

Journal of the

National Finch & Softbill Society

Volume 23, No. 5 September/October, 2006





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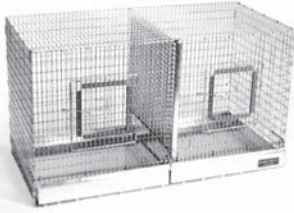
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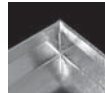
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Publisher: The National Finch & Softbill Society - <http://www.nfss.org>

Editor: Harry Bryant, 37212 Butternut Ridge, Elyria, OH 44035 - utuweb@aol.com

Editorial Policy/Disclaimer: The Journal of the National Finch & Softbill Society is published bi-monthly by NFSS. The following deadlines normally apply to all aspects of the journal:

Deadline for Submissions: 1st day of Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep, Nov.

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Advertising Rates

Inside Covers (color) \$45.00/Issue or \$225.00/Year; Full Page (B&W) 30.00/Issue or \$153.00/Year; Half-Page (B&W) \$20.00/Issue or \$102.00/Year; Quarter-Page (B&W) \$10.00/Issue or \$51.00/Year. Contact Cathy Luttrell, 1029 Hicksmill Drive, Marietta, GA 30060, (phone) 678-608-7229, email: ccwkl@msn.com

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 Long-tailed Grass Finch
(*Poephila acuticauda acuticauda*) taken by Marcus Pollard.

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NFSS President's Message

September/October 2006

... how does someone gets started in finches?

My story: 1986: Our youngest son (then 8) brought home an abandoned mourning dove chick. The bird survived. We named it "Hawk" (That in itself was a mistake. Anything you name, you generally attach to). We enjoyed fussing with the dove, and, my husband Vince said "why don't we get a pair of those cute little birds that go 'beep – beep'?" We did. Now, in 2006, 300 Finches and Soft-bills later. . . And by the way, Hawk the Dove died quietly in August, this year, some 20 years old. Send us a paragraph. How did you get started?

Today's worry: Days seem surely numbered when we can continue to import many of the species of birds we are used to seeing and working with. A combination of the International CITES agreement, the forthcoming Animal Welfare Act and an eventual out-of-control strain of Avian flu will engender a shutdown of imports. The on-going NFSS answer to this inevitability is our Finch and Soft-bill Save program (FSS). PLEASE become involved even if you own only a couple or few birds. It is not only important that each and everyone of us is successful in breeding at least one species of finch or softbill. It is vital that others know where they are (via Finch and Softbill Save) so we can communicate, meet, compare notes, photos, exchange birds and bloodlines, enhancing the presence of the species, be it a common Zebra, or a scarce species struggling for existence.

Bird Talk: All major professions have programs for 'continuing education' – ways to keep one another up-to-date on the latest in medicine, nursing, psychology, etc. The NFSS answer to this need to learn from and to teach one another is not only our informative Journal and website, but how it is supplemented annually by the NFSS "Afternoon of Aviculture" (AOA) presented as part of the National Cage Bird Show (NCBS). For the last few years, NFSS has sponsored this four hour educational seminar as 'continuing education'. On Thursday the 16th of November at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel, Schaumburg, Illinois from 1 to 5 PM, the AOA presents speakers Harry Bryant on Twinspot Finches, Vince Moase (Finches in Aviculture), and Grant Rishman (Softbills in Aviculture), and following the presenters will be a gathering of ideas to further enhance FSS. Even if

you are not formally showing a bird at the NCBS, your presence enhances the reputation of NFSS and other national and International avian groups, in our on-going struggle with those who, if they have their way, will end all aviculture organizations as we know them. Join us at NCBS to talk birds with old and new friends, see what's new, and just enjoy the camaraderie.

Finch Shop: Mr. Wick Goss has assumed Finch Shop manager, pro tem, with some catching up of services to do. Please communicate directly to Wick concerning any incomplete orders - email; wicksBirds2@aol.com address; 91 North Road, Deerfield, NH 03037 phone; (603) 463-3738

Energy: It seems in NFSS, at times, individuals volunteer to take on an NFSS job, only to find some unanticipated happenstance in their personal lives that keeps them from doing the job they so well intended to do. This happens. Our private and personal lives, family and jobs and education must be properly cared for. When time permits volunteering with NFSS, you are welcome, if you must step away or regroup, please tell the NFSS president immediately, so the 'job' does not get far behind.

Passing in the halls: Looking forward to seeing you in the halls and exhibitions of the NCBS.



Sally Huntington President National Finch and Softbill Society

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Finches in Aviculture

The Cutthroat Finch

by Robert Black

The Cutthroat Finch was formerly one of the most commonly kept finches in North American aviculture. Though few were raised by breeders here, they are very common in the wild (Africa) and were imported in fairly large numbers. This species is now listed on the Cites III Appendix, and importation into the United States has ceased. Any Cutthroat finches that cannot be proven to have been raised in the United States or to have been legally imported are subject to confiscation by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This species is also called the Ribbon Finch, particularly in references originating in England. You may also see it referred to in some field guides to the native African birds as the Cut-throat Weaver. The spelling of the common name is frequently hyphenated to 'Cut-throat'.

Johann Friedrich Gmelin assigned the original scientific name for this species in 1789 in his *Systema Naturae*, volume 1 (2), page 859, as *Loxia fasciata*. More detailed study of the finches over the years resulted in placing this species in a different genus as *Amadina fasciata*, along with one other species, the Red-headed Finch, *Amadina erythrocephala*. This remains the currently accepted scientific name for this species. For many years, these finches were classified in the passerine family Estrildidae. However, the work of Charles G. Sibley, Burt L.

Monroe, Jr., and Jon E. Ahlquist in the 1970's and 1980's has redistributed the various traditional families of finches into only two passerine families: Fringillidae, and Passeridae. In the reorganized Sibley-Monroe checklist of the birds of the world, the Cutthroat Finches have been placed in the family Passeridae.

Most ornithologists recognize three subspecies of the Cutthroat Finch native to Africa. The first is the nominate subspecies from west Africa, *Amadina fasciata fasciata*, and it is normally the only one seen in North American aviculture. The east African sub-species is *Amadina fasciata alexanderi*, and it is also called the Abyssinian Cutthroat, the Ethiopian Cutthroat or Alexander's Cutthroat. This subspecies has larger dark markings on the feathers, which make it appear generally darker and duller in coloration. A third recognized subspecies found in the southern part of its range has been assigned the scientific name *Amadina fasciata meridionalis*. This subspecies appears even darker, and usually has a smaller beak. For most purposes, the common name of 'Cutthroat Finch' is sufficient for immediate and unerring identification of this species.

In their native areas, Cutthroat Finches often gather in flocks, much like sparrows. In dry areas, they are usually found near an available water supply. This species gets most of its food on the ground in the wild.

Though they always need and appreciate water, the birds of this species are very fond of dust baths, also.

Only a few of the most easily bred species were more common in American aviculture than were the Cutthroat Finches. However, whereas most Zebra Finches, Society Finches, Gouldians, and others that are available are raised in the United States, nearly all of the Cutthroat Finches have been imported birds. Until the implementation of the CITES treaty, importers always found these birds to be cheap, easily obtainable, and hardy in quarantine. The price of a pair was quite reasonable, even after the expense of importation, quarantine, distribution, and retail sale. Obtaining locally raised pairs now is difficult, at best, as so few breeders have taken the time to develop a dependable breeding strain of them.

Though their color is not really a factor in their popularity, Cutthroat Finches are usually very neat and attractive birds. The mottled shades of tan and brown on both the cock and the hen, set off by the brilliant red throat stripe of the male, are quite pleasing.

Sexing mature Cutthroat Finches is simple, since the hen totally lacks the bright red slash from ear to ear around the throat that distinguishes the male and results in the common name of this species. Young birds may fool you, however. The breeding strains I have kept of this species were easily sexed even as feathered nestlings, since the young males always showed the typical red throat as soon as they began to feather out.

However, I once purchased a pair

from an aviary colony in which the supposed female became clearly a male when the molt was completed. Others who have written on this species have stated many times that the young males in their experience showed the red throat only after their first molt. Because of these varied experiences, it seems obvious that different strains of Cutthroat finches will be quite different in this respect.

Maintaining Cutthroat Finches in good health and condition is fairly easy, if their diet is high enough in complete protein and in the vitamins and minerals that they require for perfect health. A minimum maintenance diet for them will include millet, canary seed, and some mashed, hard-boiled egg mixed with a teaspoon of powdered vitamin-mineral supplement for each egg used. I always give them eggshell, shelled sunflower seed, and a crumbled finch food in addition. Any of the commercial pellets and crumbles are good, and I have often used game bird starter very successfully.

Providing that they are eating all of these items, this diet will supply all that the Cutthroat Finches need for perfect nutrition, perfect health, and successful breeding. If these items are all fed free choice, allowing the birds to eat as much as they desire of any one item, they will instinctively choose a balanced diet from these offerings. An established strain of Cutthroat Finches will breed freely on this diet with a minimum of problems. No greens nor live foods are necessary, though they are always a good addition to the diet.

Cutthroat Finches can be extremely aggressive in mixed collections, particularly when their compan-

ions are smaller birds. I would never recommend putting Cutthroats with any of the waxbills. Their constant interference will usually prevent the waxbills from making any serious breeding attempts. Cutthroat Finches are also not compatible with the Australian grassfinches, nor with any other small finches, in most cases. Of course, all birds are different in temperament, and occasionally you will find a pair of Cutthroat Finches that are completely safe with any of the smaller birds. Though keeping a number of pairs in an aviary is possible, I have always had the best success when keeping each pair in a separate, large breeding cage.

You may be able to keep them safely with the larger finches, such as the Red-headed Finches, Java Rice Birds, Timor Sparrows, Saffron Finches, and similar birds. They are also suitable companions for Button Quail, Diamond Doves, Cape Doves, any of the small ground doves, and any of the cardinals. Be certain that the larger birds will not be too aggressive towards the Cutthroat Finches, however. Cardinals, especially, are far larger than the Cutthroat Finches, and they can be quite aggressive once they begin defending their territory for breeding.

In their native African habitat, Cutthroat Finches will nest both singly and in small colonies. Though they do build their own nests, many pairs will simply take over and rebuild the old nest of another species. Since these finches frequently nest in colonies, the abandoned nests of a weaver colony are ideal for them. They will also join in the colony of an active weaver nesting group at times. They show little fear of human habitations and frequently place their nests

under the eaves of houses, much as House Sparrows do here. Since their nesting habits are so varied in the wild, they will breed successfully either singly or in a colony in captivity.

Cutthroat Finches usually will accept any covered container as a nesting site. The species was bred in captivity in Europe by Louis J. P. Vieillot as early as 1790, and many early breeders were successful with them in the 1800's. Since they come from tropical areas near and below the equator, they will be most likely to breed during our autumn and winter months here in the Northern Hemisphere. A well-domesticated strain of the Cutthroat Finches will breed during all months of the year, however.

Once they have chosen a nesting site, be sure they have plenty of long, dried grass, shredded burlap, and other building materials for building their covered nest. These birds are not neat nest-builders, and they do need a minimum of material for constructing their nest. They seem to prefer the long, dried grasses for their nests, so supply these whenever you can. Their favorite nesting material seems to be coconut fiber.

When they have completed their nest, they usually line it with soft feathers, plant down, or fur. If you have a long haired dog or cat whose fur has not been contaminated with flea dip, insecticides, etc., simply brushing your pet will provide an abundance of fine fur that is perfect. The Cutthroats and many other finches will use this fur as a warm, soft lining for their nests.

Be extremely careful about using long, tough hair, such as horsehair,

as a nesting material for Cutthroat Finches and other birds. It is too coarse and dangerous; many canaries and finches have strangled themselves to death by getting long hairs of this type wrapped around their necks.

