

Journal of the

National Finch & Softbill Society

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On the Cover....

This issue's cover is a photograph of a **European Black Brown Society Finch** bred by the late Bob Rittman. Our thanks to the photographer, Roy Beckham, for sharing this wonderful picture with us.

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Journal of the National Finch and Softbill Society

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NFSS President's Message, Sept. 2002



Our vacation was not for the birds.....

I managed to coordinate our vacation, to Australia, to coincide with the **First Triennial Finch & Seed-eater Convention**, in Brisbane. I can not imagine any other country as friendly to American aviculturists as the Aussies! We talked birds!

The focus for the close to 200 participants (from all around the world) of the 3 day convention varied from aviary tours, the sharing of individual experiences as aviculturists, to very frank disclosure of detailed medical information by veterinarians. Though avid bird enthusiasts, the Australians are hampered by current laws prohibiting importing, and a lot of their efforts are to counter in-breeding.

After Australia, off to Tampa, Florida for the annual AFA Convention. NFSS was proud to have sponsored Roland Cristo as our representative speaker. We got more than our money's worth. He presented a well prepared session and slide show on Cissa's, and then participated in the informal meeting of NFSS.



A "friendly" Pied Butcher Bird enjoys some crumpets with Sally in Australia.

It is plain to see, NFSS has gained a terrific amount of respect and support from AFA for our Finch and Softbill Save, especially with the cut-back on bird imports. Formally and informally, AFA participants strongly encourage NFSS to continue to do census work. We are known to be the only group to collect this kind of information on finches.

While in Tampa for the AFA, I delivered more (now over 20) hand

raised finches to aviculturist Sherry Branch, in Orlando, who is in charge (among other things) of the birds at Sea World's 'Discovery Cove'. I was very impressed at the way the birds are managed, including that the visitors to the park are given a small cup of food, letting the birds come to them. It works out very well, and, if you want a pleasant day of swimming with the porpoises, scuba diving and walking among the very people-friendly birds of all sizes and shapes, you may wish to visit. Call for reservations. The number of people that are allowed in the park each day is limited.



An Australian Red-Browed Finch (Neochmia temporalis), one of the many birds on display at the First Triennial Finch & Seed-eater Convention in Brisbane.

In regard to USDA, who was very present at the AFA convention: the bad news is the control law **does** include finches and softbills. The good news is they are short funds, time, and people to define the procedures to enforce the new law. The USDA representatives' message was clear. Stay organized, stay tuned in to their programs, and be the loudest voice.

The National Cage Bird Show in Santa Clara will be a good place to meet and talk birds. Remember, you do not have to show any birds to participate or volunteer during this event. It is just good fun, a great time out, and the best way to keep contacts fresh.

Sally Huntington, NFSS President

Breeding Cissas and Other Asian Corvids

Family: *Corvidae* Sub-Family: *Corvinae* Tribe: *Corvina Cissa*

By Roland and Ilana Cristo

"Cissa are perhaps the most beautiful of the whole family" (Delacour). Of all the birds in the Corvid family, Cissas are perhaps the most sought after in aviculture.

There are three species of Cissas with 12 sub-species. The Green Magpie (*Cissa Chinensis*), also known as the Long-tailed Hunting Cissa in aviculture, comes from the Malay Peninsula up into Annam (Vietnam) and as far north as China. Four (4) sub-species are on the mainland with one (1) sub-species *C.c. minor* coming from the islands of Sumatra to Burma. We have the mainland sub-species *Cissa c. Klossi*, and *Cissa c. Minor*, the island sub-species, which is smaller than the mainland birds.

The Short-tailed Hunting Cissa (*Cissa Thalassina*) comes from two islands, Java and Borneo. We have a female of the Javan sub-species *Cissa t. Thalassina*. The Short-tailed has quite a musical song much like a songbird's. The other species we keep don't seem to

Three sub-species of the Yellow-breasted Magpie (*Cissa Hypoleuca*) come from Annam (Vietnam), Laos and Thailand. There are two isolated sub-species in China. The Yellow-breasted have a longer crest

and display it far more often than the other species. The species we keep are the nominate *Cissa h. Hypoleuca*.

Habitat

Cissas live along the border of the subtropical and tropical forest from sea level to 1800+/- . In their natural habitat, they spend most of their time in the lower shrubs and are generally not seen but heard. When not breeding they gather in small parties and move through the forest, joining forces with laughing thrushes. They feed close to or on the ground, consuming small insects, small reptiles and birds.

They are solitary nesters, the nest being described as a "large, rather flat platform of twigs interwoven with leaves, bamboo and roots, cup lined with finer plant material, built in low shrubbery, bamboo thickets, vine tangles in the canopy of a small tree".

Cissas are a little larger than the American Blue Jay (13"-14"). They are a beautiful light green color with chestnut red colored wings, a black mask and red-orange beak, feet and eye ring. The green color seems to fade to a light blue color in captivity if the birds are exposed to

too much sunlight and perhaps not given enough carotenoids in the diet. The males seem to turn more bluish than the females. The young we have raised all had bluish or turquoise feathers. Interestingly, Lynn Hall, Fruit Dove breeder and expert, informed me of seeing recently caught birds that were entirely blue at bird markets in Singapore. They do seem to spend most of their time in the aviary shelter or in the shade of the plants in the aviary.

The word "hunting" does describe the method the pair uses to capture their prey. When the prey (usually a feeder mouse) is spotted in the grass; the pair of cissas will stalk it together, (like a brace of dogs), on either side of the aviary until it is cornered. At that point the male will usually make the kill.

Housing

We live at an elevation of 1200' and the temperature gets below freezing at night during the winter (down to 15 degrees). The birds are housed in walk-in flights, 3' X 4' wide and 16' to 20' long. The flight sections are 6' high. The under-cover sections are 8' high and 4-6' long and covered on three sides. The perch in this section is 2' higher than the perch in the flight area. This protects the birds from any wind. We have automatic waterers that continually drip. The central aisle way has a night-light. It provides just enough light if the birds were startled off their perches to allow them to see where they are going.

We have a mister system that is

controlled by a 96 setting timer (timed for every 15 minutes) and a thermostat. Each one can override the other. When the temperature goes above the thermostat setting it will turn on the misters if the timer is at an on setting.

We try to plant at least one podocarpus plant in the aviary. In fact the long-tailed Cissas have built their nest in it 2 years in a row.

Feeding

Basic Diet

The Cissas are fed "soft food" mix (appendix A) daily along with ground beef heart (Chili grind) and mealworms. The soft food is a moistened mixture of the basic diet. Defrosted mixed vegetables are added to the soft food every other day. Dry food mix (appendix B) or basic diet is kept in their cage constantly. Ingredients for both are listed later in this paper.

Mice

We feed mice sporadically throughout the year. When the hen starts building her nest we feed mice daily in the early morning. Once the hen is setting, we feed mice again in mid-afternoon. The mice are served alive in a mixing bowl. We believe this helps keep the male occupied. We have had males that predated eggs stop when fed mice every day during the nesting period.

In earlier years we fed mice four times a day when babies were on the nest. By the 21st day we were feeding 20-25 mice a day. Since

then, once the young are half feathered or more, at about 12-14 days, we only feed mice in the early morning and in the evening. At noon, they get another serving of ground beef heart.

Breeding Cissas

We have bred Long-tailed Cissas every year since 1997 and Yellow-breasted Cissas since 1999.

Nest, Nesting & Breeding

We buy baskets from import stores and nurseries to use for nesting receptacles for the birds. The approximate dimensions vary from year to year. This year the baskets measure 9" inside diameter at the top and are 5" deep. What we look for after the nest is built is to only see the hen's head while she is setting. She is still able to see over the edge when she sticks her head up.

We mount the baskets onto an upside down "L" shaped platform in such a way that eggs and young can be checked on a regular basis without any difficulty of taking down and putting back up. We place the basket up in a corner of the shelter section. We have had hens that nest from 4' off the ground to 7' (top of shelter).

We use "rushes" (appendix C) as nesting materials. We have had hens that built a neat nest in 1 day. We have found that if not enough material is provided at one time for the hen to complete her nest she will build and tear down her nest.

There are times when a hen will

lay her eggs in a basket without constructing a nest. When we have a hen that doesn't build a nest we will construct a nest for her out of rushes and mowed grass at the bottom of it. The birds will sometimes immediately lay in such a nest. But most of the time they will tear it apart until such time as they are ready to lay. Therefore it is a continual job of us rebuilding their nest until eggs are laid. Once eggs are laid they generally don't tear the nests apart. We have done this with Cissas, Blue Magpies, Treepies, and Jays with good results.

The hen will generally lay 3-4 eggs, one each day. She will "set" between the first and the second egg. During incubation, there don't seem to be many problems. Incubation is 18-20 days. Chicks are hatched bare-naked and look like food.

The male keeps vigil guard. At first the hen will come off the nest when hearing someone approach the flight. Shortly into incubation, she will "set tight" unless someone comes into the aviary to drop mice in their feeding bowl. As the incubation continues, she will stay on the nest even after the flight door is opened, especially when the eggs are close to hatching. At this time, the male sounds an alarm or becomes aggressive. She may leave the nest temporarily, always going to a high perch. (The Yellow-breasted always go to the ground). About two (2) days prior to the eggs hatching, the male seems to become even bolder and more aggressive, hitting me on the head as I feed mice in the mornings. Once chicks hatch they seem to be de-

voted parents.

In about 18-20 days, the eggs begin to hatch, showing completely naked, sightless and helpless chicks. The parents feed the chicks mealworms and pieces of mice for the first 3-4 days after hatching. After 3-4 days the parents stop feeding mealworms. After 5-6 days, the numbers of mice given the parents are increased to 3-4 per feeding and served 2-3 times per day. It appears that all parts of the mice are either fed or eaten by the parents. Remnants of the mice could not be found. The parents throw up castings much like a raptor.

Babies have pinfeathers at approximately 11 days. Their eyes open at 12 days. Up to approximately 12-14 days old, the parents are given 10-15 mice per day and served 3 times per day. The parents stopped eating soft food and beef heart for a while. It was quite hazardous serving the pair. The female would leave the nest calling and complaining and the male would scold and dive at the person entering the aviary. The offering of food meant nothing to him. He even drew blood from my ear.

The babies grow quickly and the food offered is also increased. At approximately 20 days the oldest or strongest (we assume) baby starts to perch on the edge of the nest. The rest perch shortly after, about 2-3 days.

At about 25 days the chicks are standing on the perches away from the nest. They could be found on the ground and are able to hop and scramble up the perches to the

highest perching "branch" and nest. During this entire time they are always fed soft food, and ground beef heart. At about 24 days old, the soft food mix and more beef heart start to disappear. We never actually see the chicks eat the food but the amount was increased and it always seems as though less was left. They also start to eat the dry mix as more of that disappeared also.

The amount of mice served is decreased and the amount of beef heart and soft food is increased. At 29 days, the chicks are increasing their activity and will fly to the "outside" perches and hop along the branches and perches. They start to call and scold like the parents. The Yellow-breasted will fully display their crest feathers. At 31 days their landings are much more accurate. Soft food consumption increases along with ground beef heart.

The young have all feathered out a powder blue color. We presume this is due to the lack of carotene in the diet the young are being fed, as the basic diet for the first two weeks is meat. They don't become the same color as the parents until they go through their first adult molt yet. They appear to be a blue-gray color instead of the turquoise or light green of the parents. Their beaks are also grayish in color and their feet are a fleshy pink color instead of the adult orange color.

Other Asian Corvids

The Blue Magpie
(*Urocissa erthrorhyncha*)
and the
Rufous Treepie
(*dendrocitta vagabunda*)

Blue Magpie

These birds are very much the same shape as our common American Magpie. Body size is about twice that as our Blue Jay with a long graduated tail, total length 26 +/- inches long.

Their head, neck, upper mantle, and upper breast are black. There is a large, pale whitish area from near or mid crown to nape and hind-neck. The breast is off-white to white in some birds. The upper parts are a dull medium blue washed mauve; upper tail coverts scaled black; wings, mantle, and upper-tail mauve blue with each feather tipped white. The bill and legs are red. No obvious sexual dimorphism is apparent. There are five races recognized.

Habitat

They can be found in subtropical and temperate foothill evergreen forests between 300m ascending to as high as 3,000m in the summer. They range from Eastern and S. Eastern Asia along the Himalayas, Foothills north and east through most of eastern China.

Blue Magpies are arboreal birds, moving in small parties, frequenting clearings and ravines. Their diet is much the same as Cissas to which they are closely related.

Breeding

It is very interesting to watch the male display to his mate. He will face his mate and approach her walking along the perch. He will tip his body to one side. He partially

spreads his wings and raises and spreads tail while singing a low pitch song to her.

We have bred the Blue Magpie for several years. The ecology is comparable to the Cissas. We use a similar basket that is larger.

Rufous Treepies

Treepies are a little bigger than Cissas and smaller than Blue Magpies. They are 19+/- inches long including the tail. The tail is 11-12" long. The head, neck, breast and upper mantle are a sooty black to black (hens are normally less intense black). The mantle, back, and scapulars are a darker brown-rusty orange; wing coverts and tertials are a pale grayish white continuing with the brownish-black of the rest of the wing. Tail feathers are grayish white to white ending in a black terminal band. The two central feathers are elongated. Sexes are very similar.

Habits and Habitat

The Treepies range from Pakistan east through all of India to southern Vietnam. They are found in most habitats throughout their range and are considered one of the most common birds in India. They move about in pairs and small parties associating with pigeons and barbets.

They rarely spend time on the ground. Their diet includes invertebrates, fruit, small birds, lizards and rodents.

In Captivity

During display the birds will face each other bowing and touching beaks. The call is fabulous. It is a loud metallic flute/bell-like sound done first by the male then female. We have bred the Treepies for three years. Their breeding requirements are similar to the Cissas although they are not as dependent on mice to feed their young.

Cissas, Blue Magpies, Treepies and Aviculture

Corvids (crows, magpies, jays) comprise a family of more than 100 species. They are distributed world wide except in the Polar Region. As aviary subjects, they are fascinating and very intelligent. These three species particularly so.

They shouldn't be kept in a mixed specie aviary, unless the aviary is very large, well planted and the other birds are similar or larger sized. They are fascinating, kept as pairs. They are easy to care for and long lived. There have been accounts of Blue Magpies living for more than 20 years.

Information on keeping and breeding Cissas is sparse and inaccurate. For example, in our research, the information on Cissas states that they are reclusive. Our experience from working with the three species is that they are bold and curious. Unlike the Blue Magpies and the Treepies, the Cissas are at the feed trays every morning as we place the food in the aviary.

In captivity, the Blue Magpie is the most commonly kept bird fol-

lowed by the Cissas then the Treepies.

The basic problem with these species is the lack of communication between individuals who keep them. This is true with many species though. Without communication through some kind of forum and studbook set-up, aviculture in the United States will lose most of the fascinating birds it has known.

For several years a group in the AFA has tried to start a "Softbill Society" with no success.

The National Finch and Softbill Society has been around for many years. It's about time that those I'll call the "AFA Softbill" people join NFFS and start working with their birds in the Finch and Softbill Save program.

My fascination with corvids began when at the age of 12 I helped my brother hand raise 20+ native magpies and some crows. Through the years, I have found that the corvid family is far more intelligent than any of the birds I have worked with, including any psittacines. Plasse & Angell write "Of all birds, Corvids have the largest cerebral hemispheres, relative to their body size. Under operant conditioning methods, crows have been found to be superior in intelligence to all other avian species tested".

Ihana's fascination with corvids began in 1964 when she hand raised an Eastern Blue Jay. It proved to be an intelligent, mischievous clown. It kept itself busy and amused by causing chaos and teasing all the other birds in the

house. It was very bold and always stole objects from pockets and various places in the house to hide them somewhere else. This is a natural behavior but none the less frustrating and comical. It was later acclimated back to "nature" and set free.

