

Journal of the

National Finch & Softbill Society

Volume 20, No. 3

May/June, 2003



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Lonchura castaneothorax



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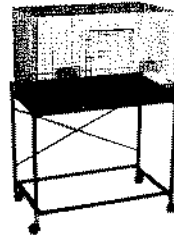
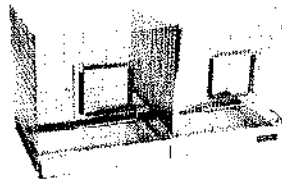


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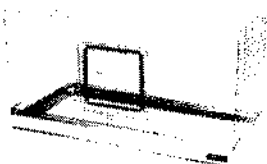
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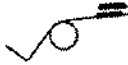
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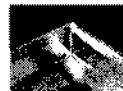
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The National Finch & Softbill Society is dedicated to the introduction of the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhance the knowledge of our members in keeping and care of these birds, encourage breeding programs, and cooperate with organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

On the Cover....

This issue's cover is a gorgeous photograph of a Chestnut Breasted Mannikin taken by Australian photographer, Leon Keasey. You will learn more about and can find more photos of these engaging birds from Harry Bryant's article on them in this issue.

Photo ©Copyright Leon Keasey, www.birdphotos.com.au

Journal of the National Finch and Softbill Society

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From the Editor

WHOA!! Is that actually a PARROT article in our Journal??? Well - yes it is... We have long wanted to offer Veterinary information in our Journal and our thanks go out to Harry Bryant for suggesting we investigate the offerings of the Association of Avian Veterinarians. Beginning with this issue, AAV articles will be regular features in our Journal. While many of them (as in this issue) are directed toward Psittacines, they are very relevant to our Finches and Softbills as well. So, we hope you will bear with the occasional Parrot focus, and enjoy reading and learning about current case-studies and issues in the Avian Veterinary field. As always - your comments and suggestions on this or any aspect of our Journal are welcome and much appreciated.

For those of you who might be considering running for the NFSS office of Fourth Vice President/NFSS Judges Panel Director - I omitted an important part of the job responsibilities description in our last issue. For more information about the duties of this office, please refer to the "NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards", Pages 4-5.

Happy Reading!

Martie Lauster

NFSS President's Message

May, 2003



BIRDS and BIRD PEOPLE - you gotta love 'em...no matter what?

Besides being accused of being carriers of bad new viruses...i.e. West Nile Virus and Exotic Newcastle Disease (END)...they still are a wonderful gift to us either as pets - or in research, understanding more about their untapped capabilities... in nature.

Bad news. Unfortunately END continues to spread... and has reached Texas. I do not know yet if this will affect the National Cage Bird Show. Last year California was NOT quarantined, so birds could go in and out of state. If Texas is under quarantine, no birds will be allowed in or out? Here in California we have not had many pet birds "depopulated", but as the Los Angeles Times, April 12, 2003, headline noted: "*Newcastle Disease Task Force Eyeing Pet Birds*".

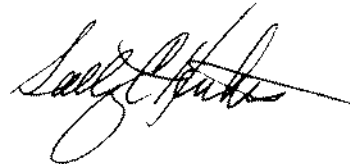
AFA has excellent guidelines for pet owners and breeders. This is serious folks! We all must exercise at least minimal precautions!

But on the brighter side...The Canadian publication, *Wellness Options*, in an article on Emotional Fitness, (Canada, 2003) cited pets, included birds, as helping to relieve stress. Florence Nightingale recognized the value of pet birds in her notes on nursing: "*A pet bird in a cage is sometimes the only pleasure of an invalid confined for years to the same room.*"

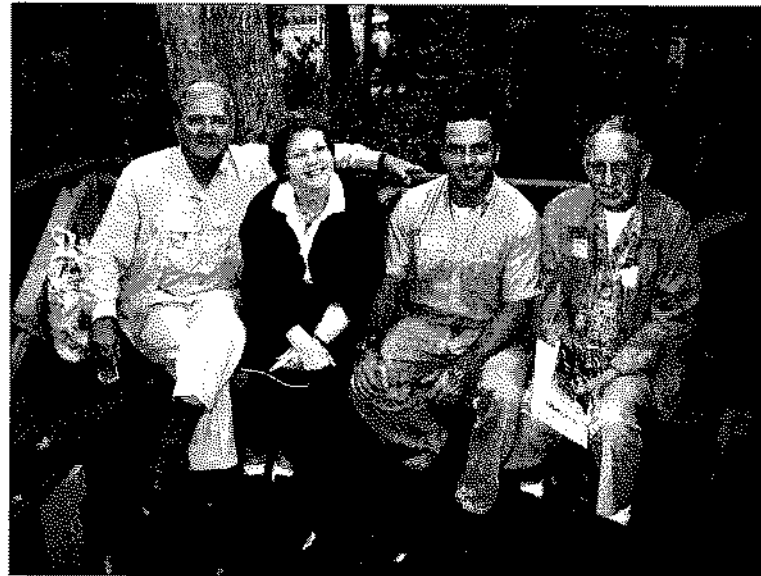
Zebra finches continue to be excellent research subjects. There is so much we have to learn about our Finches and Softbills. We know the pleasure they have brought us through the centuries, but we have just scratched the surface in understanding their private worlds. Recently The New York Times article: *The Color of Health* (April 15, 2003) revealed ongoing work with Zebra diets vs. sex life. A good diet, rich in 'carotenoids' (pigments that birds obtain in their diet) helps overall health *and* gets the hens ... if you are a zebra finch. Also, Zebra beak colors were studied at the University of Glasgow, Scot-

land. The birds fed a healthy diet that included 'carotenoids', had the brightest beaks, which both attracted hens and provided a better immune system. At the University of Burgundy, France, when blackbirds were fighting off foreign blood cells, carotenoid levels fell off, and beaks became duller over time. Next time you're buying birds, look for the brightest beaks. It looks like they do.

On the war? An electrician was updating some wiring in one of our flights. "Wow oh Wow!", said he excitedly, "A Bulbul!". Born and raised in Iraq, in America for 8 years, he said one of the main things he missed from home was the wildlife. He was VERY pleased to see one of our pairs of White-Eared Bulbuls up close.



Sally Huntington, President, National Finch & Softbill Society



From Australia, 2002....

L to R: Vince Huntington, (NFSS Region 6 V.P. and "Sally's Husband"), Sally Huntington, (NFSS President), Scott Golden, (Australian NFSS Member), and Ben Cooper, (San Diego)

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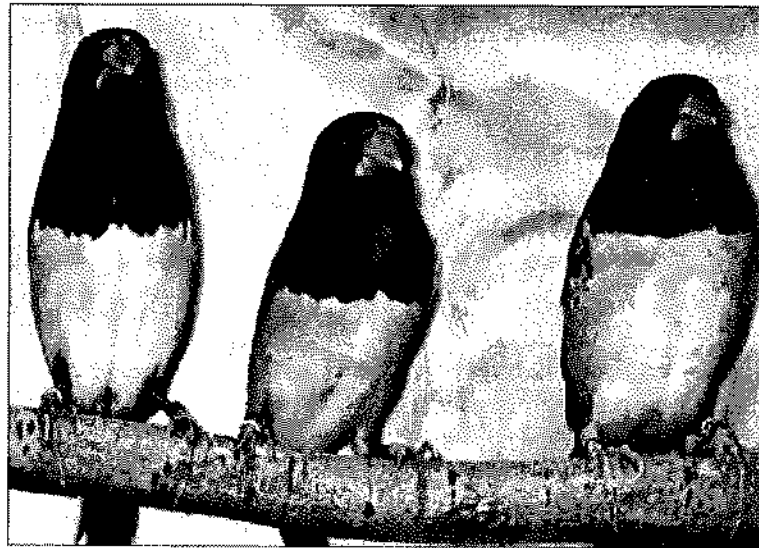
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Raising the Chestnut-breasted Mannikin

(*Lonchura castaneothorax*)

By Harry Bryant



Chestnut-breasted Mannikins - Photo ©Harry Bryant

While at first glance the Chestnut-breasted Mannikin does not possess the bold bright colors of many other Finches, its delicate feather texture and lovely shades of black and brown, make it a deserving "beauty queen". A calm demeanor (similar to that of a Gouldian Finch), a lovely song, the fact that it is hardy, easy to keep and breed, and its non-aggressiveness, makes them one of my favorite birds.

DESCRIPTION

About 4 to 4 ¼ inches (10-11cm - the size of a Spice Finch but somewhat heavier in build). Weight - 17 grams. Tail bluntly wedge-shaped (when spread) with the central feathers pointed and somewhat elongated. Face, including lores and stripe over eye, blackish brown with pale brownish shafts to the feathers. Throat brownish black with paler feather shafts only noticeable on



*Adult and Juvenile
Chestnut-breasted Mannikins
Photo ©Harry Bryant*

close inspection. Forehead, crown and nape a silvery brownish grey with darker feather centres giving a spotted effect. Mantle, back, wing coverts and fringes of the otherwise drab wing quills, warm reddish brown with indistinct greyish subterminal bands on back and mantle feathers. Lower rump and the long upper tail coverts pale golden. Tail feathers drab brown, fringed pale golden. Breast pale chestnut or deep café au lait colour, bordered at lower edge and sides with black. Lower breast and belly white. Flanks barred black and white but more or less suffused with pale chestnut. Lower flanks, tibial feathers and under tail coverts black. Irides brown. Bill pale to medium bluish grey. Legs and feet bluish grey, purplish grey, leaden grey or blackish.

Females are usually a little duller than the male, with a paler chestnut

breast and less pronounced black band dividing the chestnut and white areas of the underparts. There is, however, a great deal of individual variation and differences due to degree of wear and bleaching, in worn plumage the greys on the head and back look very pale.¹

Juveniles are a brownish-grey, being more olive brown on the back and flights. The sides of the face and cheeks are lightly streaked with off-white. The throat is greyish, and the chest a bullish brown. The brown breast bar is somewhat evident although very lightly marked.

Chestnut-breasted are somewhat difficult to sex, since the sexes look alike. Russell Kingston in "A Guide to Australian Grassfinches" (1997 - ABK Publications) states that "... the cock has a larger head than the hen. Looking at the crown, the cock is substantially wider between the eyes than is the hen. The cock also has a more "bulbous" mandible, albeit shorter than the hen's finer, more pointed mandible. The hen also has more brownish striation in



*Juvenile Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Photo ©Harry Bryant*

¹ Goodwin, Derek. "Estrildid Finches of the World", 1982, Cornell University Press (ISBN-0-8014-1433-4)

the face mask. The rump and upper tail coverts on the cock are brighter than that of the hen."

My eyes don't really see much difference, so I take the easy way out, and wait for the males to sing, which they do frequently.

CALLS, COURTSHIP, AND MATING

The only call appears to be a monosyllabic or (less often) disyllabic "tit" or "titit" that seems to function mainly as a contact call. It may be almost inaudible (to humans) when given by members of a small group feeding near to each other, or long-drawn out and with a bell-like quality when given by birds in flight or at a distance from each other.

The Chestnut-breast has a quiet, high-pitched song that is hardly audible over a long distance. With a duration of up to 12 seconds, it is considerably longer than the song phrases of other grass-finches. Each song phase is preceded by silent mandibulation. Morris (1958) describes a full four-phasic song phrase: weeeeeee-eeeeeeeee -- tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee -- cheeouk-cheeouk-cheeouk-cheeouk-cheeouk -- ching-ching-ching-ching. The final "ching" shows some distant similarity to the song of the canary. The long thin whistle ("weeeeeee") also occurs in the song of several other species of *Lonchura* for example, in the Yellow-rumped Finch. In general, the song phases of all species of the genus *Lonchura* show close resemblance to each other in sound-quality, as well as in structure and length of the phrase, which has been pointed out in detail by Hall (1962).²

Chestnut-breasts also sing in du-

ets and trios. Peering is also quite common. "Peering" is described by Goodwin as:

"PEERING (LISTENING, ZUHOREN IN GERMAN) This behavior was first described in detail for the Spice Finch (Moynihan & Hall, 1954) and has been observed in many other estrildids, especially the highly social mannikins and silverbills (Immelmann & Immelmann).

Peering is a response to the undirected singing of one bird.



Chestnut-breasted Mannikins - "peering display"
Photo ©Harry Bryant

The respondent, which is often the same sex as the singing bird and seldom its mate, flies or hops to the singing bird and stretches its neck till its head is close to that of the singer. It may stand either close beside or in front of the singing bird. It seems to be peering closely or listening to the other bird but the position of its head and tendency often to peck or poke the singer suggests aggressive tendencies. The singer usually tries to move his head away and often edges away along his perch but the peering bird follows, still peering and occasionally pecking or poking at the singer's head or, but less often, he may peck the singer fiercely (Moynihan

² Immelmann, Klaus, "Australian Finches", 1977, Angus & Robertson Publishers (ISBN-0-207-13626-2)

& Hall). Sometimes two or more birds may peer at the same singing individual although they then tend to get in each other's way. Moynihan & Hall observed that, in the Spice Finch, if the singer stopped as a result of the peering, it might invite the peerer to preen it, the two might 'chump' together or they might fight. In some less social species at least, peering, or something very like it, may be shown (again seldom by the bird's own mate) as a response to the courtship display as well as to un-directed singing.

Peering is sometimes thought to help flock cohesion among social species. Possibly it does so only in so far as it may, behaviorally, be a relatively peaceful alternative to a more positively aggressive response to the singing bird."

Males can also be identified by their courtship "crowing display", which can be described as: No nesting material is held. The male starts his song phase with bill wide open and head bent down. The feathers of the head, breast, belly and rump are erected. In this position he hops up and down for a few moments. After this, he bobs up and down by alternately stretching and bending his legs, frequently interrupting this with bill wiping and body shaking. During

this the male approaches the female until the two are in contact. Then both birds, still in bodily contact, make simultaneous deep bows till their bodies are in horizontal, followed by upward movements until their bodies are vertical. The birds' tails are turned towards each other and their belly feathers are even more erected than in the first part of the display. During this second part of the display sequence the male is usually silent. Copulation may follow immediately.

There is also much individual variation in the courtship display. Some males turn their heads from side to side while singing, others do not. Morris (1958) observed courtship displays which were initiated by both birds shaking and involved much mutual mandibulation and bill-wiping. Allo-preening occurs between paired birds but not, so far as has been observed, between other individuals. (Morris, 1958, Immelmann, 1965).³



*Chestnut-breasted Mannikins
Juvenile, Female, Male (starting to display)
Photo ©Harry Bryant*

³ Goodwin, Derek, "Estrildid Finches of the World", 1982, Cornell University Press (ISBN-0-8014-1433-4)

OTHER NAMES

Barley Bird, Barley Sparrow, Bul-lie, Bully (slang), Chestnut Finch, Chestnut-breasted Finch, Chestnut-breasted Munia, Dun-coloured Finch

HABITAT

Coastal eastern Australia, from Sidney to Cape York, northern Australia, including the Kimberleys, Groote Eylandt, Melville Island, New



Preening Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
Photo ©Harry Bryant

Guinea, Goodenough Island and Vulcan (Manam) Island. Introduced on New Caledonia.

Chestnut-breasts are an extremely social bird of the marshes, living in tall reeds and grasses near rivers, creeks and lakes. Most of the year they form large flocks of several hundred birds, often mixing with the Yellow-rumped Finch. During the breeding season they break apart into smaller groups, nesting close to the ground. They often venture into agricultural areas (sugar cane) and are considered as pests in some communities.

This finch seems to have developed two slightly different types of flight. Single birds fly in the normal manner of grass-finches, with slight

undulations. When in large flocks, however, the birds fly in a straight and very rapid manner with no undulations at all.

FOOD AND FEEDING HABITS IN THE WILD

Feeds mainly on seeds but sometimes takes flying termites and possibly other insects. The seeds of wild rice (*Oryza sativa*) are an important food along with the seed-heads

of grasses such as *Echinochloa colonum*, *Chloris virgata*, *Setaria nervosa*, *Panicum maximum* and *Panicum zymiformae*. They now feed largely on cultivated rice, barley, sorghum (dari), and millet, when they are available.

