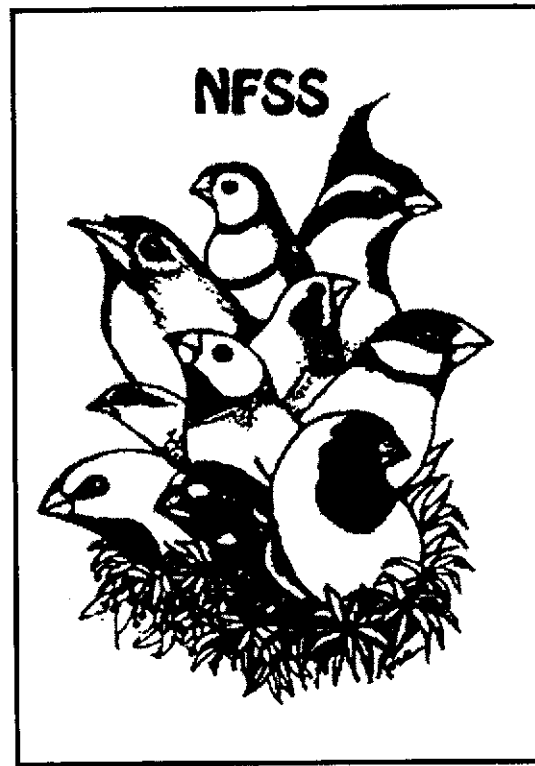


Jan/Feb
2000
Volume 17,
No. 1

National Finch and Softbill Society



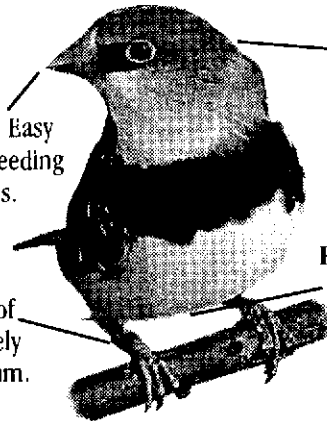
Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ Words from the new President
- ◆ 4th Quarter Board Meeting Minutes
- ◆ 1999 Show Awards and Results
- ◆ The Blue and Purple Waxbills (Ian Hinze)
- ◆ Avian Conversations (Tom Riggs & Ross Bishop)
- ◆ FinchSave Update (Daniel Almaguer)
- ◆ New Board Members

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The NFSS Bulletin

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Editor: Steve Poe

Editorial Policy/Disclaimer:

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Issue	Deadline for Submissions	Mailed (Target Date)
Volume 1, January/February	January 1st	February 1st
Volume 2, March/April	March 1st	April 1st
Volume 3, May/June	May 1st	June 1st
Volume 4, July/August	July 1st	August 1st
Volume 5, September/October	September 1st	October 1st
Volume 6, November/December	November 1st	December 1st

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

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Table of Contents

From the Editor	5
Message from the (New) President	6
Minutes from 4th Quarter Board Meeting	8
A Few Words about NFSS (<i>Dale Laird, President</i>)	10
State of the Society (<i>Dale Laird, President</i>)	12
1999 Show Awards	14
1999 Show Results, Part I	22
The Blue and Purple Waxbills (<i>Ian Hinze</i>)	31
Avian Conversations (<i>Tom Riggs & Ross Bishop</i>)	34
Classified Ads	40
FinchSave Update (<i>Daniel Almaguer</i>)	42
1999 Affiliated Clubs	45
Board Members	52
Panel of Judges	54
Change of Address Form	53
Affiliation Agreement	56
Awards Order Form	57
Membership Application	58
FinchSave Application	59
Banding Procedures	60
Band Order Form	61
Band Size Chart	62
FinchShop Order Form	64-66

Advertisements

Birds 2 Grow Aviaries	2
Higgins Group	7
Ecotone Aviaries	30
World of Birds	33
Classified Ads	40
Delta Associates	41
The Estrildian	49
Avian Medicine Chest	50
SE Bird Supply & Co.	51
Horizon Micro Environments	67

From the Editor

Well folks, here we are, the beginning of the last year of the millennium. I know, I know. Every body has been telling you that we are already in the new millennium, but think again. The new millennium doesn't start for another year. We're still in the 20th Century. This means we'll probably be bombarded with all the same hype again next year. Consider it a practice run; now get ready for the real thing. A second chance is not such a bad thing. Also, the Y2K bug has come and gone with little more than a flash of annoyance. It's unbelievable that we spent nearly two years preparing for it.

We have lots of new things for everyone this year. There are a number of new board members and changes in positions. We have the first of several articles from Ian Hinze, an accomplished aviculturist from England, the first installment of the show results from 1999, more of our series titled Avian Conversations and promises for a raffle that will continue throughout the coming year. So, as they say in TV land, "don't touch that dial". We've got lots of good things coming your way.

A final note, I am getting very good participation with regards to people submitting articles for publication. So much so that I cannot squeeze them all in. Please be patient and eventually I will make room for everything. Also, please note the deadlines published on page 3 of every bulletin. It is necessary for me to adhere strictly to these deadlines to be able to get the bulletin out on time. Thanks.

Steve Poe
4310 Ascot Road
Hephzibah, GA 30815
stevepoe@mindspring.com

Message from the President

My name is Dale Laird and I am your new President for the 2000/2001 term of office. I have served NFSS as a Regional Vice President and as your 1st vice President. My interests lie in breeding finches and softbills and showing those birds that we have bred.

As we look forward to the new year, we are faced with some exciting prospects and some large challenges. One of our biggest challenges is to increase our membership. We all would like to see our membership grow from 780 active members as of this writing to an achievable goal of 1000 members by years' end. That is not something the Membership Director can do by herself. I call on every one to tell your friends about NFSS. The best advertising we have is word of mouth.

I would also like to see a fund raising raffle conducted through the Bulletin starting with the March/April issue. Watch for this as the details are being worked out. During this term I would like to see NFSS implement a Breeder Recognition award. There are several in the country for 1st time breeding of species, but that is not what I am talking about. I would like to see awards in recognition of NFSS member's breeding programs for that year. Certainly numbers of birds bred would be a consideration but also multiple generation breeding of specific stud groups of a specie. Do we have anybody who would like to volunteer to put this program together and get it off the ground?

I would like to leave you with this. All the NFSS Board of Directors were elected to office to serve on your behalf. We are charged with serving you to the best of our ability. While members of the Board are all volunteers and we all have lives of our own, we have a responsibility to each and every one of the NFSS members. I will try my very best to meet that responsibility.

Note: Please see the rest of your 2000/2001 Board and judges on pages 52-56.

Thank you,
Dale Laird, President, NFSS



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Fourth Quarter 1999 NFSS Board Meeting
November 18 & 19, 1999

18 November 1999

Board members present:

Dale Laird
Eileen Laird
Sally Huntington
Steve Hoppin
Martha Wigmore
Kerri McCoy

Guests Present:

Vince Huntington
Terri McCauliffe

19 November 1999

Board Members present in addition to above:

Paul Williams
Clarence Culwell
Armando Lee

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 18 November 1999 at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Buffalo NY.

1. A synopsis of reports from various departments previously distributed was read.
2. Three apprentice judges and their credentials were presented to the Board for consideration. Dale Laird, Sally Huntington, & Terri McCauliffe. Motion by Steve Hoppin to accept the presented apprentice judges to the Judge's Panel. 2nd by Eileen Laird.
3. Shall NFSS award annually to the NFSS panel judge who has judged the NFSS annual National Show, held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show, a plaque commemorating his/her participation in this event, the style and wording to be selected by the NFSS Board? Motion by Martha Wigmore. 2nd by Steve Hoppin.

4. (Motion sent by Ron Castaner for Board consideration) that the 1st Vice President receives the \$400 allocation for President's travel expenses for serving in the President stead at the 4th qtr Board meeting. Motion presented by Martha Wigmore. 2nd by Kerri McCoy.
5. It was presented that the cost of selling rosettes to the affiliated clubs is more than the purchase price. Tabled until a new Awards Manager is selected.
6. It was determined the 2000 affiliation form will include both Affiliation and Awards selection to simplify the procedure for the clubs. The Affiliation Director will accept affiliation forms awards orders, check for both and forwards awards information to the Awards Director.
7. That Harry Bryant be selected as the NFSS WEB Site manager effective immediately. Motion by Kerri McCoy. 2nd by Martha Wigmore. *(A special thanks to Marc Riva for stepping in at a time when we had severe need and for getting us up & running and re-vamping the WEB Site)*
8. The budget was submitted by the NFSS treasurer. The end result is a projected deficit of (\$426.41). Numerous ideas were presented to raise funds. Increase membership, year long raffle of donated birds with the drawing to be held at the Nationals, Regional shows and raffle fund raisers, similar to region 2 for 1999 (\$100 raised) and raise band prices.
9. Raise the costs of a string of Bands to \$3.25 a string effective 1 March 2000. Motion by Kerri McCoy. 2nd by Eileen Laird

9:30 pm Meeting adjourned

The Board meeting was re-convened at 1:00 pm 18 November 1999 with a quorum present.

All motions made and seconded the previous day were voted on and passed unanimously.

1:10 pm Meeting adjourned

NOTE: 1st & 2nd quarter Board meetings for 2000 will be by e-mail. 3rd and 4th quarters to be determined.

End

2000/2001 NFSS Board Welcome and Congratulations

I want to congratulate the new electees and say WELCOME to the NFSS 2000/2001 Board of Directors. For those who were at the Nationals in Buffalo, you heard the announcement from the Nominating Chairman, Steve Hoppin. Just a quick note to say we will have the 1st & 2nd quarter Board meetings by E-Mail. 3rd & 4th Quarters we will decide later in the year.

1st some exciting news; we have Harry Bryant taking over the WEB SITE and performing current updates. Marc said he would have it ready to turn over by 12-20-99. I do want to thank Marc for all he did. He really stepped in and saved us at a critical time.

If you are in a position that uses NFSS funds please remember to send your receipts for reimbursement or for documentation of spending the money you have drawn with in 90 days. If the receipts are older than 90 days, NFSS will thank you for the contribution.

I want to conduct a year long (well almost a year) raffle of Donated pairs of birds with the raffle running monthly in the Bulletin and the drawing to be held at the end of the year. Ideally at the NFSS General meeting conducted at the Nationals. The tickets could be a run each month at \$1.00 ea. Fill out the ticket and mail it in with the money. The birds would be listed something like: Pair of Gouldians from Billy Smith, Pair of Parsons from Sally Brown, Pair of Zosterops from Angel Vazquez. You get the idea. Do we can anybody who would like to coordinate this important fundraiser?

Three positions we still need to fill for 2000/2001. 1 is elected and two are appointed. 1st is the Treasurer. Martha needs to close out the books and send everything to somebody on 1-1-2000. The Awards Manager position needs to be filled also. This is an appointed position. They will be working very closely with the Liaison Officer. The last position we need filled if the Finchshop Manager. This is an appointed position also and will be working very closely with Harry to get the items on the Web site and adding some

new items for sale. We are running an ad in the Nov/Dec issue for the Treasurer and the Awards Manager. I will place one for the Finchshop Manager unless someone can help before then. If you can help in any of these areas or know of any members who can step in, please let me know.