Once the Cutthroats' nest is complete, the hen will lay her clutch of pure white eggs that are nearly round. They lay quite a large egg for the size of the birds. Though this species is approximately the size of a Gouldian Finch, the hens lay eggs that are nearly twice as large as a Gouldian egg. This makes Cutthroat hens very susceptible to egg-binding when their nutrition is not adequate. The hen's diet must contain adequate amounts of Vitamin A to keep the mucous membranes healthy, and also the essential fatty acids, which are built into each cell and give the cells their normal, necessary elasticity.

The average clutch will contain 4 or 5 eggs. Both parent birds share in the incubation, and the eggs will hatch in 12 to 14 days. The hatchlings are black-skinned with a sprinkling of grayish down. They have huge, gaping mouths, quite different from the nestlings of most of the other finches in the traditional Estrildidae family. On an adequate diet that is high in complete protein, the nestlings will grow very rapidly. They will leave the nest flying at about 4 weeks of age and will be completely independent before they are 6 weeks old. They mature rapidly, and they will be mature and capable of breeding if their diet has been adequate, when they are only three months of age.

A number of years ago, I began breeding Cutthroat Finches with about 10 pairs of imported birds.

Only one hen would incubate for the full period and successfully raise her own young on my diet. Eggs from other hens were fostered out to my dependable strain of Society Finches, and the offspring from the one dependable hen when mature were mated to the birds raised by the Society foster parents. Several pairs of these offspring became excellent breeders in turn, and I varied the matings as much as possible to avoid reinforcing any bad genetic characteristics.

The result was gratifying. After only three generations, most of my young adult Cutthroat Finches would raise their own young on my standard diet with no greens nor live foods at any time. In effect, I had developed this strain of Cutthroat Finches to suit my own conditions. They were treated exactly as the Society Finches were treated, and though it is rather embarrassing to admit, they usually bred more successfully than did the Society Finches. Since these finches are so aggressive in protecting their nests, I maintained all of my pairs in individual cages to avoid this problem. This makes more work in daily care, feeding and cleaning, but it also gives much better control over the breeding pairs, their mating, and fostering. Still, the closeness of the pairs where they can see and hear each other makes a loose colony setting for them.

Imprinting can be a problem when fostering, as the young male Cutthroat Finches will pick up the song of the Society Finches. They are excellent mimics, and I once had a young male next to canaries that picked up the canary song and this bird frequently sang sounding for all the world like a male canary. Always

remove the young fostered birds as soon as they are weaned and place them close to other Cutthroat Finches.

Most references to Cutthroats will advise leaving them completely alone when they begin breeding. Though this may be good advice for unacclimated, imported birds in an aviary, it is self-defeating and foolish when attempting to build up a breeding strain, or when you already have a dependable breeding strain of them. I always checked the nests of the Cutthroat Finches whenever necessary with no ill effects whatsoever, and a great deal of benefit.

Still, one pair managed to fool me completely. Since I never saw either bird in the nest, I had not bothered to check it for several weeks. When the pair seemed to be eating an excessive amount of food, I finally checked the nest. To my utter surprise, the nest contained three beautiful, healthy nestlings that were already feathered out. Fortunately, though I was only giving them enough egg mix for the one pair of birds, the other items in the diet, especially the game bird starter, supplied a very adequate amount of protein and other vital nutrients for successfully raising the young brood in complete secrecy.

The experience with this pair of birds provides a good opportunity to point out that my diet for the birds does not vary in the least from maintenance only to breeding. The only thing that varies is the quantity of the egg mix that I provide. The birds will eat very little of it when they are not

breeding, but will clean up sizable portions of it when feeding a growing nest of young. If you keep at least one other balanced, high-protein food available to them at all times, you can be certain that the birds will never overeat, and that the food will be available for forming perfect eggs in any nest that they manage to hide from you, and for successfully raising any young that they are feeding without your knowledge.

Once my dependable strain of Cutthroat Finches was developed, I used them as foster parents for their close relatives, the Red-headed Finches, *Amadina erythrocephala*. The young of both species are very similar, so the Cutthroat Finches were very dependable foster parents for any eggs or nestlings of the Red-headed Finches that would have been lost without the necessary transferring and fostering. This illustrates how important it can be to have a dependable breeding strain of any species. They can then serve as your foster parents for the young of any other similar species that you may later begin raising.

In summary, imported Cutthroat Finches can be a lot more trouble than they are worth. However, once you have taken the time and effort necessary to develop them into a dependable breeding strain, breeding them is simple and will provide you with a great deal of pleasure. For detailed coverage of the subject of establishing a breeding strain of any species, refer to my booklet, *Establishing a Breeding Strain in Aviculture*.

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 robertblack@aol.com.

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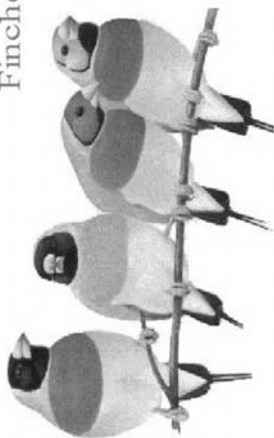
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Judging As I See It ...

By William Parlee

It's October 8th, 4 o'clock in the morning. I awake to the sound of loud rock music emanating from the clock radio on the night stand next to my bed. I immediately recall why I am being awakened by those rude sounds so early in the morning. I am off to judge another bird show. I quickly get up and jump into the shower, hopefully that will wake me up and get me going. I dress and gather my suitcase, already packed, my laptop, my airline tickets and judging stuff. I want to be sure I have my Standards, my judging handbook, my pens, my judging "stick" and that special award I'm bringing with me, hopefully to award some exhibitor for something yet to be determined.

Moments pass and I open my front door to see it's still dark outside. I lock up and tote all my stuff to the car. I start out on my route to the airport, happy to see I am nearly alone on the road, well ahead of the morning rush hour traffic. Some thirty minutes later I arrive at the shuttle lot, and realize I certainly am not the only one up this early in the morning. A few short minutes pass, and the shuttle arrives and I am off to the ticket counter to check in. Check-in goes quite smoothly, I think this is too good to be true.

Walking toward the concourse, I immediately realize my luck may have been short lived. The security check in seems to be hardly moving and dozens of passengers await screening. Finally I place my stuff on the belt and the security agent motions me to pass through the metal

detector. "Beep Beep". I tell the agent I have metal hips and he motions me to step into the dunce corner. After a short time another agent motions me to stand on these footsteps and prepare to be body searched. In what seems like an eternity, the now all too familiar pat down is complete and I am on my way to the gate.

As I approach the gate I hear the boarding message and realize I will have to by-pass coffee until the plane takes off. Right on time the jet rolls back from the jet way and I am off to Atlanta to make my connection to Minnetropolis. The time passes quickly as I read and count the clouds outside my window. It's now 9 AM and the rooftops getting closer and closer tell me we are almost on the ground. The Stewardess is making connecting gate announcements and I am pleased to hear that my connecting plane is just three gates away.

My connection time is an hour and half so I have time to browse the news stand across the concourse. "For those passengers at Gate A6, awaiting flight 1313 to Minnetropolis we have a gate change. Your new gate is Gate K27"

Moving walkway to Gate 1, monorail to Concourse K, moving walkway to moving walkway, to Gate K27. Now that long layover doesn't seem that long as passengers are already boarding. This is the part of the flight I hoped my fellow traveler in the next seat would fail to show up for, as I am

seated in a middle seat. I hear the door shut and wow, the aisle seat is still empty. Lucky again.

As we fly westward I realize this flight isn't going to be as smooth as the previous one was. The pilot informs us there will be some minor bumps ahead, and tells us to keep our seat belts fastened. Minor bumps huh, I never knew the wings could flap like that without falling off. Luckily half way into the flight things settled down considerably. Shortly after three-thirty in the afternoon, I disembark and make my way to the terminal. Upon arriving there, I notice a rather jolly women holding a sign with bright red letters: "FARLEY". I decide since no other sign is even close, this must be my ride. Sure enough it was. Sue was caretaker during the entire weekend, and what a joy she was. Sue was a Gloster Canary breeder, so she talked canaries and I talked finches all the way to the motel. Once reaching the motel, Sue tells me that she and a few non-exhibitors will be picking me up in about an hour for dinner. She also informs me that Mary Gorgan, another judge will be joining us.

After a delightful dinner, a few drinks and some really great bird talk, it's back to the motel to finally get some rest for the day ahead.

After arriving at the motel's rather small breakfast cafe, I try to be polite, but somewhat distant to some exhibitors that I know will be showing birds later in the day. I am seated alone, but soon Mary Gorgan appears, and I invite her to have breakfast with me. Mary judges the Lipochrome canaries, so we discuss the intricacies of the different color

varieties. I tell her my story of being enlisted to judge Color bred canaries at a two day show, when one of the judges became ill and couldn't attend. I tell her how nervous I was, knowing just enough to get by, but surely not enough to satisfy the well informed and shrewd canary exhibitor. She smiled widely when I informed her my first place bird, was the judges second place bird the day before. I was really satisfied with myself, but hoped that situation would never come up again. All talked out, we moved on to the lobby where other judges were awaiting our ride to the show hall.

Upon arriving at the show hall I was told they would be ready for me in just a few minutes. I was really excited to see what appeared to be a very large showing. Shortly my division secretary approached me and said we were ready to start.

Arriving at the show bench I informed the single steward that we would do a once over of the birds on the tables to check for classification changes and to get a good idea of what was being shown that day. I knew this area was supposed to be a good area for Society Finches. Sure enough, after passing some nice Zebra finches and a rather large showing of Gouldians and other Australians including two Parrot finches that I had to move into the Indo Pacific division, there they were twenty-one Societies. Wow, how nice. I always wondered why back east there are so few shown. On the next table there were a few European finches and quite a few African finches, particularly Green Singers and Cordon Bleus.

On the other side of the table was a Black and White Singer, a Saffron

Finch, a Crimson Pileated and a judges worst nightmare. I asked the steward, "Do you know what this is"? That's the little test that hopefully shows that your steward knows the bird or the owner, and is familiar with what it is, because the judge doesn't have a clue. I found that once every show season the inevitable happens, a bird you have never seen before. After determining that my steward knew that it was a bird and that's all, I told him I would continue my overview and asked him to open the show tag and find out what it is. Hmm, totally illegible, now what? The last thing a judge wants to point out is that he or she is unfamiliar with a bird. Well, judges are human and no one judge will know every bird that is put before him/her. So, now I am left with the unpleasant option of asking if the owner is present and if the exhibitor could inform the steward of the bird's identification.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Minnetropolis Bird Club Finch Division, We have 127 birds to judge today. My name is William Parlee and I am your NFSS sanctioned judge today." I always start my judging this way, hoping to create an aura of excitement to start the day. I announce that I will be commenting on some of the birds during the judging to try to bring out all the aspects of judging and the birds being shown. I also ask that questions from the gallery be limited to general questions and not about individual birds shown. I pointed out that I will be available for questions of that nature after the judging has been completed.

After judging just seven Zebra Finches, I point out that the showing is small, but the first place bird, a

Zebra Normal Hen, is truly a fine bird and would hold its own amongst a much larger showing. Being that most of the birds shown were Normals, I kept my comments to the nuances of the Confirmation Standard.