In contrast to most species of Australian grass-finches, the Chestnut-breast

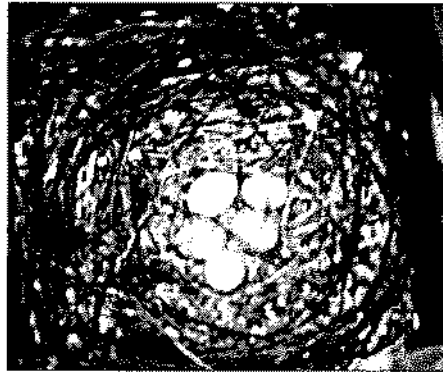
only rarely feeds on the bare ground. It prefers to alight on grass stalks just below the seed-head where it can easily strip it of seeds. As soon as that seed-head is empty, the bird will stretch out its neck and seize with its bill another stalk, which it pulls back and place underneath its feet. In this way, the bird may "collect" four or five stalks, holding them all with its feet until it finally takes off, with the stalks flying back in different directions.

Among the Australian finches, the *Lonchura* species are by far the most adept at climbing up and down vertical stalks, with both feet used alternately. This character was noted long ago by John Gould, who compared the Chestnut-breasted Manni-

kin with the European Bearded Tit.⁴

BREEDING - SITE AND NATURE OF NEST

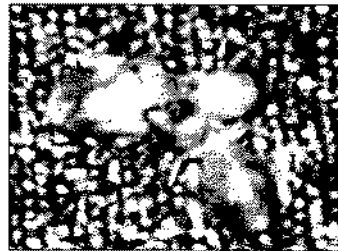
The nest of the Chestnut-breasts is usually situated in long grass, reeds or even in sugar cane. It is fixed among the vertical stalks of green grass, bent over and woven into the nest wall. The height of 27 nests measured was between one



Chestnut-breasted Mannikin Nest
Photo ©Harry Bryant

and three feet from the ground.

Both sexes build a nest that is dome shaped and somewhat laterally compressed so that it is usually only about 4 inches broad but up to 6 inches in depth and length. All nests examined by Immelmann (1962) consisted of 200 to 300 pieces of grass and were made of green grass



Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (2 days old) Photo ©Harry Bryant

(which quickly turns yellow on the outside of the nest). The length of the grass used continuously decreased towards the inside of the nest, which is lined with finer and softer grasses and plant wool but not with feathers. It has a small (1 to 1½ inches in diameter) entrance hole which may have a slight porch over it but no entrance tunnel.

No roosting nests are constructed. Outside of the breeding season big flocks roost in long grass or reeds, the vertical stalks of which will bend under the weight of many birds. This action resembles the roosting habits of the introduced European Starling.

Eggs: A normal clutch is 4 to 6 white eggs, each approximately 12mm x 17mm, exceptionally 3, 7 or 8 eggs. Incubation period is 12 to 13 days. Incubation is shared by both the cock and hen, and both birds remain on the nest at night. The parent birds cease to brood the chicks when they are approximately a week old, especially if the weather is warm at the time or they are housed in a warm bird room. The young fledge at about 21 days. Young in captivity return to the nest to roost for some nights after fledging.

FOOD AND FEEDING HABITS IN CAPTIVITY

My birds always have access to a bowl of standard finch mix, and a bowl of clean water. Every day they are given either soaked (sprouted) seed or egg food (my eggfood consists of crumbled hard boiled eggs – with the shell, plus 2 tablespoons of RichLife Vionate Vitamin mix, 1 tablespoon of Japanese millet, and 1 tablespoon of Birdcare's "Feast Insectivore" for each egg used.

⁴ Immelmann, Klaus. "Australian Finches". 1977. Angus & Robertson Publishers (ISBN-0-207-13626-2)

Spray millet is provided 2 or 3 times a week, and they also receive mealworms and/or wax worms once a week, unless they are feeding babies, when they receive mealworms and/or wax worms daily.

AVIARY NOTES

While I have raised Chestnut-breasts in breeding cages, I usually set them up as a group of four to six pair to a flight. Living in northern Ohio, my birds are kept indoors, in a basement bird room. My flights range from 3' x 6' x 6' high to 6' x 14' x 6 high. All of the flights have a 4' shoplight and are lighted fourteen hours a day. Temperatures in the bird room range from 68° F at night to 78° F during the day. Chestnut-breasted don't appear to be overly timid, so I don't usually provide any plants or artificial foliage in their flights. I use corncob bedding on the floor of the flight.

Various size tree branches are provided as perches, and I often add a few large marsh reeds, bull-rushes or cattails to one side of the flight for the birds to investigate.

An assortment of standard wood nest boxes and large bamboo finch baskets are provided at different heights, and they will use both. Chestnut-breasts do not build or use roosting nests, however the young will sometimes return to the nest to sleep for several days after fledging.

I provide soft grasses for nesting materials; I try to find an abandoned house in the country where the lawn grass has become overgrown. Tall grasses can also be found along

roads or in parks. The most important thing is that the grass is "fine", and not "coarse".

They are usually good parents, and a typical clutch will consist of four to six eggs, and incubation is 13 to 16 days. They will leave the nest about 3 weeks later, and the parents will continue to feed them for another three weeks. Adult plumage is obtained three to six months later. I leave the babies in with the parents for a month before removing them. The parents don't bother them, but I like to get them out of the breeding flight so its not so crowded.

HISTORY IN AVICULTURE

The Chestnut-breasted Mannikin is a hardy bird, easy to keep and reasonably easy to breed, and thus is a favorite aviary bird in Australia as well as abroad. It was first imported to England in 1860 when several birds were exhibited at the London Zoo. As early as 1880 it was quite common in England and on the Continent. Today (1965) it is fairly well established in Europe and the United States of America.⁵

MUTATIONS

An Albino mutation of the Chestnut-breasted Mannikin has been reported in captivity in Australia.⁶

Birds that have a deep chocolate-brown chest color, instead of the normal "chestnut" color, are also being selectively bred in Australia.⁷

A fawn mutation and a "crested" mutation have also been established.⁸

⁵ Immelmann, Klaus. "Australian Finches". 1977. Angus & Robertson Publishers (ISBN-0-207-13626-2)

^{6,7} Shephard, Mark. Aviculture in Australia - Keeping and Breeding Aviary Birds, 1989, Black Cockatoo Press (ISBN-0-9588106-0-5)

⁸ Mobbs, A.J. The complete Book of Australian Finches, 1990, TFH (ISBN-0-7938-0295-4)

SPECIAL NOTES

Chestnut-breasted Mannikins are hardy and long lived, with reports of 8 years or more in captivity. Their most productive breeding years being between their second through the fifth year.

Chestnut-breasts will readily hybridize with other members of the Mannikin family, such as the Bengalese (Society Finch), Silverbill, Java Sparrow, Spice Finch or any of the Nuns. Housing with these species should be avoided. There have also been reports of cross-breeding with Masked Grassfinches, Owl Finches, Long-tailed Grassfinches (Shaftails) and Zebra Finches.

These birds will breed year round indoors and should be limited to not more than three clutches a year. I remove all nests and nest boxes from the flight when I want to "rest" the birds.

Chestnut-breasts have claws that grow very, very fast, and must be trimmed regularly. I trim them at least every other month. If the claws are

not kept trimmed, the birds tend to become entangled in the wire mesh, leading to tragedy!

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Buying Birds

By Matthew Dingemans

So you now have an interest in birds. Perhaps you bought a few from a pet store or were given some zebra finches by a friend who could not contain their ever multiplying numbers. Now you want to get more birds, perhaps try to breed some more rare varieties. There are a few things which you should know when looking to buy birds, so that you may pick out the best stock for your situation from what you may find available.

First, you need to decide what species you want, and those which you are able to adequately care for. If you only have limited space you should not try to get a large species such as a toucan, which requires more space than many other birds you may have to choose from. If you aren't willing to breed insects or don't want to spend money buying them, you may not want to try to breed a species like the Dufresne's (a.k.a. yellow-bellied) waxbill (*Estrilda melanotis*), which depends on livefood especially during the breeding season. Information on species' needs may be gleaned from magazines, books, websites, and other bird keepers, and from this you should decide which species you can adequately care for.

Once you have decided what species you want and are able to properly care for, the next step is

finding healthy stock. There are several ways to find healthy birds. Looking over the results from the NFSS census may help you find breeders of some species, or if they can not provide you with any birds you may ask them where they found their stock. You may also attend NFSS shows and meet exhibitors there, and perhaps find that they may provide you with stock or the whereabouts of someone who can. You may find bird marts & fairs (vendors rather than exhibitors as in a show) listed or advertised in local papers, Bird Talk magazine [available at some pet stores], and www.birdsnways.com, and there might be found vendors who are selling finches and/or softbills. Some who sell birds may have websites that you may come across on the internet as well. If you join your local bird club (see affiliated clubs at the NFSS website, www.nfss.org) you may get the opportunity to meet other bird keepers, perhaps some who can help you find some of the birds that you are looking for.

So now you have located the birds you want. But are they healthy? There are a few things you want to look for when purchasing birds, in order to avoid some of the more obviously ill birds being sold. The bird should not sit fluffy and lethargically, but should be alert and active and not have difficulty

flying from perch to perch. Even some healthy young birds may sometimes hunker down over a perch and close its eyes and fluff its feathers somewhat when sleeping, but in this case they may be woken and startled and they should appear normal and active again, without returning to a state of excessive sleepiness or inactivity. If they are very inactive and sleepy, they may be ill and the purchase of such birds should be avoided. Look at the birds' eyes and nostrils, they should be clean and clear, not dirty or infected in appearance, nor should they be stuck closed. Check the vent area for cleanliness, and beware of any birds exhibiting abnormalities or swelling. Ask the seller if you can hold the bird and listen to its breathing, or have the breeder hold the bird for you to listen to. Some birds might breathe a little hard after being caught due to an exhausting chase, but they should not have a heavy wheeze or make clicking noises when they breathe. If the birds have not been chased and caught and have no reason to be out of breath, yet they still pant or gasp for breath, then they may be ill and should be avoided. Make sure that the bird has all of its toes and nails present and in good condition (though the nails may need trimming), and that the legs are in good condition; this is especially important if you plan to exhibit them, and even if not for exhibition, the birds might not be able to breed if they have serious leg/foot injuries or defects. Of course you may not have a chance to check many of the visual indicators of health if you are buying birds from afar and having them shipped. You may be able to

ask for pictures of the birds you are interested in, but it is still not the same as getting to view them in person. In these instances, as well as with those purchases made in person, it is always nice to be able to talk with others who have previously had purchasing experience with that dealer/breeder, and an effort on the buyers part to collect this information may lead to a better outcome. Of course there may always be those out there who have had a bad time with birds from that source and it may not be the sellers fault, thus care should be taken in whose advice is trusted.

Even if you have found an honest dealer or breeder who has healthy stock to sell you, this doesn't necessarily mean that they are the right birds for you. There are a few questions which you should ask first, some of which may pertain more to breeding potential than keeping them for enjoyment. You may first be interested in the age of the birds, and at this time you should also keep in mind what the normal breeding age for this species is, to help you decide if the birds are appropriately young. It is especially nice if the birds are closed banded with NFSS bands, as these have the year of issue date listed on them (note: a breeder could use an older band saved from a previous year on a younger bird [though it may often be undesirable to make a bird look substantially older than it is], but an NFSS band for future years could not be obtained and used by a breeder because bands are not issued so early; thus the bands may be accurate in general but could cause a bird to appear as if born earlier than it actually was). If you plan to

breed them you are obviously going to want to avoid very old birds, as they may become infertile at great ages. Also ask to make sure that the birds you are buying are unrelated if you plan to pair them together for breeding. You may want to ask whether the birds were parent raised or fostered under another species, though this may or may not affect their breeding success (other factors are important, and it also depends on the species). If the birds were bred in captivity you may be best off seeking those birds that were bred in an environment and on a diet most similar to that which you can provide for them. This basically means that if, for instance, you plan to keep them in a large cage with no plantings and on a relatively simple diet, you may be better off getting birds bred and kept in a sparsely-planted cage on a simple diet than getting birds that were bred in a huge, well-planted aviary with a variety of greenfood, vegetables, and livefood available. If you are able to obtain birds that are calm around people, then you may have a better chance of breeding success in a cage setting than if you get very nervous birds, who would be better suited to a well-planted aviary.

Price may be one of the factors you pay close attention to when you are searching for stock, but it should not be of your utmost concern that you find the lowest price available if it means you will sacrifice quality for price. Prices may vary according to location, availability, species, mutation, or other factors. With the current price of shipping it may not do you much good to locate stock in another part of the country, even if it is at a lower price

than you may find locally, unless the price is so drastically lower that it could make up for the high cost of shipping. Of course if the type of bird you are seeking is not available in your area then it may be necessary to ship. Some dealers/breeders are willing to accept payment by check, credit card, or cash; either way you should make sure you are given a receipt, and you should also have their current contact information. Ask if you can get a guarantee on the birds so that if they die or show signs of illness (within a period of time agreed upon), you can get a refund or healthy replacement. If the dealer/breeder does guarantee the birds you should ask for that guarantee in writing.

If you are picking up your birds in person the buyer may give you a small carrying box or cage, or you may be required to bring your own. Be sure to bring a towel and cover the carrying cage so that the birds are protected from direct sunlight and wind as you carry them out to your car. When you bring them home you should put them in a cage or flight by themselves in a quiet place and leave them alone for a while. They should be housed away from your other birds for several weeks and should be watched for any signs of sickness. Some people choose to put new birds on a series of treatments so that any of several hidden problems (i.e. protozoan infection, worms) that may exist are quickly dealt with while the birds are in quarantine, and thus they do not have a chance to pass those problems on to the other birds in the collection when they are introduced. Should those problems have gone

undetected while in quarantine. Whether or not you choose to use these precautionary treatments, it is still a good idea to quarantine new arrivals away from your other birds for a while (several weeks or more), and if any problems are noticed they should be dealt with immediately or returned to the dealer/breeder from whom they were purchased.

flock. Make sure that you do not overcrowd them, and watch for any signs of aggression towards or from the new birds. Make sure you are aware of species compatibility before purchasing any birds, so that you do not accidentally end up housing species that are known to be incompatible. Well, enjoy your happy, healthy birds!

After quarantine you may decide to introduce them to your current

Matthew Dingemans is an NFSS member from Dallas, Texas. He is currently working with Society and Gouldian Finches, and joined NFSS in 2002. He would like to send his thanks to those more experienced fanciers, who readily share their knowledge and experience with others, for allowing newcomers such as himself to rapidly gain valuable insight into this delightful hobby.



Tanager baby
10 days old

Sally Huntington

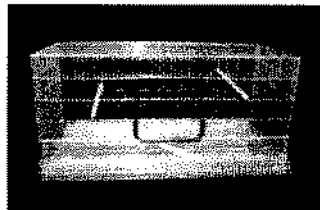
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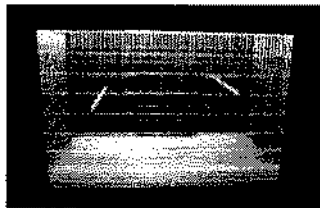
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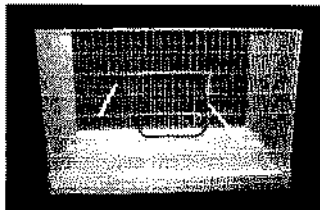
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Finches and the Asian Bird Trapping Market

by Mark Shipway
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Whilst I reserve my comments on the effectiveness of the wildlife protection laws in Australia, at least we have taken measures to ensure that, in relation to our finches, we no longer rely on **legal** trapping to artificially prop up numbers in our aviaries. This ensures that the incentive exists for us to develop domesticated strains for our avicultural future.

Unfortunately, the situation in other countries has not progressed as far as it has here in Australia. Asia has some of the most diverse species of birds in the world and thankfully some of them have taken steps to prohibit wild trapping but others, I'm afraid, are presently contributing to the inevitable extinction of many species. Parrots and Soft-bills aside, I have seen many Finch species trapped in large numbers in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and India. From what I have seen the problem is not as serious in Thailand and the Phillipines, which appear to import much of their stock from Europe and perhaps domestically bred birds from China.

