and will serve in both positions until the election of a new NFSS Membership Director.

The NFSS Board now announces the opening of nominations for the office of NFSS Membership Director. Nominees must be current members of NFSS. Each nominee is asked to submit a paragraph stating his/her qualifications for Membership Director. This will be published in the November/December issue of the NFSS Bulletin.

Send nominations to: Dale Laird, NFSS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President at PO Box 2459, Goldenrod, FL 32733-2459. Nominations must be received by October 15, 1998.

Duties of the NFSS Membership Director according to the current Bylaws (Paragraph 11) include:

- Shall be responsible for receipt and processing of new and renewal membership in the Society and for the maintenance of membership records for bulletin mailings and the use of the Board of Directors.
- Shall ensure that membership records are not released except as authorized by the Board of Directors.

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

Sincerely,

*Ron Castaner*  
NFSS President



## Regional Roundup

### News from the Band Secretary

By Eileen Laird

One of my goals when I took over as Band Secretary in September 1994 was to computerize the records. This was accomplished along with improved customer service. I then set a goal of making a permanent record of all the bands issued to our members since the beginning of NFSS. That was in 1985! I have been working on entering all this information for months now. It has been a slow process but I will keep you posted on my progress.

Our 1999 band order was placed at the end of August. I have to order this early so that NFSS will receive the best possible discount. Also, it insures receipt of the bands in time to work up the orders that I will start to receive in the coming months for 1999 bands. I start mailing the 1999 bands the third week of December. For all of you that are interested, the color for 1999 will be light blue with black engraved numbers.

Please also note the following:

- Effective March/April 1999, there is a \$1.00 handling fee on band orders recently approved by the NFSS board to cover the cost of supplies for mailing.
- The U size band will be discontinued as of 1999. Due to little interest in purchasing the U size band it is not cost effective for us to carry it any longer.
- Please circle either 1998 or 1999 when placing your band order. This will prevent any confusion when filling your order.

### Proposed Zebra Finch Standard Revision

By Kerri McCoy

Please note that the zebra finch standard published in the July/August issue of the NFSS Bulletin is the Official Zebra Standard. Sorry if there was any confusion. See Judge's Panel Director letter for more information.

### **Error in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting Minutes**

**By Kerri McCoy**

Please note that the location listed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting Minute notes for the third quarter board meeting was in error. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board Meeting was held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please excuse any inconvenience.

### **Exhibitors of Excellence**

**By Kerri McCoy and Stephen Hoppin**

With only one issue of the NFSS Bulletin remaining to be published this year it was decided by the Judge's Panel Chairman and myself to publish the Exhibitors of Excellence 1984 to present in the January/February issue of the Bulletin. By publishing at that time we will be able to incorporate all points from the 1998 show season making the listing entirely complete. See Judge's Panel Director letter for more information.

### **Membership Changes**

**By Kerri McCoy**

Please note the change of person and address for Membership Director. Whether renewing or joining for the first time please make sure to mail your application to Eileen Laird. Her address is listed on both the membership application and on the Board of Director's contact page in the back of the Bulletin. Those of you that have already mailed in either your renewal or new membership application please be patient during this transition period. Should you have a problem with your membership do not hesitate to contact any NFSS Board member and we will see that it is corrected.

### **Copyright Experience?**

**By Kerri McCoy**

The National Finch and Softbill Society would like to solicit the membership to locate a person regarding copyright protection for the society. Should any member have experience or insight into such matters please contact the Editor. Thank you.

### **FinchSave Band Requirements**

**By Daniel Almaguer**

At the request of some NFSS members a clarification in regards to the type of bands required in order to be part of the FinchSave Program was brought before the Board at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board Meeting. It was decided by the board, that the ADA bands (American Dove Association) would be permitted for use in the FinchSave Program provided NFSS bands were also used.

### Official NFSS Classifications

By Stephen Hoppin

The revised classifications adopted at the second quarter board meeting are the new adopted "Official NFSS Classifications" and will make their debut at the National Cage Bird Show being held 11/19-21 in Chicago, IL. The classifications will also be published in the January/February 1999 issue of the bulletin for all affiliated club use for the 1999 show season. See Judge's Panel Director letter for more information.

### NFSS Division at 1998 National Cage Bird Show

By Stephen Hoppin

A calling for NFSS members to help with the NFSS Division during check-in Thursday p.m. Extra help is needed during these few hours because Board members will be attending their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter board meeting during that time. Contact Steve Hoppin if you are able to assist.

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## A Message from the First Vice President

By Dale Laird

What can NFSS do for you? That depends on what you are expecting. One of the easiest ways to get more out of NFSS is get more involved. Most everyone knows about the bird shows NFSS promotes; the accredited judges for those shows; and all the awards one can win by showing their birds. Attend one. You may like it.

Are you a member of FinchSave? This is the opportunity to belong to the largest multi-species breeding consortium in the United States. All it really takes is breeding the majority of species you are now keeping and submitting a few reports to the 3rd Vice President. I urge you to get involved. The record keeping you submit is much simpler than most of us keep anyhow.

One of the things I would like to see is an NFSS Breeding Recognition Program. I would like for this program to have a means of presenting awards in recognition for the efforts of our Finch and Softbill breeders.

Several years ago one of our long time members, Jerry McCawley chaired a committee that worked on such a program. They did a great deal of work and had it almost

complete. For several reasons it never came to pass. I would like to see someone pick this up, finish the development and run the program. I think one would need good organizational skills, have a computer to maintain the data base, and be able to keep meticulous records. I believe the original work may still be available. If you are interested in getting involved with something like this please contact me.

I would also like to see more people involved with Softbills. Eileen and I keep 5 different species of Softbills in a residential neighborhood all outdoors. Even our next door neighbors do not know what we keep. All but the Zosterops are much larger than our Finches. Since a number of companies have started making a Softbill pelleted diet they have become very easy to feed. The mess is minimal if cleaned up a couple of times a week. Since all of ours are outdoors it is not a problem. If you are interested in obtaining a species or two of Softbills and would like to discuss general care before doing so please contact me. E-Mail works very well for this.

Well, that is what I would like from NFSS. If you have any suggestions or recommendations, contact myself or any other of your Board members.

## NFSS Show Bench News

By: Stephen Hoppin, Judge's  
Panel Director

Although it is approaching September as I write, by now we should be halfway through our 1998 fall show season. The first three quarterly NFSS Board meetings this year have taken place where upon several issues regarding the NFSS Judges Panel and Exhibition have been discussed and voted upon. I would like to take this opportunity to review or bring you current with these adopted changes in NFSS policy and in addition, fill you in on the latest information and events within the scope of the "NFSS Show Bench".

It is now NFSS policy that all proposed standards be submitted by the Judge's Panel Director to the NFSS Board for review and consideration of approval.

The Proposed Zebra Finch Standard Revision published in the July/August 1998 Bulletin is actually the new "Official Zebra Finch Standard" adopted by the NFSS Board. PLEASE NOTE the published standard as "Official" and keep for your records.

Another policy adopted effects Panel Judges who resign not only from the Judge's Panel but also, in addition, their membership. The Board has determined upon resigning NFSS membership all status is lost within the Society. Should the individual wish to become reinstated to the Judge's Panel he/she will need to pay the current NFSS membership dues, re-test, and successfully complete three apprenticeships before the apprentice can submit a request through the Judge's Panel Director for final Board approval.

And lastly, one of the qualifications for the Apprentice Judges Program is for the applicant to be twenty-one years of age or older.

Currently the NFSS Judge's Panel consists of 23 skilled and actively participating judges. Many are contracted for shows here in the US as well as four being contracted to judge Canadian shows. Earlier this year the Society has had two individuals take renewed interest and request active reinstatement to the Panel.

Cecil Gunby, NFSS Panel Judge, by written request has been on inactive status for near three years. He approached myself, Judges Panel Director, prior to the three-year deadline and formally requested reinstatement to active status on the NFSS Judges Panel. He recognizes he needs to fulfill certain conditions. Providing he submits his 1988 judge's fee and successfully completes one apprentice approved by the Panel Director he will be reinstated to active status. The NFSS Board is anxious to have him back and participating on the Panel.

To date, the Apprentice Judges Program has eight participants from various geographical areas of the country. Both Dennis Lewis and Sally Huntington have gotten their feet wet and apprenticed at least once so far this year. Our newest participant Ken Gunby, (the good and kind brother) was an established NFSS Panel Judge from the mid 80's to mid 90's. He resigned from the NFSS Judges Panel and membership for personal reasons following the '94 NCBS. He has also requested reinstatement to the Panel earlier this year. Per Board recommendation he has been accepted into the Apprentice Judge program. Presently his remaining qualifications include testing and successfully completing three apprenticeships before he can

submit a formal request through the Judges Panel Director for final Board approval. The NFSS Board is eager to have Ken once again as an active NFSS Panel Judge.

NFSS Judges have new official show report forms for use starting in 1998. To all judges, please be sure to review the entire document and make certain all information is provided before final copies are distributed.

NFSS Classifications have been revised and presented to both the NCBS and NFSS Board for review. They have been adopted by both the National Cage Bird Society and the National Finch and Softbill Society as Official NFSS Classifications. Considering time was a premium since adopted, the new classifications will make their debut this year at the 1998 NCBS and follow through with publishing in the January/February Bulletin for club use in 1999.

Speaking of the Jan/Feb 1999 Bulletin, it has been decided to publish the Honor Roll Exhibition Champions - 1984 through 1998 in conjunction with the show reports in the above-mentioned issue instead of in the July/August NFSS Handbook issue.



And if you're not ready for this one, you better get a fast late start! Our National Show will be held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show again and this year promises to be bigger and better than ever. Complete information can be found in the November show listing of this issue or refer to the full page NCBS advertisement. A calling goes out for NFSS members to help with the NFSS Division during check in Thursday p.m. Extra help is needed during these few hours because Board members will be attending their 4th quarter board meeting during that time. Thanks to the following NFSS Members sponsoring sections at this year's big event: Dale & Eileen Laird, Martha Wigmore, Kerri McCoy, Ron Castaner, Clarence Culwell, Charlie Anchor, Steve Hoppin, Armando Lee, Sally & Vince Huntington, and Tom Rood.

And thanks in advance to the following members who volunteered their services prior to this engagement: Secretary - Eileen Laird, Stewards - Dale Laird, Martha Wigmore, Tom Rood, Charlie Anchor, and Steve Hoppin. Additional volunteers are always accepted and appreciated very much. Come and be a part of our finch family.

Now, you have been extremely patient reading my message. And I thank you. However, you best avoid me at the Nationals or I'll be tempted to test you on all the information you have gathered here today. And it will not be open book. Yikes!

