

Journal of the
**National Finch & Softbill
Society**
Volume 23, No. 2 March/April, 2006



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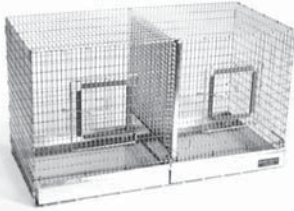
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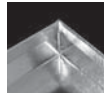
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NFSS Mission Statement

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 of a Continental Chestnut-flanked White Zebra Finch by Christine ACY Kumar.

Copyright by Christine ACY Kumar.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Reading Martha's articles in the Jan/Feb issue made this person extremely happy. This past year the email "know-it-alls" have been touting "color, color, color". People without a well proportioned body color ain't squat!

Martha is absolutely right. It's "conformation, conformation, conformation". To breed a perfectly colored black-cheek that has a snake body is not much of an achievement. No livestock contest is judged on color as the primary requisite. The only way to maintain healthy stock is to maintain conformation. I saw several N.F.S.S. judges this year that should re-read the standards. I'm from the "old school" (#133) but don't expect to make your next birthday if you call ME old!

Sincerely

Charles Anchor

**- - - - Do you have an Opinion? - - - -
Write the Editor**



NFSS President's Message

March/April 2006

EXCUSES FOR NOT STARTING TAXES. . . I was putting off doing taxes and writing my NFSS president's message, and I wondered what excuses I could use that hadn't already been overused.

- *Seeds stuck in my crop . . . ?*
- *Mites rendered me too weak to think...?*
(doesn't sound good for a president)
- *My molt isn't going well?.*
- *Society finches shredded my 1090's for their nest?.*
- *Mealworms ate receipts I had covered them with?*
- *My bumble-foot is acting up again. . .*
- *Zebra finches flew away with critical 1090's ?*
- *Husband's singing and dancing display is too distracting? . .*
(too much information)
- ***Is there just too much going on?***

UP AND RUNNING. . . The 2006 NFSS Board of Directors (BOD) is up and running having worked its way through the first quarter internet board meeting. Each year I am impressed by the new ideas and the enthusiasm of every new BOD. Thank you all for participating.

At home, our new 800 sq ft. 'bird-room/aviary/atrium' is up and stocked. Every bird is in out of the weather. Zebras, Euro societies and Gouldians are in 12 standard breeding cages. There are 11, 6x8x3 ft. freestanding movable wooden framed 'flights' with lightweight black nylon/plastic netting. These flights house finches, softbills and fruit doves. The bottom-cleaning of these flights is revolutionary and, I'll cover that in a forthcoming report on the overall study we conducted.

Oops... ERROR and OMISSION in Journal's show information . . . In the NFSS January bird-show report, Fumi Takeda was listed as a non-member, when, in fact, she's been an active member. Our apologies. Also, the show results for the Wings over Washington Show, held July 23 in Redmond, WA, and the Mason Dixon Classic held September 15th in Timonium, Maryland hosted by the Baltimore Bird Fanciers (an affiliate club) and judged by Annette Howard were somehow omitted and will be subsequently published.

TESTIMONIAL . . . "Society Finches make wonderful pets"

Hi Sally,

Just a note of appreciation for the time and effort you put into raising, DNA testing, and preparing the self-chocolate society finch, Wren, for shipping.

She adjusted very well. Having arrived on Wednesday, by Sunday—and quite suddenly—she decided I was her best friend. Raven (white society finch) and she have no squabbles, but they seem very independent of each other.

For example they have different flight paths in my condo. They rest in different locations outside their cage and usually on different perches when inside. They do act in unison especially when they compete for attention from me, however. After all my concern about having a companion for her, Raven appears to have not altered her behavior one iota since Wren arrived—as if to say she could have managed quite well as an 'only finch'.

I continue to be amazed at what engaging and interactive pets these tiny creatures are. If I were to add more birds to my collection, my choice would be finches. I am painfully aware of their short life span so in a year or so I might ask that you raise yet another for me. Meanwhile I hope you will continue to please many people with these extraordinary pets.

All the best for the new year,

Paul Rodenhauer

When asked if I could reprint his email Paul's reply

Sally,

You are most welcome to reprint what I wrote to you. On second glance, it reads reasonably well and it does adequately represent my observations and sentiments about the little "societies."

I just returned from a five day absence (working in San Francisco) and was becoming concerned before I left that the new finch, Wren, was losing interest in being around me. She was much more interested in the Bourke's parakeets. To my great surprise, when I returned today I found that she can't get enough of my attention—chattering, snuggling in the crook of my arm, and quite eager to be petted. I guess absence makes even birds' hearts grow fonder.

Raven continues to make sure she isn't upstaged, however. Thanks for your response, and, again, for your dedication to finches.

Paul



Sally Huntington, President, National Finch & Softbill Society



Finches in Aviculture

Moving and Transporting Finches

by Robert Black

The maintenance and breeding of finches in captivity requires that we frequently move them from one location to another. Moves of any type are completely foreign to any finch's experience in the wild, and moving them can be an extremely stressful and even deadly experience for the imported birds that are not accustomed to moves of any kind. For the more domesticated species, however, moving is not nearly so stressful, and they are far more likely to come through the experience in good health and condition. The basic information and experience outlined here will apply to all species of birds, regardless of their family or genus.

The tips and information outlined here have completely eliminated losses from moving birds in my own care, and the last birds I can remember losing were in 1975 in a shipment across the country that was delayed for two days. Though none of the fifty finches in the shipment were dead on arrival, their miserable and sickly condition on arrival led me to expect that at least half would die within the first few hours. Nevertheless, by following the suggestions outlined in this column, I was able to save most of the finches, and the final death toll was only three of the fifty birds in the shipment.

Regardless of the length of time that the birds are in transit, any move to a new location, even if it is only a few blocks away, makes crucial changes in three separate areas:

First, the environment into which the new birds are placed will change completely. Their cages or aviaries, lighting conditions, and even weather conditions may change completely. These changes are very stressful for any small bird, and the result can easily be illness and even death. The best defense is to have a place already set up for any new birds so they can settle down with the least amount of additional change and disruption. Birds adapt rapidly to environmental changes if their diet has been adequately supplied with the nutrients that protect the body against stress and environmental changes.

The second set of conditions that changes noticeably is the food. No two breeders or aviculturists feed their birds the same foods, and each of us has special suppliers and formulas that we use consistently for keeping our finches and other birds in good health. Though these dietary items are excellent nutritionally, as evidenced by the continual successful breeding of birds on these diets, they are different from the foods that new birds were used to in their former areas. Just the introduction of new, unaccustomed items can give the birds diarrhea, since completely different combinations of enzymes are required for the breakdown of each food item into its component nutrients. The digestive system rapidly expels foods that it cannot handle in the form of diarrhea. The birds' digestive systems cannot instantaneously adjust the enzyme production

to accommodate the new foods. This acclimation process is rapid in finches, however, and usually takes place within a couple of days. Certainly, within 3 days, the new birds' digestion will be able to handle the new foods with no further problems. Be aware of this problem, however, and have a small supply of the birds' previous foods to tide them over while their digestion becomes accustomed to your new food items. With this minimal amount of attention and extra care, the birds will become acclimated to all of the new foods in a very short time.

In addition, the avian body synthesizes and utilizes a wide variety of hormones in the process of metabolizing the proteins, fats, carbohydrates and other nutrient groups that are absorbed from the foods in the digestive tract. A diet that has been very high in carbohydrates and suddenly becomes low in carbohydrates, but high in fats and proteins is sure to tax the bird's system beyond its ability to handle the greater proportions of fats and proteins. The bird needs time, usually several days, for its system to readjust itself for the manufacture of the necessary hormones to handle the additional nutrients that are now in circulation in the bird's bloodstream.

The third set of conditions that changes completely in each different area is the population of microorganisms in the food, the air, and the environment. This mix of germs, fungi, and other microorganisms constitute the greatest danger for any birds introduced to new conditions in a different area. Microorganisms are everywhere, active or dormant, just waiting for the right set of conditions to allow their growth and reproduc-

tion. Cleaning and disinfecting are useful only until the disinfecting agents are no longer active. By actual count, every cubic foot of 'clean' air contains between 40,000 and 60,000 living things, in addition to all of the other inorganic smog, smoke and pollution it may contain. This means that every surface that is exposed to the air will constantly pick up spores and dormant microorganisms. If the surface they land on is damp and has a food source, these microorganisms will begin to grow and reproduce in mind-boggling numbers.

Acclimating any finches or other cage birds to your new conditions is a matter of controlling the new microorganisms they are exposed to and feeding them a balanced diet that is high in complete protein, as well as all of the vital vitamins and minerals they need. These tiny birds have very limited body reserves when illness strikes, and for this reason, a sick finch almost invariably dies. Any harmful bacteria that the birds are unaccustomed to and that they pick up with their food can infect and shut down their digestive tracts. These harmful microorganisms will result in any finch's death in short order. The birds must have time to develop an immunity to these harmful bacteria, or these microorganisms that are new to their digestive systems will be sure to cause their death.

One of the chief causes of problems in the avian digestive system is the bacterium commonly called *E. coli*. This is an abbreviation for *Escherichia coli*, a very common and even necessary bacterium in the human and animal digestive tract, but one that is not normal in the digestive tracts of the passerine birds.

Escherichia coli that gain access to the avian digestive system will multiply rapidly and will in a very short time completely shut down the digestive tract. Diarrhea will be obvious, as the bird's digestive system attempts to rid itself of the harmful bacteria. If you do not act immediately to destroy these bacteria and to give the bird's digestive system an opportunity to develop its immunity, the bird is going to die from a combination of starvation and the toxins that the harmful bacteria in its digestive tract are producing.

You can give the birds the time they need to develop their immunity to unfamiliar microorganisms by treating their drinking water with one drop of a common household sodium hypochlorite bleach to each two ounces of their drinking water. This will kill all of the harmful microorganisms in the water and in the digestive tract when the birds drink the water, without harming the birds in the least. Use this treatment for 2 days if some birds are sick, but only for one day as a preventative treatment. The chlorine will kill any bacteria or other microorganisms on contact and will give the birds a chance to develop an intestinal immunity to them. This immunity can be developed from just the presence of dead microorganisms very rapidly. After all, this is the way most of the human inoculations and vaccines work. Chlorine destroys vitamin E on contact, however, so don't use any chlorine treatment on a constant basis, only as a preventative and when any birds are looking sick.

Also, the active chlorine will kill all beneficial bacteria as well as the harmful ones. This need not be of concern, however, for as the birds eat, drink, and preen their feathers,

they will rapidly replace the beneficial bacteria that are of benefit to their digestive systems. The preparations that are sold for the purpose of replacing the beneficial bacteria would be valuable for mammals and humans. However, I am not convinced that they are of any value at all for birds, though using them certainly should cause no harm to the birds.

I have found this simple chlorine treatment nearly 100% effective in preventing sickness in newly acquired birds. In cities where the water is already heavily chlorinated, this treatment may not be necessary. Taking finches for veterinary care, however, is simply never cost effective. The sick bird will be dead before any culture can be made or any effective antibiotic prescribed. Only a veterinarian who specializes in birds is likely to have any experience with finches and other small birds, and these valuable avian specialists are few and far between.

Though many individuals in the past have ridiculed this chlorine treatment as at best useless and at worst dangerous to the birds, I feel sure that they haven't even tried this treatment for themselves on birds that were obviously ill. I have used it for many years spanning four decades, and stand solidly behind this recommendation for any birds that are moved to a new location for any reason, and for any new birds added to your collection. Despite the many aviculturists who are not in favor of this treatment, when you cut down to the bottom line, it is this: the treatment is safe, and it works.

Every new bird added to a group will also bring along a full comple-

ment of the bacteria and other microorganisms that were common at its previous location. The established birds will also harbor a wide variety of microorganisms to which the newly introduced bird may have no immunity. In order to protect both new birds and old from these unfamiliar bacteria, the chlorine treatment outlined above is vital. Antibiotics are so narrow in the variety of bacteria that they will be effective against that I view them as virtually useless in the treatment of birds as small as finches. The sodium hypochlorite solution will kill all bacteria indiscriminately, and will give the digestive system time to acclimate itself to the new microorganisms and to develop an immunity to their harmful effects. This is of vital concern when you are dealing with finches that are very rare and unusual in aviculture and whose loss would be a serious blow to the possibility of ever establishing them in aviculture as a successful, captive breeding strain.

