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Journal of the
**National Finch &
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Vol. 29, No. 2
Mar / Apr 2012



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

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President's Message



Editor

Bob Black is back with a Historical Overview Aviculture after an uncomfortably long absence from these pages. His return and I dearly hope it becomes a long stay raises a question, Why is Bob Black important to me as a small bird breeder. It isn't just because he's shown himself to be an accomplished bird breeder or that he's worked with many different species. It's that he wrote about it. Not only did he learn how to successfully keep and breed birds he wrote about it. His successes and the lessons taken from success and failures were there for me as a beginning breeder to read and to go back and reread. Bob's experiences and insights were shared. Establishing a breeding strain became not just Robert Black's measure of success but a standard many of us reading his words adopted as our own. When Bob published his fact sheet on establishing a breeding strain wild caught imports were inexpensive and widely available. New unrelated bloodlines were as close as the local pet store. The world I've described no longer exists and one of the effects is that "Establishing a breeding Strain" has become more than just a lofty goal it's a matter of survival for the bird breeding community. Failure to establish breeding strains will insure that many species disappear from American Aviculture. The barriers are high and rising. Animal rights groups continue to push greater restrictions as the retail pet trade shrinks. With fewer breeders and import restrictions access to new bloodlines decreases. What can we do to slow or reverse this fading of private aviculture? Reflecting on Robert Black's contributions part of the answer must be writing about your experiences with birds.

When we put our bird experiences on paper and share them we join a community that speaks for bird keeping. One that continues to spread the enjoyment of bird breeding long after we retire our pens. Tell us about your birds, We're listening.

We're also looking for an Editor for the Journal if you are interested contact me jwilson153@aol.com use the subject line EDITOR.

The 2012 National Cage Bird Show this year is in St Louis, Missouri, Thursday November 15 thru Saturday November 17, 2012 at the Millennium Hotel in St Louis. I hope to see you there.

Respectfully,

John Wilson
President



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AVICULTURE

An Historical Overview

by Robert G. Black

Birdkeeping has been a part of the human experience for thousands of years. The love of birds and the fervent desire to keep them in good health and to raise them successfully is as old as the advent of human civilization. Yet bird-rooms and aviaries have never been a necessity for human life, other than the obvious need for keeping domesticated fowl as a food source.

Considerable wealth was necessary for much of human history for anyone to be able to establish a collection of exotic avian species just for the pleasure and the knowledge that would result from birdkeeping. Still, dovecotes, cages and aviaries are recorded in the oldest existing records that have still survived from our early human civilizations. Though only a few could afford to engage in any type of aviculture, those few managed to perpetuate the interest in birds and birdkeeping down through the millennia. As economic conditions improved for the world's people, their desire to keep birds in captivity increased correspondingly, and the means for enjoyable and successful birdkeeping and breeding became available to ever-increasing numbers of people throughout the world.

By the early twentieth century, anyone in the middle class of economic success could afford to have birds in cages, and anyone with the space could afford to build an aviary. Following the discovery of many new species in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and the classification and reclassification of

birds that continued from the eighteenth century until the present day, interest in the maintenance and breeding of the exotic avian species increased dramatically. Through all of these years, dedicated ornithologists and aviculturists were attempting to learn more about all of these avian species, and much more importantly, they were trying to learn how to maintain their captive birds in health and how to breed them in captivity.

Before the early 1900's, any imported birds were transported by ocean, mostly by sailing merchant vessels. This was before the steam engine and diesel engine were coming into use on the ocean-going merchant vessels as well as on the military ships, of course. Many of us who breed birds in the 21st century completely forget what a monumental problem traveling by ocean was for the early ornithologists and for any birds transported by ship to the European countries. Many of the early researchers lost all of their bird collections, ornithological notes and many even their lives to storms and shipwrecks. Before the British Navy discovered that the consumption of limes prevented scurvy from appearing in their sailors, any long sea voyage resulted in many illnesses and deaths among the sailors. The British Navy, however, failed to share this knowledge with the merchant marine vessels and exploring vessels, and for another hundred years, scurvy still destroyed most of the sailors' lives on long sea voyages of trade and exploration.

In a chilling and sobering statistic, Irwin Stone in his book *The Healing Factor*, recounts the now famous voyage of Ferdinand Magellan in 1519. Magellan set sail with a fleet of five ships on his voyage of circumnavigation of the earth. Three years later, he returned to Spain in what history calls triumph, but with only one ship and only 18 members of his original crews. The rest had all been lost, hundreds of men, primarily to scurvy. In our own day, this voyage would be considered a major disaster rather than a major triumph.

When birds were caught in their wild habitats and transported to Europe on these early sailing ships, only a very dedicated and foresighted individual could have accumulated the food for feeding the birds successfully over a voyage that might take from six months to a year. Still, many of these early shipments did arrive safely with the birds still alive and well.

The next hurdle to be overcome was the transportation from the port of arrival to the inland city where the birds would be sold. Some of the birds were purchased by early breeders in the port cities, of course, but others had to undergo further shipment to an inland city. Without paved roads, automobiles, and only the bare beginnings of rail traffic, travel with cages of live birds must have been a very chancy endeavor.

Compared to the conditions under which aviculturists work today, these early birdkeepers and bird breeders were operating at a tremendous disadvantage. They had little information about what the birds ate in their native habitats, and the concept of nutrition was not even thought of in that early period. The early aviculturists could

only feed whatever was available to them and hope that the birds would eat it and that they would live. This was how the early canary breeders learned in Europe that a wild grass seed was an ideal food for canaries, and the seed was large enough to harvest fairly easily. The seed of this grass became canary seed, and when scientists of that early period began assigning scientific names to all of the living things that they encountered, they gave this native grass the scientific name that indicated its primary use: *Phalaris canariensis*.

In the same manner, these early European aviculturists discovered that insects were an ideal food for most birds and that most birds could not raise their young ones without an abundance of insects being included in their food offerings. In addition, the canary breeders discovered that their birds would raise their babies successfully when they were offered pieces of hard-boiled chicken egg several times daily. Breeders in China and Japan followed a similar path in their attempts to keep birds successfully in captivity, and developed the Society Finch as a totally domesticated species. It was not until the 1900's that researchers came to understand the amino acid constituents of protein and the vital requirement for the essential amino acids that form the complete proteins. These early researchers then were able to confirm that both insects and eggs contained the highest percentage of complete protein in their dry contents of any of the food items that breeders commonly offered to the birds that these early enthusiasts and keepers maintained in captivity.

Another important bit of knowledge that the early aviculturists gleaned from their experiences with their birds was

the importance of developing an unusual species into a successful breeding strain. They knew that a few breeding birds was not a dependable source of the species for the future, and spent years in breeding their birds and selecting the best breeders under their conditions to serve as future breeding stock. By the third generation, most of the birds raised under these conditions when mature became good breeders, also. Breeders had eliminated any unfavorable characteristics from the breeding birds by this time, and the breeding birds that remained and their offspring were superior examples of the birds of their species.

By contrast to these early experiences, birds now in the early 21st century are so easily and safely obtainable that the methods and means for developing really good, dependable breeding strains of them have nearly been lost. One occasionally sees superior breeding strains of many of the commoner birds, but for the more exotic species, there are no dependable breeding strains, only occasional successful breeding pairs. Unfortunately, our modern conveniences for birdkeeping have worked to our severe disadvantage where the development of dependable strains of breeding exotic birds in captivity is concerned. Few now take the time and effort needed to develop a few breeding birds into a dependable and successful group of breeders that would qualify as a successful breeding strain of the species.

Succeeding with the maintenance and breeding of any avian species requires a unique set of circumstances and personality traits. You can expect no success if you do not first learn a great deal about the care, the feeding, and the

breeding habits of the species you are keeping. A number of factors and personality traits will assist you in learning about your own exotic birds and about handling your problems with them.