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Plasse, Chelle; 1992 AFA Proceedings, Corvids.

Sunset Western Garden Book, Sunset publishing

Woolham, Frank; The Handbook of Aviculture, Blandford Press.

APPENDIX A

Soft Mix

1 part Kaytee Mynah pellets
1 part Purina Nutriblend Green pigeon feed
1 part Dog food
1 part game bird chow (crumbles)
2 parts defrosted frozen mixed vegetables

Soak each of the parts above, except game bird chow, individually in one part water each, when the soaked parts are softened, mix all parts together.

APPENDIX B

Dry Mix

1.5 parts Purina Nutriblend Green pigeon feed
1.0 parts Kaytee Mynah pellets
parts Science Diet light cat food

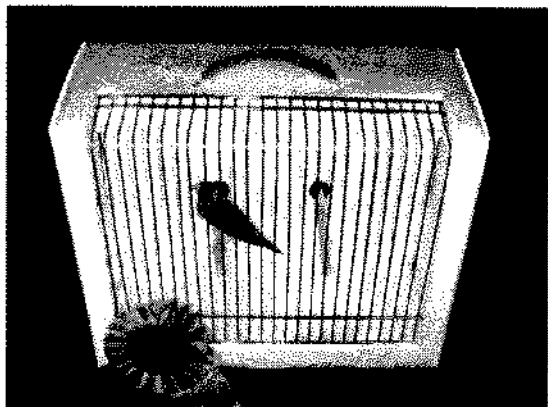
APPENDIX C

Rushes – Juncus

"Rushes somewhat resemble grasses, with leaf like, cylindrical stems and tiny, inconspicuous flowers clustered near stem tips. Specialists usually suggest planting them with grasses or aquatic plants at the edge of a pond or stream, in water"

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Bob Rittman

By Jim Warburton, London, England

The Internet has opened up the international world of aviculture extremely rapidly in the last few years. Bird-keepers can now learn with ease what species are kept and bred by fellow fanciers in almost every part of the globe. Information and advice on every aspect of bird keeping is available on a vast amount of personal web-sites from the USA to the UK and beyond. Internet chat groups abound, dealing with every species of bird that we keep, breed or exhibit.

It was through the Internet that I was contacted initially, via my web-site, by Bob Rittmann, a fancier from the USA—New Jersey—Weehawken to be precise, and a fellow Society Finch enthusiast, although that's not quite the word to describe Bob's passion for what he called Society Finches and we in the UK call the Bengalese Finch.

Bob began with a few general questions, perhaps testing the water to see if I actually knew anything, and then the questions came thick and fast. Once, twice a day e-mails arrived and answers were despatched.

My credentials were accepted and soon I began to learn more about what Bob described as his "Mission", the objective of which was to upgrade the status of the Society Finch in the USA, and to foster and promote interest in their keeping, breeding and exhibition, an aim I understood having myself been pursuing this same goal in the

UK.....

An import of Japanese Meeuwen (Dutch Society Finches) had been made into the USA by Bob and he believed this to be the first serious import of these birds into the USA. He told me that sometime in the past birds of this type had arrived there, but he believed more by accident than design, and now were lost having been introduced into the American type birds of the time. Bob was certain he now had in these radically different looking and striking "Euro Societies" the perfect birds to begin to fulfil the objectives of his mission.

Bob coined the phrase "Euro Societies", he said, to distinguish them from American Societies, and he set about breeding and promoting them to his fellow fanciers in the USA.

Our first meeting was at the Dutch National Bird Show, Vogel '99 in Apeldoorn, Holland in January 1999. For me it was a day trip almost—drive overnight to the show, spend a day there, and drive back. Bob was there for a week. We had little time to chat. My time was limited. I needed to use most of it to view the exhibits and so we chatted as we walked around. Bob and I found we had much in common in most aspects of not only bird-keeping, but of life, and we became firm friends that day.

Our contact grew over the Internet. I mentioned to my wife that

Bob lived almost in New York just through the Lincoln Tunnel. She thought, "Shopping!", and a chance to get me to spend money on something that didn't sing and possess feathers.

So soon plans were made to spend a week in New York combined with a visit to Bob, and then

en route to the USA and Bob's bird-room. Also sent were birds obtained from leading UK fanciers plus a few from myself, mainly colour mutation Silverbills, that were not allowed into the USA and so remained in Canada.

His health problems never stopped him attempting any project to do with his Euro Societies. He travelled to shows both in the USA & Europe, visiting both myself and fanciers in Europe regularly, where his enthusiasm for the Society Finch gained him many friends among his fellow bird-keepers.....



Bob Rittman

Michael
Marcotrigiano

Jim Warburton

Boston in the Cold—1999

the rest of the time in Boston with a visit to another Society enthusiast, Michael Marcotrigiano. This was the first of 4 trips I made to visit Bob and his Mum, and I could relate many amusing stories of interest that came from these visits, most nothing to do with the birds.....

In 2000 Bob came to stay with me. We spent a week in Holland visiting Vogels 2000 and the leading fanciers in Holland and Belgium, where Bob obtained more Japanese Meeuwen. These came home to do their quarantine with me in the UK before being despatched to Canada

I was awakened in the early hours of the morning of Thursday, 4th June, 2002, by my telephone ringing. It brought to me the sad news of Bob Rittmann's passing. I had lost a good friend and Aviculture had lost a

dedicated fancier from its ranks.

In the short time I knew Bob he became part of my family. He will be greatly missed by us all. He was a Gentleman in every sense of the word.....

His "Euro Societies" have been distributed to enthusiastic fanciers in the USA and hopefully as time goes by, they will begin to spread across the country, inspiring novice and experienced bird-keepers alike to take up the challenge and continue to fulfil Bobs mission objectives....

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WOLVES AND NEWTON'S THIRD LAW

By Clint Harris
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***Author's note:** This article originally had its genesis in the form of a lively exchange between San Antonio, Texas breeder, Jack Eitniece, and the author, on the NFSS Internet Forum regarding minimal sustainable populations of finches in the wild. The author was invited to rework his posts into an article for the NFSS Journal. The article is not meant to be a treatise on the subject. It is simply an overview of a very important topic. The writer welcomes comments and criticisms.*

Science has created mathematical models for what is believed to be minimal sustainable populations (MSP) of all creatures in their natural environments. The MSP is simply the smallest number of living creatures needed to maintain that specie's existence, while simultaneously preserving enough genetic diversity so the specie does not breed itself into extinction. Over recent decades these figures have changed and evolved to reflect such things as accelerated habitat destruction, poaching, and ecological disasters - both man made and natural. The thrust of this article is to examine, from a lay person's point of view, what realistic MSP's might be and how these relate to the hobbyist in his or her pursuit to breed domestic strains of Finches and Softbills.

Several models have been put forth ranging from as high as 7000 individuals to one of the most current and widely accepted models of 500. The 500 model is actually fifty

individuals. Scientists believe that only fifty individuals are required to keep a specie viable in its respective environment. But because not all fifty would be breeders (too young, too old, sick, lame, injured, infertile) it is suggested that this number be multiplied by a factor of ten. Thus the fifty becomes 500. Depending on one's world view, these may be either very large figures or embarrassingly small ones. Speaking specifically about Estrildid birds, the viewpoint of the writer is that large numbers are needed to achieve even maintenance levels of a given specie, let alone permit that specie to increase its numbers. This writer's view regarding a seemingly large genetic base of individuals (and certainly not all would be unrelated) is from a long-term standpoint. While documentation may be provided for much smaller populations of birds who have been successful in more remote and harsh environments, such as certain Arctic birds, this appears not to be the case with many Australian and

African Finches. Early explorers reported huge flocks numbering in the several hundreds, if not thousands, covering very expansive ranges.

It may be that large populations are necessary, at least for certain Estrildian species, for them to be sustained over the length of a 100-year span of time and beyond. In the natural course of events, populations may rise and fall, but nature has taken into account many environmental factors, save one; human intervention.

"Yep, Them finch people was right."

Regardless of what scientists predict a minimal sustainable population may be in the wild, it remains unproved theoretical conjecture, and certainly no verifiable real world example exists. 99% of all animal species that have ever lived are now extinct. The only way to ascertain if the 500 model, 7000 model, or any model, is correct is to return to the subject environment many decades or even centuries hence. It will be there that scientists sheepishly shuffle their feet as they admit, "Yep, them finch people was right. Cuttin' down them trees, and burnin' them fields was a bad thang for all them purdy birds we used to see flyin' around here."

It seems doubtful that anyone can accurately predict a population for all species - mammal or bird. Many countries from which threatened species originate, irresponsibly wield or abuse their natural resources. Some governments turn a blind eye to poaching or illegal trap-

ping, or simply lack the resources to enforce laws to protect their indigenous fauna. This mismanagement results in the often wanton myopic destruction of habitat and the unabated demise of living creatures. These wildly unpredictable factors wreak unmeasured havoc on theoretical projections.

Greed over Pi to the 3rd Power

How does one enter negative human dynamics into a calculator? Can we compute greed over pi to the third power? Even the best efforts of a conservative and responsible nation like Australia have been less than entirely successful in curtailing habitat loss, and thus loss of wild grass finches. In a very real way, that country's government and her dedicated aviculturalists stand in the breach for all that love and maintain captive populations of Finches. While mathematical models they might apply in a perfect, pristine environment, this writer cannot accept they accurately factor in catastrophic events - man made or natural.

Huge forest fires have raged out of control in the western United States during the spring and summer of 2002, scorching city-sized chunks of forests and grasslands. Hundreds of thousands of acres have been blackened. Imagine what fires of this magnitude would do to Gouldian habitats in Australia? Their current territory has shrunk to a fraction of its former range. Further consider the sheer vastness and remoteness of that land. Australia, like the United States would be hard pressed to successfully combat multiple fires simultane-

ously. At the very least one or more breeding seasons would be lost, food sources would all but disappear, and potential nesting sites and protective foliage would be nothing but charred skeletons and ash. There would be greater competition with other more aggressive species of birds and animals for the remaining meager supplies of food and water. Surviving Gouldians would be forced to migrate to unfamiliar territory and compete with other struggling species. There might not be a single Gouldian finch alive inside of a few months—if that long. The results would be irrevocably catastrophic and could occur in the short span of a few months. This is why small numbers of wild populations cannot be relied upon to sustain even maintenance levels, let alone increase any given species population.

Pervasive Steamroller Mentality

To sustain the long term health and symbiotic relationship between all things in the natural world, nature has factored in such diverse and seemingly harmful events such as 100-year floods, lightning-strike forest and prairie fires, insect infestations of plague proportions, and drought among many others. But nature has taken appropriate fail-safe measures to ensure the survival of every species - at least until said species has been selected for extinction. But the pervasive steamroller mentality of many human beings adds unfortunate cataclysmic dynamics to the order and function that are the peaks and valleys in nature. Human beings are predictably unpredictable. In one way or another, man taints the deli-

cate tapestry spun on ecological looms.

Consider a given Finch or Softbill species in the wild. They instinctively move about in a constant search for food, water, shelter, mates, but they contend with a myriad of environmental circumstances along the way - some harmful and some beneficial. But it is there, in fog-shrouded misty rain forests, rolling savannas, dense scrublands and endless deserts that the often mysterious, yet eternal struggle of life and death is played out through the instincts imprinted in adult birds. They have a "good copy" of their particular specie's genetic blueprint, and thus possess the potential to become viable members in a larger, extremely delicate, yet complex ecosystem. They have a fighting chance to survive.

The Wisdom of Heroic Intervention

In any given bird room or aviary, a "runt" is probably the exception and not the rule. If such a one appears many breeders choose to hand feed it or relegate the hapless creature to some trusty society finch that would likely attempt to feed a baby penguin. The writer will not comment on the wisdom of such heroic intervention, as this is a personal decision. However, please consider that if the runt survives through the loving care and nurturing of the ardent aviculturalist, does that bird now become an artificial survivor, and thus do we introduce a likely genetically unfit member into an already strained and weakened gene pool? In nature, runts also occur. But more often than not,

therunt dies in the nest or very soon after fledging, as only the most fit are selected to survive. In our quest to exhibit mercy, we may actually be tampering with that which has been genetically ordained.

The writer rhetorically asks, "Do we know better than parent birds? Do we possess the intuition to detect faint and subtle signs in begging behavior or other postures of baby birds in the nest? Can we supplant instinct and the 10,000-year-old imprint of DNA?"

Wolves...Efficient Genetic Policemen

Nature has selected wolves as one of the primary and most efficient "genetic policemen", and their contribution of maintaining healthy herds of migrating ungulates cannot be understated. The wolves' primary targets are the weak, lame, injured, sick, and otherwise genetically suspect. Nature uses the wolf to cull undesirable members of a specific population. This way only the smartest, most wily, and physically robust herd members survive. Basically, if an elk can be caught and eaten by a wolf, it had no business as a potential contributor to the genetic gene pool. Though it seems cruel to watch the "passion play" meted out on National Geographic Explorer, nature dictated such things many millennia ago - and it works.

Artificial Eden

But captive bred Finches and Softbills seemingly face no wolves. In our aviaries and bird rooms they encounter few, if any predators. An

occasional visitation by snakes may be their most dangerous hazard. We go to great lengths to prevent or minimize disease and pestilence, but we may harm our birds by not allowing them to build reasonable levels of natural resistance to even the most common bacteria. Remove the antibiotic, and the bird succumbs for want of appropriate immune mechanisms. By virtue of a multi-billion dollar pet and animal industry, we benefit from a cornucopia of state-of-the-art seeds, pelletized foods, supplements, vitamins, additives and the like. Our birds are housed in clean cages with full spectrum lighting, controlled temperatures, regulated humidity, misters, and manufactured photoperiods. They are neither required to hunt for food or drink hastily at the water hole for fear of stealthy hawks, or slinking goannas. Most of these amenities are necessary to replicate an environment to encourage birds to breed and to promote their general health and sense of well being. They do, however, exist in an artificial Eden.

Many birds which would otherwise not possess sufficient survival skills and desirable attributes are being arbitrarily thrown into domestic gene pools with little to no thought of genetic background. We introduce suspect birds into an already minimal gene pool by permitting marginal individuals with unknown lineage to breed. Though we may tout that Gouldian finches exist by the scores, if not hundreds of thousands in the US alone, there is absolutely no way to determine the diversity and purity of those numbers. They have been colony bred by the thousands with no documen-

tation. In some large aviaries, generation after generation are forced to breed without benefit of out crossing with new unrelated strains. Numerous undesirable traits and dormant lethal genes have been randomly passed on to offspring.

Yet, to their credit, birds continue to survive, even apparently thrive because well-intentioned breeders artificially prop them up. It becomes necessary to provide such things as large retinues of daily vitamins, supplements and preemptive medications because we have removed Finches and Softbills from their natural world and introduced less than fit individuals into our arbitrary breeding schemes.

Perhaps if more breeders were clearly focused and practiced selective breeding, then many of these interventions would be required only occasionally instead of daily.

Genetic Dumbing Down

But just as we are thorough in providing egg food, spouted seed, UV lighting, and the like, so too must every breeder become more keenly aware of which individuals are selected breed. If we introduce the salvaged runt into our breeding programs, who can reliably predict what kind of impact this will have on successive generations. That runt would never have survived to breed in the wild, and yet it is permitted to do so in captivity. The writer does not necessarily suggest that because a few hundred individuals are saved each year and allowed to breed, that this spells doom for a species in the next fortnight. But over time we chip away at the ge-

netic integrity of a species. A genetic dumbing down if you will. Whether through lack of knowledge or intentional indifference, too many breeders can negatively impact healthy stock by sloppy genetic manipulation.

