

THE NFSS BULLETIN

VOLUME 15 No. 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1998



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BREEDING THE BLACK-SHECKED DOVE

PLANNING FOR A BIRD SHOW

SHOWING IS MORE THAN JUST SHOWING

PART II

PRACTICING PATIENCE FOR PARSON
SUCCESS

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1 st Vice President Regional VPs	Dale Laird	Phone/Fax: 407-657-7989 Email: dalel@magic.net.net
2 nd Vice President Publications	Kerri McCoy	Phone: 205-969-9177 Fax: 205-972-8984 Email: jmccoy@mindspring.com
3 rd Vice President FinchSave/Census	Daniel Almaguer	Phone: 407-894-3808 Fax: 407-894-6400 Email: DRAFinch@aol.com
4 th Vice President Judge's Panel, Stds. & Research	Stephen Hoppin	Phone: 941-997-2237 Fax: 941-997-NFSS Email: n2finchs@peganet.com
Membership Director (Protem)	Eileen Laird	Phone/Fax: 407-657-7989
Executive Secretary	Paul Williams	Phone: 402-592-5488 Email: RolTide@ix.netcom.com
Treasurer	Martha Wigmore	Phone/Fax: 612-241-0071
Liaison Officer Club Del/Show Dates	Ginny Allen	Phone/Fax: 334-749-7168 Email: gndallen@earthlink.net
Band Secretary	Eileen Laird	Phone/Fax: 407-657-7989
President Emeritus	William Parlee	Phone: 860-569-0200 Email: BillHFDCT@aol.com
Appointed Officers		
Editor	Kerri McCoy	See 2 nd Vice President Above
Points Manager	Stephen Hoppin	See 4 th Vice President Above
FinchShop Manager	Julie Duimstra	Phone: 503-261-8788
Awards Manager	Ginny Allen	See Liaison Officer Above.
Advertising & Promotions Mgr.	Kerri McCoy	Phone: 205-969-9177 Fax: 205-972-8984 Email: jmccoy@mindspring.com
Website Manager	Marc Riva	Phone: 905-576-1901 Fax: 905-436-9872 Email: riva@rogers.wave.ca
Census Manager	Daniel Almaguer	See 3 rd Vice President Above
Regional Vice Presidents		
Region 1--Northeast	Kris Kroner	Phone: 215-628-4143 Email: kkroner@Erols.com
Region 2--Southeast	Armando Lee	Phone: 305-270-1000 Email: ajlee@bellsouth.net
Region 3--MidCentral	Tom Rood	Phone: 217-774-5265 Email: tjrood@bmmhnet.com
Region 4--Midwest	Clarence Culwell	Phone: 817-220-5568
Region 5--Mountain		
Region 6--Pacific Coast	Sally Huntington	Phone/Fax: 619-452-9423 Email: huntington-center@worldnet.att.net
Region 7--Caribbean	Rich Morales	Phone/Fax 787-745-4273 Email: sunshine@tropicweb.net

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

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The NFSS Bulletin

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November/December 1998

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From the Editor's Desk

Well, here we are the last issue of the year. I am much more comfortable putting the Bulletin together now and do not panic anymore when the printer deposits 900+ Bulletins on my living room floor. I think I now understand why the NFSS Board created the term of Editor for a two-year period. 6 or so months of panic, 4 or so months of finally getting it, and then there is a year leftover where the creation, production and deliverance becomes second nature and downright enjoyable to whomever holds the position.

Hopefully many of you might have noticed that your local club had NFSS materials on display at your shows this season. I wholeheartedly thank all NFSS affiliated clubs for showing an interest in spreading the word about the National Finch and Softbill Society. It is the individual members and the affiliated clubs of NFSS that make our society grow. Keep up the good work!

To close this issue of the Editor's Desk, I thought I would share a humorous story with you all. I received a phone call bright and early one morning last week. It was my local post office. They said they had a package for me. At the thought of the pending hatch of several Waxbill clutches in my aviaries I said "Oh great, it must be my mealworm order." I was surprised to hear that it was not. "Maam, it says it is a four foot snake. PLEASE just come and get it." replied the postmaster.

All the way to the P.O. I contemplated what the postmaster had said. My neighbor keeps snakes. What if he had listed me as the contact person should a package arrive and he was not at home. I decided 2 miles down the road that if that were the case, that snake would sit in the box all day long. I was NOT touching it.

When I arrived at the post office I was informed that I would have to come into the back to retrieve the package. They were NOT touching it. At 7 a.m. in sweatpants, my four year old son still in his pajamas we followed the postmaster to retrieve the package. I have to say, at this point I was getting a little nervous.

There sat one of my bird shipping boxes. I recognized it immediately. Normally when I ship birds the customer either returns the box or purchases it from me. However, this box looked slightly different. Written on the side in dark permanent marker read "Four foot snake inside. DANGER. If loose from cage do not touch!"

The post office definitely took the note on the box seriously for this shipping box made it regular mail from Los Angeles, CA to Birmingham, AL in one day! I emailed the person from which the box came and thanked him for the great laugh and first class prank. However, the prank didn't end there for he had no idea what I was talking about and swore he wasn't the one who did it. So the mystery remains. Bottom line. Want to get your shipping boxes returned quicker? Just a simple "snake in the box" written on the side will suffice.

Kerr



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Opelika, AL 36801

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NFSS 2nd Qtr. 1998

Board Meeting

Held: By Mail 5/24/98,
completed 7/10/98

Documented by: Ron Castaner,
NFSS President

All NFSS board members participated in the second quarter Board Meeting completed by mail.

Financial Issues: Martha Wigmore,
Treasurer.

#1 Approved: Treasurer's Report for 1998.

#2 Pending: Suggested schedule of repaying debt of \$2500 to Lynda Bakula. \$625 paid in June 1998, \$625 to be paid in December 1998, \$625 to be paid in June 1999, and \$625 to be paid in December 1999.

Board members were asked to submit their vote to the President, Ron Castaner as soon as possible. A separate vote by mail was sent with the majority of the board members approving it.

Publications: Kerri McCoy 2nd Vice President

Approved: Cost and domain name for NFSS website managed by Marc Riva at <http://NFSS.net>

Approved: NFSS owned computer will be sent to Region 4 Vice President Clarence Culwell at his expense.

FinchShop: Julie Duimstra, Manager

Approved: FinchShop items will be available for sale to all interested parties.

Judge's Panel: Steve Hoppin, 4th Vice President

Approved: Adoption of the proposed Zebra Finch Standard Revision

Approved: Proposed Standards would be brought before the NFSS Board for review and vote.

Approved: Proposed Revised NFSS Classifications.

Approved: NFSS will amend their Apprentice Judges Policy to include an age minimum of 21.

Approved: Board decision requiring Ken Gunby to successfully pass re-test and apprentice three times to become reinstated to judge's panel.

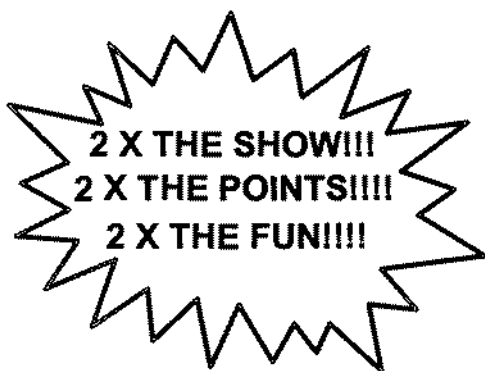
President, Ron Castaner request: All board members will submit issues for the 3rd quarter board meeting as soon as possible.

President Ron Castaner announced that the 3rd quarter board of directors meeting will be held August 22nd in Fort Lauderdale, FL after the Aviary and Cage Bird Society of South Florida annual show. This was also the Region 2 Regional Show. Printed agendas will be sent out to all board members for their review, comments and votes.

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A.B.S.	John DeVictoria	Louise Loepke	Chris Ingram (407)728-7816
A.C.S.	Maureen O'Steen	Carl Helton	Joy Pace (813) 685-6324
S.P.B.E.	No Show	Marion Spartzak	Dave Dollar (813) 937-5447
N.A.P.S.	Dan Easter	No Show	Teresa Casella (352) 666-8597
A.L.B.S.	Lee Horton	David Arthur	Norm Garbutt (352) 796-7507
N.F.S.S.	Marion Spartzak	Clarence Culwell	Dale Laird (407) 657-7989
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NFSS 3rd Qtr. 1998 Board Meeting

Held: Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Recorded: 8/22/98

Recorded by: Dianna Rubly and written for publication by Dale Laird

Board Members Present were:

Ron Castner-*President*
Dale Laird-*1st Vice President*
Daniel Almaguer-*3rd Vice President*
Stephen Hoppin-*4th Vice President*
Armando Lee-*Region 2 -- SE Regional Vice President*
Noreene Taylor-*Membership Director*
Ginny Allen-*Liaison Officer*
Eileen Laird-*Band Secretary*

Guests Present were:

Dennis Lewis
Dianna Rubly
Liset Lee
Bobbie Keenan

The President, Ron Castner called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. There was not a quorum present but, mail in votes from board members were counted. Old business -- As should be noted in minutes from 2nd qtr, the Board voted in favor of reimbursement amount and schedule for past membership directors out of pocket expenses. Steve Hoppin had presented an addendum that would permit the debt to be paid as scheduled providing the President and Treasurer determine the Society to be financially stable and secure three months preceding each payment. After brief a discussion a vote was taken, which included mailed in votes from Board members not in attendance. The addendum was passed.