Several positions are turning over and I trust the incoming member to contact the out going member to make for a smooth transition. If I can be of any help in this area please do not hesitate to contact me.

We do need to increase our available funds. The raffle may help that, the raise of bands fees to \$3.25 a string taking place on 1 March 2000, and, of course, increasing membership will help in all areas. The more members the more Finchshop items, bands, and of course the more membership dues we take in.

The last thing I want to leave you with is what I always say about volunteer positions. Let's try to have fun with it. While we do so please remember how we got here. We were elected to the position by the membership and have a responsibility to represent them. We also have a responsibility to our fellow Board members. We all need to be timely. Regardless if it is a report due, receipts to be submitted, cash to be sent for deposit, or orders to be filled, it all needs to be timely.

And the VERY last thing. Thank you so much for being part of the 2000/20001 Board of Directors. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Dale

NFSS Treasurer

You will remember the NFSS Ballot did not contain a candidate for the Treasurer position for the 2000/2001 Board. If you can help in this area, or know of another member who can, please contact any of the Board members.

State of the Society, 1999
Dale Laird, President

NFSS Annual General Meeting 19 November 1999

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by 1st Vice President Dale Laird who immediately provided opening remarks. Dale introduced the 1999 Board of Directors and presented plaques to those in attendance who will not be continuing in their current position for 2000. The 4th Vice President, Steve Hoppin, presented the current judge's panel and three apprentice judge's in attendance. Steve Hoppin introduced the new 2000/2001 Board members. The rest of those members in attendance introduced themselves and stated where they were from. Dale Laird gave the following State of the Society:

State of the Society

The president continues to run the day-to-day operations of the Society. The Education Committee is answering 2 – 3 questions a week from the NFSS WEB site. If you have Finch & Softbill questions visit our WEB site at nfss.net. The Publications department produced, labeled, collated by zip code and mailed 4,800 copies of the excellent bi-monthly Bulletin; produced all our professional Brochures and handouts and provided necessary publications for the Board. The Finchsave department is running the largest multi-species conservation program in the United States with 45 participants and 63 separate species. The paperwork required for submission is simpler than most of us keep for our own records. The Census had 88 participants and hundreds of species listed. The census is what we use to give credibility to our organization. **ALL of us need to be members of Finchsave and participate in the census.**

There are 29 panel judges who are fully qualified to judge all NFSS affiliated shows. A complete list of judges, address, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses are contained in the bi-monthly bulletin and the newest Judge's Handbook. 363 Band orders have been filled to date and 24480 bands sold. The color for the 2000 bands will be yellow. As of yet (11/19/99), they have not been received. 325,000 bands have been sold to NFSS members since 1985. 777 active members with 461 Membership renewals and new memberships have been processed so far this year.

There are 63 clubs and societies affiliated with NFSS around the world. Many of these clubs hold shows and order awards packages from the Awards Director. Several of the Regional Vice Presidents were very active this year. Jim Norman of Region 5 set up the NFSS table at the AFA convention this year and Armando Lee of Region 2 arranged the set up of the NFSS table for the Regional show. Both displays provided scores of material about NFSS. Region 2 conducted a raffle of birds; a book and a poster generating \$100 in much need income for NFSS. Several other Regional Vice Presidents continue to distribute NFSS literature at bird events across the country. The NFSS table at the Nationals generated over \$1,200 in memberships, donations, raffle of a book, band orders, Finchshop items, and commissions on cages sold at the table on Saturday.

We are all very pleased with the results of 1999 and look forward to a very exciting 2000.

The Treasurer, Martha Wigmore presented the Treasurer's report: Projected income for 1999 is \$25,050. Projected expenses for 1999 are \$28,545 for a loss of \$3,495. The actions of the Board should result in a near break even for 2000. Steve Hoppin presented the Champion Exhibitor Awards for 1998 to 7 members. Martha Wigmore presented a Plaque of Appreciation to Paul Williams for judging the 1999 Nationals. Steve Hoppin and Paul Williams presented the Val Clear Award to Cecil Gunby for the best Softbill in the show. Dale Laird accepted on behalf of Cecil.

Dale Laird announced the 2000 National show site in Puerto Rico and asked Jacky Civitarese, Nationals 2000 local club show Chairman, to make a few remarks about the show, accommodations and side trips. Steve Hoppin announced the NFSS recommendation in order of preference for the 2000; Cecil Gunby, Bill Parlee, & Conrad Meinert. For the 2001 Kaytee Great American Armando Lee plus a three way tie for 2nd & 3rd. Steve Hoppin presented Ray Johnson with a lifetime membership and a lifetime Panel Judge's status for all his dedicated service and accomplishments in aviculture.

Three positions remain open for year 2000 and need immediate filling. Treasurer, Awards director, and Finchshop. Please contact any Board member to help out your Society by filling one of these very important positions. The drawing for the Finches & Sparrows book donated by Martha Wigmore was conducted. 1:15 meeting adjourned.

End

National Finch and Softbill Society
1999 Show Awards
Steve Hoppin

1999 Bird Champions

Senegal Firefinch B-458-96
 Bred, banded, and exhibited by
 Steve Hoppin of Ft. Myers, FL

1999 Exhibitor Champions

Harold and Margie McBrayer, Texas	111 pts.
Darla Dandre, Illinois	107 pts.
Steve Hoppin, Florida	84 pts.
Patrick Vance, Michigan	54 pts.
Sally Huntington, California	50 pts.

1998 Exhibitor & Bird Awards to present at the 1999 NCBS**1998 NFSS Exhibitor Champions**

McBrayer, Harold & Margie	178 points
Hoppin, Steve	99 points
Dandre, Darla	72 points
Rood, Tom	52 points
Pizzurro, Richard	52 points
Vance, Patrick	51 points
Laird, Dale & Eileen	50 points

1998 NFSS Exhibitor of Excellence Award

Pizzuro, Richard..... 202 points

Honor Roll Champion Birds

from 1984 to 1999

1991

Normal Java Rice Bird	82 pts	(NFS-K-245-90)	Kris Kroner
Dilute Society Finch	56 pts	(NFS-E-87-'89)	Tom Rood
Normal Zebra Finch	52 pts	(NFS-C-30-'87)	Tom Rood

1994

Fawn Diamond Sparrow	61 pts	(NFS-D-87-'92)	Gene/June Miller
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1995

Yel. rump Dmd Sparrow	67 pts	(NFS-E-112-94)	Gene/June Miller
Normal Shaftail	52 pts	(NFS-C-1552-93)	Ellen Buchanan

1996

European Starling	52 pts	(SPBE-BRA15-93)	Jacky Civitarese
Persa Touraco	57 pts	(DJL37-'93)	Dale & Eileen Laird
Normal Java Rice Bird	57 pts	(K-493-'94)	Dale & Eileen Laird
Cinnamon Java Rice Bird	56 pts	(K-58-93)	Patrick Vance

1997

Yellow Head Gouldian	52 pts	(NFS D-8162-96)	Carolyn Belisle
----------------------	--------	-----------------	-----------------

In **1998** there were no Birds achieving Champion status.

1999

Senegal Firefinch	69 pts	(NFS B-458-96)	Stephen Hoppin
-------------------	--------	----------------	----------------

Honor Roll Exhibition Champions

from 1984 to 1998

1985 - (Champion achieved with 25 pts)

Robert Travnicek	33 pts
Robert and Tina Hemenway	26 pts
Dick Muench	26 pts

1986 - (Champion achieved with 40 pts)

Hal Koontz	82 pts
Cecil Gunby	74 pts
Brian Mandarich	67 pts
Brenda Geesey	60 pts
Steve Hoppin	60 pts
Ann Hurst	48 pts
Gene and June Miller	43 pts
Robert and Tina Hemenway	41 pts
Tom Rood	40 pts

1987 - (Champion achieved with 50 pts)

Hal Koontz	123 pts
Marty von Raesfeld	108 pts
Cecil Gunby	106 pts
Brenda Geesey	79 pts
Gene and June Miller	79 pts
Brian Mandarich	65 pts
Robert and Tina Hemenway	59 pts
Richard Lujan	53 pts

1988

Marty von Raesfeld	176 pts
Cecil Gunby	82 pts
Brenda Geesey	81 pts
Chris Voronovich	67 pts
Hal Koontz	60 pts
Gene and June Miller	54 pts
Tom Rood	51 pts
Steve Hoppin	50 pts

1989

Marvin Yoder	90 pts
Kris Kroner	75 pts
Richard Lujan	66 pts
Tom Rood	66 pts
Marty von Raesfeld	60 pts
Steve Hoppin	59 pts
Gene and June Miller	59 pts

1990

Gene and June Miller	131 pts
Kris Kroner	110 pts
Marvin Yoder	86 pts
John Dapas	75 pts
Tom Rood	71 pts
Brenda Geesey	54 pts
Richard Lujan	51 pts

1991

John Dapas	150 pts
Tom Rood	138 pts
Dixie and Alvin Lea	135 pts
Pat and Mary Krichten	103 pts
Kris Kroner	88 pts
Patrick Vance	86 pts
Mary and Steve Payne	71 pts
Jim Hulsey	51 pts

1992

Virginia Patrick	117 pts
Steve Hoppin	105 pts
Gene and June Miller	85 pts
Rick Szlachta	76 pts

Marvin Yoder 65 pts
Brad and Deb Clark 56 pts

1993

Alvin and Dixie Lea 88 pts
Steve Hoppin 74 pts
Patrick Vance 73 pts
Dennis Burhans 71 pts
Pat and Mary Krichten 68 pts
Gene and June Miller 65 pts
Frank and Sandy Hudson 59 pts
Tom Rood 54 pts

1994

Alvin and Dixie Lea 130 pts
Patrick Vance 99 pts
Dale Laird 96 pts
Gene and June Miller 81 pts
Pat and Mary Krichten 76 pts
John Dapas 59 pts
Frank and Sandy Hudson 57 pts
Dennis Burhans 56 pts

1995

Dale and Eileen Laird 108 pts
Gene and June Miller 86 pts
Frank and Sandy Hudson 78 pts
Dennis Burhans 58 pts
Sally Huntington 56 pts
Alvin and Dixie Lea 52 pts
Patrick Vance 50 pts

1996

Sally Huntington 130 pts
Dale and Eileen Laird 111 pts
Alvin and Dixie Lea 101 pts
Margie and Harold McBrayer 74 pts
Tom Rood 67 pts
Gene and June Miller 66 pts
Felipe Bonilla 55 pts

1997

Harold and Margie McBrayer	125 pts
Steve Hoppin	110 pts
Dale and Eileen Laird	79 pts
Sally Huntington	75 pts
Alvin and Dixie Lea	68 pts
Patrick Vance	65 pts
Dennis Burhans	61 pts

1998

Harold and Margie McBrayer	178 pts
Steve Hoppin	99 pts
Darla Dandre	62 pts
Tom Rood	52 pts
Richard Pizzuro	52 pts
Patrick Vance	51 pts
Dale and Eileen Laird	50 pts

Honor Roll Exhibition Champions

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Richard Pizzuro	52 pts
Patrick Vance	51 pts
Dale and Eileen Laird	50 pts

***Honor Roll of Recipients of the Exhibitor of Excellence Award
through 1999 show season***

Cecil Gunby	1987
Hal Koontz	1987
Brenda Geesey	1988
Marty von Raesfeld	1988
Steve Hoppin	1989
Brian Mandarich	1989
Gene and June Miller	1989
Kris Kroner	1990
Richard Lujan	1990
Tom Rood	1990
Marvin Yoder	1990
John Dapas	1991
Mary and Steve Payne	1991
Pat and Mary Krichten	1992
Alvin and Dixie Lea	1992
Patrick Vance	1992
Dennis Burhans	1994
Frank and Sandy Hudson	1995
Dale and Eileen Laird	1995
Rick Szlachta	1995
Chris Voronovich	1995
Jerri Wiesenfeld	1996
Sally Huntington	1997
Harold and Margie McBrayer	1997
Richard Pizzuro	1998

End

1999 Show Results
Tallied by Steve Hoppin
Chairman of the Panel of NFSS Judges

Here it is, folks. The first installment of the year in review with regards to show results. Here we get to see how the members did over the past year showing the birds they've raised, what kind of birds people are showing, and what kinds of birds are winning.