Every breeder and aviculturist is familiar with the need for quarantining new birds before introducing them to your existing flock. This is a sensible precaution and can prevent the introduction of a disease that can destroy your existing strains of birds virtually overnight. However, quarantining is not a panacea, and will in no way protect new birds from the microorganisms and diseases that may be harbored by the birds in your own existing flock. Your very best and most basic defense against any disease and harmful microorganism is the health of the birds. The health of the birds is directly related to the quality of their nutrition. A completely healthy, well nourished bird is already immune to most of the dangerous microorganisms in its vicinity, and will

develop immunity to new ones in a very short period of time. Any breeder who constantly has birds that are puffy, listless and sick needs to thoroughly review their diet to see what is missing. Sickness is not a normal condition for either humans or for birds. The living body is basically a perfect, beautiful, self-healing and self-regulating machine that should remain in perfect health until the inherited and genetically programmed limit for that lifespan has been reached. Under conditions of ideal nutrition, even that built-in limit can be exceeded. I have been able to confirm finches living over 9 years. Based on the time required for physical maturity, this would correspond to a human being living over 700 years!

When you have placed new birds in a new area or quarantine location, obviously you need to watch them closely for any signs of illness or unusual distress, such as a cat on the windowsill. Though birds never seem to have any difficulty in finding the food items, it is surprising how many will fail to find the water container. If the water container is open and is sitting in the middle of the cage, the birds will have no problem finding it. However, should you be using one of the types of containers with a smaller open water surface, such as the tube-type waterers on the side of the cage, for some reason many birds are unable to locate the water in these. In time, this will result in dehydration in the birds. In hot weather, dehydration may occur within a few hours, as the birds lose more body moisture during hot temperatures. However, I have seen birds go for two full days without water in temperatures in the 50's Fahrenheit with no noticeable sign of distress.

Once body moisture falls below a certain percentage, the birds will begin squinting, as insufficient moisture is available to lubricate the eyes. Squinting is a red flag of warning that the birds are suffering from dehydration and have not been able to find the water. Often catching the bird and dipping its beak in the water container will be enough to show it where the water is located. Nevertheless, mentally finches are not one of the Creator's most intelligent species, and you often will have to repeat the beak dipping 2 or 3 times until the bird gets the idea that this is the location of the water.

Should you place your birds in a new cage at room temperature of 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, and you notice that they are shivering, you have a real problem. These are what I have called "Hothouse Finches". They have been raised under conditions where the temperature was invariably set at 80 to 85 degrees. These birds have not had the opportunity to adapt their bodies to varying outside temperatures, and when they are placed in an area that is cooler, they immediately will begin shivering. Shivering finches are a very bad reflection on the breeder who raised them. All birds should be raised under conditions of varying temperatures to enable their bodies to adapt to the normal changing temperature conditions that exist everywhere. Hothouse Finches must be very carefully acclimated to varying temperature conditions, and even then you are sure to lose some of them.

Tail-pulling & feather-plucking are also problems to watch out for in birds that are newly acquired. Almost invariably, a lack of complete protein

in the diet is the cause of this problem in finches. Feathers are almost pure protein, and any finch that is suffering from protein deficiency will instinctively pull and eat the feathers of its neighbors. Make sure that the birds have at least one good source of complete protein that they will eat regularly, and tail-pulling and feather-plucking will cease.

When moving birds to any new location, the type of cage or container for the actual transportation is of crucial importance. The longer the trip, the darker the container should be to reduce the birds' activity and caloric requirements. Containers for shipping birds across the country should allow only a minimum of light to enter through small holes. This reduces the birds' activity and eliminates the causes of panic from activity around the carrying container that the birds would see and react to during their shipment, while still giving the birds enough light to eat the minimum that they will need for sustenance during the shipping period.

This is also a good place to point out that a water container is not necessary for the period in which the birds are actually in transit. Water is sure to be spilled in any form of transportation container, and a wet enclosure is an invitation for bacterial growth and sick birds as a result. Allow the birds to drink before putting them in a carrying container, and again immediately when they reach their destination. Water is not necessary during actual transit, and will only cause unnecessary problems in the shipping.

Transferring birds into and out of shipping containers and cages should

be done in a small area where the birds are easy to catch. A bathroom is ideal for this, as any mess is easily cleaned up. The bathroom is also small and lacks suitable perching areas where the birds can get away from you. Always have a net handy, of course, and you can easily catch a bird that gets loose in the bathroom. It's always a good idea to close the toilet seat, also, or as sure as God made little green apples, you will end up with an escaped bird in the toilet. That's Murphy's Law: Anything that can go wrong sooner or later will go wrong.

When transporting birds in a car or road vehicle for short distances, any type of cage is adequate to hold the birds. However, you must protect them from the activities in the vehicle and outside the vehicle. Even when driving only a few blocks in town, the birds need this protection from the perception that everything along the road is coming to attack them. Remember that to a bird that is sitting still, everything moving presents a possible deadly danger, and they will panic at the appearance of every tree, utility pole, or other vehicle appearing suddenly in the windows. The only protection a finch has against deadly danger is panicky flight, and their instincts prepare them admirably for using this safety mechanism, even when there seems to us to be no logical reason for panic. Simply covering their cage with a towel during transit will block out the view of all of these imagined predators, and the birds will then ride in the

car perfectly calmly to your destination.

The greatest danger to birds in commercial shipping or in a highway vehicle is heat. Even on a fairly cool day, the heat in an enclosed vehicle or in a closed shipping container will increase rapidly through sunlight striking the vehicle or container. If the temperature should rise to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the birds are in deadly danger. Birds can always increase their activity and fluff their feathers to counteract colder temperatures, but all they can do to counteract the effects of hot weather is to pant. The panting of a bird is not nearly so effective as the panting of a dog or other mammal for cooling the body, and if the birds are unable to dissipate the excess heat building up in their bodies, they will die. Whenever you are driving birds to a new location in warm weather, never leave them in the vehicle unmonitored for any reason. Just two minutes in an enclosed vehicle with heat that approaches 110 degrees Fahrenheit will cause the death of the birds.

Small birds are amazingly tolerant of a variety of conditions when you are moving them, but in other ways, they are frighteningly susceptible to death when even the smallest adverse condition is ignored or overlooked. If you can follow the suggestions included here whenever you have to move birds, they will arrive safely and will thrive under their new conditions more than 99% of the time.

NFSS life member Robert G. Black lives in Keno, Oregon, and breeds finches, doves, budgies, button quail, pheasants, pigeons, and ducks. Bob has written seven books on finches and cockatiels, their care, feeding, and breeding, and is working on several more books on the subject of aviculture. You can reach him by e-mail at robertgblack@aol.com.

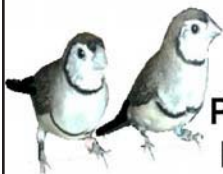
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Monumental Continentals

MAKING ACQUAINTANCES WITH THE CONTINENTAL CHESTNUT-FLANKED WHITE ZEBRA FINCH

by Christine ACY Kumar



Male Markings: R CFW/C CFW BC (L), R CFW (M) and C CFW/BC (R). Notice the dilution of black breast barring on the R CFW in the middle. While it's hard to tell from this photo, the bird on the left (which is split for both CFWs) also has some black pigment dilution. Also notice the C CFW on the right has very dilute cheek patches as does the R CFW. Overall, the markings on the R CFW/CCFW are more visually appealing and balanced. This is not necessarily the case for all males split for both CFW mutations. (Photo by Christine ACY Kumar)

When I first became interested in breeding Zebra Finches, like many neophytes, I spent my precious bed-time reading gleaning information from secondhand finch books I had scavenged from local or online used book stores. So many photos, so much new information - there sure was a lot to take in. Unsated, I then ordered "A Guide to Zebra Finches" published by ABK and became completely mesmerized by the Australian Marked White cockbird on page thirty-one ¹. Through all my endless hours of reading, that one photo perpetually caught my eye and held it. In fact, my current fascination with Zebras can all be traced to that photo

of this one cockbird. He was an outstandingly colored Australian Marked White Zebra pushing magnificently off the perch as if to say "look at me," and look at him I did. Pure white breast feathers were contrasted by parallel rows of thick ebony breast bars lined up like alternating black piano keys adrift in an endless alabaster sea. Parallel files of twin white spots dotted deep chestnut flanking that girdled his sides. Rich circular burnt orange cheek patches adorned his ear coverts like titian tinted rouge applied too liberally, almost clownishly, by a small child. A Marilyn Monroe lipstick red beak bracketed by mascara stained tear

dropped parentheses completed the illusion of an over made glamour queen from an era gone by. Wow - what a bird! That image fired my imagination and flitted through my dreams many nights long after I had drifted off to sleep. I never grew tired of looking at him - he was feathered eye candy to the max!

Being completely new to Zebras and understandably totally naive, I was told that the Regular Chestnut Flanked White (R CFW) was essentially the same as the Marked White. While it is technically true these two mutations are identical, this statement places zero emphasis on the power of selective breeding and gives no justice to the Marked White or any credit to the 40 years of hard work

performed by Zebra breeders from Down Under. However, not knowing any better, I ordered some American R CFW's and waited impatiently for their arrival. The shipping box finally appeared, and I opened it with all the expectant anticipatory excitement of an impatient child unwrapping a special gift. In other words, I hastily tore into the shipping carton. I won't repeat the expletives I uttered when I pulled the terrified R CFW cockbird out of the box only to discover a typical run-of-the-mill diluted and washed out R CFW. Suffice it to say that I was quite unhappy with the American R CFW phenotype. Perhaps the feeling was mutual. I dubbed my new cockbird Casper, the friendly ghost. That summed up his markings - they were ethereal. Perhaps even a fig-



CFW Hens: R CFW (L) and Continental Black Cheek (R). BC CFW is a very popular mutational combination. It can be more difficult to tell apart the two different types of adult CFW hens, however diluted tail bars almost always indicate R CFWs. Another clue is the gray/black residual head flecking which is typical for the R CFW, particularly hens. In my flock, I can tell birds which have Continental in them purely by body shape. They retain much more of their European mainland conformation origins. Both of these hens are rather large, each is over 26 grams in body weight. However, notice how the Continental stands up off the perch considerably better. (Photo by Christine ACY Kumar)

ment of my imagination. Maybe I saw a cheek patch, but then again, maybe not. Was that a tail bar? Might be. The fact was I couldn't be sure. How was it that the R CFW in the United States was but a shadow of the identical well-marked mutation being bred in New Zealand, Australia, and England? The answer of course is *SELECTION*.

Before my enthusiasm for Chestnut Flanked Whites (CFWs) completely waned, fortunately I was introduced to the Continental Chestnut Flanked White (C CFW). I saw photos of a C CFW cockbird online and knew immediately that the Continental was the 'must-have' Zebra mutation for me. Since this mutation is available in the United States, I sought out Continentals and finally purchased one enormous C CFW BC (Black Cheeked) hen that was sadly cross winged, droopy tailed, knock-kneed, and pigeon toed. (Other than that, she was a real beauty!) She certainly was not the best breeding stock, but you have to start somewhere. It's been a bit over three years since I began working with that bow-legged crooked-winged C CFW BC founder hen, and from her, I have built up a small flock of C CFWs and C CFW splits. The C CFW remains my singular favorite Zebra color, and I will never tire of keeping and breeding Continentals. I still thrill at each bird that makes it to the perch, partly because they are so beautiful and partly because they are considerably more difficult to raise than other color morphs. No other single Zebra Finch mutation gives me as much personal enjoyment or has provided more of a Zebra breeding challenge and even sometimes frustration than the Continental Zebra Finch.

Unfortunately, few U.S. aviculturists even know the C CFW exists. Some who are in the know, but have never seen or bred a Continental, unbelievably pooh-pooh the C CFW phenotype as not being real or significantly different from that of the R CFW. Au contraire, and I beg to differ on both accounts. As I recently perused the index of previously published NFSS Journal articles, I was surprised and somewhat dismayed to discover that no one has ever submitted an article on the Continental CFW. With the hope of rectifying this oversight, the ultimate purpose of this article is to expose more NFSS readers to this stunning Zebra Finch morph. The Continental CFW is gaining in popularity and becoming more readily available in U.S. aviculture. The time is right that even more breeders learn about what has to be one of the best kept secrets in Zebra Finches today and also perhaps update the old CFW standard or even possibly write a new Continental color standard.

C CFW BACKGROUND INFO:

Continental C CFW origins are shrouded in mystery, perhaps because the phenotype is similar to that of the R CFW. It seems almost certain that the C CFW mutation occurred at a later date than the R CFW, but even this is not truly known. In the late 1970s, shipments of Zebras with continental European origins, including many lightbacks (LBs), were received in the UK. From these imported LB birds, CFWs with a different appearance, were bred ³. Unlike R CFW's which typically have a pure white back color and washed-out markings, these CFWs had cream-washed backs and very bold jet-black markings. A new variety of CFW had been discovered! Since

the parental Zebras originally came from mainland Europe, the name "Continental" was adopted for this new mutation ³. They are now universally called 'Continental CFW' except in the Netherlands where they are referred to as 'Maskers'.