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



## 1998 Annual Census Report

### Part II

Census Compiled and Reported by Daniel Almaguer,  
Finchsave/Census Manager 3rdVP NFSS

This is Part II of the 1998 NFSS Census Report.

I would like to thank all 128 NFSS members whom participated in our Annual Census Report for 1998. We have 31 states and Canada with 209 species of various types and mutations recorded. We can make a difference trading bloodlines, sharing information to assure the survival of all finches in captivity in our private collections. Conservation and preservation are should be the goal of all NFSS members. The NFSS Annual Census is now on the NFSS website, thanks to Website Manager Marc Riva. The URL is <http://NFSS.net/survey.html> or enter through the NFSS webpage at <http://NFSS.net>.

I have changed the order of the census by listing most finches by family/genus names then species and color. This will assist us in understanding and knowing them by genus showing us they are from the same geographical locations. I would appreciate your suggestions and comments on this new order. All NFSS members feel free to call or email me anytime. messages are checked daily.

**PLEASE SEND THE GENUS NAMES ON CENSUS REPORTS IF POSSIBLE.**

#### **CANADA (Region 3)**

Vincent H. Moase OSH-CAN-0513  
(905) 723-1978 E: vkam1@direct.com

#### **CALIFORNIA (Region 6)**

Dylan Burge CA-2402  
(530) 345-68778

Steve Payne, CA-0779  
(925) 449-1252 E: spayne@netscape.com

Althea Smith CA-3211  
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1998 NFSS CENSUS REPORT  
PART II

Bunting, Cinnamon  
(*Passerina*)  
CA-0779-S. Payne

Canary, Bristone  
(*Serinus*)  
CA-0779-S. Payne

Combassou  
(*Hypochera chalybeata*)  
VA-1011-V.Sorenson

Cuban Melodious Finch (Cuban Grassquit)  
(*Tiaris canora*)  
OSH-ON-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

Cuban Olive Finch  
(*Tiaris olivacea*)  
CA-2402-D.Burge,

Diamond Sparrow (Firetail)  
(*Stagonopura guttata*)  
CA-2402-D.Burge, CA-0079-S.Payne,  
VA-1011- V.Sorenson

Diamond Sparrow (Firetail) Fawn  
CA-2402-D.Burge

Diamond Sparrow (Firetail) Yellow Rump  
CA-2402-D.Burge

Finch, Cutthroat (Ribbon)  
(*amadina fasciata*)  
WI-0000-D.Waller

European Green Finch  
(*Carduelis chloris*)  
IL-0682-R.W.Wild

Firefinch, Black-faced  
(*Lagonosticta larvata*)  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

Fire Finch, Blue Billed (African)  
(*Lagonosticta rubricata*)  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

Firefinch, Jamesons  
(*Lagonosticta rhodopareia*)  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Firefinch, Kulikoro**  
(*Lagonosticta*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Firefinch, Senegal (Red Billed )**  
(*Lagonosticta senegala*)

CA-0079-S.Payne

**Firetail, Red-bowed**  
(*Aegintha temporalis*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, Normal**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

CA-3211-A.Smith, FL-2911-D.Opperman,  
KY-3585-J.McCormick, OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase,  
SC-3016-D.Haller, VA-1011-V.Sorenson,  
IL-0682-R.W.Wild

**Gouldian, Black Head**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, Orange Head**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, White Breast**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, Black Head/ White Breast**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, Red Head/ White Breast**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, Blue Body**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, Black Head/ Purple Breast/ Blue Body**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, Black Head/ White Breast/ Blue Body**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, Red Head/ Purple Breast/ Blue Body**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Gouldian, Red Head/ White Breast/ Blue Body**  
(*Chloebia gouldiae*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Grassfinch, Shafttail (Heck's) Long-tailed Finch**  
(*poephila acuticauda*)

VA-1011-V.Sorenson

**Green Singing Finch**  
(*Serinus Mozambicus*)

N.Y.-3274-J.Saperstein, SC-3016-D.Haller

**Mannikin, African Silverbill**  
(*Lonchura cantans*)

CA-0079-S.Payne, CA-2402-D.Burge,  
MO-2471-J.Winner

**Mannikins, Black & White**  
(*Lonchura bicolor*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase, FL-2911-D.Opperman,  
IL-0682-R.W.Wild

**Mannikin, Chestnut Breasted**  
(*Lonchura c. castaneothorax*)

CA-0079-S.Payne

**Mannikin, Palid Nun**  
(*Lonchura c. castaneothorax*)

CA-0079-S.Payne

**Mannikin, White Hooded Nun**  
(*Lonchura maja*)

CA-0079-S.Payne, CA-3211-A.Smith

**Mesia, Silver-eared**  
(*Leiothrix lutea*)

CA-0079-S.Payne

**Munia, Java Sparrow (Rice Bird)**  
(*Lonchura oryzivora*)

ME-3574-P.Werth, WI-0000-D.Waller

**Munia, Spice Finch (Nutmeg)**  
(*Lonchura punctulata*)

CA-2402-D.Burge, MO-2471-J.Winner  
IL-0682-R.W.Wild

**Munia, White Spotted**  
(*Lonchura leucosticta*)

CA-0079-S.Payne

**Munia, Strawberry (Red Avadavat or Red Munia)**  
(*Amandav amandava*)

KY-3500-K.E.Kurtz, OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Owl (Bicheno) Finch, White Rump**  
(*poephila bichenovii*)

CA-2402-D.Burge, CA-3211-A.Smith  
FL-2911-D.Opperman, KY-3585-J.McCormick  
ME-3574-P.Werth, MO-2471-J.Winner  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase,  
VA-1011- V.Sorenson

**Parrot Finch, Tricolored, (Blue Breasted or Forbes)**  
(*Erythrura tricolor*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Parrot Finch, Blue Faced**  
(*Erythrura trichroa*)

CA-2402-D.Burge

**Parrot Finch, Red Headed**  
(*Erythrura psittacea*)

CA-2402-D.Burge

**Pekin Robin (Nightingale)**  
(*Leiothrix lutea*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Pytilia, Aurora, Red Faced (Niassa) Crimson Winged**  
(*Cryptospiza reichenovii*)

FL-42-S.Hoppin (FS), MO-2281-2282-R.&R.Dickman,  
TX-2881-C.W.Gulick (FS), OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Shama Thrush**  
(*Malabaricus indicos*)

OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Society Finch, Bengalese**  
(*Lonchura striata* var. *domestica*)

FL-2911-D.Opperman, KY-3585-J.McCormick  
SC-3016-D.Haller, OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase,  
WI-0000-D.Waller, MO-2471-J.Winner,  
VA-1011- V.Sorenson

**Society Finch, Chocolate & White**  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Society Finch, Fawn & White**  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Society Finch, Crested**  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

**Society Finch, Fawn Dilute**  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase

- Star Finch (Red Faced  
CA-2402-D.Burge, FL-2911-D.Opperman  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase, VA-1011- V.Sorenson
- Star Finch (Yellow Faced)  
(*Neochmia ruficauda*) "yellow"  
CA-2402-D.Burge
- Twinspot, Dybowski  
(*Euchistospiza dybowski*)  
SC-3016-D.Hallier
- Waxbill, Blue Capped, Cordon Bleu  
(*Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*)  
VA-1011- V.Sorenson
- Waxbill, Cordon Bleu (Red Cheeked)  
(*Uraeginthus bengalus*)  
FL-2911-D.Opperman, CA-0079-S.Payne
- Waxbill, Gold Breasted  
(*Amandava subflava*)  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase
- Waxbill, St. Helena (Common)  
(*Estrilda astrild*)  
OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase
- Weaver, Scaly Crowned  
(*sporopipes squamifrons*)  
CA-0079-S.Payne
- Zebra Finch, Grey (Normal)  
(*Poephilia guttata*)  
CA-3211-A.Smith, IL-0682-R.W.Wild  
KY-3585-J.McCormick, OSH-CAN-0513-V.H.Moase,  
SC-3500-K.E.Kurtz, WI-0000-D.Waller
- Zebra Finch, Cream  
IL-0682-R.W.Wild
- Zebra Finch, Fawn  
IL-0682-R.W.Wild
- Zebra Finch, Silver  
IL-0682-R.W.Wild





## FinchSave Update

By Daniel Almaguer

All FinchSave packets have been mailed. Please fill out all information and return to myself, FinchSave Manager as soon as possible. Please consider your package important data that needs to be compiled for the benefit of all FinchSave participants.

The FinchSave Annual Report, enclosed in the FinchSave packets is due by 12/31/98. FinchSave packets will be mailed upon request to any NFSS member wishing to participate in the program.

Thank you for your patience in allowing the FinchSave Committee to update our FinchSave materials. A special thanks to FinchSave Committee members Luis Garcia, Dianna Rubly, and Karen Meyers.

In the center of the Bulletin for the convenience of all NFSS members, you will find a FinchSave record-keeping page. For those of you looking for an idea on how to organize your aviary and records you may find the record-keeping page to be useful.

Once again I encourage all members with email access to please confirm your correct email address with me.

Thank you for making a difference.

Daniel Almaguer  
Third Vice President and FinchSave/Census Manager

Please note: The below listed show report was missing from the show reports published in the January/February and March/April NFSS Bulletins. However, points for this show were included into the 97 show season tally.

Aviary Association of Kern, Bakersfield, CA, December 6, 1997

Judge: Brian Mandarich—4 Exhibitors, 38 Entries

Place	Points	Exhibitor	Species	Band #
1	4	Sally Huntington	Pintailed NonPareil	
2	3	Sally Huntington	English Blue Button Quail	
3	2	Sally Huntington	Purple Grenadier	D2006-96
4	1	Sally Huntington	Scaley Crowned Weaver	D9140-97
5		Alvin & Dixie Lea	Pekin Robin	
6		Sally Huntington	Pekin Robin	H10-97
7		Sally Huntington	Light Back Zebra Finch	D300-97
8		Alvin & Dixie Lea	Society Finch	
9		Alvin & Dixie Lea	Pair of Zebra Finches	
10		Alvin & Dixie Lea	Pekin Robin	

## *Congratulations Photo Contest Winners!*

**First Prize: Robin Vallier, Rhode Island**  
**Second Prize: Robin Vallier, Rhode Island**  
**Third Prize: Dave Kogut, Florida**

**Photos will be available for viewing on the NFSS website and in a future edition of the NFSS Bulletin.**

## Hands-on Finches

Subject: Aviary Profile

By: Bruce Dixon  
Melbourne, Australia

Can I say from the onset how fortunate we are in this country being blessed with both space and climate that allows the Australian aviculturists to enjoy the pleasure of outside open flights for the majority of our birds.