A discussion was held to clarify the positions of panel judges who resign from the NFSS Judges Panel and membership then reapply for reinstatement to the Judges Panel. The Board addressed the issue at the 2nd qtr meeting "by mail" and decided the individual would need to re-join the society as a member, take the test and apprentice three times (partial requirements of apprentice judge program). Tonight's discussion ensured the individual would not have to re-qualify himself/herself as a finch breeder nor be a society member for three years before re-entering the apprentice program. The board unanimously agreed.

Letters were read from Regional Vice Presidents regarding issues within their regions. The board discussed these items including those from the region 6 VP to have "How To" sessions at local clubs from NFSS members, ideas such as banding

demonstrations, etc., and to have a junior division or a J placed on the show tag to generate juvenile interest in exhibiting birds. All items discussed. No vote taken.

A letter from an NFSS Past President of several terms ago was discussed concerning her desire to not have a current membership with NFSS. She rescinded her authority to print her articles in the NFSS bulletin and requested her name be stricken from all membership and additional NFSS records. The Board agreed to delete her name and status from all records other than historical. No vote taken.

A discussion about the receipt of registered mail was held. Since most Board members work full time and are not home to receive mail requiring a signature, it is requested all correspondence be sent in such a method that a signature is not required for delivery. No vote taken.

Selling of FINCH SHOP items at regional shows was discussed. All would like to see the items sold at Regional and National shows as well. Ways to keep track of inventory and receipts of FINCH SHOP items were suggested. Discussion was tabled until the annual NFSS meeting at the National Cage Bird Show.

A motion was made and passed, including mail in votes, to purchase a scanner for the Bulletin Editor. The Scanner to be paid for with proceeds from the NFSS raffles held at the Regional Shows.

A discussion was held concerning a recent ad in the NFSS bulletin from GWI Assoc. of England selling finch plates. Although NFSS was to receive 10% of sales from this company, reservations were expressed concerning NFSS liability. It was suggested that the Bulletin Editor renegotiate the arrangement to remove NFSS liability concerns. A mail vote of the board will then be conducted if warranted.

A raffle similar to AFA's, one that offers tickets in their bulletin to generate income for NFSS was suggested. Further discussion explored past successful NFSS raffles through the NFSS bulletin. Daniel Almaguer and Armando Lee offered to head up this endeavor.

There was a discussion concerning the raising of membership dues to generate income. No vote taken.

The Bulletin Editor request additional time in meeting the mailout deadline to allow sufficient time to get the Bulletin back from the printer with the current submission deadlines. A Motion was made and passed, including mail in votes, for a six-month/3 issue trial period that the bulletin be mailed no later than the 8th of the month. This vote included a stipulation that a copy of the bulletin had to be mailed to the treasurer by the 8th for the Editor to be paid her stipend.

Advertising NFSS in Bird Talk magazine was discussed. A motion was made and passed, including mail in votes, for \$25.00 a month maximum, 6-month trial period in a national magazine. The vote included a stipulation the funding would come from the membership budget.

The board suggested that NFSS investigate copyright protection. A short statement will be published in the next Bulletin requesting assistance from any member with copyright information or experience.

A discussion was held concerning a misprint in the previous bulletin. The misprint stated that the 3rd Quarter Regional Board meeting was to be held at Kaytee, and it in fact was held at the Ft. Lauderdale bird show.

The Treasurer sent written comments concerning problems that are in specific departments often affect other departments. Discussion followed. No vote taken.

The President announced the resignation of the Liaison and Awards Officer effective 1 January 1999. A current NFSS member has already expressed his desire to run for the position. An announcement of the vacancy and subsequent election to be held will be announced in the upcoming issue of the Bulletin. No vote taken.

The Great American Bird Show will be a two-day show in 1999. A Motion was made and passed, with mail in votes, to provide the Best in Division plaque and a set of rosettes for both days and to provide expenses of the NFSS selected panel judge for one day per our established agreement with the Great American Bird Show.

The President and the Board thanked Daniel Almaguer for his excellent work on the FINCH SAVE video. The President suggested that a copy be sent to each Regional show for viewing. The President committed to sending a letter of thanks to both Daniel and his production partner for their work on this video.

The Band Secretary requested copies of applications for FinchSave to be included in band orders. The FinchSave Director will compile the information and forward it to Band Secretary.

An issue on behalf of the Treasurer was presented concerning any expenditure beyond what was budgeted. A discussion followed, but there was not a quorum for this issue as no mail-in votes were received. This item will be sent out for a vote by mail.

The Band Secretary announced the 1999 bands have been ordered. They will be Light Blue with black lettering. Due to a lack of orders the size "U" bands have been deleted.

The President announced the resignation of the Membership Director effective immediately. Eileen Laird was appointed to the position for 6 months (pro tem) to

allow adequate time to hold an election. The position will be announced in the next issue.

The FinchSave Director requested clarification concerning FinchSave requirements for banding offspring and if ADA (American Dove Association) bands could be used. NFSS does not recognize these bands but does allow non-NFSS closed bands as long as each bird is cross-registered with NFSS using established procedures.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

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Regional Roundup

News from the Band Secretary

By Eileen Laird

I have received all 25,000+ 1999 leg bands. They are light blue with black lettering and look very nice. I do want to thank the company we order the bands from. We order them from a company in England who is very responsive, pricing is competitive, and they take large orders by e-mail.

I will start mailing the bands out the week after Christmas in the order I receive them.

Remember to band all your birds every time.

FinchSave Update

By Daniel Almaguer

FinchSave requests continue to be mailed to new applicants and I urge the 140 plus FinchSave applicants to mail forms ASAP. Please let me know if you are not participating or if your current status has changed by using the yellow postcards enclosed.

The FinchSave budget is very limited and to mail FinchSave packets ranges from \$1.01 to \$1.24 each. We need results from each FinchSave packet mailed out. The cost of joining the program is free, but please be aware that there are limited funds available to run the program, so bottom line, every little thing counts.

This information needs to be processed and I have documentation of each FinchSave packet mailed out for follow-up if needed. FinchSave application data will be compiled for the FinchSave Annual Report and not as a separate sheet, for now.

In order for FinchSave Group Manager and Species Captains to be selected, we need the FinchSave applications and this again falls on us to help FinchSave make a difference!

Group Managers are needed for: 1. Australian and Parrot Finches , all Waxbills, all Mannikins, all African finches, all European finches, all South American finches, and Softbill birds. Further changes in group setups may be made in the future as needed.

Species Captains are responsible for gathering information from the participants, assisting in obtaining birds, monitoring bloodlines and communicating with and assisting the FinchSave Director and participants. Criteria are that they have successfully bred the species. I would like to encourage more softbill breeders to get involved in FinchSave and remember that even one pair qualifies to participate in the program.

To date ten applications have been mailed back and I would like to thank those that have returned their applications for their dedication to FinchSave. The following ten participants have won and will be receiving a poster of Australian Finches from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service from South Wales. Marion Chester- PA, Barrett W. Pierce - TX, Clara Gontero - CA, Dylan Burge - CA, Rolando Hurtado - FL, Kerri McCoy - AL, Kara Blalock - TN, Carol Heesen - CA, Richard and Rose Dickman - MO, and Felipe Bonilla Jr - FL. Great job and congrats!

Please feel free to contact me if you need assistance in locating males or new bloodlines for the FinchSave program. FinchSave packet request forms will now be enclosed in all NFSS band orders and a special thanks to Dale and Eileen Laird for this great idea! The FinchSave Committee members include: Luis Garcia, Dianna Rubly, and Karen Meyers. Thank you for being such a great team!

Thank you all for making a difference.

News from Region 3

By Tom Rood

By the time this report gets printed, the show season will for the most part be over and breeders will be looking forward to setting up their breeding pairs for a new crop of 1999 youngsters.

1998 was a nice show season for me as I was able to stay "closer to home" this year for some judging assignments. Besides one trip to Florida, all my judging assignments, along with my exhibiting, remained within Region 3. I am happy to report that the finch shows seem to be up in numbers and quality and those I attended seemed to be well represented. All of the shows I attended were in the 70-80 entry area with lots of good quality birds on display.