C CFWs IN AMERICA: Continentals were not available in the United States until the mid-1990s. In 1996, the first known importation of C CFWs was carried out by Danny Gonzalez of Penguin International, who received one lot of German origin Zebra Finches. This shipment included the first known Continentals to enter America ⁴. When precisely any subsequent importations have occurred is anybody's guess. It is quite probable the mutation has been imported on many separate occasions, more than likely hidden in birds which were split for C CFW. They may very well have been "filler birds" in an importer's shipment. C CFWs made their U.S. showing debut at the now legendary Kansas City, Mo. (1999 or 2000) All Zebra and Society Finch show ⁴. Jamie Jackson appears to be the first person to exhibit Continentals in America. Even then, the unique nature of the C CFW mutation was not well understood. In fact, when the C CFW arrived in the United States, there was some confusion about what it was. Through complementation testing and various breeding techniques, Roy Beckham once again clearly demonstrated here in the U.S. that the C CFW is in fact a unique single gene mutation; that it was not simply a combination of CFW + Fawn, as had been originally believed ⁵. Unfortunately, some misinformation regarding the C CFW mutation persists even to this day.

PHENOTYPIC DIFFERENCES:

While R CFW and C CFW appear to be similar mutations, they are by no means identical. Each has its own unique points of distinction. The two CFW alleles are compared and contrasted in *Table 1* (see next page). Perhaps the most vexing aspect about these CFW visual differences is that many are most easily scored in chicks, but not in mature birds on the show bench. This presents exhibitors & judges alike with some challenges, none of which are insurmountable. Adult C CFW birds definitely do have distinctive features, and breeders and judges need to learn how to better identify and differentiate these two mutations.

R CFW: As chicks, R CFWs have dark eyes, black body pigment, pink colorless wings and black beaks. Adult R CFWs may have dark gray or black-flecked heads (sometimes referred to as sooty), white back and wings, black-to-gray tear and breast markings, but they typically exhibit poor quality tail barring and in some case, no discernable tail markings at all. In fact, one of the biggest challenges facing the R CFW breeder is to darken the tail bars as much as possible, while at the same time maintaining a snow white back. R CFWs are also capable of achieving medium-to-dark cheek and flank markings, however U.S. specimens can be so miserably washed out as to appear cheekless.

C CFW: Continental chicks are immediately distinguishable upon hatching. They are bright pink with no body pigment and have pinkish/colorless beaks (without any hint of fawn). Once their eyes open, bright pinkish-red eyes glow back at you like blaz-

Table 1: CFW Phenotypic Comparison – Cockbird*

Trait	R CFW Both sexes though hens have no phaeomelanin markings	C CFW Both sexes though hens have no phaeomelanin markings	R CFW/C CFW Males only	
C H I C K S	Eyes	Black, dark brown or maroon.	In chicks, eyes are pinkish-red, similar to albino. Eyes darken with age, but retain a pinkish quality to them which can be seen in the correct lighting.	Black, dark brown, maroon or even plum. They are never pinkish-red.
	Beak	Black	Colorless/Pink	Dark Brown/Fawn/Black
	Skin Pigment	Black. Wings are devoid of pigment.	No body pigment. Pinkish color due to blood being seen through skin surface.	Dark Brown to Black. Wings are devoid of pigment.
A D U L T S	Eumelanin	Variable. Tends towards various shades of gray unless rigorously selected for.	Black. Near to that seen in Normal Gray.	Can be nearly as dark as the C CFW, though there may be some dilution.
	Sooty Head/ Flecking	Dark gray to black caps on chicks. More prevalent on hens but can also be on males. A dark cap may indicate that black markings will be dark in the adult. Many birds molt out their sooty heads after ~1 year of age. Some retain sooty heads for life, particularly hens.	None. The top of the head is clean of any black or dark gray fleck markings.	Heads can be nearly as sooty as the R CFW.
	Tail Barring Tail Coverts	Dark to very light gray or even brown/fawn in color in some. Tail barring may be barely perceptible, particularly in hens. It is extremely difficult to achieve black tail coverts in R CFWs. Sides of rump are white to light gray. The tail barring is the number one challenge facing R CFW breeders.	Black, with some minor dilution in hens. Sides of rump are black in cockbirds, dark gray to black in hens. The black tail barring and rump is one of the most standout traits of the mature C CFW.	Black. Can be as dark as the C CFW. Sides of rump are also black/dark should not be light like that of the R CFW.
	Breast Bar Throat Striping (Males Only)	Black to light gray. May exhibit some dilution. Clearly demarcated zebra throat striping may be an issue.	Black. Breast bar is dark and bold. Zebra throat striping is very well defined from breast bar to lower beak.	Black, though may show some dilution. Throat striping is typically similar to that of C CFWs.
	Phaeomelanin (Males Only)	Variable. Dark to very light/non-existent. In birds which are rigorously selected, dark shades of phaeomelanin can be achieved.	Variable. Medium dark to very light/non-existent. May not be quite as dark as those seen in rigorously selected R CFWs. palest markings in the C CFW.	Variable. Dark to very light/non-existent. May equal the R CFW in intensity.
	Cheek Patches (Males Only)	Can be darker than C CFW but not quite as deep as that of Normal Gray. Must be rigorously selected.	Cheek patches can be extremely light. Tends to be lighter than R CFW and requires rigorous selection to prevent them from fading. Primary breeding problem in C CFWs.	Variable. Can equal the R CFW in intensity.
	Chestnut Flanking (Males Only)	Dark to light/non-existent. Probably capable of reaching darker shades than the C CFW.	Medium dark to light/nonexistent. Difficult to get as deep as in Normal Gray or the most rigorously selected R CFWs. Also a challenge for C CFW breeders.	Variable. Can equal the R CFW in intensity.
	Back/Wing Color	Bright white to fawn wash (modifiers). As markings get darker, back color seems to take on more of a fawn wash, though this is not requisite. Capable of brighter white than the C CFW.	Creamy wash to very heavy fawn wash. C CFWs have more color on their backs than most R CFWs. Bright white is difficult to achieve, though they can be a light cream.	Variable. Can be bright white to creamy or fawn washed.
	Tail Color	Bright white to medium gray.	Dark cream.	Variable. Can be from dark cream to white.

CFW Phenotypic Comparison: The differences between R CFW, C CFW and the R CFW/C CFW split (which can only be found in males) is compared and contrasted. In general, R CFWs tend towards stronger Phaeomelanin (orange) markings while C CFWs tend typically have stronger Eumelanin (black) markings. Back color in the R CFW can be from bright white to fawn washed, while C CFWs are creamy to fawn washed in color. Male birds which are split for each mutation (R CFW/C CFW), tend to have a blending of the qualities of both mutations. All other portions of body are essentially identical between both CFW mutations. Belly and undersides should be bright white while beaks & feet are red/orange.

*Hen coloring is similar to cockbirds, minus cheek patches, breast barring/throat striping and chestnut flanking. Hens typically have more dilute tail bars.

ing hot embers. In fact, as unfeathered nestlings, they could very easily be mistaken for Albinos (though currently the Albino mutation is not available in Zebras). At maturity, C CFW back/wing feathering is creamy, and their heads are clean of any flecking or blemishes. A close examination of the barbless down portion of the Continental body feathers reveals black/gray pigment. It is currently speculated that pigmented down further contributes to their overall creamy appearance ⁵. C CFW black markings are usually quite intensely dark, and this is most noticeable on the tail which is jet black in cockbirds, though there may be some dilution to very dark gray in the tails of hens. Cheeks and flanks are the biggest C CFW breeding challenge. These markings may become diluted to shades of pale orange in the worse-case scenario. I have noticed that with maturity, markings tend to darken on the C CFW. Eyes will also darken with age, losing some but not all of their bright red twinkle.

MULTIPLE ALLELIC SERIES: It turns out that both R CFW and C CFW [as well as Lightback (LB)] are distinct mutations with different phenotypes, yet they all occur in the exact same gene! Crosses performed between R CFW and C CFW birds lead to split CFW males of intermediate phenotype (See *Table 1*, previous page). In other words, these males have traits of both mutations. If these two mutations occurred in two different genes, then the male progeny from an R CFW x C CFW mating would be Normal Gray and split for both CFW mutations. However, this is not the case. Therefore, both CFWs (as well as LB) are all part of what is now referred to as the CFW

multiple allelic series, where $LB > C CFW > R CFW$ in respect to dominance of overall feather coloring in adult birds. Realistically, this is a bit of an oversimplification and depends upon which trait one is assessing. There is also a blending of characteristics. From R CFW x C CFW complementation test crosses, it was determined that while the C CFW has a phenotype similar to the R CFW, it is genetically distinct and therefore constitutes a new member of the CFW multiple allelic series. The allelic nature of the CFW series is unique in Zebras, though the European Isabel and Florida Fancy mutations may represent a second Zebra Finch multiple allelic series.

R CFW/C CFW: Some breeders have tried crossing the two CFW mutations in order to create the 'perfect' CFW. Ideally, this Zebra would have all the best characteristics of each CFW mutation, and he would in fact be split for both CFWs. It should be noted that an R CFW/C CFW can only be a male Zebra Finch. There is no such thing as an R CFW/C CFW hen as hens cannot be split for sex-linked mutations. R CFW/C CFW males give rise to hen progeny which are either R CFW or C CFW. Daughters however can NEVER be a blending of both mutations. CFW is sex-linked, and as such, the hens always take one genotype from their fathers since hens can only have one paternally inherited Z (X) chromosome. R CFW/C CFW males can give rise to either C CFW or R CFW chicks, as well as R CFW/C CFW male offspring, depending upon mate selection. Unlike in some countries, Zebra Finches are not required to be shown in pairs in NFSS judged shows, and therefore back color is not an issue

between the sexes unless entered in the pairs division. A cockbird with a slightly 'off' back color can be shown alone - he need not match a hen. Hence, one seemingly easy solution to the lack of strong black markings in the R CFW combined with weak cheek patches in the C CFW is simply to cross the two and hope for the best. Some are breeding the two CFW alleles together in order to create birds which are a mix of both phenotypes, birds which may or may not more closely match the current NFSS CFW color standard (white bird with dark markings). One problem I've observed with R CFW/C CFW males is that tail barring remains noticeably diluted when compared to a male C CFW. There is no other NFSS color standard which encourages this type of allelic mixing except perhaps LB, which is sometimes mixed with CFW to even out back color.

GRAY AND FAWN SERIES: CFW is typically bred in two background colors: Normal Gray (NG) or Fawn (F). For the CFW Gray series, markings are orange/blacker, and the back color is white to cream. For the CFW Fawn series, a recombination event commonly known as a genetic crossover, must occur on the Z (X) sex chromosome, since both CFW and Fawn are sex-linked mutations. Due to suspected gene interaction, CFW-Fawns can have a very strong dark cream almost approaching fawn wash on their backs, however their bellies are always white (unlike Dominant Creams AKA Pastel Fawns). Additionally, CFW-Fawn series birds have markings which are expectedly diluted: black becomes brownish-black, taupe, or even fawn, and what were once bold orange

cheeks are diluted to shades of tangerine sherbet and apricot pastels, whereas chestnut flanks are diluted to tones of pinkish-brown. Outside the nest box, it can be exceedingly difficult to tell the difference between a R CFW-Fawn vs. a C CFW-Fawn, as these phenotypes are extremely similar, though sooty heads and close eye inspection can be a dead give-away. The R CFW-Fawn will have plum colored eyes, while the C CFW-Fawn will have red eyes. Furthermore, a diluted R CFW gray series bird with strong back color modifying genes (making the back a deep creamy fawn color) can appear so strikingly similar to R CFW-Fawn as to be virtually impossible to distinguish between them. It should be noted that the NFSS CFW color standard calls for a white-backed bird, and therefore a fawn-washed R CFW is not preferred. Currently CFW-Fawn is without an NFSS color standard and must be shown in AOV.