My concern in relation to Finches is that they are permitted to be trapped in the first place, and because of their low value crammed

into cages in their hundreds so that the birds can hardly turn around. Their feed and water is inadequate and in some cases they are not fed at all when they are sold as food for humans. Not surprisingly huge numbers die from stress and the bodies are not removed from the cages.

Malaysia

The main bird markets in Malaysia are located in Kuala Lumpur, close to the city centre. Whilst it has been some time since I was there (1996) I have no doubt that the same practices continue today. Huge numbers of White Headed and Black Headed Munias are crammed into cages at those markets and sell for about 50 cents each. This my first experience of Asian bird markets, and was something I saw again and again.

Curiously, I saw two male Star finches offered for sale which I understand were imported from China. These birds seem to be sold as pets - not for breeding.

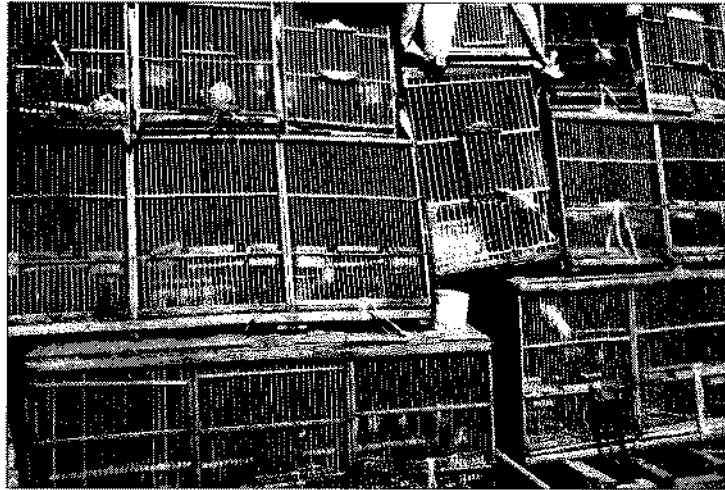
Indonesia

I have no doubt, that the Indonesian bird trapping market must be the cruelest I have ever seen. I must say that the "Pasar Burung" in Jakarta has the best standards than

anywhere in the country probably because it is the most competitive market with many suppliers. I guess there would have been more than a million birds there when I was there. Finches aren't sold there in large numbers and most that appear to be cage or aviary bred. There are large numbers of cage bred white, fawn and normal Java Sparrows (the wild birds on Java are almost trapped to extinc-

rots...and the list goes on. Silver Eared Mesias and Pekin Robins were readily available. As a westerner, I was the focus of much attention and was encouraged down dark alleyways by enthusiastic vendors to view birds which I suspect were rare and prohibited from capture and sale.

The Denpasar Bird markets on Bali, are a close second in stan-



Indonesia, Jakarta, Pasar Pramuka Bird Market. Birds in Cages
©Wolfgang Kachler, www.wkachlerphoto.com

tion now) and Finches imported from Europe, usually Holland, offered for sale such as black cheeked Zebras. The wild trapped Finches offered for sale included Javan Munias, Spice Finches, Pintailed Parrot Finches, White Headed and Black Headed Munias, Baya and Yellow Crowned Weavers. I understand other rare, wild trapped Finches pass through those markets from other parts of Indonesia. In addition to finches, Tame Hornbills, Eagles and eaglets, rare Par-

dards behind Jakarta although it is much smaller. Similar finches are offered for sale at this market.

At the Yogyakarta Bird Markets, I saw a male Red Billed Longtailed Grassfinch in a small cage which I understand was imported from China. There were also Strawberry Finches and Australian Zebra Finches. Other wild trapped munias were also offered for sale. It was here that I bought a pair of Pintailed Parrot Finches for release back into the wild.

Trapped Five Coloured Munias are offered for sale in large numbers in Mataram, Lombok and also on Sumbawa. In the markets at Ujung Padang, Sulawesi, I saw my first Timor Zebra Finches, two hens (of course, the trader was trying to convince me that they were a pair?!?!?). I suspected they were the Timor race because they appeared to be wild caught and had a call quite different from Australian Zebra Finches - a call more like a mix of those of the St. Helena and Nun. It was confirmed when I later saw many in the wild on Sumbawa and Flores Islands. Curiously, in another cage they had some Australian Zebra Finches. I always speak to the sellers/ traders and it's interesting that they rarely know the areas where the birds come from. In some instances they would tell me where some of the birds were trapped or were purchased but their lack of knowledge startled me. I had to teach them how to sex Zebra Finches, Bengalese and Java Sparrows.

The Brown Headed Munias for sale in Southern Sulawesi were of the race *brunneiceps* of the Black Headed Munia. This race is seen in the wild only in southern Sulawesi and Maluku. (The easiest place to see them in the wild is in the picturesque Tanatoraja district where I've seen them feeding happily with Moluccan Munias. They nest in abundance in the trees in the main street of Rantepao).

The worst market of them all must have been the Manado animal markets in Sumatra. The day I visited most of the traders were receiving shipments of Black Headed and White Headed Munias - of course,

all wild trapped. There were many thousands, crammed into little cages. Most were suffering severe stress (as these munias appear more susceptible to stress than other munias) and about 30% appeared only minutes to hours from death. Later in the afternoon I recall one of the many traders sweeping up the dead and nearly dead birds (which weren't in a condition to fly away) and he filled two small garbage bins with piles on the top of both dead and nearly dead birds. I guess that there would have been hundreds in those bins. It is truly one of the most shocking scenes I have seen. Of course, I collected from the bin as many as I could which appeared to be alive and at least gave them a hope by placing them in suitable habitat on the edge of town. For most, though, the end was inevitable.

Although I haven't been to East or West Timor, I would not be surprised that the Timor Sparrow, the Tanimbar Parrot Finch and the Timor race of the Zebra Finch are offered for sale in the markets there.

Thailand

Relatively speaking, Thailand appears to have a very good record probably with a small wild trapping market. From my discussions with local bird keepers, it appears that this has been a relatively recent phenomenon - I believe the early 1990's. Before that time, I understand wild caught birds were readily available. In this regard, we can only hope that other Asian countries use Thailand as an example. In the pets section of the huge Bangkok Market, many traders offer Finches and other birds for sale. In 1998 and 2000, I saw Gouldians -

(Normals and White Breasted), Pearl Headed Silverbills (probably imported from Europe), Mozambique Green Singers (probably locally bred as singers), many Australian Parrots (origin questionable???), Bengalese, Asian race of the Peaceful Dove, Diamond doves in a variety of mutations I have not seen before. One caveat to Thailand's record - I recall that in the premises of one trader I noticed a cage with a towel over it - obviously to hide the contents. Being the sticky beak that I am, I looked and a group of about ten to fifteen Black Headed Munias (race *sinensis*) were inside. Given the circumstances, they were obviously wild caught. According to Restall (1996), it is this race which is now very rare in Thailand surviving in only three small locations. Could this be due to over trapping?

In regional areas of Thailand, Spice Finches (race *topela*) are caught for release at Buddhist Temples. Unfortunately, many of these birds are released in the middle of Bangkok and despite their relative adaptability, I doubt that many survive post release.

Vietnam

Restall (1996) comments that in Vietnam, Spice Finches are caught for human consumption. Whilst I have not seen this, I have seen wild trapped Spice Finches and White Rumped Munias in Hanoi. There is an isolated population of White Headed Munias in the wild in Vietnam and I would not be surprised if these are regularly trapped and traded.

Curiously, there were pairs of cage bred Red Billed Longtails and

Gouldians for sale in cane cages. I understand that these were imported from Southern China.

India

I visited the Crawford Markets in central Mumbai (formerly known as "Bombay") in May 2000. Typical of the Asian style, wild caught munias were abundant. The most readily available were the Tri Coloured Munia (*L.malacca*) and the Spice Finch, race *punctulata*. Curiously, the Tri Coloureds appeared a little smaller than those in Australia and the line between the black and white on the underparts of each bird was very well defined, in that the white was pure snow white with no traces of chestnut, unlike some of our specimens in Australia (with hybrid backgrounds). However, Restall (1996) reports of variations on the flanks in wild populations showing barring whilst others show scalloping. He states that he saw them at the Crawford Markets but I did not see such birds - mind you I wasn't looking for them. There were also Indian Silverbills, Java Sparrows, Macaws and Strawberry Finches offered for sale. I visited no other bird markets in India.

I viewed Zebra Finches and Black Headed Munias in private collections in the Maldives, which were probably imported from Sri Lanka.

Phillipines

I recall when I was eight years old my father's work brought the family to Manila for a year in 1980. Back then Gouldian Finches were offered for sale in the Manila Bird markets. I was there again in 1998 and it appears that most of their finches are imported from Europe -

though I did see some wild caught Black Headed Munia's which were either race *formosana* or *jagori*, I was not sure. The latter race is easily seen by searching the long grass at Manado Airport or the entrance to Sepilok Orang U Tan Rehabilitation Centre near Sandakan, Sabah, on Borneo Malaysia. Dusky Munias can also be seen in the shrubs and yard fences near by.

Whydahs, both Pintailed and Paradise (not surprisingly at the ratio of 10 males to two females) were abundant in the markets there and so were Orange Bishop and Napoleon Weavers. I can only assume that these were wild caught birds from Africa imported either directly or via Europe. Locally bred white and fawn Java Sparrows, Zebra finches and Bengalese were available. Other birds include, Pintailed Parrot Finches, Gouldians, Strawberries and if I recall correctly, I believe there were also Cut Throats, Orange Cheeks and Lav-

enders just to name a few.

Conclusion

I believe that the issue of Finch trapping in Asia is a reason for concern. As we know from history, sometimes we act too late and a species gets lost through man's lack of attention. I believe that there is a real concern for some of the species which are trapped in large numbers. The White Headed and Black Headed Nuns seem, at the moment, to be able to withstand the constant trapping - but I doubt the Pintailed Parrot Finch is faring so well even though it is caught in far less numbers. The Java Sparrow is an example of how a common bird can become so rare through trapping, it is now endangered in its natural habitat.

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NFSS Election of Officers

As you know, this is an NFSS Election year. In the last issue of the NFSS Journal, the duties of all elected positions were explained in detail. We are pleased to report that we already have at least one candidate for each position - with the exception of Membership Director.

I have been carrying the responsibilities of both the Membership Director and the NFSS Journal. Both jobs are really fun, but as the Journal continues to expand, I am finding that my time is severely limited - and have decided not to run for another term as Membership Director.

If you have a little extra time, a computer, enjoy details and talking to people - please consider running for the office of NFSS Membership Director. I would be happy to provide any information needed and answer any questions you may have that might help in your decision. I can be reached at (315) 524-7768 or by e-mail at mlauster@rochester.rr.com.

Thanks in advance for your consideration!

Martie Lauster



*A Visit to NFSS Region 5
Meet...*

Terry Logan

In Pursuit of Amadines

Fifteen years ago I took a job as a sales clerk in a small pet shop where we sold everything from puppies to frogs. The owner was based out of Chicago, Illinois, and was able to bring in a variety of small animals, reptiles, and birds to our little shop, 60 miles south of Chicago. Here I re-discovered finches. I bought several types of finches including a pair of African Silverbills. They quickly became my favorite, they endeared themselves to me, and this is how I began my quest for Silverbills. This pair had two chicks, one died at six weeks and the other lived for eight years. They never produced another chick and I was never able to find another African Silverbill after that. I read any and every book I could find. I particularly enjoyed the books with photos, and one of my favorite books was a copy of "Simon and Schuster's Guide to Pet Birds" by Matthew Vriends. That is where I first saw the Pearl Headed *Silverbill* on picture 56. I checked this book out on several occasions over the next twelve years just to look at the only picture of Pearl Headed Silverbills I was able to find. I was determined to find them. Every pet shop I went into I would ask the same question, "Can you get Pearl Headed Silverbills?". The answer

was always the same, "Never have seen them before - No, I can't get them." I read every pet classified in every paper, called every number listing finches, in every state I have ever lived in, all to no avail.

In 1991 we moved to Boulder, Colorado. There I found a locally owned pet shop and I became friends with the pet shop manager. I bought several of my birds from him and he bought some of mine. I asked the same question of him, "Can you get Pearl Headed Silverbills?" He wasn't sure what they were but he gave me an old copy of S. E. Bird Supply and said maybe Sigie could help me locate some. I looked at this list often, dreaming of buying every kind of bird I wanted. I wrote to Sigie requesting a current copy and asked if he sold to the public. I didn't hear anything for several months and I had even given up. I did finally get the "Infamous List" from Sigie and I looked it over again, dreaming of buying every bird I wanted. I even calculated how much it would cost. I found a listing for Pearl Headed Amadines, \$50.00/pr. And I thought, "How odd - a name so similar to Pearl Headed Silverbills. I had no idea what an Amadine was and I blew this off and

continued my search - having no idea that these birds were, in fact, what I had been looking for.

In 1998 we bought our first computer and naturally I began searching the web for the ever-elusive Pearl Headed Silverbills. My search was fruitless. In fact there was not much of anything about these birds on the web.



Some of Terry's Pearl Headed Amadines
Photo ©Terry Logan

During my countless web searches I did find an organization that called itself NFSS. I looked over the web page, liked it, saved it in my favorites section, and visited the web page several times. Most of the good web pages from breeders boasted membership in NFSS and I soon made the connection between good, experienced breeders and the NFSS. I contacted the NFSS and they sent me a Mar/Apr issue with show results in it and as I flipped through the pages I noticed a Pearl Headed Amadine and thought, "There is that bird again. I wonder what a Pearl Headed Amadine is?" Whatever it was, it was in several shows and appeared to do pretty good. Up to this point, I had never heard Pearl Headed *Silverbills* referred to as Pearl Headed *Amadine*. The only picture of Pearl Headed Silverbills I could find was in a 20 year old library book and my computer search was a bust.

In early Summer of 2000, I was once again searching the net for Pearl Headed Silverbills and made a very startling discovery. I found a web page that referred to Pearl Headed Silverbills as *Pearl Headed Amadines!* Instantly, I saw in my head Sigie's list with Amadines - \$50.00/pr. - Pearl Headed Amadine, Patrick Vance. I ran to my room and dug up Sigie's list.

There it was, in front of me all the time. I never understood these were the birds I had been looking for for so long! I dug up the NFSS Bulletin and discovered Patrick Vance was a judge with a phone number listed. (I still have that issue, vol. 17, no. 2). I couldn't believe my luck! I called

Patrick at home and had a good conversation with him, but was disappointed to learn he wasn't breeding Pearl Heads. He did tell me some very important information about contacting Sigie Myer. Now, anyone who has ever tried to contact Sigie, knows how hard it is to get him on the phone.

Later that Summer, I called Sigie and was able to get him on the phone. I thoroughly enjoyed our conversation and he said to call back around the 10th or 11th of September and he might know then if he had any Amadines. It was a long wait until I could make that phone call. I called on Sunday evening and I got the best news I had ever received relating to my birds - he had some! I think my heart stopped. I told him I would have the money in the mail the next day. I sent the letter via Express Mail. I wasn't taking any chances. I

look back now and realize. it was probably over-kill. Here's the best part – I coughed up another paperwork. He had no idea he had just sat in front of me the BEST! Present I had ever bought for



Denver - November 3, 2002. One of Terry's Pearl Headed Amadines takes sixth place at their first showing! (Top Right)
Photo ©Terry Logan

\$100.00 for four more birds and sent it also. I did restrain myself this time and sent it regular mail. I had enough now to buy 20 birds. WOW! I waited an additional four weeks before they could be sent. I had many sleepless nights waiting – I was finally going to have my Amadines.

I got a call late Thursday evening the end of October and it was Sigie telling me the birds would be at the Denver International Airport on Friday afternoon. I left work earlier than I needed to that day and had my daughter drive me to the airport. I could barely contain myself – twelve years of searching was finally over. The gentleman behind the counter brought a small wooden box to the counter, sat it down in front of me. and finished his

myself. I peered into the small wire window, the first sight of them took my breath away. Up to this point I had never seen a Pearl Headed Amadine, except in pictures. Pictures DO NOT do these birds justice. I got my birds out to the car and one bird hopped up close to the small window in the box, cocked its head sideways the way birds do when they look at something, and looked up at me. I will never forget that grey speckled face peering out at me from inside that box. I watched them all the way home as they hopped back and forth, peering out at me, back under cover, then back again to have another look.