During the winter as an example where I am situated in the southeastern corner of Australia, our lowest temperature in winter seldom drops below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Having experienced first hand North American and Canadian winters, I perhaps have a greater appreciation of the difficulties that you face, and the obvious need for birdroom breeding.

When I re-established my interest in aviculture a couple of years ago, I will admit that my enthusiasm probably raced ahead of my logic. Perhaps I would have been wiser to undertake a prolonged survey of some of my peer breeders; looking at their facilities, learning from their mistakes, and adapting them to suit my needs, positioning and budget constraints.



Nevertheless having not done this, my first aviary was not that far below my ideals. And whilst it will undergo a couple of minor construction changes in our coming winter to better utilize space management; even in its current form our birds have enjoyed the environment that it has provided.

This first aviary is 18 ft. long x 7 ft. deep x 8 ft. high, and is divided into two flights, entry being gained from a completely enclosed "lock up" at one end 3 ft wide. This lock up facility affords enormous security coming and going when tending our birds. (see photo next page).

Our prevailing bad weather comes from the south, west, or southwest. This aviary faces north and as such gets sun from early afternoon all through the year. Primarily of treated pine construction, the walls are clad in fibro cement sheeting, metal roof, interspersed with ploy

carbonate sheets to let in as much natural light as possible.

The use of large quantities of brush, which is readily available right throughout the country, provides shelter, amusement and an environment totally conducive to a natural breeding climate for our birds.

Like so many of you, we are not blessed with unlimited space to build all the aviaries we may wish. Mine is a typical suburban block, and when taking into account the positioning of any aviary to safeguard from prevailing bad winds, I really was scratching my head to work out where the next inevitable aviary was going to go. I had areas facing east, and realistically the longer and harder I looked the more daunting it was becoming, as most of these easterly facing positions were utilized by other aspects of our home.

There was one area behind the garage however that was perfect, but just happened to house a magnificent area of semi-rainforest gardens but it faced the right direction.



The area and the topography of the area was fraught with problems

- Because of the construction of the garage
- And because of the angles of the ground where the aviary would be sited.

When the decision was made to build the aviary OVER the garden, I also realized that the project, construction wise, was far beyond anything I would attempt in my wildest dreams.

I invited a builder friend around for a cup of coffee told him what I wanted, and he said sorry it's beyond me. He also said that there

is not one square angle from which I can work and I had to agree there was not one.

I persevered with him however, and finally persuaded him to atleast try. The morning he commenced, the amount of Oregon timber that arrived was enough to put another room on the house. It took him a week to get the frame up and about that long again to work out the angles for the roofing materials. I can not begin to tell you the admiration that I have for this man's ingenuity and patience. For although the pictures that accompany this article may indicate a straightforward run of the mill aviary, the roofing computations alone are monumental.



The aviary that you see in this article is 25 ft. long x 10 ft high x 10 ft. deep. If you are wondering why so high, very simply to tie in literally with the garage roofline construction.

Internally, I believe its bird heaven. If I was a bird it's where I would choose to live. It is literally full of rainforest plants, huge tree ferns, ground ferns of many types, azaleas, and a proliferation of small bushes.

The area is watered by a built-in sprinkler system, which the birds adore, and love playing in the misting spray the sprinkler creates. The floor is totally natural earth. Presents no problems to clean and maintain, and again the birds spend literally hours playing and foraging on the floor.

The final problem of capture in this size aviary I solved by making up a catching cage controlled from the outside of the aviary. This cage just also happens to be their feeding station and is where they receive their food every day, both dry and live food.

This aviary is ideally suited to colony breeding and although I do not practice it could if required comfortably accommodate a very large colony of a particular type. Currently I house in this aviary:

- Red faced parrot finches
- Cordons
- Owls
- Cubans

The aviary is in my opinion not only a wonderful environment for the birds but has become due to its finish, a great asset to the garden and living area at the rear of the house. The hours of planning, building, painting, and the myriad of little jobs to get it to the state it is now have, in my opinion all been worthwhile. And I am really proud of the achievement (thanks to a great builder).

To those of you who do have outside aviaries and are plagued with the problem of actually seeing clearly and in detail what is in the aviary, you will be staggered how you can improve your vision by painting over your bird wire with a gloss black enamel paint. Where

the opportunity presents itself, paint the inside and the outside.

It does no harm to your birds, just make sure before painting that you wash down your wire with a 50/50% solution of brown vinegar and water. This removes any loose or active galvanizing that may be on your wire. Small paint rollers available from craft suppliers or paint stores are perfect for paint application. It is easy to do and as I say you won't believe the difference it makes to your seeing what's happening within your aviary.

## Recording Vocalizations of Finches: Recommendations

By: Luis F. Baptista  
California Academy of Sciences

By tradition, ornithologists distinguish between two classes of bird vocalizations, namely songs and calls. Songs tend to be more complex in structure consisting of a series of sounds strung together in different rhythms. Songs are often used to defend territories, to advertise for mates, or to court females. Rate of singing usually increases when males are separated from their mates, thus demonstrating the advertising role of song.

Song in estrildid finches is never territorial in function. It is usually produced by males courting females (directed song) or in the absence of other birds (undirected song). Among the Waxbills and their close-relatives the Cutthroat and Redheaded Finches, both sexes sing.

Calls are usually very simple in structure, and may be rendered onomatopoeically as "chit", "chep", "wut", "kaaa", "meh", etc. They are used to warn of danger; to maintain contact between pairs, family parties, or flock members; during stress as when grabbed by a cat or human; during nest building at nest

sites; when good sources of food are found; when juveniles beg for food.

Aviculturists have unique opportunities to record these vocalizations which should be stored in sound libraries for studies in ethnology, developmental psychology and taxonomy (classification). For example, the African group of mannikins (Bronze Mannikin, Magpie Mannikin, Bicolor Mannikin, Pearly-headed Silverbill) can be distinguished from the other mannikins (e.g. Silverbills, Java Rice birds, Nuns) in that chicks of the African group have begging calls consisting of two classes of sounds (e.g. chip-cha-cha-cha) whereas the other mannikins beg with only one class of sound (e.g. che-che-che-che-che). The following are a list of sounds (call types) that should be looked for when putting together a vocabulary of finch sounds.

1. Long Distance Contact Call: e.g. when male and female are placed in separate rooms or chicks and parents are placed in separate rooms. Sometimes male and female long distance calls differ between the sexes. e.g. adult female Bengalese Finches and their close relatives the Javan Mannikins (Lonchura leucogastroides) have a complex call

(TRRRRT!) whereas males utter a single syllabled PEEP! Oddly, juveniles younger than 60 days old may produce both, thus if possible age of the bird recorded should be noted. In Zebra Finches each male can be distinguished by this call.

2. **Short-distance Contact Calls:** Usually very soft, such as "Chep!" or "Chut!" or "Put!".

3. **Alarm Calls:** Usually very loud, e.g. when a hawk flies by, or when you try to catch a bird, or when you approach their nest. This may be a trill (a series of short notes) in some species.

4. **Nest Building Calls:** Usually uttered mostly by the male. For example male Zebra Finches utter long series of mewing calls when trying to attract a female to his nest site; Pearly-headed Silverbills produce a long series of whistles in this context. These calls are poorly documented and probably never recorded for most species. Incidentally some males sing inside the nest (e.g. Diamond Sparrows) and these should be recorded because there may be subtle differences that may be discerned using special instruments (sound spectrograph machines).

5. **Post-Copulatory Songs or Calls:** Uttered after copulation.

6. **Fighting Calls:** Some species (e.g. Magpie and Bronze Mannikins) produce aggressive calls when fighting. These have been poorly documented. Some finches fight silently and just whack each other's bills in ritual fighting.

7. **Distress Calls:** When one bird grabs another, e.g. when a dominant bird grabs a subordinate culminating a fight, or when the observer grabs a bird. Not all individuals will call when grabbed.

8. **Calls at Good Food Sources:** This has been described for Pearly-headed Mannikins, but I have never seen spectrograms. It is used to call other birds to a good source of victuals.

9. **Begging Calls:** These may be very soft and high-pitched during the first few days of life and then becomes more complex and louder as the chicks get older. These are poorly known. Birds being hand-raised afford good opportunities to record these calls. It is imperative that the



the age in days be noted when making these recordings.

The above are the most commonly encountered calls produced by finches. There are probably others produced on rare occasions. It is thus imperative that context and situation when the calls were recorded be voice-dubbed on the tape.

### SONGS:

**Context:** Songs may differ in structure depending on context, e.g. a Zebra Finch singing solitarily produces fewer notes than a finch courting a female. As noted earlier, songs produced inside a nest when nest building also differ in structure from those uttered in other contexts.

**Sex:** In one study male Cordon Bleus were shown to produce longer or more complex songs than females, however, in another study male and female songs were essentially identical. There appears to be geographical variation in song complexity in this species, Ethiopian females appear to sing more complex songs as compared to other birds. Some females (Silverbills, Bengalese) may on rare occasion's sing, and there are to my knowledge no recordings in existence.

**Geography:** Just as children learn languages, juvenile birds learn songs. Given isolation, regional dialects may evolve (e.g. a man from Brooklyn versus a man from Oxford, England). If possible the origin of your birds should be noted.

**Ontogeny:** Just as children go through a babbling stage in practicing language, young birds go through stages in practicing song. **SUBSONG** is when young birds produce amorphous sounds not recognizable as their species song. **REHEARSED** or **PLASTIC SONG** is when one begins to recognize the song, and finally **CRYSTALLIZED** song is when the song renditions are fixed so that each song produced sounds identical with the next one. As in begging calls it is important to note the age of the bird recorded.

**Learning songs of other species.** In mixed collections one invariably finds birds learning each other's alien songs. For example, Strawberry Finches are well known to imitate songs or calls of other species. Some finches even imitate human speech. I have a recording of a Cutthroat that imitated his mistress saying: "Pretty bird! Kiss me!" The literature tells us that their relative the Redheaded Finch has also been known to imitate human speech. I also know of a

Melba Finch and a Java Sparrow that learned a few words.

Recording alien songs or human speech enables investigators to tease out nature (inheritance) versus nurture (learning) in vocal development. For example Bengalese can learn canary songs, but all the syllables are crunched together into rhythms and durations typical of Bengalese because these are fixed genetically. Timor Zebra Finches can learn Australian Zebra Finch songs (which are simpler in structure), but Timors transpose the Australian songs to a higher-pitch typical of Timor songs.

Finally, one should carefully speak into the tape (before and after if possible) each recording entering the following data:

1. Species: English names are fine, but if possible add genus, species and subspecies if available. Unfortunately, the same English names are sometimes used for the same bird. For example, I've heard Javan Mannikin used for both Padda oryzivora and Lonchura leucogastroides.
2. Date, time, weather conditions.
3. Sex and age of bird.
4. Context when sound was produced by bird, e.g. solitarily, in a group, in vacuo or addressing another bird, in the

nest, on a perch, on the ground etc.

