

Journal of the

# National Finch and Softbill Society

Vol. 29 No. 5

Sep / Oct 2012



**GREY ZEBRA FINCH**

*TAENIOPYGIA GUTTATA CASTANOTIS*

Photo by Roy Beckham

## NFSS MISSION STATEMENT

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

### JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

918 Georgia Ave. • Etowah, TN 37331

Published Bi-monthly by NFSS

**Submitting Materials for Publication.** Submit all materials to Gertrude A. Noble at [gertanoble@aol.com](mailto:gertanoble@aol.com). Members are encouraged to submit articles and photographs. NFSS reserves the right to edit and/or reject all written, photographic, and advertising materials submitted for publication to the Journal. Deadline for submissions: 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, January, March, May, July, and September for the following issue.

**Editorial Policy.** NFSS-affiliated clubs have permission to reprint all articles and photos, with the following exceptions: articles and photos labeled "All Rights Reserved" require the copyright owner's permission and all "Reprinted by Permission of" articles require written permission from the originating source. Opinions expressed or facts reported in articles and published in the Journal do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editor, NFSS, or the Board of Directors. Advertisements published in the Journal do not imply endorsement by NFSS. NFSS assumes no responsibility for advertisers' claims or the quality of their products and services.

**Journal and NFSS Dues.** New memberships and late renewals (expired memberships) received by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of any month immediately preceding a journal issue will receive six issues, beginning with the issue immediately following the month they joined. For dues received after these cutoff dates, the first issue will be one issue later. Cutoff dates to receive the next published issue are as follows: the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, February, April, June, August, and October.

### NEW PASSWORD TO ACCESS JOURNAL ARCHIVES

[www.nfss.org](http://www.nfss.org), enter *clearwing2012*

### ADVERTISING RATES

#### PLEASE NOTE AD SIZES

<b>Covers</b> (inside and out), 5"x8"	\$90.00/issue; \$450.00/year
<b>Full Page</b> (black and white), 4.5"x8"	\$60.00/issue; \$306.00/year
<b>Half Page</b> (black and white), 4.5"x4"	\$40.00/issue; \$204.00/year
<b>Quarter Page</b> (black and white), 4.5"x2"	\$20.00/issue; \$102.00/year

Barbara Jaquez • [advertising@nfss.org](mailto:advertising@nfss.org) • 530-993-1336

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	4-5
National Avicultural Recognition Award	8-9
Talking Finches, Julie Duimstra	11-12
From the Editor, Baby Talk	13
Zebra Finch	14-15
Forum Tidbits	16
The Morning Ritual, Doug Taylor	19-21
Bands Order Form	23
High Protein Egg Mix, Ron Castaner	25-27
50 Years of Society Finches, Clarence Culwell	29-33
"Webby" Feed Problem	34
Getting Started, Paula Hansen	35-37
NFSS Affiliated Clubs	38-42
NFSS Affiliated Club Events	43-45
Show Awards Price Form	46
NFSS Judges Panel	47
NFSS Board of Directors/Appointed Officers	48

### COVER PHOTO

#### **GREY ZEBRA FINCH**

*TAENIOPYGIA GUTTATA CASTANOTIS*

NFSS wants to thank Roy Beckham for sharing our cover photo of the Grey Zebra Finch he bred.

#### **NFSS IS PROUD TO BE AFFILIATED WITH**

The American Federation of Aviculture • [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org)

The Avicultural Society of America • [www.avabirds.org](http://www.avabirds.org)

The National Animal Interest Alliance • [www.naiaonline.org](http://www.naiaonline.org)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**H**ave you ever seen a Cock-of-the-rock? For a number of years in the late sixties I worked in a pet store in San Bernardino, California, where one was on display. I and certainly many thousands of other people became acquainted with this species in the Inland Pet Center.

I see changes in the playing field of bird-keeping that lead me to wonder if my children's children will have the opportunity to enjoy keeping and breeding birds. I understand that just as I never knew the world my parents grew up in, younger breeders can never know the world where I grew up and the birds I met in my youth.

The Great Hill Mynah on the cover of the Jan/Feb Journal was available in most pet shops in the 1960s. Seeing the picture of a dramatic but not flashy black-and-yellow bird and reading the fine article on their husbandry by Dick Schroeder may not make many of you think, "I'd really like to keep and breed Hill Mynahs." It might raise the question, "What's the attraction?" Quite simply the Hill Mynahs are as close to a perfect mimic as you are likely to find, something that becomes real only when you share space with them.

I sat at dinner at a friend's house about 1970 and kept hearing a familiar sound that I just couldn't place. I asked the host, a pet store owner, what the sound was. The reply, "It's the mynah doing sewing machine." Without experiencing them in person the attraction is largely lost.

Have you seen any of the following in a pet store recently? Masked Grass Finch, Yellow-beaked Shafttail (Heck's), Parson Finch, Owl Finch, or any of the Parrot Finches? I grew up in a world where all of these plus several species of Amazon parrots, Macaws, and many smaller parrot species were regularly available in local pet stores.

Today's youth are likely only to see what the local PetCo carries and if it's like the local PetCo it's Budgies and Cockatiels. If we want to watch another generation pick up and carry on the hobby we must "Show them the birds." If we fail to interest them there will be no next generation of cage bird-breeders and the question might be, "Have you ever seen a Gouldian Finch?"

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.

John Wilson

President NFSS



## NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY**

PRIMARY MEMBER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY MEMBER'S E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

[IF DUAL MEMBERSHIP] DUAL MEMBER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DUAL MEMBER'S E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ IN CASE WE HAVE QUESTIONS

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

IF JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP (AGES: 6-16 YEARS OLD) DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

IF RENEWAL, LIST YOUR NFSS# IF YOU HAVE IT \_\_\_\_\_ IF DUAL, 2<sup>ND</sup> NFSS # \_\_\_\_\_

AVIARY NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT NFSS? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ CHECK HERE IF YOU WANT US TO SEND YOU AN ADVERTISING PACKET

### NFSS MEMBERSHIP DUES

	SINGLE		DUAL		FOREIGN		JUNIOR
1 YEAR	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$42.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
3 YEARS	\$85.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$99.00	<input type="checkbox"/>			
5 YEARS	\$140.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$165.00	<input type="checkbox"/>			
LIFETIME	\$1,500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,740.00	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NFSS (U.S. Funds) • MAIL WITH APPLICATION TO**

**NFSS MEMBERSHIP • 918 GEORGIA AVE. • ETOWAH, NJ 37331**



## ORDER NFSS JOURNAL BACK ISSUES

**DVD COMPILATION: 1984-2008**

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ IN CASE WE HAVE QUESTIONS

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO SEND YOU AN ADVERTISER'S PACKET? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE MAILING LIST FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL DVD  
COMPILATION FOR YEARS STARTING 2009? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

*DVD Price Includes Domestic U.S.A Shipping by U.S. Mail  
Foreign Orders will Require Additional Shipping Charges to Destination*

**\$20.00 PER DVD**

PLEASE SEND \_\_\_\_\_ [QUANTITY] DVDs AT \$20.00 EACH TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED ON YOUR CHECK \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NFSS (U.S. Funds) • MAIL WITH FORM TO**

**NFSS DVD ORDER • 918 GEORGIA AVE. • ETOWAH, NJ 37331-1004**

You Can Also Order Online Using PayPal  
<http://nfss.org/dvdorder.html>

## *National Avicultural Recognition Award*

Although we are nearing the end of the year, it's never too early to start preparing for the 2013 show season. In addition to striving to earn enough points to obtain Exhibitor of Excellence, Champion Exhibitor, NBC Winner, or Champion Bird, exhibitors are encouraged to strive to win the highest award the NFSS has to offer: the National Avicultural Recognition Award (NARA).

To obtain NARA you must be a member of the Finch and Softbill Save (FSS) conservation program. Participants who meet the following requirements are eligible to receive this annual award which is presented at the National Cage Bird Show.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

#### **LEVEL B: HONORABLE MENTION [FIRST STEP TOWARD NARA AWARD]**

1. The person must be a member of FSS for two (2) years
2. Keep records
3. Closed-banded four (4) generations and/or documentation in the form of a pedigree

#### **LEVEL A: FULL NARA AWARD**

1. The aviculturist must have already earned the Level B NARA Award in a previous year.
2. A written protocol on how the success was accomplished with enough detail that another aviculturist could follow the same protocol and replicate it with success must be submitted to the NARA Committee before NARA voting.
3. An article for publication in the NFSS Journal must be submitted to the Committee describing the breeding program protocol submitted above as well as the information garnered about this species.
4. Written references from at least three NFSS members who have seen the nominee's setup and birds must be provided. Ideally, such references should describe the candidate's qualifications, community involvement, and accomplishments. Much weight will be placed on the quality of these references and the information they provide.