I feel overwhelmingly in love with these birds and don't think I will ever find another I fancy so much.

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From the Association of Avian Veterinarians...

Infrared-Introduced Carcinoma in an African Grey Parrot

Alan K. Jones, BVetMed, MRCVS

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The bird featured in this case was an adult male African grey parrot imported into England from Africa. The bird was brought to the veterinarian with depression, loss of appetite, dehydration, and diarrhea with mustard-yellow feces. The tests were negative for Chlamydia, but positive for Salmonella.

At this point, the owner did very well; he noticed that the bird was sick and brought it right away for diagnosis and treatment.

The bird was isolated from others in the group to prevent spread of disease, and also to monitor treatment and progress. The bird was confined to a smaller cage, fed soft foods, and additional heat was provided in the form of an infrared lamp suspended above the cage. The heat source provided the needed warmth and it duly recovered from the Salmonellosis. However, during recovery, obvious scorching was found on the crown of the bird's head, with erythema and mild blistering, and some feather loss.

The bird was paired with another African grey and provided with a nest box. The pair spent most of their time inside of the nest box, so observation was limited. Several weeks after the birds were paired, this bird (the male) was observed sitting in a bowed position outside of the nest box unable to lift his head. A crusty-grey lesion was noted on the back of his head, approximately 2x3cm in size. The bird was brought in again for evaluation.

The bird was moderately thin, unable to stand upright or fly. He appeared to be unbalanced and uncoordinated. The mass on the head appeared to be constructed of layers of keratin material.

The bird was anesthetized and the mass examined more closely. The crusty layers lifted easily, revealing an opening into the skull approximately 2cm in diameter, with inflamed borders, through which the brain was visible. The bird died at this point, and subsequent histological examination of the removed

mass revealed squamous-cell carcinoma.

The take-home lesson here is that while it is often necessary to provide heat, the heat source should be positioned in such a way that the bird can get away from the heat if it chooses. For example, a heat lamp should not be too close and should be positioned to one side of the cage so there is also a cool area. Also, to not provide direct infrared heat for too long a period of time.

Also - while this bird was well cared-for during the initial stages of the illness, that attention deteriorated after the apparent recovery and the lesion was not noticed until it had progressed to a tumor of the scalp and invaded through to skull into the brain cavity. If noticed earlier, it may have been possible to deal with this tumor successfully before it became fatally invasive.

Release #4, April, 2003. The Association of Avian Veterinarians welcomes membership from veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine. Annual meetings and a quarterly journal provide a format for the latest in avian medical information. Is your veterinarian a member? Individuals wishing to subscribe to the Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery may write to: AAV - P.O. Box 811720 Boca Raton, FL, 33481. Send your check for \$110.00 for one year (within the US)

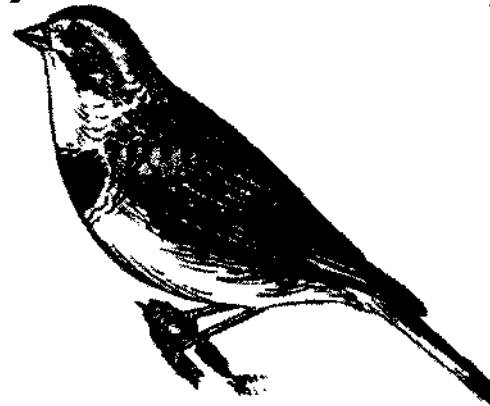
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Meeting Your Friends on the NFSS Judges Panel

Compiled by Martha Wigmore

At any time during the year you may have the pleasure of meeting a National Finch and Softbill Society panel judge at a show near you. Hobbyists like you, these individuals try to make every NFSS show they judge a beneficial and educational experience for you and our guests. They have a lot to share! To give you a personal glimpse of some of this venerable crew's experience and thoughts, we thought it would be fun to contact our NFSS Panel Judges this year with a list of questions – the same questions that NFSS founding member Nancy Reed asked our judges back in 1986 (see Jul/Aug 1986 issue of *The NFSS Bulletin*)!

Responding to this questionnaire were: Nizam Ali, Charles Anchor, Laura Bewley, Harold Bowles, Dr. Al Decoteau, Stephen Hoppin, Sally Huntington, Armando Lee, Conrad Meinert, Patrick Vance, Jerri Wiesenfeld, and Martha Wigmore.

My thanks to those of you who took the time to contribute.

1. WHAT IS YOUR ONE FAVORITE SPECIES OF FINCHES OR SOFTBILLS?

- | | |
|--|---|
| Ali: Shama Thrush. | Lee: Gouldians. |
| Anchor: Zebra. | Meinert: I really don't have a favorite. I like them all. |
| Bewley: Magpie Mannikin. | Vance: Without question, the Gouldian finch. |
| Bowles: Green Singing and Star. | Weisenfeld: Java Rice Birds. |
| Decoteau: Gouldian and Royal Starling. | Wigmore: Zebra. I love the challenge of breeding to an "ideal" conformation. |
| Hoppin: I do not have one favorite. | |
| Huntington: Mannikins, Waxbills, & Mousebirds | |
-

2. IF MONEY WERE NO OBJECT, WHAT ONE PAIR OF FINCHES OR SOFTBILLS WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO OWN?

- | | |
|--|--|
| All: Shama Thrush. | Huntington: Grand Mannikins
(<i>Lonchura grandis</i>). |
| Anchor: Variegated Wrens. | Lee: Gouldians. |
| Bewley: Plush Crested Jay. | Melnert: Fairy Blue Birds. |
| Decoteau: Bali Mynah (once again). | Vance: The Pictorella. |
| Hoppin: Truly, nothing comes to mind. | Weisenfeld: Bali Mynahs. |
| | Wigmore: White-crested Laughing Thrush. |

WHAT IS YOUR MOST EXCITING BREEDING SUCCESS (RARITY, SIZE OF CLUTCH, MUTATION, WHATEVER)?

- All:** Shafttail Finch.
- Anchor:** Every time an egg hatches. How the Man upstairs gets it raised. Human parents should pay that kind of attention to their children.
- Bewley:** Any success is exciting. Once I had a pair of normal Zebras that had a clutch of 5. They were all males. Then their next clutch, of again 5, were all female. I have never had all of one sex in a clutch before or since.
- Decoteau:** Royal Starling – 3 chicks.
- Hoppin:** Tie: 10 years of domestic breeding of the Black Crested Finch (parent raised & closed banded); One dozen Pintail Nonpareil Parrot Finches (fostered to Society Finches & closed banded; also achieved 32 pts. with one cock in short span).
- Huntington:** White-eared Bulbul, Purple Honeycreeper.
- Lee:** Breeding Red Quelea Weavers.
- Meinert:** Bali Mynah – 3 in clutch; Brazilian Cardinals – 2 in clutch.
- Vance:** Raising 3 Melbas in 2001.
- Weisenfeld:** When I used to have a lot of pairs of breeding Lady Gouldians all raising their own chicks.
- Wigmore:** I had a pair of Zebras (a Rood/Vargo pairing) that produced exquisitely conformed off-spring, earning 74 pts. among them in just 2 show seasons (1998-99). It was very exciting!

4. HAVE YOU SUCCESSFULLY BRED AND RAISED ANY SOFTBILLS? WHAT?

Anchor: Plush-crested Jays **Huntington:** Pekin Robins, Tanagers, Mousebirds, White-eared Bulbul, Purple Honeycreeper.

Decoteau: Several – Pekin Robins, Royal Starling, Mynahs – Indian Hill & Bali, plus many more. **Meinert:** Bali Mynah, Brazilian Cardinals, Pekin Robins.

Hoppin: Not bred, however hand-raised Superb Starling and Red-crested Touraco.

5. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS?

Ali: 30 years plus. **Huntington:** Over 20 years.

Anchor: Since 1959. **Lee:** Too long.

Bewley: 21 years. **Meinert:** 60 years.

Bowles: 25 years. **Vance:** 20 years this month (8/02).

Decoteau: 50 years. **Welsenfeld:** Approx. 22 years.

Hoppin: Since 1979– 23 years. **Wigmore:** Since 1979, 23 years.

6. DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL TIP THAT IS PERHAPS UNIQUE TO YOUR FACILITY? (NESTING, NUTRITION, CAGING, WHATEVER?)

Bewley: Have as much light in room as possible. The brighter the room the better.

Decoteau: Caging – using much planting including long grasses.

Hoppin: No one personal tip that is unique. Attempt to provide as natural environment as possible, provide necessary nutrition, provide balance of compatibility within mixed flight/s, provide proper light and necessary resting phase.

Huntington: Birds are raised outside in planted flights

Lee: System – got to have a system for breeding, feeding, cleaning, etc.

Vance: The most valuable thing I've learned over 20 years is the importance of certain vitamins, particularly vitamin A. I credit Robert Black for reducing the mortality rate of juvenile Gouldians.

Weisenfeld: Always keep a first aid kit or similar box in the aviary in case of injuries and a clean small cage nearby for babies or adults if they need to be separated due to injury or illness.

Wigmore: The more systematic I am, the better have been my results with the birds. Have had great results feeding sprouted seeds and mini-mealworms with rarer varieties.

7. WHAT ONE SPECIES OR MUTATION WOULD YOU WISH TO BECOME MORE PROLIFIC, AND THEREFORE MADE MORE EASILY AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE?

Ali: Shafttail.

Huntington: Mannikins and Munias.

Bewley: Any of the Waxbills. They are a great size for any breeder, wonderful to watch and have some entertaining songs.

Lee: Waxbills.

Meinert: Pekin Robins.

Vance: Either the Pictorella or the Australian Crimson Finch.

Decoteau: Bali Mynah, Indian Hill Mynah.

Weisenfeld: Cordon Blues.

Hoppin: No one species or mutation (for myself, that is).

Wigmore: Any of the Whydahs.

8. DO YOU BREED YOUR FINCHES/SOFTBILLS IN: INDIVIDUAL CAGES? FLIGHTS? MIXED?

8A. WHAT/WHERE/WITH WHAT? (SUCCESSFULLY)

All: Yes.

Anchor: Individual cages.

Bewley: I have pairs set up in individual cages.

Bowles: Individual cages.

Decoteau: Mixed – most in planted aviaries

Hoppin: Currently mixed flight (approx 20' x 40') – Parson, Choc. Self Societies, Fawn Self Societies.

Huntington: Zebras in individual cages. All the rest in mixed flights.

Lee: Mixed. Both Cages and Flights.

Meinert: Individual cages.

Vance: All of the above. Some are community bred, certain species have a flight to themselves (i.e. Javas, White-breasted Nuns & Pearl-headed Amadines). Zebras are always bred individually in cages. I even have 1 pair of breeding Melbas in a community flight.

Weisenfeld: Mixed. Outside aviary – mixed species in one flight. Inside - individual breeding cages and flight breeding with 2-3 pairs of same species.

Wigmore: In individual cages my best results are with all wire, 18" x 18" x 36" or even smaller cages. one pair to a cage. Breed Zebras, Gouldians, Societies, Green Singers, and Diamond Doves in this manner. I also have bred Cape Doves, Gold-breasted Waxbills, Cutthroats, and other African species in large mixed flights in warm, dry basement, well lit with lights on a timer. Even had Golden Song Sparrows nest in mixed indoor flights.

9. HAVE YOU EVER FOSTERED EGGS? CHICKS?

9A. WHAT/WITH WHAT?

Ali: Yes (eggs and chicks). Society Finch.

Anchor: Zebras under Societies.

Bewley: I have not fostered eggs or chicks but have handfed Cutthroats and Zebra chicks due to problems with the parents.

Bowles: Gouldians with Society.

Decoteau: No.

Hoppin: 1982 – 1992 Shaftails, Owls, Pintail Nonpariels under Society trios (2 cocks, 1 hen). Eliminated fostering once achieving parent-raised birds.

Huntington: No. I hand raise, if necessary.

Lee: Yes. Societies.

Meinert: Yes. Eggs to Societies. Goulds to Societies.

Vance: Both, using Bengalese finches, usually 2 males. I've had no success using Zebras as foster parents.

Weisenfeld: No.

Wigmore: Gouldian eggs under Societies, if needed, though usually my chicks are parent-raised.

10. WHAT ULTIMATE MUTATION OF A SPECIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE PRODUCED? (BE IMAGINATIVE.)

- All:** South American Seed Eater Finch. **Vance:** A Red-breasted Gouldian.
- Bewley:** Red Java Rice Bird. **Wiesenfeld:** A Blue Zebra or a Yellow Java.
- Decoteau:** The all-white Crow.
- Hoppin:** None – well, maybe just a Black Canary.

11. ARE FINCHES/SOFTBILLS YOUR MAIN INTEREST??

11A. IF NO, WHAT IS YOUR SPECIALTY?

11B. WHAT SPECIES OTHER THAN FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS DO YOU KEEP?

- All:** Yes. Also keep Canaries.
- Anchor:** Love chickens.
- Bewley:** Yes. Also keep Amazon Parrots, Meyers Parrots, Nanday Conures.
- Bowles:** No. 11A. Cockatiels. 11B. Cockatiels & Hookbills.
- Decoteau:** I keep them all.
- Hoppin:** No, bromeliads & orchids. 11A. Pitcairnia (Bromeliads). 11B. Pet African Grey "Digger," pet Yellow Collared Macaw "Bart."
- Huntington:** Yes. Also keep a few of the Grasskeets.
- Lee:** Yes. Also keep Canaries - Type and Colorbred.
- Meinert:** No. 11A. Diamond Doves, Pacific Parrotlets, Lineolated Parakeets. 11B. Diamond Doves, Pacific Parrotlets. Lineolated Parakeets, Cockatiels.
- Vance:** Finches, yes. I keep 40+ species of finches, 4 species of doves, plus a handful of small hookbills, i.e. Parrotlets, Bourkes (1 pair), Scarlet-chested Parakeets (2 Pairs), and of course my companion parrot, an Indian Ringneck.
- Wiesenfeld:** Yes.
- Wigmore:** Yes. At present, none other than finches (and 3 special children!). I have raised Rock Pebbliers and Red-rump Grass Parakeets as well as Cockatiels and Canaries.

12. WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FAULT FOUND IN EXHIBITION BIRDS?

- All:** Feet & wings.
- Anchor:** Owners not paying attention to details, i.e. overgrown beaks, long nails. Lack of cage training.
- Bewley:** Top line – the line a bird displays from the head down to the tail.
- Bowles:** Condition.
- Decoteau:** Conformation in Gouldians.
- Hoppin:** Conformation, i.e. Goulds – flat heads, Zebs – over-chested/lumpy.
- Huntington:** Dirty feet & cages.
- Lee:** Conformation.
- Meinert:** Lack of training & condition.
- Vance:** Improper conditioning – generally for most finches. For Zebras, it's conformation or lack thereof. For Goulds, it's conformation problems where the bird is too long & thin.
- Weisenfeld:** Their owners who take the competition too seriously! Showing the same bird over & over without thinking of the bird's health & well-being.
- Wigmore:** Poor body conformation.

13. WHEN YOU COME TO JUDGING THE BEST IN SHOW, WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST COMMONLY APPARENT FACTOR FOR A BIRD PLACING LOWER IN THE TOP TEN?

- Bewley:** Feather condition 1st.
Presentation 2nd.
- Lee:** Distance to the standards.
- Bowles:** Condition.
- Meinert:** Condition.
- Decoteau:** Conformation.
- Vance:** Conditioning.
- Hoppin:** Conformation fault.
Second, condition.
- Weisenfeld:** Poorer conformation, condition, getting tired and laying on the perch.
- Huntington:** Condition.
- Wigmore:** At this point in the show, I am comparing the birds, reviewing how "good an orange this orange is overall" vs. how "good a banana this one is overall." No one particular factor regularly bumps entries down, in my mind.