5. Locality. In a cage, in an aviary, in the wild.

Don't be afraid to talk into the tape. I knew one person who wanted the perfect recordings, so he made beautiful recordings with no voiced notes and all the data was only recorded in notebooks. Someone stole his car and his backpack containing his notes, so he was left with two years of recordings with no notes and no data. By all means take copious notes, but as a double insurance talk into the tape with at least the above listed data.

Happy recording!

### **Sales Oriented?**

The Publication's Dept. is looking for an **Advertising/Promotions Manager**

Person should have a computer and email, phone calling/letter mailing a must, and desire to work with the publication's team.

**Interested?** Please contact the Second Vice President/Publications Chairperson, Kerri McCoy

# Letter to the Editor

To: NFSS Membership

Subject: Points versus No Points at Shows

In the minutes of the first quarter board meeting a discussion on reconsidering giving points to specialty shows was held. Right now there is only one specialty show in the United States --the All Zebra and Society Show held in Grandview, MO, the past three years.

This year it was discussed at the show and was agreed upon by everyone present (everyone but one), that points were not needed, not wanted, and did nothing but take the fun out of showing.

I have been showing birds for many years and the awarding of points (in my opinion) is the most asinine event that was ever thought up. No other livestock competition has a point award system to my knowledge.

I have had people tell me they would not show if no points were awarded. What kind of hobbyist are they? Points serve absolutely no purpose in the advancement of our hobby.

The All Zebra and Society Show benches well over 100 birds without points. The Zebra and Society exhibitors are enjoying their birds and each other without points. Keep the damn points.

Sincerely,

Charles Anchor

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

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## Breeding the Olive Finch (*Tiaris Olivacea*)

By: Dylan Burge  
Chico, CA

When I started raising finches six years ago, I did so with the goal of one day raising owl finches and Olive finches. I was unfamiliar with birds, and these two species seemed very daunting and almost legendary to me; known only from blurry photos in my beat-up finch books.

In August of 1995, I finally got a single male Olive in the hope that I might come across a female at a later date. This wild caught bird resided in one of my larger flights for almost two years while I hunted unsuccessfully for a hen. I called everyone from the NFSS directory that had ever kept Olive finches. Everyone I called had raised the birds but had then sold out. The best tips for getting another bird led me to Florida, where "everyone" was supposedly raising Olive finches. But, I had no concrete connections. So the male stayed single.

My "breeding program" for Olive finches took a turn for the worse in the spring of 1997 when my perpetually flighty male made an escape.

In August of the same year I found these birds for the second time. They were at a small club show in Roseville, California. There were six birds, and I bought one pair. I should have bought them all, but I was low on cash at the time. I put the birds in my quarantine room for three months and then in an indoor flight for the remainder of the winter.

The Dossier: The Olive Finch is a close relative of the Cuban Melodious Finch, in the family Emberizidae. There are other species of grassquits similar to these familiar specie, but they are very rare in the United States.

Olive finches inhabit grasslands and cultivate areas of Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, the Atlantic slope of Mexico, the Greater Antilles, and Central America to western Venezuela. In their native habitat they are considered pests, as they suck the marrow from drying sugar cane crops.

The Olive Finch averages about 11.5 centimeters in length. They are olive green throughout, a seemingly dull color, which becomes almost golden in strong sunlight. Olive finches are sexually dimorphic. The male has more extensive and stronger coloration around its head.

They have an orange/dark yellow bib, and a long stripe from the beak to the "ear" both above and below the eye. The males also have a black bib below and surrounding the orange bib. The black region extends halfway down the breast. Mature males have more extensive black bibs and more vivid orange patches.

It takes up to six months for young males to attain even the beginnings of mature coloration. In fact, they look like hens for about two months after weaning. I think this is an evolutionary adaptation to keep the young males from being killed by a territorial father before they can go off on their own. The moral of this story is that you should not assume that baby olives are all females when they are young. On the contrary, my produced four males for every female!

The female Olive is a copy of them male except that she lacks the black bib, and her markings are very reduced and more yellow as compared to those of the male.

Olive finches are very mild mannered birds when they are not breeding. They usually pick a quiet corner of the aviary and recluse for most of the day. This behavior is misleading because when the breeding season arrives, a "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"

transformation occurs, the males of this species simply "snap". They pursue members of all finch species, chasing them around the aviary and pecking at them constantly. This behavior has never led to an injury or a death.

I had no other Olives in the flight besides the male's mate so I do not know if he would have also attacked other members of his own species. This behavior only occurs when baby olives are fledged and then only until they are independent. After about two clutches, my birds stopped bothering all other species in the aviary except for the Parrot finches. Olive finches seem to hate Parrot finches for some reason. My male Olive drove a pair of red faced parrot finches to the ground, and caused a pair of blue faces to leave their nest. The birds which were not antagonized were as follows: Red Faced Star Finches, Diamond Sparrows, Philippine Spice Finches, and Zebra Finches.

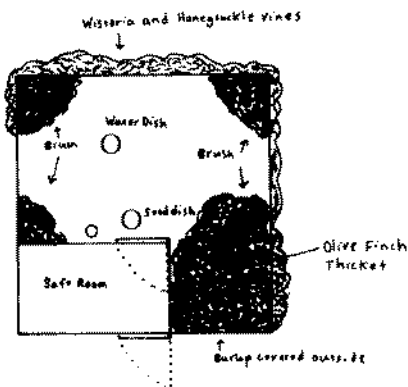
I would advise prospective owners of Olive finches to give these birds a flight or aviary of their own, atleast to give the male Olive a break from his almost continuous anxiety attack during the breeding season. It is also much more fun to watch the breeding season antics of these birds without the worry of damage to your other birds.

### Raising a Family:

I set up my pair of Olives in a sand floored outdoor aviary approximately 10 ft x 10 ft x 6 ft high. The actual flight area was shaped like an "L" with the horizontal part forming a pocket around the safe room, which was built into the square building. (See diagram to right). This pocket was stuffed with buck brush trees, branches from oak, cedar, manzanita, and bay trees. The effect was an impenetrable thicket six feet deep and five feet high. Brush was placed in other corners, but most of the space was reserved for hanging boxes, wicker nests, and perches. The Olives, along with the other birds I mentioned earlier were all placed in the flight at the same time on March 15, 1998. The Olive finches flew into the thicket and were seen only in the evenings from then on.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Olive finches were seen in a freestanding nest about two feet off the ground within the thicket. The Olives were never seen building the nest, but it was obviously theirs. It was constructed of burlap fibers and a mix of long flexible grass stems and fine grass leaves. The nest was round, about the size of a hard ball.

On or around March 30<sup>th</sup> another nest was constructed, but this is only when I noticed it. The nest



Olive Finch Aviary: 10 feet x 10 feet x 6 feet

could have been built simultaneously with the other nest mentioned above. I watched the nests carefully at this time but never saw the Olives enter or leave the nest.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, I heard a sound like the begging call of a parrot finch, but much higher pitched. I went inside the aviary and put my eye up to the small viewing hole. Sitting on a branch directly in front of my eye was a baby Olive finch. It didn't look like an Olive finch, but that was the only thing it could be, with dark olive colored feathers throughout. At that time, I increased the amount of eggfood and small mealworms being offered.

There turned out to be two youngsters. They were about 2/3 the size of their parents and were seen eating, millet spray, a seed mix

and mealworms.

The male became very excited during the weaning period, and was seen forcing his mate and sometimes the young back into the thicket.

The aggression towards my parrot finches, which I mentioned earlier also, occurred at this time. The problem became so great that I finally removed the parrot finches. When the parrot finches were gone, the male Olive calmed down. I only saw him chase his neighbors who got to close to his young.

I don't know exactly when the hen started laying again, because I never saw her in the nest. It seems almost as if Olive finches don't brood at all, but this is not the case because on April 30<sup>th</sup> two more Olive finches fledged. The behavior of the parents was mostly the same.

All four of these young birds were left in the aviary with their parents. This was a risk, but a necessary one, because the female was a restless nester, and I didn't know how she would react to my presence in the aviary (I only enter aviaries to clean dishes and provide food, and then only with my head and arms).

After the third clutch of one baby, which fledged on June 7<sup>th</sup>, I removed the five young from the

flight. I did this because I did not want the father to kill his male young (as a Cuban Melodious might do), while I was away on vacation.

When I caught the baby Olives I caught a glimpse of two eggs in the nest. They were large and green with black spots. These eggs did not hatch however, and the parents still have not gone back to nest as I write this article in August.

While I was on vacation the five young birds colored out completely. What I had thought were five females when I left turned out to be four males and one female when I returned.

**Feeding:** My Olive finches were offered a clean seed mix composed of ½ white proso millet, ¼ re-cleaned canary seed, and ¼ red millet, as well as a few cups of yellow millet. In addition to this, they received millet sprays at all times, crushed eggshell, cuttlebone, dry and fresh wild grass seeds, and a daily plate of soft foods. This plate usually contains 4 tablespoons of eggfood, soaked wheat bread, and two or more of the following: sliced cucumber, cooked white rice, chopped romaine lettuce, and mashed potatoes.



The floor of the aviary being sand provided grit to the birds, and they receive fresh water constantly from a "drip tube" which flowed into a large dish. This served as drinking water and as bathing water.

#### Eggfood:

- ◆ 6 eggs, hardboiled 15 minutes, and smashed
- ◆ 1/3 cup soy flour
- ◆ 2 tbsp. Brewer's yeast
- ◆ 2 tbsp. ground cuttlebone
- ◆ 1 tbsp. ground charcoal and oyster shell mix

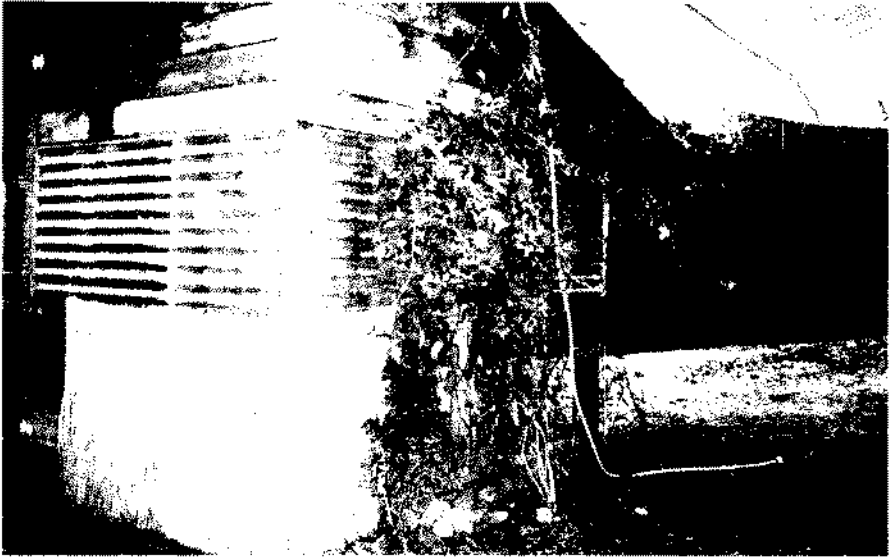
#### The Ten Commandments of Raising Olive Finches:

1. Males can have more than one mate.
2. Thou shalt not house two males together.
3. Thou shalt not house Olives with Parrot finches.
4. Thou shalt avoid intruding as much as possible (see Commandment #10)
5. Thou shalt not touch the nest.
6. Thou shalt not close band babies in the nest (unless you wish to handfeed them).
7. Thou shalt provide a flight, which allows the Olives recluse. If you want them to breed, you are not going to see them much.
8. Thou shalt remove young males before they completely color out, you do not want to wait and see what happens.