**ADDITIONAL CRITERIA**

The requirements listed on the previous page are the minimum breeding experience and documentation required to be eligible for the award, but they are not the deciding factor for receiving the award. The NARA is designed to be a very prestigious award difficult to achieve.

We are seeking candidates who have done exceptional things in the field of aviculture and who have shared that experience with the community to better aviculture. They may do that in many different ways. They may show their birds and share them with the community, teaching others about them. They may judge bird shows and share their knowledge with exhibitors of all experience levels. They may write for publications. They may speak at events such as expos, conventions, shows, and bird clubs. They may organize bird groups, volunteer for bird organizations, or assist with organized conservation efforts. The possibilities are infinite. In short, candidates should be individuals who

1. have experience and have demonstrated success working with their birds
2. contribute to aviculture in a relevant way by working with species that are rare or difficult, and
3. share their knowledge with the avicultural community in a way that helps the community to grow and thrive.

The FSS director would present candidates to the Board of Directors. They would vote on the winners during the 3rd Quarter board meeting.

**HOW TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE**

1. Any NFSS member may nominate a candidate for the NARA.
2. Verify the candidate's eligibility to ensure they meet the minimum requirements for the award.
3. Explain how the candidate meets the additional criteria described above in a letter or e-mail with the submission.
4. Submit the required documents and references to the Finch and Softbill Save Director before the NFSS Board of Directors 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter board meeting (candidates for the Full NARA Award need not resubmit Level B documentation).
5. Nominations with incomplete documentation at the time of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter board meeting will not be considered for the award that year.

## *National Avicultural Recognition Award*

Although we are nearing the end of the year, it's never too early to start preparing for the 2013 show season. In addition to striving to earn enough points to obtain Exhibitor of Excellence, Champion Exhibitor, NBC Winner, or Champion Bird, exhibitors are encouraged to strive to win the highest award the NFSS has to offer: the National Avicultural Recognition Award (NARA).

To obtain NARA you must be a member of the Finch and Softbill Save (FSS) conservation program. Participants who meet the following requirements are eligible to receive this annual award which is presented at the National Cage Bird Show.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

#### **LEVEL B: HONORABLE MENTION [FIRST STEP TOWARD NARA AWARD]**

1. The person must be a member of FSS for two (2) years
2. Keep records
3. Closed-banded four (4) generations and/or documentation in the form of a pedigree

#### **LEVEL A: FULL NARA AWARD**

1. The aviculturist must have already earned the Level B NARA Award in a previous year.
2. A written protocol on how the success was accomplished with enough detail that another aviculturist could follow the same protocol and replicate it with success must be submitted to the NARA Committee before NARA voting.
3. An article for publication in the NFSS Journal must be submitted to the Committee describing the breeding program protocol submitted above as well as the information garnered about this species.
4. Written references from at least three NFSS members who have seen the nominee's setup and birds must be provided. Ideally, such references should describe the candidate's qualifications, community involvement, and accomplishments. Much weight will be placed on the quality of these references and the information they provide.

**ADDITIONAL CRITERIA**

The requirements listed on the previous page are the minimum breeding experience and documentation required to be eligible for the award, but they are not the deciding factor for receiving the award. The NARA is designed to be a very prestigious award difficult to achieve.

We are seeking candidates who have done exceptional things in the field of aviculture and who have shared that experience with the community to better aviculture. They may do that in many different ways. They may show their birds and share them with the community, teaching others about them. They may judge bird shows and share their knowledge with exhibitors of all experience levels. They may write for publications. They may speak at events such as expos, conventions, shows, and bird clubs. They may organize bird groups, volunteer for bird organizations, or assist with organized conservation efforts. The possibilities are infinite. In short, candidates should be individuals who

1. have experience and have demonstrated success working with their birds
2. contribute to aviculture in a relevant way by working with species that are rare or difficult, and
3. share their knowledge with the avicultural community in a way that helps the community to grow and thrive.

The FSS director would present candidates to the Board of Directors. They would vote on the winners during the 3rd Quarter board meeting.

**HOW TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE**

1. Any NFSS member may nominate a candidate for the NARA.
2. Verify the candidate's eligibility to ensure they meet the minimum requirements for the award.
3. Explain how the candidate meets the additional criteria described above in a letter or e-mail with the submission.
4. Submit the required documents and references to the Finch and Softbill Save Director before the NFSS Board of Directors 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter board meeting (candidates for the Full NARA Award need not resubmit Level B documentation).
5. Nominations with incomplete documentation at the time of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter board meeting will not be considered for the award that year.



[www.BirdsExpress.net](http://www.BirdsExpress.net)

Tel: 626-401-1991 E-Mail: [Sales@BirdsExpress.net](mailto:Sales@BirdsExpress.net)

## Welcome to BirdsExpress

### Great Selection of Birds for Sale at BirdsExpress

We are a major importer and wholesaler of avian species since 1984 and specialize in birds from Africa, Asia, Australia, Eurasia and South America. BirdsExpress offers a large selections of Finches, Softbills, Canaries, Cockatiels, Doves, Love Birds and Parakeets. We own and operate two USDA approved Quarantine Facilities in the Los Angeles area.

**Please visit [www.BirdsExpress.net](http://www.BirdsExpress.net) Today !**



Monthly  
New Arrivals



Monthly  
Specials



Africa



Eurasia



Australia



South America



Canaries



Cockatiels



Doves



Lovebirds



Parakeets

## TALKING FINCHES

by Julie Duimstra

NFSS Panel Judge

Talking finches are not that uncommon! I have heard the little Red-headed Finch that was featured in the article utter the word "Turkey" very clearly over the telephone! His talent is limited however; he did not dial my telephone number! :-)

Years ago at a bird show in Medford, Oregon, I witnessed my first talking finch, a hand-fed Java Rice Bird that said the word, "Hello" in a very clear little voice.

More recently I have heard a hand-fed, chocolate-and-white, pied Bengalese (Society) Finch say, "Flick my bird"—an abbreviated version of what his owner Clara Gontero always said to Flick when she would uncover his cage in the morning: "How is Flick my bird?"

I have hand-raised several finches over the past five years. Bengalese, Zebra, and the Diamond Firetail Finch are the species I have worked with. I know many others who have enjoyed the rich rewards of this labor-intensive endeavor. The hand-tamed finches are endearing little souls and offer a whole new dimension to what we think of as pet birds.

There is a window of time during which birds learn their songs. The late Dr. Luis Baptista at the California Academy of Sciences devoted much of his life's work to the study of song in birds—its development and variations or dialects that exist from region to region. Not unlike our own patterns of human speech and how they differ with geographical regions.

Luis was fascinated with how birds learn their song. When I visited with him last year in his laboratory at the California Academy of Sciences, he played sonograms or recordings of bird songs and encouraged myself and others to record the vocalizations of the birds we keep.

I began to think about the birds I had raised over the years and the "songs" each one subsequently developed. I reflected on one little Society Finch (not hand-raised incidentally) that incorporated portions of three distinctly different songs from three different cocks into his own little song. I was totally amazed by this!

I have also heard the trilling song of a canary pour forth from a brilliant, multi-colored Gouldian Finch cock! The Gouldian was housed in the same room with a singing canary at that critical time when the pieces of its song was forming and the result was that it incorporated the canary's entire song as its own!

Having said all of this in this uncharted area of "talking finches", all I can offer are my observations. I must say, I have found this whole concept very fascinating and just to test it further, I keep repeating simple, one syllable words to the little Bengalese finch that I have just hand-raised through fledging. To date I have nothing to report in terms of the bird's speech; however, the sex of this bird has yet to be determined!

Hand-fed finches as pets! What a novel concept.



**Exotic Finches & Softbills**  
Jamie Yorck  
*Airline shipping available*  
*Contact for current availability and price list*

Phone: 415-824-3594 - [jyorck@astound.net](mailto:jyorck@astound.net)  
San Francisco, California

## From the Editor . . .

Knowing I have raised birds many years my neighbor brought me the following article published on the Science Page in the Buffalo (N.Y.) News. I found it ironic when I read it and discovered it goes along with what Julie Duimstra wrote about talking finches on the previous pages.



### **BABY TALK**

BY AMANDA ALVAREZ [MILWAUKEE SENTINEL]

Babbling babies and birdsong may not sound alike, but learning how to vocalize happens in similar ways in both human and bird babies. New research has found that birds use the left side of the brain for perceiving and producing song, just as humans do for speech.