14. DO YOU FEEL FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS ALWAYS SHOW BETTER IN A SHOW BOX OR DO YOU THINK CERTAIN SPECIES MAY SHOW BETTER IN AN OPEN CAGE? FOR INSTANCE, WHAT TYPE OR SPECIES?

Alli: Show box. Zebra Finch, Star Finch, Cordon Bleu Waxbill.

Anchor: Always in a box (show box).

Bewley: I think it depends on the individual bird. But most seem to show best in a show box because of the security they receive from the walls of the box. Some birds who want to see what's going on or who keep jumping on wire of box to see out would show better in a cage.

Bowles: Show box of some type.

Decoteau: Show box.

Hoppin: I do not feel they "always" show better in a show box. I have exhibited certain birds in an open cage that have displayed their demeanor much better – depends on personality of bird. Successes in open cage: Gold-breasted Waxbill (BIS of 184 entries) & Red Crested Touraco.

Huntington: Show box.

Lee: Show box.

Meinert: Show box.

Vance: I know nothing about softbills, however my experience is that finches tend to settle down in a show box & are far more flighty in an open cage.

Weisenfeld: Finches definitely show better when trained for a show cage. Small softbills do well in a show box, however large softbills may do better in an open cage. They may stay in condition better - tail, etc.

Wigmore: I think show boxes offer a greater sense of security to most birds at the show. It is important to construct the cage that will best show off the species, though. I will *never* forget seeing Dr. Val Clear's hummingbirds in specially constructed show boxes! It was thrilling! *Please, share your birds at the shows!!*



Original Drawing by ©Christine Kumar

15. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR JUDGES ABOUT DEALING WITH HOST CLUBS WHEN MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS TO A JUDGING ASSIGNMENT?

Bewley: Most clubs have been happy for me to make my own arrangements. That gives them less work and saves many calls of "is this good for you." I have driven to most of my last judging assignments so I don't have any stories to tell of late.

Bowles: Most of the time I make my travel arrangements, then receive payment at show time.

Decoteau: Always have the host club purchase tickets and maintain awareness of any changes. My worst experience was taking an airport limo to the wrong (same name) hotel – 35 miles away.

Hoppin: ALWAYS get contract in writing. I have come to the conclusion it is better (for me) to have host club make flight arrangements and buy ticket.

Hunting- I feel it is best if the judge buys the ticket and the host club re-
ton: imburse for whatever is a fair price.

Lee: I prefer to buy my own and then collect from the club. Check with the host club about your arrival and departure times. You don't want to be waiting at the airport for a long time, but we are considerate about their time. Bring some food in case they drop you at a motel that is many miles from the nearest restaurant. Be prepared.

Meinert: I like to make my arrangements so I'm not sitting in an airport for hours.

Vance: : I prefer that the host club make all arrangements & give the club the date & general time that I'd prefer to depart. (1) I broke my leg one month before the Toronto show – a Canadian judge replaced me. (2) Arrived at a Missouri airport several hours late & there was no one waiting at the airport for me. The woman who was to greet me totaled her car en-route to the airport. I finally reached my hotel around 4 a.m.

Wigmore: Oh, the stories we could tell!!! The frequently occurring "judges' nightmare" is being dropped off Friday night at a motel too far from dinner food! Oooo, after leaving home at 6 a.m. and traveling all day, bagged chips from the vending machine are just so yummy for dinner! –grin- I like to make my own arrangements, but I had some really tough experiences after 9-11 that showed me that judges need to take time to be clear with host clubs about who will bear the financial burden of increased flight costs due to bankrupt airlines and/or cancelled flights – or even cancelled shows!! Many times, judges (being human, too) just cannot afford the financial risk.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS FROM JUDGES

Anchor: I would really like to see doves & quail taken out of our Society. In no way are they cage birds.

Hoppin: Questions I have: What trends in NFSS judging have you liked/disliked over the years? Do you review NFSS standards with the gallery? Do you refer to entries using specific name (i.e. St. Helena Waxbill, Black-cheeked Waxbill, etc.) or do you commonly refer to entries as "this little bird," "this one," etc.?

Meinert: I don't believe clubs realize what a judge goes through to judge for some clubs!

Wigmore: Bird shows and fairs require "work", but so what!!!! You touch a LOT of lives by putting them on and getting our birds and our great hobby OUT there – *to share with others!* The work is hard – on all sides, the rewards are tremendous, and our birds are wonderful! We had lots of new show exhibitors this past year. YOU there!!! - help someone out with birds and equipment! It doesn't happen by magic – but it sure ain't rocket science to keep this special hobby going. *Thank you for ALL you do!*

2003 NFSS Financial Report for the period 1/1/03 to 3/31/03 - First Qtr.

The numbers in parentheses are 2003 budget figures.

CASH IN ACCOUNTS:

Checking - Main & Bands 631.47
 Checking - Membership 3,047.78
 Checking - FinchShop 311.44
 Savings 19,440.37
 Advances 800.00

Total Cash In Accounts - 24,231.06

	<u>INCOME:</u>	<u>EXPENSES:</u>
Band Sales	4,760.15 (6,500.00)	3,155.91 (6,163.00)
Membership	6,327.50 (22,095.00)	301.65 (1,084.00)
FinchShop	462.03 (4,950.00)	164.50 (3,706.00)
Affiliations	775.00 (1,500.00)	123.15 (350.00)
4th VP/Judges Panel	100.00 (260.00)	0.00 (175.00)
Journal	512.21 (1,500.00)	7,985.79 (22,600.00)
Awards	913.00 (2,500.00)	25.75 (2,500.00)
Finch/Softbill Save	30.00 (0.00)	108.22 (200.00)
Advertising	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (750.00)
Misc.	56.59 (0.00)	577.96 (2,530.00)
Total -	13,936.48 (39,305.00)	13,094.78 (40,058.00)

Total Gain/Loss - 841.70 (-753.00)

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Phelps, NFSS Treasurer

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BioSecurity Recommendations for Indoor Aviary

By Sandee L. Molenda, C.A.S.

1. Isolation -

- a) No buying or trading of birds.
- b) No foreign cage birds admitted onto the property.
- c) No admittance to the aviary by any person other than self.
- d) Quarantine, hospital, nursery, show birds and breeding facilities housed in separate buildings.
- e) Do not attend bird marts, swap meets or poultry exhibitions.
- f) Do not keep poultry or game birds. hospitalized birds.
- f) Step in pan of disinfectant prior to entering aviary.
- g) Use air cleaners/filters in aviary.

2. Quarantine -

- a) All birds that leave the property for any reason are quarantined for a minimum of 90 days.
- b) All birds returned to the property must be tested before returning to the aviary.
- c) Separate food and water from breeding aviary.
- d) Always service quarantined birds last.
- e) Shower, change clothes and shoes after servicing quarantined birds.

3. Hygiene -

- a) Shower and change of clothes, shoes upon return from any bird related activity (vet visits, bird club meetings, trips to pet shop/feed store).
- b) Wash hands before & after servicing all birds.
- c) Wear specific clothes/shoes for use only in aviary.
- e) Shower, change of shoes/clothes after servicing quarantined/

Pet Bird

Biosecurity Recommendations

- 1) Quarantine all new birds for at least 90 days.
- 2) Quarantine bird (if others are present) after veterinary exams or after bird returns to the home for any reason.
- 3) Keep separate food and water between quarantined bird and other household pets.
- 4) Service quarantined birds last.
- 5) Shower, change clothes and shoes after serving quarantined birds.
- 6) Never take bird to marts, flea markets, swap meets, bird club meetings or events where other birds are located.
- 7) Do not attend or purchase items at bird marts or swap meets.
- 8) Do not take bird out into the public.
- 9) Always wash hands before handling bird; have others wash hands before handling your bird.
- 10) Shower, change clothes and shoes after attending any area where birds may have been present including pet shops and feed stores.
- 11) Spray Lysol or other disinfectants on shoes prior to entering home; do the same to any visitor that comes into your home.
- 12) Purchase food and supplies from dealers that do not have birds or keep birds in separate facilities.



Spring 2003 Finch List

Floyd Barrett, College Park, Georgia, 404-768-0697
Shipping Available - 10% discount for NFSS Members

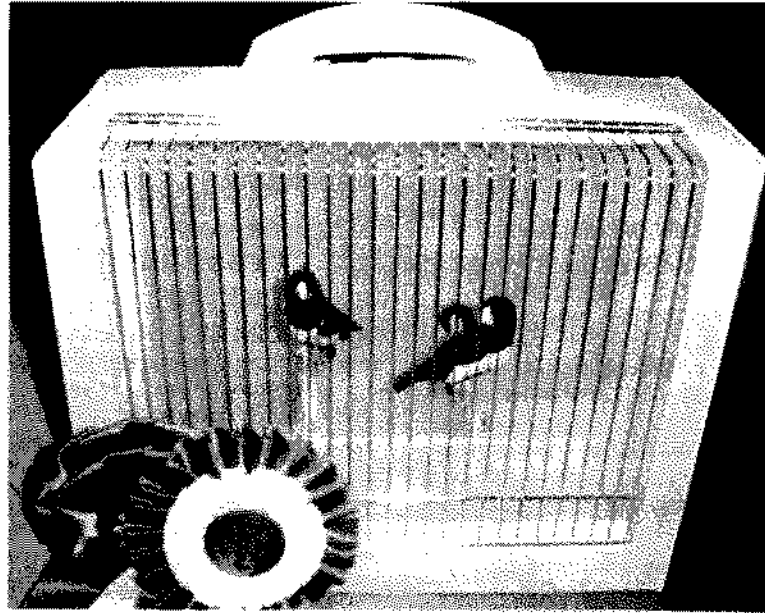
African Citril (<i>Serinus citrinelloides</i>)	\$80/pr
Black-cheeked Waxbill (<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>)	\$120/pr
Black-crowned Waxbill (<i>Estrilda nonnula</i>).....	\$200/pr
Blue-capped Cordon Bleu (<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>)	\$80/pr
Blue-breasted Cordon Bleu (<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>)	\$80/pr
Cherry Finch (<i>Aidemosyne modesta</i>) ..	\$120/pr
Cherry Finch (Isabel)	\$180/pr
Crimson Finch S.A.....	\$250/pr
Crimson Pileated finch S.A.	\$250/pr
Diamond Firetail (<i>Emblema guttata</i>)....	\$130/pr
Diamond Firetail (fawn).....	\$150/pr
Emerald Spotted Dove	\$150/pr
Pigmy Ground Dove.....	\$100/pr
Dybowski Twinspot (<i>Euschistospiza dybowskii</i>)	\$175/pr
Female gold breasted waxbill.....	\$80/ea
Golden-breasted Bunting (<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>)	\$130/pr
Goldfinch, New Zealand (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>).....	\$69/pr
Gouldian Finch (red, black, yellow head) (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>)	\$150/pr
Gouldian Finch (white breasted)	\$200/pr
Green Singer (<i>Serinus mozambesi</i>).....	\$125/ea
Grey Singer (Yellow-rumped Serin) (<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>)	\$100/pr
Red-legged Honeycreeper	\$450/pr
Purple-legged Honeycreeper	\$450/pr
Jacarinini Finch	\$100/pr
Masked Grass Finch (<i>Poephila personata</i>)	\$150/pr
Melba Finch (<i>Pytilia melba</i>)	\$120/pr
Nuns, White and Black Hooded (<i>Lonchura Malacca, L. maja</i>)	\$60/pr
Owl Finch (<i>Poephila bichenovii</i>).....	\$175/pr
Painted Finch (<i>Emblema picta</i>)	\$450/pr
Parrot Finches: Blue-faced (<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>)	\$225/pr
Forbes (<i>Erythrura tricolor</i>)	\$350/pr
Peaies	\$500/pr
Pintail Nonpariel (<i>Erythrura prasina prasina</i>)	\$150/pr
Yellow Pintail Nonpariel.....	\$250/pr
Red Headed (<i>Erythrura psittacea</i>)	\$250/pr
Red-Headed Pied.....	\$450/pr
Red-Headed Sea Green	\$250/pr
Peter's Twinspot (<i>Hypargos niveoguttatus</i>)	\$150/pr
Purple Grenadier (<i>Uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i>)	\$250/pr
Quail finch (Limited Pairs Available) (<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>)	\$150/pr
White Button Quail.....	\$25/pr
Red-browed Firetail (Sydney waxbill) (<i>Aegintha temporalis</i>)	\$280/pr
Red-faced Crimson Wing (<i>Cryptospiza reichenovii</i>).....	\$120/pr
Red-headed Finch (<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>)	\$80/pr
Red Munia (strawberry) (<i>Amandava amandava</i>)	\$80/pr
Shafttail (<i>Poephila acuticauda</i>)	\$100/pr
Saint Helena Waxbill	\$120/pr
Star Finch, Red faced (<i>Neochmia ruficauda</i>)	\$100/pr
Star Finch Yellow faced	\$120/pr
Silverbill (<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>)	\$40/pr
Silverbill Grey-headed (<i>Lonchura griseicapilla</i>)	\$80/pr
Paradise Tanager.....	\$1200/pr
Turquoise Tanager (<i>T. mexicana</i>)	\$400/pr
Violet-eared Waxbill (<i>Uraeginthus granatina</i>)	\$300/pr
Scaly-crowned Weaver (<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>)	\$80/pr
Golden Weaver	\$90/pr
Whydahs: Shaft-tailed (Queen) (<i>Vidua regia</i>) .	\$175/pr
Straw-tailed (Fisher) (<i>Vidua fischeri</i>) .	\$175/pr
Paradise (<i>Steganura paradisaea</i>) ...	\$180/pr
Steel Blue (<i>Vidua hypocherina</i>).....	\$180/pr
Yellow-bellied Waxbill (Sweet) (<i>Estrilda melanotis</i>).....	\$80/pr
Yellow Canary (Giant Green Singer) (<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>)	\$120/pr

Coming Attractions

Bamboo parrot finch, Papuan parrot Finch, Crimson Finch, New Guinea Mannikin, Leaf Birds, Fruit Doves, Broadbills, Rare Pigeons, Fairy BlueBird and many more. Call for price and availability.

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Clayton's Dad

By Jerry Berreth, Carver, OR

Whoa!! It's dark and tight in here. But, I've been pecking hard and now I can move better. But little legs or something keep kicking me. I heard a chirp! Was that me? Now somebody keeps sitting on me and I hear more chirping. Then I feel something picking me up. Where am I going? Who will feed me?

I hear a voice say, "You hold him while I fix his food". Hey, it sounds good to me. So then I get an eyedropper of baby bird food. WOW! I was hooked! Then I just slept. When I awoke and made a big racket chirping, Mom would feed me again.

Then one day my eyes opened and I saw Mother feeding me with the eyedropper. Then Mom handed me to a great big thing: MY DAD!! Now, I knew I had a Mom (she fed me) and a DAD (he held me and talked to me).

Now all I needed was a name. Dad talked about how I was the lone Society Finch in that nest. Kinda like the Lone Ranger. I didn't like it. But Dad came through. Clayton Moore played the Lone Ranger in the old movies, right? So his name is Clayton. I was so happy. I now have a Mom, a Dad, a name and I can fly now, too - and I sure do. It's so cool to go down my fly-way (Mom calls it the hallway) into the Zoo. She calls that the Bird Room. She has 30 or 40 of these cage things full of different pretty Finch birds for me to look at.

She is so nice. She put a thing on the outside of a cage for me to stay in. She calls it a "nest", but me and Dad call it my Pad! I love it. I come and go as I please - and no rent either.

I gotta tell ya, Mom makes special food for those birds, and seed and water, too. She even puts some out for me!

But, in the morning, when the lights come on where me and those bird guys live, I know Dad and Dolly will be eating soon. I told you about my Dad and Mom - but Dolly is their dog. What I've heard is that she is a Dalmatian. I like her, but for instance, I hear sounds from the kitchen. I fly in, take a look - cool! Dad's making us breakfast. I go for a little wake-up flight. Fly back to the table - land on Dad's plate. Hmm...eggs, toast, glass of milk...it's great! Lord knows I

don't eat much. But Dolly looks at me like I'm a pig. Don't know what her problem is. I don't eat her dog food - Ugh!