GENETIC INHERITANCE: Both CFW alleles (and Lightback) are sex-linked recessive. This means these mutations occur on the Z(X) sex chromosome and are not dominant over Normal Gray. Again, hens cannot be heterozygous or split for CFW because they only have one Z (X) chromosome. Hens are either visual CFWs, or they do not have the mutation at all. Hens inherit sex-linked mutations only from their fathers. Since males carry two Z (X) chromosomes, they can be split for CFW and can also inherit this sex-linked mutation from either parent, though it takes one mutant sex chromosome from each parent in order to breed a visual CFW male. Put another way, there is no way to get a C CFW cockbird without the mother being C CFW



CFW Fledges: R CFW hen (L) and BC R CFW/C CFW male (R). Shown here is the sooty head that is typical for R CFW fledges while the CFW split chick has a clean head. With some R CFWs, the head does brighten with their adult molt while other R CFW retain sooty remnants as adults, however usually not this severe. Note the white cheeks on the R CFW. It appears that eumelanin is excluded from this region of the face. While the Black Cheeked chick on the right currently has full cheek patches, they are light and will more than likely fade with his first molt. (Photo by Christine ACY Kumar)

and the father being at least split for C CFW. Also, because CFW is sex-linked recessive, considerably more CFW hens are bred than CFW males. Due to repeated and capricious bad luck in gene segregation, it took me over 3 years to breed my first Continental male. Meanwhile, I had dozens of C CFW hens. NG males split for CFW can sometimes exhibit white lacing on their wing coverts, and this is a hint to the sharp-eyed breeder that perhaps the cockbird carries CFW. Beware though, there is no way to tell which CFW mutation a male is split to without test breeding him. Also, not all white lacing on wing feathers absolutely means a bird is CFW. There are other mutations which can have this same affect, including Penguin & Black Breasted, though there are plenty of other ways to distinguish these two mutations from a CFW split. Individual males can be split for both CFWs, giving

rise to R CFW/C CFWs, Zebras which will have a mix of characteristics from both CFW mutations.

MUTATIONAL COMBINATIONS:

There are various other Zebra Finch mutations which are popular to combine with CFW, including Black Cheek, Black Breast, Black Face, Orange Breast, Yellow Beak, Crested, and even Dominant Silver. Mutations which result in further dilutions are usually not a good choice to combine with CFW. These include Florida Fancy (FF), Isabel, Pied, Penguin, Gray- or Fawn-cheeked and White. CFW combined with Penguin yields a Red-flanked Zebra Finch which appears similar in phenotype to an Isabel or a Florida Fancy, albeit the Red-flanked will more than likely have reduced marking intensity and brighter white back color when compared to a DF FF. C CFW combined with Black Breast makes a pseudo



R CFW male and R CFW/C CFW male (L), C CFW male and C CFW hen (R). The R CFW has a white back while the other 3 CFWs all have varying degrees of fawn wash on their back, head & wing feathers. Notice also the strength of tail covert markings. The R CFW has the least amount, and this is a distinguishing feature of all R CFWs, even those with the darkest markings. The R CFW/C CFW male and the C CFW hen both have about the same tail bar color intensity, while the Continental male has jet black bars, approaching the intensity of Wild Type. Typically C CFW hens & males split for both CFWs have less intense tail barring than a C CFW male. (Photo by Christine ACY Kumar)

penguin appearing phenotype in hens. Alternatively, R CFW combined with Black Breast makes for a White appearing Zebra Finch hen, though it is not genetically the same thing as the true White mutation. In order to obtain lighter but smoother back color in LB males, sometimes LB/CFW males are generated and actually can be shown quite competitively. Again, if shown in pairs, neither LB nor CFW hens can ever possibly hope for their back color to match the LB/CFW male. In the never-ending quest for a totally black and white Zebra Finch, CFW in combination with various eumelanin enhancing mutations (particularly C CFW BC) is currently all the rage in the United States and abroad. It can be quite difficult to obtain full-sized dark black cheeks in BC CFWs, especially with hens and particularly with the R CFW. Many have reported that CFWs which are

split for BC usually exhibit thicker tear markings and darker tail bars (R CFW), though in many cases it may be hard to tell a CFW which is split for BC.

BREEDING CONTINENTALS: In *Table 2* below, typical matings for breeding C CFW progeny are listed.

Newly fledged Continental chicks do not typically have as dark tail barring or tear marking as adults, but don't be disappointed or impatient. These markings will darken with their first molt, though depth of color as a chick is a good indicator towards what you can expect in the adult. Additionally, I've found that lighter cheek patches tend to darken some with age, but don't expect miracles. If your C CFW males have light cheek patches as chicks, their coverts are not suddenly going to become burnt orange as

Table 2 lists the typical matings for breeding C CFW progeny.

Table 2: Matings to breed Continental Chestnut-flanked White progeny.

Male x Female Pairing	Genotype of Male Progeny						Genotype of Female Progeny		
	NG [‡]	NG/C FW	C FW	R CFW/C FW	R CFW	NG/R CFW	C FW	NG	R CFW
C CFW x NG	---	Yes	---	---	---	---	Yes	---	---
NG x C CFW*	---	Yes	---	---	---	---	---	Yes	---
NG/C FW x C CFW	---	Yes	Yes	---	---	---	Yes	Yes	---
NG/C FW x NG	Yes	Yes	---	---	---	---	Yes	Yes	---
C CFW x C CFW	---	---	Yes	---	---	---	Yes	---	---
R CFW/C FW [§] x NG	---	Yes	---	---	---	Yes	Yes	---	Yes
R CFW/C FW [§] x R CFW	---	---	---	Yes	Yes	---	Yes	---	Yes
R CFW/C FW [§] x C CFW	---	---	Yes	Yes	---	---	Yes	---	Yes

[‡] NG = Normal Gray or Wild Type

* Continental CFW progeny will NOT be produced from this mating.

[§] May introduce R CFW modifiers.

adults. Furthermore, C CFW eyes will lose some of their pink color as they age, though they never totally lose their pinkish red quality, which can always be easily seen in bright light.

A very important consideration for C CFW breeders is the dilution of body markings. It is essential to have a line of well-marked Normal Grays (NGs) to cross with your Continentals. Without performing proper outcrosses to Wild Type birds, the markings may become practically imperceptible in as little time as a few generations, particularly cheek patches & chestnut flanking in the C CFWs, though black markings may become diluted as well. Additionally, crossing to NGs helps to improve size & type. A breeder who follows color and ignores type is no better off than the breeder who chases type and disregards color. Both aspects must be considered for a well-rounded quality-bred Zebra. Furthermore, crossing C CFW x R CFW should be avoided unless this is the express intention of the breeder. This practice may only result in picking up troublesome diluting R CFW modifiers.

MODIFIERS: So why have American R CFW Zebra Finch markings faded so drastically? One possible explanation is modifiers. Modifiers are minor genes that act upon other major genes, in this case CFW. Most feather pigment modifiers cannot be seen in all Zebra mutations, only in some. In other words, different modifiers affect the phenotype of different mutations. Confusing the situation a bit more is the fact that typically color mutation modifiers cannot be scored in Normal Grays (NGs). While the R CFW seems to be especially prone to variation in marking intensity as a result of genetic modifiers, the C CFW has its own modifier problems as well. For example, modifiers can determine the whiteness of a Zebra's back or the darkness of its cheek patches or tail bars. If selection efforts are not consciously made towards maintaining intense markings, colors may become more washed out and diluted with each subsequent generation. It is currently proposed that this is precisely what happened to American R CFW stock, though a total lack of selection for marking intensity might have helped things devolve to their current level. It is also speculated that the diluted R CFW is

actually the ground state for this mutation. Poorly marked birds should be removed from breeding programs except when such birds can impart superior type characteristics.

Once again, to prevent C CFW markings from becoming diluted over time, it is strongly recommended to periodically outcross C CFWs into NG lines in order to maintain dark markings. Crossing those split C CFW males to Continental hens will reconstitute the male Continental phenotype. Though creating CFW splits does make it rather difficult to evaluate the male markings in conjunction with the Continental phenotype, it is also a necessary and time-consuming evil. Alternatively, hen C CFW progeny generated from C CFW male x NG hen crosses can also be used to infuse new blood into your Continental lines. Repeatedly crossing only to other C CFWs may give you more visual CFWs in the short run, but in the end, this type of breeding may fix diluting modifiers in your line of Continentals and is probably not the best way to breed quality birds.

HUSBANDRY CONSIDERATIONS:

As mentioned previously, C CFW chicks do not have any body pigment whatsoever. Even their mouth markings (on the inside upper mandible and tongue) are barely perceptible. While this may not seem significant at first, this situation can present some tricky husbandry issues. Some Zebra parents are fantastic and will feed anything that hatches under them. Other pairs are much more particular. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon in a mixed clutch for the C CFW chicks to be ignored and left to starve to death while the normally pigmented chicks thrive. The worse case scenario

results in parents pecking their colorless chicks to death. Even if one (or both) of the parents is a visual C CFW, this undesirable behavior can still occur. Continental breeders have learned a few tips that increase the likelihood of getting C CFW fledglings onto the perch.



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Baby C CFW chick showing almost no body pigmentation. (photo by Roy Beckham)

For details & specialized techniques on breeding C CFWs, see Husbandry Issues in my previous article “Crème de la Creaminos” (Nov/Dec 2005 NFSS Journal). In fact, as for any albinistic chicks, there are enough similarities between the Ino and Continental mutations to make the “Crème de la Creaminos” article excellent supplemental reading for the Continental breeder.

Breeding C CFWs may require a bit of extra vigilance on the breeder's part. Daily or even twice daily nest checks are strongly recommended in order to quickly catch any problems. Like all white-feathered Zebra chicks, upon fledging, extra care must also be taken to ensure parents are not unduly harassing the C CFW chicks any more than their darkly colored sibs. If this happens, either the offending parent or the persecuted white chicks need to be pulled to avoid further mishap.

SHOWING THE C CFW: Continental Zebra Finches have been in the U.S. for nearly a decade now. Their popularity has risen as has their availability. Whenever a new mutation is discovered, becomes popular and is fixed in a breeding population, usually it is a heralded event. However in the present case, and perhaps due to the adult CFW phenotypic similarities, that has not happened with the Continentals here in the United States. Currently in the U.S. and according to NFSS standards, no distinction is made between C CFW and R CFW Zebras. The CFW standard was written in 1985, prior to the U.S. introduction of the Continental, and the standard hasn't been changed since. The NFSS CFW standard was based upon the envisioned ideal for the R CFW mutation: a white-feathered bird with dark markings. Since the Continental inherently has a creamy back, some C CFW breeders feel the current NFSS standard is biased against the C CFW, causing some concern. Until/when/if CFW standard changes are promulgated within the NFSS, Continental CFWs should be shown in the catchall AOV class (Any Other Variety). Currently, the Netherlands' C CFW color standard is the world's paradigm and is followed by those who seriously breed and/or competitively exhibit the Continental Chestnut Flanked White on much of the European mainland. Based upon the color quality of Dutch birds, this standard certainly sets an example well worth following. Therefore, it is probably best for U.S. C CFW breeders to use the NZC Continental CFW color standard for now [6.7](#). A translated version (from Dutch to English) appears in the most recent ZFS Bulletin [8](#).

NFSS CONTINENTAL RECOGNITION: Some breeders feel that a Continental color standard is warranted in order for the C CFW to be judged properly and to help generate more interest in this color mutation. Others feel the current CFW standard is sufficient and a separate standard for the C CFW is not necessary at this time. A third approach is to expand the back color within the current CFW standard so that it also includes creamy backed Continentals. Another idea is to re-write the R CFW standard to reflect pastel coloring while the Continental would be the dark version. And of course, a final 'option' is to do nothing with the current CFW standard. Each approach is fraught with its own drawbacks. Some argue that more C CFWs need to appear on show benches before the NFSS should consider writing a C CFW standard. While I encourage all Continental breeders to get their birds out to shows, I strongly disagree with this last argument and feel that show standards are used not only by exhibitors but also by breeders, whether or not that is their express purpose as set forth by the NFSS. Furthermore, there are precedents already set for standards for single color mutations which few own or show (Isabel). In the case of Agate, there is currently no known breeder in the United States, yet both have color standards. The only other single mutation Zebra morph without a color standard right now that I'm aware of is the Eumo (short for eumelanin). The Eumo is a very rare Zebra mutation and is currently bred only by a handful of keepers in the U.S. and mainland Europe. Eumos are over-expressing black pigments (eumelanins) and therefore much of their body plumage is black.

I personally feel it's a true pity that a mutation as stunning as the Continental does not currently have its own show standard. Without some changes to the current CFW standard, the status quo will be maintained, and lovely Continental CFW Zebras will remain relegated to AOV as though they are merely an afterthought or are somehow substandard. The NFSS needs to update the CFW standards to more accurately reflect the CFWs which are now kept, bred and shown in the United States. That is not to say the CFW color standards should not be challenging, but rather they should be challenging within the realistic capabilities and genetic limitations of each respective CFW mutation. CFW color standard revision may require growing pains, but it is a necessary endeavor for standards to be modified as newer mutations become more popular or as show standards are met or even exceeded. Revisions are also requisite when a standard does not realistically represent the true capabilities of a mutation. An extensive discussion took place last spring on the online Zebra Finch Yahoo!® Group regarding NFSS CFW standards, and a synopsis of that discussion was published recently in the ZFS Bulletin [2.6](#).

