

Journal of the
National Finch & Softbill
Society

Volume 21, No. 5

September/October, 2004



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Journal of the National Finch and Softbill Society

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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.

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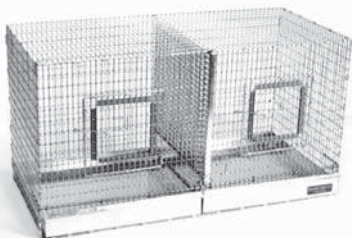
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On the

This issue's cover is a striking photo by Kateri Davis of a Red Crested Turaco (*Tauraco erythrolophus*). Don't miss the excellent softbill information shared by Kateri.

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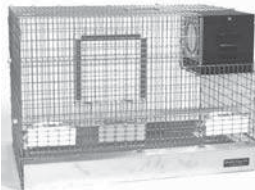


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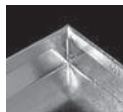
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NFSS President's Message September, 2004



**“ Weather it’s cold,
or weather it’s hot,
We’ll have weather,
weather or not. ”**

...An old saying some younger members may not have heard. With Florida blowing in the first week of September, I was reminded of how we as aviculturists are slaves to the peaks and valleys of weather - no matter where we live - weather or not. In one sense, when we decided to take on the avian welfare roles, we decided to protect our birds from, as the postal carriers say, “rain, sleet, snow or ice”. ...And we must add: wind and hail (prairie states) and dry heat and high humidity (Hello Texas and the southwest) and freezing temperatures that hang on for weeks and weeks (Hello Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois). For our birds’ welfare, we are all weathermen (and women). Every day we check temps, wind and sun. Is it too hot, too cold, too sunny, too windy? ‘Well-done’ weather bird people. Well done. Please, take a moment and share via the yahoo site: what weather precautions have you taken that work well in tough weather times and which have failed you?

FYI...

We would like you to help the aviculturists in Florida. Contact Armando Lee: Alee@swfla.rr.com, or Ron Castaner: finches@bellsouth.net.

And...

Remember to register early for the Afternoon of Aviculture at NCBS which will be on Thursday, November 18th, the day before the show! The NFSS general meeting will be held Saturday November 20 at 10:00 AM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Sally Huntington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sally Huntington, President, National Finch & Softbill Society



Breeding for Quality: Simply Inherited Traits

by Michael Marcotrigiano,
NFSS Science Editor

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If you are going to improve your birds through selective breeding it is essential that you understand the difference between a phenotypic trait controlled by a single gene and a trait that is quantitatively controlled (i.e. a polygenic trait). The breeding strategies for simply inherited traits can be quite different than for polygenic traits and, therefore, it is crucial that one is certain about what controls the trait before launching on a multi-generational breeding scheme.

What makes breeding for “standard” so difficult is that most of the genes that regulate traits such as shape, size, and feather quality are not simply inherited. More commonly, simply inherited traits are the color mutations where a single gene mutation alters a biochemical pathway for a specific pigment. Examples include albinism in society finches, blue body in Gouldian finches, and black cheek in zebra finches.

With simply inherited traits there tends to be an “either/or” category. For example, a Gouldian finch either has a white chest or it does not. A shafttail is either fawn or it is not. In polygenic traits there tends to be a continuum from one extreme to the other. For example, head shape in finches is a continuum between

flat headed and round headed with everything in between existing. The adult weight of a clutch of six finches tends to *range between* x and y and not *be either* x or y .

Because of the way they can be categorized, simply inherited traits are often called *categorical* or *qualitative* traits whereas those that are controlled by many genes are *quantitative* traits and are not easy to put into defined categories.

One of the more distinguishing characteristics of simply inherited traits is that they tend to be unaffected or only slightly affected by environment. A blue body Gouldian or an albino society finch will never look wild-type (“normal”) no matter what light level, diet, or temperature scheme it is subjected to.

Polygenic traits on the other hand are affected by interactions among many genes with no single gene having a dominating influence. Environment can impact the final product since it is the delicate balance between many different genes that results in the expression of the final characteristic. Obtaining uniformity year after year is a challenge when quantitative traits are being manipulated. Variation due to environment has been

demonstrated in humans where identical twins that have been separated at birth (e.g. by independent adoptions) and raised in very different environments do not look "identical." While they are still unmistakably "identical" twins, they are not as "identical" as twins that are raised in the same environment (e.g. same diet, same exercise regime, same level of stress, substance abuse, etc.). As you will see in future articles, it is this environmental x polygenic interaction that can influence the show potential of a show quality bird.

In this article I will concentrate on the manipulation of simply-inherited traits, using color mutation as the standard example. One of the most rewarding things about finch breeding is trying to create the best line of a specific color morph, for example, having the best penguin zebra finches in the country or the nicest blue Gouldians at the show. To achieve such goals one often begins with an average representative of "your favorite mutation" and works toward making mutation birds equal in quality to any great line of the normal colored bird of that species. It is wonderful to go to a bird show and see a blue body Gouldian of higher quality than a normal or a fawn gray society finch larger than the winning chocolate (i.e. normal). To achieve such results one must know how to move single genes within a population. The goal is to move the mutant gene into a superior line. Ideally, after many generations you essentially have all the genes of the superior line with the exception of the one gene that changes the color.

I will not discuss the dominant single gene mutations for two reasons. First, they are rare. Most of the single gene mutations of interest are recessive. Secondly, dominant traits show up in the first generation of crosses between normal and mutant birds so it does not take a rocket scientist to move them around to different lines in a flock. In addition, I will also assume that you know simple

Mendelian inheritance (e.g. Aa x aa yields 50% Aa, 50% aa). If you do not, there are numerous web pages listed at the end of this article that can help. My article in the last issue of the journal gave you definitions you might need.

Recessive single-genes can be hidden in birds that are split (*heterozygous*). We often do not have extensive pedigree data since most of us obtain stock at bird shows or from breeders that do not keep extensive pedigrees. Therefore, we are uncertain if a bird is split for a recessive trait, be it one that is desired or one that is not. In species, like zebra finches, there are so many mutations it can be a nightmare trying to find stock that has the genetic makeup that you desire. The only way to be certain if a bird is split for a recessive mutation is to perform a test cross, mating it to a bird showing the mutation (i.e. *homozygous*).

For example, suppose that you want to develop the best line of fawn zebra finches and know that if the bird also carries the recessive penguin mutation it might shrink their final size since penguin has a tendency to produce smaller birds. If you suspect that your zebra finch is carrying penguin you would need to cross it to a penguin zebra to make a "test cross". On average half of the offspring would be expressing penguin if the suspected bird was split. A clutch of two, both non-penguin, is not a high enough number to be sure that the bird in question is "penguin free" since there is a 50% chance that a pairing of a split x a fully mutant bird could yield splits which, of course, look normal. A course in probability is beyond the scope of the NFSS journal but statistics show that in order to be 99% sure your bird is not split for the recessive trait you need to cross the bird in question to the mutant bird enough times to obtain at least seven non-mutant offspring and no mutant offspring. Remember, the lower the number of offspring the higher the probability that penguin can still be there hidden as a split.

It is impractical and actually biologically impossible to test most species of finches for all mutations since the life expectancy is too short to perform so many tests. Therefore, getting stock from breeders with extensive records is most helpful. In addition, in zebra finches, and other species that have many recessive mutations, it becomes critical to recognize undesirable birds (e.g. to know what a fawn penguin looks like) so that you can cull the bird and trace its pedigree to eliminate the mutation from your lines. Yet, if you have a very nice bird (e.g. fawn zebra) that you want to keep but you now know it is split for something you don't want (e.g. penguin) you do not need to get rid of the bird if you use an intelligent breeding scheme. If you mate a bird split for an undesirable gene penguin ($P = \text{normal}$, $p = \text{penguin}$) (Pp) to one you know is not carrying the undesirable gene (PP), the offspring on average will be one split (Pp) to one not split (PP) even though they all look normal.