Growing up with Mom and Dad, I've come to love pizza, tacos, burgers, ice cream, cake, soda pop (but only Diet Coke). And guess what? My Dad loves the same food I do!

However, my Mother works hard to feed her birds a healthy diet. When she cuts up greens, I like to help by getting in the bowl or sitting on the knife blade. And Yes, I'll have a snack of it now and then.

I'm so happy! I fly when and where I want. I have breakfast with Dad, the day to myself, then dinner with Mom and Dad. In the evening, we have snacks and watch TV. I get up at first light, so after Wheel of Fortune at 8:00, I fly in to my bed.

But - then one day, I'm sitting on the phone (Well, you sit where you like. I like the phone...it's warm, sort of.) Anyway, all of a sudden, there's a flutter of wings. One of Mom's birds must have gotten out of jail (I thought). I flew over to Dad to tell him there was an escaped and possibly dangerous bird over by Mom. Boy-oh-boy, I couldn't believe it when Mom picked up that thing - called it Lu-Lu, and kissed her right on the BEAK! A Shaft-tail yet!! I swear, if I was to have a pet bird, an Owl Finch or maybe a Canary would be MY choice. Oh well!!

I still have the air-space to myself - except for Mom's pet Shaft-tail!! Lu-Lu follows me here-there-and-everywhere I go. She lands by me and goes, "Yada-yada-yada, blah-blah-blah". I fly to another room and - bingo! Here comes Lu-Lu again. She's a real bird brain.

Then one day, I started feeling odd. I mean really weird! I just want to sit in my Pad. And then - WOW - I laid an egg! That pest Lu-Lu turned out to be a real friend. She'd sit on top of my house and say stuff like, "Breathe, breathe deep, relax, now push, push!" With her help, I laid five eggs!

I heard Mom tell Dad. "Guess what? Your BOY. Clayton. laid five eggs!" Dad said, "That's my boy! He's a super bird. He can do anything he wants!!"

I love Mom. I kinda like Lu-Lu - But ain't my Dad great!!!!

Clayton

NORTHWEST OHIO BIRD CLUB

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10 am to 5 pm

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DAY OF FAIR ONLY: (734) 755-8142*

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**MICKI KECK
7071 W. DUNBAR RD
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**PHONE OR FAX: (734) 269-2861
E-MAIL: mickdandbird2@provide.net**



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Wisconsin Cage Bird Club, Inc. (WCBC)

26th Annual Show

to be held on

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FOUR DIVISIONS:

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ACS Judged by Bert McAulay

NFSS Judged by Miki Sparak

Plus 2 ABS shows judged back-to-back, same day

ABS Judged by Larry Moore (WCBC) and

ABS Judge Fred Wagner (WINGS)

Hotel Rooms: \$45/ea (single or double)

Banquet: \$15/per person (children under 12, \$7.50)

Questions: Contact Bernie Rahmlow at (920) 231-8606

NFSS Legislation News – May, 2003

By Harry Bryant,
NFSS Legislative Director

This year continues to be challenging to the bird-owner/aviculturist, and up-to-date information on legislation and other issues affecting bird owners can always be found on the "Legislation" page (<http://www.nfss.org/legis/legismain.html>) on the NFSS website.

STATE NEWS

CALIFORNIA

Legislation (AB-202) was introduced on January 28, 2003 to the California Assembly that would make it illegal for pet stores to possess or sell unweaned baby birds.

Over the last couple of months, it has become even more apparent that this bill is not about protecting baby birds, but is about furthering the agenda of several Animal "Rights" groups!

Once again, It is extremely important that we all send letters objecting to this bill, and more information on this matter as well as sample letters and the addresses to send them to are located on the NFSS website at <http://www.nfss.org/legis/stateinfo/ca/AB-202-main.htm>

TEXAS

Texas Legislators have written well-meaning, but misguided, legislation (H.B.2328), in an attempt to

manage the recent END outbreak, which will also regulate all poultry and exotic birds in Texas. Information, addresses and sample letters have been placed on the NFSS website at <http://www.nfss.org/legis/StateInfo/TX/HB-2328/TX-HB2328-1.htm>

ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVITY

Feds Target Animal Rights Activists in New Jersey & Washington

(Seattle Times – 4/24/03) Agents from the Joint Terrorism Task Force raided a University District home yesterday and another site in Newark, N.J., in connection with an investigation into arsons and other acts of vandalism associated with radical animal and environmental groups.

According to a search warrant on file in U.S. District Court in Seattle, agents are investigating suspected violations of two federal statutes involving threatening interstate communications and "animal enterprise terrorism" - terrorism against companies involved in animal enterprises.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Friedman said he could not comment because the investigation is continuing and because the affidavits justifying the search are sealed. No arrests were made.

**Other Articles concerning
Animal "Rights" Groups on the
NFSS Website**

- Animal Rights Groups Callous, Not Cute.
- Animal Rights Leader wants to be Barbecued.
- The WAAIL Watch: Protests Fizzle throughout U.S.

**EXOTIC NEWCASTLE'S DISEASE
(END)**

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has declared an extraordinary emergency for the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada. These declarations allow USDA to apply federal authority within Arizona, California and Nevada.
- Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) was confirmed on October 1, 2002, in the State of California. On January 16, 2003, END was also confirmed in a backyard flock in the State of Nevada. In Arizona, a backyard flock was also confirmed with END on February 4, 2003.
- Effective January 7, 2003, APHIS imposed a federal quarantine that regulates the interstate movement of all species of birds and poultry products from Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, CA.
- Effective January 17, 2003, APHIS imposed a federal quarantine that regulates the interstate movement of all species of birds and poultry products from Clark and a portion of Nye County, NV.
- Effective February 10, 2003, APHIS imposed a federal quarantine that regulates the interstate
- movement of all species of birds and poultry products from all of La Paz and Yuma Counties and a portion of Mohave County, AZ.
- Effective April 10, 2003, Exotic Newcastle Disease was confirmed in Texas; and five counties (El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, TX, and Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero Counties, NM) were quarantined. (A quarantine was placed on a portion of New Mexico because of its proximity to the infected area in the State of Texas).

If you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to call USDA, APHIS, VS, Emergency Programs at 800-940-6524, 301-734-8073 or their website(s) Federal - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/enc/exoticnc.html>; State (CA) - http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Newcastle_info.htm

End is a contagious viral disease affecting many species of birds including poultry and wild birds. This is probably one of the most infectious diseases of poultry in the world with a death rate of almost 100 percent in unvaccinated poultry flocks and so virulent that many birds die without showing any clinical signs. The disease can even infect and cause death in vaccinated poultry.

END is extremely contagious. The spread is primarily through direct contact between healthy birds and the bodily fluids of infected birds. It can be transmitted through infected bird droppings as well as secretions from the nose, mouth and eyes. It spreads rapidly among confined birds like commercially raised chickens. The disease is also easily spread by virus-bearing material picked up on shoes and clothing and carried from an infected flock to a healthy one.

Showing is Sharing

News from NFSS
Judges Panel Director
Martha Wigmore

Resignation of Panel Judge

NFSS has reluctantly accepted Jacqueline Civitarese's resignation from the NFSS Judges Panel. A knowledgeable cage-bird hobbyist as well as a parrot judge, Jacky has brightened NFSS show benches since her name first appeared in the NFSS Panel Judge listing in the Jul/Aug 1997 issue of "The NFSS Bulletin." Heading into what she calls "kinda...a new life", Jacky will bring with her the talents that helped her win the \$1,000.00 Best in Show award at the Great American Bird Show with "Benjamin", a Common Starling – twice!! (See photograph of this marvelous bird in the Nov/Dec 1994 issue of "The NFSS Bulletin.") Best wishes, Jacky!

Proposed Revision of the General Standard Published Here for Your Review

The "Draft" General Standard, beautifully prepared by Jon Hoffman in June 1992, has never been formally adopted by NFSS, although it is widely referenced by breeders and judges. This General Standard, slightly rearranged, is published in this issue for your review and any questions or comments you would like to make. Following this comment period and a review of any resulting changes, the proposal will go the NFSS Board for formal adoption

as an NFSS Official Standard. Your thoughts are welcome!

NFSS Would Like Your Involvement on New Standard Committees This Summer

New standard committees will form this summer! Members are asked to contact me if you are interested in contributing to any of the following: Society Finches – new color standards and classifications for Euro-Society colors; Gouldian Finches – new color standards and classifications for rarer mutations: Ringneck Doves; Parsons Finch; Pearl Headed Silverbill. Please drop me a note today if you'd like to participate!

Judge for 2003 National Selected

NFSS Panel Judge Armando Lee has been accorded the honor of judging NFSS' upcoming 2003 National Show, which has been held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show.

Congratulations, Armando!

**Thank YOU
for sharing at the shows!**

THE NFSS OFFICIAL STANDARDS

General Standard for Finches and Softbills

**Proposed
General
Standard
For
Finches &
Softbills**

Proposed by Jon Hoffman
for the **National Finch and Softbill Society**
June 1992 with revisions March 2003

Any comments should be sent to:

Ms. Martha Wigmore
NFSS Judges Panel Director
18913 Boston Street
Elk River, MN 55330
e-mail: newdlwig@mindspring.com

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Conformation includes many inherited characteristics such as size, proportion and substance. Because these characteristics can be vital in a captive-breeding program, conformation is the single most important consideration in judging finches and softbills.

A show bird should be the appropriate size for its kind. Bigger is not necessarily better. Many waxbills, for example, should be dainty and diminutive in appearance. Size should be within normal parameters for the species or sub-species, not undersized or oversized.

All finches and softbills need good substance, the relationship of a bird's musculature and bulk to its bone structure and overall length. Proportion

and overall balance are of prime importance, the look of the whole bird outweighing the sum of the individual characteristics. All proportions should be appropriate to the species or sub-species.

Head and Body: 30 points.

The head must be in proportion to the body, of the appropriate shape and contour. Eyes should also be of the correct size and shape, placed in proper relationship to the overall shape of the head. The beak should be in the proper proportion to the head as well, and there must be no imperfection or deformity.

Feet and legs should be strong and clean, with no growths or abnormalities. Legs of most birds will be parallel or will extend out from the body at a slight angle. All toes and toenails should be present, and nails should be of the proper length. A missing nail is counted as a minor fault, as it will not ordinarily impair normal breeding. A missing toe is more serious and will rate a heavier deduction.

Wings: 10 points.

Wing carriage must be given appropriate weight, as it largely determines the nature of the back line. Most finches and softbills should carry their wings tightly against the body; the wings will lie flat along the back. Some of the more robustly-built birds, like barbets, hold the wings close to, but not directly against, the body, causing the wings to lie slightly above the line of the back, rump and tail. The back should be full and smooth, with no lumpiness or hunched look. The line of the back should run in a straight line or gentle curve down to the rump and tail.

The wings in repose will not normally cross at the tips except momentarily. Wings should lie neatly together, and there should be no drooping or holding of the wings unnaturally away from the body, except in the display behavior.

Tail: 10 points.

In most species, the tail will continue the line of the back. In any case, the tail should be held at the correct angle. The tail should also be of appropriate length, width and shape, as well as being in proper proportion to the overall balance of the bird.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

Condition includes the general health and grooming of the bird, and it is of invaluable importance to the enhancement of a bird's appearance. The condition and texture of the feathers is of prime importance. All feathers should be present and undamaged. Any sign of trimming of tail or wing feathers for evenness will be penalized. While visible pin-feathers are undesirable, this will not ordinarily be faulted as heavily as will missing or damaged feathers. The feathers of the head and body should lie smoothly

in most species; feathers should be clean and free of all foreign matter, "lumps", fraying or any roughness not normal to the species or sub-species. Some birds (most waxbills, Gouldians, parson finches, etc.) normally keep their own plumage in good condition, and such birds will be judged very rigorously on condition. Other birds, such as European goldfinches, parrot finches and owl finches are rarely seen in perfect condition on the show bench and will be especially impressive if they appear in excellent plumage.

Due consideration is to be given to the different feather textures normal to different species or sub-species. Coarse-feathered birds (barbets, etc.) or normally loose-feathered birds (goldfinches, etc.,) are not expected to have the tight, flat-lying feathers one sees in green singing finches and fire finches. The nuptial plumage of certain weavers is of a crushed-velvet texture, and there are other configurations and textures in the feathers of other birds. Each should be judged according to the type of feathers desirable in its species or sub-species. Nor should the erecting or ruffling of feathers in display be mistaken for poor condition.

Eyes should be bright and clear, without any discharge or abnormality. The beak must be clean, with no excessive scaling. Hairline cracks in the beak are counted as minor faults.

Legs and feet must be neat and clean. Nails and beaks must be of proper length and shape. The bird's overall impression should indicate excellent health and care.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

Color is given special significance in judging finches and softbills, as color is a kind of hallmark among many species.

While color expectations will vary considerably - depending on the species, sub-species or mutation - judges will look for (a) color appropriate to the species, sub-species or mutation; (b) depth and evenness of color; (c) evenness of color suffusions or gradations; (d) color unsullied by inappropriate suffusions, "tarnish", blotching or markings.

In pied mutations, symmetry of markings is desirable, but secondary to a pleasing degree of contrast and proportion of pied markings to ground color. In sexually dimorphic birds, pied markings should not completely obscure the color patterns that distinguish gender.

No preference is given to male or female color patterns in sexually dimorphic birds, nor - in birds which have light or dark factors - to one color factor over another. No bird is penalized for being what it is.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Deportment: 10 points.

This refers to the bird's stance and behavior on the show bench. Good deportment causes a bird to stand at the proper angle, grip the perch firmly, avoid "hunching" over, and to hold its head and tail in proper relationship to the body. Stance should be erect and confident.

The bird should seem comfortable in the show cage. Behavior should be appropriate to the bird's kind. The bird should perch, without attempting to hide, flee or cling to the bars of the cage, unless its natural behavior is to do so (i.e. the Mousebirds). The bird should show itself to advantage, projecting an air of alert confidence and behavior normal to its kind.

Presentation: 5 points.

Presentation refers to the show cage and the overall "finish" of the entry. NFSS does not require the use of a standard show cage, but it is highly recommended. The cage should be of a size and shape that allows and encourages the bird to perch and display. The construction must admit enough light to permit a thorough evaluation of the bird, and the judge should be able to view the bird from above, as well as in profile.

Perches should be fastened firmly, and they must be of a thickness appropriate for the bird's feet. In cages with more than one perch, placement should permit easy and natural movement from one perch to the other. Placement of perches must also permit the bird to stand erect without any rubbing of head or feathers against the cage walls or wires.

The cage should be large enough to permit some natural movement but small enough to provide the bird with a sense of security. The cage will, ideally, allow the judge to focus attention on the bird, with no distractions. Box cages must be painted black on the outside and white, off-white or powder blue on the interior.

No swings, toys, ornaments or other distinguishing marks will be permitted. The use of ornately constructed cages is to be discouraged. Cages with flat tops are preferred.

The cage floor may be covered with seed, plain white or brown paper, ground corncob litter, pellets or other substrate appropriate to the bird. All entries must be provided with appropriate food and water. Failure to do so, or the use of any cage that poses a danger to the bird, will be grounds for disqualification. Showing any bird in an inhumane manner will result in mandatory disqualification of the entry.

Finch Shop Talk

Sue Haberkorn, FinchShop Mgr.

NFSS to Produce Finch and Softbill "Cookbook" Wanted: Recipes and Line Art

Hey gang...How many times have you asked for someone's original eggfood recipe or been asked for yours? I bet more than once!

NFSS is sponsoring a project to produce a "cookbook" of bird food recipes contributed by our very own members. Each contributor's name will appear next to his/her recipe in the cookbook. We also need camera-ready line art to use as fillers within the book. Our published cookbook will be offered through FinchShop. The retail price of the cookbook will depend on the number of recipes contributed and number of copies ordered from the publisher; but I promise it will be another fantastic FinchShop bargain.

Here are some samples of possible recipe categories. If your recipe doesn't seem to fit, send it anyway—we're flexible!