The first of these vital factors is observation. Simply watching your birds, their actions, and their reactions will teach you more than you can learn from a dozen books. Observing your breeding birds requires both time and attention. Reasonably calm and tame birds are certainly an advantage when extensive observation of the breeding birds is necessary, and the birds have to be accustomed to your presence in order to act normally and naturally. But without any doubt, observation is the very best way of learning about the birds in your care. You will never regret the time and attention you devote to observing your birds, their eating, their activities, and their breeding cycle.

The observation of the birds coupled with all of your reading about them will constitute the biggest part of the second factor in helping you to learn more about the birds that you are keeping. That factor is knowledge. There is simply no substitute for knowledge. Many times you will gain knowledge from your own mistakes, but you will be far better off if you can learn some of your lessons from reading about other people's mistakes. Most breeders will be happy to share their bird knowledge and breeding experiences with you.

The third and fourth factors which assist you in learning more about your birds always work together. They are patience and perseverance. You will rarely find the one without the other. What will distinguish the successful person from the crowd is the assiduous cultivation

and use of both patience and perseverance in your birdkeeping to overcome any of the mistakes or obstacles that knock us flat. These twin characteristics are one of the most important foundations of successful aviculture. Patience is your passport for accepting problems and failures as learning experiences rather than as final disasters, and perseverance is your key to continue to keep trying and eventually to succeed, despite all of the obstacles that you must overcome. Patience and perseverance are not just for use in learning about the birds in your care; they are your pathway to success in maintaining and breeding any species of bird that you attempt to work with in the future. Patience and perseverance are absolutely indispensable necessities for any bird fancier or aviculturist.

The fifth factor in learning will raise a few eyebrows, for it is intuition. All people possess intuition to a greater or lesser degree, but few of us heed its urgings and its warnings. Intuition can be far more accurate than common sense, and it can be far more useful than accumulated knowledge. Intuition is a powerful force, and in no instance has it led me astray in the handling of birds. Though women seem to be the more intuitive half of the human race, this is probably the result of the freer range of emotions in women. Certainly men can develop and use their intuition just as positively by simply discarding a few layers of typical masculine inhibitions. When dealing with your birds, cultivate your intuition, pay attention to it, and use it.

Though many would deny it, this world we live in is totally and unalterably a world of cause and effect. Everything that happens has a cause, and viewed

in the broadest sense, there is no such thing as an accident. These occurrences would be much more accurately labeled as causatives. When dealing with exotic birds, their every daily activity has a cause. Every problem with them doesn't just happen – it is caused. Once you realize and pay attention to the causes of the effects you are observing, you will gain a little more knowledge of birds and aviculture.

As we begin the 21st century, the challenges of successful aviculture continue to expand, and those challenges promise to make the maintenance and breeding of birds in captivity an interesting and rewarding experience over the coming years. We as aviculturists have accomplished a great deal over the past half century, but much remains to be done.



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2010 High Point Flighted Bird: Mike Manley, Blue Faced Parrot Finch

2010 High Point Unflighted Bird: Hiram Morales, Fawn Grey Society

Dr. Val Clear Best Softbill: Rebecca Mikel, Silver Ear Mesia

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National Avicultural Recognition Award: Level A: Paula Hansen, Red Siskins;

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John Wilson, Roland Cristo, Paula Hansen form committee to develop policy for disbursement of funds rec'd from AFA

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THE ALBINO BENGALESE FINCH

by *Ivan Montes*

Mission

I learned everything I could about the Albino Society Finches. In this country, we originally had only whites, some with red eyes and some not. These white Society Finches are prone to eye problems as they get older. In the 1990s, Garrie and some other very dedicated hobbyists imported the newest colors available in society finches from Japan, one of those being the Albino.

I contacted many Bengalese finch breeders trying to find albinos. Everyone I spoke with said that they didn't keep them any longer. I kept trying for over a year, ending with nothing each time. I found a few breeders that had a

couple of old birds, but they lived far across the country. It took a lot of persistence, but finally I found a breeder in Pennsylvania that had some albino chicks in a few nests. There were only two things standing in my way: the birds were young and not yet fledged, and the breeder did not ship.

Getting the Finches

I spoke with the breeder to ask if he would consider shipping. He had never shipped before and was not willing. He agreed, however, to allow me to purchase the birds if I could find someone to pick them up and ship them to me by the time the birds were weaned.



A group of three young Albino Bengalese Finches.

I made a list of bird breeders around Pennsylvania. I contacted everyone on my list. Most thought I was crazy and trying to scam them. Finally, I found a very nice parrot breeder located close to the finch breeder. Connie, from Diane and Connie's Birds, was willing to help me. She just wanted more information for security reasons. I arranged everything with both of them. I sent Connie the money. Connie picked up the birds and sent them to me. I picked up my new societies from the airport in the middle of winter! Connie went above and beyond. My birds arrived in great shape.

My Birds

I purchased four Albinos and one split/albino. Three of the Albinos were hens and the other was a frilled cock. The split was a gray frilled cock. I learned from the breeder that his birds came

from Garrie when he was still breeding albinos. Two of the hens were siblings and the rest were unrelated. The birds had many colors masked. They carried gray, dilute, all three background colors, crest and frills.

There are two Albino varieties, the European-autosomal recessive, and the Japanese-autosomal incomplete dominant. The birds I have are of the Euro variety. This year was the first year I paired a split and a visual Albino. I had my first albino chicks.

Eyes

There is a misconception that albino societies go blind and have eye problems. True albino societies have only slight vision impairment due to not having any pigment in the eyes. The birds have a hard time when it's really bright.



A group of three young Albino Bengalese Finches.

The misconception of blindness came from white Society Finches that go blind as they get older. Most of these birds are white peds. Those birds are prone to eyesight problems, especially cataracts. This happens most often in whites from fawn ancestry.

Identifying

Both Albino varieties are recessive, which means that in order for the albinism to be visually expressed, a bird must get the gene from both parents. If you have a solid white Society with dark eyes, it's not an Albino. Solid whites from Fawn ancestry may have red eyes, like an albino, but the red is not as bright.

If you're not sure if your Society Finch is a white with red eyes or a true albino, the best way is to test breed. If you have

a red-eyed white bird, breed it to a heavily marked white pied fawn. If any of the babies are white with red eyes, your bird is not a true Albino. The babies would be split, so none should be white with red eyes. If you have more than one of these white red-eyed birds, another test to try is breeding them to each other. If the birds are true albinos all the babies will be albino. In whites from peds you will get mostly white and a few heavy marked white pied.

Pairing

The best mates for Albinos are large birds of good type. Birds with good feathers are strongly suggested, especially on the face and wings. When you have a white bird with thin feathers it's easy to see the skin, particularly in the ear area and the bend of the wing. Good feathers are a must when breeding Albinos. Some



Clutch of three normal and one albino chick.

report that if you use darker colors, your white will not be as clean. Therefore it is suggested that you pair albinos to lighter birds to prevent any smudges.

Chick Rejection

When the chick looks different, some birds may reject it. This is more common in the Inos because of the lack of pigment in the eyes, beak and mouth markings. I have experienced a little favoritism of normal looking chicks, but only when the Ino chick is outnumbered. I had a nest with three albinos and one normal and everything was fine. In the next clutch the tables turned; there were three normal colored chicks and one Albino. So far, they are doing a good job. I think that is because the first clutch made them more accepting. If you experience favoritism to the darker chicks, I suggest moving the normals to another nest. This may help the pair be more experienced and accepting of the lighter young. It will help in future clutches. It also helps when your pair is older and better fit for parenting.

I hope my article helps anyone interested. Thank you to everyone who has helped me. Through the years, I hope to gain even more experience with these lovely birds. I have been keeping these particular finches for about four years, and I hope to keep some for the rest of my life. I'm a novice at this. I attended my first show in October. It was a great experience. Everyone was really nice and helpful. The judge was extra nice and explained everything. I was lucky enough to get some ribbons.

The Origins of the Albino Society in the United States

In December of 1998, Michael Marcotrigiano, supported by financial backing from Garrie Landry and friends,

traveled to Japan. They imported several types of society finches, including the Japanese "frills" (Bonten, Chiyo-da, Chuunagon, and Dainagon), the "Pearl," and "European" colored (albino, ino, gray, etc.) societies that were in Japanese breeding programs for many years. This included true albinos, grays, red grays, and inos. These were known to be the first True Albinos in the U.S.