If you do not want to take the time to do many test crosses to penguin you can take another approach. You use these 'unknown' offspring and cross them to birds you know are not split. There is a 50% chance you have eliminated that split since half of the 'unknown' birds will not be split. The more generations you mate potential splits to known normals the higher the probability that the split is eliminated from your line. In the first cross it is 50%, if you repeat it in the next generation it is 25%, the next 12.5% and so on. This highlights the importance of reducing inbreeding since inbreeding will tend to fix the undesirable mutation in the population by allowing a higher proportion of splits to remain.

While I stated I would not discuss dominant mutations there are a few mutations that fall between recessive and dominant, the so-called semidominant or codominant gene. An example that comes to mind is the Florida Fancy in zebra finches where the splits are actual-

ly Florida Silvers (once called Isabel but it is no longer thought to be the same mutation as the European) (so, $ss = \text{normal}$, $Ss = \text{Florida Silver}$, $SS = \text{Florida Fancy}$).

These codominant genes are easier to transfer because the F1 generation shows the split phenotype. You can then cross splits to normal to achieve a 1:1 normal:splits and when you finally believe your splits are of the same quality as the normals you can cross split to split to recover the homozygous mutant bird (e.g. Florida Fancy zebra). Thus, there is no need to do extensive backcrossing and progress can be made in half the number of generations than with recessive mutations.

Unlike with codominant genes, moving desirable recessive genes into a better line will involve some backcrossing since the splits look normal and you risk losing the mutation all together if you do not sib cross or backcross. To avoid inbreeding or going backwards in quality it is not wise to backcross to the homozygous mutant parent since the parent would be the inferior bird. Probably the safest strategy is to make splits with two different normals and then cross the unrelated splits saving only the mutant birds (one of four should show the trait).

Do your best to avoid inbreeding but remember that you always want to cross the mutant or split bird to a superior normal bird. When I discuss quantitative genetics in future articles it will become clear that mating splits to splits may achieve the recovery of recessive mutants more quickly but the progeny will also segregate greatly for all of the polygenic traits of interest. More on that in future articles.

The above discussion gives many predicted ratios and makes the assumption that fitness and viability are equal for different mutations. This is unlikely to be true for all mutations and ratios can be distorted if certain mutations and combinations of mutations are weaker. It has

been documented in some animals and in many plants that the fitness of sperm (pollen in the case of plants) is reduced with certain mutations thereby distorting expected ratios. For example, if mutant sperm is weaker swimming or the mutant pollen slower to germinate it is outcompeted by normal sperm or pollen distorting expected ratios. Not much can be done about this but it can explain difficulty in recovering the desired mutation if offspring numbers are low.

As you can see from the previous discussion with a little brushing up on

Mendelian inheritance one can develop a plan to acquire the desired color combinations while at the same time improving the overall quality of the bird.

This article highlights the fact that single gene traits are easier to manipulate than polygenic traits. However, there is an issue called "linkage" that makes the development of birds with combined single gene mutations a bit more challenging than one might think, and it is this subject that will be discussed in my next breeding feature.

You can test your knowledge of single gene inheritance on these web pages:

<http://curriculum.calstatela.edu/courses/builders/lessons/less/les4/casino/cas1ck.html>
<http://www.borg.com/~lubehawk/mendel.htm>
http://www.exoticflock.com/autosomal_traits.htm
<http://www.shadypines.com/punnet.htm>
http://anthro.palomar.edu/mendel/mendel_2.htm
<http://www.emc.maricopa.edu/faculty/farabee/BIOBK/BioBookgenintro.html>
<http://www.synapses.co.uk/genetics/wrkshp2q.html>
<http://www.ksu.edu/parasitology/biology198/mendel.html>

NFSS member and Journal Science Editor; Michael Marcotrigiano (www.exoticfinches.com) breeds and exhibits show-quality Society finches and a limited number of Zebra finches. He is a faculty member in Biological Sciences and the Botanic Garden Director at Smith College in Massachusetts.



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Our thanks to NFSS member Sandi von Pier for sharing this delightful photo of a young Nuthatch with us.
...Not strictly avicultural, but too adorable not to share.
Thank you, Sandi!
Photo Courtesy © Sandi von Pier



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Purchasing Softbilled Birds

by Kateri J. Davis

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So, now you've decided to own a softbilled bird. You've done your research on the housing and diet, you have checked the regulations for your state, and are ready to purchase a wonderful bird. Maybe it's a dainty jewel of a honeycreeper, a cuddly handraised mousebird, or a bizarre looking hornbill that you fancy. You're ready,...but where do you find this softbill of your dreams?

Unfortunately, since softbills are not as popular as parrots and finches, finding the softbill you want is often tough. While searching for other pet types may require you to look locally, in nearby cities, and sometimes elsewhere within your state, softbill searching is mostly done on a national level as the odds of finding that certain softbill you want nearby your home are pretty small. The following are some tips to help you on your quest.

Understanding Who Sells Softbills

Softbill bird sources are breeders/owners, importers, or brokers. Most of your softbill sources are going to be based in the southern states due to the warmer weather, more aviculturally positive state laws, and the location of quarantine stations.

Breeders sell their surplus or excess birds, which are typically young from that year that they do not need for their breeding programs. Logically then, these birds are often only available seasonally, and some breeders have waiting lists. Some-

times adult individuals or pairs are sold for various reasons. It is best that birds prone to iron storage disease, such as Toucans and Aracaris, be purchased only from reputable breeders.

Importers are great sources of softbills, especially for new bloodlines, as many softbill species can still be legally imported into the USA. In fact, any bird not listed on CITES can be imported according to the WBCA federal regulations. African

and South American birds are the most commonly imported birds at this time. You can easily obtain a current list of CITES birds by contacting the USA Fish and Wildlife Department. Brokers or jobbers, of which pet stores are a type, are middlemen who buy birds from importers and/or breeders/owners for resale.

Understanding Shipping

If the transaction is local, pick up from the breeder can be arranged. Some breeders do not allow customers to come



White-Headed Black Bulbul
(*Hypsipetes madagascariensis leucothorax*)

Photo Courtesy © Kateri J. Davis

to their aviaries due to disease and security concerns - and rightfully so. They will generally deliver the bird though, or a meeting time and place can be arranged.

If the bird is to be shipped, expect to have to send the money in full for the bird



D'Arnaud's Barbet
(*Trachyphonus darnaudii*)
Photo Courtesy © Kateri J. Davis

and the shipping before the bird is shipped to you. If you feel that you cannot trust the seller to deliver the bird once payment is received, do not make the transaction.

When buying softbills, you most likely will have to deal with the shipping issue at some time or another. This is one of the most misunderstood avicultural issues, even by aviculturists, and one that the animal rights activists love to wield as a weapon against us as they try to destroy aviculture. Shipping animals, including birds, is not to be feared as long as common sense and a little forethought prevail.

By federal law, it is illegal in any USA state or city to ship softbills through the postal service. Gamebirds and poultry are accepted, but, unfortunately, because of the wording of the regulations, softbills, finches, and parrots are not allowed even though it is just as safe for the latter as it is for the former. Anyone who ships or receives softbills through the postal service is risking seizure of the birds and heavy fines.

Airline shipping is the legal way to ship softbills and is very safe. Generally the seller will make the arrangements once the acceptable days and times for pick up from the airport by the buyer have been decided. Not all airlines ship live cargo, but the most popular airlines to use are Continental and Delta, and currently they will ship around the country for about \$100.00.