Mutations...a Witches' Brew?

Now factor in mutations and intentional hybridizing and we have a toxic witches brew of genetic uncertainty. With few exceptions, mutations—over time - tend to be weaker, diluted copies of the original. The Gouldian finch, with its apparent unending propensity for mutations, may be a notable exception. But in many cases adverse manifestations such as poor fertility, diminished eyesight, weakened immune systems, smaller progeny, smaller clutches, baldness, loss of calls, reproductive indifference, and premature deaths are commonly reported. While breeding two lutino Blue Face Parrot Finches will certainly result in a greater (taster) net gain of lutino stock, this is the poorest possible pairing one could attempt. This was proven decades ago in Budgerigars and Cockatiels.

Some mutations have occurred randomly in domestic stock. These likely manifest themselves in the wild, but very few survive because they are "different" in appearance (how well could a vivid lutino Parrot Finch elude predators among green foliage?) and stamina. Eager and well-intentioned aviculturalists have applied some basic genetic laws to multiply these mutations and "create" new ones. Few will argue that many mutations are attractive, even stunning. But again, these

individuals are only rarely seen in the wild. The three naturally occurring head colors in Gouldian finches may be worthy of mention.

The writer has no particular argument against keeping and propagating mutations, as long as appropriate numbers of pure, untainted original stock can be maintained. Detrimental effects of careless matings may take many generations to fully manifest themselves. Of primary concern to responsible aviculturists should be the preservation and strengthening of every species in its original and natural form.

More Privates than Generals

One need not be a scientist, animal behaviorist, or geneticist to make significant and meaningful contributions to aviculture in the present and the ever nearer and imminent future. No one will discount the valuable contributions made by trained or degreed professionals, but as in any army, there will always need to be many more Privates than Generals. In this writer's view, ultimately it will be the average hobbyist, who by their love of birds and vision for the future, will register the necessary gains for the continued survival of several—if not all - captive bred birds.

In the absence of good record keeping, selective breeding, close banding of offspring, and the liberal sharing of accurate lineage information between breeders, our birds cannot help but eventually fall prey to the effects of careless, long-term inbreeding. The writer admits he is no scientist, nor does he foist himself as such. Rather he views him-

self as a pilgrim hobbyist who happens to embrace the simple belief that with privilege also comes responsibility.

Newton's Third Law

Sir Isaac Newton's third law of physics states that for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction. Captive bred birds, and aviculturists who provide care for them, are not immune to such laws. Preservation of our birds, and thus our hobby, will require forward thinking, dedicated individuals. Mere numbers, regardless of how large, may not sustain a species over time. The genetic purity and thus physiological stamina and breeding viability are what will matter at the end of the day. What purpose will 500 Forbes Parrot Finches serve if they but sit idly on perches because they suffer from chronic obesity, poor fertility, and succumb easily to disease. They become little more than ornamental village idiots.

What can be done?

Fortunately, many good and thoughtful aviculturists blanket the landscape and may be found actively participating in such organizations as the National Finch and Softbill Society, The American Federation of Aviculture, and several notable Australian and British Societies. Their collective experience and enthusiasm offers hope and encourages others to emulate their practices and breeding techniques. But there is work to be done and the writer offers these suggestions:

1. If you are a member of the NFSS and close band your

birds, Thank You. Please continue to do so. The writer wears a size 13 work boot and has hands to match. If he can band a baby owl finch, the reader can too.

2. Talk up our organization, become involved in the Finch and Softbill Save program, solicit new members, and share your knowledge and beliefs. There is power in numbers. Remember that the squeaky wheel gets the grease.
3. Be diligent in your record keeping and deliberate when pairing birds to breed.
4. When buying birds, familiarize yourself with the breeders and their practices. Ask for and expect lineage information and be prepared to provide the same.
5. Strive to breed healthy, unrelated pairs of Finches and Softbills.

Ghost of the Wolf

In summary, the challenges facing aviculture seem almost embarrassingly petty when one ponders such staggering woes as over population, world hunger, the AIDS pandemic, and a numbing plethora of things post 9-11. Most of the species that presently exist in captivity may soon disappear in the wild. Governmental regulation and prohibitive importation fees discourage the average American hobbyist from securing new bloodlines from

Europe. Importation of most Waxbills is currently banned by the United States. In recent months many European countries instituted first time quarantine procedures, driving up costs. Soon there will be no way to infuse new, unrelated bloodlines into existing captive populations. Our heretofore lackadaisical husbandry will poorly serve us then. So while it may be true that canis lupus does not literally crouch in shadows, the ghost of the wolf may ultimately prove more detrimental than we can presently imagine. Peace and love.

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Fall 2002 Finch List

Floyd Barrett

College Park, Georgia

404-768-0697

Shipping Available

10% discount for NFSS members

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------|
| Purple Grenadier | Uraeginthus ianthinogaster | \$250/pr |
| Violet-eared Waxbill | Uraeginthus granatina | \$300/pr |
| Red-headed Finch | Amadina erythrocephala | \$80/pr |
| Blue-capped Cordon Bleu | Uraeginthus cyanocephalus | \$80/pr |
| Blue-breasted Cordon Bleu | Uraeginthus angolensis | \$80/pr |
| Peter's Twinspot | Hypargos niveoguttatus | \$150/pr |
| Black-cheeked Waxbill | Estrilda erythronotos | \$120/pr |
| Star Finch Red faced | Neochmia ruficauda | \$100/pr |
| Star Finch Yellow faced | | \$120/pr |
| Red Munia (strawberry) | Amandava amandava | \$80/pr |
| Black-crowned Waxbill | Estrilda nonnula | \$200/pr |
| Red-browed Firetail (Sydney waxbill) | Aegintha temporalis | \$280/pr |
| Diamond Firetail | Emblema guttata | \$130/pr |
| Diamond Firetail (fawn) | | \$150/pr |
| Gouldian Finch (red, black, yellow head) | Chloebia gouldiae | \$150/pr |
| Gouldian Finch (white breasted) | | \$200/pr |
| Owl Finch | Poephila bichenovii | \$175/pr |
| Dybowski Twinspot | Euschistospiza dybowskii | \$175/pr |
| Yellow-bellied Waxbill (Sweet) | Estrilda melanotis | \$80/pr |
| Yellow Canary (Giant Green Singer) | Serinus flaviventris | \$120/pr |
| Grey Singer (Yellow-rumped Serin) | Serinus atrogularis | \$100/pr |
| Melba Finch | Pytilia melba | \$120/pr |
| Masked Grass Finch | Poephila personata | \$150/pr |
| Painted Finch | Emblema picta | \$350/pr |
| Grey-headed Silverbill | Lonchura griseicapilla | \$80/pr |
| Silverbill | Lonchura malabarica | \$40/pr |
| African Citril | Serinus citrinelloides | \$80/pr |
| Golden-breasted Bunting | Emberiza flaviventris | \$130/pr |
| Red-faced Crimson Wing | Cryptospiza reichenovii | \$120/pr |
| Cherry Finch | Aidemosyne modesta | \$120/pr |
| Shafttail | Poephila acuticauda | \$100/pr |
| White and Black Hooded Nun | Lonchura Malacca, maja | \$60/pr |
| Blue-faced Parrot Finch | Erythrura trichroa | \$225/pr |
| Red Headed Parrot Finch | Erythrura psittacea | \$250/pr |
| Forbes Parrot Finch | Erythrura tricolor | \$350/pr |
| Cuban Melodious | Tiaris canora | \$250/pr |
| New Zealand Goldfinch | Carduelis Carduelis | \$69/pr |
| Shaft-tailed Whydah (Queen) | Vidua regia | \$175/pr |
| Straw-tailed Whydah (Fisher) | Vidua fischeri | \$175/pr |
| Scaly-crowned Weaver | Sporopipes squamifrons | \$80/pr |



A Visit to NFSS Region 1 Meet...

Pat Goonan

When I heard that the NFSS Journal would be featuring a member from different parts of the country each issue, I thought, "Hey, that sounds pretty good. What a great idea". Little did I know at that time that I would be asked to be the Guinea Pig. However, here I am at the keyboard trying to figure out what would be interesting to the NFSS membership. Should it be like a bio, or just how I got involved in birds and about them?

I guess I will try to do both. I don't know how interesting it will be, but here it goes.

The bio part: I am married (31 years now) and have two grown children, a daughter (married) and a son. I, however, have always done the "bird thing" in this household, solo. None of them share my interest, but will pitch in and help out during vacation times. My age is unimportant except to say that I seem to move considerably slower on projects, including bird related ones, than I used to. I live in Rochester, a city in "upstate New York". We actually reside in Brighton, a suburb of Rochester, and have lived at our current residence for 20 years. I work full time as a Work Study and Transitional Counselor for a local school district, am very

involved in our local bird club (have been since the very early 70's), and have been a member of NFSS for a number of years. I have always been interested in and had pets. As a kid, I raised everything - white mice and hamsters, rabbits and guinea pigs, chipmunks, pigeons, tropical fish, etc. I, of course had the usual dog, cats and pet skunk (doesn't everyone?). Along with these, were the budgies and canaries and, yes, finches. I currently have upwards of 200+ birds in the aviary.

This leads into the bird part: I don't remember (much harder to do some of these days) exactly how old I was when I purchased my first finches - probably in my early teens. I do remember paying about \$5.00 for a pair and they were green, a real bright green. The next ones I purchased were just like the first ones, only a very bright red. I was quite surprised when they all molted and became a brownish color. In thinking back, they were probably waxbills of some sort that had been dyed, but not very colorful in their natural plumage.

I also purchased a pair of Cut-throats back then and actually succeeded in breeding and raising youngsters from them. I bought all

of these from our local 5 & 10 cent store, Neisner Bros. In retrospect, I guess I probably saved these particular birds from a not-so-pleasant life. I did have them for several years and treated them well. The 5 & 10's at that time used to have them for sale in great numbers and they were always available. I am sure they were shipped in by the thousands, dyed, and distributed for sale.

My next purchase of finches was a pair of Gold Breasted Waxbills from a local pet shop shortly after I got married. We couldn't keep pets in our apartment except for birds and/or fish. Of course, I had an aquarium or two there as well. The Gold Breasteds lived happily in a large flight cage in our living room and were soon joined by a pair of normal Zebra finches purchased from a local finch and canary breeder. He also raised budgies, geese, chickens, ducks, pigeons and doves, but I was intrigued by the finches and later on, the canaries, in his aviaries.

Needless to say, I never raised any youngsters from the Gold Breasted back then, but the Zebras, well, that's how my hobby really got started. Our first house had an extra bedroom and this became the "bird room" until we needed it for our own addition to the family. I raised mostly canaries and some finches then and eventually built a new "bird room" in the basement when the old one became a person nursery. I added English Budgies to my collection, along with Guinea Pigs and Dwarf Rabbits (again). Outside, I raised a variety of fancy pigeons and ring neck doves.

When we moved to our current location 20 years ago, I had to start all over with the bird room thing. For quite a few years, the bird room was just an area in our basement which, over the years, kept expanding. After several years, the house was in good enough décor that I was able to allot some time and energy into sectioning off the area to become known as the "bird room" in the basement. I built three aviaries, each 6'x 8'x 7' which I use for breeding the birds in and a larger aviary, 10'x 8'x 7' for the extras, those resting between clutches, etc. For these aviaries, I used a ½" x ½" heavy plastic screening purchased from a company, I believe in Pennsylvania. Of course, there was the great assortment of cages and 4' flights. I was into breeding the canaries and finches real nicely by then. This was OK for awhile, but I was bitten by the outside aviary syndrome back when I had pigeons and doves.

Though upstate New York has very harsh winters, our summers are nice, however, too often, too short. I figured I could move birds to the outside when the weather warmed up in June and bring them back in before it became too cold again. I set about planning how I would do this.

When I had the pigeons and doves, I had built an outside flight (about 5'x2'x4') which I hung on the back of the garage adjacent to the double casement-type window. I had matching flights hung on the inside of the garage and had removed the panes of glass for the birds to move freely between the inside and the outside flights.

These were in fairly good shape but were covered with chicken wire – not a real good choice when thinking about placing finches and canaries in them. I re-covered these with ½" galvanized hardware cloth and made some other minor adjustments to adapt them for the "new residents".



The doors on the outside were kept locked with padlocks and all servicing for food, water, nests, etc. was done from the inside of the garage. I was hoping to avoid any escapes from the flights this way and it would have worked fine if I had remembered to keep the garage door closed every time I opened the flight cage door. However, this is another story in itself.

The bottoms of the flights were also the ½" galvanized wire, so cleaning was very easy. It was real easy to see how much the birds liked being outside and able to take advantage of the fresh air and sunshine. They even enjoyed a nice rain shower. It was not difficult, at that time, to move the birds outside as soon as the weather warmed up

and remained consistently warm and then to move them back inside in the Fall when the weather started cooling down – usually the beginning of June through the middle of September. I did not have that many birds back then. Though I let some of them breed and raise youngsters while outside during the summer, for the most part, it was when I brought them back into the basement again in September, that they really were ready to settle down and go to nest. Even the canaries were hard to stop then. They had been maintained in natural lighting outside and

around here, by September, it starts to get dark around 7:30 or earlier. Once inside, the lights were on longer than that and they all came into breeding condition quickly.

This set-up worked fine for a couple of years, but my flock was growing and the outside area was a bit small to accommodate them all. I began planning a larger aviary set-up for the outside. I figured the current set-up worked well so I would just expand on that. The new aviaries on the outside of the garage were each constructed 6' long x 4' deep x 7' high in back (along the garage) sloping to 6'+ in front. The top was covered by ¼" galvanized hardware cloth and then 4' x 8' sheets of Plexiglas over that. The floors were dug out, leveled and covered with ½" galvanized hard-

ware cloth and then a layer of sand. The sides of the aviaries were covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1" galvanized wire.

The two aviaries were built side by side and the connecting point was at the middle bar of the garage window. They are accessed from the outside through a safety entrance on one side. There is a door from the safety entrance into the first aviary and then a door between the two aviaries.

I constructed the inside portion of the aviaries (each 6' long x 2' deep x 4' high), also side by side, and hung them with the separation at the middle bar of the double window. Each aviary outside now had access to the corresponding aviary inside the garage through half of the double window.

The first few years I did place potted plants and hanging plants in the aviaries, but have since switched to various types of silk plants, vines, etc.

Feeding and watering were all done on the inside of the garage although each aviary did have a hanging bird bath and I would place the spray millet, daily greens, etc. in the outside sections.

I have very successfully bred numerous finches in these outside aviaries and therein lies the problem

in this area of the country. For several years, I had been caught in the Fall with newly hatched or partly raised youngsters in the nest when it was time to bring them all inside for the Winter. I found myself building frames covered with clear plastic to put up over the aviaries, both inside and outside of the garage and then setting up several electric heaters to keep the aviaries nice and toasty until the birds had all fledged and weaned. A couple of times this did not occur until around Thanksgiving time in November.

It is not unusual at all for the temperature outside to dip well be-



low freezing, with a little (or not so little) snow thrown in. In fact, there have been times when I would wake up to hear the birds in the aviaries singing and having a grand old time under a layer of snow. Of course, they were at a nice temperature in the 50's or 60's. I have learned that all of my birds, which at this time include a variety of finches, canaries and several Bourkes and Scarlet Chested Parakeets, do very well in temperatures ranging from the 90's down to the 40's with no ill effects.

They love to bathe in the fresh water even when the temperature is at the lower point of this range.

After a few years of this, I realized that this was still not enough room and I have since added on a third aviary (the safety entrance is now between this addition and the other two). This aviary is 10' x 10' x 7', however, does not have access to the inside of the garage and therefore, is solid on the back and side and covered with the same ½" x 1" galvanized screening as the others on the front.