Michael commented, "It is nice to see someone like Ivan is continuing to work with these birds. I'm still not sure most finch aviculturists understand white societies. There are only two types. One is autosomal recessive, originating in Europe, but our imports were from Japan, many generations from European birds brought into Japan."

According to Michael, the black eyed white are actually "super pied". Breeding them relies upon chance since you often get some pigmented areas on the head. Pied is some type of dominant trait in societies, but it is definitely conditioned by other genes, so that "marked white" are more pied than "mottled white", sometimes even in the same clutch.

Michael Moarcotrigiano successfully exhibited birds in NFSS for many years on the East Coast. He is now exclusively involved in raising beautiful strains of guppies.

You can read about Michael's importation experience, "Societies, Finches from Tokyo", on the NFSS website.

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AVIARY CONSTRUCTION and Management

by *Roland Cristo*

When the bird “bug” bites you and you decide to start raising birds, you will need a place to raise your birds other than the kitchen or living room

My suggestion is to start with a “bird room”. The reason for doing this is that one can start out on a small scale and see how much they “really enjoy” the avocation of aviculture. If you start in this way and decide you want an aviary (inside or out) you will always have the bird room for future use. If a bird in the aviary becomes sick or is incompatible you have a place to bring it to, to observe it and possibly treat it with heat and medications. You have a place to store feed, materials, and utensils and to prep and mix feeds for your birds.

The bird room can be as small as a laundry room, back porch, or a garage. In these instances the structures are already built and only need to be altered to accommodate the birds and make caring for them as simple as possible.

Aviary Construction

I will talk mostly about outside walk-in aviaries, for the purposes of breeding birds.

Things to Consider

What Species of Birds You Wish to Keep

Most people in the last 20 years or so start out with a parrot type bird. Consider your lust for birds may lead you in the direction of the other species, such as finches or softbills.

With this in mind construct your aviary so

it can be altered to accept other species. The alteration primarily concerns the size and gauge of wire used to accommodate the species safely.

Aviary location

Talking to different aviculturists, you will hear them say face your aviary North, South, or East and some say West. The most important thing to consider is to face the aviary away from the prevailing weather (storms, winds) and away from the hot afternoon sun. Even these situations can be remedied. For example, facing South, design the overhang on the roof so that when the sun is high in the summer, it doesn't shine on the front under cover section of the aviary. Yet when the sun lowers in the winter it hits that area and helps heat the under-cover section

For aviaries facing West and facing the prevailing weather, one can plant a hedge or other plant barrier out in front of the aviary 10-15 feet away to block the wind and shade the aviary. You could also build 8' to 10' high panels of shade cloth and put them up in front or over the aviary for the same purpose.

Size

The aviary should have flights at least 6' long and 2' wide by 6' high coming off a safety aisle way. The safety aisle way should be a minimum of 4' wide so that you can get a wheelbarrow or garden cart in and out for cleaning, etc. The safety aisle way is where you will feed the birds from and maintain the flight areas.

If a bird gets out of it's flight, it is still in the safety aisle way and can be caught and returned to its flight. It can't be stressed enough how important the safety aisle way is for the protection of your charges.

The number of flights and size of the structure will be determined by the area where you want to place the aviary, although I'm still finding more space and adding on.

Building the Aviary

The Beginning

First you need to draw up a sketch of a floor plan of what you think you want. The best way to decide the location of your aviary is to go into your yard and measure out the floor plan from your drawing on to the ground. Put a wooden stake at each corner and lay out the flights and aisle way with builder's lime. By doing this you will get a visual of what it will look like. You can actually walk the aisle way and flights to get a vague idea of the room you will have. Always keep in mind you may want more flights, so make your plan so you can expand it.

Once the location has been determined, we need to make the decision as to whether to have a concrete slab with stem walls for the entire bottom of the aviary or a foundation with the aisle way alone being concrete and the flights being gravel or soil. The concrete slab with stem walls is the most expensive and hardest to build. It is more difficult to build because it needs to be sloped to drain any rain or water from sprinklers and wash water away from the aisle way.

I prefer the foundation with only the aisle way being concrete (I will elaborate on this). Using this design, foundation walls should extend a minimum depth of 18" into the ground and preferably 24". This

should keep vermin from digging under the wall and into the aviary.

These are the steps I recommend:

1. Draw up a final floor plan and section view of the aviary with dimensions (always thinking about expansion possibilities).
2. Make a list of materials needed for construction.
3. Lay out aviary on the ground. (again, verify dimensions)
4. Dig foundation trenches to proper depth and form the above ground portion at least 6" above what will be the final ground level.
5. Put any block outs in the foundation that are needed to bring in electrical and water for drinking water and misting the birds. The block outs are usually just pieces of styrofoam put in the foundation at the locations you will bring your water, electricity and drains through. Concrete flows around them.
6. Pour the concrete and let set.
7. After the forms are removed and before anything else is done, remove block outs and install sleeves made of PVC pipe, a size large enough to pass the working piping through. Mortar the voids around these sleeves with a sand/cement grout.
8. Install the conduits that are needed for electricity. Lay out the watering system in each flight for the birds' drinking water and assemble a stub out for the mister system.
9. Between the sleeve and working

conduit, stuff stainless steel scrub pads on both sides, to prohibit places for vermin to hide.

10. Stub the electrical out to the aisle way and, if possible; install a drain for the flights to drain excess water from the outside flight area when it rains hard.

When this is done, you can fill the outside and inside flight areas with whichever material you want. I chose a -3/8' sand material for the undercover section and a +1/4" to -3/8" for the outside flight area.

Putting it Together

Measure length wise on the foundation and lay out the flight dividers on the concrete, marking where each divider wall is to be secured to the concrete foundations middle foundation and front of the aisle way.

In our case we chose to use as little wood as possible due to deterioration problems. This particular aviary is 37.5 feet long, has a 6' wide aisle way, with flights coming off it that are 30" wide and 10' long. (6' outside and 4' undercover)

We built the inside divider framework (undercover section) out of 1" X 1" galvanized steel square tubing welded together. The panels are 4' wide and 7 1/2' tall using 3 verticals and 2 horizontals. These are bolted to the concrete aisle way and dividers wall at the outside flight. Sheets of plywood, 4' X 8' X 3/4", are used for the ceiling of the flight under cover area. It is screwed to the top of the steel dividers with self-tapping screws at the proper distances. We installed a 2" X 4" the length of the aviary, at the front and aisle on the top edge of the ceiling ply. The top front of the covered section and back aisle way are 19.5" X 8' X 3/4" exterior plywood starting at one end of the aviary.

The divider panels are plumbed and the 3/4" ply for the front and aisle way is put flush with the top of 2" X 4" on top of the flight ceiling and screwed to the 2" X 4" and the metal divider panels. When the front and aisle way 19.5" ply are screwed into place they act as shear panels to keep the dividers from moving. The back wall of the aisle way (structure) is essentially a 10' high wall with 2" X 4" studs at 16" centers. The roof is supported by the 2" X 4" along the front of the divider sections and the back wall.

This aviary is facing south so the roof over hangs the front of the under cover divider section in such a way that in mid-summer it shades the front of the under cover section, helping to keep it cool. Since the sun is lower in the sky in the winter, rays shine on this area helping to heat the undercover sections.

Along the front (lower part of the roof) and the back wall (high point of the roof) we installed 4" X 14" roof vents between the rafters in every third opening. This was done to keep the air circulating between the flight ceilings and roof, helping to cool the building in the summer time.

Next, the materials used between the flights on the undercover section are FRP¹ panels. These are the panels you see in commercial bathrooms. It is a PVC type material and can be washed with a power washer and never has to be painted. The panels are 4' X 8' and fit perfectly on the 1" X 1" metal framework that the dividers are made of. They were screwed into the metal framework using self-tapping screws and go into substrata of undercover sections of aviary.