It seems that there are some new finch breeders/exhibitors attending some of the shows. I was very impressed at the Badger Canary Fanciers show as they had a total of sixteen exhibitors. I'd say many local clubs would like to have that much support in the finch division. Some very nice birds were also exhibited at the Badger show; particularly in the Zebra section. I believe three zebras made it to the top bench with a beautiful fawn male taking the top placing. Many nice exotic finches were also for sale in the bird fair and I'm hoping some of those new people took some of them home with them. I believe the Badger club has expressed interest in hosting the regional show next year.

It's always a treat to go into Canada to judge. The birds at the Essex-Kent show were no exception. Again, a super display of zebras shown in both singles and pairs. Their birds were all very consistent in quality and conformation; again with 2 or 3 of them reaching the top bench. Several nice exotic finches were also entered, including some species we do not get to see too often in the US.

Toledo had a nice show with one of their larger entries in several years. This time, the zebras were outnumbered by many of the more exotic species. Many were close banded and bred by the exhibitor. Lots of gouldian mutations and Australians exhibited. A really nice show and a joy to finally get to judge.

I was able to exhibit my own birds at the Ft. Wayne, IN show and again a very large entry with lots of variety. Many softbills and African birds entered were all of very nice quality. Again, many NFSS banded birds on display.

All of this reporting is good news to the breeders in Region 3 as there are many people out there concentrating on breeding and banding their birds. I know the shows are just a small sampling of the birds being bred out there, but the shows are our shop window for the public. I would urge the breeders and exhibitors to keep bringing some of the more exotic species to show so, that newcomers to the hobby have a chance to see them.

I'm waiting to see what shows up for the National in Chicago!!

Best wishes to all Region 3 members out there and I am hoping next year's breeding season proves fruitful for you.

FinchShop Question

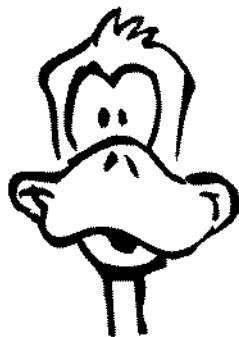
By Julie Duimstra

I have been receiving a number of inquiries regarding where one might obtain show cage fronts. If an NFSS member knows of a supplier please let me know so that I am better able to address my inquiries.

NFSS General Meeting Notice

By Kerri McCoy

The NFSS General meeting will take place at 11:00am at the NFSS Show bench in the show hall on the 21st of November in St. Charles, IL at the National Cage Bird Show. We would like to encourage any and all individuals attending the Nationals to take the time to attend the general meeting.



Stocking Stuffers?

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Breeding the Black Cheeked Waxbill

By: Stephan V. Hopman
Frankfort, IL

Recently I have had some success breeding a fairly difficult species, the Black Cheeked Waxbill and I thought I would share my "how I did it" story with my fellow aviculturists.

The Black Cheeked Waxbill is from the east African countries of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. They are found in hot, dry thornscrub areas. Cocks are a warm smoky gray on back with fine barring, black masked and tailed, underneath a reddish-gray chest with a black belly. Hens are a little duller all over with a red to pinkish belly. They don't have much of a song but more than make up for it in personality. Black Cheeks are extremely active and acrobatic little birds that love to hang upside down to pick at the millet. If a moth or spider is nearby they're hunted down with an intensity that is surprising. They watch me move about in the birdroom and are quick to snatch up newly molted mealworms when they are offered.

I acquired three pairs of Black Cheeks in the fall of 1994 from Siggie's Imports. After a suitable

period of quarantine two pair were set up into separate breeding cages 30" long by 18" high by 18" deep. A large sized wicker nest basket was placed in one corner at the back of the cage. Phragmites plumes were placed through the cage bars from the inside so the birds would have some cover and so feel safer in their new quarters. Phragmites is an invasive European exotic that is growing all over the midwest. It sends out 3-6 foot tall blades of grass then shoots out a plume that looks like Pampas grass. It's bad for the environment but our foreign finches love the plume for nesting material. After a couple of weeks it looked like I was going to have early success as both pair went to nest. I soon rediscovered the old axiom "it it was that easy, everyone would be doing it!". They refused to sit for more than three days. Hmmmmm maybe I'll try fostering for a couple clutches - that's always worked before.

Now, whenever I try fostering with a species new to me I always use virgin societies for fosters. That way when chicks hatch underneath them instinctively they go "babies - I'll feed them!" If they have raised any other chicks they might go "babies - why you're not like the other babies I've raised, you must be defective so I'll let you starve." After setting up two pair of virgin societies and supplying them

with Black Cheek eggs I waited for them to hatch....and waited..and waited... You guessed it – infertile eggs. I soon found that about the only time I could get them to lay fertile eggs was during the summer months and then generally only from pairs that were in outdoor cages. From about the summer of '95 to July of '97 I pulled ten to fifteen fertile clutches of Black Cheek eggs that hatched under societies. Time and time again the same thing happened – babies hatched, fosters fed for one to five days, then chicks died. I had never actually heard them beg. It seemed to me that their crops were empty most of the time. I let the same three pairs of societies attempt to foster every time figuring that they would eventually get it right. They never did – I shuffled them into the owl finch foster program with which I am happy to report they are all doing well!

During the summer of '97 I set up one pair of Black Cheeks in a 40" long by 36" high by 36" deep cage outside on my deck. This cage had a black soil floor that I covered with bird seed a week or so before the birds were introduced so as to give them places to "hunt" in. I also placed two variegated schifflera on opposite ends of the flight for cover. Up against the sides all along the upper corners of the cage I tied small bangles of switchgrass

(panacium vergatum). I firmly believe that if I have any "secret" to breeding exotic finches – switchgrass is it. Switchgrass is a native American perennial. It's a grassy clump that grows to about 2 to 3 feet tall then sends out an "umbrella" of fine tiny seeds. I cut off the top one foot of seed heads and dry the clump out for about three days before tying into a bundle. Most of my finches shun the nest baskets and boxes and weave their own nests within the switchgrass thicket. They use it for cover, for display material, as nesting grass and for the value of the seed as a conditioning food.

The second pair was set up again in the cage first described in this article but with only one variegated schifflera and plenty of switchgrass. The third pair was released into a 30 foot long by 8 foot high by 15 foot deep outdoor planted flight. There were about twelve other finch pairs of mixed species in this flight. The first two pairs of Black Cheeks stuffed great quantities of switchgrass into large wicker nest baskets. They have a peculiar habit of weaving the grasses so as to form a four to six inch entrance tube leading into the nest. The first pair (outside on my deck) also build a cock nest on top of the nest basket. The third pair (in the large outdoor aviary) was unsuccessful for the third year in a row. This was

probably due to too much competition for nest sites, food, etc. I really feel that this species needs to feel secluded and hidden to feel comfortable enough to reproduce.

I took two clutches of fertile eggs from pair two and placed them under societies that had only fostered Purple Grenadiers (*uraeginthus ianthinogaster*). Purple Grenadier chicks are born very dark and they don't beg very loudly so I figured if anyone would raise Black Cheeks these fosters would. When hatching day came I started giving the foster parents my eggfood mixture with about twenty-five large mealworms cut up on top of it. This way when the chicks hatch, the fosters feed the food item with the heaviest concentration of protein first. In the wild most waxbills feed nothing but fresh insects for the first week or so. By chopping up mealworms on top of the mixture it prevents the mealworms from crawling away as well as making it more appealing to the fosters as a nestling food item. Soon I had four chicks hatch from the first clutch of four eggs. The societies kept them fed and they came out of the nest at about twenty-one days. I soon found out one reason that this species seldom is fed by societies – they beg very weakly and do not pursue the fosters with nearly as much vigor as a society, owl or gouldian would.

None the less these societies fed them well and all four were successfully fledged. Two eggs out of four hatched from the second clutch under a pair of societies that were virgins. These were also raised successfully. In the meantime this same pair of Black Cheeks sat tightly on another clutch of eggs and four nestlings emerged on day twenty-two. Unfortunately one chick died within a week. This was the last chick to emerge and probably didn't get fed enough.

The first pair of Black Cheeks which were set up outside on my deck laid two clutches of infertile eggs before laying a fertile clutch. This last fertile clutch of three eggs were placed under societies that had previously raised owls and blue caps. All three were successfully fostered. All of these young Black Cheeks both parent raised and fostered were closed-banded with NFSS "B" sized bands on our about the tenth day.

My friends have asked me "What are you doing that is making them want to breed?" I don't believe a single factor, rather I believe it is a combination of things that makes them feel comfortable enough to want to raise a family. I've already explained cage size and the use of cover in those cages. I believe diet plays a big part also. Birds in the wild eat anything and everything.