ZEBRA CHALLENGE: For those who think breeding Zebra Finches is easy and consider the Zebra to be a beginner bird, perhaps they should seek out a show quality line of Zebras and try their husbandry and selection skills with them. In fact, all the larger show Zebras present a higher degree of breeding challenge. These are highly selected birds whose fecundity should not be confused with the smaller and readily bred pet-shop quality Zebras. It takes show birds

longer to mature than pet quality Zebras. Additionally, some show Zebs come together nicely as they age, while others kind of fall apart. Therefore, it's sometimes beneficial to hold off breeding larger birds until they are mature (~ 1 year of age). Furthermore, to maintain a quality line of Zebras requires keen selective insight and the willingness to cull birds which are not approaching perfection or at least moving in that direction. Almost every breeder bird in my Zebbie flock is there with a specific breeding purpose in mind.

Finally, one needs to select on many traits which encompass the combined qualities of type, color, and conformation ultimately (hopefully) creating the perfect show Zebra package. A color breeder might be happy with only a very small percentage of birds that are bred. Ultimately, most will be culls. One person's trash is another's treasure, and if you are breeding quality Zebras, you can always find a market for your culls [9](#).

CONCLUDING REMARKS: Several years ago, it was a photo of an Australian Marked White that initially piqued my interest about breeding Zebra Finches and specifically Chestnut Flanked Whites. It is currently impossible for U.S. Zebra breeders to keep and show R CFWs with markings equivalent to Australian Marked Whites, but we certainly have access to the equally fabulous creamy-backed Continental CFW. In fact, some feel the C CFW surpasses the Marked White based upon tail bar color intensity. American R CFW markings are disappointing indeed. It would probably take years if not decades of rigorous selective breeding to bring their markings up to par.

Alternatively, consistent importations from the UK, followed by knowledgeable and skilled breeding and selection, should maintain what English breeders have already accomplished.

Presently from a color stance, C CFWs certainly eclipse US R CFW markings. Regardless of which CFW mutation you prefer, or if you are like me and keep/breed both CFW mutations, the fact remains that the C CFW is in the United States. We should accommodate this 'new' mutation, rather than ignore Continentals or deny their existence. The C CFW

is a beguiling mutation that has finally come of age and now needs to come into its own here in the United States.

Continental CFWs will remain one of the keystone colors in my Zebra Finch breeding program, and I encourage Zebra breeders who are up to a challenge to take on the Continental. This mutation never disappoints. One thing I know is that it is not the near-perfect R CFW conformation of which I dream, but rather vibrantly marked creamy-backed Continentals that beep through my sleep.

ADDITIONAL CONTINENTAL CFW ONLINE RESOURCES:

- * **EFINCH** - <http://www.efinch.com/species/cfwzeb.htm>
- * Please see < <http://public.fotki.com/birdsnherbs3/> > for the color photos included in this article.
- * <<http://www.zebrafinch.com/NewZebra/chestnutflankwhite.html> > (photos)

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8. Contact Garrie Landry for more information.
9. Cull: to remove from the flock. This does not mean to kill.

Christine ACY Kumar has been breeding Estrildid finches for over 5 years. Her passion lies with color mutational & combinational breeding/selection, and she works extensively with Zebra, Bengalese & Gouldian Finches, as well as other Australian Grassfinches & Blue Capped Cordon Blues. Trained in molecular medicine & cancer biology, Christine is currently on a professional leave of absence.

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True experience with birds:

Ramblings about European Goldfinches

By G.A. Abbate



Recently many bird fanciers and breeders from many parts of North America who attempted and failed to reproduce European Goldfinches have addressed questions to me.

Many ask why European bird fanciers can successfully reproduce European Goldfinches and other Carduelans, while many of us, never mind breeding, we cannot even keep them alive for one year!

Well, my friend and fellow fanciers, in this lengthy article I will try to explain in detail why this is happening in North America! In North America, we bird fanciers have access to excellent quality of Canary grass seed, a variety of Millet seed, good Sesame seed, good quality Flax seed, but we are lacking of a good nourishing quality of Niger seed, Hemp seed, and many other wild seeds that European seed merchants have available for the European bird fanciers. All the essential seeds that are required by the European Goldfinch daily diet are not available and are forbidden by the US Agriculture Department law to legally enter the USA.

The European bird fanciers have readily available excellent seed mixtures for European Goldfinches and other Carduelan Finches. Many seed merchants provide the European bird fancier a good quality birdseed mixture. I am in contact and personally know many Goldfinch breeders in Belgium, Italy, Spain, and other countries that successfully reproduce hundreds of European Goldfinches, not only in their original ancestral colors, but also many pricey mutations that we, in the USA, will never dream to have or even keep them alive. Just to name a few mutations of the Goldfinches, which are available in: Agates, Browns, Isabels, Pastels, Satinets, Albinos, Yellows, Eumos, Opals, and other color mutations that I have been seeing for years in fellow European bird fanciers and bird shows in many parts of Europe.

I personally don't have the above-mentioned, expensive Goldfinch mutations, but I have the ancestral original European Goldfinches crossed with Siberians. I wouldn't dare pay the amount of money that the above mutations demand.

Furthermore, I am very fond of the ancestral colors, not only of the Goldfinches but also all the other Carduelan Finches as well as other caged birds (I remember when a yellow Gouldian Finch would sell for over \$400 each, nowadays it seems that only a few fanciers want the yellow Gouldians).

I am learning of the Goldfinch mutation by conversation and visiting with fellow fancier friends in Europe. My good friend, Gennaro Chianese of Naples, Italy who breeds an array of color of European Goldfinches, has been one of my resources of information about European mutations. My good friend, Dr. Massimo Natale and his cumpare plus others from Messina, Italy who I visited many times and took a lot of pictures and entertained discussion on breeding of European Goldfinches and mutations.

My good friend and associate breeder in Coreggio, Italy, Franco Gobbi, whom I visited many times in the last thirty years and that I photographed his colorful expensive birds and we



entertained many discussions together with other Carduelan breeders in the area on the feedings and maintenance of the European Goldfinches and other Carduelan Finches.

Paulo Gregorutti of Udine, Italy whom I visited for the first time about three years ago, I wrote a lengthy article about him and you can read it on the Abba website www.abbaseed.com. Paulo Gregorutti breeds a large number of European Goldfinches and other Carduelan Finches. I saw in Gregorutti's breeding room for the first time an Opal Goldfinch. He breeds an array of colors, if my memory serves me correctly; he had over 300 pairs of breeding Carduelans, mutations of European Goldfinches and other Carduelan Finches that would take me over a hundred pages to describe.

Alfo Fiorello from Holland whom I have known for at least two decades, he is present in every bird exhibition in anywhere in Europe. Every year at the Reggio Emilia Exhibition he displays an array of expensive, colorful, European Goldfinch mutation. In November of last year (2005), Fiorello displayed at least 75 mutations of European Goldfinches. Each bird was in a single exhibition cage or in pairs. I vividly remember that he had an unusual color of Goldfinch, he bragged showing me this exhibition cage containing one individual unusual color Goldfinch and he said, "This is one of a kind!" Guess the price he demanded for that bird, 5,000 Euro! I shook my head and I left the stand, however, I passed by his stand about three hours later and he told me that the fancy, colorful bird, I cannot remember the name it was, was sold. Again I shook my head in disbelief.

I visited many bird breeders in Belgium, one of them (I'm not going to mention his name because he doesn't want me to), he had a tremendous breeding operation exclusively for European Goldfinches. In his neatly kept backyard he had roughly 50 aviaries measuring roughly about 3 feet across, 5 and half feet high, and 5 feet deep. In each of these outdoor, well protected for the winter months aviaries had one pair of European Goldfinches. In another small building totally enclosed in his backyard had a bird room containing about 40 double breeding cages with Canaries. He would not admit to me that he bred Canaries, but I assume and I am pretty sure that he was using the Canary female to foster the Goldfinch. In other words, the pair of European Goldfinches in each small aviary is an egg factory; each pair of Goldfinches lays eggs continuously. He harvested the eggs and he placed them under the Canary. This is the reason why that every year this man produced hundreds and perhaps

even thousand or more Goldfinches Major and mutation. Most information that I am writing about this man is my assumption and I am pretty sure that I am correct.

All the above-mentioned fellow fanciers plus many others that I visited in many parts of Europe use a similar method of feeding the European Goldfinches. The following is the list of the seed that you can see in the mixture: Niger seed, Hemp seed, Small Sunflower seed, Perilla seed, Gold of Pleasure, Fescu and Rye grass seed, Small Finch Millet seed, very small amount of Canary seed is in the mixture, a variety of wild seed that include Dandelions, Plantains, Orticas, Shepard Purse seed, small Pine Nuts seed, very small amount of Flax and Sesame seed, plus other seeds that I was unable to identify. The above seeds are placed in a practical feeder such as an extra long trough with dividers. They supply the seed mixture with common sense in order for the birds to consume it 100% without waste.



The above mixture is fed during the winter months and during the resting period. Everyone that I have spoken to feed egg food blended with either soak seed, germinate seed, or boiled seed. This supplement is fed a couple times a week, however, as soon as the spring arrives the countryside of Europe it is loaded with natural food such as weeds & grass seeds in the milky stage, Dandelions, Chickweed, and many others. These wild seeds and greens are gathered in clean, uncontaminated areas and fed using common sense to all the breeding pairs. The greens and seeds in the milky stage are supplied more abundantly when the pairing

Goldfinches feed their youngsters.

As I mentioned above, my associate breeder for the fun of doing it, in Italy, I work with two friends and fellow fanciers where he kept my red Siskin that I purchased some years ago in Reggio Emilia. These two highly dedicated fellow fanciers, every breeding season they get up very early in the morning and go through the field gathering seeding heads. In the area the Dandelion seeding heads are so plentiful and big, each head contains hundreds of seeds. This Dandelion seeding head plus others are supplied abundantly to the feeding parents. I wish I had a place to publish some of the photographs of the young Goldfinches and other Carduelians in the nest with the crop full of these seeds.

Most of the breeders of Carduelians and Goldfinches that I am associated with don't trust many of the European manufacturers of egg food/nestling food. The most successful breeders, including Gennaro Chianese, make their own nestling food using an array of ingredients all for human consumption, wheat bread, a variety of precooked ground up ingredients for protein milk byproducts are used



such as Ricotta cheese. This mixture blend is freshly moistened every day and supplied to the feeding parents.

Some other breeders use a more genuine commercially made nestling food combined with soak, germinate or boiled seed and that is fed to the feeding parents and also as a supplement.

The above is just giving a general idea that the fellow fanciers are doing in Europe that we cannot do in the USA.

(All goldfinch photos in this article are by Ron Castaner)

G.A. Abbate is an NFSS member and has been a bird breeder and keeper for over 65 years. European Goldfinches have been his preferred songbird since my childhood. He cannot remember a time that he has been without these colorful, melodious, finches.

He has also been breeding Goldfinches and other European species successfully in double breeding cages just like Canaries. In addition to European finches and Canaries, at any given time, he has been keeping and breeding other Carduelian's such as Venezuelan red-hooded Siskin and other similar species. In the last 35 years, he has also become interested in Gouldian finches and his first color choice is the original colors, but he also has an array of colors like yellow, dilute, blue, and silver.

My Big Bird House...

by David Tulluck



A co-worker gave my daughter a pair of "Gouldian Finches" as a gift. The birds were thought to be over their breeding years. I soon had seven birds and found out that my daughter is allergic to them. Since they couldn't stay indoors I started combing the internet for outdoor bird houses. It was about mid summer 2004 when I started and as of today I am about 90% completed. I salvaged, recycled and asked for donations from friends, employers and people having yard sales with items that could be used for it. I did have to buy some things, mostly nails, screws and some corrugated panels I used for a skylight. I never intended it to be this big, it just came out that way...

In the beginning there was an apple tree that I was going to cut down. I ended up building it into the free flight

area and trimming it to fit. There is a 5' x 6' skylight above the tree to keep it alive, but the birds like it too. Last year it had 2 apples! The total dimension of this is 6' wide x 10' high x 16' long. It is divided into 2 sides, an open air free flight with apple tree



and an indoor winter side that is insulated and heated, lights and music that are on a timer and windows facing the East and West for sunlight. A double door entrance system prevents the birds from escaping when you come or go. The two sides can be used individually or used together via a fly through portal that is about 8" x 16". The squirrels have given up trying to get in, and I think the neighbors cat has given up too. All of the siding is cedar fence boards left over from a couple of fence jobs. I did the board and batten to compensate for crooked boards, but it looks nice too. The open flight is enclosed with 1/2" wire cloth, (employer donated). The flooring is 5/8" plywood and then planked over with 1 x 8's that were once used as concrete forms. The roofing is a 50 year architectural shingle, (yard sale donation), and the paint is mistinted 20 year Sears WeatherBeater, (\$3.00 gal).



wife added the curtains... for warmth she says!