Outside Flight Area

We used 1/2" X 3" 10 gauge galvanized after weld wire³ from England. All the

dividers were cut to size and attached to the metal uprights at the front of the undercover dividers. Heavy twine and 1" X 4" lumber were used to keep the fronts of these dividers from falling over. Once the dividers were in place, the front wire, in this case a 37.5' long piece was installed.

The roll of wire was set on supports and the end attached to the first wire divider. Then it was rolled out (it is standing vertical) to the next wire divider and attached. This was repeated for each section until the entire front was attached. Only enough clips were used to keep the wire from falling, two at the top, and one at the bottom.

We went back and made sure all the wire dividers were at the proper spacing and completed clipping the front on. We put a clip every 6".

Next the top wire was put on top of the wire dividers. It is attached with clips to the dividers and the front wire, and is secured to the front undercover 19.5" plywood with screws. When this was completed there wasn't any side-to-side movement of these outside flight sections. The best thing about this is there is no up keep of any wood supports, because there aren't any.

We attached a wide strip of 1/4" X 1/4" wire to the bottom of the front of the wire part of the aviary. An angled piece of sheet metal was attached to the top of the 1/4" X 1/4" wire. Both act as a barrier to mice and rats that may climb the wire. The sheet metal and wire are attached with pop rivets and washers.

Management

Webster's definition of "management" is the act, or manner of managing, or

handling, controlling, directing".

When "managing" or providing care, the easier it is to do the better care the care is given.

Below are some time-saving management techniques we use to maintain our birds.

1. Have at minimum, 2 sets of feed and water dishes, preferably more. When feeding in the morning, fill a dish with fresh food, place it in the cage/flight and remove the dirty dish for washing and disinfecting later in the day when one comes home from work. This is a must for birds like lorries, softbills and any birds getting soaked or sprouted diet. We purchase a lot of our dishes from "Good Will" or "Dollar" stores. We use glass or ceramic dishes and soak them in a Clorox solution sanitizing them before we use them again. The stainless steel metal bowls available, are not pure so the clorox solution corrodes the metal leaving small pinholes.
2. All the water dishes in the walk in flights have faucets dripping into them.
3. All our entrance doors to aviaries are spring loaded to close on their own. They have handles, but no normal doorknob assembly. When going from one building to the next it is a simple matter of either pushing or pulling open a door and allowing it to close automatically. We do not have to grab a knob and turn it. This makes it easier when we are carrying anything. The entrance doors to each building have a dead bolt lock. The dead bolt locks on all the

buildings are keyed alike and on both sides. Only one key is needed for all the buildings. The doors to the walk in flights have feed trays attached at the 5' level. These trays are serviced by opening a sliding piece of plexiglass on the door.

4. Most of the small cages have doors that hinge from the top and latch at the bottom. There is another door on the inside of the cage that is hinged at the top. When servicing the cage, one opens the outer door, pushes the inner door in and up, sets the fresh dish in and removes the soiled one. If one forgets to latch the outer door, there is little chance the birds will get out. This has worked on all birds with the exception of a Caique. She watches and if the outer door isn't latched, she pulls up the inner door, pushes open the outer door and is out in a flash. An aviculturist friend who raises finches uses a fishing weight at the bottom of the outside door to keep it closed. It works great for finches.
5. We keep covered buckets of seed and dry softbill mix in each aviary and feed during the week from this. We don't have to haul a bucket through each aviary unless we are refilling the empty bucket.

Misters

We have a mister system over the outside flights in the walk-in aviary. The plumbing to these misters is black PVC electrical conduit. Black PVC doesn't allow light to permeate the pipe and grow algae inside and clog the misters. We found algae will grow in white pipe.

The system on the main aviary is controlled by an Intermatic electric timer

that has 96 settings in a 24-hour period. That lets us turn the water on or off every 15 minutes if we wish. A thermostat between the timer and valve turns the water on. We can set the thermostat to come on at say 70 degrees. When the temperature reaches 70 degrees and the timer is set to go on, the valve is opened. If the temperature is 70 degrees and the timer is off, the water valve will not open. One overrides the other. In the summer time, we are assured the misters will not come on in the middle of the night, with this system.

A "Y" filter with a 100 mesh is attached prior to the electric valve that opens the water. This keeps small particles from clogging up the mister orifices.

The water is piped up to the top of the outside flights with PVC pipe. We use a ½" tee with a screw in base for the mister. The misters(3) simply push into the base and will stay on, even at 50 psi.

Battery Operated Timer for Misters

A battery operated garden timer can be installed instead of electricity, to turn the misters on and off. We use an older Rain Bird model WTD1900. They are powered with two (2) AA batteries and can be set to come on and off four (4) times in a 24 hour period. The battery will usually last about 6 months. The timers are made to screw onto an outside faucet and attach a hose to. By using double screw on adapters on both inlet and outlet, they can be installed to PVC piping a "Y" filter is used prior to the timer.

Vermin

We use wind up traps that automatically reset and can catch several mice at one setting. There are several different

types being manufactured. We use three different plastic traps; the Catch-All, Tincat, and the Tomcat (sold at Lowes Building Materials). We put a dab of peanut butter in the box trap to attract the mice. We don't use poison bait within the aviary. We use commercial bait boxes on the outside of the aviary for rats. These need to be checked on a weekly basis and the bait used needs to be changed periodically.

It is recommended that the perimeter of the aviary have at minimum, a gravel walk way. The gravel walkway allows you to walk the perimeter and look for signs of rats or other vermin trying to dig in at the base of the aviary.

One must also check the upper parts of the structure itself, as rats will chew through aviary netting and wood that may be partially decayed or soft. Rats run the perimeter walls looking for weak places, places where wood pieces may butt together and have a slight amount of air movement. They will start chewing in these areas until they gain entrance or are stopped.

When we find what appears to be a rat hole in the ground anywhere around the perimeter of the aviary, we put a garden hose into it that is attached to the exhaust pipe of a small gasoline engine (lawn mower). Two-cycle oil is added to the gasoline, so we can visually see the exhaust fumes. We look for exit holes and cover it with a piece of wire. The exhaust either kills them in their burrow or they come out very slowly and can be hit on the head.

Night Lights

Every bird room and especially aviary should have a "night-light". If the birds get scared off their roost at night by

lightening, thunder or vermin, they can see where they are flying and not kill themselves flying into a wall or wire.

Our system is wired to an electronic eye attached to the outside of the aviary. When the light of the day dims to sunset the night-lights come on. We use low watt fluorescent bulbs that put out a higher lumen than the wattage the bulb is rated for.

Hanging Cages

We hang our small cages from the building walls. We use an "L" hook to hang the cages. The cages are positioned away from the wall by using a PVC spacer. Parrot type birds will not be able to chew on the wall material. Also most of what is thrown out of the cage falls to the ground.

Hanging Nests

We also use smaller "L" hooks screwed unto the nest box. They are left out about ¼" and we hang our boxes on the outside or outside of the cages this way.

Alternative Hanging Method

We also use a strip of wood of varied lengths as needed, approximately 1' X 2" with the edge cut at an angle to hang multiple nest boxes. The strip is attached to the flight wall with the edge facing out. A similar shorter piece is attached to the backside of the nest box or basket. We can easily rest the nest box securely on the strip. A relative uses clean half-gallon milk cartons and discards them after they are used. This seems to work well for finches and smaller softbills.

First Aid

A First Aid Kit is a must. One should speak with their vet and ask what they

should have on hand for fist aid. Our first aid kit has:

Nail clippers
Kwik Stop
Saline solution
Antibiotic Ointment
Scissors
Gauze
Syringes
and bandages

Flagging

We attach flags to cages and flight doors for identification. The flags are colored plastic plant stakes and cow ear tags.

For example:

Red plant stake flag signifies the birds are on eggs. Yellow flag means the birds have babies and need special feed or feed more than once per day. We use colored plastic cow ear tags attached to the flight and to feed buckets to make it easier to feed the birds the type of food they eat.

Special Equipment

We purchased a commercial coffee grinder like you see in a grocery store. It is used to grind pellets to be fed to the smaller birds. You can even make hand-feeding formula by using the fine grind.