The Animal Right activists would like you to believe that shipping is horribly stressful and cruel to the bird and that often death results, but this is pure fantasy! The vast majority of airline shipments are concluded successfully with the minimal stress to the bird. We must educate the public on the real facts about shipping.

Collect Contacts

Start a collection of softbill bird contacts which would include any source, web site, and organization that deals with



Livingston Turaco
(*Tauraco livingstonii*)
Photo Courtesy © Kateri J. Davis

softbills for future use. Don't be too conservative about who you include in your softbill contact list. Say you are looking for a turaco, be sure to write down the hornbill breeder too, because he may get into turacos later, know lots of turaco con-

tacts, or you may get into hornbills yourself in the future.

We use a recipe box and make a card for each contact person, including the types of birds kept, then file them alphabetically. It is a great way to have names and numbers at our fingertips, and it is easily taken with us wherever we go. It doesn't matter how you collect the information, just do it, otherwise you will quickly lose track of valuable references.

Pet Stores

Parrots and domestic finches can be purchased at your local pet stores, but rarely do pet stores carry any softbills, and it is even less likely that you are going to find anyone at a pet store who can help you with any aspect of softbills. In fact, most pet store employees or even shop owners will look at you quizzically and think you are talking about a zebra finch. Check out your pet stores just in case they have an oddball softbill or two, but do not expect much.

Softbills are much more common in the states of Florida, Texas, and in southern California, and they are actually a few pet stores that routinely carry softbills. For example, Bird Crazy in San Diego, CA is a large, reputable avian pet store that carries

softbills consistently.

Bird Clubs

Check out your local bird clubs for softbill owners and breeders and get to know those individuals so they will let you know when they have surplus birds. You can place "Wanted" ads in club newsletters, although typically "Wanted" ads get little response. Softbill breeders love to be able to sell locally so they don't have to deal with shipping, and some offer discounts for local sales.

A good way to find softbills is to join AFA (American Federation of Aviculture) and NFSS (National Finch and Softbill Society) as these are national organizations that include many well known softbill breeders, and they often advertise in the groups' publications. Both groups have excellent softbill articles in every issue and are excellent sources of information. It is very helpful to pull out softbill articles from the issues and place in a filing system for future reference.

Bird Marts and Shows

Bird marts can be great sources of softbills, and one that we use frequently; in



Red-Billed Hornbill

(Tockus erythrorhynchus)

Photo Courtesy © Kateri J. Davis



Purple Honeycreeper Hen

(Cyanerpes caeruleus)

Photo Courtesy © Kateri J. Davis

fact many of our parent stock birds were purchased at bird marts. Most softbills at marts are either breeders' surplus or freshly imported birds. When importers bring in new shipments, brokers often buy them and sell them at marts so it is a good way to see what species are coming into the country at that time. Many reputable breeders (ourselves included) sometimes trade or sell their surplus offspring to brokers who then sell them at different marts around the country. Most reputable brokers handle so many varieties of softbills through the years that they have picked up a wealth of knowledge on care and breeding. You can get some excellent deals at marts, but you must know the signs of illnesses and be familiar with that type of softbill. Remember, a dead bird is never a bargain at any price.

Things to be aware of when buying birds from marts:

1. Birds are often stressed with all the shuffling around and susceptible to illnesses and injuries.
2. Since many strange birds are in the same environment, illnesses can be passed. Always follow strict quarantine guidelines when you get a purchase home.
3. Unfortunately, some brokers are not knowledgeable or reputable and may provide misleading or false information.
4. Know the laws in your state to avoid buying illegal birds.
5. Usually you will have to make hasty decisions with no health or other guarantees.
6. Usually there is little or no history available on the bird itself.
7. Birds may have ratty feathering, but that in itself is not a problem. Learn the difference between ill birds and

healthy birds with beaten up plumage that will pretty up at the next moult or with good bathing periods. Some of our best and most beautiful birds looked like garbage when we bought them.

Internet

The internet has quickly become the most popular way to find and buy softbill birds in the USA. Several well known softbill breeders have their own web sites and advertise their surplus birds. Some importers and brokers also advertise through their own web sites.

General avian web sites that have classified ad sections are also used by breeders, brokers, and importers. The softbill site, www.softbills.com, is the best place to start your search for softbills on the internet as it is the most popular forum for softbillers. Internet mailing lists and chat groups, such as through www.yahogroups.com, are also a very good way to not only make contacts but to learn more about softbills and their care. Most of these forums allow surplus birds to be advertised, and advertised birds usually sell very quickly.

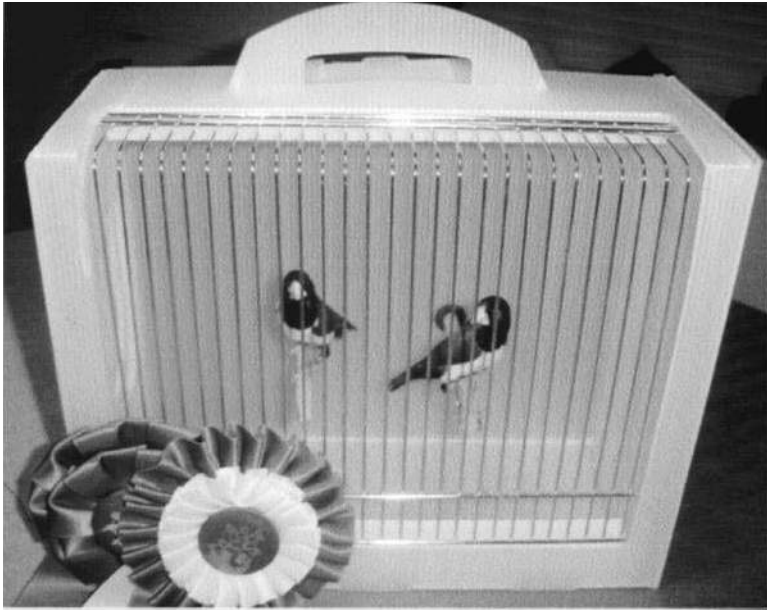
Once an interesting bird has been found, transactions are often done completely by communication through email alone. Questions can be answered, details of the exchange be worked out such as health guarantees and delivery, and even pictures of the bird can be sent quickly and easily over email.

Wrapping It Up

The rarity of softbills in USA aviculture will cause buyers to spend some additional time to find their birds. For most softbillers part of the attraction is the birds' rarity, so it is logical then that the search should be part of the fun. While not all species are able to be found in USA aviculture, many wonderful species are available. Once found, your softbill will be a treasured member of your family and flock.

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There is Life Beyond the Estrildid: *An NFSS Member's Perspective*

By Tim Roche

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Having emigrated to the United States in the late 80's from my native Ireland, I found myself immersed in a centralized cultural, ethnic and lingual bombardment the likes of which I had not faced before. Having travelled extensively throughout Europe, East and North west Africa and the Mediterranean, I always managed to encounter something with which I could identify....and that something was birds - Carduelan Finches to be exact. Goldfinches by the swarm flying wild, or in a cage in the window of a Spanish villa singing their sweet melodies; Chaffinches announcing the onset of Spring in a Dusseldorf suburb; Cock Linnets harmonizing from the rough terrain on the hillsides of Britain and Ireland; Shows with wall to wall cages full of Siskins, Serins, Tits, Redpolls, Bullfinches and Greenfinches. Estrildids were present, but the Carduelan was King! No matter where I travelled and no matter when, I was sure to come across them. So, why should this place be any different?