I did continue breeding birds in the two smaller aviaries and used the larger one for all the rest of the birds, however, for the last two years I have not set up the two aviaries for breeding. Without breeding the birds during the short time that they are outside, I no longer have to worry about heating and delaying moving them back inside for the Winter. I have been able to do this as soon as the weather starts to get "too cold".

I must add that moving them in and out is no easy task in itself. It usually takes a full day (clipping nails, examining, dosing with Ivermectin, etc.) and then some, to complete the task each time.

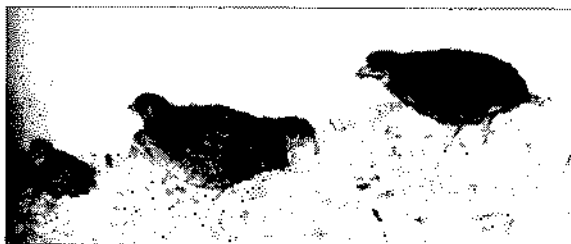
As stated earlier, I have raised a

variety of birds. I no longer raise budgies, but have recently begun raising canaries again after a number of years without them. Their singing had truly been missed in the aviary. It is nice to hear them all singing again.

I am currently raising Bourkes and Scarlet Chested Parakeets - they are very gentle, easy-going birds who mix very amicably with the tinches and canaries - and Parrotlets (who do not mix at all with the rest for everyone's safety).

I currently have, and successfully raise (sometimes better than at others) a variety of tinches: Societies, Green Singers, Orange Cheek Waxbills, Blue Cap Cordon Bleus, Cutthroats (recent but haven't raised any youngsters this time around yet), Gouldians, Stars, Fire Tailed Diamond Sparrows, Spice Finches (no youngsters here yet, either), Owl tinches, Red Headed Parrot Finches (older pair, eggs always infertile), Shattails, and recently, Black Faced Zebra Finches.

And, oh yeah, I almost forgot the Button Quail. I recently purchased two pair to run around and help clean the seed off the floors in the aviaries. Little did I expect to have one pair lay eggs (they all do this so well), collect them all together and then set on them until they hatched. They then took care of them through adulthood. They are currently with all the other birds in the outside aviaries (had to wait for her to hatch her



second clutch and let them grow big enough to not go through the wire before I could move the one pair and babies out, though). They are all doing quite well and I am now looking for homes for some Button Quail.

This is not all that I have had in the past, but for one reason or another, availability, time and room being the main ones, I no longer have them. The Violet Eared Waxbill has been a favorite, which I have had in the past, in limited numbers - 2 pair. I do hope to be able to obtain them again and attempt to raise them in the future. A few years ago, I did belong to the NFSS Finch Save program and have every intention of joining again. I just have to decide which species to concentrate on for this and the Violet Ears certainly may be one.

Over the 30 plus years that I have been raising finches I have asked myself on numerous occasions why. There have been times when I just don't want to feed another bird, wash another dish, scrub another cage, make another batch of nestling food, order more seed, clean another nest, run to the store for more greens, soak more seed, etc., etc., etc. Sound familiar to everyone? I have just been plain tired out and swear I will just cut way back. Instead, I keep expanding. I am at a

point again where I really need to assess where I am at and where I am going with all the birds. I do not have the time in one day to continue going the same way I am. I constantly look for ways to cut down on the work required, and develop the shortcuts we all try to take advantage of. I know I will find a happy middle some where, some time.

I do not plan on giving up (I have been doing this way too long to consider that, as long as I am in good health) and I know that I will be rejuvenated. I always am and it usually doesn't take too much to do this. A few new birds added to the collection, some youngsters hatching and being raised by parents, new activities of the local bird club, a show, a bird mart - they all add to the process of remaining interested and excited about the hobby. I say all this because most of us go through



this at times if we are in it long enough and I just don't want anyone to be too discouraged. We get over it, so be patient with yourself.

The last few summers have been good. Once the birds are out-

outside in the aviaries, my workload is greatly reduced. I only have 5 cages in the bird room right now to look after in addition to the 3 outside aviaries – a much different scenario than the 4 aviaries, several large flight cages and 20 or so other cages which I take care of when

all the birds are back inside. And it is getting very close to that time again when I must transfer all the birds back inside.

The aviaries are easy; it's the individual breeding cages that take so much time. I have always maintained that breeding birds is really a retirement activity, at least for me. I just am not anywhere near that point yet. I better watch it or I will give my age away.



I do quite a bit of breeding in the mixed aviaries, but I only have 3 of them for breeding in in the bird room and this limits me. I guess I will just have to build some more aviaries and then I won't have to cage breed so much. I am glad I thought this through so well while writing this. Now if I can just find the time and energy

Election Ballot

The voting deadline for the following positions has been extended to November 1st. Candidate bios were printed in the July/Aug Journal.

NFSS Band Secretary

_____ Paula Hansen _____ Michael Scott _____ write in

NFSS Executive Secretary

_____ Patrick Vance _____ write in

NFSS Region 8 (Canada) Regional Vice President *(Only Region 8 Members)*

_____ Vince Moase _____ write in

*Please mail your completed ballot by **November 1** to:*

NFSS Nominating Committee

C/o Kerri McCoy
4780 Settles Point Road
Suwanee, GA 30024

Afternoon of Aviculture

At the National Cage Bird Show

Thursday, November 14, 2002

1:00—5:00 p.m.

Santa Clara Convention Center— Napa III Room
Santa Clara, California

NFSS presents an "Afternoon of Aviculture", a seminar designed to be of interest to all aviculturists.

Come and join us for an enjoyable and educational afternoon!

Avian Nutrition

Robert Black

Mousebirds: Unusual Softbills for Pets & Aviaries

Kateri Davis

Over-the-Counter Bird Products

Carol Heesen (From Birds2Grow)

Gouldian Genetics

John Wilson

There is limited space for this seminar—
so make your reservations early!

Price: \$10.00 for NFSS Members/\$40.00 for Non-NFSS Members.

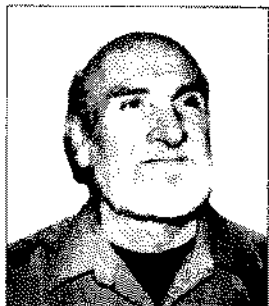
Registration Deadline: November 1, 2002

(There is a \$5.00 fee for late registration.)

Afternoon of Aviculture

At the National Cage Bird Show

Thursday, November 14, 2002 1:00—5:00 p.m.



Avian Nutrition

Robert Black

Robert G. Black has raised a variety of birds over the years, but has always specialized in finches. In varying climate areas in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and California, he has raised Canaries, Budgies, Cockatiels, Lovebirds, and many varieties of Finches. Bob currently breeds Star Finches, Cutthroat Finches, Lady Gouldian Finches, and of course, the commoner Zebras and Societies. He is also working with a variety of

other finch species.

Bob consistently writes about his experiences with birds, and he has written many articles on Finches and other cage birds for the national magazines. His books and pamphlets include "Society Finches as Foster Parents", "Problems with Finches", "Nutrition of Finches and Other Cage Birds", "Establishing a Breeding Strain in Aviculture", "Cockatiels: Their Care, Feeding and Breeding", and "Avian Nutrition".



Mousebirds: Unusual Softbills for Pets & Aviaries

Kateri Davis

Kateri Davis and her husband, Kevin Lund, own the Davis Lund Aviaries in Sacramento, CA, where they have been specializing in working with softbilled birds since 1990. Although not a huge set-up, their flock consists of over fifteen different species of Softbills including Mousebirds, Touracos, and Tockus Hornbills. Most are in mixed species collections, and many types have been successfully bred.

Currently a teacher by trade, Kateri has been working with exotic birds her whole adult life, both privately and professionally, including working in exotic bird veterinary hospitals and laboratories. Besides creating and maintaining an extensive Softbill bird website, <http://members.aol.com/DLAviaries>, aimed at educating the general bird public about the wonders of Softbills,

Afternoon of Aviculture

At the National Cage Bird Show

Thursday, November 14, 2002 1:00—5:00 p.m.

she also writes and has had articles published in bird publications including Bird Talk and AFA Watchbird. In 2001, she published her first book, *Mousebirds In Aviculture*, after three years of research.

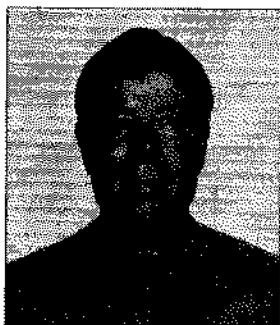
Mousebirds are unique African softbilled birds that are gaining in popularity as pets and aviary birds. Starting with a description of the different species, we will look into the basic care, husbandry, and breeding of these acrobatic and cuddly creatures. Mousebirds share many of the same pet qualities as parrots and can be kept in a mixed species aviary.



Over-the-Counter Bird Products

Carol Heesen

Carol Heesen has been breeding finches for 15+ years. Early on she was told, "a sick finch was a dead finch". Unable to accept that premise, Carol began her international search for treatments and medications that could be used at home for her own flock. Out of that research, Birds2Grow was founded. Currently Birds2Grow offers at-home medications to aviculturists around the world.



Gouldian Genetics

John Wilson

Born 1950 in Southern California. I began keeping pigeons at about twelve years of age progressing to racing pigeons and a section win in 1966. I've kept and bred ornamental pheasants, game birds and English Budgies. My first finches were a couple pair of Zebra Finches received as a gift that within a short period overran my outside cages with their offspring. In 1990 I replaced the large group of Zebras with two pairs of Diamond Firetails. Employing strategies in feeding and fostering from the writings of Robert G. Black, I had good success with these birds and began efforts to breed other species. I currently keep and breed Diamond Firetails, Parson Finches, Gouldians and Peale's Parrot Finch. My birds are housed both indoors in a large bird room and in outdoor planted flights.

Afternoon of Aviculture

At the National Cage Bird Show
Thursday, November 14, 2002 1:00—5:00 p.m.

AFTERNOON OF AVICULTURE RESERVATION

There is limited space for this seminar
Send in your reservation early!

Name: _____ NFSS# _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

\$10.00 for NFSS Members/\$40.00 for Non-NFSS Members.

Deadline: November 1, 2002

(There is a \$5.00 fee for late registration.)

Please send the above information for each person attending along with
your check **payable to NFSS** to:

Martie Lauster
4581 Lincoln Road
Macedon, NY 14502
(315) 524-7768 mlauster@rochester.rr.com

NFSS Census

The National Finch and Softbill Society is launching its annual census. We are planning on running the census differently this year than previously done. We are hoping to take a census that will include both NFSS members and bird keepers Nationwide. Because of this large undertaking we are currently not setting an end date for participation in the census.

We will be offering the ability to participate in the census through both the NFSS Journal and the NFSS website. You can partake in the census online at <http://www.NFSS.org> or by filling out and mailing in the census forms printed in your NFSS Journal. We anticipate including tallies of birds entered into the census on a regular basis so that our members, and others can see the results as they come in. You will be able to see how your participation contributes to the success of the census.

Thru the years, the NFSS census has seen a decline in participation. I encourage all NFSS members and bird keepers throughout the country to participate in the census this year. It is important that we attempt to identify which species are being bred currently in U.S. aviculture.

Searching for new bloodlines for the birds that you keep has become increasingly difficult. By participating in the census you will be helping yourself and others in locating much needed bloodlines.

We have included a column entitled Breeding Project on the census form. In years past we have had complaints from members who have used the annual census to locate new bloodlines only to discover that some of the individuals listed in the census are not currently breeding the species registered, or have only a single bloodline available, or show the stock only. Including the Breeding Project column will help those of us putting the census together better discern which species are breeding stock and which are not, thus making the census more functional for our members.

Please take the time to make a difference.

Regards,

Kerri McCoy
NFSS 3rd Vice-President

NFSS Census Form

Please complete the information below. Then - find the birds you own on the following pages and enter the number of Males, Females, and Unknown-Sex birds for each of your species. If you are actively breeding these species, and might now, or sometime in the future, have available stock to share with others, please mark the "Yes" box under the heading "Breeding Project?". If you don't find a specie listed, there are blank spaces on the last page of the form for you to write it in.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

There is no deadline date set for this Census—but please complete and return your Census Form as soon as possible.

Mail your completed Census Form to:

**Kerri McCoy
4780 Settles Point Road
Suwanee, Georgia 30024**

Telephone: (678) 567-3353 Fax: (678) 546-3352

E-mail: kerrimccoy@charter.net

| Species | #M | #F | #U | Y | N |
|---|----|----|----|---|---|
| Barbet, Bearded (<i>lybius dubius</i>) | | | | | |
| Bluebird, Fairy (<i>Irena puella</i>) | | | | | |
| Bulbul, Black Crested (<i>pycnonotus melanicterus</i>) | | | | | |
| Bulbul, Red Whiskered (<i>pycnonotus jocosus</i>) | | | | | |
| Bulbul, Red Vented (<i>pycnonotus cafer</i>) | | | | | |
| Button Quail, Chinese Painted (Normal) (<i>excalfactoria chinensis</i>) | | | | | |
| Button Quail, Chinese Painted, (Silver) (<i>excalfactoria chinensis</i>) | | | | | |
| Button Quail, Chinese Painted, (White) (<i>excalfactoria chinensis</i>) | | | | | |
| Canaries | | | | | |
| Canary, Wild | | | | | |
| Canary, Serinus | | | | | |
| Cardinal, Black Crested Finch (<i>lophospingus pusillus</i>) | | | | | |
| Cardinal, Red Crested (Brazilian) (<i>paroaria coronata</i>) | | | | | |
| Cherry Finch (Plumhead) (<i>aidemosyne modesta</i>) | | | | | |
| Chlorophonia, Blue-Naped (<i>chlorophonia cyanea</i>) | | | | | |
| Crimson Seed Cracker (<i>pyrenestes sanguineus</i>) | | | | | |
| Cuban Melodious Finch (Cuban Grassquit) (<i>tiaras canora</i>) | | | | | |
| Cuban Olive Finch (<i>tiaras olivacea</i>) | | | | | |
| Diamond Sparrow (Firetail) (<i>stagonoplura guttata</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Bleeding-Heart Bartlett's (<i>gallicolumba criniger</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Bleeding-Heart Luzon (<i>gallicolumba luzonica</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Cape Masked (Namaqua) (<i>oena capensis</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Diamond—Blue (<i>geopelia cuneata</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Diamond—Cinnamon (<i>geopelia cuneata</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Diamond—Red (<i>geopelia cuneata</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Diamond—Silver (<i>geopelia cuneata</i>) | | | | | |

| Species | #M | #F | #U | Y | N |
|---|----|----|----|---|---|
| Dove, Diamond—Yellow (<i>geopelia cuneata</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Fruit Black Capped (<i>ptilinopus melanospila</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Ringneck Albino (<i>streptopelia risoria</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Ringneck Barbary-Wild Type (<i>streptopelia risoria</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Ringneck Tangerine (<i>streptopelia risoria</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Ringneck White (<i>streptopelia risoria</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Tamborine (<i>turtur tympanistria</i>) | | | | | |
| Dove, Zebra (<i>geopelia striata</i>) | | | | | |
| European Chaffinch (<i>fringilla coelebs</i>) | | | | | |
| European Goldfinch (<i>carduelis carduelis</i>) | | | | | |
| European Greenfinch (<i>chloris chloris</i>) | | | | | |
| Finch, Cutthroat (Ribbon) (<i>amadina fasciata</i>) | | | | | |
| Finch, Cutthroat (Ribbon) Pied Finch | | | | | |
| Finch, Hawfinch (<i>coscothraustes coccothraustes</i>) | | | | | |
| Finch, Red Headed (<i>amadina erythrocephala</i>) | | | | | |
| Finch, Pallas Rose Finch (<i>carpodacus roseus</i>) | | | | | |
| Firefinch, Black Bellied (<i>lagonosticta rara</i>) | | | | | |
| Firefinch, Black Faced (<i>lagonosticta larvata</i>) | | | | | |
| Firefinch, Jamesons (<i>lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>) | | | | | |
| Firefinch, Senegal (Red Billed) (<i>lagonosticta senegala</i>) | | | | | |
| Goldfinch, Siberian (<i>carduelis carduelis major</i>) | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Normal (<i>chloebia gouldiae</i>) | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Black Head, Purple Breast | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Orange Head | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/Purple Breast | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Black Head/White Breast | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Orange Head/White Breast | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/White Breast | | | | | |