We purchased a food processor with a "pulse" button. This allows us to "chop" quantities of fruit quickly. The pulse button gives us more control over the size. This is also used for making egg food.

Quarantine

One should have an area away from all the other birds that the can be used to quarantine new arrivals. Birds should

be quarantined for at least 60 days prior to introducing them into the aviary population. Proper sanitary procedures should be taken. For a more defined description of proper sanitary procedures, please refer to the MAP (Model Aviculture Program) site at <http://www.modelaviculture.org/>.

In conclusion, while the initial preparation is time consuming, the final product will be easier and more efficient.

Addendum

- ¹ FRP panels can be found at most any building supply.
 - ² Galvanized after welded wire is obtainable from West Coast Wire & Steel, LLC, 1027 Palmyrita Ave., Riverside, CA. 92507-7252, (909) 683-7252.
 - ³ The misters we use are from Point Source Irrigation, 2550 S. East Ave, Suite 120, Fresno, CA 93706, www.pointsourceirrigation.com. Sources for other types of misters are Agrifim, 337 W. Bedford, Fresno, CA 93711, www.agrifimusa.com.
-



Picture showing underground drain line for outside flights. It is set in and covered with filter fabric. The fabric is used to keep the finer pieces of gravel from getting into the pipe.



Picture showing the water main line with the services coming up at each flight. This area gets covered with gravel to within 2 of the top of the foundations.



Picture showing the incoming water, a master shut off valve by the foundation and the battery operated timer for the mister system which is stubbed up on the right side of the picture.



Picture showing the steel frame work that supports the structure.



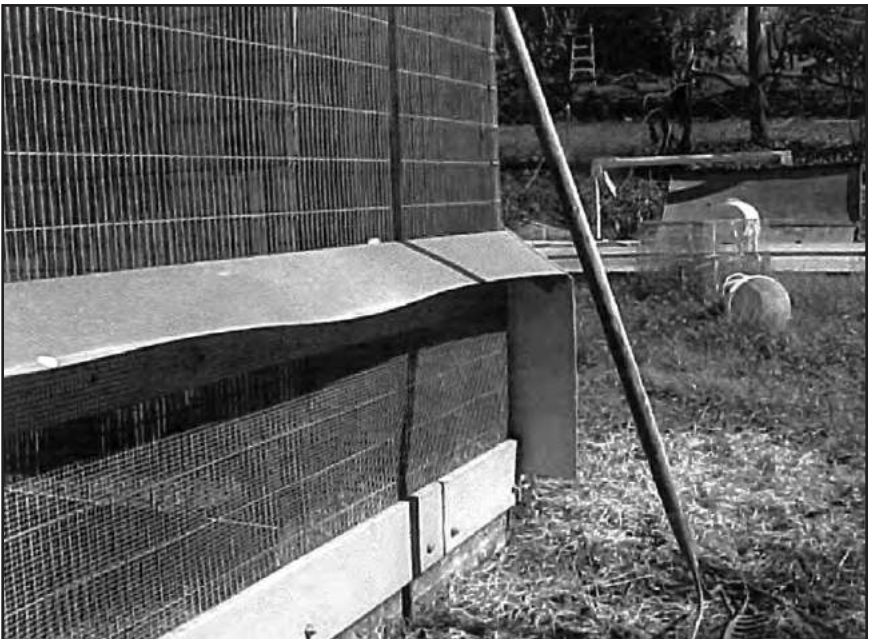
Picture showing steel frame work supporting the ceiling of the flights and above that, the roof.



The FRP panels installed on the flight dividers.



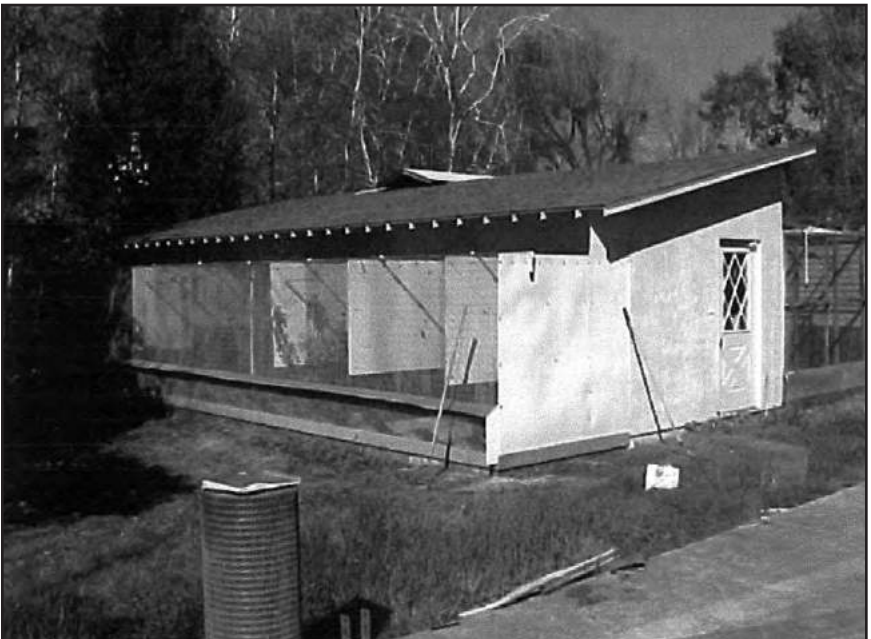
Picture taken in mid-summer showing how the overhang on the roof shades the front undercover section of the aviary so it doesn't heat up as much. In the winter, when the sun is lower in the sky, the sun shines into this area. The aviary is facing south.



Picture showing 1/4" X 1/4" wire with flashing so rats or mice can't climb to the top of the aviary.



Picture taken from one end of the aisle way.



The completed aviary.



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Size B (2.34mm): Black-cheeked Waxbill, Cordon Bleu, Cuban Melodious Finch, Fire Finch, Olive Finch, Rufus-backed Mannikin, Timor Zebra.

Size C (2.55mm): Violet Eared & Blue Capped Waxbills, Cherry Finch, Bronze-winged Mannikin, Green/Gray Singing Finch, Pytilas, Red-headed and Forbes Parrot Finch, Silverbills, Star Finch, Red Siskin, Society, Cutthroat Finch.

Size D (2.73mm): Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Gouldian Finch Chestnut-breasted & most Manikins, most Parrot Finches, Pintailed Nonpareil, most Twinspots, American Zebra Finch, Peales Parrot Finch.

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Alabama

Central Alabama Aviculture Society, Montgomery: President Ted Sexton, 1967 Ragan Chapel Road, Ohatchee, Alabama, 36271. 256-892-3072. Email: tedsexton@bellsouth.net. Meets second Sunday at the Montgomery Zoo, Montgomery Educational Department, Montgomery, AL, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM; EVENTS: Bird Show: The organization's claim to fame is the bird fair and shows produced each year on Labor Day weekend. www.caasociety.com

California

The Apicultural Society of America: Steve Duncan, PO Box 3161, San Dimas, CA 91773. The oldest aviculture society in the US. Founded in 1927. www.asabirds.org/home.html

Central California Cage Bird Club, Modesto: Jann Place, 1238 St., Newman, CA 65360. 209-862-3792. Meetings every third Sunday of month at Mancini Hall, 718 Tuolumne Blvd., Mancini Hall Modesto, Stanislaus, CA 95351. EVENTS: Bird Show/Mart Oct 27, 2012, SOS Club, 819 Sunset Blvd, Modesto, CA 9 AM to 4PM. Judges listed on www.mycCBC.org

Finch Society of San Diego: Sally Huntington, 5634 Carnegie St., San Diego, CA 92122. 858-452-9423. Email: sdfinchsociety@gmail.com. Meetings 4th Sunday of the month, 2-4 PM, Poway Elks Club, 13219 Poway Road, Poway CA 92064 on 1/22, 2/26, 3/25, 4/22, 5/27, 6/24, 7/22, 8/26, 9/23, 8/28, 10/28, 12/2. EVENTS: March Madness ~ Bird Mart and Special Auction 3-25-12, Annual Birthday Event: Club Anniversary ~ Famous Bird Raffle Lunch and Social Hour. Members Only. 9-23-12. Holiday Bird Mart and Craft Fair ~ 12-2-12. www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com

Santa Clara Bird Club: Cecile Aguilera, PO Box 3466, Santa Clara, 95055. 408-716-7776. Email: showinfo@santaclarabirdclub.org. Meetings Sundays at noon. www.santaclarabirdclub.org

West Coast Zebra & Society Finch Show, Sacramento: Richard Renshaw, 247 Grandridge Ct., Ventura, CA 93003. 805-644-4156. Email: rrenshaw@yahoo.com. No club meetings. One show committee meeting in July. EVENTS: Annual West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show, July 28, La Quinta Inn Downtown Sacramento. 200 Jibboom St. www.efinch.com/show.