I remember vividly visiting my first show in Massachusetts - Parrots, Budgies, Type and Colorbred Canaries, Zebra, Societies, Gouldians in all their spectacular colours, Parrot and Spice Finches - but where were the Carduelan finches? Aha, a separate room perhaps! I

enquired from a person stewarding in the finch section. "Do you know of any Goldfinches or Siskins at the show?" I asked. "OOOh, I don't know anything about Siskins." came the reply. "I only know finches!" Gads! What was this place that I had chosen to set down roots? Then I heard whisperings of an Italian American from Methuen, Massachusetts who apparently had them all. Ben Giordano restored my faith in American aviculture upon my visiting him in 1990. Not only were the usual European Carduelan finches on display in his full basement aviary, but also African, Asian and South American varieties such as Alario finches, Black and White Seedeaters, Himalayan and Black-headed Greenfinches, Yellow-Crowned Canaries, Yellow-rumped Serins, Red Siskins, Black Siskins, Hooded Siskins and more. I enquired from Ben as to why there were very few breeders of these birds within the US. His reply was that there were several breeders and hobbyists around the area, and that the birds were really not all that scarce. All these birds were being imported on a fairly regular basis through quarantine stations in California and Miami. "Then why does nobody show them?" I asked. "Zebra judges." came the blanket reply. It was his take on the situation that all the judges hired by the show committees

were of an Estrilidid background, and had very little experience with Carduelians. This in turn resulted in dismal outings of whatever birds were originally shown and created the downward spiral of the Carduelian as a show bird. Although the birds were still maintained in reasonable numbers, consensus of opinion was that it was pointless to show them as they never seemed to have much of a chance. Other local and interstate breeders were visited, and the same basic grudge was put forward - that showing the birds would just be a waste of time.

In the early 90's I decided to test the waters myself and joined the NFSS. I acquired a few pairs of European Greenfinches, Siskins, Goldfinches and Chaffinches from a breeder back in Ireland, and mortgaged my home in order to get them through quarantine! Having worked with the birds for a couple of years, the itch to show them had to be scratched. I placed the two best birds I had in show cages and headed off to the Massachusetts Cage Bird Show in Easton, Mass., which was being officiated by NFSS judge Martha Wigmore. Having been exposed to the criticisms of the system, I was taken aback to see one of the Greenfinches take the award for Best Finch in Show. Many different shows in different states over the next couple of years produced similar results. Superb and impartial judging by Dr. Al Decoteau, Miki Spartzak, Bill Parlee, Charlie Anchor, Dennis Lewis and others proved that the "Zebra Judge" title, associated with NFSS judges by the underground Carduelian breeders, to be totally unjust, unwarranted and ill-deserved. The facts were apparent that the standard of birds put forward by Carduelian breeders were sub-par. Visiting the breeders locally, I had seen many wild caught specimens and very few closed-banded domestic stock. The availability of a constant renewal of stock through the quarantine stations was also not conducive to the establishment of close-banded domestic birds. Many of the Carduelian species that

were being shown were wild caught, leading to steadiness, feather, type and a host of other problems which became evident once they were placed in a show cage. Failure of these birds to do well at the shows lay squarely on the shoulders of those who maintained them....not judged them! It was clear that in placing a well groomed, prepared, type-laden bird before any NFSS judge, the bird would be properly placed. The fact that Estrilidids had been coming to the fore was a credit to the Estrilidid breeders, and not partisanship on behalf of the judges.

The present day representation of the genus within the NFSS is not nearly what it should be, and as to why this is so is unclear. With the exception of New York, where there appears to be decent representation every year, the appearance of the occasional Green Singer, Greenfinch or Goldfinch would be the token entry at patronized shows nationwide. Lack of stock does not seem to be an issue as upwards of 15,000 European Goldfinches alone are gobbled up annually within the US from one quarantine station. This, on top of the thousands and thousands of Serins, Siskins, Buntings and others, depicts a large following which apparently prefers to remain anonymous when it comes to NFSS and the show hall. The trapping and sale of native species has been prohibited in all but a few European countries for many years, resulting in massive domestic close-banded stocks of these birds overseas. Perhaps the climatic and tough conditioning regime needed to breed these wild imports initially is having a toll on numbers in the more extreme parts of the country. Perhaps it's the frowning on the practice of hybridization of excess stock - a Carduelian breeder's staple through the ages - that has dissuaded members. This is further compounded by the society's current classification and acknowledgement of an Estrilidid with the most dubious of backgrounds...the new style Society Finch. With the exception of a bi-annual enquiry regarding the

European Goldfinch, the NFSS maintained community chat group on Yahoo is devoid of Carduelan-based content. Instead, these needs are met by a host of splinter chats catering to specific and general Carduelan groups. Perhaps the stigma of the NFSS being an Estrildid-based society, rather than one with the welfare and propagation of all finch types within the US, has firmly attached itself.

I have been an NFSS member for over 10 years and am proud to be so.

The foregoing is not meant as a criticism, but merely the thoughts and personal observations of a Carduelan Finch breeder within the US. Unfortunately the constraints of raising a young family leave me with little time to do more than pen this article. Maybe somewhere down the road, demands on my time will relax enough to allow me to promote and encourage the development of the Carduelan group of finches to a level befitting these fine songsters.



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NFSS Finch Shop Manager Robert Mehl (*l*)
enjoying the banquet with Australian
aviculturist David Holmes.



NFSS Band Secretary
Paula Hansen
at the AFA banquet.



(*l to r*) NFSS Finch Shop
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Member Shelly Ortman, NFSS
President, Sally Huntington

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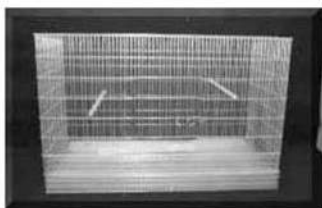
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Blue Cap Cordon Bleu	\$100	Zebra, White	\$36
Orange Cheek Waxbill	\$60	Sorry, no Gouldians at this time.	
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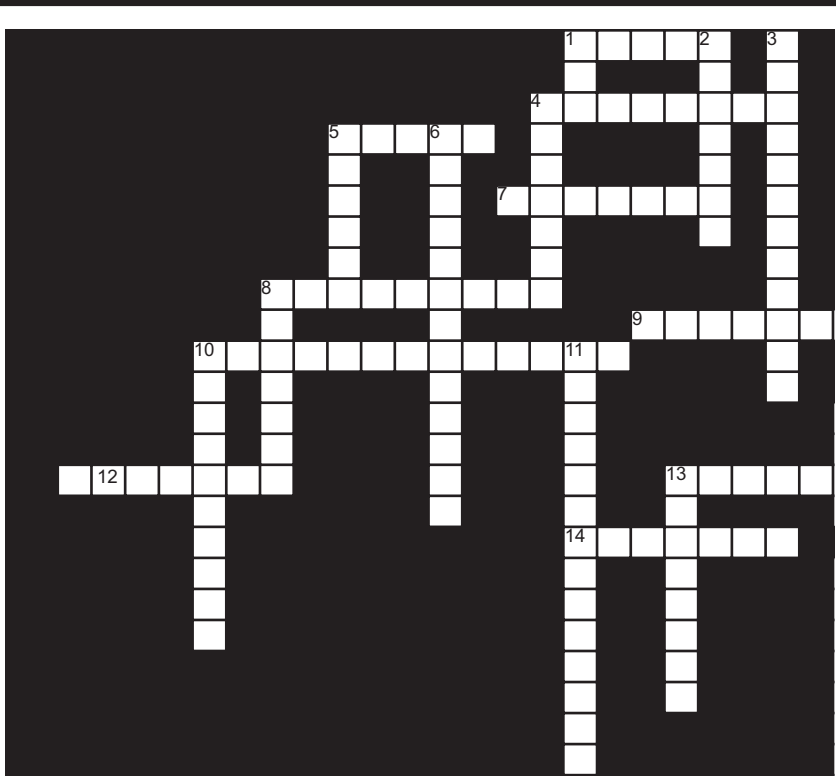
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Youth and Aviculture



Bird Words that begin with "E"

Across

1. The nest of a bird of prey.
4. A calcareous, hard structure on the tip of the upper mandible of the embryonic chick.
5. One of several species of herons, family *Ardelidae*.
7. A ring around the eye of a different color than the adjacent plumage (two words).
8. A flexible tube leading from the mouth to the stomach; the lower part is the crop.
9. A species or subspecies introduced from another country; foreign.