The article went on to say most songbirds learn their songs by listening and imitating. Some birds, like canaries, can pick up more than one song, but zebra finches learn one song and stick with it throughout their life. The male Zebra finches learn to vocalize from their parents, like humans do. Previous research showed strong neuroanatomical similarities between bird and human brains.

Two finch groups were studied, (1) adults and (2) adolescents still in the "babbling" phase. They were played either their father's bird song, a novel song, or silence. Researchers were interested in two avian brain regions, NCM and HVC, analogous to the human areas for speech perception and production, respectively.

HVC, the area involved in singing, had more active neurons in the left hemisphere of the brain for adolescents and adults. This left-dominance for speech-processing is also present in human infants and adults in the homologous brain region, called Broca's area.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Due to the length of this article space does not permit reprinting it in its entirety but you are encouraged to read the entire article, **BABY TALK**, on the Buffalo News website at

*<http://www.buffalonews.com/life/article985373.ece>*

## ZEBRA FINCH

*Taeniopygia guttata*

Quite often many got their start in aviculture when children, before they knew what the word "aviculture" meant. At that time their parents bought them a "starter" bird, most likely a Budgerigar (Budy), Canary, or Finch. Regardless of what the "starter" bird was, down the road they undoubtedly wound up with a finch and, as all finch breeders will tell you, they are extremely addictive. Before you know what has happened, the one pair is now an aviary full of finches.

Most common is the Zebra Finch, a member of the *Estrildidae* family, which includes the grass finches, waxbills, manikins, and other small finches. After the Zebra Finch it's a tossup as to which ranks next in popularity. Some go from the normal to mutations, even adding the magnificent Lady Gouldian to their collection.

Because the Normal Zebra Finch is dimorphic (males and females have different colors) and easily identifiable, they often are obtained in pairs. Although they might not realize it at the time, in the back of their mind they're thinking, "Hmmm, maybe they'll have babies." Then, as time goes by and they realize how entertaining they are, the urge to breed these little guys sets in.

At this time they think the only thing they have to do is throw a wicker basket in the cage, let them do their thing, they'll have babies, they'll sell them, they'll make money, and everything will be great. Sad to say, this method can have serious consequences. As a result of this first success they think breeding birds is easy and they're now caught up in becoming a breeder. Little do they realize it isn't as easy as that and it won't take long before they learn that throwing two birds together is not such a good idea.

Instead of breeding quality, suddenly the chicks aren't as nice as the parents, and possibly some do not survive, leaving them wondering why. At this stage they either stop breeding, get rid of the birds, or they try to find out why they were not successful and decide it's time for education. Sad to say, they usually dump the birds or continue breeding them until they die.



Continuous breeding is not going to improve the quality. They don't understand that to produce quality you must start with quality and this applies to all breeding programs. You do not just put a male and female together and expect great results.

For those of us who have been around for many years, some dating to the '60s and earlier, we went past the novice breeding stage and learned many things the hard way. We didn't have the wealth of knowledge available to breeders today, having to do everything by trial and error. It was these old-timers who shared their knowledge with other aviculturists in a variety of ways: sharing their actual experiences, articles in publications, participating in club activities, by word of mouth, and online.

All of this sharing has helped us get where we are today. Without all these old-timers many species would be on the extinct, rare, endangered, or hard-to-find list today.

While it takes knowledge of what you are breeding, most important is the quality of the stock. You cannot produce good from bad; you can't even produce half-good. For instance, if you think mating a thin bird to an overweight bird is going to give you the perfect bird—forget it! Ain't gonna happen! As with humans, "*you are what you eat*" and this is true with your birds, regardless of what species they are. Some breeders feed only seed and on rare occasion will give a piece of endive to the bird. They feel this is all they need. I wonder how they'd like to live on only bread and water.

Many excellent articles have been published in the NFSS Journal about the Zebra and other finches, all stressing the importance of diet. One of the many articles is in this issue: "High Protein Egg Mix" by Ron Castaner (page 24).

You can tell why the Zebra is so popular when you look at this issue's cover bird. Not only are they pleasing to looking at, but these little guys can be quite vocal, with a song consisting of small peeps and winding up with a rhythmic song emitting from males. Keeping a watchful eye on father and son lets you realize the sons learn from their father and there is little difference.

## FORUM TIDBITS

Below are some comments, tips, advice, and general information posted by members on the NFSS Forum. Please be aware these articles are provided as a resource only. The validity and certainty of this information is not the responsibility of NFSS. NFSS cannot guarantee the results of the content.

**DROWNING**—I had a juvenile Society drowner in a hanging waterer, the kind with holes in the cover and circular perch around the outside. It apparently got through one of the holes but could not get out another hole. There was barely room for the bird in the tray but it forced its way in.

**WATCH BIRDS ON THE FLOOR**—I have had a bird stuck on the cage all night for one reason or another. Watch these birds because perhaps they have lost a flight feather and cannot fly to the water or seed containers. If they're on the floor, find out why. I've saved two birds by watching for this.



### JUST FINCHES and Softbills Magazine



While focusing primarily on Australasia, this magazine incorporates what's happening with finches & softbills from many overseas locations as well, including, South Africa, America, Europe and the U.K.

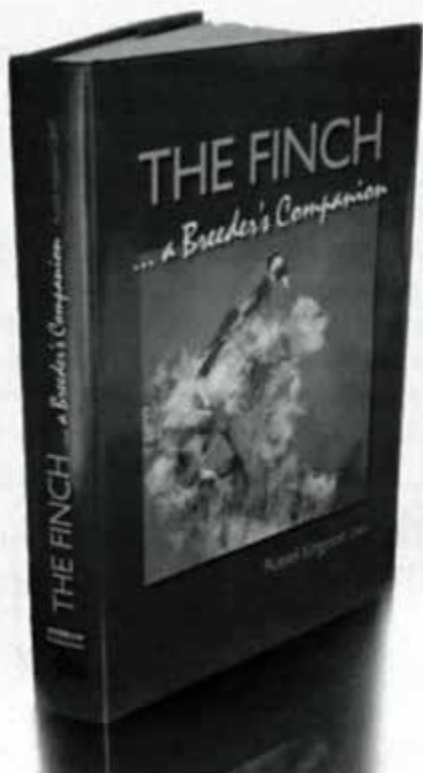
Published quarterly, we look at many different species as well as breeders setups. We also have a Question & answer section and provision for comments from a leading avian vet.

Growing in distribution with each issue.

### Why not subscribe ?

4 Issues cost just \$48.00NZD posted anywhere in the U.S.A.

Check us out at: [www.justfinches.com](http://www.justfinches.com)  
Secure page with credit card facilities  
email: [paul@justfinches.com](mailto:paul@justfinches.com)



Now available at [ladygouldian.com](http://ladygouldian.com)

The newest MASTERWORK by

**RUSSELL KINGSTON**

The book has over 520 pages, weighs approx. 5.4 pounds and measures 8.5 by 12 inches.

**THE FINCH...a Breeder's Companion**

Covers 70 species, using 400 color photos. Closely related species are treated separately, but are grouped together in 25 chapters.

**\$129.95**

10% discount for NFSS members

Available  
at  
770-939-4531

*Lorraine's*  
[ladygouldian.com](http://ladygouldian.com)  
*defying the myth of fragile gouldians*





**NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY**

Shopping at **NFSS** SHOPPING

Shirts  
Hats  
Caps  
Cups  
Bags  
Home & Office Gifts  
Name Badges & Embroidered Apparel

[nfss.org/shop.html](http://nfss.org/shop.html)

**RED BIRD PRODUCTS, INC.**  
 Leg Bands & Breeding Supplies  
 P.O. Box 376  
 Mt. Aukum, CA 95656-0376  
 530-620-7440  
[www.redbirdproducts.com](http://www.redbirdproducts.com)

Quality Birds at Affordable Prices!

**Singing Wings Aviary**  
 31 Old Wire Road East  
 London, Arkansas 72847

Finches - Canaries - Parrots - Doves

**479-293-4994**  
 Email: [mandy@singing-wings-aviary.com](mailto:mandy@singing-wings-aviary.com)  
 Website: [www.singing-wings-aviary.com](http://www.singing-wings-aviary.com)

**PAUL HANCOCK**  
**MANDY TUCKER**



**Please Support Our Advertisers**

## THE MORNING RITUAL

*by Doug Taylor*

GULF COAST FINCHES • BEAUMONT, TEXAS

You would think Finch Mansion was being run by military generals the way breakfast is executed every morning. But no, the precision involved is based on how the many finch species are adapting to their conditions and me, and how I am adapting to them and their needs. They like routines and understand them well. Routines keep them calm and secure. They become earnest and dependable breeders.