Florida

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami: Nora Trincado, PO Box 441261 Miami, FL 33144-1261. 305-720-4798. Email: threefox21@aol.com, or Armondo Lee, 2825 SW 36 Terrace Cape, FL. 239-462-2998. Email: ALEE21@comcast.net. www.colorbredcanaryclubofmiami.com

Suncoast Canary & Finch Club, Port Charlotte: Alexander Villarreal, 1419 Collinswood Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL. Email: vetagator@yahoo.com. Meetings 7PM Wednesdays. EVENTS: 2nd Annual Suncoast Canary and Finch Show, October 13, 2012, Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorden, FL 33950. Information for event: 941-661-1115. www.community-2.webtv.net/suncoastcanaryclub2010/SUNCOASTCANARYCLUB/

Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club, Stuart: Tim McCormick, 1425 SE Appomattox Terrace, Port. Meetings 4th Sunday of the month, 1:00 PM at 4950 Anchor Ave, Port Salerno Civic Center Stuart, Martin, FL. www.tcoxoticbirdclub.com

Tri-State Avian Society, Tallahassee: Barry Laster, 10508 Lake Lamonía Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32312. 850-364-4666. Email: barryL7523@comcast.net. Quarterly meetings held, 4738 Thomasville Rd, Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Comm. Church Tallahassee, Leon, FL, USA. EVENTS: Spring Bird Fair 5/19/12, North Florida Fairgrounds. www.tristateaviansociety.org

Illinois

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Chicago: Robert Wild, 305 Grosvenor Ct., Bolingbrook, IL 60440. 630-980-4416. Email: wild@comcast.net. Secretary Contact: secretary@gccbc.org. Meetings 3rd Friday of the month, except Nov.& Dec., at 15W 354 Lexington, Yorkfield Civic Center Elmhurst, DuPage, IL, USA 60126. EVENTS: The Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club Show, (Region 3 Regional Show) Nov 3rd, Weitendorf Agricultural Center, 17840 Laraway Rd., Joliet, IL 60433. www.gccbc.org.

Heart of Illinois Bird Club, Peoria Metro Area (Pekin): Jody Lewis. Email: balu716@yahoo.com. 309-645-7773. Meetings are held every third Sunday, 2PM (unless holiday), at 3401 Griffin, Avanti's Dome Pekin, IL 61554. EVENTS: Bird Show & Fair, June 2. Avanti's Dome, 3401 Griffin Ave, Pekin IL 61554, (NFSS: 2 shows, NCS: 2 shows/Regional, NAPS: 2 shows/Regional; SPBE: 2 shows, ACS: 2 shows, ACS & ABS, Pet Division. www.hoibirdclub.org

National Institute of Red Orange Canaries, (NIROC) Westchester: President Joaquin Torres. 312-259-2779. Email: jttores@sbcglobal.net. Joel Wojotowicz. 708-352-9319. Email: cwojto8877@aol.com. Meetings 4th Friday of the month, 7:00PM at 1101 Manchester Av Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Westchester, IL 60154. No meetings in August or November. Event / Show Contact: Donald Perez, 630-664-4649. Email: birdmanofillinois@msn.com. www.niroc.org

Finch & Soffbill Breeders & Exhibitors Club, Chicago: President Bob Peers, 525 W. 61st St. Apt D, Westmont, Illinois 60559 630. 630-740-7389. Email: r.peers@comcast.net. Delegate to NFSS: Gail Benson, 44 N Clyde Ave, Palatine, Illinois 60067-0912 Email: gailsgouldians@comcast.net. Meetings 2nd Thursday each Month.

Iowa

Mid America Cage Bird Society, Des Moines: President John Thielking, 8209 Twana Drive, Urbandale, Iowa 50322-1522. 239-851-8132. Email: Thielking@lowalink.com Meeting Dates and Times: 4th Sunday of the month, 2-5:00PM at 909 Robert D Ray Drive, Des Moines Botanical Center Des Moines, Polk, IA, 50316 EVENTS: Bird Fairs March 27th, June 5th, August 28, Des Moines Botanical Center. www.MACBS.org

Maryland

Maryland All Canary Club, Baltimore: Richard Dought, 4513 Salem Bottom Rd, Westminster, MA

21157-7939. 410-875-9417. Email: rmdrought@yahoo.com. Delegate to NFSS: Jonathan Smith, 1849 Westwind Way, Virginia 22102-1611. Quarterly Meetings, held at 2:00 PM (Check website) at 8112 Bon Air Rd Baltimore, MD, USA 21234. www.mdallcanary.org

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Baltimore: Christine Roberts, 11 Prettyboy Garth, Parkton, Maryland, 21120. 410-343-1807. Email: compteacher@yahoo.com. Delegate to NFSS: Ray Reter, 10310-L Malcolm Circle, Cockeysville, MD 21030. Email: info@baltimorebirdfanciers.org. Club meets 3rd Sunday of month, at 2:00PM, Towson Library, 320 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21204-5179. EVENTS: Baltimore Bird Fanciers Show and Mart October 20, 2012. Tall Cedars Hall, 250 Putty Hill Ave, Baltimore 21234. Show contact: Christine Roberts. 410-343-1807. compteacher@yahoo.com. www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org.

Michigan

Society of Canary & Finch Breeders of Michigan, Livonia: Jim Heffernan, 780 Fairwood Street, Inkster, Michigan, 48141. 313-247-5900. Email: tielnmore@aol.com. Meetings 3rd Saturday of the month. Meeting location varies, please call. EVENTS: Events are held at the Livonia Elks Lodge, 2246 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150. www.societyofcanaryandfinchbreedersofmichigan.com

Missouri

Gateway Parrot Club, Kirkwood: Christine A. Kinkade, 2412 Angela Drive, High Ridge, Missouri 63049. 636-343-8097. Email: President@GatewayParrotClub.org. Meetings 2:00 PM every 3rd Sunday of the month, except; June 10, Sept 19, & Dec 9th (second Sunday) and Aug (no meeting), 111 South Geyer Road, Kirkwood Community Center Kirkwood, St Louis, MO 63122. EVENTS: All American Hookbill Fair and Seminar Machinist Hall Dist. 9 Bldg, 12365 St Charles Rock Rd, Bridgeton, MO. 63044. Sat & Sun August 25-26, 2012. Open at 10AM both days. Scheduled Speakers: Michael Dalton - Beyond. Polly Wants a Cracker. Show Contact: Christine Kinkade. 636-343-8097. Email: boardmember2@gatewayparrotclub.org www.gatewayparrotclub.org