They are just like kids in that respect. If it looks interesting they'll put it in their mouth. So finches in the wild eat various plant life, bugs, and seeds in varying stages of development. In captivity we probably feed them a good quality vita-seed mix which is a good start. They really appreciate a good plate of finely chopped veggies every day. Dry seed is high in fat and not the best for them. The more veggies they eat the better off they are. If you have access to fresh or dried bugs this really improves their diet. Bevo Products makes an excellent bug mix for softbills that is fine enough for finches. CeDe also makes several products both egg and cereal based which include dried bugs in them. Mealworms are an excellent source of protein – if your birds won't eat them whole, either chop them up on top of your eggfood or throw some into the eggfood into the blender. In the summer months grasshoppers are a good "free" live food that all my birds love chopped up. Marigold and dandelion seed heads are another "summer treat", just pick the whole flower top and watch the birds rip into them. I make my eggfood mixture every other day refrigerating the unused portion. I use a mini-chopper/blender to finely chop the vegetables up and also to blend the eggs and vitamins together. All teaspoons listed in

recipe are heaping teaspoons unless otherwise noted.

- 3 large carrots
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 3 cooked eggs
- 10 teaspoons of CeDe yellow eggfood
- 6 teaspoons CeDe mix
- 3 teaspoons CeDe pure dried bugs
- 3 teaspoons Bevo Universal Insect mix from Connie Cuthbert (215-536-1599)
- 6 teaspoons Purina Chick Starter (medicated)
- 1 can well drained corn
- 1 cup soaked seed well rinsed
- 2 teaspoons Bee Pollen
- ½ teaspoon Fertility Enhancer – from Avian Medicine Chest (712-647-2079)
- 1 even teaspoon Lacto-Plus – from Lakes Minnesota Macaws (612-290-0606)
- 1 even teaspoon Montmorillonite (trace mineral clay – very important) from Connie Cuthbert
- 1 even teaspoon Osteo-Form from Vetamix
- 1 even teaspoon wheatgrass
- 1 rounded teaspoon pulverized eggshells
- dash of Nekton S from Nekton products
- dash of Nekton E from Nekton products

All of my birds with chicks get this twice a day. Those without chicks

Get it either every day or every other day. In addition to this mixture I chop both mealworms and grasshoppers on top for the Black Cheeks to feed their young.

References: Goodwin, Derek 1982
Estrildid Finches of the World.
Cornell University Press p. 178-200

I would not consider Black Cheeks a good specimen for a beginner. Though not difficult to maintain, breeding them can be quite frustrating. However, their attractive plumage, charming personality and intelligence are a welcome addition to any aviculturist's aviary.

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Planning for a Bird Show

By Melba Wilkat, President,
Aviary and Cage Bird Society of
South Florida

Making Choices:

Choose a location for the event.

Who will pay for the event? Local bird club, sponsor?

Will vendors be needed or wanted to help pay costs?

How many judging divisions are desired? There are many to choose from; NFSS, SPBE, NAPS, ACS, ALBS, etc. Remember each one needs a judge and all his expenses paid. Each one will need show benches, lights and space to conduct the show. Your organization must be a member of the ones you choose. The type of membership you have will determine the awards that each group will furnish (i.e. ribbons, plaques, etc.).

Will there be an admission charge? If so, how much?

Can you provide awards and ribbons for each division?

Do you want to have a directory or catalog?

Choosing a Location: The choice you make should depend upon the cost, availability, weather

protection (a/c or heat), size of area and whether or not they will accept birds. It should be a place that is easily accessible by the general public and should be close to a hotel/motel and restaurant. Determine who will provide insurance for the event and who pays for police protection. If you have a one-day show you will need an extra day for setting up. Determine exactly what your costs will be for the overhead.

Who will Pay: this adventure will be quite costly and preparing ahead of time is advisable. Not all the costs can be accurately predicted ahead of time so you should have a "cushion" for the unexpected. Will a local club pay the expenses that must be paid ahead of time? Will you need a sponsor? Will you have vendors to defer the costs? Will you charge admission? Should you have a raffle table to help with costs?

Vendors: vendors should be contacted in writing 4 to 5 months in advance, and a deposit should be made by them to hold the space they need. The spaces sold should pay for the hall expenses, police, etc. (overhead). One person should be in charge of handling vendors and he/she should be on hand when the vendors are setting up. A plan of the hall should be made ahead of time and vendors assigned places prior to the show.

Judging: a judge must be selected for each division that you have chosen. The judge will require that you pay his/her transportation to and from the show, his/her hotel for atleast two nights, and all of his/her meals during the stay. You must make arrangements for lodging and meals in advance and also airfare or any other transportation required.

Awards: decide on what awards will be given and for what they will be awarded for. You will also have to provide ribbons for each division. These ribbons can run into hundreds of dollars. Accuracy in deciding how many you need can help with false spending.

Directory/Catalog: some sort of directory or catalog is necessary even if it is just for the exhibitors to select placement of their entries. How big or little you want to make it is entirely up to each club giving the show. This should be ready for printing well ahead of time. If you have an idea of what you want, you can get several prices for the printing, etc.

Raffle Table: having a raffle table is an excellent way to add money to the fund. It can be as big or as little as you want. If you have generous donors, a good deal of money can be made and it can be fun. Preparations should be made

ahead of time for people to work the table. Tickets must be purchased and some sort of containers provided to collect the tickets. Attractive baskets filled with bird supplies or any good donations bring money into your club.

Advertising: fliers should be made several months prior to the show and distributed to other clubs, pet stores, or anywhere else you think people will be interested. The local newspapers, television and radio stations should be contacted about four weeks ahead of time with your announcement and try to get it into any publications that have free ads on upcoming events. The magazine "Bird Talk" is an excellent avenue for advertising.

Odds and Ends: If you intend to have any decorations or table skirts these need to be purchased from a party goods store in advance. You will need to purchase tickets for admission or have a stamp to stamp hands. You will need to contact Kaytee or someone else for cage tags and entry forms. How many you get will depend upon the size of show you expect to have. Maps of the area should be made available to vendors and exhibitors. They should show all major roadways to the show and also include motel/hotels, restaurants that are in close proximity to the show. Keep copies of all correspondence from vendors. If there is a phone

call, jot it down. Include the date, name of person talked with, and the overall gist of the conversation. This can save a lot of confusion later. The biggest expenses will be:

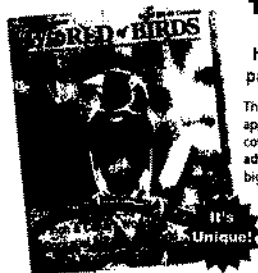
- Hall or building for the show
- Judges expenses
- Awards, trophies, and/or ribbons
- Catalog (this can be as expensive as you want it).

Get as many people as possible involved as volunteers and have at least one person to oversee the progress of each volunteer. Good luck on your adventure!

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Showing is more than Just Showing Part II

By Tom Rood, Shelbyville, IL

Having hosted the Illini Bird Fanciers 13th Annual Show in my hometown of Shelbyville this past June 6 I thought it appropriate to offer a sequel to an article I submitted for the Jan/Feb NFSS Bulletin. Even though our finch division led all other entries with 127 great finches and softbills, the whole weekend was more than just competing for prizes.

The enjoyment of the bird show weekend began long before birds are considered and prepped for exhibition. I always know "its showtime" when my good friend Charlie Anchor calls and asks, "What's for Friday night supper at your house?" For many years, our home has been a gathering place for judges, bird fanciers and friends for Friday night supper. Two years ago Charlie, Earl Courts and Warren Lillygren entered into a "meatloaf cookoff" at our house. We had enough meatloaf to feed the entire show for the entire weekend! This year Charlie brought sausage and sauerkraut. Once again, he was not even close when it came to bringing appropriate portions! Joining in the on the night of tall bird tales,

exaggerated stories and just plain lies was our NFSS judge Clarence Culwell and his wife Ola, Illinois resident Rich Rowan, John and Jane Muscato, Martha Wigmore and noted canary fanciers Pat Kane, my wife Jane and myself. Being the straight and proper person that I am, I of course did not partake in the tales, stories or lies.

Following a very enjoyable dinner (plenty of it), Rich John, Charlie and Martha disappeared into my birdroom when I had to do the clean-up. I did hear noise and laughter coming from my birdroom as they viewed my birds and I kept wondering if they were laughing "with me" or "at me"! That was the kind of evening that bird shows are all about.

Months before our show I issued a challenge to many of my finch friends that they could not come up with atleast 50 zebra finch entries. Knowing my track record for losing challenges, the kept my streak going by entering 54 zebra finches! Keep in mind this is just a little 'ole local bird club. We had all the usual color varieties along with some of the newer colors exhibited by the Almays and the Muscatos. Charlie Anchor brought a seminar's worth of peds, which when all lined up on the judging bench, was a very nice display. I was determined not to

mention any winners' names since this article deals with things other than showing, but I just cannot help myself. It was a real pleasure to see our return exhibitor, Martha Wigmore just beat the "you know what" out of all of us! Martha won all three places in the zebra section with the best zebra taking the best in show award. She wiped us! As a matter of fact, we took the crystal bowl off of her trophy and replaced it with a roll of toilet paper. Again, this is what showing is all about.