I felt there must be several Gouldian breeders in the area as the showing was eleven beautiful birds. Some were more robust and some more slender, but the most perfect bird was an Orange Headed, White Breasted color mutation. It was the perfect size and the color was magnificent. After a few Shafttails, and a really messed up Diamond Sparrow, we moved on to the Indo-Pacifics and a trio of Parrot finches. This gave me the opportunity to talk about hardness of feather and the degree of difficulty in showing certain finches. Gouldians having less difficulty and Parrot finches having a much greater degree of difficulty. I explained that the only effect on the judging, is that you allow less leeway for imperfections in feather condition on the Gouldian and make more allowances for condition on the Parrot finches. With the nice showing of Society finches ahead I decide this is a good time for a break and advise my gallery of nearly two dozen to get a drink and buy some raffle tickets, and let's meet back here in fifteen minutes.

After the break, we get back to the judging. Everyone seems more relaxed and whispering abounds among the gallery participants. The interest in the Society finches was immense. After the division was completed, it was time for the Best in Division judging. It was quite a selection of birds, and all of very good quality.

The afternoon passed very quickly with the give and take between the gallery and myself. Now it was the time everyone had waited for, the final judging or top bench in the division. With so many great birds it was going to be difficult. The stewards placed all the First place in Section birds on the bench and then the Second place birds. We had a total of eighteen birds to consider. I turned to point out that the Second place Society finch was much better quality and color than the First place South American, and then moved that bird ahead of the South American. I could hear a buzz of conversation behind me and turned to see the gallery had increased in size dramatically. This gave me the opportunity to explain how Second place birds could overtake First place birds from different sections that had not previously been judged against each other. This is an area where the exhibitors are sometimes puzzled and also an area where the judge can make mistakes as it becomes somewhat confusing on the bench.

Seeing that we were discussing the mechanics that allow lower place birds to overtake higher placed birds, I figured this would be a good time to ask the stewards to bring up the Third place Australian which was a Gouldian and the Third place Society finch as well. After much evaluation, we were down to ten birds on the bench. A Zebra finch hen, three Gouldians, three Society finches, a Pied Parrot finch, a Yellow-winged Pytilia, a pair of Self Chocolate Society finches, and a Pekin Robin. I turned to the crowd and stated: "This is what it's all about, the diversity, the beauty", and added, "this is why we love our finches:".

The top ten is sometimes the most complicated and difficult part of the judging, as you are usually comparing birds to each other that are not of the same species. This is where experience is a true blessing. You not only compare each bird to the other, but to the best birds you have seen in your memory, and how that relates to the final birds left on the bench.

After another fifteen minutes of scrutiny, the selection was complete, First place was the Zebra Hen, a truly magnificent and representative bird. It was followed by the Society pair which demonstrated everything that a true pair should. They were both equally true to standard and perfect chocolate ground birds. They were followed by the rest of the Gouldians and Society finches, (coming from particularly strong sections) the Pekin Robin and finally the Parrot finch. I turned and stated "Ladies and Gentlemen here are your top ten". Some flash bulbs went off and the crowd gathered at the bench to look over the birds.

Most were quite pleased with the judging but one woman in particular was quite disappointed that her Yellow-winged Pytilia had been dropped out of the top ten. I explained to the exhibitor that as a judge you always like to present a top ten that is representative of the sections in the show book, whenever possible. I further explained that the bottom line was what birds are best? If they are all Zebra finches, then that is what shows up on the top bench. Luckily there was some nice variety here. I pointed out that my comment at the time, that her bird suffered from some feather problems and that it might cost her later on, did in fact

cause her bird to be dropped from the final ten. I told her it was a fine bird and possibly with some additional care to condition, that it might place better at her next show.

My judging day was complete. Looking forward to the fellowship of the banquet ahead, I pondered the days events and all the wonderful people I had met and talked with. Not far from my mind was the trip home and back to my work that had been left behind.

I present the preceeding "day in the life of a judge", to show to the exhibitor how the judges' day evolves and the challenges he faces.

Points vs. Comparison

Still after all these years, the most often misunderstood part of judging is how the judge arrives at his/her decision. Often in conversation a breeder will say that he/she wishes more points were awarded "for color" or "for feather", whichever happens to be that persons feelings. What you have to understand is, that what you're really asking for is that the judge pay more attention to something or reward some trait more highly then others.

NFSS judges don't award points, but use them as a guideline as a percentage of the importance to place on attributes, as it applies to a given standard. NFSS judges judge by comparison, that is to say judging one bird against another. In my way of thinking the points schedule of each standard is most important in classes and sections and less important as birds attain divisional preference. True comparison is a far better way to

produce a top bench of the best quality birds. Assigning points could allow birds of lesser quality to arrive at the top bench simply because of numerical totals, which might not hold up when comparing birds from the top bench in descending order. The bottom line, is that comparison is the only truly successful method of judging, when you are judging birds of different species together and within one division.

How Judging has changed over the years!

In the early years of my judging, it was obvious that many exhibitors went out in the month preceeding the judging and tried to purchase the most rare and colorful bird they could find to assure themselves a win. Unfortunately many times they were successful. This type of activity led to the results being a bit of a sham in some shows. As the years went by, show rules made this more difficult. That, and the end of importation has made showing a more respectable hobby.

Today most birds are bred by the exhibitor and the measure of their knowledge and breeding expertise is rewarded by placement high on the show bench. Rarity, once considered the cornerstone of achieving good results on the bench, is now not even a factor in the judging results. The NFSS, from the formation of its judging panel, has "outlawed" rarity as a consideration in its judging procedures.

When I thought about writing this article, I thought it would be a good idea to get in touch with some other judges from NFSS, as well as other

societies, to get their feelings, as they relate to the judging experience. Not being a professional writer, has made compiling those thoughts into something relevant, quite difficult. I asked each judge several questions and asked them to comment on each. Here is the result of that effort. The Judges who responded were, Sally Huntington, NFSS President and Judge, Cecil Gunby, NFSS Judge's Panel Director, Martha Wigmore, NFSS Judge, Clarence Culwell, NFSS Judge, Amando Lee, NFSS Judge, Conrad Meinert, NFSS SPBE Judge, Gary Morgan, ALS Judge, and Dr. Al Decoteau of SPBE. I thank all of them for their time and comments.

Question 1. What do you get most out of Judging?

I would have thought the answer would universally be the friendships developed over the years. That surely was mentioned, but the overwhelming answer to the question was the ability to teach. The ability to instill knowledge in new exhibitors and the experienced as well. The sharing and exchange of knowledge with all present was indeed a big factor in the enjoyment of judging. Martha mentioned the challenge and reward of applying the written Standards during the evaluation of the birds and the mental stimulation of drawing on your knowledge and past experiences.

For me, Judging was a twenty-five year experience never to be forgotten. I loved the sharing of ideas and experiences. I most liked introducing the wonderful world of finches to those spectators in the gallery who were not exhibitors but spectators. I hope some of them became hobbyist. I also enjoyed seeing and experienc-

ing so many different places around the country, that I might not have otherwise visited. This was also echoed by other judges as well.

Question 2. What do you least like about Judging?

This was pretty much answered in the same way, albeit with variations. To sum it up, travel was the down side to a judging career. Most sited the rush, the hassle of air travel and the inconvenience of having to work for a living, and still be able to judge. Armando, pointed out that it takes quality weekend time away from family life.

I would agree with all of those statements. I found it difficult to stand and bend over a judging table, especially when judging a large show. Travel problems always seemed to make the weekend stressful, especially when things went wrong with weather and connections. When I was speaking with a friend and fellow ex-judge Nancy Reed (ACS) about my article, she mentioned "tell them to wear comfortable shoes". Wow, how true, I would sometimes remove my shoes just to change the feeling of standing on concrete all day. Later in my judging career, I resorted to totally black *Reeboks* © as the best footwear.

Question 3. What is your most valuable experience during your judging career?

Several judges, including Sally Huntington, mentioned the satisfaction of seeing their placements appear on the top bench on the next day of a two day show. It's certainly a validation of your abilities to see another judge confirm your selec-

tions. Many judges mentioned judging large shows or the honor of judging the "National". Clarence Culwell, stated that Judging the 50th Anniversary National Cage Bird Show in Chicago was one of the highlights of his career. Dr Al pointed out that the constant learning experience that takes place at most every show has to be his most valued experience.

For me, the experience I will never forget and hold most dear, didn't really happen at a real show at all. It was in the late 80's when I traveled to California, to the Kern County club to evaluate judges from the west coast, and appoint judges from those areas to our Judging panel. Hal Koontz had set up a mock show with one hundred birds. A half dozen judges judged the same birds separately as I watched. The sharing of knowledge was amazing. It was really like the largest Judge's clinic ever. Throughout my career, I have always found working with apprentice judges truly rewarding & important. Judging the NCBS and the Canadian National were truly fun and exciting and will never be forgotten, but the special nature of helping an apprentice become a judge was most satisfying to me.

Martha stated that her most valued experience came early in her career. She learned much from watching and listening to several of our judges during the 80's and 90's, their incredible knowledge, discerning eyes and generous spirit that have contributed so much to our hobby.

Question 4. Is there anything you would like to see changed about judging and the public involvement therein?

Most judges queried thought our judging procedures were very sound, and that little needs to be changed. However everything isn't perfect out there, and here are some suggestions provided by our judges. Sally - "provide microphones for judges." Martha - "video judge's clinics and refresher courses." Dr. Al said "two day shows would allow more shows to continue under the financial burdens of sponsoring shows." Armando - "create more public involvement." Conrad - "Get shows started on time and better control of public visiting shows." Gary - "do away with the Championship points program. It reduces birds shown and can hurt friendships and alienate exhibitors."

I think all these ideas have merit to one degree or another. I have always thought judge's clinics were so valuable to the judge. I would suggest that they be mandatory at each show, even among other societies.

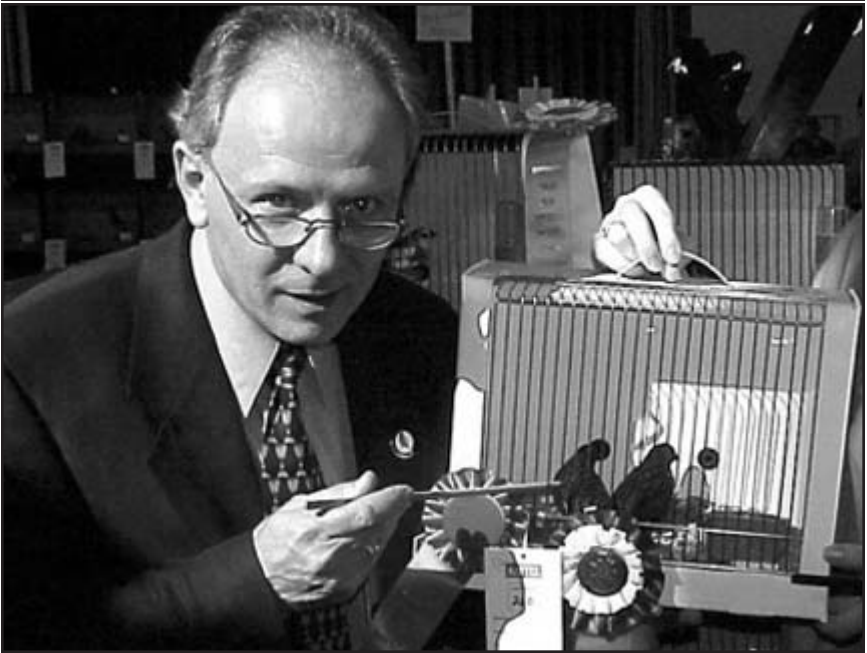
Question 5. What would you like to see show committees change to benefit the process.

Cecil pointed out the importance of clubs sponsoring local programs at club meetings prior to the show. That would teach members and exhibitors about shows and the duties involved in different positions held at the shows, leading to a more organized and successful show. Gary pointed out that early and better financial planning would benefit most clubs. Sponsorships can pay for a show, and not tending to these important sources of revenue could be a reason for declining show involvement by some clubs.