New parent-raised, no-live-food (PR/NLF) species, including Red-winged Pytilias and Yellow-winged Pytilias that have fledged this week, along with successive fledglings from the Orange-cheeks, are contributing to overall numbers, along with a few Australian species that are known and reliable producers. Gray Singers have chicks, but I am not counting them until they fledge.

### FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

I owe some of the success on creating a hybrid flight/cage room where there is freedom to build nests wherever the birds want. As it turns out, both species of Pytilias chose existing bamboo nests in cages—just not the ones they were originally assigned to. On the other hand, the Orange-cheeks prefer to build their mini-tumbleweed coco-fiber balls and stack them in piles in every corner of the room and other parts, yet to be discovered.

There are about a dozen cages that have their doors wired open, have nests set up, and are left for the needs of any pairs choosing to use them, as was the case with the Pytilias. In the instance with the Yellow Pytilias, a pair of Zebras with their chicks fledging last week used the nest next to theirs. The 30" cage has six nests and it's possible other nests are being used. But let's get on with the routine that begins at 4:30 a.m. for me, prepping food for the day, and the first delivery of food, which occurs at 6:17 a.m., the time the second bank of lights goes on in the first bird room.

Lights on are spaced one hour apart for each room, giving me time to deliver breakfast in one room and prepare for the next. Up to 60 plates of food are prepared for each room.

### **GREEN DAY DIET**

It is critical to serve the Green Day Diet of fresh vegetables and fresh egg food at lights on. There are always hatchlings and fledglings to be fed, and for proper growth they must start each day with nutritious food and not be stuffed with seeds.

The order in which plates of food are served is always the same. This way, all birds are patient, knowing when they will get theirs. The only deviation from the routine is when there are hatchlings or fledglings and those specific cages are served first. Not only do the parents depend on this to feed their noisy babies—and are reinforced that they can continue doing so on a daily basis—but the other birds know what the priority is. It also lets them know that having babies results in an earlier feeding. There is no mistaking what the sound of begging chicks is. You know and the other birds know.

You may think I've become a little obsessive over this, but I will tell you, **success is in the details**. Once the rooms have been fed there is time to clean up and prepare for water, which is usually an hour and a half after feeding. When eating soft food, some of the food does get stuck on beaks and most of the birds use the water to wash it off, getting the water muddied. The birds do wait until they get their fresh water to bathe. The water is delivered at about 85°, which most seem to like. If they want it cooler, they wait. But usually, by the time water delivery in a room is completed half the birds have already bathed.

### **DAILY GROOMING**

Bathing is an extremely important part of the daily grooming. And in cooler weather, clean feathers insulate better. Just to show how much they anticipate it, the birds get noisy at feeding time, but doubly so when their water is being changed. The final round of the bird rooms is to refresh seed. The birds usually go directly to the refreshed seed cups as soon as you are finished with their cage.

It is for this reason I wait until last, as I want them to have a good, nutritious breakfast from the fresh, soft-food plate first. I have one exception to this, which also reinforces how well they understand the concept of a routine.

The Strawberry finches prefer a smaller seed than the white millet all the birds get. I have made it a point to give them their special seed when I give them their fresh water. Every day when I come into the room with their water, one or two of the Strawberries are perched on the seed cup, waiting for their day's refill.

The only other visit I might make in the morning is to bring in fresh piles of coco fiber and a handful of feathers. Nest-building is always on the agenda for some of the free-rangers in the hybrid flight/cage rooms. I don't linger in the rooms in the morning. Some birds prefer not to eat until you leave. The same goes for bathing. They have their preening and socializing as well, only in the company of birds.

Leaving the birds alone to do their thing is one of the better restraints for successful breeding. My next visit to the rooms is in the afternoon to check on food levels for the cages with hatchlings and fledglings, as well as the colony cages. More plates of food are brought in as needed.

### **EVENING CHORES**

I prefer to do cleaning and maintenance chores in the evening, usually within the last couple of hours before lights off. The birds are most settled at this time, their day's activities complete, and less likely to be upset by the intrusion and what it entails. This, too, is predictable and acceptable. I think most people find their lives run more smoothly when they have a daily routine. I know it works for me. And, as you can see, my routine is strictly for the birds.

**WATCH FOR THE HOLIDAY ISSUE  
NOV/DEC 2012  
CHANGES ARE ON THE WAY**

## **BUY NFSS BANDS**

WITH EACH ORDER, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST,  
RECEIVE A FREE, GENEROUS SAMPLE OF  
**MUSCA MUNCHIES™**

**COURSE-GROUND AND FINE-GROUND LARVAE**

*Insects, and only insects;  
no fillers and no preservatives.*

*Musca Munchies™  
is an optimal source for food enhancement.*

**OREGON FEEDER INSECTS**

<http://www.skipios.com>



**NFSS  
Band  
Cutter**

**The perfect tool!**

[nfss.org/nfssorg\\_shop](http://nfss.org/nfssorg_shop)



Prices Effective May 8, 2011 (USPS Rate Increase)

PLASTIC BANDS: Available to Everyone

ALUMINUM BANDS: Members Only

*Banding and marking of wild birds is highly regulated by the Federal government. It is illegal to use any band on a bird released into the wild, except a Federal band issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.*

SPLIT PLASTIC BAND COLORS:  
ONE COLOR EACH STRING, NO NUMBERS

Light Green, Dark Green, White, Pink, Red, Purple, Yellow,  
Orange, Light Blue, Dark Blue, Black

SPLIT PLASTIC BANDS: \$3.00 PER STRING OF 10 BANDS

INDICATE QUANTITY AND COLOR BELOW

XF (2.3mm)	XCS (2.8mm)	XCL (3.1mm)	XB (4.0mm)	X3 (4.5mm)	Subtotal
/	/	/	/	/	
/	/	/	/	/	
/	/	/	/	/	

**Closed, Sequentially Numbered Bands Below Are Available to Members Only**

Size A (2.20mm): Gold-breasted Waxbill, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Owl Finch, Red-eared Waxbill,

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 and Blue-capped Waxbills, Cherry Finch, Bronze-winged Mannikin, Green/Grey 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 Mannikins, most Parrot Finches, Pintailed Nonpareil, most Twinspots, American Zebra Finch, Peales Parrot Finch

Size 2 (2.89mm): Black-crested Finch, Diamond Sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Siskins, Spice Finch, European Goldfinch, European Zebra

Visit our site for availability of plastic colors and aluminum sizes at [www.NFSS.org](http://www.NFSS.org)

Size G (3.20mm): Magpie Mannikins, Siberian Goldfinch, small Tanagers

Size J (3.4mm): Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias, small Softbills

Size K (3.50mm): Java Rice birds, Red-crested Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Shama Thrush

Size L (4.30mm): Diamond Dove, Mousebird, small Doves, Quail

Size M (4.48mm): Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah, Superb Starlings

ALUMINUM BANDS: \$5.00 per string of 10 bands—Indicate quantity only below										
A	B	C	D	E	G	J	K	L	M	SUB TOTAL \$
<b>HANDLING FEE: Must Be Included in All Orders</b>										
Under \$ 40.00		\$ 3.00		\$ 61.00 - \$100.00			\$ 8.00			
\$ 41.00 - \$ 60.00		\$ 5.00		\$101.00 - \$ 300.00			\$ 10.00		HANDLING FEE \$	
<b>POSTAL INSURANCE: Optional</b>										
\$ 00.01 - \$ 50.00		\$ 1.80		\$ 6100 - \$100.00			\$ 8.00		**Insurance \$	
\$ 51.00 - \$ 100.00		\$ 2.30		\$300.00 - \$ 500.00			\$ 5.70			
100.00 - \$ 200.00		\$ 5.00		Each Additional \$100.00			\$ .95		FINAL TOTAL \$	

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NFSS MEMBERSHIP # \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NFSS (U.S. Funds) • MAIL TO**

NFSS Band Secretary • 2234 Juneau Court South • Salem, OR 97302

Phone: 505-581-8208 • Email: [bands@nfss.org](mailto:bands@nfss.org)



## The Foreign Bird League

### The Premier Foreign Bird Keeping Society In The UK Founded 1932

Overseas membership 2010

£18.00 (to be paid in sterling)

Please visit our website to download a membership form and check on the latest membership fees.

**[www.foreignbirdleague.com](http://www.foreignbirdleague.com)**



The Gouldian Fund was established in 2005 to promote awareness and to fund valuable research into the decline of the Lady Gouldian Finch, now considered **endangered** in the wild, where recent estimates suggest there are fewer than 2,500 Gouldians remaining.