9. Thou shalt not house Olive finches in a cage.
10. Thou shalt derive great enjoyment from these intelligent and independent finches if you follow the rules and stay patient.

Conclusion: Even though this article contained a lot of information, you can boil it all down to one fact, or one rule. If you can leave them alone, they will breed. If you can adhere to this rule, then the other "commandments" will be easy to follow. But, please remember that these are not really commandments but ideas derived from my experience. As my experience with Olive finches grows, so will the commandments. So I encourage prospective Olive finch breeders to use my rules, but also create their own as their own experiences increase. If you find something that works, stick with it, and pass it on to other breeders.

Hopefully more people will decide to accept the challenge of breeding these incredible finches, and the United States will attain a secure captive population for the enjoyment of generations to come.



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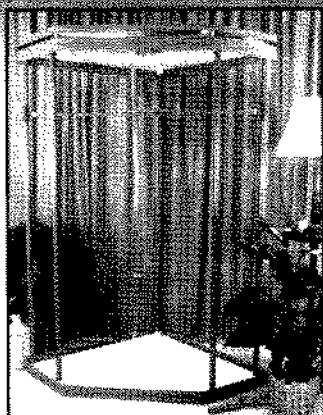
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Donald Haller

Aiken, South Carolina

Don Haller attended the University of Maryland at College Park, and received a Bachelors of Science degree in Education. He and his wife Kathie moved to Aiken, South Carolina in 1992, where Don is currently employed as a technical instructor for the Department of Energy's Savannah River Plant. Don Haller has been involved with birds for over 15 years, originally involved with Psittacines; he has focused his interest on Finches and Softbills in the past several years. Currently he is keeping and breeding the Dybowski's Twinspot, Venezuelan Black Hooded Red Siskin, Gouldian Finch, Bengalese Finch and Canaries. He is also a breeding member of the AFA Red Siskin Recovery Project. His Psittacine Children include "Phoenix" a Scarlet Macaw, "Georgia" a Mollucan Cockatoo and "Tracie" a Red Lored Amazon.

Don has been active in the Aiken Bird Club in Aiken, South Carolina since 1993 and presided as President of the club, for two consecutive terms in 1995 and 1996. As president of the Aiken Bird Club, Don incorporated and organized large-scale bird marts into the fund raising activities of the club. The bird marts have become an anticipated event twice a year for bird lovers in the Georgia Carolinas to attend since 1995, enabling the Aiken Bird Club to donate over \$20,000 to Avian Research, Conservation and Education during the past three years. Benefactors have included: Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, SC, The University of Georgia, School of Veterinary Science, American Federation of Aviculture, Society of Parrot Breeders & Exhibitors, International Aviculturist Society, World Parrot Trust, The Alex Foundation and other deserving avian causes.

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## Egg Repair

By: Sandra Bernard  
Baker, LA

I had read about repairing damaged eggs, but I could never really convince myself that it would work. All of my doubts were completely washed away the day my little Chestnut Flanked White chicks hatched. The pair had unfortunately developed the bad habit of abandoning their eggs and chicks. When one chick finally hatched from their second clutch I was elated. I assumed my luck had taken a turn for the better. But, much to my dismay, they wouldn't feed the chick. They were waiting for another egg to hatch. They hadn't been setting them right so the eggs didn't hatch when they should have, but nevertheless, I left them hoping for the best. After two more days the remaining eggs still had not hatched and they still were not feeding "Little Freddy" as I had named him. He was born on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, and this was definitely not his lucky day.

On the third day the pair was out on their perch grooming themselves with that same carefree look about them which I had witnessed before after they had abandoned their first clutch. I checked the nest to find Little Freddy cold and weak. The

two remaining eggs were also cold. I discarded the eggs and immediately placed Freddy in my little brooder while I prepared some formula for him. After his feeding he seemed to be warmed up and resting comfortably. His second feeding was not as promising. He seemed weaker and within ten minutes of being placed back in the brooder, he died. By then I was thoroughly disgusted with the pair. A friend suggested I give them one more chance before pairing them off with new mates.

Five days later, the hen began laying her third clutch. I decided to try replacing her eggs with fake ones. I felt that if more than one chick hatched on the same day, they might decide to feed them. For the first three days I removed her real egg soon after it was laid and replaced it with a dummy egg. The eggs were kept in a small shallow cup filled with nesting material. On the fourth day, I returned the real eggs to the nest as I removed the fakes. I marked the eggs so I would know which ones were due to hatch on the same day.

As I was marking one of the eggs, I accidentally pricked a tiny pinhole in one of the shells. I was upset and ready to discard it, when I remembered reading about egg repair. I decided to try, as I wasn't

very confident they would even set this clutch to term. So with only a shred of hope to guide me I placed a small drop of Elmer's White School Glue on the hole. I then gently spread the glue out with a Q-Tip I let the egg set for an hour before placing it in the nest.

*I really* was not very optimistic about any chance of it hatching. But, much to my surprise, exactly 13 days after replacing the eggs, I saw three tiny fluffy little chicks sitting, huddled together in the nest. As you can be certain, I was speechless. The parents were very attentive and seemed to be keeping them warm. I thought maybe, finally they had learned to be good parents. But, as you might suspect, my bubble of joy was burst early the next morning. I found chick number four half out of the shell on the floor of the cage. I gently picked it up and placed it back in the nest. Before I had the cage door shut the frustrated little cock was tossing the chick out again. So with a heavy heart I began caring for the chick. The next morning another chick hatched and the cock tossed it out also. I now had two foster chicks to care for and was expecting them to toss the other three out at any time. I was totally disgusted with them.

But, much to my amazement and relief, as you can imagine, the

chicks are doing fine. They are being well fed and cared for. The pair has proven to me that they can indeed be good parents. At a week old the chicks are strong and healthy. The parents must have finally learned how to be good caregivers. As for the two little castaways, well I have learned a valuable lesson there too. Feed them every two hours during the day and atleast once during the night. It reminds me of the two a.m. feedings when my children were newborns. The first four days are critical for the chicks. If you can make it past then, you have it made.

I have already decided what to do for the next clutch. I will wait to put the real eggs back only after the hen has finished laying her clutch. That way all the chicks will hatch on the same day, so they just may feed them all. But then again, they may choose to feed only three and toss the rest. I will just have to wait and see.

My Normals and Fawns never give me problems. It seems to be the more the birds cost, the more problems we have. I have Fawn Penguins that bury their eggs. But, that's another story. Well, good luck and happy breeding to all members.

## Clear Eggs

By: Dr. Bob Doneley, BVSc  
MACVs

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As Aviculture progresses and breeding results are more closely monitored, more attention is being paid to those eggs that either fail to hatch (FTH) or fail to develop (FTD). No longer are aviculturists prepared to shrug off poor breeding results by saying, "she laid two clear eggs", but they were clear, now aviculturists want to know "why".

This article outlines an approach for the serious aviculturist to determine why they are getting clear eggs; it is not a discussion on embryonic mortality or poor hatchability, but rather focuses on infertility. For the purpose of this article then, a clear egg is defined as an infertile egg. The occasional infertile egg is quite natural, but a run of them needs to be investigated.

### IS THE EGG REALLY INFERTILE?

This is the first question that must be answered. Candling cannot give the answer alone. FTD'S can be detected by candling, often as early as one week of incubation. Once the aviculturist is truly positive that there has been no development, an egg necropsy must be performed. This may be performed by and experienced avian veterinarian, but once you have mastered the technique, it is not difficult.

Candle the egg to determine the air cell end. Then using a plastic ring as an egg cup, sit the egg upright, air cell uppermost, and gently cut off the top of the egg, taking care not to go below the level of the air cell.

Use a fine pair of forceps to peel back the shell membranes and the yolk should be sitting there with either the infertile blastodisc or the embryo floating on the top. (if the yolk membrane has degenerated, all you will see is a yellow soup. You will have to sort through it to see if an embryo is present). Check that there is no smell of infection. An infertile blastodisc will appear as a solid white spot, 1-2mm in diameter. If there is a donut shaped ring, or any evidence of blood vessel development, you have an EARLY EMBRYONIC DEATH (EED).

Take care not to confuse small tags of ovarian tissue with an embryo. These are the so-called "blood spots" seen in the occasional egg. You will all have seen one in chicken eggs from the shop at one time or another. Once you have determined that the egg really is infertile (clear) it is time to investigate possible causes.

### ARE THE BIRDS ACTUALLY MATING?

This will require increased observation of the pair in question. For expensive birds you may even need to use video equipment for those times the birds can't be physically observed. Possible reasons for birds not mating include:

- (1) birds are the same sex, some birds are sexually monomorphic, i.e. both sexes look the same, e.g. Conjures and Macaws. These birds will need to be sexed, either surgically or by DNA testing.
- (2) lack of compatibility. This can be due to differences in age and maturity, or the birds just might not like each other. Compatibility (or lack of it) is usually easily detected by careful observation.
- (3) too young or immature. Impatient aviculturists often expect too much from a young cock bird. As sexual maturity varies from species to species,

you will need to have researched your birds thoroughly.

- (4) poor diet. Whilst oysters may not be on the menu, a nutritionally deficient diet hardly acts as a stimulant to libido. If you have any doubts about your birds' requirements, do some more research.
- (5) poor management. Some birds require privacy and do not like to be disturbed while mating. Some will not mate unless they are almost in a flock situation. While others will not perform if they can see, or even hear, another member of the same species. Birds will rarely, if ever, breed unless they feel safe and secure. You must, once again, know your birds and their requirements.
- (6) inappropriate environmental cues. Many birds will not mate unless their environment is telling them to do so, i.e. that their young will survive. Increased rainfall and day-length, improved feed quality and quantity etc. are often the ingredients needed for a successful courtship and mating.
- (7) ill health. Birds that are sick will need to concentrate on staying alive. They certainly won't worry about sex.