Due to the large numbers of show results, the second half will be published in the next issue, so don't panic if you don't see your name. We'll get the rest of you next time. And of course, be sure to check the schedule for shows in your area so you can attend and/or participate.

Congratulations to all the winners and a special thanks to the judges and people behind the scenes who have put forth untold efforts to make these shows the success that they are. Thanks to all of you.

<u>Date: 02/13/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: FL State Fair</u>	1	Dale & Eileen Laird	Red Crested Touroco	T-1-97	7
<u>Exotic Bird Show</u>	2	Dale & Eileen Laird	CFW Zebra hen	D-12139-97	6
<u>Location: Tampa, FL</u>	3	Steve Hoppin	Parson cock		5
<u>Judge: Dennis Lewis</u>	4	Armando Lee	Aurora		4
<u>Apprentice:</u>	5	Steve Hoppin	Chestnut Breasted Mannikin		3
<u># Exhibitors: 14</u>	6	Dale & Eileen Laird	Pearl-headed Amadine		2
<u># Entries: 70</u>	7	Ken Miller	BHWB Gouldian		1

<u>Date: 02/14/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: FL State Fair</u>	1	Armando Lee	Silver Beaked Tanager		5
<u>Exotic Bird Show</u>	2	Jerri C. Wiesenfeld	Red-faced Star	C-775-96	4
<u>Location: Tampa, FL</u>	3	Armando Lee	Aurora		3
<u>Judge: Steve Hopkin</u>	4	Dennis Lewis	Orange Bishop Weaver hen		2
<u>Apprentice: Dale Laird</u>	5	Armando Lee	Bamboo Parrot Finch		1
<u># Exhibitors: 11</u>					
<u># Entries: 45</u>					

<u>Date:04/17/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: America's Family</u>	1	Rosemary Flamion	Bearded Reedling	J-92-98	6
<u>Pet Expo</u>	2	Steve Payne	Owl Finch	C-138-97	5
<u>Pomona, CA</u>	3	Sally Huntington	Lightback Zebra	D-2668-98	4
<u>Judge: Paul Williams</u>	4	Annette Howard	Pintailed Nonpareil		3
<u>Apprentice: Julie Duimstra</u>	5	Clara Gontero	Blk Cheeked Waxbill pr.		2
<u># Exhibitors: 7</u>	6	Sally Huntington	Purple Grenadier		1
<u># Entries: 55</u>					

<u>Date: 04/18/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: America's Family</u>	1	Annette Howard	Pintailed Nonpareil		7
<u>Pet Expo</u>	2	Clara Gontero	Blk Cbeeked Waxbill pr.		6
<u>Location: Pomona, CA</u>	3	Paula Hansen	Shaftail		5
<u>Judge: Hal Koontz</u>	4	Sally Huntington	Button Quail	L-373-98	4
<u>Apprentice: Teri McAuliffe</u>	5	Steve Payne	White-hooded Nun	C-1604-96	3
<u># Exhibitors: 8</u>	6	Sally Huntington	Lightback Zebra	D-2668-98	2
<u># Entries: 70</u>	7	Steve Payne	Purple Grenadier		1

<u>Date:06/05/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: Illini Bird Fanciers</u>	1	Darla Dandre	Persa Touraco		9
<u>Location: Shelbyville, IL</u>	2	Martha Wigmore	Fawn Zebra cock		8
<u>Judge: Steve Hop-pin</u>	3	Richard & Rose Dickman	Chocolate Self Society	1324-99	7
<u>Apprentice:</u>	4	Darla Dandre	Bishop Weaver		6
<u># Exhibitors: 14</u>	5	Darla Dandre	Ringneck Dove		5
<u># Entries: 111</u>	6	Bob & Sue Rahe	Lavender	GC - 13-97	4
	7	Bob & Sue Rahe	Indian Silverbill pr.		3
	8	Tom Rood	Cream Zebra	D-4498-98	2
	9	Darla Dandre	Green Singing Finch	D-2740-97	1

<u>Date: 06/12/99</u>					
<u>Show: Heart of America</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Hookbill & Finch Society</u>	1	Jamie Jackson	Blue Gouldian cock	D-7946-97	4
<u>Location: Grandview, MO</u>	2	Jamie Jackson	Normal Zebra cock	D-6617-99	3
<u>Judge: Earl Courts</u>	3	Moses Linn	Starling		
<u>Apprentice:</u>	4	Jo Strange	Fawn Zebra cock	D-8745-98	1
<u># Exhibitors: 5</u>					
<u># Entries: 35</u>					

<u>Date: 06/05/99</u>					
<u>Show: Sociedad Avicultores Puertorriqueños</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
	1	William Figueroa	Pintailed Whydah		
<u>Location: Dorado, PR</u>	2	Juan Acevedo	Java Rice Bird		
<u>Judge: Harold Bowles</u>	3	Juan Acevedo	Gouldian		
<u>Apprentice:</u>	4	Luis Vasquez	Gouldian		
<u># Exhibitors: 9</u>	5	Luis Vasquez	Zebra		
<u># Entries: 51</u>	6	Luis Vasquez	Society		

<u>Date: 08/07/99</u>					
<u>Show: All Zebra & Society</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show - Society's</u>	1	Michael Marco-trigiano	Chocolate Self Society		
<u>Location: Grand-view, MO</u>	2	Bob Rittman	Fawn & White Society		
<u>Judge: Tom Rood</u>	3	Nita Haas	Dilute Chestnut Society		
<u>Apprentice:</u>	4	Bob Rittman	Red Grey Society		
<u># Exhibitors: 11</u>	5	Nita Haas	Chocolate & White Society		
<u># Entries: 54</u>	6	Felipe Bonilla	Fawn & White Society		

<u>Date: 08/07/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: All Zebra & Society</u>	1	Bob Vargo	Grey Zebra cock	709	
<u>Show - Zebra, Normal Variety</u>	2	Jamie Jackson	Grey Zebra cock - un-flighted	D-6612-99	
<u>Location: Grand-view, MO</u>	3	Bob Vargo	CFW Zebra hen	8463	
<u>Judge: Tom Rood</u>	4	Martha Wigmore	Fawn Zebra cock		
<u>Apprentice:</u>	5	Martba Wigmore	Fawn Zebra cock		
<u># Exhibitors: 14</u>	6	Martba Wigmore	CFW Zebra hen	D-3331-99	
<u># Entries: 85</u>	7	Bob Vargo	Grey Pied Zebra	2321	
	8	Bob Vargo	Fawn Zebra cock	8694	

<u>Date: 08/07/99</u>					
<u>Show: All Zebra & Society</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show- Zebra, Rare Variety</u>	1	Charlie Angel	Blk Face Fawn Pied Zebra cock	3473	
<u>Location: Grand-view, MO</u>					
<u>Judge: Tom Rood</u>					
<u># Exhibitors: 5</u>					
<u># Entries: 26</u>					

<u>Date: 08/21/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: Aviary & Cage Bird</u>	1	Felipe Bonilla	Lighthack Zebra hen	D-7241-99	9
<u>Society of S. FL</u>	2	Marcia David	Chocolate Self Society	E-1801-99	8
<u>Location: Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	3	Steve Hoppin	Senegal Firefinch cock	B-458-96	7
<u>Judge: Cecil Gunby</u>	4	Steve Hoppin	Parson cock	C-232-99	6
<u>Apprentice:</u>	5	Felipe Bonilla	Pbaeo Zehra pr.		5
<u># Exhibitors: 14</u>	6	Dale & Eileen Laird	Compassou		4
<u># Entries: 104</u>	7	Felipe Bonilla	Dilute Society	D-3391-95	3
	8	Felipe Bonilla	Fawn Zebra hen	D-575-97	2
	9	Steve Hoppin	Black Crested Finch	D-4627-97	1

<u>Date: 08/22/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: Aviary & Cage Bird</u>	1	Steve Hoppin	Parson cock		7
<u>Society of S. FL</u>	2	Steve Hoppin	Senegal Firefinch cock	B458-96	6
<u>Location: Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	3	Steve Hoppin	CFW Zebra cock	D-7656-99	5
<u>Judge: Armando Lee</u>	4	Felipe Bonilla	Dilute Society	D-3391-95	4
<u>Apprentice: Dale Laird</u>	5	Denise Di Fiello/ Adams	Gold Breasted Bunting		
<u># Exhibitors: 11</u>	6	Felix Rodriguez	Gouldian	D-5716-99	2
<u># Entries: 64</u>	7	Carrie Efstathion	Dove		1

<u>Date: 09/25/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: Durnam Avicultural</u>	1	Benjamin Moase	Heck's Grassfinch cock		
<u>Society of Ontario</u>	2	John DeGesus	Cream Zebra cock		
<u>Location: Pickering, Ontario</u>	3	Dwight Svorink	Blue-bill Firefinch cock		
<u>Canada</u>	4	Mike Manly	Star Finch pr.		
<u>Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau</u>	5	Keith Dickens	Diamond Firetail cock		
<u>Apprentice:</u>	6	Jose Medeiros	RH LB Yellow Gould		
<u># Exhibitors: 15</u>	7	Kerri McCoy	Parson cock	D-68216-99	5
<u># Entries: 150</u>	8	Vince Moase	Strawberry cock	C-17-99	4
	9	Janice Zahn	Fawn Zebra cock	BFB-37-99	
	10	Rickie Gaskin	Red Throat Parrot Finch cock		