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society, Grandview: Clay Behrman, 3523 NE 49th St., Kansas City, MO 64119. 816-217-7263. Email: birdman79@live.com. Delegate to NFSS: Anthony Day, 1608 S Crane, Missouri 64055. 816-252-1120. Email: dayforthebirds@aol.com. Meeting Dates and Times: 2nd Sunday of each month, 13000 Bennington, Coronation of Our Lady Church, Grandview, MO 64030. EVENTS: Fair & Bazaar, Budgie Show. Saturday, May 12th, 10AM- 4:00PM. Hilton Garden Inn, 19677 E Jackson Dr, Independence 64055. \$5.00 (10 & under FREE). JULY 18 ~ Springfield: Mo-Kan Cage Bird Club Summer Bird Fair. Executive Center, 910 W. Battlefield. 9AM-3PM \$4 Under 6 free. Contact Ramona 620-8565 5108 or Brian 417-619-2216. AUGUST 21 ~ Summer Bird Fair GKCAS: Hilton Garden, 19677 E. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO, 10AM—5PM. JULY 31 ~ Independence, MO, Pet Bird Club's Annual Bird Fair: The Sermon Center. 10AM - 4PM \$5. Contact: Leisa, 816-806-7313. AUGUST 22 ~ Mid America Cage Bird Society Feather Fair: Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 10:00AM—4:00PM. Contact Lisa 515-276-3805: www.gkcas.org

New Hampshire

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society, Manchester: Ray Schwartz, 603-362-6106. Email: President@BOAF.com, Contact: member.support@BOAF.com. EVENTS: Spring Mart & Expo: April 17. Fall Show & Mart: Sept. 15 Location: All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Road, All Dogs Gym Manchester, Hillsborough, NH. 603-669-4644. www.boaf.com/birdshow.htm

New York

Kings County Canary Club, Brooklyn: Kathleen Guise Schaefer, 5 Frank Court, Brooklyn, New York 11229. 718-332-3413. Email: canarykate@aol.com, Meetings 3rd Sunday of month at 5 Frank Court, Brooklyn, NY 11229. EVENTS: Annual Show – October 13, 2012, St Jude's Hall, 1696 Canarsie Rd, Brooklyn, NY 11236.

New York Finch & Type Canary Club, New York: Stan Kulak, 17 Pembroke Loop, Staten Island, New York 10309. 718-967-6899. Email: barstand@verizon.net. Meets 2nd Sunday of the month, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, except July & August. EVENTS: Annual Show, 9-29-12, Saint Jude Church, 1677 Canarsie Rd, Brooklyn NY. Entries: 8-10:00 AM, Judging: 10-4:00 PM. Judge: TBA; Feather Show: June 24, 12, Averill Blvd Park, Elmont, NY.

Oregon

Columbia Canary Club, Portland: Linda K Brown 3258 Oakcrest Dr. N.W., Salem, Oregon 97304. 503-266-7606. Email: jeeperspeepers55@aol.com. Meetings 2nd Sunday of the month, Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd Ave, Milwaukie, Clackamas, OR. EVENTS: 42nd Annual Show – Nov 3 & 4, 2012, Info TBD Show Contact: Faye Silverstein, 503-788-3753. Email: diazf47@msn.com. www.columbiancanaryclub.com

Puerto Rico

Asociacion De Criadores de Fines Inc.: Juan Alicea, 12203 Urb. Serenna, Los Prados, Apt. L-302, Caguas, PR 00727. 787-479-7405. Email: jualanicea@yahoo.com. Meetings, Tuesday 7:00 PM, Las Catalina's Mall, Food Court Area. EVENTS: Summer Show, June 1-2, 2012; Judge: Bob Peers. SHOW ENTRIES ARE RECEIVED ON FRIDAY THE 1st FROM 3:00 PM TO 9:00 PM. Winter Show, November 9-10, 2012 Judge: Ken Gunby. Both Shows ~ Ball Room Center Alturas De Villas Del Rey Francia St., Caguas, P.R. Hwy 52, Exit #21. Only the following finch species are allowed for the competition: Zebra, Society, Lady Gouldian, Cuthroat, Cordon Bleu, Green Singer, and Brazilian Crested Cardinal. FREE Entrance. www.facebook.com/pages/Asociacion-de-Criadores-de-Finches/170742106273049

Puerto Rico Zebra Finch Club, Gurabo: Jorge Mojica, Urb Lomas del So, 175 Calle Acuario, Gurabo, PR 00778-8930. 787-550-3163. Email: puchosbirds@yahoo.com. Delegate to NFSS: Alejandro Santana, Villa Carolina c/82 bldg 108-29, Carolina, PR00985. 787-309-0964. Email: alexdeskjet_2012@hotmail.com. Meetings: Wed., Caquas in Plaza Centro Mall Caguas, Caguas, Puerto Rico. www.przfc.com

Rhode Island

Northeast Bird Group, Scituate: Donna Rosciti, PO Box 50, N. Scituate, RI 02857. 401-641-0994. Email: donna@rosciti.com. EVENTS: Annual Bird Mart and Educational Series June 23, 2012, Comfort Inn, 2 George St., Pawtuck, RI. www.northeastbrdgroup.com

Tennessee

Heart of Tennessee Aviculture Society, Murfreesboro: Lisa Murphy, 918 Georgia Ave, Etowah, TN 37331. 423-263-0483. Email: wlmurphy@usit.net. Meetings, 6:00 PM Every 4th Friday, 1954 S. Church St. Murfreesboro, TN. 37130. EVENTS: Fall Show and Fair, Sept 8, 2012, Middle Tennessee State University, 1720 Greenland Dr. Murfreesboro, TN 37130, Judge: TBA. Show Contact: Wilma Crawford, 615-396-8440. Email: tnmla2@comcast.net www.heartofnaviculturesociety.com

Fort Worth Bird Club, Fort Worth: Meets at 2:00 PM, the second Sunday of each month at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, 3220 University Drive, north of Interstate-30 in Fort Worth. EVENTS: Annual All Bird Show Oct. 6, 2012, 9AM - 4PM, Azle Community Center 404 W. Main St, Azle, TX 76020-2906. Show Contact: Jerry Cason, 817-237-5867. Email: jerrycason@mindspring.com www.fwbc.org

Texas

Texas Bird Breeders & Fanciers Association, Arlington: Clarence Culwell, 4211 Kelly Elliott Rd., Arlington, TX 76016-4607. 817-220-5568. Email: coculwell@verizon.net. EVENTS: Saturday November 3, 2012, Mayborn Convention Center Temple, Texas Open to the Public at 9AM. Show Judging beginning at 10 AM. Show Contact: Clarence Culwell, 817-220-5568. Email: tbbfa@texasbirdbreeders.org. www.texasbirdbreeders.org

Virginia

Peninsula Caged Bird Society, Newport News: Deb Wilson, 709 Paul St., Newport News, VA 23605. Email: dvwilson789@aol.com Delegate to NFSS: Peggy Duvall, 212 E 39th St., Norfolk, VA 23504. 757-623-4786. Email: finchbreeder@earthlink.net. Meetings 3rd Sunday of Month, 2:30-5PM, 12742 Nettles Dr, Columbian Center Newport News, VA, USA 23606. www.vapcbs.com

Washington

Cascade Canary Breeders Association, Issagna: Brian Johansson 208 155th PL SE Mill Creek, Washington, 98012. 425-743-5025. Email: coleenandersen@gmail.com. Meetings 3rd Sunday of each month, except on holiday, 1PM, 145 NE Gilmon Blvd Issagna, Washington 95027. EVENTS: 44th Annual Canary Finch Show, October 20 & 21, 2012. Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Ave., SE,

Monroe, WA. Show Contact: Brian Johansson, 604-465-8047. Email brian.johansson@canadapost.ca
www.cascadecanary.com.

Wisconsin

Central Wisconsin Cage & Wild Bird Connection, Monthly meetings-usually members homes EVENTS:
Annual Bird & Garden Fair held in May in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Contact: Marlene Minor, mminor@tds.net
715-884-2659

Regional/National

American Dove Association, Frederick, Maryland: President James Kell www.doveline.com

The Avicultural Society of America: Steve Duncan, PO Box 3161, San Dimas, CA 91773. The oldest aviculture society in the US. Founded in 1927 www.asabirds.org/home.html

National Institute of Red Orange Canaries (NIROC), Westchester: President Joaquin Torres. 312-259-2779. Email: jtores@sbcglobal.net. Joel Wojotowicz. 708-352-9319. Email: cwojto8877@aol.com. Meetings 4th Friday of the month, 7:00PM at 1101 Manchester Av Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Westchester, IL 60154. No meetings in August or November. Event / Show Contact: Donald Perez, 630-664-4649. Email: birdmanofillinois@msn.com. www.niroc.org

West Coast Zebra & Society Finch Show, Sacramento: Richard Renshaw, 247 Grandridge Ct., Ventura, CA 93003. 805-644-4156. Email: rrenshaw@yahoo.com. No club meetings. One show committee meeting in July. EVENTS: Annual West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show, July 28, La Quinta Inn Downtown Sacramento. 200 Jibboom St. www.efinch.com/show.