If you have been able to observe the birds mating, it is time to investigate further.



## IS THE MATING SUCCESSFUL?

From a distance, mating may be observed, but is it actually succeeding? The cock needs to evert his cloaca, position it on or in the hens, and then ejaculate and deposit semen. This can sometimes be tricky! Possible causes of unsuccessful mating include:

- (1) loose or unsuitable perches
- (2) leg deformities or weakness
- (3) cloacal abnormalities  
excessive feathering, scar tissue, inflammation, congenital abnormalities, etc.
- (4) *coitus interruptus* - usually by the owner, but other birds may be involved.

Once the semen has been deposited, it has to travel from the cloaca right up to the infundibulum, next to the ovary. Metritis (oviduct infection), either chronic or active, may interfere with the passage of spermatozoa, usually the eggs of hens with such a problem are creased by "stress lines".

If after a thorough investigation of the above factors, no cause can be detected, it is time to consider the possibility that you might have an infertile cock bird. Although rare, these do occur, and for a variety of reasons - inbreeding, orchitis (inflamed testes), hybridization, or physical/chemical abnormalities. At present, in most birds this diagnosis

can only be made by a process of elimination. Hand tame birds can sometimes be trained to ejaculate on the back of your hand, and the semen then examined under a microscope, but this is the exception rather than the rule.

From the above discussion, I hope that two things have come through:

- (1) infertility is usually a reflection of a problem with the cock bird, and.
- (2) that the problem is usually you.

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## Successful Cure of Stargazing/Twirling

By: Don Thorschmidt

STAR GAZING/TWIRLING, sound familiar? In the 16 years plus I have been breeding finches, I have encountered this devastating symptom several times with my birds & with other persons' birds. Where does it come from? Why does one bird in a cage of many develop this symptom & not the rest? I have asked others and myself these questions without coming to any conclusion.

Some writings state it comes from poor vitamin distribution. In particular vitamin B & B Complex were lacking from their diet. I administrated vitamin B & B Complex to the eggfood without any improvement to the affected bird, as a matter of fact it seemed to progress into a more sorry state. So was there any logic to this? As time went on, even as much as two years, the ultimate result was a gradual wasting away and inability to perch. Even with the food & water placed on the floor of the cage, I kept hoping for the best, that the bird would get stronger & survive, but death was always the end result. Heartbreaking as it was, I felt that the birds misery had ended.

I do my own cultures on my birds & other breeders' birds to see what if any bacteria the birds are carrying. If I see a weakness in a bird, I check it out & treat these common bacteria & yeast infections with the appropriate medication. Particularly regarding finches you don't have much time in turning the ill bird around.

I had a Gouldian with the stargazing/twirling symptoms. I did a stool culture, which revealed *KLEBSIELLA PNEUMONIA*. I treated the bird with *CIPROFLOXACIN HCl*, which is the drug of choice for *Klebsiella* infections. After the seven days of treatment it still had the exact symptoms as before. I then followed up with another culture revealing the *Klebsiella* was gone, YET the twirling was still present. After 62 days of isolation I had run out of cage space, I introduced another Gouldian, which had *CANDIDA ALBICANS* [A yeast infection], to the same cage with my twirler. I thought logically the twirler was clean now & the Gouldian with *Candida* had contracted the yeast infection after a heavy dose of antibiotics would not be a problem to each other.

So I treated the BIRDS with NYSTATIN

100,000 U SUSPENSION, 5 drops per 1 oz. water. Nystatin is usually administered directly into the bird's beak at 1 drop twice daily, but I didn't want to stress out the bird by catching & handling him.

After two days on the first dose I went to change the medication for a new dose, I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw BOTH birds on the perch standing full up, not even crouching on their stomachs. I continued the medication for an additional 6 days & stopped. Both birds were now even singing. I thought, was this a fluke? Or did I really find something here?

Sometime later I had another bird, a Society finch hen with a slight twirling of the neck, Stargazing would be a more accurate term, & put her on the NYSTATIN suspension; sure enough another success.

I had taken another bird, a Blue Bodied Gouldian hen from a friend that he had with the twirling symptom. This bird would mercifully flounder around the bottom of the cage when you approached it. He had also tried different medications to cure the bird in isolation, but to no use. Another note was this bird had suffered for 7-8 months.

I took her home with me & placed her in isolation in a small cage without any heat source, just seed & water with NYSTATIN on the floor of the cage. My friend came over 30 hours after he gave me the bird to pick up some supplies I had gotten for him. We both went to the basement to check out his bird. Well, there she was PERCHING! He was as ecstatic & amazed as I was excited. We talked about all the birds he & I & all our friends had lost through the many years from the twirling disease.

I thought what a find I had here. This symptom cannot be Genetic, or coming from a poor vitamin source, as believed by some writings, particularly when I was giving all 400 plus birds the same foods. The Twirling cause seems to come out from birds previously stressed in some way, where as different types of bacteria affect the bird first, then secondary after antibiotic treatment, or the possibility of a fungus infection, the twirling exists.

In any event, so far I have had an overwhelming success rate, with no apparent side affects.

**NFSS SURVEY RESULTS**  
**(SURVEY PUBLISHED IN MARCH/APRIL BULLETIN)**

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

Excellent 43%  
Better than Average 21%  
Average 13%  
Poor 4%  
Undecided 17%

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

Yes 84%                      No 8%                      Undecided 8%

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

Yes 64%                      No 12%                      Undecided 24%

Written in ideas: Letterhead with Finches, Finch Notebinder, Finch clipart, Key Chains, Finch funny packs.

4. I have not previously joined Finch Save because:

Requirement of program to close band my offspring 21%  
Don't keep the birds that are eligible 43%  
Have not seen any incentive to join 17%  
Do not want to have to fill out yearly report 4%  
What's Finch Save? 13%

5. I have not mailed in my yearly census because

See no purpose 8%  
Write in: Could not understand questions easily.

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

Yes 95%                      No                      Undecided 5%

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

Yes 91%                      No                      Undecided 8%

Write in: Add to Website

8. I am interested in seeing the NFSS website become an authoritative, valuable, information tool  
 Yes 87%                      No                      Undecided 12%
9. I like having access to affiliated clubs in my area and listings of upcoming shows  
 Yes 91%                      No                      Undecided 8%
10. I would like to see more advertising in NFSS publications?  
 Yes 50%                      No 15%                      Undecided 34%
11. I would be interested in purchasing a "special" publication by the NFSS  
 Yes 60%                      No 4%                      Undecided 36%
12. The content of the special publication that would interest me would be
- Focus on Waxbills (breeding, care, etc.) 53%
  - Focus on Parrot Finches (breeding, care etc.) 46%
  - Focus on Gouldian Finches 50%
  - Focus on recipes, helpful hints, general bird care 65%
  - Top Ten List (ten birds that are in the most need of preservation, with details on Management, successful breeding, etc.) 61%
  - Other (please list):
    - Husbandry and banding information for the intermediate hobbyist
    - Aviary construction
    - Sources for acquiring such birds; buying selling and pricing; shipping of small birds
    - Top 10 best ideas by member i.e. easy way to do things, best nesting material, good ideas in general
    - Membership list grouped by state with address & phone numbers. (could be omitted by those who request it)
    - Softbills, Showing Birds, Zebra Finch Mutations, Cuban Melodious, Serins, Mannikins, Grassfinches

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

- Availability of Show cages
- Conservation
- Supporting the hobby with information, i.e.: breeding, and maintenance
- Convince more members to breed rarer birds
- Assuring the members they are valued assets to the Society
- Shipment of Finches via express mail uniformly throughout the US
- Public awareness of benefits to belonging to NFSS
- Build membership
- Import restrictions
- Help build the organization into a more user-friendly group
- More information on the website
- Encourage more to show



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

- Highlight a member's aviary each month
- Species Profiles
- More quality articles
- More Graphics
- Visual "how-tos" i.e.: breeding records & provide a template with a sample filled in
- Member benefit from other's experiences, problems, solutions
- Softbill Articles
- "How-to" tips from other finch breeders
- Connect breeders who raise the same species for exchange of information
- Each Regional VP submit one article per year
- Hands-on Finches section
- Color 8x11 format
- Do-it yourself projects for aviaries, cages, watering

15. I would like to see the following *accomplished* by NFSS this year.

- Determine worthwhile goals that can be supported & accomplished
- More finch shows
- Promote FinchSave
- Greater Educational outreach
- Articles from Officers & Regional VP's
- Public awareness of Finch aviculture
- Increase membership
- Do away with Cites restrictions on Finches & Softbills
- More Standards
- More Legband sizes
- More information of legislation
- More information on Softbills
- Increase FinchSave activities
- All members be friendly and diplomatic to all
- Expand Website

16. I would like to see the following *Changed* by NFSS this year:

- NFSS Officers visit local clubs
- Expand WEB site
- More Softbill Articles
- Meet NFSS Board members & Officers at Regional Meetings
- Less shows in Bulletin
- More Shows and local club support
- Negative views of NFSS by others
- A more cohesive group
- Welcome all members, be friendly

## NFSS Affiliates, Delegates and Shows

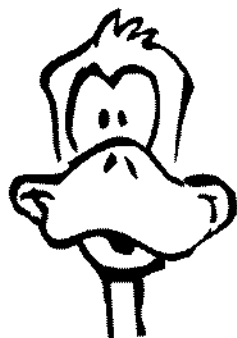
State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
AL	Central Alabama Avicultural Society Show dates: 9/5	Ginny Allen	(334) 749-7168
CA	Golden Gate Avian Society, Inc.	Steve Payne	(925) 449-1252
CA	Aviary Association of Kern Show dates: 12/5	Willis @Velva Baker	(805-765-6110)
CA	Capitol City Bird Society Show dates: 10/23-10/25	Mariana Mejia	(916) 452-2037
CA	America's Family Pet Expo	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	Carrie Efstathion	(954) 432-3349
FL	Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show	Dale Laird	(407) 657-7989
FL	Florida West Coast Avian Society Show dates: 11/1	Joy Johnson	(941) 966-6238
FL	Florida State Cage Bird Club Show dates: 10/3-10/4 Kaytee Great American Cage Bird Show	Dale Laird	(407) 657-7989
FL	Greater Brandon Avian Society Inc. Show dates: 9/12	John Floyd	(813) 677-7679