| Species | #M | #F | #U | Y | N |
|--|----|----|----|---|---|
| Gouldian, Black Head/Purple Breast/Yellow Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Orange Head/Purple Breast/Yellow Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/Lilac Breast/Yellow Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/Purple Breast/Yellow Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/White Breast/Yellow Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Blue Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Black Head/Purple Breast/Blue Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Black Head/White Breast/Blue Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/Purple Breast/Blue Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/White Breast/Blue Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Silver Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Black Head/White Breast/Silver Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/Silver Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/Lilac Breast/Silver Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/Purple Breast/Silver Body | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Dilute | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Black Head/Dilute | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Black Head/Pastel-Powder Blue Body/ Dilute | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Black Head/Purple Breast/Pastel/Dilute Blue Body (Single Factor Silver) | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Orange Head/Dilute | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/Pastel/Powder Blue Body/Dilute | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Red Head/Dilute | | | | | |
| Gouldian, Orange Head/White Breast Dilute | | | | | |
| Grassfinch, Masked (poephila personata) | | | | | |
| Grassfinch, Parson (Black Throated) Finch (poephila cincta) | | | | | |
| Grassfinch, Parson Cream (poephila cincta) | | | | | |

| Species | #M | #F | #U | Y | N |
|--|----|----|----|---|---|
| Grassfinch, Shaftail (Heck's) Long-tailed Finch (<i>poephila acuticauda</i>) | | | | | |
| Grassfinch, Shaftail Crèrne (Heck's) (<i>poephila acuticauda</i>) | | | | | |
| Grassfinch, Shaftail, Fawn (Heck's) (<i>poephila acuticauda</i>) | | | | | |
| Grassfinch, Shaftail, White (Heck's) (<i>poephila acuticauda</i>) | | | | | |
| Gray Singing Finch (<i>serinus leucopygia</i>) | | | | | |
| Green Singing Finch (<i>serinus mozambicus</i>) | | | | | |
| Honeycreeper, Red Legged (<i>cyanerpes cyaneus</i>) | | | | | |
| Honeycreeper, Yellow Legged (<i>cyanerpes caeruleus</i>) | | | | | |
| Hornbill, Von Der Decken's <i>Tockus deckeni (jacksoni)</i> | | | | | |
| Hummingbird, Jamaica Mango (<i>anthracothorax mango</i>) | | | | | |
| Hummingbird, Western Streamertail (<i>trochilus polytmus</i>) | | | | | |
| Mannikin, African Silverbill (<i>lonchura cantans</i>) | | | | | |
| Mannikin, Black & White (<i>lonchura bicolor</i>) | | | | | |
| Mannikin, Bronze Winged (<i>lonchura cucullata</i>) | | | | | |
| Mannikin, Chestnut Breasted (<i>lonchura c. castaneothorax</i>) | | | | | |
| Mannikin, Grand Valley (<i>lonchura tcerinki</i>) | | | | | |
| Mannikin, Grey Crown (Headed) (<i>lonchura caniceps</i>) | | | | | |
| Mannikin, Indian Silverbill (<i>lonchura malabarica</i>) | | | | | |
| Mannikin, Tri-colored Nun (<i>lonchura malacca</i>) | | | | | |
| Mannikin, White Hooded Nun (<i>lonchura maja</i>) | | | | | |
| Mesia, Silver Eared (<i>mesia argenteauris</i> or <i>liothrix argenteauris</i>) | | | | | |
| Mousebird, Blue Naped (<i>colius macrourus</i>) | | | | | |
| Mousebird, Red Faced (<i>colius indicus</i>) | | | | | |

| Species | #M | #F | #U | Y | N |
|---|----|----|----|---|---|
| Mousebird, Speckled (<i>colius striatus</i>) | | | | | |
| Mousebird, White-Backed (<i>colius colius</i>) | | | | | |
| Munia, Green Avadavat (Green Munia) (<i>amandava "stictospiza" formosa</i>) | | | | | |
| Munia, Java Sparrow (Rice Bird) (<i>lonchura oryzivora</i>) | | | | | |
| Munia, Java Sparrow (Rice Bird) Fawn (<i>lonchura oryzivora</i>) | | | | | |
| Munia, Spice Finch (Nutmeg) (<i>lonchura punctulata</i>) | | | | | |
| Munia, Strawberry (Red Avadavat or Red Munia) (<i>amandav amandava</i>) | | | | | |
| Munia, Strawberry (Chinese or Oriental) (<i>amandav punicea</i>) | | | | | |
| Munia, Timor Sparrow (<i>lonchura fuscata</i>) | | | | | |
| Mynah, Golden Crested (<i>ampeliceps coronatus</i>) | | | | | |
| Mynah, Indian Greater (<i>gracula religiosa</i>) | | | | | |
| Mynah, Rothschild's (<i>leucopsar rothschildi</i>) | | | | | |
| Owl (Bicheno) Finch, White Rump (<i>poephila bichenovii</i>) | | | | | |
| Owl (Bicheno) Finch, Black Rump (<i>poephila bichenovii</i>) | | | | | |
| Painted Finch (<i>emblema bella</i>) | | | | | |
| Parrot Finch, Bamboo (<i>erythrura hyperythra</i>) | | | | | |
| Parrot Finch, Tricolored (Blue Breasted or Forbes) (<i>erythrura tricolor</i>) | | | | | |
| Parrot Finch, Blue Faced (<i>erythrura trichroa</i>) | | | | | |
| Parrot Finch, Blue Faced (Lutino) (<i>erythrura trichroa</i>) | | | | | |
| Parrot Finch, Red Headed (<i>erythrura psittacea</i>) | | | | | |
| Parrot Finch, Red Headed, Pied (<i>erythrura psittacea</i>) | | | | | |
| Parrot Finch, Red Headed, Sea Green (<i>erythrura psittacea</i>) | | | | | |
| Parrot Finch, Peales (<i>erythrura pealei</i>) | | | | | |

| Species | #M | #F | #U | Y | N |
|---|----|----|----|---|---|
| Parrot Finch. Pintailed Nonpariels (<i>erythrura prasina</i>) | | | | | |
| Parrot Finch, Pintailed Nonpariels (Yellow) | | | | | |
| Plover. Spur Winged (<i>vanellus spinosus</i>) | | | | | |
| Purple Grenadier (<i>uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i>) | | | | | |
| Pytilia. Aurora, Red Faced (Niassa) (<i>crytopspiza</i>) | | | | | |
| Pytilia. Crimson Winged (<i>crytopspiza reichenovii</i>) | | | | | |
| Pytilia. Green Winged (Melba Finch) (<i>pytilia melba</i>) | | | | | |
| Pytilia, Orange Winged (<i>pytilia afra</i>) | | | | | |
| Quail Finch (<i>ortygospiza atricollis</i>) | | | | | |
| Reedling. Bearded (Tit) (<i>panurus biarmicus</i>) | | | | | |
| Robin, Pekin (Nightingale) (<i>leiothrix lutea</i>) | | | | | |
| Roller, Blue Bellied (<i>coracias cyanogaster</i>) | | | | | |
| Saffron Finch (<i>sicalis flaveola</i>) | | | | | |
| Seedeater. South American (<i>pico plat</i>) | | | | | |
| Siskin, Black Headed (<i>carduelis notata</i>) | | | | | |
| Sivia, Golden | | | | | |
| Society Finch, Bengalese (<i>lonchura striata</i> var. <i>domestica</i>) | | | | | |
| Society Finch, Chestnut & White | | | | | |
| Society Finch, Chocolate & White | | | | | |
| Society Finch, Self Chocolate | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Dilute Self Chocolate | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Cream | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Fawn | | | | | |
| Society Finch, Fawn & White | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Fawn & White. Dilute | | | | | |
| Society Finch, Self Fawn | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Crested | | | | | |
| Society Finch, Self Chestnut Crested | | | | | |

| Species | #M | #F | #U | Y | N |
|---|----|----|----|---|---|
| Society Finch. Chocolate & White Crested | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Self Chocolate Crested | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Fawn & White Crested | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Fawn Dilute | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Self White | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Self White Crested | | | | | |
| Society Finch. White Pied Crested | | | | | |
| Society Finch. White Pied | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Albino | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Split Albino | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Chocolate Pied | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Clearwing Fawn Self | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Dark Eyed White | | | | | |
| Society Finch. European Black Brown | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Fawn Pied | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Japanese Bonten Frilled Self | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Japanese Chiyoda Bonten Frilled Self | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Japanese Chiyoda Frilled Self | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Japanese Chuunagon Frilled Self | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Japanese Pearl Self | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Japanese Split Pearl Self | | | | | |
| Society Finch. Silver Self | | | | | |
| Society Finch. White Pied | | | | | |
| Sparrow. Golden Song (passer luteus) | | | | | |
| Star Finch. Isabelle (neochmia ruficauda) "Isabelle" | | | | | |
| Star Finch. Red Faced (neochmia ruficauda) | | | | | |
| Star Finch. Pied (neochmia ruficauda) "Pied" | | | | | |
| Star Finch. Yellow Faced (neochmia ruficauda) "Yellow" | | | | | |

| Species | #M | #F | #U | Y | N |
|---|----|----|----|---|---|
| Starling, Royal (<i>cosmosparus regius</i>) | | | | | |
| Starling, Superb (Spreo) (<i>spreo superbus</i>) | | | | | |
| Sunbird, Beautiful (<i>nectarinia puichella</i>) | | | | | |
| Sunbird, Golden Winged (<i>nectarinia reichenowi</i>) | | | | | |
| Sunbird, Scarlet Chested (<i>nectarinia senegalensis</i>) | | | | | |
| Tanager, Blue-Necked (<i>tangara cyanicollis</i>) | | | | | |
| Tanager, Opal-Rumped (<i>tangara velia</i>) | | | | | |
| Tanager, Paradise (<i>tangara chelensis</i>) | | | | | |
| Tanager, Silver Beaked (<i>ramphocelus carbo</i>) | | | | | |
| Tanager, Spangled (<i>tangara nigroviridis</i>) | | | | | |
| Tanager, Turquoise (<i>tangara Mexicana</i>) | | | | | |
| Tanager, Violet Euphonia (<i>euphonia violacea</i>) | | | | | |
| Tanager, Yellow-Bellied (<i>tangara zanthogastra</i>) | | | | | |
| Thrush, Shama (<i>copsychus malabaricus indicus</i>) | | | | | |
| Thrush, Red Wing Laughing (<i>tharrgarrulax</i>) | | | | | |
| Thrush, Black Throat Laughing (<i>tharrgarrulax</i>) | | | | | |
| Toucan, Sulfur Breasted (<i>ramphastos sulfuratus</i>) | | | | | |
| Toucanette, Emerald (<i>alaucorhynchus haematopygius</i>) | | | | | |
| Turaco, Guinea (Persa) (<i>touraco persa</i>) | | | | | |
| Turaco, Red Crested (<i>tauraco erythrolophus</i>) | | | | | |
| Troupial (<i>icterus icterus</i>) | | | | | |
| Twinspot, Dybowski (<i>euchistospiza dybowskii</i>) | | | | | |
| Twinspot, Green Backed (<i>mandingoa nitidula</i>) | | | | | |
| Twinspot, Peter's (<i>hypargos niveoguttatus</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Black Cheeked (<i>estrilda erythronotos</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Black Crowned (<i>estrilda nonnula</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Blue Capped, Cordon Bleu (<i>uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Cordon Bleu (Red Cheeked) (<i>uraeginthus bengalus</i>) | | | | | |

| Species | #M | #F | #U | Y | N |
|--|----|----|----|---|---|
| Waxbill, Gold Breasted (<i>Amandava Subflava</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Lavender (<i>estrilda caerulescens</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Orange Cheek (<i>estrilda melpoda</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Red Browed Firetail, (Sydney) (<i>neochmia temporalis</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Red Eared (Black Rumped) (<i>estrilda troglodytes</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, St. Helena (Common) (<i>estrilda astrild</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Sweet (Yellow Bellied or Dufresne's) (<i>estrilda melanotis</i>) | | | | | |
| Waxbill, Violet Eared (<i>granatina (uraeginthus) granatina</i>) | | | | | |
| Weaver, Orange Bishop (Red) (<i>euplectes orix</i>) | | | | | |
| Weaver, Scaly Crowned (<i>sporopipes squamifrons</i>) | | | | | |
| White Eye, Zosterop, Indian (<i>zosterops palpalis</i>) | | | | | |
| Whydah, Paradise (<i>vidua paradisaea</i>) | | | | | |
| Whydah, Pintailed (<i>vidua macroura</i>) | | | | | |
| Whydah, Queen (<i>vidua regia</i>) | | | | | |
| Yunias, Whiskered (<i>yuhina</i>) | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Grey (Normal) (<i>poephilia guttata</i>) | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Black Cheeked | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Black Faced | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Black Breasted | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Cream | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Chestnut Flanked White | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Fawn | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Florida Fancy | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Fawn Penguin | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Fawn Cheeked | | | | | |
| Zebra Finch, Pied | | | | | |

NESS 3RD QUARTER, 2002, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began on the NFSS' Officers' List via internet August 11, 2002 and ended August 31st, 2002.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Based on various comments made by several members during conversations on the Finch/Siftbill Forum, it seems that many of our members believe that the Society is still in financial trouble.

Please take a look at the figures included with this report. Although we cannot begin to spend frivolously or stop being frugal, I do want to put all of our members' minds at ease that we are in great shape in the money department.

Please keep in mind that there are still some major expenses to be paid this year (the 2003 Band Order and two more Journals), but there are approximately 250 members that haven't had their membership dues come up for payment yet. As it stands now, I would project that our total gain for the year should be approximately \$7,000.

As a reminder, the full, detailed Financial Reports are now being submitted and published after the end of each calendar quarter.

For the period 1/1/02 to 8/26/02:

AMOUNT in SAVINGS & CHECKING- \$23,599.79

INCOME: \$24,990.70

EXPENSES: \$14,312.37

NET GAIN: \$10,678.33

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Phelps, NFSS Treasurer

2ND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT—3RD QUARTER—2002PUBLICATIONS—UPDATE

I am presently reviewing some of our forms and publications in an attempt to consolidate the various forms for better efficiency and to possibly incorporate them on the website in an attempt to lower our cost for printing and distribution.

WEBSITE—UPDATE

I am presently adding an interactive version of the NFSS census to the website. I am also in the final stages of implementing the Shopping Cart technology for the Leg Bands, and after a review of our publications (see above).

LEGISLATION—UPDATE

I am monitoring the AFA - USDA - AWA situation and updates will be furnished to our members as they become available. We are also continuing our watch on the AR movement and any new Federal and State legislation that may be of concern to our members.

Regards,

Harry Bryant, NFSS 2nd Vice President

4TH VP REPORT - 3rd Quarter 2002

Report of the Office of the NFSS Fourth Vice President, Judges Panel Director, Stan-

dards, Points Manager and Research

WELCOME NEW NFSS PANEL JUDGE - JERRI WIESENFELD

Congratulations to Jerri Wiesenfeld of Jacksonville, Florida for successfully completing the NFSS Apprentice Judge program and being accepted by the NFSS Board of Directors to the NFSS Judges Panel during the 3rd Qtr 2002 Board meeting! Jerri is an NFSS Exhibitor of Excellence and a hard worker and strong supporter of NFSS shows. Welcome to the Panel, Jerri!