Photos and Article by:

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I just finished part of the roofing. My



THE MYSTIQUE OF THE EURO SHOW BENGALESE FINCH

By John Gikas

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Cathy Luttrell

The European Bengalese has made it's way across the sea and into our U.S. shores in no more than a decade and it has taken America by surprise with it's bold color scheme and overall dynamic appearance, along with it's controversial hybrid origin. It has caused quite a stir amongst breeders and exhibitors alike, and has sparked many debates.

Should it be considered a Society finch? Should it be referred to as a hybrid? Should it be classified with the traditional Society finch in the same show categories? Is it fair to place the Black Brown and Red Brown up against a domestic Chocolate or Fawn Society finch? These are a few of the many questions that have triggered debates over this incredible exhibition Society.

History

What is known of the "Euro" Bengalese (and it isn't in great detail), is that the Black Brown's origin was set forth in Germany and the Netherlands over 30 years ago using two *Lonchura* species that we know of - were bred to the Bengalese (*Lonchura straita domestica*) commonly known as the Society finch.

The White - headed Nun (*Lonchura maja*) and the Black - headed Nun (*Lonchura atricapilla*) were the two species used in the foundation to create the Euro Black Brown, along with years of back crossing and selection is said to be the formula for the dynamic show bird we know and admire today.



Black-brown Euro Bengalese (Photo by Cathy Luttrell)

Unfortunately very little is documented in the origin of the Euro, which to me, gives this bird a sort of mystique and fascination. There is no real recollection as to what species where use, if any, to create the other Euro colors as in the Red Brown, just speculations.

Breeding

The Euro is not as easily bred as our Domestic & Japanese Bengalese as is the case with any show bird, the English Zebra finch comes to mind. Difficult yes, but impossible no.

From my personal experience in breeding these beauties...you have to expect the worst, especially from a young first time pair, therefore having a foster pair of Societies on hand is very beneficial. Not to say Euros will never raise their own for in time they can become successful in breeding and raising their own progeny. I have pairs that do raise their own with the ratio of 1- 3 chicks compared to 3-6 chicks average of the common Society.

You say they are Societies, and how ironic it is to foster Societies to Societies? Not true, the Euro is SO much more with similar but different

requirements to our Domestic Societies, for instance - our Domestic Societies do not breed well in a colony situations. They tend to over crowd in the nest with little or no breeding result as opposed to the breeding success one acquires when setting them up in individual pairs.

The Euro, however, when paired up - will usually share a nest with it's mate only and breeding is just as successful in a colony situation as in separating the pairs in individual breeding cages. Keep in mind I am referring to a "pure or true" Euro: a bird that has not been crossed with the American or Japanese Societies. A mixed or "influenced" bird tends to favor the behavior of our Domestic Society.

In breeding the Euro colors, one should breed for color, chest scaling, and conformation in keeping true to the derived European bird. I find dark colors work best together like Black Brown, and Black Gray. In hindsight lighter colors work better together as from personal experience a Black Brown and Red Brown pairing results in Black Brown progeny with faded lighter Chocolate coloring



Copyright 2006 Christine ACY Kumar

Black-brown pair Euro Bengalese (Photo by Christine ACY Kumar)

and a yellowish off-white tinge as the base color of the chest which is not appealing at all. Backcrossing the split for Red Brown progeny to Red Brown results in Red Brown birds with darker upper mandibles as opposed to the horn color true to the Red Brown.

Crossing the Euro to other societies...well, let's just say you lose all continuity in what the founding Europeans breeders' created in their show quality Society which results in a smaller, lighter colored birds with washed out chest scaling destroying the years of selection to make the Euro what it is today.

Euro or Not? Buyer Beware!

In America, there seems to be a trend of mixing the European Show Quality Bengalese with the American and Japanese Society for such reasons of: promoting better breeding result, availability or lack of Euro hens, incorporating the Euro in one's breeding program with a set goal in improving the traits of the American or Japanese society (myself being guilty of the latter at one point in my



Red-brown Euro Bengalese (Photo by Michael Marcotrigiano)



Black-gray Euro Bengalese (Photo by Cathy Luttrell)

desire to improve the Japanese Pearl).

I am not one to dictate or push my views on another for every person has his/her own reasons and direction in where they want to go with their breeding etc. I do, however, want to make people aware that there is a difference. The differences between a "pure" Euro (Show Quality Bengalese/Society derived from Euro) and an "influenced" bird is paramount!

I've seen these influenced birds sell as Euros at a more demanding Euro price and though some may not be concerned with money when purchasing something they like...there are also people who have never had the pleasure of seeing a true Euro in person, so assume these in-between birds are the real deal. I would hope people do some research, ask questions, compare pictures of birds - before purchasing and finding out that their Euro Society is worth nothing but a wooden nickel.

In Conclusion

In writing this article I hope to help promote a dynamic show bird that



Black-brown cock Euro Bengalese (Photo by Christine ACY Kumar)

has raised the bar for Societies, and can hold it's own amongst the more colorful and exotic birds we keep - as a species deemed worthy of recognition, as it has caught the attention of many fanciers.

With the variety of Societies we are fortunate to obtain these days, Societies are no longer thought of as just "great foster parents" but much more. I think we owe some of his new found admiration for the Society finch to the Euro Bengalese and we should try to keep the Euro as true to the original European bird as possible. It would be a shame to totally lose the Euro amongst our Domestic Society.



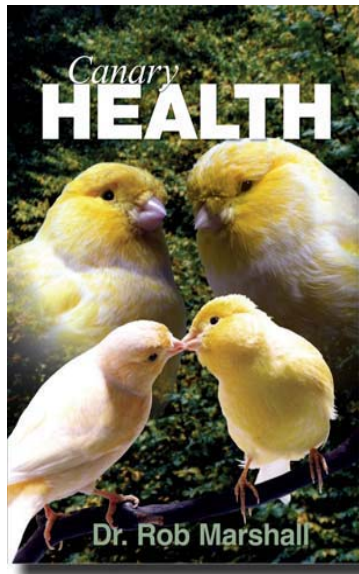
Pair of Black-brown Euro Bengalese (Photo by Cathy Luttrell)

NFSS Member, John Gikas, is a breeder of 12 years and has worked with many of the Grassfinch, Estrididae, Lonchura, Softbill, and Dove species. John is founder & owner of Parrot Finch Fancy and Finch_Softbills_Metropolitan on Yahoo Groups. His goal and dream as an avid aviculturist is to preserve the rare and harder to breed species through conservation and education in hope of continuing to keep these precious species within the private sector of aviculture for years to come. If you wish to correspond with him on the Euro Bengalese or any other topic having to do with aviculture he may be reached at johngi@prodigy.net. Website www.geocities.com/gould581

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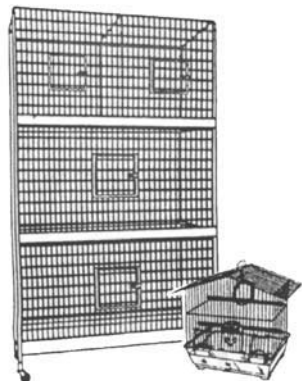
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The National Finch and Softbill Society's Finch and Softbill Show Classifications

Adopted by NFSS - September 2005

For Exhibitors and Affiliated Clubs:

All finch and softbill entries must be supplied by the exhibitors with appropriate food and water. Waterers are not to be removed from cages during judging.

Local show officials must not allow the exhibition of federally or locally illegal entries.

Young Class	Young Class	Old Class
140	Toucans	141
142	Toucanettes	143
144	Touracos	145
146	Jays & Magpies	147
148	Hornbills	149
150	Any Other Variety (AOV)	151
SECTION TWO—ZEBRA FINCHES		
	Normal Zebra	201
200	Normal Gray Cock	203
202	Normal Gray Hen	
	Fawn Zebra	205
204	Fawn Cock	207
206	Fawn Hen	
	Chestnut Flanked White Zebra	209
208	Chestnut-flanked White Cock	211
210	Chestnut-flanked White Hen	
	Other Variety Zebras	213
212	White	215
214	Pied	217
216	Silver	219
218	Cream	221
220	Penguin	223
222	Lightback	
	Rarer Variety Zebras	225
224	Black-breasted	227
226	Orange-breasted	229
228	Crested, any color	231
230	Black-faced	233
232	Black Cheeked	235
234	Gray / Fawn Cheeked	237
236	Phaeo	239
238	Florida Fancy	241
240	Any Other Variety (AOV)	243
	Nectarines	101
100	Hummingbirds	103
102	Dacnis	105
104	Sunbirds	107
106	Honeycreepers/Sugarbirds	109
108	White Eyes (<i>Zosterops</i>)	111
110	Bananaquits	113
112	Any Other Variety (AOV)	
	Mynah Birds	115
114	Indian Hill Mynahs	117
116	Dumont Mynah	119
118	Pagoda Mynah	121
120	Any Other Variety (AOV)	
	Small Softbills	123
122	Starlings	125
124	Bulbuls	127
126	Pekin Robin	129
128	Silver-eared Mesia	131
130	Thrushes	133
132	Tanagers	135
134	Leafbirds	137
136	Barbets	139
138	Any Other Variety (AOV)	
	SECTION ONE—SOFTBILLS	

Young Class

Old Class

Young Class

Old Class

SECTION THREE—GOULDIAN FINCHES

SECTION FOUR—OTHER AUSTRALIAN FINCHES

Enter bird in HIGHEST class number that covers any of the bird's visible features.

- 300 Normal Gouldian
- 301 Red-headed Normal Cock
- 302 Red-headed Normal Hen
- 303 Black-headed Normal Cock
- 304 Black-headed Normal Hen
- 305 Orange-headed Normal Cock
- 306 Orange-headed Normal Hen
- 307
- 308
- 309
- 310

- 400 Pintailed Type
- 401 Normal Shafttail
- 402 Mutation Shafttail
- 403 Masked
- 404 Parsons
- 405 Any Other Variety (AOV)
- 406
- 407
- 408

- 311 Normal Gouldian with Other Color Breast
- 312 Red-headed Normal with White Breast
- 313 Black-headed Normal with White Breast
- 314 Orange-headed Normal with White Breast
- 315 Normal Gouldian with Other Color Breast
- 316
- 317
- 318

- 409 Grassfinches
- 410 Diamond Sparrow
- 411 Mutation Diamond Sparrow
- 412 Cherry Finch (Plumhead)
- 413 Bicheno (Owl)
- 414 Star Finch
- 415 Mutation Star Finch
- 416 Painted
- 417 Crimson (Blood Finch)
- 418 Any Other Variety (AOV)
- 419
- 420
- 421
- 422
- 423
- 424
- 425
- 426

Yellow Bodied Gouldian

- 320 Yellow Bodied with Purple Breast
- 321 Yellow Bodied with White Breast
- 322 Yellow Bodied with Other Color Breast
- 323
- 324

Waxbill/Mannikin

- 427 Chestnut-breasted
- 428 Pictorella
- 429 Any Other Variety (AOV)
- 430
- 431
- 432
- 433

Blue Bodied Gouldian

- 325 Blue Bodied Gouldian
- 326

Any Other Variety

- 327 Dilute
- 328 Silver
- 329 Any Other Variety (AOV)
- 330
- 331
- 332
- 333

Young Class	Old Class	Young Class	Old Class
SECTION FIVE—INDO-PACIFIC FINCHES			
			American Chestnut Society
	Parrot Finches		
500	Blue-faced	612	Self Chestnut
502	Red-headed	614	Chestnut & White
504	Pinnated Nonpareil	616	Dilute Chestnut
506	Any Other Variety (AOV)		American Solid White Society
		618	Solid White
	Java Rice Birds		American Crested Society
508	Normal Gray	620	Chocolate Crested
510	White	622	Fawn Crested
512	Pied (Calico)	624	Chestnut Crested
514	Cinnamon	626	White Crested
516	Any Other Variety (AOV)		Any Other Variety American Society
	Finches of India and Indonesia	628	Any Other Variety (AOV)
518	Indian Silverbill		European Society
520	Spice	630	Euro Chocolate
522	Strawberry	632	Euro Chestnut
524	Green Avadavat	634	Euro Fawn
526	White-hooded Nun	636	Euro Gray (Chocolate, Chestnut, Fawn)
528	Pallid Nun	638	Dilutes (all)
530	Black-hooded Nun	640	Clearwings (all)
532	Tricolor Nun	642	Ino (Creamino, Grayino)
534	Timor Zebra	644	Albino
536	Any Other Variety (AOV)		Japanese Society
	SECTION SIX—SOCIETY FINCHES	646	Pearl
		648	Crested
	American Chocolate Society	650	Friilled (all)
600	Self Chocolate	652	Combinations (Crested, Chest-Friilled, Neck-Friilled)
602	Chocolate and White		Any Other Variety European or Japanese Society
604	Dilute Chocolate	654	Any Other Variety (AOV)
	American Fawn Society		
606	Self Fawn		
608	Fawn and White		
610	Dilute Fawn		
		647	
		649	
		651	
		653	
		641	
		643	
		645	
		621	
		623	
		625	
		627	
		629	
		631	
		633	
		635	
		637	
		639	
		641	
		643	
		645	