<u>Date: 09/11/99</u>					
<u>Show: Greater Brandon Avian</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Society</u>	1	Steve Hoppin	Parson cock	C-232-99	6
<u>Location: Tampa, FL</u>	2	Bobbi Keenan	Red Cheek Cordon Bleu cock	B-318-99	5
<u>Judge: Cecil Gunby</u>	3	Steve Hoppin	Black Crested Finch		4
<u>Apprentice: Dale Laird</u>	4	Felipe Bonilla	Lightback Zehra		3
<u># Exhibitors: 9</u>	5	Armaodo Lee	Orange Cheek Wax-hill		2
<u># Entries: 57</u>	6	Armando Lee	Diamond Sparrow	C-6445-99	1

<u>Date: 09/25/99</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Show: Toledo Bird Assn</u>	1	Darla Dandre	Greater Indian Hill Mynah		9
<u>Location: Toledo, OH</u>	2	John & Jane Muscato	Fawn Zehra hen	D-5253-99	8
<u>Judge: Conrad Meinert</u>	3	Patrick Vance	White Breasted Gouldian	D-2605-98	7
<u>Apprentice:</u>	4	Jim/Theresa Pickel	Cream Zehra		
<u># Exhibitors: 10</u>	5	Patrick Vance	Pearl-headed Amadine		5
<u># Entries: 103</u>	6	Hishami Bassiouni	Blue Gouldian		4
	7	C.G. Schembri	European Goldfinch		3
	8	Larry Endsley	Chestnut Self Society		2
	9	Patrick Vance	Firefinch		1

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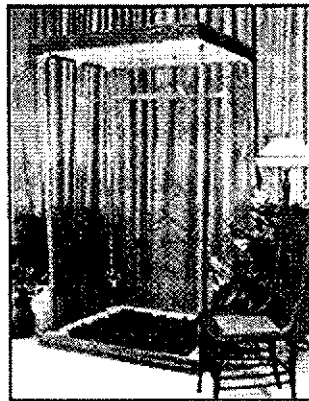
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The Blue and Purple Waxbills

By Ian Hinze

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Of all the Waxbills available to the aviculturist those of the genus *Uraeginthus*, the Blue and Purple Waxbills, are among the most popular. There are five different species in the genus with the Blue Waxbills or Cordon-bleus consisting of three species: the Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu (*U. bengalus*), Blue-headed Cordon-bleu (*U. cyanocephala*) and the Cordon-bleu or Blue-breasted Waxbill (*U. angolensis*). The Purple Waxbills are the Violet-eared Waxbill (*U. granatina*) and the Purple Grenadier (*U. ianthinogaster*).

While all five species should be considered delicate on first arriving from their native tropical Africa once settled they can be quite robust, the Blue Waxbills in particular. Nevertheless, this robustness has much to do with the temperature in which they are housed, at least 18°C (65°F) for the Blue Waxbills and 20-25°C (68-77°F) for the Purple, which can only be achieved in a thermostatically controlled heated bird room.

The best species for the beginner are undoubtedly the Red-cheeked and Blue-headed Cordon-bleus. Only one pair of either species should be housed in their own flight-cage, which should be a minimum of 4 feet long x 2 feet square. I prefer cages of the wooden box type with a wire front. This enables me to stack my cages one on top of the other, with a breeding pair to each cage. The birds are unable to see one another but their calls stimulate nesting activities, which is what would occur in the wild.

As well as heat, the bird room must allow for plenty of sunlight to filter through but with enough shade for the birds to retreat into. I like to hang a nesting basket high up at the back of the cage and towards the left hand corner. The reason for this is that, when the birds are nesting, all my feeding is performed in the right hand side. The birds soon realize that 'their side' is never disturbed. I should add that in front of the nesting basket I place a pot-plant, such as a bushy

Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina*). The best nesting materials are coconut fibers, 4-inch long sacking fibers and dried hay that has first been allowed to soak in hot water containing a few drops of bleach. This kills off any fungal spores that may have been growing on the hay when it was baled.

The staple food should consist of mixed white, yellow, Japanese and panicum millets with Canary seed. To this one can add lettuce seed and a British Finch mixture, which contains numerous seeds the birds enjoy. When in season, the ripe and half-ripe seeds of meadow-grasses can also be offered on the stalk. Green food by way of cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and carrot pushed through a hand-grater is also beneficial as is daily amounts of fresh egg food.

I don't offer live food to my Blue Waxbills until just prior to the breeding season, thereafter it is given throughout. Live food acts as a stimulant for breeding and is best offered gradually. Once eggs are in the nest it should be considerably increased thereby encouraging the birds to fulfill their nesting duties. The best live food is white-skinned mini-mealworms, wax worms and fruit-fly larvae.

The Blue-breasted Waxbill is not as commonly available as its' blue congeners and it is less frequently bred. Its husbandry needs are identical, however, but, primarily because of its rarity, it cannot be considered a beginner's bird.

The Violet-eared Waxbill and Purple Grenadier are definitely birds for the most accomplished aviculturist only. While often appearing hardy and sprightly in a bird dealer's establishment they actually require very specialized care. To start with, their flight cage needs to be a minimum of 6 feet long x 6 feet high x 3 feet wide. Once successful breeding is achieved it may be possible to house the young in smaller flights - but breeding is far from successful!

Again, only one pair per their own flight should be housed and the flight must be well planted. Because of the size of the flight the pot-plants, likewise, must be bigger. Weeping Fig is excellent as it grows into a lovely bushy tree and I have also found two *Philodendron* species excellent: the climbing philodendron (*P. erubescens*) and the sweetheart plant (*P. scandens*). *Philodendrons* are frequently

listed as being poisonous, but I have never once had a problem with the two listed.

The seed mixture, green food, wild seeds and egg food can be the same as for the Blue Waxbills, but the live food must be considerably varied and offered daily throughout the year. Besides that listed formerly, fruit flies, white worm, spiders, soft green caterpillars, aphids and young woodlice, etc., will all help to meet this requirement. Also, when in season, supply plenty of chickweed, including its seeds, and the half-ripe seeds of dandelion.

Essential at breeding time is to keep the heat in the bird room around 26°C (75°F) and make as little disturbance as possible.

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Awards Manager

Ginny Allen has been the Awards Manager for more years than she originally agreed to, but has decided it is time for her to turn position over to another volunteer. If you think you may be able to help NFSS by filling this position please contact Ginny at gdallen@earthlink.net or (334) 749-7168. For more details.

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Avian Conversations (continued)

Tom Riggs and Ross Bishop

NESTS AND NESTING MATERIALS

Tom: There is a great variety of nests and nesting materials. Regarding nests, my preference for finches are closed nests made of bamboo. I basically use 4 types of nests: large closed bamboo nests, small closed bamboo nests, tube bamboo nests (my Cubans are the only ones to use these), small closed boxes and small semi-closed boxes with a half open front. These last boxes are much recommended for Gouldians. I have never had a Gouldian nest in one!

It is important to clean and sterilize nests after chicks fledge. I use Dent-A-Gene to disinfect wooden boxes after cleaning them. I treat bamboo nests with boiling water and run them through the dishwasher.

Ross: I have had good success using closed plywood finch boxes. My gouldians and owls prefer them and I like them because they clean and disinfect fairly well. However, and I will never be sure about this, I bought a Gouldian from a lady who I later learned had an outbreak of Twirling Syndrome in her aviary. The bird I bought eventually came down with it and died. Some months later another Gould caught it and I have often wondered if the second bird didn't catch the virus impregnated in the wooden nest box. Incidentally, it was that experience that got me started disinfecting seriously with Oxyfresh.

My Stars, and Cordons on the other hand, won't go into a box. Many of them prefer the egg shaped closed millet or bamboo nests. I have also learned that birds and I sometimes have different ideas about what makes a good nest box. I was shipped some plastic nest boxes by mistake from one catalogue firm. I looked at them and thought that no self respecting bird would ever go near one of these! I was short on nest boxes, so I thought I'd try one. Most of the birds ignored them, but my Diamond Firetails just love them! So much for trying to think like a bird! I had the same experience with my Stars. The experts say that they prefer tubular containers, so I bought some, and built a couple of others, and none of my Stars (or anyone else for that matter) would go near them.

One trick I learned is to line nests and nest boxes with coffee filters (unbleached). It helps to contain the mess and makes the nest or box much easier to clean. It minimizes the spread of infection. You must be careful though, to cut a notch (I find that folding is not reliable) in the filter so that the nest opening will not become blocked. Then, weigh down the filter with nesting material so that the filter will not shift and flip over, trapping a bird. I keep several sizes (4 & 6) on hand for my various sized nests and boxes.

There has been a lot of discussion about nesting materials. I know that many people buy used burlap sacks from their local feed store, wash them and then unravel the threads for nesting material. I find my birds like this best. Coconut fiber is also used a lot. I find that wild grasses are also well accepted. The list of what can be used is almost endless. Some people buy a feather pillow and give the birds the feathers for nesting material. I'd want to know what chemicals the feathers had been treated with first, though. What I have learned is that various birds have preferences, and you need to present a variety of materials to suit those preferences.

Any material poses a risk, and the important consideration is to not use something that is strong or likely to catch a bird's foot in the nest. I lost a bird whose leg got

caught in a nest lined with excelsior and I will never use that material again.

I also learned an important lesson about having a variety of nesting materials available. I bought some Stars in the fall and they just weren't interested in nesting. I had coconut fiber and burlap available, so I thought they would use those things. But, no luck. I thought it was the birds. So, when spring came, as I usually do, I tossed some wild grasses into the bottom of the aviary. Within 2 days both pairs of Stars had built grass nests on top of plywood nest boxes, and I learned an important lesson about having the right materials available.

Tom: I use several kinds of nesting materials. There is a wild place behind my house that is not sprayed or anything. There are several types of grasses and weeds that grow there. I collect the grasses and take them into my utility room to dry. I cut them into 5" lengths and put them on a tray in the aviary. I also use coconut fiber, sterilized Goat hair and raffia or hemp string that I cut into 5" lengths and unravel. The hemp string is very popular with my birds. They use that first. I tried feathers once. All the birds did was pull the feathers out of the mesh bag and they went everywhere! I did not see any of the feathers get to the nest boxes. By the same token, many birds will use the molted feathers that are dropped in the aviary.

Open nests such as canary nests are used by birds such as Diamond Doves, Societies, Serins and Siskins. I don't know of any African or Asian Finch that uses an open nest. One point I should make here is that the closed bamboo nests are used by many birds besides finches. My Honeycreepers use them, my Reedlings have used them in addition to half open nest boxes. I think it is wise to give your birds a choice. Put a lot of them up, and see what happens!

Another technique I use is to place artificial greenery above each nest. This seems to give the birds a sense of privacy and comfort. I think it has encouraged breeding amongst some of the birds I keep. On caution: one should always get solid leaved plants. I once bought an artificial spider plant made out of nylon. This frayed in time and one of my Bearded Reedling hens got her leg caught in the nylon and lost her foot.