10. The tapeworm is an example of these.
12. A membrane surrounding the eye that allows it to close.
13. Our national bird.
14. Another word for droppings or feces.

Down

1. A reproductive body containing an ovum, nutritive stores and protective coverings, capable of developing into an independent individual.
2. Study of how flora, fauna, and other natural features interact to form natural communities.

Continued

Youth and Aviculture

Focus on.....

Kyle Pereira, Modesto, CA

an interview by NFSS Youth Editor, Raspberry



Kyle Pereira

R (Raspberry): How old are you, Kyle?

K(Kyle): I am ten years old.

R: What kinds of finches do you (or your Dad) have?

K: Lady Gouldians, Societies, Black Cheek Zebras, Black-hooded Nuns and a Canary.

R: How many finches do you have?

K: 35 finches and six eggs...

R: Do you have any favorite finches? Why are they your favorites?

K: My favorite finches are the Firetails, crested Societies and

blue backed Gouldians. I like the Firetails because the spot above their tail matches their beak and the ring around their eye. I like the crested Societies because of their little hairdo. I like the blue backed Gouldians because blue is my favorite color.

R: What is your favorite finch behavior?

K: My favorite finch behavior is when they puff out their feathers to act as an air conditioner.

R: Why do you like to draw pictures of finches and what materials do you use to draw them?

K: I like to draw pictures of finches because I like art and I like finches. I use pencils, colored markers and crayons to draw them.

R: If you could go see finches in the wild, what country would that be?

K: I would like to go to Australia, because that's where most of my favorite finches are and they are bright and colorful.

R: What would you like to see change in NFSS to make it more interesting to kids?

K: I would like to see NFSS have drawings of finches to print out on their website so I can color them. I would also like to see colored pictures in the NFSS Journal.

Continued on next page.....

Youth and Aviculture

Kyle Pereira, Continued.....

R: What do your friends think about your (or your Dad's) finches?

K: My friends think the finches are cool.

R: Is there anything I didn't ask that you want people to know about you?

K: I hope to someday get a Green-Winged Macaw, but my Dad says they make too much noise. I also like reptiles and would like to get an Iguana soon.

...Crossword Continued - Bird Words that begin with "E"

Down

3. The process of emitting regular sounds and hearing the reflected sound waves.
4. the process of growing new feathers during molt.
5. an unhatched bird in the first developmental phase of growth.
6. Lice and mites are examples of these.
8. The process of shedding feathers during molt.
10. A form of nest parasitism where the parasite's eggs are colored closely to resemble those of the host.
11. Drab plumage of some males outside of breeding season. (Two words)
13. Area corresponding to the human cheek. (Two words)

Check the Nov/Dec issue for this puzzle's answers!

Answers to Last Issue's Crossword

Across	Down
2. Eggfood	1. Courtship
5. Millet	3. Nest
6. Society	4. Mice
8. Aviary	5. Mutation
9. Gouldian	7. Song
13. Feathers	10. Australia
14. Zebra	11. NFSS
16. Dimorphic	12. Band
19. Allopren	15. Bengalese
	17. Incubate
	18. Cuttlebone

NFSS welcomes any and all submissions for the Youth and Aviculture page. Please send your artwork, photos, jokes, riddles and any ideas to the NFSS Journal Youth Editor:

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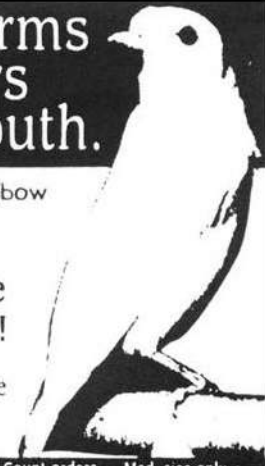
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The Desert Finch

(Rhodopechys obsoleta)

by Tim Roche

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The Desert Finch, also known as the Desert Bullfinch or Lichtensteins Desert Finch, is a bird found in the arid middle eastern regions of the world, as its name may suggest. I obtained my first pair as a gift from an acquaintance in California and was very pleasantly surprised as the colour plates that I had seen did not do this bird justice once seen live. The feather quality was what struck me first, being exceptionally silky looking, and making it appear that the bird was embossed in suede rather than covered in feathers. The male, with its sandy body colouring, white-laced black wing and tail feathers reminiscent of reptilian scales, sported intense pink wing bars to stunning effect. A well placed black eye mark and horn coloured beak finished off an impressive package. The hen lacked the eye mark and had a faint brown colouration to the flight feathers of her wing and tail but was no less impressive. Unfortunately, the male accepted the invitation of an open cage door that I had presented to him whilst cleaning, bade myself and his mate farewell, and left through the aviary door without looking back. Overwhelmed with disappointment, I began to call around to see if others had a spare and located one in the care of Charlie Loukeris. We agreed to transfer the hen to his premises, whereupon she made a nest and laid five eggs, which all turned out to be infertile, before going to moult.

The winter of 2000 saw the demise of Charlie's male, and the hen being

returned to my care. I managed to pick up another male from a quarantine station in the early spring of 2001 that had been languishing there from the original importation of these birds a few years before! Now the question was whether or not I had missed my opportunity with these birds as, both being wild, I had no idea exactly how old they were. The introduction of the pair to each other went very smoothly, with the male appearing exceedingly attentive to the hen, following at an almost annoying pace whilst attempting to feed her. The pair were introduced to a flight measuring 3 x 3 x 6ft in which a wicker type canary nest basket had been affixed at head height and had been surrounded with live conifer branches. Both birds' beaks changed from their horny colouration to jet black and as the male's pursuit of the hen became incessant, his throat feathers constantly extended as he serenaded her with his delicate song of pipes and whistles. The available light was 12.5 hours and the temperature varied from 70 degrees - dropping to 45 degrees at night. The first of six off-white bespeckled eggs were laid on consecutive days with the hen sitting firmly after the fourth egg was laid. Burlap, shredded cotton rope in two-inch pieces, coconut fiber and animal hair were all used in the nest's construction.