- Eggfood Eggstravaganza
- Custom seed mixes for special birds
- Softbill Savories
- Breeding diets
- Selected salads
- Seed blends for sprouting & "how to"
- Handfeeding formulas
- Weaning mixtures
- Home Remedies/Herbal Healing
- Miscellaneous

To contribute to the project, please provide the following information:

Recipes

(Please print neatly or type and proof-read prior to submission.)

- Your name (as you wish it to appear in the cookbook), phone number and/or email address. Only your name will appear in the cookbook. The other information will be used to contact you only in the event there are questions about your submission.
- Title of recipe (don't use copyrighted trade names).
- List of ingredients and amount of each.
- Directions for mixing and feeding (what bird and how much per bird).
- Storage instructions.
- Contact information for manufacturers of proprietary products used in your recipe. These will be compiled in a resource section.

Line Art

- Only black and white, camera-ready copy of finch and softbill related subjects will be accepted for publication.
- All work must be the creative product of the person submitting it.

- Maximum size is 2 inches tall by 5 inches wide.
- Sign your work within the image area.
- Provide an original, hard-copy, signed release form specifically giving NFSS permission to use your work in the NFSS cookbook.
- Line art will be used to fill any blank space at the bottom of a page. The publisher will use as many of the drawings we provide as possible, but NFSS cannot guarantee that your drawing will appear.
- Do not send originals. Send only camera-ready copies.

Mailing Instructions

Please send recipes and line art to:

NFSS Cookbook
 c/o Sue Haberkorn
 1106 Hamilton Blvd.
 Hagerstown, MD 21742
 (301) 797-6645

Email: rs2haberkorn@yahoo.com

NOTE: Recipes may be emailed, but line art and release forms must be sent by regular mail.

Don't have a recipe to contribute? You can still participate by suggesting a title for the cookbook. One possibility is Finches in the Kitchen and Softbills at the Sideboard. I'd love to hear yours!

Deadline for submission of all materials is August 1, 2003.

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NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

<p style="text-align: center;">NATIONAL/REGIONAL CLUBS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Neotropical Finch Breeders Association <i>(San Antonio, TX)</i> <i>Contact:</i> Jack Eitnrear (210) 828-5306 <i>E-Mail:</i> jce@estbinc.org</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Southeast Bird Fanciers <i>(AL,AR,GA,FL,LA,MS,NC,SC,TN)</i> <i>Mtgs:</i> Quarterly at the Atlanta Farmers Mkt. 1st Sat. - Mar/Jun/Sep 2nd Sat. - Dec <i>Contact:</i> Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168 <i>E-Mail:</i> gndallen@earthlink.net <i>Website:</i> http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebf.htm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club <i>(Santa Clara)</i> <i>Mtgs:</i> 2nd Sun - 1 pm Potluck - 1:30 pm Mtg. Peninsula Conservation Center <i>Contact:</i> (408) 739-3995 <i>Club E-Mail:</i> scvcebc@yahoo.com <i>Website:</i> http://www.geocities.com/siliconvalley/15701 <i>Show:</i> Dec. 6 - S.F.V. Hall, Mountain View <i>Judge:</i> Brian Mandarich</p>
CANADA	
<p style="text-align: center;">ALABAMA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Central Alabama Avicultural Society <i>(Montgomery)</i> <i>Mtgs:</i> 2nd Sun. - 2:30 pm - Prattville City Library, Prattville <i>Contact:</i> Margie Lanier (334) 567-4073 <i>E-Mail:</i> margielanier@yahoo.com <i>Show:</i> REGIONAL SHOW - REGION 2 Aug. 30-31 - NFSS, NCS, NAPS, Color/Type Canaries. Governor's House Hotel, Montgomery, AL <i>Judge:</i> Aug. 30 - Conrad Meinert <i>Show Mgr:</i> Jo Reaves (256) 892-2204 <i>E-Mail:</i> atomictiels@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario <i>(Pickering, Ontario, Canada)</i> <i>Mtgs:</i> 2nd Tue. - Rotary Park Pavillion Lake Driveway W., Ajax <i>Contact:</i> John Zerafa (905) 355-5542 <i>E-Mail:</i> showmanager@birdclub.ca <i>Website:</i> www.birdclub.ca <i>Show:</i> REGIONAL SHOW - REG. 8 Sep. 20-21 - Jubilee Pavilion 55 Lakeview Park Rd. - Oshawa, Ont.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CALIFORNIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Central California Cage Bird Club <i>(Modesto)</i> <i>Mtgs:</i> 3rd Sun. - Mancini Hall <i>Contact:</i> Ed Geesek (209) 529-0663 <i>Club E-Mail:</i> jones7110@aol.com <i>Show:</i> Oct. 25 - SOS Club, Modesto <i>Judge:</i> Julie Duimstra <i>Show Mgr:</i> Bennie Jones (209) 531-0597 <i>E-Mail:</i> jones7110@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society <i>(Ontario, Canada)</i> <i>Mtgs:</i> Last Sun. in Members' homes. <i>Contact:</i> Julianne Mion (519) 948-6398 <i>E-Mail:</i> julianne@mnsi.net <i>Show:</i> Oct. 17-19 Fogular Furlan Sports Complex, Windsor, Ont. <i>Judge:</i> Clarence Culwell</p>
COLORADO	
<p style="text-align: center;">Capitol City Bird Society, Inc. <i>(Sacramento)</i> <i>Contact:</i> Roland Cristo (530) 823-1677 cristo@ianset.com <i>E-Mail:</i> dlaviaries@aol.com <i>Event:</i> Oct.20 - Bird Mart & Educational Fund Raiser - CA Expo Bird Exhibition & State Fair Avian Display</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture <i>(Denver)</i> <i>Mtgs:</i> 2nd Fri - Lakeside Center, Denver <i>Contact:</i> Lisa McManus (303) 341-1239 <i>E-Mail:</i> conurecare@attbi.com <i>Website:</i> www.rmsa-birds.org <i>Show:</i> REGIONAL SHOW - REGION 5 Nov. 1-2 Lakeside Center, Denver <i>Judges:</i> Nov. 1 - Al Decoteau Nov. 2 - Conrad Meinert</p>
FLORIDA	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida <i>(Davie)</i> <i>Mtgs:</i> 2nd Sun - 2pm - Flamingo Gardens <i>Contact:</i> Carrie Ekstathion (954) 432-3349 carrie3@aol.com <i>Club E-Mail:</i> ruth.cusick@att.net <i>Website:</i> www.feathers.org <i>Show:</i> Aug.16 - Omni Aud. - Coral Springs</p>

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

<p style="text-align: center;">Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show (Tampa) <i>Contact:</i> Dale Laird (407) 657-7989 <i>E-Mail:</i> dale12@prodigy.net</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club (Ft. Pierce) <i>Mtgs:</i> 4th Sun - 2 pm - Port Salerno Civic Center - Stuart, FL <i>Contact:</i> Jim Dunn (772) 344-8374 jdunn3@adelphia.net <i>Club E-Mail:</i> jim.dwyer@netzero.net <i>Show:</i> Aug. 17 - St. Lucie County Civic Ctr.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Exotic Bird Club of Florida, Inc. (Palm Bay) <i>Mtgs:</i> 2nd Sun - 1275 Culver Rd. - Palm Bay <i>Contact:</i> Ginny Heptig (321) 952-9780 <i>E-Mail:</i> yngathrtt@aol.com <i>Website:</i> www.homestead.com/ exoticbirdclubofflorida <i>Show:</i> Oct. 12 - 1275 Culver Rd. - Palm Bay <i>Judge:</i> Dale Laird</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tri-State Avian Society (Tallahassee) <i>Mtgs:</i> 3rd Sat. - 2 pm - Havana, FL <i>Contact:</i> Barry Laster (850) 668-0908 <i>E-Mail:</i> barry17523@earthlink.net <i>Website:</i> www.tristateaviansociety.org <i>Event:</i> May 16-17 - Annual Spring Bird Fair North Florida Fairgrounds</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sun Coast Avian Society (St. Petersburg) <i>Mtgs:</i> 1st Sun <i>Contact:</i> Joseph Ventmiglia (727) 392-9391 <i>E-Mail:</i> acs651@aol.com <i>Website:</i> www.suncoastaviansociety.org <i>Show:</i> Aug. 2-3 - The St. Petersburg Coliseum, St. Petersburg <i>Judge:</i> Dr. Al Decoteau <i>Show Mgr:</i> Walter Brittain (727) 595-7567 Linda Miller (727) 541-4724</p>
GEORGIA
<p style="text-align: center;">Georgia Cage Bird Society (Marietta - Atlanta area) <i>Mtgs:</i> 4th Sun - 2:30 pm - Smyrna Community Center - Smyrna, GA <i>Contact:</i> Pat Miller (770) 425-9455 jandpmiller@mindspring.com <i>Show:</i> Nov. 1-2 - Jim Miller Park - Marietta <i>Judges:</i> Ms. Jerri Wiesenfeld - Armando Lee</p>

ILLINOIS
<p style="text-align: center;">Illini Bird Fanciers (Springfield) <i>Mtgs:</i> 4th Sun <i>Contact:</i> Patte Montgomery (217) 787-0399 <i>E-Mail:</i> illinibirdfanciers@yahoo.com <i>Club E-Mail:</i> ibf-birdsongs@insightbb.com <i>Show/Fair:</i> REGIONAL SHOW - REG. 3 Jun 7-8 Rt. 66 Hotel & Conference Center, Springfield, IL. <i>Judge:</i> Dennis Lewis</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">National Institute of Red Orange Canaries (Westchester) <i>Mtgs:</i> 1st Fri. - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - Bristol & Devonshire <i>Contact:</i> Steve Hopman (815) 469-8455 <i>E-Mail:</i> hopmansv@bp.com <i>Show:</i> Nov. 29 - Raddison Hotel, Arlington Heights. <i>Judge:</i> Laura Bewley <i>Show Mgr:</i> Nancy Serchuk (847) 437-5704 <i>Event:</i> Sep. 6 - Baby Feathers Fair, Elk Grove Village Township Hall</p>
IOWA
<p style="text-align: center;">Mid America Cage Bird Society (Des Moines) <i>Mtgs:</i> 4th Sun - 2 pm - Des Moines Botanical Center <i>Contact:</i> John Thielking (515) 278-9159 <i>Club E-Mail:</i> larry884@mchsi.com <i>Website:</i> www.seffera.net/macbs/news.html <i>Show:</i> Sep. 27 - Ramada Inn - Johnston, IA <i>Judge:</i> Paul Williams <i>Event:</i> 2003 Fairs: Mar 23, May 18, Aug 24 Des Moines Botanical Ctr. 10 am - 4 pm</p>
KANSAS
MO-KAN Cage Bird Club (See MO)
LOUISIANA
<p style="text-align: center;">Gulf South Bird Club, Inc. (NO) <i>Mtgs:</i> 1st Sun. - 1 pm 1409 Bayou Blue Road, Houma, LA <i>Contact:</i> Danny Chauvin (985) 876-7966 cajunpride@mobiletel.com <i>Show:</i> Oct. 18 Evergreen Cajun Center 4694 W. Main, Houma, LA <i>Judge:</i> Conrad Meinert <i>Show Mgr:</i> Terry Perez (985) 876-7966 <i>E-Mail:</i> Tbirds@mobiletel.com</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Cajun Canary and Finch Club <i>(Metairie)</i></p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Mon. - 7:30 pm - 3412 Haring Rd. <u>Contact:</u> Meade H. Phelps (504) 887-0724 NEWORLEANSMEADE@cox.net <u>Event:</u> Jun 20-21 All Bird Mart 3314 Richland Ave</p>
MARYLAND
<p style="text-align: center;">Baltimore Bird Fanciers <i>(Baltimore)</i></p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 3rd Sun.- Towson Public Library <u>Contact:</u> Barbara Shannon (410) 356-5850 <u>Club E-Mail:</u> raymondreter@aol.com <u>Event:</u> May 17 - Bird Mart - Tall Cedars Hall Parkville, MD <u>Show:</u> Oct. 18 Tall Cedars Hall, Parkville <u>Judge:</u> Dennis Lewis <u>Contacts:</u> (410) 628-2051 or (410) 329-1928</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Great Lakes Avicultural Society <i>(Grand Rapids)</i></p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Mon. - 7pm - UAW Hall 4269 Alpine NW, Grand Rapids <u>Contact:</u> Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163 <u>E-Mail:</u> pdhugo@charter.net <u>Club E-Mail:</u> pdhugo@charter.net or noahbird@ameritech.net <u>Website:</u> www.angelfire.com/mi4/glas <u>Show:</u> Oct. 18 - Rockford Middle School Rockford, MI <u>Judge:</u> Annette Howard</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Society of Canary and Finch Breeders <i>(Livonia)</i></p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 3rd Sat - 6:30 pm - Wixom, Michigan <u>Contact:</u> Patrick Vance (248) 443-0643 <u>E-Mail:</u> spartanfinchman@cs.com <u>Show:</u> Oct. 18 - Livonia <u>Judge:</u> Armando Lee</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc. <i>(Warren)</i></p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 1st weekends in member homes. <u>Contact:</u> Patricia Piekarz (586) 296-2957 <u>E-Mail:</u> dpiekarz1@comcast.net <u>Show:</u> Oct. 25 Italian American Community Cultural Center, Warren <u>Judge:</u> Annette Howard</p>

MISSISSIPPI
<p style="text-align: center;">South Mississippi Cage Bird Society <i>(Ocean Springs/Biloxi)</i></p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Joyce Webb (228) 875-2704 <u>E-Mail:</u> spdrwebb123@yahoo.com <u>Club E-Mail:</u> litdebee@155.com <u>Website:</u> www.smcb.org <u>Show:</u> May 17-18 Imperial Palace Resort Casino, Biloxi <u>Judge:</u> Cecil Gunby</p>
MISSOURI
<p style="text-align: center;">MO-KAN Cage Bird Club <i>(Columbus, KS)</i></p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Sat - 7 pm - Granny Shaffers Dixieland Chicken, Joplin, MO <u>Contact:</u> Doug Willis (417) 358-5189 <u>E-Mail:</u> dwillis71@cox-internet.com <u>Fairs:</u> Jul 13 & Oct. 12 - Springfield, MO Aug. 23 - Lawrence, KS <u>Auction:</u> Oct. 19 - Girard KS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society <i>(Independence)</i></p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Sun - 2 pm - Trail West Library <u>Contact:</u> Anthony Day (816) 356-0533 <u>Club E-Mail:</u> mcmbirdsetcmichel@kc.rr.com <u>Website:</u> www.GKCAS.org <u>Show:</u> Oct. 25 - Holiday Inn South, Kansas City <u>Show Mgr:</u> Maria Michel (816) 763-5935 <u>E-Mail:</u> membirdsetcmichel@kc.rr.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Missouri Cage Bird Club <i>(St. Louis)</i></p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 1st Sun - Maplewood, MO <u>Contact:</u> Dennis Burhans (636) 980-8569 <u>Show:</u> Nov. 7-8 - Days Inn - Eureka, MO <u>Judge:</u> Miki Spartzak</p>

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

NEW HAMPSHIRE
<p>Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society (Manchester)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Mon - 7:30 pm - Villa Crest Retirement Center</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Ray Schwartz (630) 362-6106 E-Mail: prismsdad@aol.com</p> <p><u>Club E-Mail:</u> editor@boaf.com</p> <p><u>Website:</u> www.boaf.com</p> <p><u>Show:</u> Oct. 25 <u>Judge:</u> Dennis Lewis</p> <p><u>Events:</u> Apr. 13 & June 15 - Exotic Bird Expo and Mart</p> <p><u>Location for all:</u> Center of NH Holiday Inn Manchester, NH</p> <p><u>Show/Event Info:</u> Rena Fox (603) 635-1324 cncaviary@parrotpages.com</p>
NEW YORK
<p>International Canary & Finch Society (Western NY State and Southern Ontario, Canada)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> One Sun/Month, 2 pm, Alternating Locations - Galleria Mall, Cheed, NY or St. Theresa's Church, Niagara Falls, NY</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Mary Ellen Sacca (716) 825-8271 E-Mail: sacca@net.telsearch.com</p> <p><u>Website:</u> www.3.upatsix.com/ics</p> <p><u>Show:</u> Oct. 11 - Best Western Hotel, Lockport, NY</p>
<p>New York Finch & Type Canary Club (New York City)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Sun - 1 pm - Averill Blvd Park Elmont, (L.I.), NY</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Stan Kulak (718) 967-6899 barstand@aaahawk.com</p> <p><u>Website:</u> www.nyfinch.com</p> <p><u>Event:</u> June 8 - Feather Show - 1- 4 pm - Averill Blvd. Park - Elmont, (L.I.), NY</p> <p><u>Show:</u> Oct. 18 - St. Jude's Church - 1677 Canarsie Rd. - Brooklyn</p> <p><u>Judge:</u> Miki Spartzak</p>
NORTH CAROLINA
<p>Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society (Raleigh)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 3rd Sun. - 2:30 pm - Glen Eden Pilot Pk</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> April Blazich (919) 851-8079 aprilb@bellsouth.net</p> <p><u>Website:</u> www.rdcbs.org</p>