Manpower and finances have always been an issue with bird shows. I feel, as Gary does, that the costs of putting on a show have led to more and more clubs dropping shows altogether. Good financing and sponsorships from the commercial area, raffles and public donations generally can fund any show. Workers will be more willing to do the work of a show if they are not overwhelmed by not having enough training.

In conclusion I was going to sum up this article with my own words. But I was so impressed with the response from one judge, that I will let his/hers words carry the thoughts that are probably shared by most judges. That judge shall remain nameless, as a monetary comment made might cause a stir.

"In closing, I love birds. The part I enjoy the most, is the birds. I have owned all types of pets and throughout these, birds have endured. I am just intrigued with animals and birds particularly. I like seeing all the species and colors, all the exhibitors and friends. I wouldn't want this to get out, but I would just about pay for the privilege of judging birds. In fact we often do. With lost work hours, parking, sitting fees, dinners, and other expenses, none of us profits from it. With all the headaches that can come with judging, all the time stranded during travel, I wouldn't change it for the world. I love this hobby and all the friends I've met along the way".



Bill Parlee is one of the founding members of the NFSS. He has been an aviculturist and NFSS Judge for over 30 years.



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Finches in Alaska (Derek Helmericks)

By: Raspberry



Breeding Cabinet

Below is an “interview” conducted through email between NFSS Region 6 Vice President Raspberry and NFSS member Derek Helmericks, who just happens to raise finches in Fairbanks, Alaska.

With winter temperatures dropping to the low -50’s F, I have to keep my birds indoors during the winter. I keep all my finches in cabinet-style cages that I build. There are pictures of several different kinds, but typically I use 2’x2’x2’ glass-fronted cages for breeding and 2’x2’x4’ wire-fronted ones for holding cages. I prefer the glass-fronts to keep the mess and noise down, but haven’t salvaged enough scrap glass to convert them

all yet. During the summer, I move most of the birds outdoors into 2’x4’x6’-tall wire-mesh aviaries, and move the 2’x2’x4’ wire-fronted cages outside. The aviaries have open bottoms and I move them around from year to year to keep different bushes and plants growing in the cage.

I would love to have all the mutations of zebra finch, but then reality has a way of overshadowing our dreams. So I work with just three lines, LB-BC, OB-BF-GC-BB , & OB-F-BF. I keep about 100 birds at any one time, with 12 breeding pairs during the winter and 25-30 during the summer. Trying to combine that many mutations, I

have to keep a lot of split birds around.

First, tell me more about transitioning them from inside to outside.

I don't do anything special to transition them to the outside, but I do keep them in groups of 6 or more so they can huddle to keep warm if they have to. (For that reason, if I am really picky about who breeds with who, those pairs stay inside all year). The inside temperature where I keep the finches is normally around 60 degrees F. I heat with wood and sometimes the fire goes out, so the temperatures can drop to somewhere around 45 degrees before the backup oil heater kicks on. By early May, when I put the birds outside, average daytime temperatures are 40-60 degrees F, but it can drop to 15-20 at night. The last frost is typically before the first of June, and throughout the summer we range from 45 to 95 degrees here. Heat in the direct sun can be as much of a concern as the cold.

I have full-spectrum lights on a 14 hour day cycle when the birds are inside during the winter. Those lights produce some heat in the enclosed cages, in fact, I had to add extra vent holes to keep the temperature down. However, the outdoor cages don't have any heat source. The birds are provided with several nest boxes in each cage, and they sleep in them to keep warm. Most of the outdoor cages have wire front on a wooden box, so drafts are not a problem. I do have some all-wire aviaries I just made, and I provide shelter from the rain, sun, and wind by enclosing one corner of the cage with plastic and a solid roof.

Tell me how you kept the birds with water, or if they drank snow.

The birds are kept with water when possible. The only time they don't have water is during the first month when they are moved outside. Then, the water bottles would break at night if they froze, so I just put snow in the bottom of the cages. The finches don't seem to have any trouble knowing that they should eat it...and take snow baths regularly. For watering, I use the red chick feeders that use a quart glass jar to hold the water. I cover them with a plate that keeps the birds from pooping in the water so I only have to wash the dish and change the water weekly. I use *SanacLens* © and a mineral supplement in the water when the birds are indoors.

Tell me what you feed the birds.

I feed whatever fortified finch seed mix is available, cut with millet, which is a lot less expensive. There is not a very great selection up here. My major complaint with feeding seed is the mess, and at one time I was a little concerned that the birds were not getting the nutrition they needed...not that there was any evidence of that such as poor feathers. It just seemed that other people would go to such lengths to provide different foods that I figured they must know something. After a year of requesting it, I finally got a feed store to get me the Zu-Preem pellet food for finches. I tried that for a year or so, various amounts from 10- 100% of the finches diet. I found that the birds normally didn't eat it unless I took away all the seed, and if they did eat it, their poop became soft and made a real mess of the perches and cage fronts. So, I



Breeding Cage (for males)

ended up going back to seed and just keep a dish of the pellets in the cages, which some birds like and others ignore. All the cages have a cuttlebone and I give the breeding birds a crushed up (shell on) hard boiled button quail or chicken egg which most tear into.

How long have you kept birds?

I have had birds of one kind or another for at least 25 years. I got my first zebra finches from Garrie Landry in 1995. I have had birds since I was 5 or 6, I was breeding parakeets most of my teen years. I had bobwhite quail and many wild birds while growing up, and my father always had several species of waterfowl, including red-breasted, Ross, and brant

geese, which I helped raise. I was part of a raise and release program for king eiders, and raised many arctic seaduck species for various organizations such as Fish & Wildlife. I grew up on a homestead about as far from the modern world as it is possible to be, and still be in the US, or I would have had every species of bird known to man, most likely. If you are interested in what it is like to grow up isolated on the edge of the Arctic Ocean, you can check out the following website: <http://users.astacalaska.com/jwhgpa/OurKids.html>

What are your earliest memories about keeping birds.

When I was maybe 12 or 13, I spent a week converting my bedroom so I



Breeding Flight setup

could keep my bobwhite quail inside where they wouldn't freeze during the winter. I stuck my bed up on top of my closet and built a cage where my bed had been to hold them. The rest of my room was already full of a big aviary for the parakeets. I can remember running around the house trying to catch one of my escaped parakeets when I must have been 7 or 8.

Why birds in Alaska? (The American public will say you are insane...play with that notion...:)

You can read about the family history on the website, but in short, I was a third generation kid on a homestead started by my grandfather in Arctic Alaska. So you could say I didn't know any better, Alaska is in my blood. The arctic tundra springs to life during the summer, with one of the highest concentrations of bird life anywhere, so it just seemed natural to have an abiding interest in all

things bird. Although I haven't continued the family tradition by living at the homestead on the edge of the Arctic Ocean, I would never want to leave Alaska permanently.

What species has not worked for you in Alaska.

The only species I kept that I could never get to breed were Black Franklins. However, the cold didn't seem to hurt them, and I am sure I could breed them in Fairbanks, where I live now. Fairbanks is over 500 miles south of the homestead where "summer" is less than 3 months long and freezing temperatures are possible on any day of the year. When you think of the ultra-harsh conditions expected in Alaska, that was true where I grew up. Here, it is not much worse than northern Montana or Michigan for winter cold. In Anchorage, where I lived a couple of years ago, the coldest temperature I saw was -12 , the snow kept melting every other week, and there was open water all winter. Average January low and high temperatures are $9^{\circ}\text{F} / 22^{\circ}\text{F}$. Anchorage is 850 miles south of the homestead where I grew up, and still in Alaska. This is a big place, with a varied climate. Anchorage weather is moderated by the ocean, large portions of the interior or northern US states, although much farther south, have colder and longer winters. So saying a species wouldn't do well "in Alaska" is a big statement. The hardest thing about raising birds in Alaska is getting new bloodlines, selling, or showing your birds. There is a very limited market.

How do you deal with the short daylight of winter?

Full-spectrum lights on a 14 hour day cycle. This works for the people in the house also!

Do you have any trouble with predators? Shunks, bears?

There are no skunks in AK. Weasels are a potential problem. I did loose my last breeding female bobwhite quail to a polar bear. The funny part was that she was free-range at the time, with a nest outside the house near one of the walkways ...and the bear stepped on her without knowing it. That was a dedicated mommy. She only had to flush off the nest to have lived.

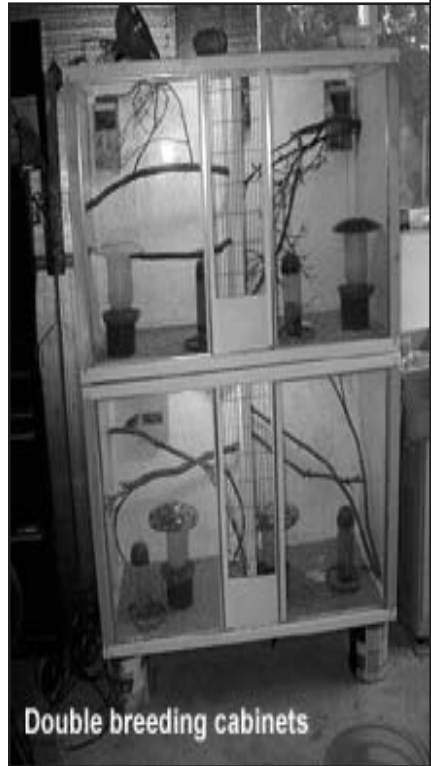
There are several pictures of bears on the website. The only problems I have had in Fairbanks are cats and Grey Jays. The jays learn to pick the finches through the wire cage fronts, and I have never figured out why the finches let them do it! I live far enough away from other people now so cats shouldn't be a problem. I love cats, but letting house cats roam outside to eat all the wild birds is a pet peeve of mine, and if they start hunting birds around my birdfeeders or finches, they have to go.

How about seed? What does it cost? What do you feed?

Fortified Finch Mix runs about \$31 for a 20-pound bag. White proso Millet is \$20 for a 50-pound bag, and I mix a bag of each together, so I pay about 73 cents a pound to feed my finches seed.

What consumer items are hard to get for the birds? Foods, meds?

Pelleted food was hard to get, but with the advent of the Internet and ebay, most things are available, if you are willing to pay shipping to Alaska. I have not had trouble with sick birds so far. There are a lot fewer parasites up here, and the cold knocks down the disease. If I needed any though, I would just go to a vet and order them. There are several vet places around town, none of them specializes in birds, but they could order whatever I needed.



NFSS Region 6 Vice President Raspberry, from Portland, Oregon, breeds primarily zebra & society finches for exhibition. He also breeds Masked Grass finches, Parson's finches, Indian Silverbills, & Diamond Firetails. He can be reached at raspberry@iinet.com

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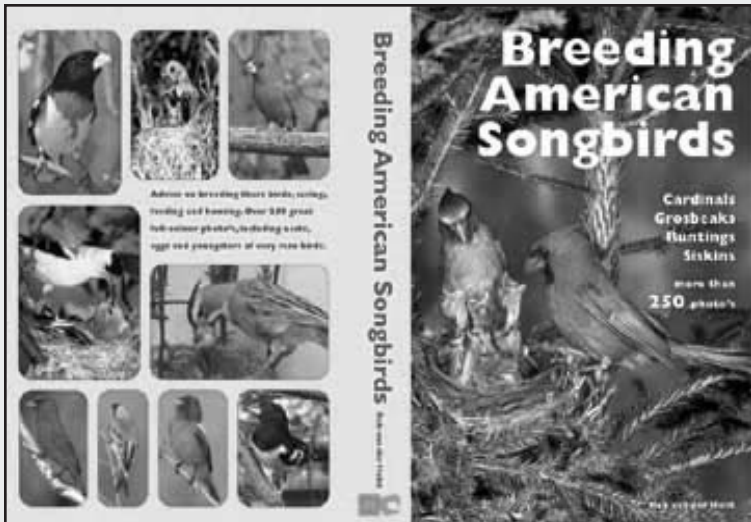
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2234 Juneau Court South
Salem, Oregon 97302
(503) 581-8208
phansen@earthlink.net**



ARTICLES NEEDED!