NFSS ANNUAL NATIONAL SHOW - AT NCBS

You all are invited to participate and assist at the spectacular NFSS National Show, held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show this year in Santa Clara, California. NFSS Board Members, in particular, are asked to assist during this show. Please contact Martha Wigmore in advance (ASAP!) to volunteer for the following: Ribbon Tie and Division Security on Friday lunchbreak and for two-hour shifts on Saturday. Work and learn (well, OK, play!!) with the best! You are VERY welcome and you'll see and learn about some GREAT birds!

New NFSS SHOW REPORT FORM

You'll have many more cage bird shows to visit in the next few months as the show season reaches its peak. NFSS Panel Judges and Show Secretaries will be reporting show results on a new NFSS Show Report form. Please discard all previous versions of the form as they are now incomplete.

UPDATED SHOW CLASSIFICATIONS SENT TO AFFILIATES

All affiliated clubs have been sent updated NFSS Show Classifications this summer, either by e-mail or if our e-mail went unacknowledged, by mail. In addition, as mentioned in the July/August 2002 issue of The NFSS Journal, NFSS is happy to send you Show Secretary Worksheets that correspond to the NFSS Classifications. If you would like a copy of either, please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Wigmore

3RD QUARTER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our Membership continues to increase - even slightly over the Summer which has traditionally been our slowest membership time. I would like to mention here that since we made the change to our Membership Application to more fully explain the ramifications of the Bulk Mail Membership option, we have seen a significant increase in First Class Memberships. Earlier this year, 72% of our members had chosen the Bulk Mail option. Today that percentage is 50%. To help illustrate the change, a survey of the past three months of new and renewing memberships shows that fully 78% of our members chose First Class Mail during this time.

The following are the NFSS membership numbers as of August 26, 2002:

633 Memberships: 81 Dual (2nd Names Dual Memberships): 714 Total Members

| <u>Region</u> | <u>#Memberships</u> | <u>Dual Members</u> | <u>Total Members</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 142 | 13 | 155 |
| 2 | 126 | 13 | 139 |
| 3 | 148 | 20 | 168 |
| 4 | 56 | 14 | 70 |

| <u>Region</u> | <u>#Memberships</u> | <u>Dual Members</u> | <u>Total Members</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 5 | 30 | 4 | 34 |
| 6 | 110 | 17 | 127 |
| 7 | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| 8 | 9 | 0 | 9 |

Respectfully submitted,

Martie Lauster, NFSS Membership Director

JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT - 3rd Quarter 2002

We have now produced two Journals in the new format and it has been well received by the membership. The print quality and paper choices are excellent. I am continuing to work with our Printer on scheduling issues and these should be ironed out for our Sept/Oct issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Martie Lauster, NFSS Journal Editor

ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS REPORT

Work has been completed on NFSS Ads which have been submitted to AFA, GABS, and NCBS. Additionally, we provided a brochure that was included in the AFA Tote Bag. This was a somewhat expensive thing to do and I will keep the board informed of any response we receive from this so we might decide whether this is worth doing in the future.

The new advertising price structure was a significant factor in gaining the BirdCare Company advertising insert that was included with the May/June issue of our Journal.

Our new advertising rate sheet has been sent to prospective Journal advertisers along with a copy of our new Journal and cover letter. I am beginning to see some response to this and at this writing, we have three new commercial display ads to include in the Sept/Oct NFSS Journal. The Journal's outside back cover and both inside covers have been sold for the next year (two years in one case), as well as the last full page adjacent to the back cover.

Respectfully submitted,

Martie Lauster, NFSS Advertising & Promotions Manager

FINCHSHOP REPORT:

On July 1, 2002, I took over as FinchShop manager. I'd be remiss if I didn't go on record to say that Ginny Allen did a superb job preparing for the handoff. The detailed instructions and information she provided allowed me to step in without difficulty. Thank you Ginny! I also want to thank Harry Bryant and Mark Phelps for their guidance those first few weeks.

Between June 12 and August 24, by my reckoning, FinchShop sold 88 items grossing nearly \$600. With cost of goods sold around \$300, I'm happy to report FinchShop running well in the black. These figures are necessarily estimates, as not all invoices are in for the period. The Treasurer's report will provide more precise figures.

I'm tracking the postage structure to see if adjustments are needed following the postal rate hike. The only problem I've seen so far is on orders requiring shipment from several

vendors. here is a case in point: a customer ordered 11 items totaling \$95.45. The shipping amount we charged was \$7.70. The items were shipped from 4 locations, with actual postage totaling about \$17.00 (an estimate because one vendor invoice is not in). Over next few months I will assess the frequency and impact of shipping cost shortfalls and recommend changes to our postage scale, if needed.

In the coming months, I hope to be adding a photo CD to the FinchShop inventory. NFSS members will be asked to submit finch/softbill photos for the project. The project is being headed by Shirley Kemp and Ginny Allen. I'm sure it will be a great success!!

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Haberkorn, FinchShop Manager

NFSS 3RD QUARTER AWARDS MANAGER REPORT

Hello Folks. So far this year we have sold \$2330.00 in ribbons and trophies. Only 23 clubs purchased NFSS Ribbons and Trophies this year - other clubs purchased their ribbons and trophies somewhere else. We have spent \$1010.59 on Ribbons so far and I do not have invoices yet for plaques or Special Order ribbons. Moore Awards usually charges us \$3.95/ribbon but gave us a quantity discount this year. This price is still very high.

I am still researching new vendors for ribbons and trophies. I thought that I would have new ones before I placed my orders for this year, however, due to the life, I have not been able to shop around, also, I have found it extremely difficult to get quotes over the phone from the companies that I have contacted. I have to make appointments with them and visit them with samples and projected sales in order to get a price with a good quantity discount. I am still working on this.

Because of the mentioned difficulties, it looks like I will overshoot the Awards Budget for this year. (Sorry folks but I am about to gobble up Marks's profit margin!!!! LOL) I had reduced my budget by \$1000.00 from last year with the anticipation that I would be able to get a new ribbon supplier, however, time did not allow and I was forced to use the more expensive one that we already have been using. I do not intend to have this difficulty next year.

The following is my CURRENT (as of 8/26/02) spreadsheet (excel) that I keep that keeps track of the status of ALL the orders. Please feel free to download and review it if you wish. (You must go to the website to download if you receive this Group in digest mode!!!) (*Editors' Note: Please contact Darla directly if you would like to see this spreadsheet.*)

I am working with Martha on the New National Judges Appreciation Plaque. This plaque will be presented to the judge that is selected to judge at the Nationals each year.

No one has come to me about Bred and Banded awards since first mention of them in the first quarter. We do have Unflighted ribbons, however, this was to be separate award for something else. Is this still being considered by anyone?

I am going to make inquiries as to how other National Specialty Clubs sell their ribbons and trophies. SPBE, for example, includes them with different values or "levels" of affiliation (combining both duties into one). I am also looking into trying to provide a less confusing order form for next year with sample pictures of the awards on the so

folks will know what they are ordering!

If you have any questions, please contact me. I will be happy to help! If you would like to donate your previously won, but brand new looking ribbons, to NFSS, please mail or give them to me and I will match them up with spares that I have to form a set.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Dandre, NFSS Awards Manager

LIAISON OFFICER REPORT:

This past quarter has been spent answering many inquiries about NFSS via email and telephone. I've sent out several new affiliation packets. To date there are 50 affiliated clubs in NFSS.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Allen, Liaison Officer

NFSS 3RD QUARTER 3RD VP REPORT:

As of 8/26/02 we have ten people participating in the Finch and Softbill Save Program.

GROUP MANAGERS TO DATE:

Roland Cristo - Softbill Group Manager

Jack Eitnrear - South American Finches Group Manager

Randy Taylor - Waxbill Finches Group Manager

SPECIES CAPTAINS TO DATE:

Larry Baum - Violet Eared Waxbill Species Captain

Harry Bryant- Masked Grassfinch Species Captain

Ginny Allen - Red Headed Parrot Finch Species Captain

Cathy Mackay - Pekin Robin Species Captain

John Kilmer - Superb Starling Species Captain

Harry Bryant and Martie Lauster are graciously working on Launching our NFSS census. We anticipate running the census in both the NFSS Journal and the NFSS website. Currently, I am not specifying an "end date" for participation in the census. We would like to see participation nationwide in the census and include bird keepers outside of NFSS as well as our own membership so that we attain a more accurate reading of which and how many species are being kept and bred. The census will be ongoing for the time being. We will be publishing tallies in the Journal and on the website as numbers come in. We hope that this will enhance the amount of participation in the census this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri McCoy, NFSS Finch and Softbill Save Direction, 3rd VP

BAND SECRETARY'S REPORT:

June 25 orders - \$523.25 rec'd. Paypal 15 orders/ mail-ins 10

July 17 orders - \$300.08 rec'd. Paypal 6 orders/ mail-ins 11

August 14 orders - #241.21 rec'd. Pay pal 9 orders/ mail-ins 5

Majority opinions from the Board posted to me was stay within budget. Ordered from Hughes, for year end for 2002 aluminum Red bands was \$111.46 with S&H.

Ordered from RexBird for inventory balance for year end 2002 split plastic bands was:

\$380.00 with S&H.

Ordered one half of projected bands for 2003 aluminum violet bands, estimated at \$2,877.34 with S&H.

Orders tallied for 2002 to date:

| | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Jan - 87 | Mar---22 | May---22 | July---17 |
| Feb - 44 | April---23 | June---25 | Aug---14 |

I redesigned the order sheet to include plastic split bands and sent to Martie in June. I can't see using 2 order forms in the journal. I was hoping to resolve the problem of taking up too much space.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Hansen
NFSS Band Secretary, Pro Tem

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion 12-2002 A motion by Kerri McCoy regarding the need for the NFSS to purchase Liability Insurance. Should NFSS officers investigate purchasing such insurance and present their findings to the board for discussion and potential purchase? Seconded by Martie Lauster. **This Motion Passed - 13 YES 2 NO**

Motion 13-2002 A motion by Paula Hansen, Band Secretary, that NFSS implement a \$10 or \$5 minimum purchase amount for all plastic split-band sales. Seconded by Ron Castner. **Motion passed - 8 YES 7 NO**

Motion 14-2002: A motion by Martha Wigmore, Director of Panel Judges, that Jerri C. Wiesenfeld be accepted to the NFSS Panel of Judges. Seconded by Martie Lauster. **Motion passed - 12 YES 1 NO 2 Abstained**

Motion 15-2002: A motion by Martha Wigmore: Shall the NFSS Board approve the style and wording for the NFSS annual award to the NFSS panel judge who has judged the NFSS National Show, held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show, a plaque commemorating his/her participation in the event. Seconded by Kerri McCoy. **Motion passed - 14 YES 1 ABSTAINED**

Motion 16-2002: A motion by Martha Wigmore that the NFSS Board approve a special one-time recognition and commemoration of NFSS judges' contributions at past NFSS annual National Shows held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show in the form of plaques (style and wording as per NFSS' award for the 2002 Judge at NCBS). Seconded by Kerri McCoy. **Motion passed - 11 YES 4 NO**

Motion 17-2002: A motion by Martha Wigmore requesting that an audit be undertaken, per NFSS Bylaws Article 5, paragraph 13 (Treasurer), of the Treasurer records for 2001. The specifications for this activity are spelled out in the Bylaw section referred to. Seconded by Harry Bryant. **Motion passed - 11 YES 3 NO 1 ABSTAINED**

In reference to Motion 17-2002, this was not, in fact, a "motion", however, it was seconded. The Bylaws of the NFSS require that an annual audit of the Treasurer's books take place regardless of the vote tally presented.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Vance

LEGISLATIVE ALERT - 2002

Harry Bryant, Legislative Attaché

For your information, below is another AFA News release concerning the series of presentations at the 2002 AFA Convention made by Dr. Chester Gipson and Dr. Jerry DePoyster of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Animal Care addressing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

AFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Summary of the AWA Discussions at the Tampa Convention August, 2002

Greetings!

Well, the 2002 Annual Convention of the American Federation of Aviculture, Inc.® (AFA) has come and gone. In my view it was a good Convention featuring an outstanding slate of speakers. Congratulations to all who made it happen. especially the Speaker Chairs (Natasha Schischakin and Sandy Molenda); the Convention Coordinator (Esther Aboumaadi); CFO Jim Hawley; the Registrar (Natalie Frumin-Weiss); the AFA Store Chair (Mark Moore) and many others who will go unnamed at this time. Thank you all!

One highlight of the Convention was the series of presentations made by Dr. Chester Gipson and Dr. Jerry DePoyster of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Animal Care addressing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). In this (the first of several post-convention articles I plan to prepare), I want to summarize what they told us. First, the full text of their formal presentation can be found on their website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac>. All 58 slides presented are shown at that address. In summary, they first described the organization of their group and then described the AWA in terms of who was covered (dealers, researchers, exhibitors, transporters). Many of us may fall under the "Dealer" category as either wholesale breeders of "animals" for the Pet Trade or breeders of "exotic animals" for retail or wholesale. In the later case, the present definition of animal could include many birds. Of interest, the Retail Pet Trade is presently exempt, but this exemption could change as it has been challenged in the Courts.

They then gave the tortuous history of how birds came to be covered. In essence it "boiled down" to a change in wording (punctuation really) of the definition of "animal" and which groups of animals were excluded from the definition. In the beginning, the key phrase was "this term [animal] excludes: birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus* bred for use in research..." In this definition all birds are exempt as are all rats of the genus *Rattus*. However, for mice, only those mice in the genus *Mus* bred for use in research would be exempt. Next came lawsuits, settlements, amendments, and so forth. The bottom line was a definition that now exempted "(1) birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus*, [!!!] bred for use in research (exclamation points and underline added). The insertion of the

comma following the word Mus in the final definition adopted in the 2002 Farm Bill (Senator Helm's "Rider" to the Farm Bill was to amend the AWA and it passed) made it very clear that birds, rats and mice were exempt only if they were bred for research.

Okay, we're covered; now what? Well, first let us look at what the AWA ensures. This list includes adequate veterinary care, proper housing, safe transportation, shelter from the elements, adequate feeding and watering, humane handling practices, qualified personnel, proper sanitation and record keeping. Minimum standards will be defined and published in Regulations and Standards which will be enforced using unannounced inspections. At present, there are no Regulations and Standards written specifically for rats, mice and birds; these will be developed through a "Rulemaking" process which will be conducted by Dr. Gipson and his staff at APHIS/Animal Care.

This process, because of the significance of the AWA, is going to take several years (3 to 5 years is my estimate) to complete. The most exciting thing I heard is that not only will AFA and other affected parties be involved in the process, we are being viewed as being critical to it. Dr. Gipson put it this way "The destination is the development and enforcement of minimum standards; how we get to that destination is up to you-I am the passenger, you are the driver." He also admonished "Be careful what you ask for, because you're likely to get it."

The avicultural community has talked about the need for minimum standards for years. Indeed, various standards have been developed at the international, national, and local levels. An overview of some of these were presented in a Round Table talk at the Convention. Many of us already adhere to these standards without any legal requirement. Now the time has come where everyone covered under the Act is going to have to meet minimum standards. This is a good thing, not a negative. The only problem is that the standards need to be flexible, reasonable and appropriate. However, we are being asked to help develop workable standards appropriate for aviculture. I am excited about the opportunity. If we have to have minimum standards as is presently required by law, we could have no better group to work with than Dr. Gipson and his staff. Furthermore, we (and others) are being afforded every opportunity to guide the process. As AFA President, I have made the commitment to seek to develop and participate in a broad coalition of avian interest groups to help develop reasonable and appropriate standards for all of U.S. aviculture. This is going to be a long, involved process that will require your support and involvement. For now, what we need to be doing is building membership in AFA-we are going to need to be stronger in numbers, and more healthy from a financial standpoint than we are at present. It is once more time for AFA to step-up to the plate. I solicit your support and trust it will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Benny J. Gallaway, Ph.D., President
American Federation of Aviculture, Inc.