Young Class	Old Class	Young Class	Old Class
SECTION SEVEN—EUROPEAN FINCHES			
		Mammikins	
		Bronze-winged	843
		Magpie	845
		Silverbill	847
		Pearl-headed Amadine (Silverbill)	849
700	701	Cutthroat	851
702	703	Red-headed Finch	853
704	705	Blue-billed (Black and White)	855
706	707	Any Other Variety (AOV)	857
708	709		
710	711		
		Weavers and Whydahs	
		Napoleon Weaver	859
		Orange Bishop Weaver	861
		Scaly-crowned Weaver	863
		Any Other Variety (AOV) Weaver	865
		Pintailed Whydah	867
		Paradise Whydah	869
		Combassou	871
		Queen Whydah	873
		Red-throated Whydah	875
		Fisher's Whydah	877
		Any Other Variety (AOV) Whydah	879
		Serins	
		Green Singing	881
		Gray Singing	883
		Yellow-rumped	885
		St. Helena Seed-eater	887
		Any Other Variety (AOV)	889
		Bunting of Africa	
		All Buntings of Africa	891
SECTION EIGHT—FINCHES OF AFRICA			
		Small Waxbills	
800	801		
802	803		
804	805		
806	807		
808	809		
810	811		
812	813		
814	815		
816	817		
		Large Waxbills	
818	819		
820	821		
822	823		
824	825		
826	827		
828	829		
830	831		
		Twinspots	
832	833		
834	835		
836	837		
838	839		
840	841		

Young Class

SECTION NINE—FINCHES OF THE AMERICAS

Old Class

Buntings of the Americas

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|-----|
| 900 | All Buntings of the Americas | 901 |
| 902 | Black-headed Siskin | 903 |
| 904 | Any Other Variety (AOV) | 905 |

Small Finches of the Americas

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| 906 | Cuban Melodious | 907 |
| 908 | Blue-black Grassquit (Jacarini) | 909 |
| 910 | Chestnut Bellied Seedeater | 911 |
| 912 | Chestnut Throated Seedeater | 913 |
| 914 | Black-white Seedeater | 915 |
| 916 | Parrot Billed Seedeater | 917 |
| 918 | Any Other Variety (AOV) | 919 |

Larger Finches of the Americas

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| 920 | Rufous-collared | 921 |
| 922 | White-collared | 923 |
| 924 | Saffron | 925 |
| 926 | Crimson Pileated | 927 |
| 928 | Black-crested Finch | 929 |
| 930 | Variable Seedeater | 931 |
| 932 | Any Other Variety (AOV) | 933 |

Cardinals

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| 934 | Red-crested (Brazilian) | 935 |
| 936 | Green | 937 |
| 938 | Pope | 939 |
| 940 | Yellow-billed | 941 |
| 942 | Any Other Variety (AOV) | 943 |

Young Class

SECTION TEN—DOVES AND QUAIL

Doves and Quail

- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Normal Diamond Doves | 1001 |
| Mutation Diamond Doves | 1003 |
| Cape Doves | 1005 |
| Green-winged Doves | 1007 |
| Zebra Doves | 1009 |
| Normal Ringnecked Doves | 1011 |
| Mutation Ringnecked Doves | 1013 |
| Button Quail | 1015 |
| Any Other Variety (AOV) | 1017 |

SECTION ELEVEN—PAIRS

All Softbill Pairs

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| Softbill Pairs | 1100 |
|----------------|------|

All Finch Pairs

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Zebra Pairs | 1102 |
| Gouldian Pairs | 1104 |
| Australian Pairs | 1106 |
| Indo-Pacific Pairs | 1108 |
| Society Pairs | 1110 |
| European Pairs | 1112 |
| African Pairs | 1114 |
| Finches of the Americas Pairs | 1116 |

All Dove and Quail Pairs

- | | |
|----------------------|------|
| Dove and Quail Pairs | 1118 |
|----------------------|------|

Novice Awards:

An exhibitor who has not placed three times in the top ten in the Finch & Softbill Division at a show(s) judged by an NFSS judge is a **Novice Exhibitor** for NFSS purposes.

Junior Awards:

An exhibitor who is 16 years or younger is a **Junior Exhibitor** for NFSS purposes.



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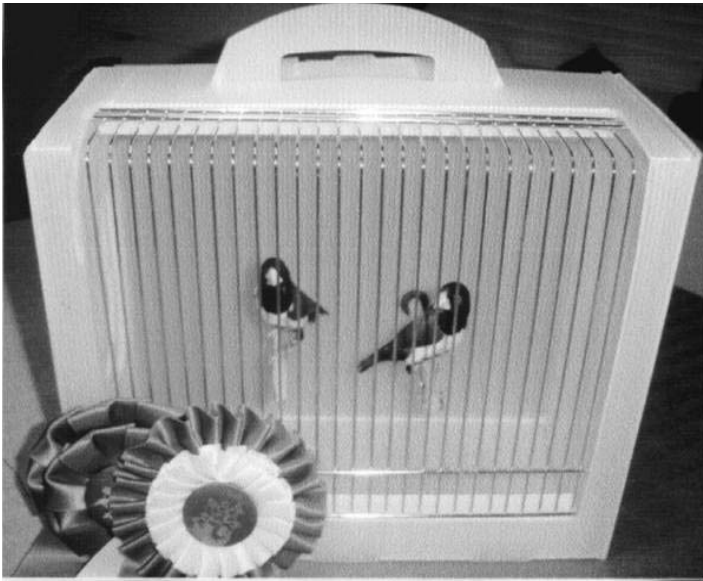
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2006 1st Quarter Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Jim Heffernan, Executive Secretary

The meeting began online 2-1-06. Present: Sally Huntington, Jim Heffernan, Cecil Gunby, Wick Goss, Bob French, Bill Parlee, Ron Castner, Brenda Josslett, Paula Hansen, Raspberry, Harry Bryant, Alana Honea, Cathy Luttrell, Doug White, Alfred Mion, John Wilson, & Bob Peers

Discussions:

- After the treasurer's report was submitted, the BOD decided to put \$5000 into a savings account.
- Bill Parlee accepted the appointed position as Parliamentarian.
- The 2005 NFSS bylaws contain several errors and inconsistencies. Bill Parlee, Harry Bryant & Sally Huntington are reviewing and will make suggestions and present to the BOD for discussion 2nd quarter meeting.
- The Finch and Softbill Save 2006 census time frame has been requested so we can plan for space in the Journal.
- Discussion regarding what NFSS could do as an incentive for regional show and support local clubs....
- Ron has written a draft for a NFSS sponsored 'finch care handout'. A request was made to make it more general and not as lengthy.
- Discussion regarding the wisdom of investing \$400 in GABS, would the money be better spent elsewhere?
- Paula and Alana are working on a BOD packet for all incoming BOD to be reviewed at the second quarter meeting
- Afternoon of Aviculture that takes place at NCBS has 3 of 4 speakers committed: 1) Vince Moase; 2) Grant Rishman; 3) Harry Bryant.
- AFA affiliation renewed
- Shelly Ortman resigned as Awards Manager Bob Peers was appointed and approved by the BOD as her replacement.
- Due to some errors and omissions in the Jan/Feb 2005 show reports Harry will reprint the corrections in the Journal as soon when he receives all the correct information.

Three motions presented for a vote:

Motion 2006-1 Incentives for regional shows. Motion for regional show incentives:

1. A half page ad in the NFSS journal advertising the regional show 2. A basic rosette set provided to the club by NFSS at a discounted price. Alfred Mion - Seconded by Paula Hansen = **PASSED**

Motion 2006-2 I move to discontinue \$400 support of GABS beginning 2007 and replace it the same whatever we give to our own regional shows. Jim Heffernan. Second Cecil Gunby = **PASSED**

Motion 2006-3 I make a Motion that a committee be formed to investigate the updating of the zebra finch standards/points allocation. Jim Heffernan. Second Bob French = **PASSED**

Department ReportsBand Secretary Quarterly Report 1-06

NFSS Band sales experienced unusually higher sales during the last 2 months of this Quarter. Four of the orders in December experienced delays due to USPS delivery's up to 3-4 weeks. I haven't heard of any other problems. Each PayPal order receives a confirmation. I presently have a order in for more plastic bands and expect to see the inventory sometime in February. Band order forms will begin to reflect new increased USPS Insurance rates.

Estimated Band Sales as of 12/26/05

November - Pay Pal 7; Mail in - 11 (Sales 409.95)

December - Pay Pal - 46; Mail in - 45 (Sales 3,541.70)

January - Pay Pal 47; Mail in - 46 (Sales 3,406.17)

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Hansen, NFSS Band Secretary

Treasures Report

SAVINGS:Fourth Quarter Interest - \$1.49

Balance - \$6,373.87

Transferred to Checking - \$6,373.87

Balance - \$0.00

CHECKING: Transferred from Savings - \$6,373.87

Balance - \$10,675.56

Check #1443 1/22/06 NFSS \$8,914.29

Balance - \$1,761.27 - (the balance represents all of the outstanding checks as of the last bank statement plus \$100.00 cushion)

Current: Balance in checking accounts = \$11,434.39

includes - \$30 of my personal funds to open the accounts; checks received; and the above \$8914.29 from Mark.

Payments due: \$850 for postage on NFSS Journal; \$125 dues for AFA; \$121.46 reimbursement to Cathy for Finch Shop inventory shipping; possible payment for the NFSS Journal printing for the Nov/Dec issue [checking to see if it has been paid or not]; \$1183.97 for Bands; \$775 for 2 shipments of books "Breeding American Songbirds" for finch shop [including bank transfer fees]; \$113.85 for new checks.

Balance = \$8390.11, less the cost of printing the Nov/Dec Journal, if not paid. There is also a balance in the PayPal accounts of \$2055.31, which will be transferred into our bank.

Our current balance will be \$10445.4

Bob French, Treasurer

2nd Vice Presidents report - 1st quarter - 2006

Editor - The Journal is back on schedule now, and the Jan-Feb issue has been printed and will be mailed out very soon. The March-April issue is being laid out, and should be sent to the printer on time. For this year, I basically have all the 2006 issues started,

and I work at them when I can. As an example, this allows me to be able to receive a photo now, and set it up say in the July-August issue as the cover. Or if I know an ad is paid for the year, I can insert it in all six issues now. That way when the July-August issue is due, all I have to add is the time-sensitive columns, and the rest is already done.

With the change in officers this year, there are still a few "glitches" that need to be corrected out so we can all work together efficiently as a team, and I am sure these things will be worked out soon.

Website - The NFSS website has now been moved to the new host, and some of you may notice that it is running a little faster. I also have new reports available showing various statistics. For example, the first week after I moved it to the new host, we had 3720 people visit it, and they looked at 11,456 pages.

I can also tell exactly what pages they looked at. I can tell where they came from (what search engine, another site, etc.), what country they are from, and what browser they are using. All of this allows me to know what people are interested in and what the most popular parts of the website are.

Regards,
Harry Bryant, NFSS 2nd Vice President/Editor/Website

Finch Shop Report

I received the finch shop merchandise Jan 4th, 2006 from Cathy. I re-inventoried all the merchandise received and have been organizing, reevaluating and clearing up any incomplete records/information. Retail adjustments have been made to some shop items. Reducing of retail prices, putting on clearance some items that we are discontinuing or were slow/poor sellers or are simply no longer available to us. These changes will affect our profit potential but does not affect our costs or investments of the inventory. The sale of these items will free up the budget to add new items which are more marketable, faster moving and thus increase our sales for the current year.

My goal for the Finch Shop in 2006 is to increase sales and there by increasing NFSS profits. By increasing public exposure, adding new and more marketable and quality merchandise and educational materials. I see an avenue for achieving this goal successfully.

We are on our way already with the ability to again accept online orders and payments (thank you Harry) along with updating the price changes on some items. Sales were down for the Shop in 2005. I attribute that to the changes in management, the temporary inability to accept online purchases and the decline of public appearances during the busiest time of year for NFSS Shows. My current projects, I believe, will help to make positive changes for the Shop.