Everyone (members and non-members) is invited to submit articles and photos for the Journal of the NFSS 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
37212 Butternut Ridge
Elyria, Ohio 44035
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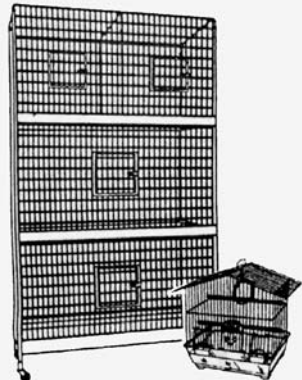
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2006 NFSS Annual Census

Instructions

It is time for this year's Annual Census. The Census is only as good as those that participate make it. The more participation, the better estimate we can make of the actual number of birds here in North America. The deadline to get your report sent in is November 30, 2006. The Census results will be published with the numbers of birds sometime after the first of the year. You may specify the amount of personal information that you wish to be published in the results.

I have made a few changes to the listings. Most of the finches and softbills that are available in North America are listed. If you find that your species is not listed, there is space for three to four 'write ins' at the end of the lists. I have asked for the number of males, females and unknowns for each species. There is also a column to indicate whether or not birds in that species are included in a breeding program. If you are seriously breeding or attempting to breed the species, then I would say you have a breeding program and would indicate 'yes' in that column. This does not necessarily imply that you have birds available for sale in that species. It is helpful for the FSS Program to know which species are actually being propagated.

Anyone can participate in the census; you need not be an NFSS member. As always, the anonymous factor remains viable in reporting the census and you will need to indicate what personal information, if any, you want to be published in the printed census results. At any rate, the maximum amount of personal information published will be limited to your name, state, phone number and e-mail address.

Notably, the biggest changes are in the way Gouldians, Societies and Zebras are listed. The prior census results were bogged down with too many different combinations making it very confusing. All three of these species have been successfully established in North American aviculture and are widely available.

Gouldians are listed in body color only and this is irrelevant to their head color. Example: Let's say that you have 3 male Black headed Normal Gouldians, 2 Black headed Normal females, 5 Red headed

Normal males, 6 Red headed Normal females, 2 Yellow headed Normal males and 3 Yellow headed Normal females. You simply add up all the males and then all the females coming up with 10 males and 11 females Normal Gouldian Finches. You would total out your Blue or Yellow bodied in the same manner. This is what you report.

Societies are listed simply in the basic body color groupings and you can even list them as 'Society Finch' without specifying any colors at all.

Zebra Finches are listed simply as 'Zebra Finch' or in the major color mutations without any choices of color combinations. I would list my Orange Breasted Black Breasted Chestnut Flanked White Zebra male simply as an Orange Breasted Zebra. It is up to you how you would report your OBBBCFW Zebra. It could be listed as an OB, BB or CFW but not all three mutations and would most likely depend upon your breeding program. A single bird should only be listed once. It is irrelevant as to whether your Zebras are referred to as 'American', 'English' or 'German', unless you have Timor Zebra Finches.

I challenge every finch or softbill keeper to participate in this year's census. Send the completed form(s) to me at the address below.

Randy Taylor
17801 Robin Road
Canyon, TX 79015-7008



Finch Species	# M	# F	# Unk	Breeding Program
Canary				
Canary, Serinus				
Canary, White-bellied (serinus dorsostratus)				
Canary, Wild				
Canary, Yellow-crowned (serinus canicollis)				
Cardinal, Black Crested Finch (lophospingus pusillus)				
Cardinal, Red Crested Brazilian (paroaria coronata)				
Chaffinch, European (fringilla coelebs)				
Cherry Finch, Plumhead (aidemesyne modesta)				
Cinereous Finch, (piezorhina cinerea)				
Citrel, African (serinus citrinelloides)				
Crimson Breasted Finch (rhodospingus cruentus)				
Crimson Seed Cracker (pyrenestes sanguineus)				
Crimson Wing, Red-faced (cryptospiza reichenovii)				
Cuban Melodious Finch Grassquit (tiaras canora)				
Cuban Olive Finch (tiaras olivacea)				
Diamond Sparrow Firetail (stagonopura guttata)				
European Greenfinch (chloris chloris)				
Finch, Cuthroat Ribbon (amadina fasciata)				
Finch, Desert (rhodopechys obsoleta)				
Finch, Hawfinch (coscocthraustes coscocthraustes)				
Finch, Redheaded (amadina erythrocephala)				
Finch, Rose Finch (carpodacus roseus)				
Firefinch, Black Bellied (lagonosticta rara)				
Firefinch, Black Faced (lagonosticta larvata)				
Firefinch, Blue-billed or Dark (lagonosticta rubricata)				
Firefinch, Jamesons (lagonosticta rhodoparia)				
Firefinch, Senegal (Red-billed) (lagonosticta senegala)				
Goldfinch, European (carduelis carduelis)				
Goldfinch, Himalayan (cardueli carduelis caniceps)				
Goldfinch, Siberian (carduelis carduelis major)				
Gouldian, Blue body (chloebia gouldiae)				
Gouldian, Dilute body				
Gouldian, Normal				
Gouldian, Powder Blue body				
Gouldian, Silver body				
Gouldian, Yellow body				
Grassfinch, Heck's Shafttail (poephila acuticauda hecki)				
Grassfinch, Long-tailed Finch (poephila acuticauda)				
Grassfinch, Masked (poephila personata)				
Grassfinch, Parson Finch (poephila cincta)				
Gray Singing Finch (serinus leucopygia)				
Green Singing Finch (serinus mozambicus)				
Greenfinch, Blackheaded (carduelis ambigua)				
Greenfinch, European (chloris chloris)				
Greenfinch, Himalayan (carduelis spinoides)				
Jacarini Finch, Blue-black Grassquit (volantinia jacarini)				
Linnet, (carduelis cannabina)				
Mannikin, African Silverbill (lonchura cantans)				
Mannikin, Black & White (lonchura bicolor)				
Mannikin, Black Headed Nun (lonchura malacca atricapilla)				
Mannikin, Bronze Winged (lonchura cucullata)				
Mannikin, Chestnut Breasted (lonchura c. Castaneothorax)				
Mannikin, Five-colored (lonchura quinticolor)				
Mannikin, Grand Valley (lonchura teerinki)				
Mannikin, Great-billed (lonchura grandis)				
Mannikin, Grey Crown (Headed) (lonchura caniceps)				
Mannikin, Indian Silverbill (lonchura malabarica)				

Species	Male	Female	Unk.	Breeding Program
Mannikin, Madagascar (lonchura nana)				
Mannikin, Rufous-backed (lonchura bicolor nigriceps)				
Mannikin, Tri-colored Nun (lonchura malacca)				
Mannikin, White Hooded Nun (lonchura maja)				
Mannikin, White-crowned (lonchura nevermanni)				
Mannikin, White-spotted (lonchura tristissima leucosticta)				
Munia, Green Avadavat (amandava stictospiza formosa)				
Munia, Java Sparrow (Rice Bird) (lonchura oryzivora)				
Munia, Rufous-backed (lonchura kelaarti)				
Munia, Spice Finch (lonchura punctulata)				
Munia, Strawberry (amandava amandava)				
Munia, Strawberry (Chinese) (amandava punicea)				
Munia, Timor Sparrow (lonchura fuscata)				
Owl (Bicheno) Finch, Black Rump (poephila bichenovii)				
Owl (Bicheno) Finch, White Rump				
Painted Finch (emblemella bella)				
Parrot Finch, Bamboo (erythrura hyperythra)				
Parrot Finch, Blue Faced (erythrura trichroa)				
Parrot Finch, Peales (erythrura pealei)				
Parrot Finch, Pintailed Nonpariel (erythrura prasina)				
Parrot Finch, Red Headed (erythrura psittacea)				
Parrot Finch, Red-headed Sea Green				
Parrot Finch, Tricolored (Blue Breasted or Forbes) (erythrura tricolor)				
Pileated Finch (coryphospingus pileatus)				
Purple Grenadier (granatina ianthinogaster)				
Pytilia, Red Faced (Pytilia hypogrammica)				
Pytilia, Crimson Winged or Aurora or Red-winged (pytilia phoenicoptera)				
Pytilia, Green Winged or Melba Finch (pytilia melba)				
Pytilia, Orange Winged (pytilia afra)				
Quail Finch, (ortygospiza atricollis)				
Quelea, Red headed (quelea erythroptus)				
Red Crested Finch (coryphospingus cullatus)				
Red Headed Finch (amadina erythrocephala)				
Saffron Finch (sicalis flaveola)				
Seedeater, Black & White (sporophila luctuosa)				
Seedeater, Chestnut-throated (sporophila telasco)				
Seedeater, Shelley's (serinus sulphuratus shelleyi)				
Seedeater, Yellow-rumped (sporophila abrogularus)				
Siskin, Black (carduelis atrata)				
Siskin, Black Headed (carduelis notata)				
Siskin, European (carduelis spinus)				
Siskin, Red (carduelis cucullata)				
Society Finch, Bengalese (lonchura striata var. domestica)				
Society Finch, Chestnut & White				
Society Finch, Chocolate & White				
Society Finch, Crested				
Society Finch, Self				
Sparrow, Golden Song (passer luteus)				
Star Finch, Isabelle (neochimia ruficauda)				
Star Finch, Red Faced				
Star Finch, Yellow Faced (pumpkin)				
Twinspot, Dusky (euschistospiza cinereovinacea)				
Twinspot, Dybowski (euschistospiza dybowski)				
Twinspot, Green Backed (mandingoa nitidula)				
Twinspot, Peter's (hypargos niveoguttatus)				
Warbling Finch, Collared (poospiza hispaniolensis)				
Waxbill, Black Capped (estrilda atricapilla)				
Waxbill, Black Cheeked (estrilda erythronotos)				
Waxbill, Black Crowned (estrilda nonnula)				
Waxbill, Blue Breasted Cordon Bleu (uraeginthus angolensis)				

Species	Male	Female	Unk.	Breeding Program
Waxbill, Blue Capped Cordon Bleu (<i>uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>)				
Waxbill, Cordon Bleu (Red Cheeked) (<i>uraeginthus bengalus</i>)				
Waxbill, Crimson or Rosy Rumped (<i>estrilda rhodopyga</i>)				
Waxbill, Fawn-breasted (<i>estrilda paludicola</i>)				
Waxbill, Goldbreast (<i>amandava subflava</i>)				
Waxbill, Lavender (<i>estrilda caerulescens</i>)				
Waxbill, Orange Cheek (<i>estrilda melpoda</i>)				
Waxbill, Red Browed (Sydney) (<i>neochmia temporalis</i>)				
Waxbill, Red Eared (Black Rumped) (<i>estrilda troglodytes</i>)				
Waxbill, St. Helena (Common) (<i>estrilda astrild</i>)				
Waxbill, Swee (Yellow-bellied or Dufresne's) (<i>estrilda melanotis</i>)				
Waxbill, Violet-eared (<i>granatina granatina</i>)				
Weaver, Black Faced or Crimson-crowned (<i>euplectes hordeaceus</i>)				
Weaver, Napoleon (<i>euplectes afra</i>)				
Weaver, Orange Bishop (<i>euplectes orix</i>)				
Weaver, Scaly Crowned (<i>sporopipes squamifrons</i>)				
Whydah, Fischer's (<i>vidua fischeri</i>)				
Whydah, Paradise (<i>vidua paradisaea</i>)				
Whydah, Pintailed (<i>vidua macroura</i>)				
Whydah, Queen (<i>vidua regia</i>)				
Whydah, Red-collared (<i>euplectes ardens</i>)				
Whydah, Yellow-mantled (<i>euplectes macrouras</i>)				
Zebra Finch (<i>taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>)				
Zebra Finch, Black Breasted				
Zebra Finch, Black Cheeked				
Zebra Finch, Black Faced				
Zebra Finch, Chest Flanked White				
Zebra Finch, Cream				
Zebra Finch, Crested				
Zebra Finch, Dominant Silver				
Zebra Finch, Eumo				
Zebra Finch, Fawn				
Zebra Finch, Fawn Cheeked				
Zebra Finch, Florida Fancy				
Zebra Finch, Grey				
Zebra Finch, Grey Cheeked				
Zebra Finch, Lightback				
Zebra Finch, Orange Breasted				
Zebra Finch, Penguin				
Zebra Finch, Pied				
Zebra Finch, Recessive Silver				
Zebra Finch, Silver Isabel				
Zebra Finch, White				
Zebra Finch, Timor (<i>Taeniopygia guttata guttata</i>)				
Other: not listed Finch Specify:				
	0	0	0	

Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip/Postal: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

List the following checked items in the report.