On to a few more birds – but no more mention of winners or prizes. New exhibitor, Darla Dandre, very well represented our softbill section with several entries. I think the shows in the Midwest will be seeing her name in show reports in the very near future. Darla is really working hard with the softbill group. It was nice to see some doves, button quail, a beautiful Mynah bird and a silver-beaked tanager at the show.

Of course Dennis Burhans shows up and we should have given him some toilet paper too! Enough said there for you finch fanciers who have ever exhibited against Dennis. Bob and Sue Rahe always have a great show team with them, as do the Dickmans. Sue is always giving me the business about zebras – that's one of the reasons I keep messing with them. Jackie Meyer and Rich

Rowan always have nice teams of zebras entering along with Bob and Lynn Almy. I think my biggest surprise of the day was a section containing 19 pairs of finches!

Showing wouldn't be showing without hassling the judge a bit – of course, I do not partake in that either... We found out that Texas judges can just give it right back. Clarence kept wondering why his dinner plate had twenty-dollar bills on it on Friday night. Didn't do any good!

All in all, it was a very enjoyable show. The group of finch people was just the best. Lots of fun and fellowship even though we did finally have to judge the birds.

That's what bird shows are all about!

Practicing Patience for Parson Success

By: Kerri McCoy,
Birmingham, AL

My work with the Parson Finch (*Poephila cincta*) began quite by chance. I obtained six young parsons several years ago. I was immediately captivated by their beauty and charm; and today I still keep the Parson and would never be without them.

I will not hide the fact that I am an advocate of parent raised birds. There is not a single Australian species in my aviary that does not raise its own young. This article is intended to provide those that are striving for parent raised stock with everything, by way of information that you will need to be successful.

Description: The Parson Finch is approximately four inches in length. Good specimens are large robust birds and never fall into the slender or skinny category. Beak color is black depending upon the color mutation. Parson mutation colors range from the normal as described below to cremes and fawns. There is also a chocolate version called the Diggles. The head is a beautiful blue/gray with black streaks around the eyes giving it an almost oriental appearance. Below the beak

and running down the throat area is a bold black bib. The chest itself is a soft brown, and the back of the body is a rich cinnamon-brown. The abdomen and vent areas are white. The tail is black and far shorter than that of a Heck's Grassfinch and ends in a neat square. A black patch is sported on either side of the lower flank area. The legs a faded orange, depending upon the color mutation. However, I was surprised with one youngster who after finishing his adult molt ended up with bright yellow legs. That coloration I have yet to see in any other offspring to date.

Diet: All my Parsons are fed a mixture of Sunshine Bird Supply Finch Supreme and Noah's Kingdom Finch Seed. I prefer natural seed versus vitamin-enriched seed and the above 50/50 mixture works well for me. I usually mix up enough seed to last me a two-week period and store it in large coffee containers. During one two week period I supplement the mixture with Noah's Kingdom Skin and Feather Conditioner. When the two-week ration is depleted I leave out the Skin and Feather Conditioner for the next two-week ration mixture.

Resting birds and breeding pairs without young in the nest are fed an eggfood mixture every other day. It consists of the following:

- 5 cups Proteen 25
- 2 cups Bevo's Insect Food
- 2 cups sprouted seeds
- ¼ cup couscous
- 4 hardboiled egg including crushed up eggshell
- 1 tablespoon powdered calcium
- 1 tablespoon Noah's Kingdom VMA Supplement (containing bee pollen, spirulina and herbs)
- ½ cup mixed dried baby cereal
- 1 can of corn or peas and carrots

This mixture is fed in teacup saucers and is sprinkled with Prime vitamins or Lacto-Plus. Those with young in the nest are given this mixture fresh 3x daily.

Beyer's Minerals powder is also provided daily. I also sprinkle it lightly with charcoal and crumbled up cuttlebone. Vegetables or fruit are given every other day. My Parsons devour cucumber, spinach, broccoli slaw, zucchini and corn. Some will accept apple and orange. All fruits and veggies are sprinkled with Noah's Kingdom VMA Supplement (an herbal based vitamin with spirulina). Breeding pairs are also given mealworms 2x daily and resting birds 1x daily. Spray millet is offered in the evenings until lights out and then removed. All water is provided in bowls to allow for bathing at will and is changed 3x daily. An iron and calcium supplement is also added to the water once per week.

Setting up to Breed: All juveniles from the previous season are housed in a large aviary measuring 6.5 ft. high x 4 ft. wide x 3 ft. deep. By housing all youngsters together the birds are allowed to choose their own partners. I pay special attention to the juveniles during this time period and any birds that seem to pair off are banded with coordinating colors so that I am able to pick them out for the next breeding season. In my opinion it is best to allow Parsons to choose their own mates.

At the onset of the breeding season all breeding pairs are setup in individually breeding cages. I prefer this method with any species that will cage breed for I am better able to keep track of egg laying dates, hatch dates, fledge dates, etc. And in my opinion the Parson finch has a tendency to dominate a mixed community flight making the successful breeding of other species within that flight nil at best.

The breeding cage size that I house my Parsons in is 3 ft. long x 2 ft. deep x 2 ft. high. Greenery is added to the flight to provide privacy and also to allow those pairs that prefer to build their own nest to be able to do so. A wooden ½ open nest box is placed in the breeding cage in the back left or right upper corner. These boxes are mounted inside the cage versus

outside for my Parsons love to rest on the top of the box. Each box is stuffed with Bermuda grass and feathers from a down feather pillow and additional nesting materials are provided on the floor of the cage.

Breeding Details: A cock bird of breeding age will immediately begin to display to the respective hen. Normally the cock will hold a blade of grass in his mouth and sing to her. The song of a Parson cock has a soothing quality to it, almost a longing. The feathers on the top of the head will puff up while he is courting. The key to the above sentence is "of breeding age". My experience shows that Parson finches are very slow in reaching sexual maturity.

For example, last spring I paired a 14-month-old cock with a year old hen. Months passed and nothing happened. Upon conferring with other breeders it was suggested that I separate the pair and try other mates. I felt however that the pair was nicely bonded and decided to wait it out. Seven months later the pair mated and raised a clutch of two. As the title of the article states - patience is the key to success.

The majority of my breeding pairs will choose the ½ open wooden nest box and within days will busily adjust the nest to their liking. I do have other pairs that ignore the wooden

nest box and choose to build their own nest. I leave the decision up to the individual pair. Parsons do not build works of art but any that choose to build their own nests do construct a nest that is more than adequate to raise young in.

I have never had to remove additional nesting material to keep Parsons from continuing to build a nest and cover up any eggs that have been laid. Therefore leaving extra nesting material in the flight will give the cock bird something to pass the time with during incubation. And an expectant Parson cock is clearly apparent for he will sing all day long while carrying nesting material in his beak. A true endearing quality of this species.

The hen will lay a clutch anywhere from two to nine eggs. It is my experience that younger hens will lay a much smaller clutch. Both the hen and the cock will share incubation, which usually begins after the third egg is laid. Hatching in literature specifies 12 days from beginning of incubation but my experience finds hatching times to run closer to 14-15 days.

Both the cock and the hen will feed the young. The eggfood recipe in the Diet section is provided fresh 3x daily and mealworms are provided twice daily. Many books state that

live food is not a requirement for successful rearing. I have always provided live food for my Parsons and they raise their young without problems and as the old saying goes "if it isn't broke don't fix it".

Parson chicks will fledge at roughly 22 days, give or take a little. The important thing to remember here is that newly fledged youngsters are far smaller than one would expect and have an almost frail looking quality about them (see below photo). The size of the parents in my experience makes no difference in fledgling size. And, it will be many more months before the true size of a Parson is seen.

Fledglings and Weaning: I want to emphasize just how important it is to not separate parson young from their parents at too early an age. Normally I will separate young from their parents at 50-55 days of age. It makes no difference to me whether the parents have already begun their next clutch or not. For the wellbeing of the fledged youngsters far outweighs the next clutch to come along.

I have made the mistake of taking young although weaned, from their parents too early and have lost them for unexplained reasons. A Parson juvenile going through its first molt can at times be as delicate as a Gouldian. Not each and every bird,

each and every time but perhaps one out of a clutch will be lost if not left with the parents a considerable amount of time. Why this occurs I do not know but please learn from my mistakes and leave the young with the parents as long as possible. Unlike zebras that will show aggressive tendencies towards their young while in the process of beginning their second clutch the Parson will allow the first round of youngsters to continue to share the nest even if a new clutch of eggs is present. At times it becomes a real family affair.

Bonding: There is NOTHING more endearing than the bonding of a pair of Parsons. The Parson finch bonds with its mate for life and the devotion a pair will show to one another is unlike any other species I have known. I have parsons that have lost their mates and have chosen to never choose another. And for weeks on end after the loss of their mate they will call and call for them, a truly heartbreaking experience.