News from the FinchShop

FinchShop Talk

The fully updated, 2002 edition of the NFSS JUDGES HANDBOOK is now available from FinchShop. Already have a Handbook? We also have full sets of both 2001 and 2002 update pages for sale. Don't let this valuable resource fall behind! Keep it current by purchasing update sets from FinchShop and making your inserts timely!

The Handbook is a GREAT GIFT IDEA for the finch and softbill enthusiast in your life! It contains a wealth of information not only for aspiring judges, but for exhibitors and spectators alike, such as feather charts, leg band information, and judging standards for 12 specific species, plus a general standard and a pairs standard. To order, visit the online FinchShop at www.nfss.org, or refer to the order form in the Journal.

Sue Haberkorn
FinchShop Manager

FinchShop Projects

Call for Photographs

A dedicated group of NFSS members is putting together a photo CD to sell in the FinchShop. The project hopes to include a screen saver program as well as a number of finch and softbill photos. **WE NEED YOUR PICTURES, SO GET THOSE CAMERAS CLICKIN'!** The committee will accept digital photographs in .jpg format and prints no larger than 5"x7". Please email or snail mail your submissions **NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15, 2002**, to one of the following people:

Shirley Kemp
1005 E. University Dr.
Auburn, AL 36830
shirleykemp@charter.net

Ginny Allen
307 Brookwood Court
Opelika, AL 36801
gndallen@earthlink.net

NOTE: All photos become the property of NFSS and will not be returned; however, credit may be given the photographer. Please include the common name of the bird and the Latin name, if known.

**REMEMBER, THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS
NOVEMBER 15TH!**

Sue Haberkorn, FinchShop Manager



The National Finch & Softbill Society now offers a gift membership package. This attractive package includes:

- Certificate showing that the membership is a gift from you.
- Welcome letter from the NFSS Membership Director.
- NFSS Membership card.
- Copy of the NFSS Journal.

You may elect to have the membership sent to you or directly to your recipient. This is a great way to introduce new members to NFSS, donate a valuable item to your local Bird Club, or just to show your appreciation for a friend. The person doesn't need to be a new member—you can also use this package as a great gift for someone who is already enjoying NFSS. We will extend their existing membership date.

There is no extra cost for this service. Just complete and send in the form below along with a regular NFSS Membership application and the normal membership fee.

NFSS GIFT MEMBERSHIP

The attached membership application is a gift **from**:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Send Gift Package directly to: Me Recipient

The Classifieds

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The ESTRILDIAN

The ESTRILDIAN is produced for the purpose of relating the most up to date information on all species belonging to the family Estrildidae both in the wild and in captivity. Within its 124 species are all of the Waxbills, Parrot Finches, Mannikins and Australian finches. The aviculturist and the scientist have much to offer each other and the ESTRILDIAN brings together like-minded enthusiasts from around the world. The magazine is sent to 13 different countries ranging from Australia to Puerto Rico and has many leading Zoo's, Aviculturists and Researchers as both members and contributors. With well over 100 members in the USA, we have now been able to reduce our overseas subscription rates.

12 months subscription is £15 Sterling; USA \$30 personal check accepted

ESTRILDID FORUM

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

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2002/2003

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Region 2 Southwest—

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13396 58th Court North
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Region 3 Mid-Central—

AR, IL, IN, KY, LA, MI, MO, OH,
WI, Australia, Bermuda, England

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Region 4 Midwest—

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P.O. Box 1051
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NFSS Panel of Judges 2002

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E-mail:
RofFick@ix.netcom.com

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

Regional Shows

Each year, NFSS selects from applicants, one club from each of the eight regions to host a Regional Show. The Regional Vice President is to help the host club with any special exhibits/displays depicting NFSS in Action.

Past issues of our publications, applications for Finch/Softbill Save, NFSS Membership Applications, FinchShop Catalogs and order forms, plus copies of information about the care of finches/softbills are made available to the host club. The Regional Vice President usually conducts a short, informal meeting following the awarding of Top Bench. Plaques for these shows are engraved "Regional Show".

The 2002 Regional Shows are:

- Region 1 Baltimore Bird Fanciers (Oct. 19—Parkville, MD)
Region 2 Georgia Cage Bird Society (Nov. 3—Marietta, GA)
Region 3 National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries and other Cage Birds
 (Nov. 30—Elk Grove Village, IL)
Region 4 Fort Worth Bird Club (Sept. 28—Grapevine, TX)
Region 5 Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture (Nov. 2 Denver, CO)
Region 6 (Pending)
Region 7 Asociacion De Criadores De Finches del Este
 (July 13—Caguas, PR)
Region 8 Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society
 (Oct. 18-20—Windsor, Ontario, CANADA)

More information about these shows is included in the Affiliated Club Listings below.

REGIONAL CLUBS

Foothills/Eastern Atlantic Bird Club
 (VA,DC,MD,WV,PA,OH,NC,NY,NJ)
 Valerie Schuster (703) 481-9725
 vschuster@comcast.net
 Club E-Mail: Moderators-FoothillsEastern
 AtlanticBC@yahoogroups.com
 Club Website: <http://www.babyfeathers.com/feabc/misstate.htm>

Southeast Bird Fanciers
 (AL,AR,GA,FL,LA,MS,NC,SC,TN)
 Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168
 gndallen@earthlink.net
 Club Website: <http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebfg.htm>

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society
 (Prattville, AL)
 Margie Lanier (334) 567-4073
 margielanier@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA

Central California Avian Society
 Alvin Lea (559) 584-3764
 Club Web Site: <http://pw1.netcom.com/faw/CCAS/index.html>

Central California Cage Bird Club
 John Astorino (209) 823-0200
 Club E-Mail: Rgomes@BigValley.net
 Show: Oct. 26 Judge: Joe Krader

Capitol City Bird Society
 Roland Cristo (530) 823-1677
 Cristo@lanset.com
 Event: Oct. 20 Bird Mart C/A State Fair

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club

Matt Burriesci scvcebc@yahoo.com
Ginger Wolnik (408) 739-3995
PacificASC@aol.com

Club Website: www.geocities.com/
SCVCEBC/

Show: **NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW**
Nov. 14-16 Santa Clara Convention Ctr.
Special Show Discount on American Airlines
Judge: Cecil Gunby, NFSS Panel Judge

CANADA

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society (Windsor, Ontario, CANADA)

Alfred Mion (519) 948-6398
julianne@mnsi.net

Show: **REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 8**
Oct. 18-20 Fogolar Furlan Sports
Complex Windsor, Ontario, CANADA
Judge: Charles Anchor

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

Anna Sinclair (719) 634-6404
bill&annasinclair@citystar.com
Club E-Mail: conurecare@prodigy.net
(Lisa McManus)

Club Website: www.RMSA-Birds.org
Show: **REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 5**
Nov. 2-3 Lakeside Center, Denver
Judges: Nov. 2 Dr. Al Decoteau
Nov. 3 Miki Sparzak
Show Manager: arwennightstar@atbi.com

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Canary and Finch Club

Felix Felix (860) 951-9438
canariomio@aol.com

FLORIDA

Aviary and Cage Bird Society (Ft. Lauderdale, FL.)

Carrie Elstathion (954) 432-3349
carrie3@aol.com
Club Website: www.feathers.org

Cage Bird Club of Charlotte County

Ron Kenne (941) 488-6891
Show: Sept. 21 **Great American Bird Show**
Show: Sept. 22
Location: Charlotte Memorial Auditorium
Punta Gorda, FL
Hotel: Best Western Waterfront Hotel
Contact: Dave Dollar (727) 937-5447
sandhillxotics@aol.com

Exotic Bird Club of Florida (Melbourne)

Ginny Heptig (321) 952-9780
yngathett@aol.com
Club Website: www.homestead.com/exotic
birdclubofflorida.com

Event: Oct. 13 Auction
Greater Palm Bay Senior Center
Palm Bay, FL.

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show

Dale Laird (407) 657-7989
dalel2@prodigy.net

SunCoast Avian Society (Pinellas County)

Joseph Ventmiglia (727) 392-9391
Club E-Mail: acs65L@aol.com
Club website: www.suncoastaviansociety.org

Tri-State Avian Society (Tallahassee, FL)

Barry Laster (850) 847-1975
barryl@polaris.net
Club Website: www.tristateaviansociety.org

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society (Marietta, GA)

Pat Miller (770) 425-9455
jandpmiller@mindspring.com
REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 2
Show: Nov. 3 Jim Miller Park Marietta, GA
Judge: Conrad Meinert

HAWAII

Honolulu Canary & Finch Club

Kathy Perreira (808) 839-2269
ala1884@aol.com

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

Darla Dandre (815) 729-9789

dbirdbranch@aol.com

Club E-Mail: www.board@gccbc.org

Club Website: www.gccbc.org

Show: Nov. 2 Radisson Arlington Hgts. II.

Judge: Armando Lee

Contact: Jeanne (847) 358-2470

Ilini Bird Fanciers

(Central Illinois)

Patricia A. Montgomery (217) 787-0840

ibf-birdsongs@insightbb.com

National Institute of Red Orange Canaries and Other Cage Birds

Stephan Hopman (815) 469-8455

Birdhop@aol.com

Show: REGIONAL SHOW—REGION 3

Nov. 30 Holiday Inn

Elk Grove Village, IL.

Judge: Martha Wigmore

IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society

Rhoda Shirley (515) 243-1511

Club E-Mail: rl Gibson@netins.net

Club Website: http://www/geocities.com/

heartland/flats/3777/macbs.html

Show: Oct. 5 Des Moines Botanical Center

Des Moines, IA

Judge: Martha Wigmore

LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club, Inc. (New Orleans)

Danny Chauvin (985) 876-7966

cajunpride@mobiletel.com

Cajun Canary and Finch Club

Meade Phelps (504) 887-0724

NEWORLEANSMEADE@cox.net

Show: Dec. 7 Metairie

Judge: Annette Howard

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers (Baltimore)

Barbara Shannon (410) 356-5850

Club E-Mail: raymondreter@aol.com

Club Website: www.geocities.com/

heartland/3575/bbf.html

Show: REGIONAL SHOW—REGION I

Oct. 19

Location: Tall Cedars of Lebanon Hall

Parkville, MD

Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Avicultural Society

Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163 hugo@iserv.net

Club Website: www.angelfire.com/mi4/glas

Show: Oct. 19 Rockford North Middle School

Rockford, MI

Judge: Clarence Culwell

Motor City Bird Breeders

Pat Piekarz (586) 296-2957

dpiekarz1@cincast.com

Show: Oct. 26 Italian Cultural Center

Warren, MI

Judge: Harold Bowles

Show Mgr: Bob Zalewski (313) 365-5942

Society of Canary & Finch Breeders

Patrick Vance (248) 443-0643

spartanfinchman@cs.com

Show: Oct. 19 Livonia, MI

Judge: Dennis Lewis

MISSOURI

Missouri Cage Bird Association

Paddy Lambert (314) 962-8186

Club E-Mail: thou@usmo.com

Club Website: www.birdclub/mo/mcba

Show: Nov. 2 Days Inn at Six Flags

Eureka, MO

Judge: Paul Williams

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

Earl Courts (816) 554-3922

Show: Oct. 26 Holiday Inn South

Grandview, MO.

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society (Manchester, NH)

Ray Schwartz (603) 362-6106
prismsdad@aol.com

Club Website: www.boaf.com

Show: Oct. 26 Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau
Center of NH Holiday Inn
Manchester, NH

NEW YORK

Astoria Bird Club

Dan Griffin (718) 994-1614
dgrifi1@ix.netcom.com

Show: Nov. 2 St. Jude's School
Brooklyn, NY

Greater Rochester Avian Society (Rochester)

Patrick F. Goonan (585) 288-5653
patrick_goonan@hotmail.com

Club Website: www.angelfire.com/zine/gras

Show: Oct. 26 (NFSS Division of the Int'l
Canary & Finch Society Show)
Best Western Hotel Lockport, NY

Judge: Patrick Vance

International Canary and Finch Society (Buffalo)

Mary Ellen Sacca (716) 825-8271
snowflake@adelphia.net

Show: Oct. 26 Best Western Hotel
Lockport, NY

Judge: Patrick Vance

Information/Reservations: (716) 434-6151

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Stan Kulak (718) 967-6899
barstand@aaahawk.com

Club Website: www.newyorkfinch.com

Show: Oct. 19 St. Jude's Church
Brooklyn, NY

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society

April Blazich (919) 851-8079
aprilb@bellsouth.net

Club Website: www.rdcbs.org

OREGON

Finch Connection

Paula Hansen (503) 581-8208
pjhansen@earthlink.net

Club Website: http://home.earthlink.net/~pjhansen

Show: Oct. 26-27 Clackamas Community Ctr.
Clackamas, OR

Judges: Oct. 26 Julie Duimstra
Oct. 27 Sally Huntington

Contact: (503) 266-7606 or (503) 581-8208

PENNSYLVANIA

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society, Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA)

Margie Jonnet (412) 795-1904
mjonnet@katz.pitt.edu

Club E-Mail: babegonia@libcom.com

Show: Nov. 2 Palace Inn Monroeville, PA
Judge: Dennis Lewis

Chester County Bird Club, Inc.

Maria Rosenberger (610) 469-6402
duckybathtime@aol.com

PUERTO RICO

Asociacion De Criadores De Finches del Este

Jose Diaz (787) 747-7947
joserfaele@hotmail.com

Club E-Mail: criadores_finches_este@hotmail.com

Show: Nov. 1-3 Nacional del Invierno ACFE

Judge: Nov. 2—Stephen Hoppin

Location: Universidad del Turabo
Caguas, PR

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club (Nashville, TN)

Lisa Mellies (615) 789-0002
yui02@bellsouth.net

Club E-Mail: tmma2@comcast.net

Show: Oct. 5 Tennessee State Fairgrounds
Nashville, TN 37203

Judge: Annette Howard

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

| |
|---|
| <p>Southeast Tennessee Avicultural Society Janet Burrell (423) 472-1306 jbj2202@aol.com <i>Show:</i> Oct. 26 Niota Elementary School Niota, TN</p> |
| <p>Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club Sondra Ott (865) 573-2381 <i>Club Website:</i> www.kornet.org/tvebc</p> |
| <p><u>TEXAS</u></p> |
| <p>Alamo Exhibition Bird Club, Inc. Nathan Durbin (830) 609-2799 birds@compuvision.net <i>Club Website:</i> www.aebc.org</p> |
| <p>Texas Bird Breeders Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568 culwell5@flash.net <i>Show:</i> Nov. 2 Maybor Convention Center Temple, TX <i>Judge:</i> Julie Duimstra</p> |
| <p>Canary and Finch Harold McBrayer (281) 338-2814 haroldmcbrayer369@hotmail.com <i>Show:</i> Oct. 26 League City Civic Center League City, TX <i>Judge:</i> Paul Williams</p> |

| |
|---|
| <p>Fort Worth Bird Club Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568 culwell5@flash.net <i>Club Website:</i> www.fwbc.org</p> |
| <p><u>VIRGINIA</u></p> |
| <p>Peninsula Caged Bird Society (Hampton, VA) Marian "Bea" Rogers (757) 484-6001 <i>Club E-Mail:</i> dickivy@two-rivers.com <i>Club Website:</i> www.freeyellow.com/members9/clubpage/index.html</p> |
| <p><u>WASHINGTON</u></p> |
| <p>Cascade Canary Breeders Association Cecy DuBonsky (425) 432-6883 pcaloha@mindspring.com</p> |
| <p><u>WISCONSIN</u></p> |
| <p>Badger Canary and Finch Club (State-wide) Susan Feldstein (262) 965-5362 <i>Club E-Mail:</i> DEvanorum@aol.com <i>Show:</i> Oct. 20 Oshkosh Convention Center Oshkosh, WI</p> |
| <p>W.I.N.G.S. Darla Dandre (815) 729-9789 dbirdranch@aol.com</p> |

2002 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT



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

Mail to: Ginny Allen, Liaison Officer
 307 Brookwood Court
 Opelika, AL 36801
 e-mail: gndallen@earthlink.net
 Phone/Fax: (334) 749-7168

Club Name: _____

Club City/State: _____

Club Meeting Dates/Location: _____

Club Delegate: _____

Address: _____

*Phone: _____ *E-Mail: _____

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

Delegate's Signature: _____

Club Officer: _____

Address: _____

*Phone: _____ *E-Mail: _____

Club E-Mail Contact (Important): _____

Club Web Site: _____

Show/Event Date: _____ Panel Judge: _____

Show Location: _____

Send NFSS Journal to: _____

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

2002 NFSS Awards Order Form

Please use a separate form
For each individual show!