Your address will not be listed.

ONLY the State will be listed.

Softbill Species	# M	# F	# Unk	Breeding Program Yes or No
Aracari, Collared or Banded (<i>pteroglossus torquatus</i>)				
Aracari, Green (<i>pteroglossus viridis</i>)				
Barbet, Bearded (<i>lybius dubius</i>)				
Barbet, Black-spotted (<i>capito nigar</i>)				
Barbet, Blue-throated (<i>megalaima asiatica</i>)				
Barbet, D'Amauds (<i>trachyphonus damaudii</i>)				
Barbet, Red & Yellow (<i>trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>)				
Blackbird, Chestnut-capped (<i>agelaius ruficapillus</i>)				
Bluebird, Fairy (<i>irena puella</i>)				
Bulbul, Black Crested (<i>pycnonotus melanicterus</i>)				
Bulbul, Black Headed (<i>pycnonotus atriceps</i>)				
Bulbul, Collared Finch-billed (<i>spizixos semitorques</i>)				
Bulbul, Red Whiskered (<i>pycnonotus jocosus</i>)				
Bulbul, Red Vented (<i>pycnonotus cafer</i>)				
Bulbul, Sooty-headed (<i>pycnonotus aurigaster</i>)				
Bulbul, White-eared (<i>pycnonotus leucotis</i>)				
Bulbul, White-headed (<i>hypsipetes thompsoni</i>)				
Button Quail, Normal Chinese Painted (<i>coturnix chinensis</i>)				
Button Quail, Silver				
Button Quail, White				
Button Quail, Other				
Cacique, Red-rumped (<i>cacius haemorrhous</i>)				
Cacique, Yellow-rumped (<i>cacius cela</i>)				
Chlorophonia, Blue-naped (<i>chlorophonia cyanea</i>)				
Cotinga, Spangled (<i>cotinga cayana</i>)				
Crakes, African Black (<i>porzana flavirostra</i>)				
Crow, African Pied (<i>corvus albus</i>)				
Dacnis, Blue (<i>dacnis cayana</i>)				
Dove, Australian Crested (<i>ocypaps lophotes</i>)				
Dove, Bleeding-Heart Bartlett's (<i>gallicolumba criniger</i>)				
Dove, Bleeding-Heart Luzon (<i>gallicolumba luzonica</i>)				
Dove, Cape Masked (<i>oena capensis</i>)				
Dove, Collared (<i>streptopelia decaocto</i>)				
Dove, Diamond (<i>geopelia cuneata</i>)				
Dove, Eared (<i>zenaida auriculata</i>)				
Dove, Fruit Black Naped (<i>ptilinopus melanospila</i>)				
Dove, Fruit Yellow-breasted (<i>ptilinopus occipitalis</i>)				
Dove, Golden Heart (<i>gallicolumba rufigula</i>)				
Dove, Green or Emerald Spotted (<i>turtur chalcospilos</i>)				
Dove, Green-winged (<i>chalcophaps indica</i>)				
Dove, Lace-neck (<i>streptopelia chinensis</i>)				
Dove, Ringneck (<i>streptopelia risoria</i>)				
Dove, Senegal or Palm (<i>streptopelia senegalensis</i>)				
Dove, Tamborine (<i>turtur tympanistria</i>)				
Dove, Zebra (<i>geopelia striata</i>)				
Go-Away Bird, White-bellied (<i>corythaixoides leucogaster</i>)				
Honeycreeper, Red Legged (<i>cyanoerpes cyaneus</i>)				
Honeycreeper, Yellow Legged (<i>cyanoerpes caeruleus</i>)				
Hornbill, African Gray (<i>tockus nasutus</i>)				

Species	Male	Female	Unk.	Breeding Program
Hornbill, Crowned (<i>tockus alboterminatus</i>)				
Hornbill, Red-billed (<i>tockus erythrorhynchus</i>)				
Hornbill, VonDer Decken's (<i>tockus deckeni jacksoni</i>)				
Hummingbird, Jamaica Mango (<i>anthracothorax mango</i>)				
Hummingbird, Western Streamtail (<i>trochilus polytmus</i>)				
Jay, Plush-crested (<i>cyanocorax chrysops</i>)				
Kookaburra, Laughing (<i>dacelo gigas</i>)				
Liocichla, Red-faced (<i>liocichla phoenicea</i>)				
Magpie, Green or Green Hunting Cissa (<i>cissa chinensis</i>)				
Magpie, Occipital or Red-billed Blue (<i>cissa erythrorhyncha</i>)				
Magpie, White-throated (<i>calocitta formosa</i>)				
Mesia, Silver Eared (<i>mesia argentauris</i> or <i>liothrix argentauris</i>)				
Minla, Chestnut-tailed (<i>minla strigula</i>)				
Mousebird, Blue Naped (<i>colius macrourus</i>)				
Mousebird, Red Faced (<i>cloius indicus</i>)				
Mousebird, Speckled (<i>colius striatus</i>)				
Mousebird, White-backed (<i>colius colius</i>)				
Mousebird, White-headed (<i>colius leucocephalus</i>)				
Mynah, Golden Crested (<i>ampeliceps coronatus</i>)				
Mynah, Indian Hill Greater (<i>gracula religiosa</i>)				
Mynah, Rothschild's or Bali (<i>leucopsar rothschildi</i>)				
Mynah, White-collared (<i>acridotheres albocinctus</i>)				
Oropendola, Green (<i>psarocolius virides</i>)				
Partridge, Red-crested or Roul Roul (<i>rollulus roulroul</i>)				
Pigeon, Crowned Bronze-winged (<i>phaps chalcoptera</i>)				
Pigeon, Crowned Common or Blue-crowned (<i>goura cristata</i>)				
Pigeon, Pheasant Green-naped (<i>otidiphaps nobilis nobilis</i>)				
Plantain-eater, Western Grey (<i>crinifer piscator</i>)				
Plover, Blacksmith (<i>vanellus armatus</i>)				
Plover, Spur Winged (<i>vanellus spinosus</i>)				
Reedling, Bearded (Tit) (<i>panurus biarmicus</i>)				
Robin, Pekin (Nightingale) (<i>leiothrix lutea</i>)				
Roller, Blue Bellied (<i>coracias cyanogaster</i>)				
Roller, European (<i>coracias garrulus</i>)				
Roller, Lilac-breasted (<i>coracias candata</i>)				
Sivea, Chestnut-tailed (<i>minla strigula</i>)				
Sivia, Golden				
Starling, Royal (<i>cosmosparus regius</i>)				
Starling, Superb (<i>spreo superbus</i>)				
Starling, Wattled (<i>creatophora cinerea</i>)				
Sunbird, Beautiful (<i>nectarinia puichella</i>)				
Sunbird, Golden Winged (<i>nectarinia reichenowi</i>)				
Sunbird, Scarlet Chested (<i>nectarinia senegalensis</i>)				
Swamp Hen, Purple (<i>porphyrio porphyrio</i>)				
Tanager, Blue-gray (<i>thraupis episcopus</i>)				
Tanager, Blue-necked (<i>tangara cyanicollis</i>)				
Tanager, Opal-rumped (<i>tangara velia</i>)				
Tanager, Paradise (<i>tangara chelensis</i>)				
Tanager, Silver Beaked (<i>ramphocelus carbo</i>)				
Tanager, Spangled (<i>tangara nigroviridis</i>)				

Species	Male	Female	Unk.	Breeding Program
Tanager, Turquoise (<i>tangara mexicana</i>)				
Tanager, Violet Euphonia (<i>euphonia violacea</i>)				
Tanager, Yellow-bellied (<i>tangara zanthogastra</i>)				
Thrush, Black Throat Laughing (<i>tharrgarrulax</i>)				
Thrush, Blue Whistling (<i>myophanus caeruleus</i>)				
Thrush, Hwamei or Spectacled (<i>garrulax canorus</i>)				
Thrush, Shama (<i>copsychus malabaricus indicus</i>)				
Thrush, Red Wing Laughing (<i>tharrgarrulax</i>)				
Thrush, White-crested (<i>garrulax leucolophus</i>)				
Thrush, White-throated Laughing (<i>garrulax albogularis</i>)				
Tinamou, Chilean (<i>nothoprocta perdicaria</i>)				
Tit, Japanese (<i>parus varius</i>)				
Toucan, Chestnut Mandibled or Swainson's (<i>ramphastos swainsonii</i>)				
Toucan, Sulfur Breasted (<i>ramphastos sulfuratus</i>)				
Toucanette, Emerald (<i>alaucorhynchus haematopygius</i>)				
Toucanette, Guianan (<i>selenidera culik</i>)				
Turaco, Guinea (<i>tauraco persa</i>)				
Turaco, Livingstone's (<i>touraco livingstonii</i>)				
Turaco, Red Crested (<i>tauraco erythrolophus</i>)				
Turaco, White Cheeked (<i>tauraco leucotis</i>)				
Troupial (<i>icterus icterus</i>)				
Trumpeter, Grey-winged (<i>psophia cepitans</i>)				
White Eye, African Yellow (<i>zosterops senegalensis kikuyuensis</i>)				
White Eye, Chestnut-flanked (<i>zosterops erythropleura</i>)				
White Eye, Indian Zosterop (<i>zosterops palpabrosa</i>)				
White Eye, Japanese (<i>zosterops japonica</i>)				
Yunia, Whiskered or Yellow-naped (<i>yuhina flavicollis</i>)				
Yunia, White-collared (<i>yuhina diademata</i>)				
Other: not listed Softbill Specify:				

Personal Information

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip/Postal: _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-mail: _____

List the following checked items in the report.

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Your address will not be listed.