OREGON
<p>Eastside Finch Connection (Portland)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 1st Mon. - 7 pm - Clackamas Comm. Club Hall - 15711 SE 90th</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> K.J. Brown (503) 266-7606 jeeperspeepers55@aol.com</p>
PENNSYLVANIA
<p>Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society, Inc. (Pittsburgh)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Sun. - 2 pm - Faith Community Church - Jefferson Rd. - Penn Hills</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Margie Jonnet (412) 795-1904 E-Mail: mjonnet@kutz.pitt.edu</p> <p><u>Show:</u> Nov 1 - Palace Inn - Rte. 48 Monroeville</p> <p><u>Judge:</u> Miki Spartzak</p>
<p>Chester County Bird Club, Inc. (Malvern)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Sun - E. Whiteland Twashp Bldg.</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Maria Rosenberger (610) 469-6402 E-Mail: Duckybathtime@aol.com</p>
PUERTO RICO
<p>Asociacion' Criadores Del Finches, Inc.</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Jose R. Diaz (787) 747-7947 E-Mail: criadores_finches_este@hotmail.com</p> <p><u>E-Mail:</u> Juan Santos - jsantos22@webtv.net</p> <p><u>Show:</u> Jun. 28-29 - Show Nacional de Verano - Caguas</p> <p><u>Show:</u> REGIONAL SHOW - REGION 7 Nov. 29-30 - Show Nacional de Invierno - Caguas</p> <p><u>Judge:</u> Nov. 29 - Armando Lee</p>
TENNESSEE
<p>Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club (Knoxville)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 1st Tue - UT Vet School</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Sondra Ott (865) 573-2381 E-Mail: sondradott@cs.com</p> <p><u>Website:</u> http://www.Kornet.org/tvebc</p>

NFSS-Affiliated Clubs/Events

<p style="text-align: center;">Southeast Tennessee Avicultural Society (Niota)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Sun. - 2 pm - Niota Elementary Sch <u>Contact:</u> Janet Burrell (423) 472-1306 <i>E-Mail:</i> jgb2202@aol.com <u>E-Mail:</u> jgb2202@aol.com or tjburn2000@yahoo.com <u>Show:</u> Oct. 25 - Niota Elementary School <u>Judge:</u> Clarence Culwell</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club (Nashville)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 3rd Sun. - 2 pm - 108 Donelson Sr. Ctr <u>Contact:</u> Lisa Mellies (615) 789-0002 yui02@bellsouth.net <u>Show:</u> Oct. 4 - TN State Fair Grounds - Creative Arts Bldg - Nashville <u>Judge:</u> Annette Howard <u>Show Mgr.</u> Wilma Crawford (615) 890-6906 <u>E-Mail:</u> tnma2@home.com</p>
TEXAS
<p style="text-align: center;">Fort Worth Bird Club (Fort Worth)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 3220 Botanic Garden Dr. <u>Contact:</u> Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568 <i>E-Mail:</i> culwell5@flash.net <u>Club E-Mail:</u> circfm@swbell.net <u>Website:</u> www.fwbc.org <u>Show:</u> Sep. 28 - Grapevine Convention Ctr. Grapevine, TX <u>Judge:</u> Charlie Anchor <u>Show Mgr:</u> Jerry Cason (817) 237-5867 <i>E-Mail:</i> jerrycason@mindspring.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Canary and Finch Society (Pasadena)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Sun - 2pm - Community Room - Pasadena Towne Square Mall <u>Contact:</u> Harold McBrayer (281) 338-2814 <i>E-Mail:</i> haroldmcbrayer369@hotmail.com <u>Website:</u> http://canaryfinchsociety.tripod.com <u>Show:</u> Oct. 25 <u>Judge:</u> Armando Lee</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Alamo Exhibition Bird Club, Inc. (San Antonio)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 4th Sun - 2 PM - Becker CPA Center <u>Contact:</u> Nathan Durbin - (210) 433-1840 <i>E-Mail:</i> tak@stic.net <u>Excuts:</u> Apr. 19 & Sep. 27 Live Oak Civic Center - Live Oak</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Texas Bird Breeders (Temple)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 2nd Sat. - Noon - Feb/May/Aug <u>Contact:</u> Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568 <i>E-Mail:</i> culwell5@flash.net <u>Show:</u> Nov. 1 - Mayborn Convention Ctr.</p>
VIRGINIA
<p style="text-align: center;">Peninsula Caged Bird Society, Inc. (Hampton)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Bea Rogers (757)484-6001 <u>Club E-Mail:</u> dickivy@two-rivers.com <u>Club Website:</u> www.vapeninsulacagedbirdclub.org <u>Events:</u> See the web site - several each year.</p>
WASHINGTON
<p style="text-align: center;">Cascade Canary Breeders Association (Seattle)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 3rd Sun. - 2 pm - Leisure Estates Clubhouse - 201 Union Ave SE - Renton <u>Contact:</u> Janel C. Johnson (425) 226-8899 katbird57@aol.com</p>
WISCONSIN
<p style="text-align: center;">Badger Canary and Finch Club (Milwaukee)</p> <p><u>Mtgs:</u> 3rd Sat - members' homes <u>Contact:</u> Susan Feldstein (262) 965-5362 <i>E-Mail:</i> bneaththiswings@yahoo.com <u>Club E-Mail:</u> DEvanornum@aol.com <u>Show:</u> Oct. 25 - Ramada Inn - Hwy 41 & 9th Oshkosh, WI <u>Judge:</u> Charles Anchor</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wisconsin Cage Bird Club (Oshkosh)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Dave Bluma 920-428-4595 <i>E-Mail:</i> davidbluma@aol.com <u>Show:</u> Jun. 28 - Ramada Inn - 500 S. Koeller <u>Judge:</u> Miki Spartzak</p>

2003 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: (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: _____

2003 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 banded 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 _____

NFSS MEMBER and NON-MEMBER ORDER FORM
 Split Plastic Band Choices: Red, Dk Green, Lt Green, White, Pink, Black, Purple Yellow, Orange, Dk Blue, Lt Blue **MINIMUM ORDER \$5.00**

SPLIT PLASTIC BANDS - 10 PER EA. STRING - \$1.50

INDICATE QUANTITY BELOW AND COLOR					
XF	XCS	XCL	XB	X3	SUBTOTAL

NFSS MEMBERS ONLY *Closed traceable aluminum bands available in only the NFSS color of the year. Aluminum bands are engraved with initials NFS, Size Code, Year, and Number. There is no choice of number. All aluminum bands are reserved for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of 10, same size. New members may order before receiving their membership number. Write "New" for a NFSS Member #.. Orders are processed weekly as received. Please no mail requiring signatures.*

The banding and marking of wild birds is very tightly regulated by the Federal government. It is illegal to use ANY band on a bird that is released to the wild except a Federal band issued by US Fish and Wildlife.

ALUMINUM BANDS - 10 PER EA. STRING - \$3.25

INDICATE QUANTITY BELOW													
A	B	C	D	E	G	J	K	L	M	R	S	T	SUBTOTAL

If you choose not to include this sum, NFSS will NOT be responsible for replacements.

POSTAL INSURANCE
 Under \$50.00 - \$1.30
 \$50.00 to \$100.00 - \$2.20
 Over \$100.00 - \$3.20

HANDLING FEE \$1.00

PLASTIC & ALUMINUM SUBTOTAL _____

TOTAL _____

BANDS FOR YEAR: _____	NFSS MEMBER #: _____
NAME: _____	
ADDRESS: _____	
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____	
E-MAIL: _____	

PAYMENT PAYABLE TO NFSS
 MAIL TO: Paula Hansen, 2234 Juneau Ct. S., Salem, OR 97302

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

- Size A:** Gold-breasted Waxbill, Orange-checked 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 Shaft-tail, Lavender Finch, Painted Finch, Pileated Finch, Pytilias, Red-headed & Forbes (Blue-Breasted) Parrot Finches, Shafttail 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.

Guide to Ordering Open Plastic Leg Bands

- Size XF:** Cordon Bleu, Fire, Orange-Checked, Red-Eared, Lavender, Blue Capped Waxbills, Owl, Cherry, Green & Grey Singers, Painted, Hecks & Masked Grassfinch, Gouldian, Most Parrot Finches, Zebra, Bengalese (Society), Stars.
- Size XCS:** Nuns, Cutthroats, Diamond Firetails (Diamond Sparrows), most Twinspots, Siskins, (Canaries - Gloster, Fife, Miniature & Fancy).
- Size XCL:** Red Faced Pytilia, Pekin Robin, (Canaries - Roller, Borders, Lizard, Norwich, Yorkshire, Red Factor).
- Size XB:** Indian Shama, Diamond Dove, Chinese Painted (Button) Quail, Budgies, Grass Parakeets.
- Size X3:** Lovebirds, Roseellas, Many Softbills.



Membership Application

Name:	
Dual Membership 2 nd Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	Zip: Country:
Phone #:	
E-Mail:	
New Member? Renewal (List NFSS #)	
How did you hear about us?	
Annual Dues:	Select One:
	Single: \$30.00
	Dual: \$35.00
	Junior (under 16): \$22.50
	Foreign: \$35.00
<p>Bulk Mail Option: 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.</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>	



The National Finch and Softbill Society
Finch and Softbill Save Application
2003 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 FINCH SHOP** 



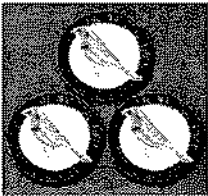
NFSS TOTE BAG

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**



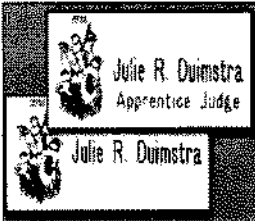
NFSS GOULDIAN FINCH PIN

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.



NEST BOX 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**



NFSS FINCH SHOP



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**



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**



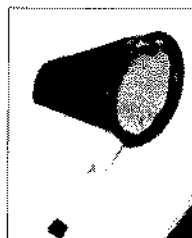
FINCH & SOFTBILL PHOTO CD/SCREEN SAVER

The NFSS photo CD is a compilation of nearly 500 photographs provided by NFSS members and a Microsoft Windows compatible screensaver comprised of more than 150 of the photos. All photos are in .jpg format for ease of viewing. The CD includes photos representing numerous species native to several continents, from Societies to Starlings, Waxbills to Weavers. What a great way to enjoy our favorite feathered friends! **\$9.99**



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. **\$15.00**



BIRD NETS

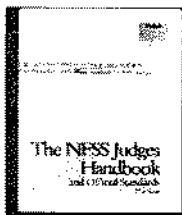
5 1/4" spring steel hoop with vinyl binding to prevent trauma. 100% dark nylon netting with secure seams. 5" hardwood handle. Perfect for use in catching finches in cages. **\$8.00**



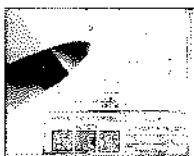
NFSS FINCH SHOP



JUDGES HANDBOOK AND OFFICIAL STANDARDS, 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 & 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.

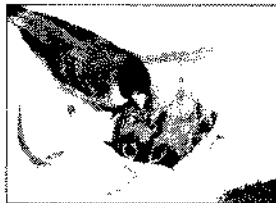
NFSS #3—For larger finches and softbills.

FINCH NOTE CARDS

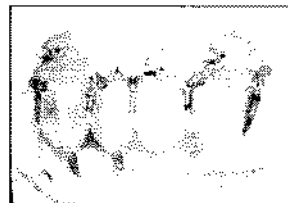
5 1/2 x 4 1/4" Note Cards (With Envelopes)

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 copywritten. No reproductions. **\$1.50 ea. - Ten for \$13.50.**

(Actual cards do not contain the Copyright Line.)



NEW!! Red Headed Finch & Chicks



NEW!! Mousebirds



Orange-Breasted Male Zebra Finch



Pekin Robin



Blue Cap Warbill

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



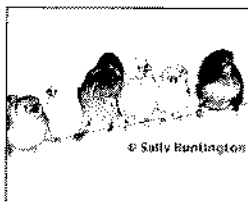
Diamond Sparrow



Gouldian Finch Trio



Fire Finch



"Mother's Day"



Gold Breasted Waxbill



Orange-Check Waxbill



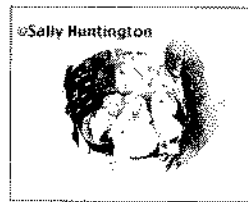
Owl Finch



Redheaded Finch



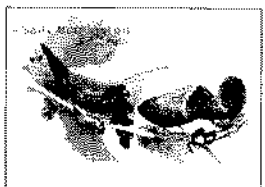
Pearl Headed Silverbill



White Society Finches



Red-Check Cordon Bleu



Red-Headed Parrot Finch



CFW Zebra Finch Pair



CFW Male in Show Cage



FinchShop Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Item	Price
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Shipping/Handling: Orders \$ 0.01 to \$9.99 - add \$3.85
 Orders \$10.00 to \$49.99 - add \$5.80
 Orders \$50.01 to \$99.99 - add \$7.70
 Orders \$100.00 and over add \$9.90

Total Enclosed: _____

Please be sure to include all information needed to complete your order. Don't forget sizes, styles, etc!

Mail completed form with your check payable to NFSS to:

Sue Hoberkorn
 NFSS Finch Shop Manager
 1106 Hamilton Blvd.
 Hagerstown, MD 21742

Let's clear the air on air purifiers

Hospital, Pet Stores, Bird Owners. For over 25 years, **CLOUD 9 Sterile-Aire Purifiers** have been the air cleaner of choice for thousands of businesses and homes. Why do we continue to lead our competition? It's simple - **CLOUD 9's** full-fledged HEPA filter will remove bacteria, white powder flander, and even the smallest virus from your breathing air without any manufactured ozone or ions to pollute your home.

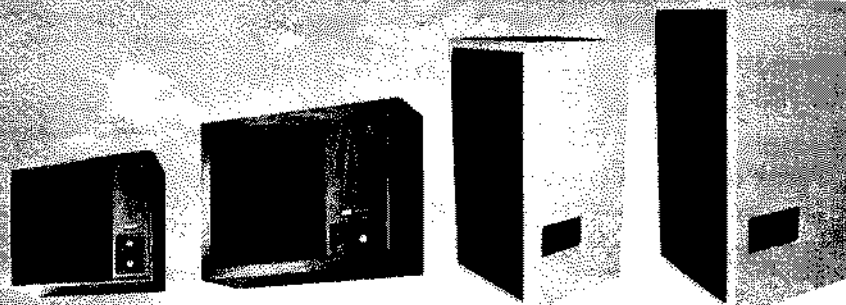
- FACT 1:** **CLOUD 9** units (not just its filters) have been clinically tested by independent third party sources.
- FACT 2:** All **CLOUD 9 Sterile-Aire™** purifiers incorporate a 3-stage filtration system and Cancealyzer, along with a powerful air-exchange capability. With **CLOUD 9**, you'll never have bacteria residue on your floors.
- FACT 3:** We pride ourselves on our service and our relationships with our customers. Our 800 number means you'll never pay to ask a question or receive information.

For info Packet Call Toll-Free: 1-888-991-8000

Or write to: **CLOUD 9, 777 Edgewood Avenue, Wood Dale, Illinois 60191**

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