#### **A PRECIOUS LIFE IS WAITING**

Please make your donation to **SAVE THE GOULDIAN FUND**, a non-profit charity, and NFSS will match it—up to \$10. You can donate without limit, but together, let's raise at least \$500 by the end of 2012. All donations are used for research and conservation management, thus helping the Fund continue its important conservation efforts. For details about this remarkable project, visit their website at **[www.savethegouldian.org](http://www.savethegouldian.org)**.

# HIGH PROTEIN EGG MIX

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

by Ron Castaner

Former NFSS President  
AFA South Florida Regional Director  
E-mail: [finches@bellsouth.net](mailto:finches@bellsouth.net)

The following recipe for a high-protein egg mix is not exclusively for Siskins and finches. This is an excellent mix for all birds, large and small. While it does require a few minutes of your time, it is not something you must do every day. You can freeze and/or refrigerate the mix and you will find the end results are extremely rewarding.

Start by boiling four eggs for twenty minutes and allow them to cool. When the eggs have cooled, remove the shells and cut the eggs in half. Place the halved eggs in a food processor. To the halved eggs in the processor, add one-fourth teaspoon of wheat germ and two tablespoons of Protein Twenty-Five. Mix in the food processor for only five seconds (do not over-mix). At this time the egg mixture should be fine and crumbly, not gooey. Empty mixture in a large bowl and set aside.

Thoroughly wash four carrots, cutting them into chunks and placing them in the food processor. Process until the carrots are very fine. Set aside. In a large bowl, mix the following ingredients by hand (Do not use the food processor): four tablespoons Protein Twenty Five, five tablespoons Petamine, five tablespoons Gerber Baby Cereal Powder, one-fourth teaspoon Kelp Powder, one-fourth teaspoon Garlic, one-fourth teaspoon Brewer's Yeast Powder, one-fourth teaspoon Powdered Vitamins, one-fourth teaspoon Powdered Calcium, one-fourth teaspoon (or less) Spirulina, three capsules of Lactobacillus or Acidophilus. Add the eggs and carrots and mix well by hand. Do not use the food processor. Mix until everything is mixed well. The mixture should be very light and crumbly. You may substitute Abba, Cede, or any other mix for Protein Twenty Five. You may also substitute the baby cereal with different kinds. One time you can use the rice, the next time use the mixed, and so on. I have also used Quaker Oats if I ran out of baby cereal.

Just process it in the processor until it is a *very fine powder* and mix it with the eggs. For variety, you can add and change things around. If your food processor does not hold four eggs at once, do two eggs at a time, adjusting ingredients accordingly by dividing in half.

The powdered vitamins contain all the needed vitamins such as: E, A, B, and D3. They also contain Acidophilus or Lactobacillus, powdered honey, bee pollen, and Spirulina, plus all the needed minerals. Place the finished mixture in an airtight container and refrigerate, or place in ice cube trays covered with foil and freeze. Remove one at a time or whatever amount you need at the time and defrost. I place mine in Ball canning jars, refrigerating one jar and freezing the rest.

I give my birds this egg food right from the refrigerator. I have never warmed mine before feeding but that is not to say you cannot. In the freezer, the mixture can be kept up to a month. If the mixture is stored in the refrigerator it should last up to five days. I feed early in the morning and then again at six or six thirty in the evening. The mixture can be left in the cages all day. I feed my birds just enough so they can finish it in a short amount of time. When I feed them their six p.m. feeding I don't remove the dishes until about eight p.m.

The breeding finches and the ones with babies get the mixture twice a day, molting or baby Gouldians coloring out get it once a day. The rest of the birds get fed three or four times a week. You should use this mixture along with fresh cucumbers, lettuce, broccoli, green peppers, corn, apples, and oranges. If they do not eat this mixture, sprinkle some on top of their favorite food.

This is a very high-protein diet for all birds, especially Gouldians. Birds are at high levels of stress during molting, breeding, any kind of temperature change, or moving. Also, this egg mixture contains all the essential nutrients, vitamins, minerals, and trace minerals. It is not made of old baking leftovers. In fact, nestling food that is in a container or box is available, but has no freshness date on the package. There is no way to know how old it may be. It could be from six days to six months to six years old.

If you continue using this high-protein egg mixture you will see your birds growing faster, coloring quicker, and molting faster. It also stimulates the breeding cycle.

This may seem like a lot of extra work and would take up a lot of time, but the more you use the recipe and become familiar with it and see the results it gives, you will discover it is definitely worth the extra time. Remember that a healthy, well-nourished bird will not get sick very often, but if it should it will recover quicker. On the other hand, an under-nourished bird can get sick more often and will not be able to recover at all.

You should add vitamin B-12 complex to their drinking water two or three times a month. It does wonders for the birds. Birds that lack this important vitamin can have neurological problems. The mixture I use for my finches can also be used for all the larger birds. In closing, I would like to wish each and every one of you the best of luck and if there are any questions please feel free to ask. We may only learn from one another.



## **SOMETHING NEW IS RETURNING FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

The Nov/Dec issue will have a new appearance, featuring magnificent photos of Pintail Nonpareils in the wild provided by Scott Golden, a Black-hooded Siskin article with photos by Ron Castaner, an article by Garrie Landry with photos, and many other informative articles and photographs. Please let us know what you think when you receive your Nov/Dec Journal.

**DON'T FORGET**

**WATCH FOR YOUR NOV/DEC 2012 JOURNAL**

- ✓ Open Mouth Breathing
- ✓ Wheezing
- ✓ Clicking
- ✓ Sneezing
- ✓ Coughing
- ✓ Nasal Discharge
- ✓ Tail-bobbing
- ✓ Excessive Beak Wiping



## Airsac Mite Infestation?

**Airsac mite** is an internal parasite that lives in the airways, lungs and air sacs of our birds. Infestation causes local irritation and secondary respiratory infections. Heavy infestations can cause death in fledglings and adult birds.

**S76, the Original Airsac mite treatment in water!** If you have lots of birds making it almost impossible to catch for treatment, then S76 is for you!

S76 treatment is so safe it can be administered to breeding parents feeding their babies! S76 will not cause harm to the health and fertility of mature birds, fledglings or eggs.

Call or email us with your bird health question.

**800-579-7974** [support@ladygouldianfinch.com](mailto:support@ladygouldianfinch.com)

## Don't let the **mites bite**

Improve your birds' health, rid them of freeloading parasites.

Dr Rob Marshall's S76 is the first choice for

### **Air sac mite treatment**

in water or on the skin.



Mention NFSS when you place your order and receive a **10% DISCOUNT**

## 50 Years of Society Finches

By Clarence Culwell



© Cheryl Burns 2012

### What about Society (Bengalese) Finches in the United States?

I have raised society finches since the early 1950s. I did not really become a serious breeder until the early 1970s. Society finches are my favorite with zebras being a close second. I have always liked anything spotted so the pied society really caught my attention.

My aunt worked in Leonard's Department Store in Fort Worth, Texas, in the 1950s and 1960s where she managed the pet department. When a new shipment of societies came in, she would call me. I would go down and get my pick. These birds were probably imported from Japan.

My career has been in education and in the late 1960s and 1970s I didn't raise birds for a time due to work demands. When I started looking for societies, they were very difficult to find. The birds I found were chocolate and white. So this is what I started with. I was finally able to get a fawn and white hen from someone who loaned me the bird on the condition I would find a fawn and white cock.

I checked with a lady who had kept birds. She had only one society. It just happened to be a fawn and white cock. I now had two pairs of chocolate and white and this pair of fawn and white. I just could not find any birds. Then I got the break I needed. A person I had given a bird years before called me. He said "I hear you are looking for societies." I responded with an excited "yes". This person was Jim Hulsey, who became my dearest friend. I went to see Jim and came home with the birds I needed.

At this time Jim was raising a lot of varieties of Australian finches. He fostered his societies every weekend. He tossed all the society eggs. I would go over to Jim's and get these eggs and scatter them under my societies. We kept up with the eggs and the pairs they came from. We were able to pair unrelated birds and thus, over time, really improved our stock. We raised some good birds.

One day Jim called and said he could get a pair of birds in uni (selfs) color. Hershel Frey advertised chocolate selfs. We really wanted the fawn self. To our good fortune, this was a very good productive pair. These birds produced five eggs in each clutch. Four of the babies would be chocolate selfs and the other baby would be a fawn self. This happened every time Jim and I fostered eggs. It wasn't long before we had many chocolate and fawn selfs.

We then decided to try for chestnut selfs. We used chestnut and white birds with very little white to get a self bird. Jim liked darker chestnuts so he used the chocolate selfs. I wanted a redder chestnut, so I used fawn selfs. We quickly got birds with only white dots under the lower beak and above the eye. It wasn't too many generations until we had the chestnut selfs we wanted.