Fearful of the hen abandoning the nest if I entered to inspect the eggs after a week led me to peer into it through the

wire with a flashlight when she had come off to stretch and feed. Experience has taught me to look for that solid "polished" look of a fertile egg and bingo... I could see at least three that met that criteria. 14 days after she had started to incubate, eggshells were spotted in the corner of the flight. Over the short period of time that the birds were together I had offered a wide variety of foods such as soaked Canola, soaked and sprouted Pigeon conditioning mix, commercial eggfood, Insectivorous mix, mealworms and Romaine lettuce along with my own canary seed diet. Everything was pretty much ignored with the exception of the hard seed and the lettuce. I had searched all the avian books in my possession for information on breeding these birds and had come up empty handed. Were the young to perish because I could not provide the adults with what they preferred to feed? I still provided the birds with the varied diet, but again, all that was taken was the hard seed and the greens. I held out little hope of success on such meager fare being supplied to the young, but having taken the opportunity to inspect the nest after four days found a heaving mound of apparently healthy young. The next several days saw the birds sample and feed the eggfood/soakseed mix to the young, who were five in number and were banded at seven days old with NFSS size "G" bands. Fledging occurred

at 15 days and the male was outstanding as a father, never refusing a chicks pleas for food. The hen laid the first egg of her second nest as the first brood approached 28 days of age, and sat tight through the obvious distraction of her first born roosting all around the nest. The young appeared to be very self-sufficient after six weeks, although two would still call and pester the male for food who invariably obliged. As the second brood arrived on the scene, the male seemed to become very agitated at the presence of the older chicks, and a decision was made to remove the younger birds before fatalities occurred. The nest-feathered youngsters resembled the female, lacking the black facial markings of the male, but could still be positively sexed as the flight feathers were either black for males or of a brownish hue for females. The second nest produced another five young which were again all raised to maturity thanks in no small part to the cock whose paternal instincts were second to none. Upon independence, the young Desert Finches avidly consumed both eggfood and soaked seed along with the hard seed mix and as much Romaine as I cared to supply.

After three years of trying, the Desert Finch had finally brought some warmth to the frozen tundra of the northeastern USA.

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NFSS 3rd Quarter, 2004, Board Meeting Minutes

The NFSS 3rd Quarter, 2004, Board meeting was called to order by President, Sally Huntington, on August 1, 2004.

NFSS Treasurer, Mark Phelps, announced that Armando Lee, NFSS 1st Vice President, and Martha Wigmore, NFSS 4th Vice President, will conduct an audit of the 2003 NFSS financial records. NFSS Treasurer, Mark Phelps, informed the board that should Motions 2004-8 and 2004-9 be passed, the overall 2004 NFSS budget will change from a projected loss of \$344.00 to a projected gain of \$2,556.00.

Motion 2004-7: NFSS Treasurer, Mark Phelps, made a motion that the band department's expense budget be increased by \$3,000.00 for a new total of \$12,260.00; and the income budget by \$5000.00 for a new total of \$15,271.00.

Motion Seconded by Paula Hansen, NFSS Band Secretary.

Motion Passed: 8 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstain

Motion 2004-8: NFSS Treasurer, Mark Phelps, made a motion that the FinchShop's expense budget be increased by \$350.00 for a new total of \$2,081.00; and the income budget by \$1,250.00 for a new total of \$4,000.00.

Motion Seconded by Paula Hansen, NFSS Band Secretary

Motion Passed: 8 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstain

NFSS Officers' Reports 3rd Quarter, 2004

NFSS Membership Director

As of August 16, 2004:

Single Memberships: 688

Dual Memberships: 96

Affiliated: 62

Total: 846

Respectfully Submitted by,
Linda Hughes

NFSS Treasurer

I'm happy to report that I have nothing to report (which from a financial standpoint, is a very good thing!). If the two budget adjustments are approved (as expected) then the figures will look a lot better and better represent our financial outlook. As always, keep in mind that the loss we are showing is due to the two Journal bills paid this year that were for last year's Journals, and that the number in parentheses are the budget figures (which do not include the new adjustments mentioned above).

For the period 1/1/04 to 8/15/04:

Cash In Accounts - \$18,015.80

Income - \$27,719.16 (\$45,081.00)

Expenses- \$33,044.21(\$45,425.00)

Total Loss - -\$5,325.05 (-\$344.00)

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Phelps, NFSS Treasurer

NFSS Band Secretary

Estimated Band Sale Results:

June: 19-Mail In/15 Pay Pal - \$870.50

July: 9 Mail In/14 Pay Pal - \$563.30

August: 14 Mail in/7 Pay Pal - \$471.80

Sales reflect slowing down this is usually the normal pattern during summer and summer's end. Glad membership is still rising birds are definitely breeding! Keep the orders coming in!

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hansen,
NFSS Band Secretary

NFSS Awards Manager

2004 year to date

Accounts Receivable:

3,684.00 Total Income to Date

2,659.00 Awards

1,025.00 Affiliations

Other

Accounts Payable:

n/a. Total Payables to Date

Purchases	63.00 Novice Rosettes
Refunds	21@3.00 each
Postage and Overhead	27.00 Youth Rosettes
Misc.	9@3.00 each
	85.00 Judges Special Rosette
	17@5.00 each

Sales:

2,411.00 Total Sales
1,400.00 Plaques
56@25.00 each
800.00 1-10 Rosette Packages
32@25.00 each
36.00 Unflighted Add-ons
6@6.00 each

Respectfully Submitted,
 Darla Dandre,
 NFSS Awards and Affiliations Manager

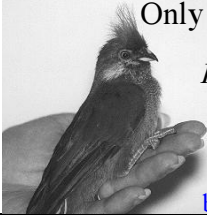
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NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

REGIONAL CLUBS

Southeast Bird Fanciers (SE U.S.)

Contact: Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168
gndallen@earthlink.net
Meetings: 1st Sat. in Mar, Jun, Sep, and 2nd
Sat. in Dec. at the Atlanta Farmers Market
Website:
http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebf.htm

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society (Montgomery)

Contact: Margie Lanier (334) 567-4073
margielanier@yahoo.com
Meetings: 2nd Sun of ea. month, 2:30 pm
Prattville Library, Prattville, AL
Club E-Mail: caasshow@aol.com
Website: www.caasociety.com

ARIZONA

Great American Cage Bird Show (Tucson)

Contact: Marion Spartzak (410) 687-8915
MJS5295@comcast.net
Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month except Dec.
7849 Tommy Dr, La Mesa, CA
Club E-Mail: Sandhillxotics@aol.com

CALIFORNIA

Finch Society of San Diego County

Contact: Sally Huntington (858) 452-9423
sallych@san.rr.com
Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month except Dec.
7849 Tommy Dr, La Mesa, CA
Club E-Mail: onedeergranny@aol.com

CANADA

Durham Cage Bird Society (Pickering, Ontario)

Contact: Jaquie Blackburn (416) 282-5997
secretary@birdclub.ca
Meetings: 2nd Tue (except July & Aug)
Rotary Park Pavilion, Lake Driveway W. Ajax
Website: www.birdclub.ca

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society (Ontario)

Contact: Julianne Mion (519) 948-6398
julianne@mnsi.net

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture (Denver)

Contact: Anna Sinclair (719) 634-6404
Meetings: 2nd Fri of each month, Lakeside
Mall, 44th & Harlan, Denver
Club E-Mail: birds@rmsa-birds.org
Website: www.rmsa-birds.org

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida (Ft. Lauderdale)

Contact: Marcia David (954) 321-9229
marbilld@comcast.net
Meetings: 2nd Sun of ea. month, 2 pm
Flamingo Gardens Gallery, Davie, FL
Website: www.feathers.org

Exotic Bird Club of Florida (Palm Bay)

Contact: Ginny Heptig (321) 952-9780
yngathrtt@aol.com
Meetings: 2nd Sun of ea. month, Greater
Palm Bay Senior Ctr. 1275 Culver Dr.
Club E-Mail: ywweir@aol.com
Website: www.homestead.com/
exoticbirdclubofflorida

Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club (Stuart)

Contact: Jim Dunn (772) 344-8374
jdunn3@adelphia.net
Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month,
Pt. Salerno Town Hall



NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

Suncoast Avian Society (Pinellas Park)

Contact: Joe Ventimiglia (727) 392-9391
howard7@tampabay.rr.com

Meetings: 1st Sun of ea. month, 2 pm
Leisure World Mobile Home Park

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society (Atlanta)

Contact: Pat Miller (770) 425-9455
jandpmiller@mindspring.com

Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month, 2:30 pm
Smyrna Community Center