American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. | PO Box 91717 | Austin, TX 78709 | Tel 512-585-9800 | Fax 512-858-7029 | afaoffice@afabirds.org

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

Canada

Durham Aviculture Society of Ontario: P.O. Box 4, Pickering, ON L1V 2R2. Meetings Second Tuesday of each month (no meetings in July or August) Rotary Park Pavilion, South Side of Lake, 151 Driveway West, Ajax, Ontario. (if the entrance is dark, it is across from house #150) Meeting starts at 7:30PM. Events: 33rd Annual Bird Show: Ajax Community Centre Visit website for more information. www.birdclub.ca

Canadian Finch & Soffbill Society, Ontario: Vince Moase, 1078 Roundelay Cr, Oshawam, Ontario L1J 7R7 Canada. 905-723-1978. Email: vmoase@rogers.com

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 519-948-6398, julianne@mnsi.net, www.essexkentcbs.com. Event: Same location as last year, Contact Dave Sylvester, 519 727 3766, d.sylvestri@gmail.com

United Kingdom

The Foreign Bird League, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands: Bryan Reed, 4, St Andrews Drive, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 1PR Tel: 01384 258154 www.foreignbirdleague.com

NFSS Panel of Judges – 2012

4th Vice President - Judges Panel/Standards/Research — Laura Bewley
3538 S. 65 W. Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74107
Contact Laura Bewley at lbewley@yahoo.com

Nizam Ali

135-11 114th Street
South Ozone Pk, NY 11420
Phone: 781-835-8590

Laura Bewley

3538 S. 65 W. Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74107
Phone: 918-446-3999
lbewley@yahoo.com

Alfredo M. Bruguera

174 CR 2317
Mineola, Texas 75773
Phone: 903-569-6979
elmaridodealba@yahoo.com

Clarence Culwell

250 Horseshoe Drive
Springtown, TX 76082
Phone: 817-220-5568
coculwell@verizon.net

Dr. Al Decoteau

P.O. Box 546
Hollis, NH 03049
Phone: (603) 878-3435
spbe1@aol.com

Julie R. Duimstra

618 North Nesmith Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Phone: 605-332-5054
julie.duimstra@gmail.com

Cecil Gunby

8121 Route 1, Hwy. 54
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
Phone/Fax: 770-254-1261
cgunby@bellsouth.net

Kenneth Gunby

3692 Mandarin Woods Dr. N
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Phone: 904-403-3078
gunbybird2@aol.com

Annette Howard

1271 Conser Drive
Salem, OH 44460
Phone: 330-337-7654
howardaj78@yahoo.com

Sally Huntington

5634 Carnegie Street
San Diego, CA 92122
Phone: 858-452-9423
sallych@san.rr.com

Armando Lee

2825 SW 36th Terrace
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Phone 239-242-7675
Fax: 239-471-2800
alee21@comcast.net

Brian Mandarin

4743 E. Hedges Avenue
Fresno, CA 93703
Phone: 559-255-6508

Conrad Meinert

1212 E. 300 South
Warsaw, IN 46580
Phone: 574-269-2873
Birdmanofwarsaw@
embarqmail.com

Vince Moase

1078 Roundelay Court
Oshawa, ON Canada L1J7R7
905-723-1978
vmoase@rogers.com

Bob Peers

535 W. 61st St. Apt. D,
Westmont, IL 60559
Phone/Fax: (630) 740-7389
pastpresident@nfss.org

Marion (Miki) Spartzak

945 Rosedale Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21237
Phone: 410-687-8915
mjs5295@comcast.net

Laura Tinker

31 Grape Hollow Road
Holmes, NY 12531
Phone: 845-855-2662
LKTinker@comcast.net

Christine Voronovitch

38 Liberty Street
Manchester, CT 06040
Phone: 860-649-8220
lbtybeagle@aol.com

Jerri Wiesenfeld

2379 Water Bluff Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32218
Phone: 904-714-2133
jerrisjavas@aol.com

Martha Wigmore

18913 Boston Street NW
Elk River, MN 55330
Phone: 763-241-0071
newdlwig@mindspring.com

Paul S. Williams

101 Linden Drive
Eufaula, AL 36027
Phone: 334-687-1713
pwilliams@eufaula.rr.com

Are You Interested in Becoming an NFSS Judge?
Contact Laura Bewley at 4thVP@nfss.org

THE 2012 NFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & APPOINTED OFFICERS

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San Francisco, CA 94110
president@nfss.org

Past President

Mr. Bob Peers
535 W. 61st St. Apt. D,
Westmont, IL 60559
Phone/Fax: (630) 740-7389
pastpresident@nfss.org

1st Vice President Regional V.P.'s, Education

Mr. Bob Peers
535 W. 61st St. Apt. D,
Westmont, IL 60559
Phone/Fax: (630) 740-7389
1stVP@nfss.org

2nd Vice President, Publications —Journal and Website

Barbara Jaquez
loyaltonjaquez@psln.com
2ndvp@nfss.org

3rd Vice President NFSS Finch/Softbill Save Program/Census Mgr.

Ms. Vonda Zwick
611 Hingham Lane
Schaumburg, IL 60193
3rdvp@nfss.org

4th Vice President - Judges Panel/Standards/Research

Ms. Laura Bewley
(918) 446-3999
lbewley@yahoo.com

Liaison/Awards Director

Jody Lewis
153 Patterson Dr.
East Peoria, IL 61611
309-645-7773
affiliations@nfss.org

Band Secretary

Ms. Paula Hansen
2234 Juneau Court South
Salem, Oregon 97302
bands@nfss.org

President Emeritus

Mr. William Parlee
860-569-0200
presidentemeritus@nfss.org

Region 1 V.P. (Northeast)

Ms. Elaine Ortman
Woodstown, NJ
609-202-7556
region1vp@nfss.org

Region 2 V.P. (Southeast)

Mr. Michael Gravely
mgravely@therefinedgarden.com

Region 3 V.P. (Mid-Central)

Mr. Jason Crean
beaksbirdhouse@aol.com

Region 4 V.P. (Midwest)

Ms. Cheryl Burns
336 S. Pearson Lane
Keller, Texas 76248
Home: 817.337.7492
Cell: 817.455-2016
region4vp@nfss.org

Region 5 V.P. (Mountain)

Ms. Anna Sinclair
719-634-6404
region5vp@nfss.org

Region 6 V.P. (Pacific Coast)

Mr. Doug White
dwhite3511@msn.com

Region 7 V.P. (Caribbean)

Mr. Orlando Rivera
landyor@gmail.com

Region 8 V.P. (Canada)

Mr. Vince Moase
(905) 723-1978
vmoase@rogers.com

Executive Secretary

Ms. Rebecca Mikel
13779 US 12 E
Union, MI 49130
Phone: (269) 641-7209
execsecretary@nfss.org

FinchShop Manager

Ms. Sharon Dvorak
(919) 266-4935
finchshop@nfss.org

Treasurer

Ms. Lisa R. Murphy
918 Georgia Ave.
Etowah, Tennessee 37331
treasurer@nfss.org

Advertising & Promotions Manager

Barbara Jaquez
P.O. Box 492
Loyalton, CA 96118
530.993.1336
advertising@nfss.org

Moderator, NFSS Forums

Mr. John Wilson
jwilson153@aol.com

NFSS Webmaster

Barbara Jaquez
loyaltonjaquez@psln.com

Membership Director

Tiffany Park
850-321-6162
membership@nfss.org

NFSS Journal Editor

John Wilson
1238 Vermont St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
JWilson153@aol.com

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Roland Cristo
legis@nfss.org