It is because of this strong bond that I do not separate my breeding pairs at any time. Parsons in my opinion are not like zebras or societies. They will not raise clutch after clutch of youngsters. My oldest pair (1993 banded pair), have yet to be apart from one another. They will raise two

clutches of young and will of their own choosing rest for several months before beginning again.

Summary: Everything that you need to have success with parent raising Parsons is contained herein. I will however strongly reiterate the following:

- Allow Parsons to choose their own mates for best success.
- Be patient when setting up young pairs. Success will not be immediate.
- Do not remove young from parents at too early an age.
- Respect the strong bonding of breeding pairs and if all possible do not separate them.

Troubleshooting: I cannot tell you how many phone calls I receive from people around the country having problems with their Parsons. Whether it is not nesting at all, throwing their young from the nest, or building several nests and laying clutches everywhere. The below may assist those of you that are experiencing any of the above.

- **Pair not breeding:** Be patient. Parsons are slow to reach sexual maturity. If the pair seems nicely bonded allow them several months to mature before making a decision to try other mates. Rule of thumb is wait until they

are atleast a year and a half old before expecting breeding success.

- **Parents will not raise young:** The most important thing to remember is when acquiring bloodlines choose a reputable source that parent raises their birds. Start with the basics. Make sure to provide the correct diet to breeding pairs. Pairs that are not provided with an adequate diet to raise young will not raise young.
- **A pair building nest upon nest and laying clutches everywhere:** As stated above provide more than one option for your pair to begin with. A nestbox and greenery to build their own nest if they so choose. When the pair picks a nest or a site try removing the other options to deter them from having more than one nesting site.

And, as always should you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be more than happy to share any of my experiences with you. You can reach me via email at: jmccoy@mindspring.com.

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SO94, MA95. 1995, JF96, MA96. 1996,

JF97. 1997, J/F 98, M/A98

SHOW RESULTS

FOR SHOWS JUDGED BY NFSS

JUDGES DURING:

1984, JF85. 1985, ND85, JF86, MA86.

1986, ND86, JF87, MA87. 1987, ND87,

JF88. 1988, OND88, MA89. 1989, JA90,

SO90. 1990, JF91. 1991, ND91, JF92. 1992,

ND92, JF93. 1993, JF94. 1993 Regional &

National Shows, MA94. 1994, JF95, MA95.

1995, JF96, MA96, MJ96. 1996, JF97,

MA97 1997, J/F 98, M/A 98

SHOW SEASON REVIEWS

IN ORDER OF PUBLICATION DATE:

Patterson, Tony M., "The NFS 1984
National Show", JF85.

"NCBS_1985, A Preview", SO85.

"NCBS_1986, A Preview", MA86.

Lanoitan, Walley, "National Finch Show
1986", ND86.

"GABS_1987, A Preview", JF87.

"NCBS_1987, A Preview", JF87.

Parlee, Bill, "Computerization of Judging
Results: What Does It Show Us?", MJ87.

Rood, Tom, "Notes on the National_1987",
JF88.

"Ten Largest Shows of 1988", JF89.

"GABS_1989, A Preview", MA89.

Decoteau, Dr. A.E., "A Summary of the 1989
Show Season", JF90.

"The Largest Shows of 1989", JF90.
Decoteau, Dr. A.E., "1990 Show Season",
JF91.

Decoteau, Dr. A.E., "Top 10 Shows of
1990", JA91.

° **GRASSQUITTS**

Aleman, Jose, "Breeding the Black-faced
Grassquit", JA92.

Clear, Dr. Val, "Breeding the Blue-back
Grassquit", JF87.

° **HONEYCREEPERS**

Leli, M.D., Ubaldo, "Portrait of a Family:
The Honeycreepers", MJ91.

° **HORNBILLS**

Petrie, Robert, "Tockus Hornbills", MJ96.

° **HOUSE SPARROWS**

Clear, Dr. Val, "It's No Joke", JAS88.

° **HUMMINGBIRDS**

Anchor, Charlie, "Keeping Hummingbirds",
SO87.

Leli, M.D., Ubaldo, "Keeping
Hummingbirds", ND90.

° **IXULUS**

SEE

SOFTBILLS-YUHINAS

° **JAYS**

Miller, Paul, "The Plush-capped Jay",
MA85.

° **MOUSEBIRDS**

Archer, Ken, "Ramblings From A Bird
Person", ND92.

Gibson, Les, "International Scientific Survey:
Sexing Mousebirds", MJ91.

° **MYNAHS**

Decoteau, Dr. A.E., "The Mynah Birds
Called Indian Hill", MJ94.

Sparzak, Marion (Miki), "Alice and the
Sailboat Meet Again", JF91.

Sparzak, Marion (Miki), "Do Hookbills,
Finches and Softbills Mix?", SO90.

Wetzel, Dave, "Bali Mynah Breeding", JF85.

° **PEKIN ROBIN**

"Proposed Pekin Robin Standard", MA93.

"Proposed Pekin Robin Standard - Revision
2", MJ94.

"Proposed Pekin Robin Standard - Revision
3", JF95.

"The Pekin Nightingale", JA89.

Geesey, Brenda, "The Pekin Robin", SO91.
Moase, Vincent, "Our Success in Breeding
the Pekin Robin", MA88.

° **STARLINGS**

Eckman, Jacky, "THE Prize-winning
Starling: Her Name is Benjamin...", ND94.

Photograph, ND94.

Spreyer, Mark, "Backyard Mynahs: Starlings
as Pets", ND90.

Tudor, Bethany, "Tweedy: A Love Story",
JA94.

° **TANAGERS**

Weyer, Diane, "Two Tanagers (Scarlet-
rumped and Crimson-collared Tanagers)",
JA87.

Woolham, J.F., "Tanagers", JA89.

° **TOUCANS**

Petrie, Robert, "Aracaris", JA9.

Worell, D.V.M., Amy, "Phlebotomy for
Treatment of Hemochromatosis in Two
Sulfur-breasted Toucans", MA92.

° **TOURACOS**

Berry, Robert, "Captive Management of
Touracos at the Houston Zoological
Gardens: Part 1", MA88.

Berry, Robert, "Captive Management of
Touracos at the Houston Zoological
Gardens: Part 2", MJ88.

Hole, Robert Jr., "Greens and Blues", JF95.

Laird, Dale, "Hatching a Touraco", SO97.

Laird, Dale, "The Persa Touraco", ND94.

Petrie, Robert, "Touracos, Plantain-caters
and Go-away Birds", MA96.

Photographs, MJ94, (3) ND94.

° **YUHINAS**

Wigmore, Martha, "The Yellow-collared
Ixulus", JA94.

SPECIAL FOCUS SECTIONS

"Bird Room Time-Saving Methods and
Hints", SO95.

"Converging on Conservation", MJ95.

"Fostering", ND94.

"Red-eared Waxbills", SO94.

STANDARDS

Brissette, Jeff, "The Importance of
Standards", ND89.

Wigmore, Martha, "Barbecuing Finches",
MJ90.

° *CHERRY FINCH*

"Proposed Cherry Finch Standard", SO93.

"Official Cherry Finch Standard", MA94.

° *CORDON BLEU WAXBILL*

"Official Cordon Bleu Standard", MJ86.

° *CUT-THROAT FINCH*

"Official Cut-throat Finch Standard", JA97.

"Proposed Cut-throat Finch Standard", ND96.

° *DIAMOND SPARROW*

"Proposed Diamond Sparrow Standard", MJ90.

"Official Diamond Sparrow Standard", ND90.

° *FIRE FINCH*

"Proposed Red-billed Fire Finch Standard", MJ91.

"Proposed Red-billed Fire Finch Standard (Revision)", MJ92.

"Official Fire Finch Standard", MA94.

° *GENERAL STANDARD*

Hoffman, Jon, "Proposed Basic Standard", SO87.

"Draft General Standard for Finches and Softbills", MJ92

° *GOULDIAN FINCH*

"Official Lady Gouldian Standard", MA86.

° *GREEN SINGING FINCH*

"Official Green Singing Finch Standard", MJ86.

° *JAVA RICE BIRD*

"Official Java Rice Bird Standard", JAS88.

° *LAVENDER FINCH*

"Proposed Lavender Finch Standard", MA90.

"Proposed Lavender Finch Standard (Revision)", MJ90.

"Official Lavender Finch Standard", ND90.

° *PARSON FINCH*

"Official Parson Finch Standard", JA97.

"Proposed Parson Finch standard", ND96.

° *PEKIN ROBIN*

"Proposed Pekin Robin Standard", MA93.

"Proposed Pekin Robin Standard - Revision 2", MJ94.

"Proposed Pekin Robin Standard - Revision 3", JF95.