While all this was taking place we were getting what we wanted in the color each of us liked. In the meantime, we were selling many selfs and near selfs to a dealer in Houston, Texas, who was sending them everywhere. Garrie Landry in Franklin, Louisiana, got some of these birds. Self societies now were about everywhere. In the early 1980s, I had the best society in the Pittsburgh National Cage Bird Show with a chocolate self.



Most American self societies came from these birds and others that may have been purchased from Hershel Frey. By this time, chocolate, fawn, and chestnut selfs could be acquired in the United States fairly easily. Questions came up whether these birds had been hybridized with other birds. To my knowledge, this never happened. These birds did not have prominent belly markings we see today.

I did see a chocolate self exhibited at the 1994 National Cage Bird Show in Oklahoma. It had the black on the head and back that we see in the Euros today. It was definitely not a hybrid. It was exhibited by Tom Rood.

I could have hybridized many times and produced some really gorgeous selfs. Over the years I have seen society self hybrids that came from spice finches and chestnut manikins, to name a few. The only one I checked for fertilization was the chestnut-breasted manikin. It was fertile. So some very pretty selfs with good lacing could have been produced. I chose not to pursue the hybrid process as NFSS did not allow hybrids. Also, I wanted my birds to be pure.

One day Jim and I were talking about our societies and the colors we had established in our aviaries when I asked him about dilutes. If we had fawns, we could certainly produce a cream bird. Jim liked the darker birds so I set out to develop the dilute fawn. Of course, I had Jim's full support. I worked on breeding the lightest fawn selfs together to get what I wanted. From these matings I was never able to get the color I was looking for. To my good fortune, a lady who had purchased a pair of chestnut selfs from Jim called and said her chestnuts had produced a very pale bird. She wanted chestnuts so Jim traded with her and the bird was a fawn dilute. Of course, Jim gave the bird to me.

Jim and I went to Houston to Johnny Jackson's to wholesale our birds. On one of these trips to Johnny's, I saw a cage with two or three hundred white societies in it. I asked Johnny if I could look for dilutes among all the whites. Again to my good fortune, I found a very pale fawn dilute. The bird was so pale it was almost white. It was so white it took a long time to catch the bird. Fortunately, with this bird and the one I had at home, I had a pair.

This pair started my foundation for dilutes. The only birds I ever used as out-crosses for my dilutes were chestnuts. This worked well. I produced some fawn dilutes but I also produced chestnut dilutes.

A lady in Missouri called and asked about my dilutes and wanted me to send her some. I did and from her birds some went to Tom Rood and then Dennis Burhans. Both of these gentlemen are outstanding breeders of quality.

Some of these birds found their way to becoming top birds on the show bench. As a matter of fact, Dennis had a fawn dilute in the top ten in the 2006 NCBS in Chicago. From these birds, dilutes became readily available in the United States.

Another bird that has showed up over time in different aviaries is a tri-colored bird: fawn, chocolate, and white. This bird is a sport and cannot be reproduced. I've tried many times.

Society finches are marvelous little birds. Over the years, few people have really seen what this bird is other than being used as foster parents for the more exotic finches.

The society exhibitors got a real surge of new enthusiasm with the introduction of the Euro society. I believe we have Michael Marcotrigiano, Bob Rittman, and Garrie Landry to thank for this. When these birds were made available to many of us, a revived interest took off. Many of us fully intended to keep the bloodlines of American and Euro separate. There are some who have maintained pure American lines.

Also, the pearl society, the different crested and neck frill birds made their way into the United States from Japan. These birds do not seem as popular as the Euros. Many of these birds are charming and beautiful. To get the appropriate crest and frills correct is a new challenge.

Many exhibitors across the country began to ask for a revised standard to include these birds. The NFSS judges chairman, Martha Wigmore, appointed a committee to work on this.

The committee included Julie Duimstra, Roy Beckham, Michael Marcotrigiano, Dennis Burhans, Garrie Landry, Matthew Dinghman, and Clarence Culwell to develop the standard. I believe Raspberry joined the group later. Many people asked us to include American, Euro, and Japanese birds in this standard.

Several drafts were presented and revised. The final draft was presented in the November/December 2005 issue of the National Finch and Softbill Society Journal. Also, show catalog classifications were presented. American, Euro, and Japanese classes were included.

As is normal, there have been agreements and disagreements in this standard. Many have questioned the issue of hybrids again. This issue was discussed in the Cage and Aviary Birds, January, 1995 newspaper stating that if hybridization was the case it had been at least 20 years since it happened.

Bob Peers and I were talking about these new birds and the crossing of these bloodlines with the American Society and what could be done about it. I told him, at this point in time, it was like a run-away train. So many breeders across the United States have included both lines in their breeding program. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to do anything about it at this time. After F2 crosses it gets very difficult to tell pure and what is mixed bloodlines.

I still have what I consider some good American birds. If you are an exhibitor you have seen that these birds seldom make it to the top bench. Again the exception was the beautiful fawn dilute that was 2<sup>nd</sup> best Society at NCBS in Chicago.

I hope this article answers some questions for you as I have seen these changes over the last fifty years. I am one of the original NFSS (#72) judges and have observed these changes locally and across the country.

**NOTE:** Clarence Culwell is well-known in the world of aviculture as a breeder, exhibitor, and judge. In addition to being an NFSS judge he is also a North American Parrot Society judge. NFSS wants to thank Clarence for sharing this article with its members.

## "Webby" Feed Problem

A recurring and annoying problem faced by many aviculturists is "webby" feed, which is a result of infestation by the Indian Meal Moth (*Plodia interpunctella*) or the Mediterranean Flour Moth (*Anagasta kuhniella*). In warm weather the Indian Meal Moth may pass through the egg, larval and pupal stages in 6 to 8 weeks, while the Mediterranean Flour Moth takes about 8 to 9 weeks.

The small larvae hatch from eggs in a few days and as they mature may travel far from the original site of infestation. As they travel they spin silken threads, causing webbing and matting particles of feed. Later the full-grown larvae spin silken cocoons in which the insect pupates (Davis, et al, 1975).

The webbing and matting clots feed so that it does not flow in gravity feeders, and nutrients used by the larvae are lost. This infestation can be controlled without using chemical pesticides by spraying the feed with spores of a bacterium (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). Spores eaten by the larvae become harmful bacteria in the insects' gut and the larvae die.

The spores, which germinate at a pH of 9 or higher, are not harmful to cockatiels or other birds that have been tested because the acidic nature of the gut contents of birds prohibits the germination of the spores. Ingestion of infected caterpillars has likewise been harmless to birds which have been tested. The spores are active only against the larvae, not the flying adults, hence the action is slow.

There are several products on the market containing the spores of *B. thuringiensis*, but some of them include liquid carriers that have not been tested on birds. There is a dry, wettable product designed primarily to combat caterpillar infestation on plants.



REFERENCE: DAVIS, S.C., A.S. DEAL, V. E. BURTON AND J. E. SWIFT, 1975. COMMON PANTRY PESTS AND THEIR CONTROL, LEAFLET 2711, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

## GETTING STARTED

Paula Hansen

Paula Hansen is Red Siskin Specie Captain for the National Finch and Softbill Society Finch Save Program. She has been a breeder of the Red Siskin for 15 years. Paula also has been the NFSS Band Secretary nine years and served on the NFSS Board of Directors nine years.



I started out small with a few cheap birds, reading everything I could get my hands on about finches. Seeing references about products for birds helped. Most product ads are only found in publications and on the internet, not in books. Have you noticed that?

Most of those articles and books were very well written but would say "good finch mix," "supplements provided," and so on. The breeder covered time, dates, bird's weight, clear eggs, and detailed nesting activity. They were very scientific and all about breeding wild-caught birds which meant they were first-time captive-bred.

I still have those articles and books. How many of us do that type of record-keeping or have that kind of time to do it anymore? I was just amazed with the care these folks took to track what worked and what did not.

Today I appreciate the availability to shop on-line to buy products. Those first-time stories of the past did not have PCs or the chat rooms where they could pose any question and receive fantastic feedback from folks all over the world.

I was interested in offering products to my birds. If it worked for them maybe it will work for me. By chance, I found there are reasons some products are more expensive than others. Read the label. When comparing, sometimes there's barely any difference. I started checking into what the birds will or will not accept.

Skip of Oregon Feeder Insects lived in Oregon and I invited him to my finch club meeting to speak. This was the first time the club members or I had heard about Musca Munchies™. Skip brought live maggots for his show-and-tell. We were pretty fascinated and we all bought his products.