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club (Chicago)

Contact: Diana Federl (630) 325-4414
dianafederl@yahoo.com

Meetings: 3rd Fri. of ea. month, American
Legion Hall, 310 Butterfield Rd., Elmhurst
Club E-Mail: secretary@gccbc.org
Website: www.gccbc.org

Illini Bird Fanciers (Springfield)

Contact: Patte Montgomery (217) 787-0399
illinibirdfanciers@yahoo.com

Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month, Var. Locations
Club E-Mail: illinibirdfanciers@yahoo.com

National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries

Contact: Stephan V. Hopman (815) 469-8425
birdhop@aol.com

Meetings: 1st Fri. of ea. month except Nov.
Show: **NIROC Fall 2004 Show -
Nov. 27, 2004**
Park Plaza Chicago, 75 W. Algonquin
Rd., Arlington Heights
Judge: Jerri Wiesenfeld
Show Contact: Cam Catalano (630) 971-8637

IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society (Des Moines)

Contact: John Thielking (515) 278-9159

Meetings: 4th Sun of ea. month, 2 pm
Des Moines Botanical Ctr.
909 E. River Drive, Des Moines

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Inc.

Contact: Barbara Shannon (410) 356-5850

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of ea. mo. - Towson Library
Club E-Mail: drhaynesesq@yahoo.com

MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Avicultural Society (Grand Rapids)

Contact: Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163
pdhugo@charter.net

Meetings: 2nd Mon. of each month - UAW
Hall, 4269 Alpine, Grand Rapids
Website: www.angelfire.com/mi4/glas

Motor City Bird Breeders (Detroit)

Contact: Pat Piekarz (586) 296-2957
dpiekarz1@comcast.net

Meetings: 1st weekend of each month at
club members' homes.

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society (Kansas City)

Contact: Anthony Day (816) 356-9533
sterryday@aol.com

Meetings: 2nd Sun of ea. month, Trail West
Library - 11401 E 23rd St. - Independence



Renew your NFSS membership early if you can! It will help save renewal notices and prevent you from missing any benefits.

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

<p>Mo-Kan Cage Bird Club (<i>Columbus,KS</i>)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Doug Willis (417) 358-7248 dwillis71@cox-internet.com</p>
<p>NEW HAMPSHIRE</p>
<p>Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society (<i>Manchester</i>)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Ray Schwartz (603) 362-6106 prismsdad@aol.com</p> <p><u>Meetings:</u> 2nd Mon. of each month Villa Crest, Manchester, NH</p> <p><u>Website:</u> www.boaf.com</p>
<p>NEW YORK</p>
<p>Astoria Bird Club (<i>New York City</i>)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Dan Griffin (718) 994-1614 dgriff11@optionline.net</p> <p><u>Meetings:</u> 3rd Sun. of each month 23-18 29th St. Astoria, NY</p> <p><u>Club E-Mail:</u> AstoriaBirdClub@aol.com</p>
<p>New York Finch and Type Canary Club (<i>New York City</i>)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Stan Kulak (718) 967-6899 barstand@aaahawk.com</p> <p><u>Meetings:</u> 2nd Sun. of each month except Jul. & Aug. 1:00 p.m. Averill Blvd. Pk. Elmont</p> <p><u>Website:</u> www.newyorkfinch.com</p>
<p>NORTH CAROLINA</p>
<p>Raleigh-Durham Cage Bird Society (<i>Raleigh</i>)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> April Blazich (919) 851-8079 aprilb@bellsouth.net</p> <p><u>Meetings:</u> 3rd Sun of ea. month, Glen Eden Pilot Park, Glen Eden Dr., Raleigh</p> <p><u>Website:</u> www.rdcbs.org</p>

<p>OREGON</p>
<p>Eastside Finch Connection (<i>Portland</i>)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Mary Smith (503) 634-2233 smithwm@open.org</p> <p><u>Meetings:</u> 1st Mon. of ea. month - 7 pm, Clackamas Comm. Hall, Clackamas</p>
<p>PENNSYLVANIA</p>
<p>Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society (<i>Pittsburgh</i>)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Jim Felix (412) 462-0969 justuff1@comcast.net</p> <p><u>Club E-Mail:</u> mjonnet@katz.pitt.edu</p>
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<p>Asociation De Criadores de Finches Del Este</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Victor Cordero 893-7723</p>
<p>TENNESSEE</p>
<p>Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club (<i>Nashville</i>)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Lisa Mellies (615) 890-6906 tnma2@comcast.net</p> <p><u>Meetings:</u> 3rd Sun. of each month 1 pm Donelson Senior Ctr. 108 Donelson Park - Donelson, TN</p>
<p>Southeast TN Avicultural Society (<i>Niota</i>)</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Janet Burrell (423) 472-1306 jgb2202@aol.com</p> <p><u>Meetings:</u> 2nd Sun. of each month 2 pm Niota Elementary School</p>

Visit the NFSS Website
www.nfss.org
 for the latest finch/softbill
 news and information!

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club

(Knoxville)

Contact: Terri Bartow (865) 548-1966

Meetings: 1st Tue. of each month - Church of the Good Samaritan

Club E-Mail: bggrass@hotmail.com

Club Website: tvebc@kornet.org

TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club Inc.

(San Antonio)

Contact: Nathan Durbin (210) 433-1840
tak@stic.net

Website: www.aebc.org

Canary & Finch Society (Pasadena)

Contact: Helen Jones (281) 324-4100

Meetings: 2nd Sun of each month - Pasadena Town Square Mall

Fort Worth Bird Club (Fort Worth)

Contact: Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568
COculwell@myfam.com

Meetings: 2nd Sun of each month - Fort Worth Botanical Garden - Azalea Room

Club E-Mail: circlm@swbell.net

Club Website: www.fwbc.org

Texas Bird Breeders (Temple)

Contact: Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568
COculwell@myfam.com

Meetings: Feb and Aug on 3rd Weekend

VIRGINIA

Peninsula Cage Bird Society, Inc.

(Hampton)

Contact: Bea Rogers (757) 484-6001

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of each month at 2 pm

Website: www.vapeninsulacagedbirdclub.org

Events: **Bird Marts - Spring & Fall, 2004**
Annual Bird Clubs of Virginia Convention

WASHINGTON

Cascade Canary Breeders Association

(Seattle)

Contact: Janel C. Johnson (425) 226-8899
katbird57@aol.com

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of each month at 2 pm, Keppler's Feed - 16442 SE

Renton-Issaquah Rd. - Renton

Show: **36th Annual Canary & Finch Show & Exhibition - Nov. 27-28, 2004**

The Clubhouse at Ballinger Lakes,

23000 Lakeview Dr., Mountlake Terrace

Contact: Janel Johnson (See Above)

WISCONSIN

Badger Canary & Finch Club

(Milwaukee)

Contact: Sue Feldstein (262) 965-5367

Meetings: 3rd Sat. of each month - No meetings in Dec. or Jan.

Club E-Mail: devanornum@aol.com

Club Website:
www.badgercanaryandfinchclub.org

Wisconsin Cage Bird Club (Oshkosh)

Contact: Dave Bluma (920) 428-4595

Davidbluma@aol.com

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of each month.



Did you know you can renew your membership for more than one year? We have added multiple year membership options to all forms available both in the Journal and at the website.

2004 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT



The basic affiliation fee is \$25.00.