Mail with payment to:
Darla Dandre, P.O. Box 1231, Lisle, IL 60532
815-729-9789 or e-mail a copy to:
Dbirdranch@aol.com

This information must reach the Awards Manager as soon as possible but no later than two months BEFORE show date. Awards are sent Priority Mail to the designated person.

PLAQUES: All plaques are \$25.00 each. They are walnut finish with the engraved NFSS logo on brass over black plate on the left and the club information on brass over black plate on the right. All are 6" x 8".

*Please circle how you wish your plaques to read: Best in *DIVISION* or *SHOW**

If you do not make a selection, plaques will be engraved "Best in Division".

Club Name to be Engraved: _____

_____ 1st Place Plaque _____ 2nd Place Plaque _____ 3rd Place Plaque

_____ Best Finch in Show _____ Best Softbill in Show

_____ Service Award/Breeder Award (please provide engraving information).

Sub Total _____ Plaques @ \$25.00 per Plaque = \$ _____

ROSETTES: The basic set of rosettes for finches and softbills consists of eleven rosettes with the NFSS logo on the button. This includes 1st thru 10th place and Best Unflighted. Unflighted birds are those handed with current year (2002) bands.

_____ Basic Rosette Package (1-10 + Best Unflighted) \$45.00

_____ Unflighted ribbon add-on (2nd & 3rd Place) \$10.00

_____ Novice Ribbon \$ 7.00

Rosette and Ribbon Sub-Total = \$ _____

Affiliation Fee (if you haven't already issued a separate check) = \$ 25.00

Total Amount of Check PAYABLE TO NFSS: \$ _____

SHIP AWARDS TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

SHOW INFORMATION:

Date: _____ Judge: _____

Location: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

NFSS Club Delegate: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Show Manager: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Can this information be published in the NFSS Journal? Yes No

The National Finch and Softbill Society Band Order Form

Mail form and payment
payable to NFSS to:

Paula Hansen
NFSS Band Secretary
2234 Juncau Ct. South
Salem, OR 97302

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 | | \$3.25 | |
| B | | \$3.25 | |
| C | | \$3.25 | |
| D | | \$3.25 | |
| E | | \$3.25 | |
| G | | \$3.25 | |
| J | | \$3.25 | |
| K | | \$3.25 | |
| L | | \$3.25 | |
| M | | \$3.25 | |
| R | | \$3.25 | |
| S | | \$3.25 | |
| T | | \$3.25 | |

Postal Insurance: Under \$50 = \$1.10
From \$50-\$100 = \$2.00 Over \$100 = \$3.00
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: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please enter the year of the band you are ordering if other than 2002 _____

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

- Size A: Gold-breasted Waxbill. Orange-cheeked Waxbill. Owl Finch (Bicheno). Quail Finch. Red-eared Waxbill. Strawberry Finch, and other small waxbills.
- Size B: Black-checked Waxbill. Cordon Bleu. Cuban Melodious Finch. Fire Finch, Olive Finch. Rufous-backed Mannikin.
- Size C: B&W Mannikin. Blue-capped Waxbill, Bronze-winged Mannikin. Cherry Finch. Green Singing finch, Grey Singing Finch, Heck's Shaftail, Lavender Finch. Painted Finch. Pileated Finch. Pytilias, Red-headed Parrot Finch, Shaftail Finch. Silverbills, Star Finch.
- Size D: Blue-faced Parrot finch. Chestnut-breasted Finch. Lady Gouldian Finch. most smaller mannikins, most other parrot finches, Pictorella Finch, Pintailed Nonpareil, most twinspots. Yellow-rumped Finch, Zebra finch.
- Size E: Black-crested Finch, Diamond sparrow. European Greenfinch. Golden Song Sparrow. Nuns. Peter's Twinspot. Siskins. Society Finch (Bengalese). Spice Finch.
- Size G: Magpie Mannikin, most larger mannikins, small tanagers.
- Size J: European Goldfinch. Pekin robin, Silver-eared Mesias, most small softbills.
- Size K: Java Rice Birds. Red-crested Cardinal. Saffron Finch. Shama Thrush
- Size L: Diamond Dove, other small Doves. Quail. Softbills.
- Size M: Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah. large sunbirds.
- Size R: Green/Purple Starlings. Superb Starlings.
- Size S: Indian Hill Mynah. Java Mynah. Ring-necked Dove. Toucanettes, White-tailed Jay.
- Size T: Small Hornbills. Plush-capped Jay. small Toucans. small Touracos.

Banding instructions included with each order.



The National Finch and Softbill Society Finch and Softbill Save Application 2002 Program

Please send me the NFSS Finch and Softbill Save Program Guidelines and Application.

Name: _____ NFSS # _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Please mail your completed application request to:

**Kerri McCoy - Finch and Softbill Save Director
4780 Settles Point Road
Suwanee, Georgia 30024**

**Telephone: (678) 546-3353, Fax: (678) 546-3352
Email: kerrimccoy@charter.net**



NFSS

*the National Finch
and Softbill Society*

Membership Application

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Name: | |
| Dual Membership 2 nd Name: | |
| Address: | |
| City: | |
| State: | Country: |
| Zip: | |
| Phone #: | |
| E-Mail: | |
| New Member? | Renewal (List NFSS #) |
| How did you hear about us? | |
| Annual Oues: | Select One: |
| | Single: \$30.00 |
| | Dual: \$35.00 |
| | Junior (under 16): \$22.50 |
| | Foreign: \$35.00 |
| <p>Bulk Mail Option: <i>U.S. and Puerto Rico members may save \$5.00 on their membership dues by electing to receive the NFSS Journal via Bulk Mail. Please be aware that if you select this option, your Journals may take several weeks to arrive at your home. We have seen this delivery time increase since 9/11, which has necessitated tighter security and subsequent delays. Bulk Mail is not available to Foreign or Canadian members.</i></p> | |
| Bulk Mail Option: (Subtract \$5.00) | |
| TOTAL ENCLOSED: | |
| <p>Mail Application and Check Payable to NFSS: Ms. Martie Lauster 4581 Lincoln Road Macedon, NY 14502</p> | |

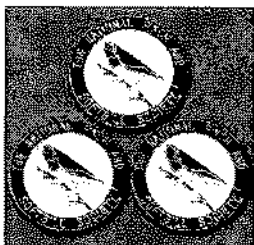


NFSS FINCH SHOP



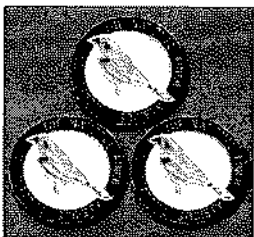
NFSS TDTE BAG

The NFSS Tote bag is available now with a pressure applied NFSS logo in color on one side. Great for bird events or just shopping. The bag is 100% cotton washable denim in a neutral color...very sturdy. It is 14" high X 16" wide and 4" deep with two 22" heavy web handles. **\$8.00**



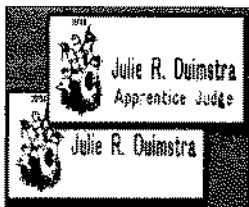
NFSS GOULDIAN FINCH PIN

A multicolored, enameled lapel pin featuring a red-headed Gouldian Finch design. The pin measures 1 inch (25mm) in diameter and is imprinted with the words: "The National Finch and Softbill Society" in gold colored lettering around the perimeter of the pin. A perfect gift for any Gouldian Finch fancier! **\$5.00**



NFSS ZEBRA FINCH PIN

A multicolored, enameled lapel pin featuring a stylized design of a Zebra Finch. The pin measures 1 inch (25mm) in diameter and is imprinted with the words: "The National Finch and Softbill Society" in gold colored lettering around the perimeter of the pin. A perfect gift for any Zebra Finch fancier! **\$5.00**



NFSS NAME BADGE

White plastic name badge with finely detailed black engraving. Each name badge is imprinted with the NFSS logo created by Rose Gianaferra. The standard name badge includes one line of engraving and a standard pin type fastener. **\$8.00** (Add \$1.00 for second line of engraving; Add \$1.50 for Magnetic Fastener.)



NFSS BULLETIN (PAST ISSUES)

NFSS Bulletins published from the inception of NFSS in 1984 through the present. **Be sure to specify the year and volume when placing your order.** An index of all published articles (1984 to present) is available on the website. **\$4.00** each.

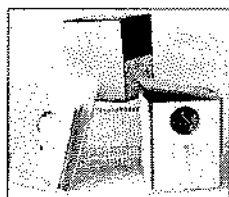
NFSS FINCH SHOP



Nature's Jewels

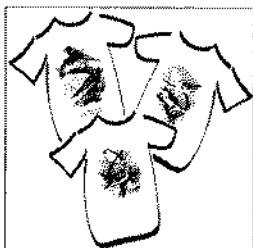
NATURE'S JEWELS—GOULDIAN POSTER

This beautiful poster (24" x 36") depicting the many mutations of the Gouldian finch is now available thru NFSS FinchShop. The colors are intense and the 3-D look of the birds make this a most unusual addition to any room. **\$20.00**



NEST BDX KITS

Nest boxes in kit form, 5" X 5" X 6" high. Choose from the five styles: Half-open front available in side or rear mount; Hinged-top lid with hole in front available in side, front, or rear mount. **\$4.99**



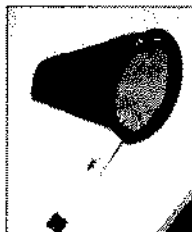
FINCHWEAR T-SHIRTS

White, high quality, 100% preshrunk cotton T-shirts (Hanes Beefy-T). Original artwork was painted by Frohawk over 100 years ago and is *SCREEN PRINTED* in stunning detail on these shirts. Choose the Gouldian Finch, Society Finch or Zebra Finch. Your choice of design on front or back of shirt. The eFinch logo appears in black on the sleeve or left front of the shirt. Available only in sizes L and XL, while supplies last. **\$16.50**



VIDEO—FINCH HUSBANDRY

This video (VHS Format) by Vince Moase, formerly of the Metro Toronto Zoo, spans time and aviaries built in two different residences. It was originally produced to help budding aviculturalists in Vince's local bird club. **\$25.00**



BIRD NETS

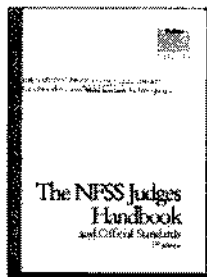
5 1/4" spring steel hoop with vinyl binding to prevent trauma. 100% dark nylon netting with secure seams. 5" hardwood handle. Perfect for use in catching finches in cages. **\$8.00**



NFSS FINCH SHOP

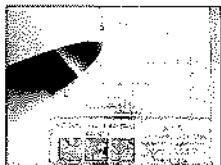


JUDGES HANDBOOK AND OFFICIAL STANOAROS, 2ND EDITION



This handy reference contains the official show standards that have been adopted by The National Finch and Softbill Society. Included are the standards of conduct for an NFSS Panel Judge, the current show classification schedule, points/awards schedules, banding information, Judge's report forms, the NFSS Bylaws, the Apprentice application and evaluation forms and information and procedures for those aspiring to become an NFSS Panel Judge. **\$13.00**

NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS



The NFSS Show Cage Plans are offered for sale either individually or as a set of all 3 sizes. These are the specifications and blueprint for the box type show cages that are recommended for use by NFSS for exhibiting various species of finches and softbills.

\$4.00 ea. \$10.00 for set of all three.

NFSS #1 - For smaller finches & softbills up to and including the Zebra Finch in size.

NFSS #2 - For finches & softbills larger than the Zebra Finch and up to the size of the Java Rice Bird.

NFSS #3—For larger finches and softbills.

FINCH NOTE CARDS

5 1/2 x 4 1/4" Note Cards (With Envelopes)

These beautiful water colors by Sally Huntington have been viewed at the National Cage Bird Shows, Great American Bird Show, AFA, and numerous bird shows and marts across the USA. Her art has been a favorite of many collectors and bird fanciers. These cards are reduced representations of the original water colors. All prints are copyrighted. No reproductions.

Each Card is \$1.50 (includes shipping) or **10 Cards for \$13.50** (\$3.50 shipping).

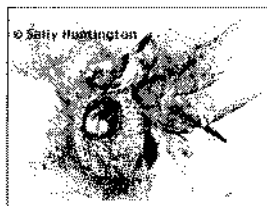
Actual cards do not contain the Copyright Line as depicted here.



Orange-Breasted Male Zebra Finch



Pekin Robin



Blue Cap Waxbill

Continued on next page...



NFSS FINCH SHOP



FINCH NOTE CARDS, Continued from Previous Page
5 1/2 x 4 1/4" Note Cards (With Envelopes)



Gouldian Finch Pair



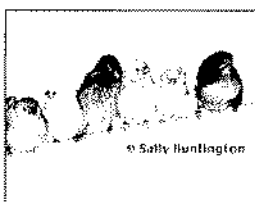
Diamond Sparrow



Gouldian Finch Trio



Fire Finch



"Mother's Day"



Gold Breasted Waxbill



Orange-Cheek Waxbill



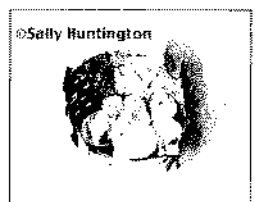
Owl Finch



Redheaded Finch



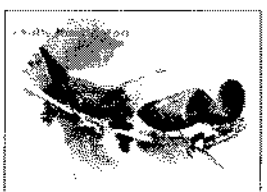
Pearl Headed Silverbill



White Society Finches



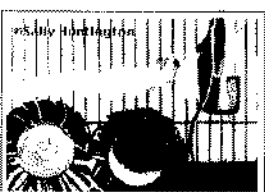
Red-Check Cordon Bleu



Red-Headed Parrot Finch



CFW Zebra Finch Pair



CFW Male in Show Cage

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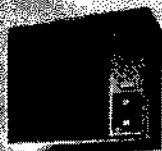
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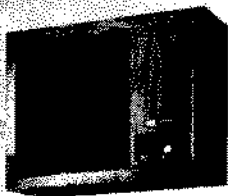
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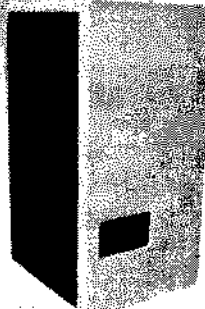
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Model 800



Model 150-T



Model 300-T

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