The next time I heard about Skip was at a canary club meeting. Again, Skip spoke and the club members bought everything Skip brought with him. I was already impressed with his earlier speech and heard more good reviews about his products. I was so glad I had read those articles that mentioned the Skipios ([www.skipios.com](http://www.skipios.com)) product name.

Back then any supplements bought were at expos and marts. Most of what was available was brown or colored pellets for hookbills, with not much sized for finch consumption. The same thing applied when it came to the raffle table at a club meeting. I found products I had never heard of before that others used. Regardless, I would have to pulverize everything in my blender to offer supplements to my birds over fresh eggfood (smashed-up hard-boiled eggs).

I buy bee pollen at the local health food store but one package of soya musca was used for my entire breeding season by lightly sprinkling over freshly mashed hard-boiled eggs, then I would shake the dish, coating the smashed-up eggs. I sprinkled the mix lightly (just prior to offering to my birds) because spiroolina turns the eggfood green.

I read somewhere else the birds were more attracted to the yellow color of the egg yolk and they would quickly consume it. Do birds see color? I read that you are not to hard-boil the eggs too long and that green is a sulfur reaction around the yolk. Never learned that in Home Economics! Well it works, doesn't smell so strong, and I actually eat more hard-boiled eggs these days.

I've been told my birds had good substance. I never paid attention until I started showing birds (thanks to Julie Duimstra). I now understand what they were talking about. Not only did my birds receive good nutrition, I was selecting good stock, the birds bathed more frequently, and they lived in an uncrowded living space (cage or aviary). I learned more good information when showing my birds each year and continue to learn today.

I was doing so well I had to learn how to market my surplus birds quickly to make room for the next season. That's where bird marts, sales, and belonging to a club enters. Joining NFSS helps you manage your hobby.

Another speaker I had the pleasure of meeting is Robert G. Black. Now that guy can write helpful information on maintaining your bird's health which improves your husbandry skills. I've bought just about every book the man has written and have many of the mini-fact sheets he sells. He is an excellent speaker and if you're on a budget and can't afford buying books he has outlines on each specie to sell for a few dollars! Excellent reading, too.

I graduated every few years to more challenging finches. I did offer mini-mealworms for the waxbills. I found a source for them, Sunshine Mealworms, which is a sister company of Rainbow Mealworms. I also give credit to these folks too for my success with the waxbills. I've personally visited Sunshine Mealworm facilities and was impressed by their standards and production of their crickets and mealworms. If ever in Oregon it's a must-see. They fed the worms branflakes at that time. The packaging of 1,000 worms consists of a fabric sack with crumpled newspaper to prevent the worms from settling and being crushed during shipment. It is a chore to shake them into a container but the waxbills go for them.

After thinking about the advantages of not having to clean cages during the summer months I slowly turned all the birds out into the aviary. They loved the space and raced around the large free flight and I enjoyed the time off not cleaning cages weekly and scrubbing drinkers and perches each weekend. I enjoyed watching them zoom back and forth instead.

I enter all birds into the Finch Save (on-line) database. With this database it is protected, on a server, and it's fast and easy to enter each bird or clutch group. There's also a privacy option, you don't have to share your information. Another link takes you to a screen where you can see what I call the family tree. You can request the data to be exported and Vonda Zwick (NFSS Finch Softbill Save Program) can provide you that file upon request. I'm sure as Finch Save grows she'll think of a way for us to do this ourselves with the push of a button. She has done aviculture a great service in building this database. As NFSS members you can track your bird's lineage at no additional cost.

NFSS also has a Finch Forum. Simply click and pose a question and everyone responds with what they think, do, or offer alternatives to consider. NFSS is here to help the hobby and support aviculture.

## NFSS AFFILIATED CLUBS

AFFILIATIONS AWARDS DIRECTOR: JODY LEWIS  
 755 N. 4<sup>TH</sup> AVE. • CANTON, IL 61520 • 309-645-7773  
*affiliationsdirector@nfss.org*

The National Finch and Softbill Society is proud of its affiliated clubs and societies. If you are not one of our clubs, we invite you to affiliate with NFSS and become part of our society. A few of the benefits we offer follow.

- Receipt of the bi-monthly Journal six times per year
- Free listings for the Clubs will be published in the Journal
- The opportunity to join one of our many programs dedicated to promote aviculture and the preservation of all birds
- Plastic and aluminum closed bands
- A professional panel of sanctioned judges, each with many years experience
- Clubs can purchase the following awards:  
   Rosettes  
   Plaques with NFSS logo for service, show awards, breeder awards

The annual club affiliation fee is \$30.00. To affiliate with NFSS, please contact our Affiliations Awards Director, Jody Lewis (see above). If it is more convenient, you may also go to <http://www.nfss.org> and sign up online. **NOTE:** If you are an Affiliated Club and need to revise your information, please contact the NFSS Affiliations Director, Jody Lewis, or the editor.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Central California Cage Bird Club, Modesto

Janna Place, 209-862-3792. **Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Mancini Hall Modesto, 718 Tuolumne Blvd., Stanislaus, CA 95351. <http://www.mycccbc.org>

#### Finch Society of San Diego

Sally Huntington, 5634 Carnegie St., San Diego, CA 92122. 858-452-9423; [sdfinchsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sdfinchsociety@gmail.com). **Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 2-4 p.m., Poway Elks Club, 13219 Poway Road, Poway, CA 92064; 1/22, 2/26, 3/25, 4/22, 5/27, 6/24, 7/22, 8/26, 9/23, 8/28, 10/28, 12/2. <http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com>

#### West Coast Zebra & Society Finch Show, Sacramento

Richard Renshaw, 247 Grandridge Ct., Ventura, CA 93003; 805-644-4156; [rrenshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:rrenshaw@yahoo.com). No club meetings, show committee meeting in July.

### COLORADO

#### Mountain States Avian Society

Gary Morgan, 15341 Kingston St., Brighton, CO 80602; 303-659-9554; [burdmn@aol.com](mailto:burdmn@aol.com). NFSS Delegate: Jesse Avila, 7910 Greenland Road, Franktown, CO 80116; 303-664-0399, [pjbavila@aol.com](mailto:pjbavila@aol.com). **Meetings:** 1 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, Animal Central, 8308 Church Ranch Blvd., Westminster, CO 80021. [www.msasbirds.org](http://www.msasbirds.org).



## FLORIDA

**Colorbred Canary Club of Miami**

Nora Trincado, P.O. Box 441261, Miami, FL 33144-1261; 305-720-4798;  
*threefox21@aol.com*; Armondo Lee, 2825 SW 36 Terrace Cape, FL; 239-462-2998.  
*ALEE21@comcast.net*, <http://www.colorbredcanaryclubofmiami.webs.com>

**Suncoast Canary and Finch Club, Port Charlotte**

Alexander Villarreal, 1419 Collinswood Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL. **Meetings:** 7 p.m.,  
 Wednesdays. *vetagator@yahoo.com*.

**Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club, Stuart**

Tim McCormick, 1425 SE Appomattox Terr., Port Salerno, FL. **Meetings:** 1 p.m.,  
 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Port Salerno Civic Center, 4950 Anchor Ave, Stuart, FL.  
<http://www.tcexoticbirdclub.com>

**Tri-State Avian Society, Tallahassee**

Barry Laster, 10508 Lake Lamonia Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32312. 850-364-4666;  
*barryL7523@comcast.net*. **Quarterly Meetings:** Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan  
 Community Church, 4738 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, FL.  
<http://www.tristateaviansociety.org>

## ILLINOIS

**Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Chicago**

REGION 3 SHOW HOST

Robert Wild, 305 Grosvenor Ct., Bolingbrook, IL 60440; 630-980-4416.  
*wild@comcast.net*. Contact: *secretary@gccbc.org*. **Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, except  
 November and December, at Yorkfield Civic Center, 15W354 Lexington St., Elmhurst,  
 IL 60126. <http://www.gccbc.org>

**Heart of Illinois Bird Club, Peoria Metro Area (Pekin)**

Jody Lewis, 309-647-9984, *balu716@yahoo.com*. **Meetings:** 2 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (unless  
 holiday), Avanti's Dome, 3401 Griffin Ave., Pekin, IL 61554. <http://www.hoibirdclub.org>

**Illini Bird Fanciers Inc., Springfield**

P.O. Box 13006, Springfield, IL 62791, [www.illinibirdfanciers.com](http://www.illinibirdfanciers.com). Contact: Karen  
 Williams, 217-391-4648. **Meetings:** 12-4 p.m., 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Little Flower Quonset  
 Building, 800 Stevenson Dr., Springfield, IL <http://www.illinibirdfanciers.com>

**National Institute of Red Orange Canaries (NIROC), Westchester**

President: Joaquin Torres. 312-259-2779, *jtorres@sbcglobal.net*. Joel Wojotowicz,  
 708-352-9319, *cwojto8877@aol.com*. **Meetings:** 7 p.m., 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, Grace Evangelical  
 Lutheran Church, 1101 Manchester Ave. Westchester, IL 60154. No meetings August or  
 November. <http://www.niroc.org>

**IOWA****Mid America Cage Bird Society, Des Moines**

President: John Thielking, 8209 Twana Dr., Urbandale, IA 50322-1522; 239-851-8132. *Thielking@lowalink.com* **Meetings:** 2-5 p.m., 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Swartz Room, Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 Robert D Ray Dr, Polk, IA 50316. **Exceptions:** fairs are held in March, May, and August; no meetings November, December. Holiday party, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of December. Check calendar for dates and times. <http://www.gkcas.org>, <http://www.MACBS.org>

**KENTUCKY****Bluegrass Bird Breeders, Shepherdsville**

Josh Perkins, 2631 Zoneton Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165; 270-234-4176, *perkinstiels@yahoo.com*. NFSS Delegate: Christine Orowitz, 1776 Walter Boone Road, Rineyville, KY 40162. *chrisbirdsnthings@gmail.com*.