Current Projects/Events:

1. Evaluating current merchandise and making necessary changes to prices and items to be carried. (Completed)
2. Adding new merchandise: currently Species Identification Posters: for Zebras, Gouldians, African finches, European Finches, Australian Finches (6 different posters) < Work in progress>
3. Getting a clear, useable graphic of our NFSS Logo. To be used in getting quality merchandise made, banners, stationary etc.

4. Scheduled to attend the following upcoming events and setup a NFSS Booth or Tables: March 2006: Morganton NC Bird Fair, Fayetteville NC Bird Fair, April 2006: Bird Clubs of Virginia Convention & Shows (hosting 2 NFSS Shows), Columbia SC Bird Fair, May 2006: Raleigh, NC Pet Bird Fair & Shows (hosting NFSS show), poss. Baltimore, Md and maybe more. All these events have/are generously donating space to the NFSS Finch Shop.
5. Working on updating the list of NFSS Journal Articles to aid in the selling of past issues of our greatest educational asset. < in progress>

Finch Shop Financial Figures:

2005 Retail Sales: \$2,252.92 (down from 2004)

Year End Retail Value of Inventory: \$5008.84

Adjusted Year End Retail inventory: \$2,998.00

Difference of: <2,010.84>

(The resulting adjustment is due primarily from the change in retail price of the 977 bumper stickers we have in inventory. They were reduced from \$3.00 each to \$1.00 each a total retail reduction of <1954.00>. The remaining <\$56.84> is spread out amongst other items in inventory) Again these changes do not affect the actual out of pocket cost or investment.

January Sales 2006

TOTAL SALES: \$67.00 (down from Jan 2005 sales of \$228.59)

COGS: <\$20.00>

PROFIT: \$47.00

POSTAGE Received: \$17.40

POSTAGE PAID: <\$8.10>

POSTAGE Balance: \$9.30

I am excited about the upcoming year and welcome suggestions and ideas from anyone for new merchandise or items they would like to see the Finch Shop offer for sale.

Alana Honea, FinchShop Manager



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Grit does not provide all the minerals necessary for good health. This is why birds enjoy picking at the soil on a clump of grass. The soil provides added mineral which birds crave, especially iron, magnesium and other field elements, Soil, however, is a potential source of bacterial and fungal infections and is best avoided.

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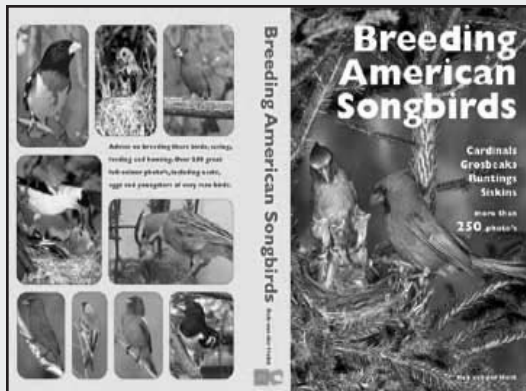
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or fill out the Affiliation Agreement located in the Journal
or the NFSS website - <http://www.nfss.org/clubs/clubmain.html>

REGIONAL CLUBS

* SOUTHEAST BIRD FANCIERS [SOUTHEAST U.S.]

DELEGATE Ginny Allen, (334) 749-7168; gndallen@earthlink.net
MEETINGS 1st Sat - March, June, Sept.; 2nd Sat - December, Atlanta Farm Mkt
WEBSITE <http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebf.htm>
SHOW/EVENT Show # 1, May 6 & 7, 2006, The Governor's House Hotel, 2705 East South Blvd, Montgomery, AL
 (Show contact: Jo at 256-892-2204 or Scott at 256-892-2204)
SHOW/EVENT Show # 2, May 27 & 28, 2006, Friends Forever Rescue Park, 612 Byrd Drive, Harlem, GA 30814
 (more info: Kathleen Clark, email: kakkiclar@aol.co)

ALABAMA

* CENTRAL ALABAMA AVICULTURAL SOCIETY

DELEGATE Margie Lanier, (334) 567-4073; margielanier@yahoo.com
MEETINGS 2nd Sunday of month: 2:30 p.m.
 Montgomery Zoo Education Building: Montgomery, Alabama
WEBSITE www.caasociety.com

CANADA

* ESSEX-KENT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY [WINDSOR, ONTARIO]

DELEGATE Julianne & Alfred Mion, (519) 948-6398; julianne@mnsi.net
MEETINGS Monthly: alternating members' homes
CLUB WEBSITE www.essexkentcbs.com
SHOW/EVENT October 13-14-15, 2006, Fogolar Furlan Udine Bldg, 1800 EC Row, North Service Rd, Windsor, Ontario

NOTICE!!

Articles for the Journal of the NFSS are always needed on the maintenance of, the diet, health, natural history and breeding of any finches or softbills.

Please feel free to contact the editor for more information.

Harry Bryant, Editor
utuweb@aol.com

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*** CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAGE BIRD CLUB [Modesta, Ontario]**

DELEGATE Naomi Cisper, (209) 957-3117
WEBSITE <http://www.ccasbirds.org/>

*** FINCH SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY [San Diego]**

DELEGATE Mary Hibner, (858) 549-3705; mary37@yahoo.com
CLUB WEBSITE <http://www.sandiegofinchsociety.com>

*** WEST COAST ZEBRA & SOCIETY FINCH CLUB**

DELEGATE Raspberry, (503)-233-4274; Raspbery@europa.com
CLUB E-MAIL Raspbery@europa.com
SHOW/EVENT West Coast Zebra & Society Club Specialty Finch Show
 July 28-29, 2006; LaQuinta Inn, 200 Jibboom, Sacramento, CA

FLORIDA

*** SUN COAST AVIAN SOCIETY [Clearwater]**

DELEGATE Mari Howard, (727) 726-6864; whoward7@tampabay.rr.com
MEETINGS 1st Sunday/month: Leisure World Mobile Home Pk, Clearwater, FL
CLUB E-MAIL whoward7@tampabay.rr.com
CLUB WEBSITE www.suncoastaviansociety.org
SHOW/EVENT August 5, 2006, St. Petersburg Coliseu, 535-4th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida

MARYLAND

*** BALTIMORE BIRD FANCIERS, INC. [Baltimore]**

MEETINGS Towson Public Library
DELEGATE Robert Mehl, (210) 581-7955; Robertmehl@verizon.net
CLUB E-MAIL baltimorebirdfanciers@verizon.net
CLUB WEBSITE <http://www.baltimorebirdfancier.org>

MICHIGAN

*** GREAT LAKES ZEBRA & SOCIETY FINCH CLUB [Livonia]**

DELEGATE Jim Heffernan, 780 Fairwood St, Inkster, MI 48141, (313) 247-5900
SHOW/EVENT Great Lakes Zebra & Society Finch Specialty Show, August 26, 2006, Quality Inn, Plymouth Rd, Livonia, MI

NEW YORK

*** EMPIRE FINCH & CANARY CLUB [West Hempstead]**

DELEGATE John Lund, (516) 564-4692; irmanperez@aol.com
MEETINGS 1st Thursday of month: 8:00 p.m., Averill Blvd Park, Elmont
SHOW/EVENT November 11, 2006; St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 200 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Center, NY 11570

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

NORTH CAROLINA

*** RALEIGH-DURHAM CAGE BIRD SOCIETY [Raleigh]**

DELEGATE April Blazich, (919) 851-8079; aprilb@bellsouth.net
MEETINGS 3rd Sunday of month: Glen Eden Pilot Park, Glen Eden Dr., Raleigh
CLUB WEBSITE www.rdcbs.org
SHOW/EVENT May 27, 2006 (18th Annual Pet Fair & Exhibition),
 NC State Fairgrounds, Kerr Scott Bldg, Raleigh, NC

PUERTO RICO

*** ASOCIACION DE CRIADORES DE FINCHES DEL ESTE [Cagues]**

MEETINGS First Sunday of month
DELEGATE Victor Cordero, (787) 893-7723; denise805@hotmail.com

TEXAS

*** ALAMO EXHIBITION BIRD CLUB INC. [New Braunfels]**

DELEGATE Tom Neeley, (210) 645-9125; president@aebc.org
MEETINGS 4th Sunday of month, 3:00 p.m.: Becker CPA Center
 8033 Pinebrook, San Antonio
CLUB WEBSITE www.aebc.org

WASHINGTON

*** CASCADE CANARY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION [Seattle]**

DELEGATE Janel C. Johnson, (425) 226-8899; katbird57@aol.com
MEETINGS 3rd Sunday of month, 1:00 p.m.
 Keppler's Feed: 16442 S.E. Renton-Issaquah Road, Renton
CLUB WEBSITE www.cascadecanarybreeders.org
SHOW/EVENT November 25, 2006, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe, WA

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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, Yea & 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

POSTAL INSURANCE

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

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 & 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 Shafttail, Lavender Finch, Painted Finch, Pileated Finch, Pytilias, Red-headed & Forbes (Blue-breasted) Parrot Finches, Shafttail Finch, Silverbills, Star Finch, Red Siskin, Society (Bengalese) Finch.
- 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, Standard Zebra 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 are 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.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED RATES: \$4.00/Issue (Up to four lines of text). Free Classifieds to NFSS Finch/Softbill Save Program Members. All ads are also posted on the NFSS website (www.nfss.org) at no extra charge. Contact Cathy Luttrell, 1029 Hicksmill Drive, Marietta, GA 30060, (phone) 678-608-4429, email: ccwkl@msn.com

ENTIRE GOULDIAN FINCH BREEDING COLONY FOR SALE:

All colours, including a blue male. Over 40 birds. Many normals with combinations of red, black, orange head, many white breasted, and some yellows. Colony comes with five-plus pairs of Society finch fosters included. Excellent breeders, young birds, parent-raising well in colony set-up. Good gene pool mix with unrelated stock. These are quality birds! \$3,000 firm. Will ship. Call John at (509) 443-2505 or e-mail: cellofellow_8@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: Star Finches (yellow faced, normals and peds), Shafttails (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 all colors. Breeder & Exhibitor of Quality. Will Ship. Shirley Perkins, Portland, OR (503) 659-0229 or www.homestead.com/gouldian/

FOR SALE: Owl Finches - \$55.00 each, Masked Grassfinches - \$75.00 each, Chestnut-breasted Mannikins - \$75.00. Airline shipping available (weather permitting), I do not ship USPS. Harry Bryant, Elyria, Ohio Email: utuweb@aol.com

FOR SALE: Baby Black-cheeked Zebra's for sale \$15.00 & reg. \$10. small time breeder, may have to put order in! WI area # 608-212-8933 Peggy

WANTED: Black tailed Haw finches (any amount), male scarlet hooded blackbird and a male persa touraco. Aurelio Padron. (850) 929-4452 Email lafinca@digitalexpress.com



NFSS FINCH/SOFTBILL SAVE

Information/Application Request

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____
Phone #: _____
E-Mail: _____

Mail Request to:
Mr. Daniel Gonzales
P.O. Box 3238, Hialeah, FL 33013



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)*

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Dual</u>	<u>Foreign</u>	<u>Junior</u>
1 Year:	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00 <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 & Check Payable to NFSS:

Ms. Brenda Josselet
11757 Kenny Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76248
(512) 288-0891
bjosselet@1scom.net

A Varied Diet Improves Health

Insects are a natural nutrition source for nearly all birds at some point in their development. Our dried insects provide an easy way to add natural fats and trace nutrients.

One ounce of dried larvae is like 5 ounces of live ones - that's about 10,000 insects!

Whole dried insects can be stirred into seed mixes. Ground insect powder can be added to your homemade eggmeal, egg bread, or sprinkled over fruit.

Make our insects part of your birds' healthy diet.

FREE!!!

***Insect Samples,
FREE with any purchase!
A \$9.95 value—free*.***

Includes: 1 oz of whole dried pupae
1 oz of ground pupae

• 1 oz dried = 10,000 insects! •

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NFS

*the National Finch
and Softbill Society*

37212 Butternut Ridge, Elyria, OH 44035

The EuroCage™ is based on a design used by many European bird breeders. The cages can be used singly or in stacks of three high, covering an entire wall or room. The cages are light, sturdy, have powder-coated fronts and durable white plastic sides. These opaque sides are an important part of successful breeding; they separate the pairs so they can hear each other without seeing each other. Each unit can be equipped with a fluorescent light to show the birds to their best advantage. Nestboxes can be placed on a platform inside the cages which assures that banks of cages can be neatly fitted together. The design of the cage allows for maximum hygiene with minimum effort, and the high quality aluminum tubing is designed for a lifetime investment. Any questions...

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