In the past I have used live plants in indoor aviaries with Gro-Lites, and it was very attractive, but it was a maintenance nightmare. I currently use a 6' artificial ficus tree in the middle of each flight. It offers a place for birds to hide, and I believe this helps reduce stress. It also provides a great place for fledglings to hide out during their first few days out of the nest. I pull the trees and hose them down when they get dirty. I find that I have to replace them about every 6 months.

LIGHT

Ross: The skylights in your aviary provide a wonderful source of light for your birds. What about some of the rest of us who are not so fortunate?

Tom: Good light is essential for healthy birds. There are two ways of getting that either naturally or artificially. There has been remarkable progress in artificial lighting during the last few years and I certainly recommend it for any indoor facility. I do not use artificial lighting because I am extremely fortunate to have skylights over my indoor aviaries which provide extremely good light. But, I am in the process of installing artificial lighting in my holding cages. I am not satisfied that these cages get the light that they need.

There are some very sophisticated computerized lighting systems that do all sorts of things - imitate moon phases, etc. They are expensive and complicated and I use one, in my outdoor aviary's shelter. Since tropical birds are on a reverse seasonal schedule - our winter is their spring - I simply lengthen the amount of artificial light to 14 hours

daily as the winters days shorten. As the summer comes on, I simply allow the natural light cycle to take over.

One thing that I have found is that with the skylights the birds receive intense light during part of the day and they just love it. You'll walk into the room and it's over 90 and you'll see Gouldians and Diamond Doves and other Waxbills sitting directly in a sunspot, lolling, sunbathing with their heads back and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Some birds do not like the sun, however. I have found that for long periods of time my Lorikeets will seek shade during hot periods and avoid direct sun. And, finally, one will be able to see the true beauty of their birds in sunlight - a beauty that no artificial light can equal in revealing, in my opinion.

BATHING

Tom: I think that proper bathing is one of the most important things for birds. The practical reason is that bathing encourages preening which in turn allows feathers to insulate properly. Most birds look beautiful when bathing is regular. One of the greatest mistakes I used to see with importers was to not allow birds to bathe immediately upon arrival. Most birds arrived sticky and unkempt and should have been offered bathing water immediately.

Ross: Birds naturally defecate and urinate when bathing and if the soiled bath water sits for any length of time in the warm sun, it's trouble just waiting to happen. Especially if one of your birds is carrying an infection that is not outwardly visible. We wouldn't bathe in contaminated water, and yet it surprises me that people expect their birds to stay healthy while bathing in soiled water.

Tom: Fresh water obviously gets soiled with droppings and seed and you run risks of all sorts of problems with fouled water. It is however, high maintenance when you are providing water bowls. They must be kept clean. Although it seems perfectly obvious, I often see even experienced aviculturists putting food and water dishes directly under perches. That is just asking for trouble!

DRINKING WATER

Tom: Certainly fresh drinking water is very important. It can be difficult to provide if you are using open dishes. I have the luxury of being home all day, so I often change water 4-5 times a day. Water dishes must be kept really clean. I use only reverse osmosis filtered water for my birds. The drinking water always has a vitamin supplement in it whereas bathing water does not.

Ross: One thing that many bird keepers do not appreciate is how quickly the supplement solutions recommended for drinking water turn toxic, especially on a warm day. Closed containers with nutrient rich chemicals are perfect breeding environments for all sorts of pathogens. This water must be changed and the containers sterilized at least daily. My drinking water containers are large, and I partially fill them so I am not pouring expensive additives down the sink each day. Water containing Nekton, for example, should be changed at a minimum daily to avoid the risk of the solution turning sour. Read the directions on the container. It's not worth the minimal expense to put your birds at risk.

Tom, you mentioned filtered water. Our tap water these days contains all sorts of chemicals - lawn and agricultural fertilizer, pesticides, heavy metals - the list goes on. Sink-top water filters are inexpensive and fairly effective. I think they are a good investment for both your family and your birds.

CLEANING FOOD AND WATER CONTAINERS

Ross: Another place that I think bird keepers need to be particularly careful regarding the spread of infection are food and water containers. You and I use somewhat different approaches. I'll talk about mine first and then ask you to comment. I keep two sets of food and watering containers and swap them out daily. One set is used while the other is being washed and sterilized. This allows time for thorough sterilization and gives the second set of dishes a chance to thoroughly dry. Thorough drying is another good pathogenic protection.

I use small plastic and pottery plant saucers for food, closed containers for drinking water and a large plant saucer contained in a much larger plant saucer (to catch over-spray) for bathing. The dishes are marked so that they go back into the same aviary, lessening the risk of spreading infection. Bathing water is changed at least twice daily, and in warm weather more frequently. I wrote about this in the Disinfectants article in the March/April NFSS *Bulletin*. I believe that article is available on the NFSS website.

I suppose one might ask do I need to disinfect? Let me to tell you my story - which is how I got in to all of this in the first place. I have two aviaries, mostly finches. I did a pretty good job of cleaning. I'm not a clean freak, and I don't have a lot of spare time, but my aviaries were certainly not dirty. Once a week they got washed down with detergent and then Vanodine.

I went for a year and a half with no baby birds. I knew something had to be wrong but I couldn't find an answer. The birds looked OK, no one was visibly ill. They looked just about like everyone else's. I played with diet, with lighting, with temperatures, I tried anything and nothing worked - I was at my wits end.

Someplace along the line I started to wonder if general health was an issue, so I started looking into Vanodine and found out that it didn't work very well as a disinfectant. Then somebody turned me on to Oxyfresh's cleaner and disinfectant and I tried them. After all that time of frustration, I am sitting here today, 6 months later, with nests and cages full of baby birds and adults whose condition is terrific. I thought they were fine before, but now I know what really alive and healthy birds look like, and I am stunned by the difference! Although I thought I was doing right by my birds I think that now they were constantly fighting off pathogens, and weren't up to breeding. Because of what I learned, I have started a number of other folks here on Oxyfresh, and I can see the visible changes in their birds, too. I think that cleaning and disinfecting this way is the best thing we can do for our feathered friends. And, another factor to consider is that with increasing CITES restrictions each bird we have becomes even more precious. Every one that we can keep alive makes captive species survival that much more possible, and we need that!

Tom: I certainly agree with everything you are doing. I do things a bit differently. I let the dishwasher do most of my disinfecting. I have extra sets of food and water dishes and everything is removed and washed daily.

Anything that nectar touches is a different matter. Disinfecting is essential with nectar because nectar fouls so quickly and foul nectar is a terrible risk to birds. I use a solution called Desi-Lux which is produced by Nekton. Everything can be treated in it which I find is essential for all nectar tubes and dishes.

FLOOR COVERING

Ross: I use newspaper on the bottom of my aviaries. I find that it works well, and requires me to clean them frequently, which I think is a good thing. The fresh, fre-

quently changed surface limits the spread of infection. On the negative side, it also means going into the aviary and creating a disturbance, which I am told can cause problems for nesting birds. I have not experienced this, however. You use another approach. Would you tell us about it?

Tom: I have tried everything at one time or another (walnut shells, pine shavings, etc.). None were very satisfactory. Several years ago I discovered a company in Montana called Bird Country that makes a litter of pelleted grass. This material is highly absorbent and doesn't harm the bird if ingested. I use it in all my indoor flights. I do rake over the litter, remove that which becomes soiled under perches and replace it with fresh. The litter is changed every 4-6 months, at breeding breaks. This works well for me.

I think that newspaper works well and I use it in my holding cages, for my pet Cockatoo, Green Cheeked Conure and my 29 year old Senegal Parrot. But, I do not use it in the breeding flights because I feel that the frequent changing is too disruptive to the breeding process.

VACUUMS

Ross: One dilemma we all face is cleaning up the chaff and seed on a cage or aviary floor. Birds make a mess! It is so easy to reach for the vacuum and suck it all up. While I know a lot of people do this, it is not the best idea. While sucking up chaff, the vacuum is also sucking up all sorts of germs, viruses and mold spores and blowing them right back out into the air for sensitive birds to breathe. We have to remember that a bird's respiratory system is far more responsive than ours and although it is easier for us to clean this way, it does add a risk factor to our bird keeping. I have not had the chance to check out some of the new vacuums with HEPA filters, to determine how well they might work in this situation.

Tom: I, on the other hand, use a shop vac daily, and I have never had a problem that I could trace to this practice. I do, however, also have a HEPA air filter with an ozonizer which runs 24 hours a day in the bird room, plus a ceiling fan which is vented to the outside. In really warm weather I can also open the bird room door to the outside. Maybe these are factors in my not having problems caused by vacuuming.

CAGE CLEANING

Tom: Cleaning cages is, of course, very important. For my holding cages and parrot cages etc. The paper is changed daily. I clean the perches before they get dirty. Eventually the whole cage will need cleaning. I fill the bathtub up with hot water and Oxyfresh Cleansing Gel, put the cage in the tub let it soak a few minutes. Then scrub it down with a stiff brush. I then spray with Oxyfresh Dent-A-Gene to disinfect. For larger cages, I take the outside, hose them down, do the Oxyfresh and Dent-A-Gene thing and allow them to completely dry in the sun. How often depends upon what type of bird is kept in it and how quickly it becomes soiled.

NAIL CLIPPING

Tom: Nail clipping is also often neglected by bird keepers. Nails must be clipped. Not only is it uncomfortable for the bird to sit around on long, overgrown nails, it is dangerous. Birds with overgrown claws can get caught on everything - cage wire, nesting material, and can sprain or even break their legs, rip off toes, etc. This was really brought home to me when I had a friend who had a pair of hanging parrots. These birds are very prone to overgrown claws. One of the birds had a night fright and its claw be-

came entangled in the wire it was hanging from, and it shattered its leg. The bird had to be put down. You see many finches in shops with lost toes, even broken legs because their claws have not been clipped. And by properly clipped I mean that you must remove the hook of the claw. Just clipping the tip of it won't do. You've got to remove the hook so that it will not get caught. There are certain birds like Weavers, Strawberries, Goldbreasts, in fact, most of the reed-bed birds, whose nails grow extraordinarily fast and must be maintained regularly. How often? As needed. I keep an eye out and if I see a bird with its nails getting too long I catch it up and trim. One thing I do when I receive new birds is to check their nails and, if needed, clip them immediately before putting into holding cage.

Birds with clear claws are much easier to clip because you can see the vein, and clipping is fairly straightforward. Birds with black claws are another matter. You have to judge as best you can, and you are going to have an occasional problem. It happens to everyone. Either you misjudge where the vein should be or the bird moves at a critical moment and you end up with a problem.

I have never lost a bird to loss of blood from nail clipping, but you don't want to be cavalier about it. On the other hand, don't panic. Have materials on hand ahead of time and move swiftly and decisively. For smaller cuts a Styptic pencil is quite effective. An ointment called Quell varies in effectiveness. You can dip the foot in hydrogen peroxide and it will sometimes help. If the bleeding is bad you can cauterize the claw. If you smoke you can use a cigarette, otherwise heat an instrument like a knife blade and apply it to the wound. Although the thought of doing this is somewhat daunting, this is a very effective technique. The claw tissue is largely dead so the bird feels very little. If this happens to you, isolate the bird until you are certain that the bleeding has stopped.