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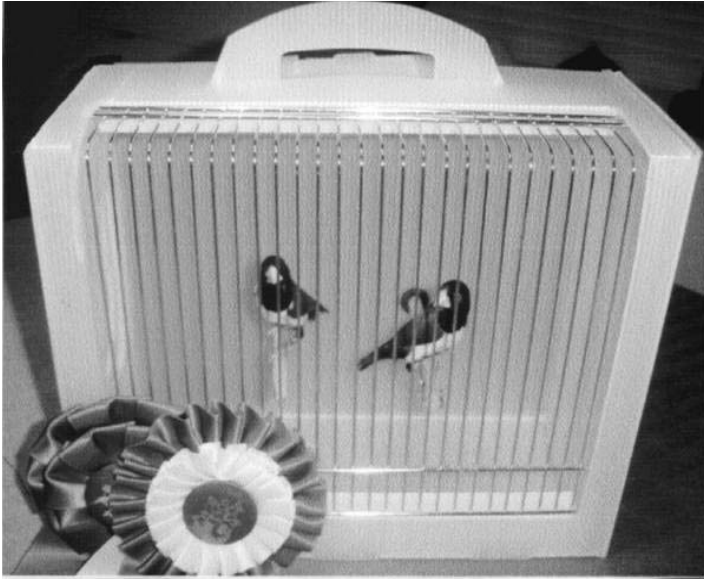
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white.douglas@lincoln.navy.mil

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 - June, Sept.; 2nd Sat - Dec, Atlanta Farm Mkt
WEBSITE <http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebf.htm>

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, AL
WEBSITE www.caasociety.com

CANADA

CAGE BIRD SOCIETY OF HAMILTON [HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA]

DELEGATE Peter Webb, email: gouldians@msn.com
MEETINGS 4th Sunday/month (except July-August): 970 Paramount Dr,
 Valley Park Community Ctr), Stoney Creek, Ontario
SHOW DATES November 4-5, 2006
JUDGE Charles Anchor
LOCATION Valley Park Community Center; 970 Paramount Dr, Stoney Creek,
 Ontario, Canada
SHOW MANAGER Joe Sousa 905-643-1476

DURHAM AVICULTURAL SOCIETY [ONTARIO, CANADA]

DELEGATE Alfred Mion, email: julianne@mnsi.net
MEETINGS 2nd Tuesday of month: Rotary Park Pavilion, Ajax, Ontario
CLUB WEBSITE www.birdclub.ca

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

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

CALIFORNIA

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAGE BIRD CLUB [Modesta]

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; Raspberry@europa.com
CLUB E-MAIL Raspberry@europa.com

FLORIDA

EXOTIC BIRD CLUB OF FLORIDA [Palm Bay]

DELEGATE Timothy McCormick, email: donglo57@bellsouth.net,
MEETINGS 2nd Sunday of month: 1275 Culver Road, Palm Bay
CLUB WEBSITE <http://exoticbirdclubofflorida.homestead.com/index.html>

SUNCOAST 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

TREASURE COAST EXOTIC BIRD CLUB [Stuart]

DELEGATE Timothy McCormick - email: donglo57@bellsouth.net

TRI-STATE AVIAN SOCIETY [Tallahassee]

MEETINGS 2nd Saturday of the month at 2 PM, Tallahassee Progressive
 Center, 1720 S. GadsdenSt., Tallahassee FL
CLUB E-MAIL info@tristateaviansociety.org
CLUB WEBSITE www.tristateaviansociety.org

ILLINOIS

GREATER CHICAGO CAGE BIRD CLUB [Elmhurst]

DELEGATE Barbara Branston, (708) 562-6787, secretary@gccbc.org
MEETINGS 3rd Friday of month: no meeting in November.
 American Legion Hall: Butterfield Road, Elmhurst.
CLUB WEBSITE www.gccbc.org
SHOW DATE NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SOCIETY SHOW
 November 16-18, 2006
EVENT LOCATION Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Ctr, Thoreau Drive,
 Schaumburg, IL 60173

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

IOWA

MID-AMERICA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY [Des Moines]

DELEGATE John Thielking, (515) 278-9159; thielking@iowalink.com
MEETINGS 4th Sun: Des Moines Botanical Ctr, 909 Robert D Ray Dr.
CLUB WEBSITE www.macbs.org

KANSAS

GREATER KANSAS CITY AVICULTURAL SOCIETY (Kansas City, MO)

DELEGATE John Thielking, (515) 278-9159; thielking@iowalink.com
Club Meeting 2nd Sunday of month, Coronation of Our Lady Church,
 Grandview, MO
Club Website: http://www.gkcas.org

LOUISIANA

CAJUN CANARY & FINCH CLUB [New Orleans]

DELEGATE Meade Phelps, 504-615-4638 neworleansmeade@cox.net
MEETINGS 2nd Monday of the month 7:30pm St. Augustine's Episcopal
 Church Metairie, La. 70002
SHOW DATE Cajun Canary & Finch Big Bird Show & Bird Mart:
 December 9-10, 2006
JUDGE Cecil Gunby
SHOW LOCATION VFW Hsll, 3314 Richland Ave, Metairie, LA. 70002
INFORMATION Meade Phelps, 504-615-4638 neworleansmeade@cox.net

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE BIRD FANCIERS, INC. [Baltimore]

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

MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION (Foxboro)

DELEGATE Regina McCarthy - rmcc29@comcast.net
MEETINGS every other month at the South Foxboro Community Center,
 Foxboro, MA. See website for more information.
CLUB E-MAIL rmcc29@comcast.net
CLUB WEBSITE www.masscagebird.org

MICHIGAN

GREAT LAKES ZEBRA & SOCIETY FINCH CLUB [Livonia]

DELEGATE Jim Heffernan, 780 Fairwood St, Inkster, MI, (313) 247-5900

MINNESOTA**CANARY CLUB OF MINNESOTA [Des Moines]**

DELEGATE Jeanne Murphy, (651) 459-5787, email:
pinataminatures@yahoo.com

CLUB WEBSITE canaryclub.su.com

SHOW DATE Annual Canary and Finch Show - October 7, 2006

MISSOURI**GREATER KANSAS CITY AVICULTURAL SOCIETY (Kansas City)**

DELEGATE Anthony Day (816) 731-1464; terryshelia@abcglobal.net

CLUB WEBSITE www.gkcas.org

NEW HAMPSHIRE**BIRDS OF A FEATHER AVICULTURAL SOCIETY [Manchester]**

DELEGATE Ray Schwartz, 603-362-6106 or Prismsdad@aol.com

MEETINGS 2nd Monday of the month in Villa Crest Retirement Center

CLUB EMAIL editor@boaf.com

CLUB WEBSITE www.boaf.com

SHOW DATE Fall Show & Bird Mart: October 28, 2006

JUDGE Christine Voronovitch

SHOW LOCATION Wayfarer Convention Center, 121 South River Rd, Bedford, NH 03110

INFORMATION Ray Schwartz, 603-362-6106 or Prismsdad@aol.com

NEW YORK**ASTORIA BIRD CLUB (Brooklyn)**

DELEGATE Dan Griffin (917) 741-3124; email: dgriff1@yahoo.com

SHOW/EVENT Bird Show - November 14, 2006

JUDGE TBA

LOCATION 9401 Seaview Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

CONTACT Dan Griffin (917) 741-3124; email: dgriff1@yahoo.com

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, Elmort

SHOW/EVENT November 11, 2006; St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 200 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Center, NY 11570

NEW YORK FINCH & TYPE CANARY CLUB [New York]

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

MEETINGS 2nd Sunday of month, except July & August

CLUB WEBSITE www.newyorkfinch.com

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, NC

CLUB WEBSITE www.rdcb.org

OREGON**EASTSIDE FINCH CONNECTION [Portland]**

DELEGATE KJ & Linda Brown, (503) 266-7606, JeepersPeepers55@aol.com
SHOW/EVENT Finch Show - November 11-12, 2006
JUDGE Julie Duimstra
LOCATION National Guard Armory, 500 NE Division St, Gresham, OR
CONTACT Linda Brown, 503-266-7606, JeepersPeepers55@aol.com

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

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

TENNESSEE**MIDDLE TENNESSEE CAGE BIRD CLUB [Nashville]**

DELEGATE Ninez Giles, 615-297-2281, nineze@juno.com
MEETINGS 3rd Sunday of month: 1:00 p.m., Donelson Senior Center, Donelson
CLUB WEBSITE www.middletennesseecagebirdclub.com

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY

DELEGATE Susan Murphy - email: suern0909@bellsouth.net
SHOW/EVENT NFSS Region 2 Bird Show - Sept. 23-24, 2006
JUDGE Cecil Gunby & Annette Howard
LOCATION George R. Stuart School, 20th Street NW @ Keith Street, Cleveland, TN
CONTACT Lisa Murphy (423) 263-0483; wlmurphy@usit.net

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

FORT WORTH BIRD CLUB (Fort Worth)

DELEGATE Clarence Culwell - email: coculwell@myfam.com
CLUB E-MAIL janiceeandroy03@vearthlink.net
CLUB WEBSITE www.fwbs.org

TEXAS BIRD BREEDERS (Temple)

DELEGATE Clarence Culwell - email: coculwell@myfam.com
CLUB WEBSITE www.texasbirdbreeders.org
SHOW/EVENT Bird Show - November 4, 2006
JUDGE Paul Williams
LOCATION Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX
CONTACT Barbara Irwin (817) 572-6262

VIRGINIA

PENINSULA CAGED BIRD SOCIETY [Hampton]

DELEGATE Julie Mitchell, 757-898-8397, email: alna@cox.net

MEETINGS 3rd Sunday each month @ 2 pm, Thomas Nelson Community College, Moore Hall

CLUB WEBSITE www.birdclubsva.org

SHOWS/EVENTS Bird Marts - more info: www.birdclubsva.org
Annual Bird Clubs of Virginia Convention -
For more info: www.birdclubsva.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 Nov. 25, 2006, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe, WA

WISCONSIN

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CAGE & WILD BIRD CONNECTION [Pittsville]

DELEGATE Darla Dandre, 708-699-5325, Dbirdranch@yahoo.com

MEETINGS 1st Saturday of month: alternating members' homes

CLUB WEBSITE <http://www.cwwcbc.us/bc> and
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/centralwisbirds/>



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Free shipping for USPS orders over \$500.

The Exotic Finch Loft is a bird store located in southwest Ohio, selling finches and canaries exclusively. We have over 800 birds in stock representing 25 species of finch and 10 types of canary.

Our store hours are noon to 7 pm EST, Monday through Saturday
1 pm to 5 pm Sunday).

If you are visiting this part of the country – we are just south of Dayton. Stop in and see our huge inventory of birds. We also offer tours of our breeding room.

Discounts Available for Larger Orders

NFSS AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

Please fill out this form in its entirety.

Club Name: _____
Club City: _____ State _____
Club Meeting Dates and Location: _____

Club Delegate to NFSS: _____
Address: _____
*Phone: _____ *Email: _____

Delegate's Signature: _____
Club Officer: _____
Address: _____
*Phone: _____ *Email: _____

Club Email: _____ Club website address: _____
Please indicate to whom we should mail the Journal.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Please list your club events to be posted in the NFSS Journal.
Event: _____
Date: _____ Location: _____
Contact: _____ Email: _____

(Please list additional info & events on another piece of paper)

SHOW INFORMATION

*Date: _____ Judge: _____
*Location & address: _____
*City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
*Show Manager: _____
*Phone: _____ *Email: _____
*Other Divisions: _____

REGIONAL SHOW APPLICATION

Is your club interested in hosting your area NFSS regional show this year?
YES ___ NO ___ Has your club ever hosted a regional show?
YES ___ NO ___ If YES, what year(s) _____ Date of your 2006 show _____
Why would you like to host an NFSS Regional show? _____

(*NFSS may use this information in the NFSS Journal and on its website.)