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
FL	Colorbred Canary Club of Miami Show dates: 12/3-12/6	Armando Lee	(305) 270-1000
GA	Georgia Cage Bird Society Show dates: 11/7	Derrel Ward	
HI	Honolulu Canary & Finch Society Show dates: 11/15	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) 539-9109
MD	Baltimore Bird Fanciers Show dates: 10/17	Miki Sparzak	Dorothy Haynes (410) 256 9326
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
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	Midwest Cage Bird Club, Inc. Show dates: 9/12	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	Moses Linn	(816) 523-4661
MO	Midwest Zebra & Society Finch Club	Nita Haas	(816) 331-5285
NC	Raleigh Durham Cage Bird Society	April Blazich	(919) 851-8079
NH	Birds of a Feather Show dates: 10/10	Lisa Armitage	(603) 622-3874
NM	New Mexico Bird Club Inc. Show dates: 9/27	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 Show dates: 8/15	Patrick F. Goonan	(716) 288-5653
NY	Empire Finch and Canary Association Fair dates: 11/28	Charlie Angell	(516) 822-3860
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
OK	Oklahoma Cage Bird Society Show dates: 10/24	Laura Bewley	(918) 258-3805
OR	The Finch Connection	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
PR	Sociedad de Avicultores Show dates: 12/20	Rafael Echevarria	(787) 795-5718
TN	Southeast Tennessee Avicultural Society	Janet Burrell	(423) 472-1306
TN	Middle TN 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 McBrayer	(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
TX	Canary and Finch Society Show dates: 10/31	Noma Johnson	(281) 930-9383
VA	Peninsula Cage Bird Society	Marian "Bea" Rogers	(757) 484-6001
WA	Cascade Canary Breeder's Assoc.	Ken Foster	(206) 938-6072
WA	Avicultural Society of Puget Sound Show dates: 9/19	Gordon Rechcygl	(425) 820-7449
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 Soc. Show dates: 10/16-10/18	Alfred Mion	(519) 948-6398
Canada	Manitoba Canary & Finch Club	Kim Cameron	(204) 782-5554

<b>International Correspondents</b>			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Contact Info.</b>
Australia	Queensland Finch Society	Gavin Dietz	P.O. Box 1600, Coorparoo DC 4151 Queensland, Australia
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-Ingليس	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



***<http://NFSS.net>***

*Coming Soon:*

*View FinchShop Items*

*Online!*

## 1998 Show Dates

### 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](mailto:gndallen@earthlink.net)

Details: Contact Michael Wolfe

[mwolfe@mindspring.com](mailto:mwolfe@mindspring.com)

#### Bay Area Cage Bird Club

When: 9/5 & 9/6

Where: Galveston, TX

NFSS Judge: Miki Sparzak

Delegate: Margie McBrayer

(281) 338-2814

Details: Being held at the

Moody Center, Galveston, TX

### SEPTEMBER:

#### 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](mailto:johmanda@gte.net)

#### Midwest Cage Bird Club, Inc.

When: 9/12

Where: Westland, MI

NFSS Judge: Paul Williams

Delegate: Patrick Vance (248)

443-0643

Details: Wayne Ford Civic

League

#### Toledo Bird Association

When: 9/19

Where: Toledo, Ohio

NFSS Judge: Tom Rood

Delegate: Mr. Rick Yunker

(419) 691-9432, Email:

[OPRRLY@UOFTO1.UTOL](mailto:OPRRLY@UOFTO1.UTOL)

[EDO.edu](mailto:EDO.edu)

Details: Being held at Holiday

Inn Maumee, Ohio.

#### Avicultural Society of Puget Sound

When: 9/19

Where: Seattle, WA

NFSS Judge: Conrad Meinert

Delegate: Gordon Rechcygl

(425) 820-7449, email:

[lynnre@microsoft.com](mailto:lynnre@microsoft.com)

Details:

#### Fort Defiance Bird Club

When: 9/26

Where: Defiance, OH

NFSS Judge: Miki Sparzak

Delegate: Larry Endsley

(419) 263-2795 Email

D.Siebeneck [drs@defnet.com](mailto:drs@defnet.com)

New Mexico Bird Club, Inc.

When: 9/27

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

NFSS Panel Judge: Dr. Al

Decoteau

Delegate: Gail Ranshaw

(505)822-1483 Email

[ransan@swcp.com](mailto:ransan@swcp.com) Contact:

J.Huffman Email

[Awindsong2@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:rrrouse@localnet.com)

Details: Being held at Holiday Inn

**OCTOBER:**

Sunshine State Cage Bird Club

"The Kaytee Great American Bird Show"

When: 10/3 & 10/4

Where: Orlando, Florida

NFSS Judge: Mr. Harold

Bowles (10/3)

Delegate: Mr. Dale Laird (407)

657-7989

Details: Being held at the Radisson

Plaza Hotel, 60 S Ivanhoe Blvd.,

Orlando, Florida. For more

information contact: Debbie Ratliff

(407) 365-7628, David Dollar (813)

937-5447. Cash and special awards

will be given to the top three winners

and division winners.

Mid-America Cage Bird Society

When: 10/3

Where: Des Moines, Iowa

NFSS Judge: Martha Wigmore

Delegate: Rhoda Shirley (515)

243-1511

Details: Being held at Best Western

Des Moines International, 1810

Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA

50315

Forth Worth Bird Club

When: 10/3

Where: Ft. Worth, TX

NFSS Judge: Paul Williams

Delegate: Clarence Culwell

(817) 220-5568

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club, Inc.

When: 10/3

Where: Nashville, TN

Judge: Ken Gunby

Delegate: Darlene McDonnell

(615) 355-4250

Details: Being held at the State

Fairgrounds, Creative Arts – Annex

Bldg. Nolensville, Road Nashville,

TN



Society of Canary & Finch

Breeders

When: 10/3 & 10/4

Where: Livonia, MI

NFSS Judge: Charles Anchor

Delegate: Patrick Vance (248)  
443-064

Indiana Bird Fanciers

When: 10/10

Where: Allen County Fair

Grounds Ft. Wayne, IN

NFSS Judge: Patrick Vance

Delegate: Conrad Meinert

(219) 269-2873 Email

[BirdmanofWarsaw@kconline.com](mailto:BirdmanofWarsaw@kconline.com)

Birds of a Feather

When: 10/10

Where: Manchester, NH

NFSS Judge: Christine

Voronovitch

Delegate: Lisa Armitage (603)

622-3874

Details: Being held at St. Francis

Church Gymnasium on Browns

Avenue in Manchester.

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

39<sup>th</sup> 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

Baltimore Bird Fanciers

When: 10/17

Where: Parkville, MD

Delegate: Miki Sparzak email:

[SPBE2@aol.com](mailto:SPBE2@aol.com)

Details: Show information

contact Dorothy Haynes (410)

256-9326. Being held at Tall

Cedar Hall, Putty Hill and Old

Harford Road, Parkville, MD

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

When: 10/17

Where: Grandview, MO

NFSS Judge: Armando Lee

Delegate: Nita Haas (816) 331-

5285 email:

[TJHAAS@oasiskc.net](mailto:TJHAAS@oasiskc.net)

Details: Super 8 Motel 15201 S

71 Highway, Grandview MO

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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Show

When: 10/17

Where: Mineola, New York  
(Long Island)

NFSS Judge: Christine  
Voronovich

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.

Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc

When: 10/17

Where: Bellingham, MA

NFSS Judge: Daren Decoteau

Delegate: Dianna Smith  
(508) 539-9109

Details: Bellingham, MA,  
Bellingham Memorial JR/SR High  
School, 110 Blackstone St

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 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue N, St. Petersburg,  
FL 33701

Cleveland Cage Bird Society

When: 10/17

Where: Middleberg Hgts, OH

NFSS Judge: Martha Wigmore

Delegate: Tim Howard (330)  
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

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: Stephen

Hoppin, Day 2: Cecil Gumby

Delegate: Clarence Culwell  
(817) 220-5568

Details: Being held at Will Rogers  
Memorial Center, Poultry Barn,  
3301 W. Lancaster Avenue, Ft.  
Worth, TX 76107

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

Capitol City Bird Society

When: 10/23-10/25

Where: California Expo,  
Sacramento, CA

NFSS Judge: Cecil Gunby  
Delegate: Mariana Mejia (916)

452-2037, email:  
nightdustr@aol.com

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

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society

When: 10/24

Where:

NFSS Judge: Laura Bewley

Delegate: Laura Bewley (918)

258-3805

Details: Contact Cheryl Reese  
email: [cherwood2@aol.com](mailto:cherwood2@aol.com)

Canary and Finch Society

When: 10/31

Where: Pasadena, TX

Delegate: Noma Johnson (281)

930-9393

NFSS Judge:

Details:

**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: Miki Sparzak

Delegate: Rich & Rose Dickman

(314) 928-3444.

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

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

Finch Society of San Diego  
County

*REGIONAL SHOW*

When: 11/7 & 11/8

Where: Del Mar, California

NFSS Judges: 11/7 Jackie

Civitarese, 11/8 Clayton Jones

Delegate: Ms. Sally Huntington

(619) 452-9423 email:

[huntington-  
center@worldnet.att.net](mailto:huntington-center@worldnet.att.net)

Georgia Cage Bird Society

When: 11/7

Where: Atlanta, GA

NFSS Judge: Conrad Meinart

Delegate: Derrel Ward

Contact: Bill McElveen

(770) 926-3830

Honolulu Canary and Finch  
Society

When: 11/15

Where:

Judge: Michael Tomihama

Delegate: Kathy Perreira (808)

844-3629

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

When: 11/19-11/21

Where: Chicago, Illinois

NFSS Judge: Clarence Culwell

Delegate: Jane or John Muscato  
(630) 305-9043, Email:

[Byrdman55@aol.com](mailto:Byrdman55@aol.com)

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

Email: [rwild@kiwi.dep.anl.gov](mailto: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](mailto:GLOSTERMAN@juno.com)

Empire Finch & Canary Association

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bird Mart

When: 11/28

Where: Franklin Square, NY

Delegate: Charlie Angell

Details: Contact Debbie Barbieri at: [finch98@msn.com](mailto:finch98@msn.com). Being held at Plattduetsche Park, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, hours 10-5.