"Official Pekin Robin Standard", (approved by Board 2/95), as printed in JF95.

° *SHAFTTAIL*

"Official Shafttail Standard", ND87.

° *SOCIETY FINCH*

"Proposed Society Finch Standard", 7/84.

"Official Society Finch Standard", 10/84.

"Proposed Revisions to the Society Finch Standard", JF94.

"Proposed Revisions to the Society Finch Standard - Revision 2", SO94.

"Official (Revised) Society Finch Standard", (approved by Board 2/95), as printed in SO94.

° *STAR FINCH*

"Proposed Star Finch Standard", JF91, reprinted JF95.

° *ZEBRA FINCH*

"Official Zebra Finch Standard", 10/84.

"Proposed Zebra Finch Standard Revision", JA97.

"Proposed Zebra Finch Standard Final", J/A 98.

-T-

TREASURER'S REPORT

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Hands-on Finches

Subject: Aviary Profile

By: Steve Heller, Farmingdale, NY,
Kerri McCoy, Birmingham, AL

I've yet to meet a bird hobbyist when given the chance that wouldn't jump on the opportunity to visit fellow aviculturists. With a trip pending to the northeast I got in touch with a friend of mine Steve Heller to see if he would be receptive to a visit. Steve and his wife Asta were more than receptive and not only spent a good part of the day sharing their home and aviaries with me but spent the wee hours of the night taking me to visit two other fellow aviculturists and their aviaries. This Hands-On Finches section is Part I of III. Part I will focus on my visit with Steve Heller and family and his aviaries, Part II a visit to Charlie Angell's aviaries, and Part III a visit to Debbie Barbieri's aviaries. I wholeheartedly thank all of them for opening their home and aviaries to myself and the NFSS membership.

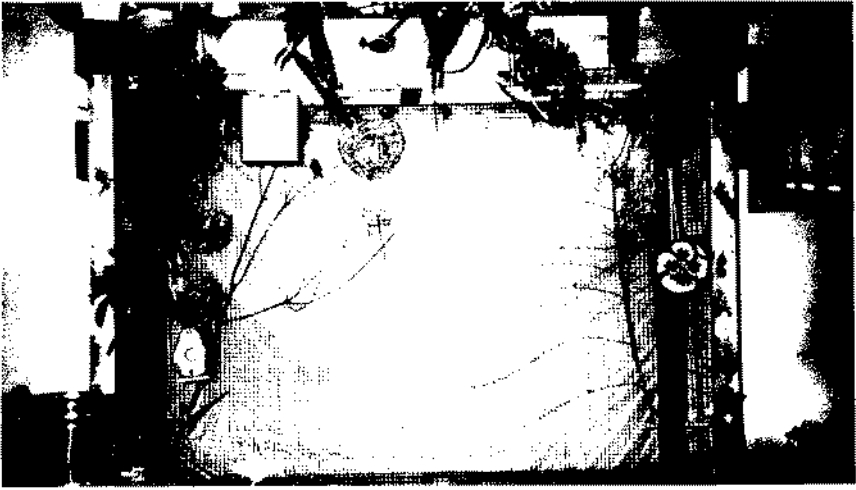
Steve Heller focuses on the Red Face Parrot Finch. For those of you parrot finch fans out there you would have been right at home surrounded by multiple pairs of red faces. At the time of my visit there was also a new addition to the aviaries - a nesting pair of Forbes parrot finches. My first opportunity to see



these little fellows in person and the pair that I saw at Steve's were just breathtaking.

The photograph on the following page is Aviary #1. It measures 6 feet tall by 2 feet deep x 6 feet wide. This aviary is located in the living room and at the time of my visit was home to the nesting pair of Forbes and one pair of red faces. It was designed with convenience in mind and had sliding plexiglass doors in the lower part of the aviary making maintenance, feeding, and watering easily manageable and stressfree for the inhabitants. Lighting was produced with full spectrum verelux bulbs.

The Forbes to date have produced two clutches of young. The first clutch failed when they did not feed and the second clutch was fostered. Since this pair is young (6 months of age), they may have failed due to their immaturity. Mike Fidler advised Steve to begin working on



breeding the Forbes at 5 months of age. Since they have not shown great interest in eggfood, either dry or moist he is hesitant that the pair will feed at all. He has recently tried mixing the eggfood with their sprouts and has found that they are now more receptive to the eggfood. "So if I've tricked them, maybe they'll have sufficient protein in their diet to feed their own young." Steve stated. He also mentioned that they readily accepted white worms.

Aviary #2 is located in the basement of Steve's home and measures 7 feet wide by 7 feet tall by 4 feet deep. Two verelux 40 watt full spectrum bulbs light the aviary for fifteen hours daily. Temps range from a low of sixty (before the heat is turned on) to a high of 85 degrees. Humidity runs about 50% with a high of 65% during the summer months and a low of 26% in the

winter. Steve's plan for the winter is to supplement with an evaporative humidifier to increase humidity levels.

A curious thing I discovered while visiting the northeast was the use of cardboard nestboxes. All three individuals I visited used them. And from the looks of them at Steve's they were well received by the parrot finches.

Also housed in the basement birdroom were a few pair of society finches in safeguard cages measuring 3x2x2. Steve conveyed to me that in his experience housing the red faces in this size cage was not successful.

Due to the mildness of the weather in September in New York we were able to spend a considerable amount of time outside. Steve's wife Asta served an authentic



New York style lunch and myself being raised in the northeast and currently residing in the south my mouth watered over the feast.

The photograph above is Aviary #3, which is located outside in Steve's backyard adjacent to the swimming pool. It is a large outdoor aviary measuring 7.5 feet tall x 12 feet long x 8 feet wide.

This outdoor aviary is a birdkeeper's dream (at least mine). It was built originally in 1990 and was remodeled this past spring with increased height and new black plastic $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ wire. The ground cover was natural seed grasses and miscellaneous rocks. The perches again were natural and spread out throughout the aviary so the birds

had considerable flying space. There were live plants in abundance within the aviary.

The surprising thing to me was the calmness of the red faces housed in this outdoor aviary. While there, Steve fed some wild dandelion leaves and flowers and the red faces eagerly crowded around the treat totally oblivious to our presence so close by. I could practically reach out and touch them!

The roof of the aviary was covered with hard plastic sheeting that protected the inhabitants from wild bird droppings and adverse weather conditions. And because the aviary was open on three sides you had excellent opportunities to view the birds whether you were

lounging in the pool, sitting on the deck or resting on the patio. Like any birdkeeper the afternoon was spent talking diet, breeding, and maintenance. I even had the opportunity to thumb through Steve's copy of Russell Kingston's newest released book "Keeping and Breeding Finches and Seed-Eaters".

Diet: Steve feeds a basic finch mix consisting of proso millet, german millet, canary and red millet. He uses crushed oyster shell and no grit. Cuttlebone is also provided. To bring the birds into breeding condition Steve serves eggfood both dry and moist (hardboiled egg added). To the eggfood mixture he adds a powdered mineral product from Belgium, a touch of spirulina and Prime vitamins. This is kept refrigerated. And on occasion he also scraps cuttlebone into the mixture. Greens during the warm months consist of wild dandelion leaves and flowers. If dandelion is not obtainable (i.e. winter months) both chicory and romaine lettuce are substituted. Throughout the entire year half-ripe wild seed is provided. And lastly, sprouted seed is provided daily to bring the birds into breeding condition or during the breeding season itself.

Colony System: Steve has used the colony system for breeding

his red faces. The two colonies each consist of three breeding pairs. One colony has proved successful but the other has produced only one clutch of offspring. Steve attributes the lack of breeding success with one colony due to the "incompatibility of the pairs". Perhaps if the birds have chosen their mates before the colony was set up success rates might have been higher."

Most important aspect of colony breeding: **Integrity of the pairs.** A male from one pair sometimes wouldn't hesitate to mate with a female of another pair if the conditions are right. However, provided the enclosure is spacious enough and pairs are nicely bonded, most males will mind their own business.

I hope you found the above visit as interesting as I did. I found out I wasn't the only one who kept the best veggies in the refrigerator for bird consumption only. I wasn't the only one whose flower garden had become a growing place for wild grasses to feed the birds. And I wasn't the only one who wanted to check their "finch-lovers email" just one last time before we headed out.