Nail clippers for thicker claws works well (i.e., whydahs, weavers, reedlings, and most of medium sized softbills).

Ross: Clipping nails has been a nightmare for many bird keepers. I know it used to be for me. When I started keeping birds I picked up a pair of cheap nail scissors from a local pet store. I now refer to them as "butcher shears". Trying to use these things made clipping nails an utter nightmare. Nail cutting day in our aviary was an absolute horror. These clippers didn't allow me to see where I was cutting and I got a lot of bleeding and learned a lot more than I ever wanted to about cauterizing. Someone suggested getting a really good set of shears. I spent about \$12 on a good pair of professional nail clippers from Hombeck's, and it's been the best thing I have done in the aviary.

I still keep a styptic pencil handy in case I make a mistake. And I think it's a good idea. I also learned that if you really blow it and can't stop a clipped nail from bleeding, the edge of a heated knife applied to the wound will cauterize it. It's a drastic step, but better than having a bird bleed to death.

I have also learned to schedule my clipping sessions so that they do not coincide with nesting periods. It's pretty disruptive to catch and clip a whole aviary, and you just don't want to do that during breeding season.

Note: If you have suggestions, comments, ideas, or disagreements, we welcome your thoughts. You can send them to Ross Bishop, P.O. Box 6105, Santa Fe, NM, 87502 or email ross@dsrt.com. We will try to respond to comments in future columns.

End

CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising (display ads), Inside cover \$300/yr or \$70/issue. Full Page \$200/yr or \$50/issue. 1/2 page \$120/yr or \$30/issue. 1/4 page \$80/yr or \$20/issue. Web site advertising \$100/yr, \$50/yr for Inside cover advertisers. Classified ads are \$.25 per word for NFSS members and \$.30 per word for non-NFSS members. Classifieds are also posted to the web site at no additional charge.

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Finchsava Update
Daniel R. Almaguer
Finchsava Director/Census Manager

Happy New Year 2000 to everyone and may you all have a successful breeding season... The weather here in Orlando, Florida has been very mild and warm, my flocks are thriving, unfortunately our members up North are not quite so lucky. Please take precautions if you are breeding finches in cooler weather and keep an eye out for egg bound hens. Roberta Goren a former NFSS member told me a little secret about how to treat egg bound birds and it really works.. Purchase a medium size reptile terrarium and place a heating pad underneath the terrarium, you may overlap the heating pad on the sides of the terrarium for additional heat source. Next, place a wet hand towel inside the terrarium and sit the finch on top of the wet towel, the humidity will help the hen pass the egg in a matter of minutes, it has worked every time for me.

I put an GATORADE lid with water and another with finch seed, spray millet to help the egg bound bird more comfortable in the temporary hospital cage. I also put a 3 volt light on top of the terrarium and this accessory can be purchased to fit right on top on the terrarium (same brand), be careful this provides additional heat to the sick bird.

I would like to tell everyone that the March/April NFSS Bulletin will have the 2000 Annual Census form and I urge all NFSS members to participate this year. A listing of all finch species by name and genus will be provided in the same issue from the 1999 Annual Report. This is help you fill out your 2000 Annual Census without having to look them up in you finch books... No excuses, this helping you and NFSS. I would really appreciate you taking the time to fill the Annual Census form out this year and please help us make a difference.

Ian Hinze our new member of the NFSS Finchsava Committee will have his first story published in the NFSS Bulletin this issue, thank you Ian. Ian has a new column GLOBAL FINCH NEWS in Eng-

land's CAGE & AVIARY BIRDS weekly publication, in addition to his column in BIRDTALK. If you should have any questions for Ian Hinze on finches or softbills, feel free to email me at DRAFinch@aol.com or call me at (407) 894-3808. Ian resides in England and we can publish the question with answer in the next NFSS Bulletin.

Please notice that SE BIRD SUPPLY and CO. has a full page ad in this issue and Sigie Meyer has many species of finches/softbills and parrot type for sale. This is your opportunity to order new bloodlines and I urge all interested parties maybe place one order together to save on air freight delivery charges. The airline delivery is usually close to \$100.00 depending on the airlines, order with a group of people and ship to the closest large airport in your area. If one splits the shipping between four people the cost of air freight is very affordable. I have ordered from Sigie three times to date and have been very pleased with my birds. I must warn you that on some occasions birds are stressed during the shipment process and can die at the drop of a hat after arrival, it can happen.

One main contributor is after arrival it is very important to place food and water in open containers everywhere in the quarantine cage. If the new birds are not familiar with the feed hoppers and tube waters, they can die of starvation/ thirst in a day. This has happened to me and please learn from my mistakes when I purchased some society finches at a local bird show, they couldn't find the water in the tube waters. If your birds have squinty eyes that is a definite sign that your birds are very thirsty, put an open dish of water either perch level and on the floor of the cage immediately. Please keep new birds out of drafts, provide the proper diets and keep in low traffic areas of your aviary. I highly recommend an electrolyte called SAVE-IT if your birds should appear dehydrated, this product is a yellow powder and looks like GATORADE. The Higgins Pet Premium Foods can sell SAVE-IT, a ten package box to you by calling 1-800-878-2666, they advertise in the NFSS Bulletin. This is your chance to order and I urge all to at least consider ordering to help improve your future generations of birds with more diversity of new bloodlines.

Daniel Almaguer, (407) 894-3808, DRAFinch@aol.com

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Champion Status Achieved

NFSS policy dictates that with the achievement of each Champion Bird the Society will donate \$50.00 to an avian cause on behalf of the exhibitor. My Senegal Fire finch (B-458-96) achieved this title in 1999 with a total of 69 points. I would like the \$50.00 donation to go to the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine with the stipulation the money go to a senior student who has an interest in pursuing Avian Medicine, whose interest is in companion birds and who is a Florida resident with intentions of practicing in the State of Florida.

Regards,
Steve Hoppin

1999 Affiliated Clubs

STATE	CLUB NAME	DELEGATE	CONTACT#
Internet	First Internet Bird Club	Myra Markley President@bird-club.org	319-362-9390
AL/ FL/GA	Tri-State Bird Fanciers	Ginny Allen Gndallen@earthlink.net	334-749-7168
CA	Amer. Family Pet Expo	Sally Huntington Huntington-center@worldnet.att.net	619-452-9423
CA	Aviary Assoc. of Kern	Leon Harris LHARRIS887@aol.com	805-588-4511
CA	Capitol City Bird Society	Mariana Mejia	916-452-2037
CA	Central California Cagebird Club	Richard Pizzurro	408-927-0734
CA	Finch Society of San Diego	Sally Huntington Huntington-center@worldnet.att.net	619-452-9423
CA	Santa Clara Valley Canary And Exotic Bird Club	Richard Pizzurro	408-927-0734
CA	South Coast Finch Society	Edna McConnell	714-828-2607
CO	Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture	Jim Norman JIMNSP@aol.com	303-427-6260
CT	CT Association for Aviculture	Laura Sherman	914-266-5617
CT	CT Canary & Finch Club	Alfredo Robles	860-956-9410
FL	Aviary and Cage Bird Society	Carrie Efstathion Carrie2@juno.com	954-432-3349
FL	Colorbred Club of Miami	Nora Trincado	305-255-2661
FL	Florida State Fair	Dale Laird Dalel2@prodigy.net	407-657-7989

FL	FL West Coast Avian Society	Joy Johnson Joyfeathers@yahoo.com	941-966-6238
FL	Greater Brandon Avicultural Society	Joy Pace Jpace97p@tampabay.rr.com	813-685-6324
FL	Suncoast Avian Society	Joe Ventimiglia	813-392-9391
FL	Sunshine State Cage Bird Society	Dale Laird Dalel2@prodigy.net	407-657-7989
GA	Georgia Cage Bird Society	Bill McElveen Billmcelveen@mindspring.com	770-926-3830
HI	Honolulu Canary and Finch Club	Kathy Perreira ALA1884@aol.com	808-839-2269
IL	Greater Chicaco Cage Bird Club	Jane/John Muscato JAMJDM923@aol.com	630-305-9043
IL	Illini Bird Fanciers	Tom Rood Tjrood@bmmhnet.com	217-774-5265
IL	National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries	Stephan Hopman Birdhop@aol.com	815-469-8455
IN	Indiana Bird Fanciers	Conrad Meinert BirdmanofWaaraw@kconline.com	219-269-2873
IA	MidAmerica Cage Bird Society	Rhoda Shirley	515-243-1511
KS	Kansas Avicultural Society	Chris Gunderson	316-685-9364
MD	Baltimore Bird Fanciers	Barbara Shannon	410-356-5858
MA	Aviculturists of Greater Boston	Laura MacDonald Laura.MacDonald.b@bayer.com	781-961-6952
MA	Massachusetts Cage Bird Association	Kathy Vieweg Kathy_vieweg@hphc.org	617-730-4821

MI	Great Lakes Avicultural Society	Diana Hugo Hugo@iserv.net	616-842-0163
MI	Motor City Bird Breeders	Ron Girling Parrotmcbb@aol.com	810-751-8265
MI	Society of Canary and Finch Breeders	Patrick Vance	248-443-0643
MO	Greater KC Avicultural Society	Nita Haas TJHaas@OasisKC.net	816-331-5285
MO	Heart of America Hookbill & Finch Society	Moses Linn Mosses43030@aol.com	816-423-4661
MO	Midwest Zebra and Society Finch Club	Nita Haas TJHaas@OasisKC.net	816-331-5285
MO	Missouri Cage Bird Club	Rich/Rose Dickman Skdatl@inlink.com	314-928-3444
NH	Birds of a Feather	Dr. Al Decoteau SPBE1@aol.com	603-672-4568
NM	New Mexico Bird Club	Gail Ranshaw	505-822-1483
NY	NY Finch and Type Canary Club	Stan Kulak Barstand@erols.com	718-967-6899
NY	Rochester Cage Bird Club	Patrick Goonan Patrick-Goonan@www.hotmail.com	716-288-5653
NC	Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society	April Blazich Aprilb@bellsouth.net	919-851-8079
OH	Cleveland Cage Bird Society	Annette Howard Sale_ah@ACCESS-K-12.org	330-337-7654
OH	Ft. Defiance Bird Club	Larry Endsley	419-263-2795
OH	Toledo Bird Association	Rick Yunker OPRRLY@UOFTO1.UTOLEDO.EDU	405-382-7066