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:**

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami

When: 12/4-12/6

Where: Miami, FL

NFSS Judges: to be announced

Delegate: Armando Lee (305) 270-1000

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](mailto:Lix4me@aol.com)

Aviary Association of Kern

When: 12/5

Where: Bakersfield, CA

NFSS Judge: Clarence Culwell

Delegate: Willis @ Velva Baker  
(805) 765-6110

Details: Being held at Kern County Fairgrounds/Harvest Hall, Ming Avenue, Entrance Gate 40, Bakersfield, CA. Contact Joan Medvigy email: [medvigyclan@prodigy.net](mailto:medvigyclan@prodigy.net)

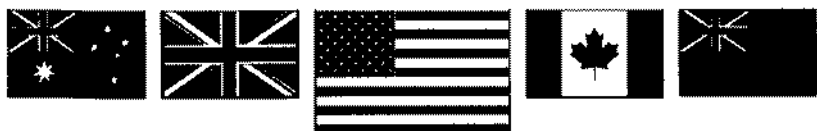
Sociedad de Avicultores

When: 12/20

Where: Puerto Rico

NFSS Panel Judge: Armando Lee

Delegate: Rafael Echevarria (787) 795-5718



## 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 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> place rosettes.	\$7.00
<b>Total Amount of check payable to NFSS:</b>		

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

## NFSS Board of Directors 1998-99

### President

Mr. Ron Castaner  
2678 Freeport Road  
W. Palm Beach, FL 33406  
Phone/Fax (561) 585-2750  
Email birds@gekko.net

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres./Publications

Ms. Kerri Ann McCoy  
3412 Far Hill Circle  
Birmingham, AL 35243-5015  
Phone (205) 969-9177  
Fax: (205) 972-8984  
Email: jmcocoy@mindspring.com

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

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

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

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

### Membership Director ProTem

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

### Executive Secretary

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

### Treasurer

Ms. Martha Wignore  
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 Parlee  
631 Taicottville Rd, Apt 4N  
Vernon, CT 06066  
Phone (860) 569-0200  
Email:  
BillHTFDCT@aol.com

### Regional Vice President

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

### Regional Vice President

Region 2 – Southeast  
Mr. Armando Lee  
6811 SW 68<sup>th</sup> St  
Miami, FL 33173  
Phone (305) 270-1000  
Email ajlee@bellsouth.net

### Regional Vice President Region 3 – Mid-Central

Mr. Tom Rood  
313 N Broadway  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
Phone (217) 774-5265  
Email tjrood@bnuhnet.com

### Regional Vice President

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

**Regional VP**

**Region 5 – Mountain**

Mr. Luis Garcia

1345 Edith Lane

Colorado Springs, CO

80909

Phone/Fax 719-630-3785

Email [aves1@juno.com](mailto:aves1@juno.com)

**Regional VP**

**Region 6 – Pacific Coast**

Ms. Sally Huntington

5634 Carnegie Street

San Diego, CA 92122

Phone/Fax (619) 452-9423

Email [huntington-](mailto:huntington-center@worldnet.att.net)

[center@worldnet.att.net](mailto:center@worldnet.att.net)

**Regional VP**

**Region 7 – Caribbean**

Mr. Rich Morales

Urb. Valle San Luis

Via San Luis #257

Caguas, PR 00725

Phone/Fax (787) 791-4500

Email

[sunshine@tropicweb.net](mailto:sunshine@tropicweb.net)

**Appointed Officers**

**FinchShop Manager**

Ms. Julie Duimstra

4201 NE 125<sup>th</sup> 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) 436-9872

Email: [riva@rogers.wave.ca](mailto: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](mailto:jmccoy@mindspring.com)

**Advertising &  
Promotions Manager**

Kerri McCoy

3412 Far Hill Circle

Birmingham, AL 35243

Phone: (205) 969-9177

Fax: (205) 972-8984

Email:

[jmccoy@mindspring.com](mailto:jmccoy@mindspring.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?: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Send this completed form to:  
FinchSave Manager  
Mr. Daniel Almaguer  
P.O. Box 533015  
Orlando, FL 32853-3015  
Phone: (407) 894-3808  
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# NFSS

*the National Finch  
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*Articles*

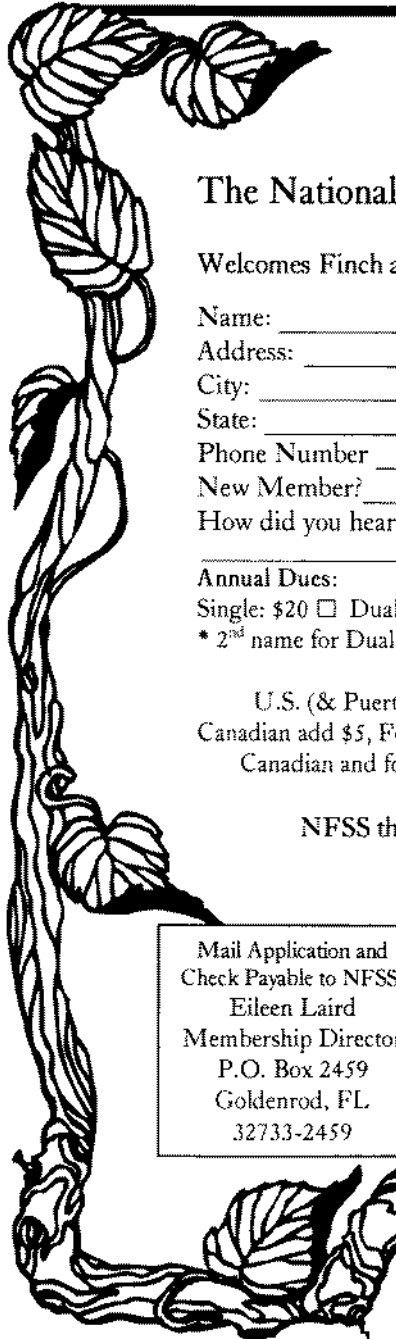
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## The National Finch and Softbill Society

Welcomes Finch and Softbill Breeders & Enthusiasts!

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Annual Dues:

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

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

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Canadian add \$5, Foreign add \$10 (Please send US funds.)  
Canadian and foreign subscriptions mailed 1<sup>st</sup> class.

NFSS thanks you for your support!

Mail Application and  
Check Payable to NFSS:  
Eileen Laird  
Membership Director  
P.O. Box 2459  
Goldenrod, FL  
32733-2459



**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.

<http://NFSS.net>



# 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. Please make sure to choose band year below!

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: _____			

Circle one:

**1998 band order**

**1999 band order**



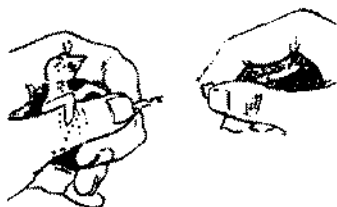


# Leg Banding Procedure

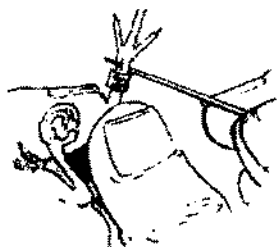
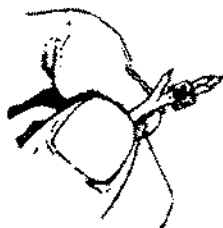
Courtesy of  
The National Finch and Softbill Society

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:** Show Cages all sizes. Send SASE please to:  
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S/O 98

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May have white breasted in each  
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N/D 98

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S/O 98

## NFSS Bulletin Advertising Rates

### Display (camera ready) Ads:

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Half Page: \$30/issue, \$120/year

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Inside Cover: \$70/issue, \$300/year

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FREE!

### Classified Advertisements

FinchSave: FREE to participants

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### Deadlines:

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Kerri McCoy

NFSS Advertising/Promotions Mgr.

3412 Far Hill Circle

Birmingham, AL 35243-5015

Phone: (205) 969-9177

Fax: (205) 972-8984

Email: [jmccoy@mindapring.com](mailto:jmccoy@mindapring.com)



## NFSS Panel of Judges 1998

<p><b>Charles Anchor</b> 630 Lake Park Drive Addison, IL 60101 630-543-3757</p>	<p><b>Stephen Hoppin</b> Panel Chairman 3836 Hidden Acres Circle N. Fort Myers, FL 33903 Phone: 941-997-2237 Fax: 941-997-NFSS Email: n2finchs@peganct.com</p>	<p><b>William G Parlee</b> 631 4N Talcottville Rd Vernon, CT 06066 860-569-0200 Email BillHTFDCT@aol.com</p>
<p><b>Laura Bewley</b> 3538 S. 65 W. Avenue Tulsa, OK 74107 918-446-3999</p>	<p><b>Ray Johnson</b> 175 Stoneridge Way Fayetteville, GA 30214 404-461-8675</p>	<p><b>Tom Rood</b> 313 N. Broadway Shelbyville, IL. 62565 217-774-5265 Email: tjrood@bmmhnet.com</p>
<p><b>Harold Bowles</b> 230 College Circle Cedartown, GA 30125 770-748-4627</p>	<p><b>Clayton Jones</b> P.O. Box 266 Soquel, CA 95073 408-728-8676</p>	<p><b>Marion Miki Spzarak</b> 517 Old North Point Rd Baltimore, MD 21224 410-282-9233</p>
<p><b>Earl Courts</b> 1807 NE Colburn Lee's Summit, MO 64063 816-524-0921</p>	<p><b>Hal M. Koontz</b> 2604 Auburn Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93306 805-872-1063</p>	<p><b>Patrick Vance</b> 18175 Avilla Lathrup Village, MI 48076 810-443-0643</p>
<p><b>Jacky Civitarese</b> A-1 Calle 1 Quintas de Country Club Carolina, P.R. 00982 787-752-4433 Fax: 787-752-4433 Email: lix4me@aol.com</p>	<p><b>Christine Voronovitch</b> 38 Liberty Street Manchester, CT 06040 860-649-8220</p>	<p><b>Joseph Krader</b> 29831 Weatherwood Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 714-363-9725</p>
<p><b>Clarence Culwell</b> 250 Horseshoe Drive Springtown, TX 76082 817-220-5568</p>	<p><b>Armando Lee</b> 8920 SW 68<sup>th</sup> Street Miami, FL 33173 305-270-1000 Email: ajlee@bellsouth.net</p>	<p><b>Martha Wigmore</b> 18913 Boston St. NW Elk River, MN 55330 Phone/Fax: 612-241-0071</p>
<p><b>Dr. Al Decoteau</b> P.O. Box 369 Groton, MA 01450 603-672-4568 Fax: 603-672-3120 Email: SPBE1@aol.com</p>	<p><b>Brian Mandarich</b> 4743 E. Hedges Avenue Fresno, CA 93703 209-255-6508</p>	<p><b>Paul S. Williams</b> 703 Donegal Drive Papillion, NE 68046 402-592-5488 Email: RolTide@ix.netcom.com</p>
<p><b>Dr. Al Decoteau</b> P.O. Box 369 Groton, MA 01450 603-672-4568 Fax: 603-672-3120 Email: SPBE1@aol.com</p>	<p><b>Daren Decoteau</b> 89 Pleasantview Avenue Stratford, CT 06497 203-377-2049 Email: CDDFCO@aol.com</p>	<p><b>Conrad Meinert</b> 1212 E. Circle 300 South Warsaw, IN 46580 219-269-2873 Email: BirdmanofWarsaw@t kconline.com</p>

For information on the NFSS Judge's Panel, please contact the Panel Chairman.

# 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	
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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 _____				
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