I encourage any NFSS member interested in learning more to contact Steve Heller directly. He would be more than happy to share his experiences. He can be reached via email at: sheller@nassau.cv.net

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

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 Spartzak	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	Contact	Contact #
PA	Northeastern Pennsylvania Cage Bird Club	Gary Fino	(717) 868-1057
PA	Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society Show date: 11/7	Margie Jonnet	412-795-1904
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

State	Club Name	Delegate	Contact #
Canada	Cage Bird Society of Hamilton Show date: 11/7	Show contact: Ann Granatier	(905) 333-0685
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

LATE EDITION:

USA Zebra Finch Society- USA Garrie Landry (318)828-5957

International Correspondents			
Country	Club Name	Contact	Contact Info.
Australia	Queensland Finch Society	Gavin Dietz	P.O. Box 1600, Coorparoo DC 4151 Queensland, Australia
Australia	The Avicultural Society of Australia, Inc.	Graeme Hyde	52 Harris Road Elliminyt, Victoria 3249 Australia
Great Britain	The Estrildian	Howard Robinson	10 Gable Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham. DH6 3JT, England
Great Britain	The Waxbill Finch Society	Buzz Hope- Inglis	10 Litchfield Close, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 3UU, England
Great Britain	Zebra Finch Society, England	Margaret Binns	97 Bent Lanes, Davyhulme, Nr. Urmston, Manchester, M41 8WZ England
New Zealand	New Zealand Finch Breeders Assoc.		293 Albany Highway Albany, New Zealand

1998 Show Dates

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: skdat@inlink.com

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

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society, Inc.

When: 11/7

Where: Pittsburgh, PA

NFSS Judge: Armando Lee

Delegate: Margie Jonnet (412) 795-1904, Email:

mjonnet@mail.business.pitt.edu

Details: Being held at Palace Inn in Monroeville area of Pittsburgh

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton

When: 11/7

Where: Canada

NFSS Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Show Contact: Ann Granatier (905) 333-0685

Details: Being held at Valley Park Community Center, 970 Paramount Drive

Finch Society of San Diego County REGIONAL SHOW

When: 11/7 & 11/8

Where: Del Mar, California

NFSS Judges: 11/7 - Daren Decoteau, 11/8 Clayton Jones

Delegate: Ms. Sally Huntington (619) 452-9423 email: huntington-center@worldnet.att.net

Georgia Cage Bird Society

When: 11/7

Where: Atlanta, GA

NFSS Judge: Conrad Meinert

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

Email: Byrdman55@aol.com

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

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

Santa Clara Valley Canary
Club and Exotic Bird Club

When: 11/27-28

NFSS Judge: Clayton Jones

Delegate: Al Seminereo

Contact: Doreen Waugh
(510) 794-0517

GLOSTERMAN@juno.com

Empire Finch & Canary
Association

1st Annual Bird Mart

When: 11/28

Where: Franklin Square, NY

Delegate: Charlie Angell

Details: Contact Debbie Barbieri at:
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: Cecil Gunby

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

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

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

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- Send in the appropriate fee and this form to the Affiliation Manager.

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	"Second Best in Show" Plaque (6" x 8")	\$25.00
	"Third Best in Show" Plaque (6" x 8")	\$25.00
	"Best Softbill in Show" Plaque (6" x 8")	\$25.00
	Rosettes. Ten long streamer rosettes for the ten best finches or softbills, plus one best unflighted rosette. Unflighted birds are those that are closed banded with 1998 bands.	\$35.00
	Unflighted 2 nd and 3 rd place rosettes.	\$7.00
	Total Amount of check payable to NFSS:	

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

NFSS Board of Directors 1998-99

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FinchShop Manager Ms. Julie Duimstra 4201 NE 125 th 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	NFSS Editor Ms. Kerri Ann McCoy 3412 Far Hill Circle Birmingham, AL 35243 Phone (205) 969-9177 Fax (205) 972-8984 Email jmccoy@mindspring.com
Advertising & Promotions Manager Kerri McCoy 3412 Far Hill Circle Birmingham, AL 35243 Phone: (205) 969-9177 Fax: (205) 972-8984 Email: 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?: _____

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

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NFSS

*the National Finch
and Softbill Society*

<http://NFSS.net>

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Upcoming Shows

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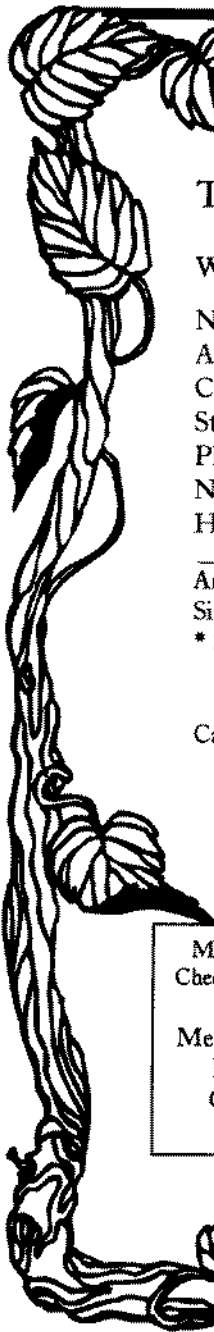
Photo Gallery

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Contact Marc Riva for more information



The National Finch and Softbill Society

Welcomes Finch and Softbill Breeders & Enthusiasts!

Name: _____

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City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

New Member? _____ Renew NFSS #? _____

How did you hear about us? _____

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* 2nd name for Dual Membership: _____

U.S. (& Puerto Rico) 1st class mailing add \$5.00
Canadian add \$5, Foreign add \$10 (Please send US funds.)
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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

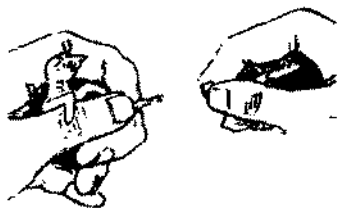
Leg Banding Procedure

Courtesy of

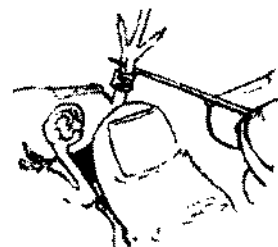
The National Finch and Softbill Society

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: Red Crested and Persa
Touracos FinchSave produced hand-
fed closed banded 1998 babies. Persas:
One DNA sexed male and one un-
sexed bird. Dale Laird, Goldenrod,
FL (407) 657-7989, Email:
dalel@magicnet.net N/D 98

FOR SALE: Java Rice Finches.
Mature and ready to breed. Males and
females. White mutation only. Show
Quality. \$25/ea. Karren Agnos, West
Allis, WI 414-546-3310 or
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FOR SALE/TRADE: Masked
\$75/ea, Owls \$55/ea, Normal Goulds
\$50/ea, RH Parrot Finches \$75/ea,
Cherry (Plum Heads) \$50/ea, Shaftails
\$50/ea. Harry Bryant Elyria, OH 440-
748-3637 email: utuweb@aol.com

FOR SALE: Gouldian Finches
Normals, Blues, split to blue. May have
white breasted in each on occasion.
Parent raised or fostered from proven
parents. Deanne Veselka, Texas (806)
797-3805

WANTED: Pictorella male. Prefer
young unbanded male or will buy pair.
DESPERATE! Call Julie Duimstra
#503-261-8788

WANTED: Copy of Robin Restall's
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Call Julie Duimstra 503-261-8788

FOR SALE: Gouldian Finches galore.
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FOR SALE: Show cages. Finch,
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Full page: \$50/issue, \$200/year
Half Page: \$30/issue, \$120/year
Qtr. Page: \$20/issue, \$80/year
Inside Cover: \$70/issue, \$300/year
Website Advertising: \$100/year for all
customers, \$50/year for all inside front and back
cover customers. First month trial FREE!

Classified Advertisements

FinchSave: FREE to participants
NFSS members: \$.25 per word, per issue
including website advertising
Non-NFSS members: \$.30 per word, per issue
including website advertising

Deadlines:

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

Send ad and payment

(Payable to NFSS) to:

Kerri McCoy

NFSS Advertising/Promotions Mgr.

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Birmingham, AL 35243-5015

Phone: (205) 969-9177

Fax: (205) 972-8984

Email: jmcocoy@mindspring.com

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and shipping \$35. Garry Berg, West
Jordan, UT (801) 561-9289, Email:
GARRYBERG@aol.com

NFSS Panel of Judges 1998

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<p>Jacky Civitarese 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>Clayton Jones P.O. Box 266 Soquel, CA 95073 408-728-8676</p>	<p>Marion Miki Sparzak 517 Old North Point Rd Baltimore, MD 21224 410-282-9233</p>
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<p>Dr. Al Decoteau P.O. Box 369 Groton, MA 01450 603-672-4568 Fax: 603-672-3120 Email: SPBE1@aol.com</p>	<p>Armando Lee P.O. Box 831238 Miami, FL 33283 305-270-1000 Email: ajlee@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Martha Wigmore 18913 Boston St. NW Elk River, MN 55330 Phone/Fax: 612-241-0071</p>
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FINCHSHOP

The National Finch and Softbill Society Store

ITEM	Q T Y	SIZE / STYLE	EA.	TDL.
<i>NEW NFSS T-shirt</i> <i>Design! Ten Colorful</i> <i>Finches in Stalks of Grass</i>	➔	<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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Past Bulletin Issues 1994 and later issues			\$4.00	
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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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