Club Name: _____

Club City/St: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Club affiliation entitles your organization to receive all NFSS publications and to exercise the privileges of the Society. These include, but are not limited to:

- ***NFSS Journal***--- Our newly formatted bi-monthly publication connects you with other finch and softbill enthusiasts around the world. It includes articles on breeding, housing, diet, management, products, specific species, and experiences of other aviculturists.
- ***www.NFSS.org***--- Visit our ever-expanding website for the latest information on NFSS activities, officers, affiliated clubs and their websites, 2004 affiliated shows and events, archives, advertisements and Avicultural links.
- ***Finchshop***--- Looking for an unusual gift? Finchshop is our department store. Items and order forms are available in the NFSS Journal and on the website - www.NFSS.org
- ***Finch Save***--- The goal of this restructured member participation group is to establish and maintain all finch and softbill species in American aviculture.
- ***Census***--- The annual NFSS Census can connect you with other breeders for the purpose of exchanging breeding stock.
- ***Affiliated Shows and Events***--- are advertised in the NFSS Journal and on the website.
- ***NFSS Panel Judges***--- are available for shows.
- ***Awards with the NFSS Logo***--- (plaques and rosettes) are available at new reduced prices!
- ***Annual Achievement Awards***--- are presented at the National Cage Bird Show.

Once we receive your application and fee, we will list your organization among the affiliated clubs in the NFSS Journal and on the NFSS website. Please write, email or phone me for an Affiliation Application and Awards Catalog!

Send your check for \$25.00
made payable to NFSS to:

Darla Dandre
NFSS Affiliations & Awards Manager
PO Box 1231, Lisle, IL 60532
Phone: 815-729-9789
E-Mail: Dbirdranch@aol.com

2004 NFSS AWARDS ORDER FORM

You may request a color catalog featuring our awards being offered this year or use the order form below.

Your show information must be submitted as soon as possible but no later than two months before your show date.

Circle me!

YOU MUST BE AN AFFILIATED CLUB TO ORDER AWARDS

If you have not done so already, you may affiliate now.....\$25.00

Plaques -

- Best Finch or Softbill in Division \$25.00
- 2nd Place Finch or Softbill in Division . . \$25.00
- 3rd Place Finch or Softbill in Division . . \$25.00
- Best Finch in Show \$25.00
- Best Softbill in Show \$25.00
- Make your own Award! \$25.00

Engraving Information:

Rosettes -

- Basic Rosette Set (1-10 + Best Unflighted) . \$25.00
- Unflighted Rosette Add-on (2nd & 3rd Place) . \$6.00
- Novice Rosette \$3.00
- Youth Rosette \$3.00

Please make check payable to NFSS and mail to:

**Darla Dandre
Awards Manager
PO Box 1231
Lisle, IL 60532
815-729-9789
Dbirdranch@aol.com**

Please, no express mail or parcels! - Thanks!

Affiliation Fee \$ _____ + Awards Order \$ _____ = TOTAL \$ _____

SHIP AWARDS TO: NAME: _____

Please fill out ALL the information!

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ e-mail: _____

Club Name: _____

Show Date: _____ Judge: _____

Show Location: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail or web site: _____

Show Manager: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

NFSS Club Delegate: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Publish this information in the 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 - \$1.50 PER STRING OF 10 BANDS

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 recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of 10, same size. New members may order before receiving their membership number. Write "New" for an 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 - \$3.25 PER STRING OF 10 BANDS

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 \$2.00 _____

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-cheeked Waxbill, Owl (Bicheno) Finch, Quail Finch, Red-eared Waxbill, Strawberry Finch, and other small waxbills.
- Size B: Black-cheeked Waxbill, Cordon Bleu, Cuban Melodious Finch, Fire Finch, Olive Finch, Rufous-backed Mannikin, Timor Zebra, Peales Parrot Finch.
- Size C: B&W Mannikin, Violet Eared & Blue-capped Waxbills, Purple Grenadier, Bronze-winged Mannikin, Cherry Finch, Green Singing Finch, Grey Singing Finch, Heck's Shaftail, Lavender Finch, Painted Finch, Pileated Finch, Pytilias, Red-headed & Forbes (Blue-Breasted) Parrot Finches, Shaftail Finch, Silverbills, Star Finch, Red Siskin, Society (Bengalese) Finch, Standard Zebra.
- Size D: Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Lady Gouldian Finch, Chestnut-breasted & most smaller mannikins, most other Parrot finches, Pictorella Finch, Pintailed Nonpareil, most Twinspots, Yellow-rumped Finch.
- Size E: Black-crested Finch, Diamond sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Siskins, Spice Finch, European Goldfinch, European Zebra.
- Size G: Magpie Mannikin, Siberian Goldfinch, most larger mannikins, small tanagers.
- Size J: Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias, most small softbills.
- Size K: Java Rice Birds, Red-crested Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Shama Thrush
- Size L: Diamond Dove, Mousebirds, other small doves, quail, softbills.
- Size M: Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah, large Sunbirds, Superb Starlings.
- Size R: Green/Purple 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-Cheeked, 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, Rosellas, Many Softbills.

NFSS FinchShop



Gouldian Finch Beeswax Candle

These adorable Gouldian finch candles are handmade from honeycomb beeswax. The candle is approximately 5 inches high. Makes a great gift for your favorite finch lover. Available in two versions: red head and black head purple **Cost \$10.00 each**



NFSS Logo Cap

An adjustable (one size fits most) 100% cotton dark blue cap with the graphic in tan and green National Finch & Softbill Society lettering. **Cost \$16.00 each**



NFSS Logo Polo Shirt

A short sleeve, tan, 100% pre-shrunk cotton Polo Shirt with embroidered Logo over left chest. Bird graphic is blue with National Finch & Softbill Society in green. Available in men's sizes: M, L, and XL. **Cost \$28.00 each**



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A multicolored, silk-screened lapel pin featuring the NFSS logo. The pin measures 1¼ inch (32mm). Show your pride in being a member! **Cost \$2.50 each**



FinchShop Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Item (specify size /color if applicable)	Price
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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: _____

Mail completed form with your check payable to NFSS to:

Robert Mehl
 NFSS Finch Shop Manager
 11108 Hollowbrook Road
 Owings Mills, MD 21117-1379



Membership Application

Name: _____

Dual Membership 2nd Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

New Member? _____ Renewal (List NFSS #) _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Membership Dues (Select One)

	Single	Dual	Foreign	Junior
1 Year:	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$22.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
3 Years:	\$85 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$99 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$99 <input type="checkbox"/>	
5 Years:	\$140 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Life:	\$1500 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1740 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1740 <input type="checkbox"/>	

Mail Application
and Check
Payable to
NFSS:

**Ms. Linda
Hughes
P.O. Box 499
Rhome, TX
76078**



NFSS FINCH/SOFTBILL SAVE Information/Application Request

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail Request to:
Mr. Randy Taylor
17801 Robin Road, Canyon, TX 79015

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FOR SALE: Star Finches (yellow faced, normals and peds), Shaft-tails (normals and fawns), Diamond Firetails, Lady Gouldians, show Societies (chocolate, fawns and whites) all NFSS banded. taking orders for spring hatch. Will ship. E-mail: studioone@cox-internet.com Darrin Hill, Species captain, Star and Shafttail finch, Finch and Softbill Save, NFSS.

FOR SALE: Gouldian finches (most colors), Diamond Sparrows, Gold Breasted Waxbills, Shaftails, Societies, Green singers.

WANTED: Senegal Fire Finches (pairs and hens), Peter's Twinspot hen. All birds for sale hatched in my aviary. Contact Seymour Lazerowitz in Virginia (703) 671-5588. Will ship airlines only.

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Skipio'sTM **Egg Meal** Ground millet, canary seed, egg, soy, *Musca domestica*, spirulina, aniseed. Use moist or dry as breeding conditioner and baby food. High protein and high fiber content for intestinal motility.
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