OK	Bird Fanciers of OK	Don Lackey	405-948-3349
OK	OK Cage Bird Society	Laura Bewley LBEWLEY@yahoo.com	918-622-8511
OR	Finch Connection Bird Club	Paula Hansen	503-584-8208
PA	Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society	Margie Jonnet MJONNET@katz.pitt.edu	412-795-1904
PR	Organizacion Jacky Civitarese Puertorriquena De Aves Exoticas		787-752-4433 Lix4me@aol.com
SC	Aiken Bird Club	Don Haller Donsbirds@scescape.net	
TN	Middle TN Cage Bird Club	Darlene McDonnell	615-355-4250 R211MCD@aol.com
TN	Southeast TN Aviculture Society	Janet Burrell	423-472-1306 SQUAWK_Talk@webtv.net
TX	Canary and Finch Society	Margie McBrayer	281-338-2814 Ulmspaatz@evi.net
TX	Fort Worth Bird Club	Clarence Culwell	817-220-5568 Culwell5@flash.net
TX	TX Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association	Clarence Culwell	817-220-5568 Culwell5@flash.net
TX	Texas Canary Club	Pierre Ata	281-448-1188
VA	Peninsula Caged Bird Society	Dick Ivy Dickivy@two-rivers.com	757-898-5090
WA	Cascade Canary Breeders Association	Kenneth Foster Kenneth.r.foster@bocing.com	206-938-6072
WS	Badger Canary Fanciers	Sue Feldstein	414-965-5362
CANADA	Durham Avicultural Society Of Ontario	Bob Yake	905-433-3944
	Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society	Alfred Mion	519-948-6398

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 DH63JT England
Great Britain	The Waxbill Finch Society	Buzz Hope- Inglis	10 Litchfield Close Plympton, Plymouth PL73UU, England
Great Britain	Zebra Finch Society	Margaret Binns	97 Bent Lanes Davyhulme, Nr. Urmston, Manchester M418WZ, England
New Zealand	New Zealand Finch Breeders Association		293 Albany Highway Albany, New Zealand

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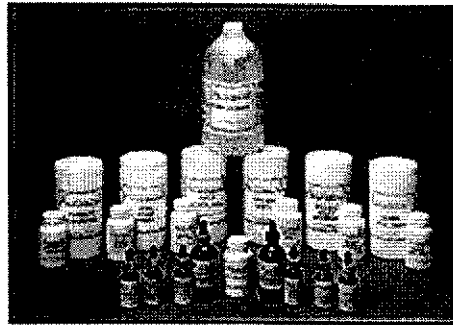
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Blue Capped Cordon Bleu-25 pair @	\$ 44.00 pair	Twinspots-Dybowski's (MALES)	\$ 80.00 pair
Blue Capped Cordon Bleu-50 pair @	\$ 40.00 pair	Red Faced Crimson Wings	\$ 80.00 pair
Canaries	\$ 34.00 each	Waxbill- Yellow Bellied	\$ 80.00 pair
Canaries- 10 each @ (quantity)	\$ 32.00 each	Zebra Finches- Black Cheeked	\$ 60.00 pair
Canaries-25 each @ discounts	\$ 31.00 each	Zebra Finches-English Type	\$ 25.00 pair
Canaries-100 each @	\$ 29.00 each	Zebra Finches-English-10 pr @	\$ 20.00 pair
Diamond Sparrow	\$ 150.00 pair	SOFTBILLED BIRDS	
Fire Finches- Black Billed (MALES)	\$ 75.00 pair	Beaded Barbets	\$ 205.00 each
Fire Finches- Blue Billed (MALES)	\$ 75.00 pair	D'Arnauds Barbets	\$ 97.50 each
Nuns-Black Headed	\$ 26.50 pair	Fairy Bluebirds	\$ 567.00 pair
Nuns-Black Headed- 10 pair @	\$ 26.00 pair	Green Broadbills	\$ 1,280.00 pair
Nuns-Black Headed-25 pair @	\$ 25.50 pair	Lilac Breasted Roller	\$ 250.00 each
Nuns-White Headed	\$ 24.50 pair	Maggie Robin	\$ 225.00 each
Nuns-White Headed-10 pair @	\$ 24.00 pair	Mouse Birds	\$ 150.00 each
Nuns-White Headed-25 pair @	\$ 23.00 pair	Robin Chats	\$ 158.00 each
Nuns-White Headed-50 pair @	\$ 22.50 pair	Shama Thrush	\$ 225.00 each
Owl Finches	\$ 98.00 pair	PARROT TYPE BIRDS	
Painted Finches	\$ 325.00 pair	Australian King Parrot	\$1,200.00 pair
Parrot Finches- Blue Faced	\$ 140.00 pair	Bourke Parrakeets- Normal	\$ 30.00 each
Parrot Finches- Red Headed	\$ 175.00 pair	Bourke Parrakeets- Rosey	\$ 50.00 each
Parson Finches	\$ 86.00 pair	Greater Vasa Parrots	\$1,200.00 pair
Purple Grenadier	\$ 250.00 pair	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	\$ 3,000.00 each
Rosey Rumped/E. African Red Ears	\$ 19.50 pair	Med. Sulphur Crested Cockatoo	\$ 600.00 each
Rosey Rumped-10 pair @	\$ 19.00 pair	Princess of Wales Parrakeets	\$ 147.50 each
Rosey Rumped-25 pair @	\$ 18.50 pair	Red Rumped-Lutino + Split	\$ 300.00 pair
Rosey Rumped-50 pair @	\$ 18.00 pair	Red Rumped- Pied	\$ 350.00 pair
Rufous Backed Mannikin	\$ 32.00 pair	Red Rumped- Pied + Split	\$ 275.00 pair
Spice Finch	\$ 24.00 pair	Rock Pebbler	\$ 320.00 pair
Spice Finch-10 pair @	\$ 23.00 pair	Rosey Breasted Cockatoo	\$ 1,000.00 each
Spice Finch-25 pair @	\$ 22.00 pair	Timeh Gray Parrot	\$ 295.00 each
		Triton Cockatoo	\$ 800.00 each

ALL PRICES ARE F.O.B. SAN GABRIEL CA LIVE DELIVERY GUARANTEED, IN CASE OF ACCIDENT CLAIM MUST BE FILED THE SAME DAY AND WE MUST BE NOTIFIED WITHIN 24 HOURS, PAYMENT BY CASHIER'S CHECK OR MONEY ORDER IN ADVANCE WITH ORDER. IF DELIVERY CANNOT BE MADE FOR ANY REASON YOUR MONEY WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU, FOR UNDERS UNDER \$300.00 ADD \$20.00 FOR HANDLING.

PLEASE SEND NAME OF AIRPORT BIRDS ARE TO BE SHIPPED TO AND YOUR PHONE NUMBER SO YOU CAN BE CONTACTED UPON THEIR ARRIVAL. IF ADVANCE NOTICE IS DESIRED WE WILL CALL YOU COLLECT. ALL SHIPMENTS ARE SENT FREIGHT COLLECT, PAIRS IF POSSIBLE, SEX NOT GUARANTEED. CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS PLEASE ADD 8.25% SALES TAX. ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. IF VETERINARY CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED ADD \$40.00 AS WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THE BIRDS AFTER LEAVING OUR FACILITY. WE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DISEASE NOT EVIDENT AT THE TIME OF SALE. STATION OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY CALL (626) 287-4040.

NFSS Board of Directors 2000-2001

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<p style="text-align: center;">Band Secretary Carol Heesen P.O. Box 752 Riverbank, CA 95367 Phone: (209) 869-2603 Fax: (209) 869-5987 Email: carol@birds2grow.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">President Emeritus William Parlee 631 Talcottville Rd, Apt 4N Vernon, CT 06066 Phone (860) 569-0200 Email: BillHTFDCT@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Regional Vice President Region 1 - Northeast Christine Voronovich</p>

<p>Regional Vice President Region 2 – Southeast Armando Lee P.O. Box 831238 Miami, FL 33283 Phone (305) 270-1000 Email: ajlee@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Regional Vice President Region 3 – Mid-Central Nita Haas Raymore, MO 64083</p>	<p>Regional Vice President Region 4 – Midwest Clarence Culwell 250 Horseshoe Drive Springtown, TX 76082 Phone: (817) 220-5568 Email: culwell5@flash.net</p>
<p>Regional Vice President Region 5 – Mountain Jim Norman 8303 Navajo Street Denver, CO Phone: (303) 427-6260</p>	<p>Regional Vice President Region 6 – Pacific Coast Sally Huntington 5634 Carnegie Street San Diego, CA 92122 Phone/Fax: (619) 452-9423 Email: huntingtoncenter @worldnet.att.net</p>	<p>Regional Vice President ProTem Region 7 – Caribbean Julio Mateo</p>

Appointed Officers

<p>FinchShop Manager OPEN</p>	<p>Web Site Manager Harry Bryant 37212 Butternut Ridge Elyria, OH 44035 Email: utuweb@aol.com</p>	<p>NFSS Editor Steve Poe 4310 Ascot Road Hephzibah, GA 30815 Phone: (706) 790-5262 Fax: (706) 721-6828 Email: stevepoe@mindspring.com</p>
<p>Advertising and Promotions Manager Daniel Almaguer P.O. Box 533015 Orlando, FL 32853-3015 Phone: (407) 894-3808 Fax: (407) 894 6400 Email: DRAFinch@aol.com</p>	<p>Awards Manager OPEN</p>	<p>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.</p>

NFSS Panel of Judges 2000-2001

Stephen Hoppin, Panel Chairman

3836 Hidden Acres Circle, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903

Phone: (941) 997-2237

Fax: (941) 997-NFSS

Email: N2finchs@peganet.com

<p>Charles Anchor 630 Lake Park Drive Addison, IL 60101 630-543-3757</p>	<p>Laura Bewley 3538 S. 65 W. Avenue Tulsa, OK 74107 918-446-3999</p>	<p>Harold Bowles 230 College Circle Cedartown, GA 30125 Phone: 770-748-4627 Fax: 770-748-3969</p>
<p>Earl Courts 1807 NE Colburn Lee's Summit, MO 64086 Phone: 816-554-3922</p>	<p>Jacky Civitarese A-1 Calle 1 Quintas de Country Club Carolina, P. R. 00982 Phone/Fax: 787-752-4433 Email: Lix4me@aol.com</p>	<p>Clarence Culwell 250 Horseshoe Drive Springtown, TX 76082 Phone: (817) 220-5568 Email: culwell5@flash.net</p>
<p>Dr. Al Decoteau P. O. Box 369 Groton, MA 01450 Phone: 603-672-4568 Fax: 603-672-3120 Email: spbe1@aol.com</p>	<p>Daren Decoteau 89 Pleasantview Avenue Stratford, CT 06497 Phone: 203-377-2049 Email: cddeco@aol.com</p>	<p>Cecil Gunby 8121 Route 1, Hwy. 54 Sharpsburg, GA 30277 Phone/Fax: 770-254-1261</p>
<p>Sally Huntington 5634 Carnegie Street San Diego, CA 92122 619-452-9423 Email: huntington-center @worldnet.att.net</p>	<p>Ray Johnson 175 Stoneridge Way Fayetteville, GA 30214 770-461-8675</p>	<p>Clayton Jones P. O. Box 266 Soquel, CA 95073 Phone: 408-728-8676</p>
<p>Hal M. Koontz 2604 Auburn Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93306 Phone: 805-872-1063 Fax: 805-634-1147 Email: Hkoontz@atsecure.net</p>	<p>Joseph Krader 2910 Alps Road Corona, CA 91719 Phone: 909-272-6525</p>	<p>Dale Laird P.O. Box 2459 Goldenrod, FL 32733 Phone: 407-657-7989 Email: dale12@prodigy.net</p>
<p>Armando Lee P.O. Box 831238 Miami, FL 33283 Phone (305) 270-1000 Email: ajlee@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Dennis J. Lewis 7446 Glasgow Road Brooksville, FL 34613-7466 Phone: 352-596-3376 Email: doveart@atlantic.net</p>	<p>Brian Mandarich 4743 E. Hedges Avenue Fresno, CA 93703 Phone: 209-255-6508</p>