Affiliation Fee is 30.00 - Please make check payable to NFSS and mail to:

**NFSS AFFILIATIONS
C/O Douglas White
13013 311th Ave SE
Sultan, WA 98294**

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

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

POSTAL INSURANCE
 Under \$50.00 - \$1.35
 \$50.00 to \$100.00 - \$2.25
 Over \$100.00 - \$3.25 _____

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. Contact Cathy Luttrell, 1029 Hicksmill Drive, Marietta, GA 30060, (phone) 678-608-7229, email: ccwkl@msn.com

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: cellofelow_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 & 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: Java Rice Finch cinnamon & split to cinnamon. Cinnamon \$40 Splits \$25 Contact No. (864) 882-2283

FOR SALE: Baby Black-cheeked Zebra's - \$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@digitalexp.com

WANTED: Fairy Bluebird and/or Red-crested Cardinals for breeding program. Contact Greg Bockheim (574) 233-4648; - Gregbockheim@aol.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. Cathy Luttrell
1029 Hicksmil Drive, Marietta, Ga 30060
(678) 608-7229
cathyluttrell@gmail.com

2006 3rd Quarter Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Jim Heffernan, Executive Secretary

The meeting began online 8-1-06. present: Sally Huntington, Raspberry, Paula Hansen, Bill Parlee, Wick Goss, Cecil Gunby, Harry Bryant, Bob French, Jim Heffernan, Lisa Murphy, John Wilson, Danny Gonzales, Alfred Mion

Treasury NFSS	Through June 8,2006	July 31, 2006	YTD
Income:			
Judges Panel	.00	.00	.00
Affiliations/Awards	296.00	1,253.75	1,549.75
Bands	3,225.32	2,015.86	5,241.18
Finch/SoftSave	15.00	.00	15.00
Finch shop	20.80	1,016.14*	1,036.94
Journal	124.00	177.00	301.00
Membership	2,811.00	4,649.46	7,460.46
Misc.	22.40	.00	22.40
Total Income:	6,514.52.	9,112.21	15,626.73
Expenses:			
Judge's Panel	88.72	.00	88.72
Affiliation/Awards	39.13	43.60	82.73
Bands	1,248.26	1,148.10	2,396.36
Finchshop	271.63	999.00	1,270.63
Journal	3,855.89	5,086.24	8,942.13
Membership	122.15	156.00	278.15
Misc.	413.72	275.00**	688.72
Total Expenses:	6,039.50	7,707.94	13,747.44
Net Income:	475.02	1404.30	1,879.32***

Finch Shop:

Many folks reported not getting their Finch Shop orders since the beginning of April. Numerous attempts over the last 4 months have been made to contact Finch Shop Manager, Alana Honea, she has not responded. Board members Bill Parlee and Paula Hansen each sent a certified letter, to the president (as per the by laws) requesting the removal of Alana Honea, from the position of Finch Shop Manager, there by requiring a vote by the BOD.

NFSS census:

Danny Gonzales and Randy Taylor are working together on the census for Finch and Softbill Save. Randy is working with Harry for Journal Publication.

Estimated NFSS Band Sales:

May 2006 17 Pay Pal/ 11 Mail In 541.15
 June 2006 14 Pay Pal/ 8 Mail In 749.50
 July 2006 21 Pay Pal / 6 Mail In 519.30

Preparations for 2007 inventory have started. Christmas week mail is when the new year bands are mailed. Place your 2007 orders starting November in Pay Pal or Mail in any time. Please always included your Membership Number. Your membership number appears on the NFSS Journal, on the label, above your name. Any feed back or questions regarding NFSS Bands contact me directly. Large orders over 100.00 will incur additional handling fee due to weight.

Please use current order forms with correct USPS rates. Many thanks to those who make-up any missing balance and including those email addresses on the order forms.

NFSS new book, "Breeding American Song Birds by Rob van der Hulst" is available for \$50.00, includes shipping within the US. (exact weight 2.29 lbs.) sale price \$50.00. Outside the US inquire for handling quotes. Order through: Paula Hansen, NFSS Band Secretary, 2234 Juneau Court S., Salem, OR 97302

Respectfully Submitted, Paula Hansen - NFSS Band Secretary

New Business:

Raspberry suggested since new NFSS member Kazuko Ishihara, from Japan, who attended the West Coast zebra and Society Specialty Show is very interested in zebras and bringing NFSS to Japan, NFSS should consider the idea of expanding NFSS regional representation to Japan. Pro and cons were discussed.

NFSS Special Election 2006:

Three officers resigned. Region 4 VP, Membership, and Treasurer. The NFSS Board of Directors, appointed Bill Parlee to act as Treasurer pro tem.

The following NFSS members have volunteered to serve in those positions. Each has submitted a bio stating their qualifications and experience for each of the offices.

REGION 4 VP: Laura Bewley
MEMBERSHIP: Cathy Luttrell
TREASURER: Lisa Murphy

The ballots and for the candidates will be published in the July/August Journal.

Affiliations:

26 of last year affiliates renewed so far. Two new affiliations Massachusetts Cage Bird Association and Tri-State Avian Society, Inc

MOTION 2006-4 (PASSED):

I motion that all incoming NFSS officers must provide at least two emergency contact names and contact information of friends and relatives. Current officers are encouraged, but not required to do the same. The BOD President will keep records of this information to use in case of emergency. Supportive discussion has already occurred on this topic. Raspberry, Motion second by Paula Hansen

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- yes, 12 votes,
- no, 0 votes,
- abstain, 0 votes,

Motion 2006-05 (PASSED):

The past Journals (2004 and earlier) be posted on website. Harry Bryant.
Seconded by Paula Hansen

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- yes, 10 votes,
- no, 1 votes,
- abstain, 1 votes,

Motion 2006-06 (PASSED):

I make a motion that our President create a "Training Coordinator" appointed position on the Board of Directors to help ease new officers and other volunteers into their responsibilities. I further move that she appoint Ginny Allen to that position. Bill Parlee. Second, Raspberry

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- yes, 10 votes,
- no, 2 votes,
- abstain, 0 votes,

POLL QUESTION: Motion 2006-7 (PASSED):

I move that we remove and replace Finch Shop manager Alana Honea. Motion submitted by William Parlee. Second by Bob French

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- yes, 12 votes,
- no, 0 votes,
- abstain, 0 votes

Motion 2006-7 passed, Wick Gross has been appointed to serve as Finch Shop Manager pro tem. Motion 2006-6 passed, Ginny Allen will be added to the board, in a non voting capacity, as "Training Coordinator".

Respectively submitted

Jim Heffernan
Executive Secretary

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are planning to move, please contact our Membership Director Cathy Luttrell and give her your new address.

Telling the Post Office that you want your mail forwarded often doesn't do the job. Magazines fall into a separate category "Periodical Postage" and are often not included in your forward order.

So please let us know your new address promptly so you will get uninterrupted delivery of your Journal.

Ms. Cathy Luttrell
1029 Hicksmil Drive, Marietta, Ga 30060
(678) 608-7229
cathyluttrell@gmail.com

National Cage Bird Show in 2006!
Date: Thur Nov 16 - Sat Nov 18, 2006
Contact: Robert Wild - birdshow@gccbc.org

Location:

The Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Center
Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173 - 1-800-266-9432
www.ci.schaumburg.il.us/vos.nsf/schaumburg/convention-center

Health Certificates:

All 50 states have regulations pertaining to birds entering from out of state. Illinois is no exception. The State of Illinois requires birds entering from out of state obtain a health certificate within ten days of the date of entry. After obtaining your health certificate, contact the:

Illinois Department of Agriculture
Department of Animal Health and Welfare

PO Box 19281 State Fairgrounds
801 East Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, IL 62794-9281.

Phone: 217-782-4944 - Fax: 217-558-6033 - Email:
Mark_Ernst@agri.state.il.us

There is no cost for an Entry Permit, but one must supply name, address, type and number of birds, and the veterinary health certificate number. We are aware that some state forms do not carry a certificate number. In those cases, it may be that Illinois will ask for some other information, such as the veterinary license; however, Illinois has not specified what they will do in this situation.

Other Details:

Free Parking - Open to the Public: Friday, November 17th: 2:00 noon - 5:00 PM; Saturday, November 18: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Public Events include: Judging of birds on Friday (bird viewing after all judging is complete) Open Bench Viewing of Birds on Saturday; Raffles on Friday & Saturday (variety of bird-related products); Vendor Booths for bird related products on Friday & Saturday (shop for cages, toys, feed & much more); Bird Sale Room on Friday & Saturday (all types of birds) Gate Entry Fee - Adults: \$5 - Children under 12 are Free

Fifth Annual NFSS Afternoon of Aviculture

November 16, 2006

At the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Center
Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173

Join NFSS to 'talk birds' 1:00 - 5:00 p.m
Presentations from four well known speakers

- 1 -- Vince Moase -- Finches
- 2 -- Grant Rishman-- Softbills
- 3 --Hary Bryant -- Twinspot finches

Limited space for this seminar - Send in your reservation early!

Name: _____

NFSS Membership # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # (____) _____ Email: _____

\$10.00 for NFSS Members

\$40.00 for Non-NFSS Members (which includes a membership)

Deadline: November 1, 2006

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

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

**Sally Huntington
5634 Carnegie Street
San Diego, CA 92122**

more information:

sallych@san.rr.com sallych@san.rr.com
858-452-9423

Colorful Bird Discovered in Colombia

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Published: October 9, 2006

A new species of bird named Yariguies Brush-Finch was discovered recently by a Colombian-British team of scientists.

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) -- A colorful new bird has been discovered in a previously unexplored Andean cloud forest, spurring efforts to protect the area, conservation groups said Monday.

The bright yellow and red-crowned Yariguies brush-finch was named for the indigenous tribe that once inhabited the mountainous area where it was discovered.

For conservationists the discovery of the species came at a crucial time -- the government has decided to set aside 500 acres of the pristine cloud forest where the bird lives to create a national park.

"The bird was discovered in what is the last remnants of cloud forest in that region," Camila Gomez, of the Colombia conservation group ProAves, said on Monday. "There are still lots of undiscovered flora and fauna species that live in the area."

The small bird can be distinguished from its closest relative -- the yellow-breasted brush finch -- by its solid black back and the lack of white marks on its wings.

"There are about two to three new birds found in the world every year," Thomas Donegan, the British half of an Anglo-Colombian research duo who discovered the bird in January 2004, told The Associated Press on Monday. "It's a very rare event."

To access the bird's isolated habitat, Donegan and partner Blanca Huertas regularly hiked 12 hours into the nearly impenetrable jungle, depending on helicopters to drop off supplies at mountain peaks 10,000 feet above sea level.

"We first went to Yariguies about three years ago," Donegan said. "It's a huge patch of isolated forest that no one knew about, not even in Colombia."

The new finch, the size of a fist, is native to Colombia's eastern Andean range and considered by its discoverers to be near threatened and in need of close monitoring to prevent it from becoming endangered.

One of the two birds caught by the team was released unharmed after they took pictures and DNA samples, while the other died in captivity.

Donegan said this was one of the first time researchers were able to confirm a new bird without having to kill it.

The last new bird discovery in Colombia was a Tapaculos species found in the south last year.

With as many as 1,865 different species, Colombia has long been considered a bird watchers' paradise, albeit a risky one because of the country's four-decade-old civil war. In 1998, rebels kidnapped four American bird watchers who were later found unharmed.

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5. What if you could use this product in water or food, with excellent binding and dilution capacity.
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7. And it would also have amino acids (protein building blocks)
8. How about an ingredient that would serve as a magnet with special receptors to eliminate salmonella and ecoli, disease producing bacteria.
9. And what if it kept feces very dry to diminish nest contamination and messy handling, shortening cleaning time. (more relaxing time for you!)
10. And what about a product that would eliminate fecal odors!
All natural ingredient.
11. Think of better health, decrease mortality, increased production, nicer and healthier birds for the show and collection!
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One ounce of dried larvae is like 5 ounces of live ones - that's about 10,000 insects!

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- 1 oz dried = 10,000 insects! •

*Offer good through December 31, 2005. Use discount code "NFSSFree" on our website.



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