<p>Teri McAuliffe 3029 Reche Road Fallbrook, CA 92028 Phone: 760-723-3983 Fax: 760-731-0403 Email: jnglprds@aol.com</p>	<p>Conrad Meinert 1212 E. 300 South Warsaw, IN 46580-8736 Phone: 219-269-2873 Fax: 219-269-3142 Email: BirdmanofWarsaw@kconline.com</p>	<p>William G. Parlee 631 4N Talcottville Rd. Vernon, CT 06066 Phone: 860-569-0200 Email: BillHTFDCT@aol.com</p>
<p>Tom Rood 313 N. Broadway Shelbyville, IL 62565 Phone: 217-774-5265 Email: tjrood@bmmhnet.com</p>	<p>Marion Miki Sparzak 517 Old North Point Road Baltimore, MD 21224 Phone: 410-282-9233 Email: spbe2@aol.com</p>	<p>Patrick Vance 18175 Avilla Lathrup Village, MI 48076 Phone: 248-443-0643</p>
<p>Christine Voronovitch 38 Liberty Street Manchester, CT 06040 Phone: 860-649-8220</p>	<p>Martha Wigmore 18913 Boston St. NW Elk River, MN 55330-1155 Phone/Fax: (612) 241-0071</p>	<p>Paul S. Williams 703 Donegal Drive Papillion, NE 68046 Phone: 402-592-5488 Email: RofTide@ix.netcom.com</p>

Changing your address?

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

Be sure to notify:

Club Delegates also notify:

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

NFSS Liaison Officer
 Dianna Rubly
 1102 Allen Street
 New Cumberland, PA 17070

Name: _____
 New Address: _____
 City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Membership # _____

2000 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

The basic affiliation fee is \$25.00. Make check payable to NFSS.

Mail to: Dianna Rubly, Liaison Officer
1102 Allen Street
New Cumberland, PA 17070
Phone/Fax: (717) 774-3354

Club Name: _____
Club Delegate: _____
NFSS #: _____ Expiration Date: _____
Address: _____

*Phone: _____ *Email: _____

*NFSS may use this information in the NFSS Bulletin and on the web site.

Delegate's Signature: _____

Club Officer: _____
Address: _____

*Phone: _____ *Email: _____

Club Email Contact: _____

Show/Event Date: _____ Panel Judge: _____

Show Location: _____

Send NFSS Bulletin to: _____

Please list other fairs or events hosted by your club for listing in the Bulletin. Please include dates, locations, and a contact member with phone number and/or email address: _____

AWARD ORDER FORM FOR SHOWS/EVENTS

Award order forms for shows and events will be sent to each affiliated club as soon as possible after the affiliation papers are processed by the Liaison Officer, Dianna Rubly. Allow a minimum of eight weeks before the actual show/event to process the order. The form and fee *must* accompany the order.

The prices remain the same, however, we have added a new rosette. Many clubs have indicated a desire to have an official Novice rosette with the NFSS logo. These have been designed and will be available for \$5.00. There are no NFSS rules regarding this award. Each club will set its own standard.

These are the 1999 awards available:

Ck Box	PLAQUES	Cost
	All plaques are \$25 each. They are walnut finish with the engraved NFSS logo on brass over black plate on one side and the club information on brass over black plate on the other side of the plaque. They can also be customized by	
	Service/Breeder Award Plaque (7"x 9")	\$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	
	The basic set consists of ten 15" long rosettes for the ten best finches or softbills, plus one best unflighted rosette. Unflighted birds are those banded with 1999 bands.	
	Basic Rosette Package	\$35.00
	Unflighted 2nd and 3rd place rosettes	\$7.00
	Novice Rosette	\$5.00
	Total amount of check payable to NFSS	

For more information on awards, contact the Awards Manager:

Ginny Allen
307 Brookwood Court
Opelika, AL 36801
Phone/Fax: (334) 749-7168
Email: gndallen@earthlink.net

**The National Finch and Softbill Society
Membership Application**

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 New Member? _____ Renew NFSS#? _____
 How did you hear about us? _____

Annual Dues:
 Single: \$25 Dual: \$30 Junior (under 16) \$12.50

* 2nd name for Dual Membership _____

U.S. & Puerto Rico 1st Class mailing add \$5.00
 Canadian add \$5.00, Foreign add \$10.00 (Please send US funds)
 Canadian and foreign subscriptions mailed 1st Class.

NFSS thanks you for your support!

Mail application and check or
 money order payable to NFSS:
 Eileen Laird
 NFSS Band Secretary
 P.O. Box 2459
 Goldenrod, FL 32733-2459
 (407) 657-7989

**The National Finch and Softbill Society
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: _____

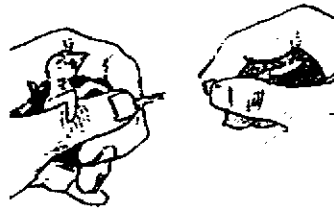
What would you like to accomplish through FinchSave?

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

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

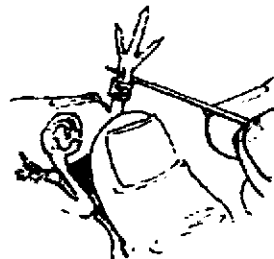
The National Finch and Softbill Society Banding Procedures

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 help 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 should now 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 leg.

**The National Finch and Softbill Society
Band Order Form**

Mail form and payment payable to NFSS:
 Carol Heesen
 NFSS Band Secretary
 P.O. Box 752
 Riverbank, CA 95367

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. Please, no mail requiring signatures. **\$1.00 handling fee effective 3/1/99.**

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	

Postal Insurance: Under \$50 = \$.85 From \$50 - \$100 = \$1.80 Over \$100 = \$2.75 If you choose NOT to include this sum, NFSS will NOT be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.	Subtotal: _____ Insurance: _____ Handling \$1.00 Total: _____
---	--

Name: _____ NFSS # _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Phone: _____
 Email: _____

**The National Finch and Softbill Society
Guide to Ordering NFSS Closed Leg Bands**

Bird Species	Size	Bird Species	Size
Aracaris	S	Gouldian Finch	D
Black & White Mannikin	C	Green Singing Finch	C
Black Cheeked Waxbill	B	Green/Purple Starlings	R
Black Crested Finch	E	Grey Singing Finch	C
Blue Capped Waxbill	C	Heck's Shaftail	C
Blue Head Parrot Finch	D	Hornbills (small)	T
Bronze Wing Mannikin	C	Indian Hill Mynah	S
Cherry Finch	C	Java Mynah	S
Chestnut Breast Finch	D	Java Rice Bird	K
Cordon Blue Waxbill	B	Lavender Finch	C
Cuban Melodious Finch	B	Leaf Birds	M
Diamond Dove	L	Magpie Mannikin	G
Diamond Sparrow	E	Mannikins (most smaller)	D
Dove (other small)	L	Mannikins (other larger)	G
European Goldfinch	J	Nuns	E
European Greenfinch	E	Olive Finch	B
Fire Finch	B	Orange Cheeked Waxbill	A
Gold Breasted Waxbill	A	Owl Finch	A
Golden Song Sparrow	E	Pagoda Mynah	M

NFSS welcomes comments and suggestions for this Guide
Contact the Home Office

Bird Species	Size	Bird Species	Size
Painted Finch	C	Silverbills	C
Parrot Finch (most other)	D	Siskins	E
Pekin Robin	J	Society Finch (Bengalese)	E
Peter's Twinspot	E	Softbills (other small)	J
Pictorella Finch	D	Softbills	L
Pileated Finch	C	Spice Finch	E
Pintailed Nonpareil	D	Star Finch	C
Plush Capped Jay	T	Strawberry Finch	A
Pytilias	C	Sunbirds (large)	M
Quail	L	Superb Starlings	R
Quail Finch	A	Tanagers (small)	G
Red Crested Cardinal	K	Toucanettes	S
Red Eared Waxbill	A	Toucans (small)	T
Red Head Parrot Finch	C	Touracos (small)	T
Ring Neck Dove	S	Twinspots (most)	D
Rufous Backed Mannikin	B	Waxbills (small)	A
Saffron Finch	K	White Tailed Jay	S
Shaftail Finch	C	Yellow Rumped Finch	D
Shama Thrush	K	Zebra Finch	D
Silver Eared Mesias	J	(intentionally left blank)	()

ITEM	SIZE/STYLE	EA.	Q T Y	TD L
New NFSS T-Shirt -- Ten Colorful Finches in Stalks of Grass, White Only, 50/50 Blend	Circle Size: M L XL XXL	\$18		
Video: "The Wonderful World of Finches & Softbills: An Introduction	Members/Affiliates Non-Members	\$17 \$22		
NFSS Show Cage Plans	Circle Size: #1 #2 #3	\$4		
All Three Show Cage Plans	Save \$2 by ordering all three	\$10		
Eric Peake Lithograph The Diamond Firetails Signed by the Artist		\$35		
New Video! Finch Husbandry	Add \$3.20 S&H	\$25		

NFSS Plastic Water Bottle		\$6		
NFSS Zebra Pin		\$6		
NFSS Gouldian Pin		\$6		
NFSS Name Badge (Members Only) Comes with one line of engraving. Print name clearly.	Second line of engraving add \$1. For magnetic back, add \$1.50	\$7.50		
Past bulletins, 1994 and later issues		\$4		
Past bulletins, 1993 and earlier issues		\$3		
1998 NFSS Handbook Membership Yearbook		\$4		
NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards	NEW AND AT A LOWER PRICE!!!	\$10		

FINCHSHOP
The National Finch and Softbill Society Store
ORDER FORM

NFSS Membership # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Shipping & Handling:	Total
Orders \$10 and under add \$2.00,	
orders \$10.01 and over add \$3.00 \$ _____	\$ _____

Mail form and payment
 (check or money order payable to NFSS) to:

FINCHSHOP
 Attn: Ms. Julie Duimstra
 4201 NE 125th Place #163
 Portland, OR 97230

NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS
 #1 Cage – Finches up to and including Zebras,
 #2 Cage – Finches larger than Zebras, #3 Cage – Softbills

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Bird

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N.E.S.T.

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

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aviculturist to realize viruses and diseases are
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Give your birds that needed protection
And yourself some piece of mind.

The "all new" OMNI N.E.S.T. for 1998 is finally here!
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Call for details and our free color brochure.