**MARYLAND****Baltimore Bird Fanciers****REGION 1 SHOW HOST**

Christine Roberts, 11 Prettyboy Garth, Parkton, MD 21120; 410-343-1807, *compteacher@yahoo.com*. NFSS Delegate: Ray Reter, 10310-L Malcolm Cir., Cockeysville, MD 21030; *info@baltimorebirdfanciers.org*. **Meetings:** 2 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Towson Library, 320 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21204-5179. <http://www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org>

**MISSOURI****Gateway Parrot Club, Kirkwood**

Christine A. Kinkade, 2412 Angela Dr., High Ridge, MO 63049; 636-343-8097, *President@GatewayParrotClub.org*. **Meetings:** 2 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63122. **Exceptions:** no meetings June 10, Sept 19, Dec. 9 (second Sunday), and August. <http://www.gatewayparrotclub.org>

**Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society, Grandview**

Clay Behrman, 3523 NE 49th St., Kansas City, MO 64119; 816-217-7263, *birdman79@live.com*. NFSS Delegate: Anthony Day, 1608 S Crane, Independence, MO 64055; 816-252-1120. *dayforthebirds@aol.com*. **Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Coronation of Our Lady Church, 13000 Bennington, Grandview, MO 64030. <http://www.gkcas.org>

**NEW HAMPSHIRE****Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society, Manchester**

Ray Schwartz, 19 Olde Common Dr., Atkinson, NH 03811; 603-362-6106; *President@BOAF.com*. Contact: *member.support@BOAF.com*. **Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday. <http://www.boaf.com>

## NEW YORK

**Kings County Canary Club, Brooklyn**

Kathleen Guise Schaefer, 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn, NY 11229; 718-332-3413,  
*kanarykate@aol.com*. **Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn, NY 11229.

**New York Finch and Type Canary Club, New York**

Stan Kulak, 17 Pembroke Loop, Staten Island, NY 10309; 718-967-6899,  
*barstand@verizon.net*. **Meetings:** 1-4 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, except July and August.

## OREGON

**Columbia Canary Club, Portland**

REGION 5 SHOW HOST

<http://www.columbiacanaryclub.com>. Contact: KJ and Linda K. Brown, 3258 Oakcrest  
 Dr. NW, Salem, OR 97304; 503-341-8823. *jeeperspeepers55@yahoo.com*. **Meetings:**  
 2 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Milwaukie, OR.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Chester County Bird Club Inc.**

Doris Rickards, 10 Beth Lane, Malvern, PA 19355; *Rickards@quixnet.net*.

## PUERTO RICO

**Asociacion de Criadores de Finces Inc.**

REGION 2 SHOW HOST

Juan Alicea, 12203 Urb Serenna, Los Prados, Apt. L-302, Caguas, PR 00727;  
 787-479-7405. *juanalicea@yahoo.com*. **Meetings:** 7 p.m., Tuesday, Las Catalina's Mall,  
 Food Court Area.

**Puerto Rico Finch Club, Guraba**

Jorge Mojica, Urb Lomas del Sol, 175 Calle Acuario, Gurabo, PR 00778-8930;  
 787-550-3163, *puchosbirds@yahoo.com*. NFSS Delegate: Alejandro Santana, Villa  
 Carolina c/82 bldg 108-29, Carolina, PR00985. 787-309-0964.  
*alexdeskjet\_2012@hotmail.com*. **Meetings:** Wednesday, Caquas in Plaza Centro Mall  
 Caguas, Caguas, Puerto Rico. <http://www.przfc.com>

## RHODE ISLAND

**Northeast Bird Group, Scituate**

Donna Rosciti, P.O. Box 50, North Scituate, RI 02857; 401-641-0994, *donna@rasciti.com*,  
<http://www.northeastbirdgroup.com>

## TENNESSEE

**Heart of Tennessee Aviculture Society, Murfreesboro**

Lisa Murphy, 918 Georgia Ave, Etowah, TN 37331. 423-263-0483; *wlmurphy@usit.net*.  
**Meetings:** 6 p.m., every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, 1954 S. Church St., Murfreesboro, TN. 37130.  
<http://www.heartoftnavculturesociety.com>

## TEXAS

**Alamo Exhibition Bird Club**

**Contact:** Judy Morris, 912 Bass Lake Road, Traverse City, MI 49685; 231-342-3545.  
**Meetings:** 2 p.m., 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month, Kirby Senior Center, 3211 Allen Sheppard,  
 SE San Antonio, TX.

**TEXAS [continued]****Fort Worth Bird Club, Fort Worth**

**Meetings:** 2 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, 3220 University Dr. (north of I-30 in Fort Worth). <http://www.fwbc.org>

**Texas Bird Breeders & Fanciers Association, Arlington****REGION 4 SHOW HOST**

Clarence Culwell, 4211 Kelly Elliott Road, Arlington, TX 76016-4607; 817-220-5568. [cculwell@verizon.net](mailto:cculwell@verizon.net). <http://www.texasbirdbreeders.org>

**Canary and Finch Society, Houston**

**Contact:** Helen Jones, 348 Magnolia Dr., Huffman, TX 77336. **Meetings:** 2 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month, Almeda United Methodist Church, 14310 Almeda Road, just off Sam Houston Tollway. <http://canaryfinchsociety.tripod.com>

**WASHINGTON****Cascade Canary Breeders Association, Issagna**

Brian Johansson 208 155th PL SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012; 425-743-5025, [coleenandersen@gmail.com](mailto:coleenandersen@gmail.com). **Meetings:** 1 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 145 NE Gilmon Blvd., Issagna, WA 95027. **Exception:** no meetings on holidays. <http://www.cascadecanary.com>

**NATIONAL AFFILIATED CLUBS****American Dove Association**

President: James Kell, <http://www.doveline.com>. Jeff Downing, P.O. Box 4256, Frederick, MD 21705

**American Federation of Aviculture**

P.O. Box 91717, Austin, TX 78709; [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org)

**Avicultural Society of America**

Steve Duncan, P.O. Box 3161, San Dimas, CA 91773. Founded in 1927, this is the oldest aviculture society in the United States. <http://www.asabirds.org/home.html>

**National Animal Interest Alliance**

[www.naiaonline](http://www.naiaonline)

**NFSS INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATED CLUBS****CANADA****Durham Aviculture Society of Ontario**

P.O. Box 4, Pickering, ON L1V 2R2. **Meetings:** 7:30 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (no meetings in July or August), Rotary Park Pavilion, South Side of Lake, 151 Driveway West, Ajax, ON. (If the entrance is dark, it is across from house #150.)

**Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society**

Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 519-948-6398, [julianne@mnsi.net](mailto:julianne@mnsi.net), <http://www.essexkentcbs.com>.

**UNITED KINGDOM****Foreign Bird League, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands**

Bryan Reed, 4, St Andrews Drive, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 1PR. Phone: 01384 258154. <http://www.foreignbirdleague.com>

**NFSS AFFILIATED CLUB EVENTS**

AFFILIATIONS AWARDS DIRECTOR: JODY LEWIS

755 N. 4<sup>TH</sup> AVE. • CANTON, IL 61520 • 309-645-7773*affiliationsdirector@nfss.org*

If you are an NFSS Affiliated Club and need to revise your information, please contact Jody Lewis, NFSS Affiliations Awards Director.

**SEPTEMBER 1-2, 2012****Bluegrass Bird Breeders • Shepherdsville, KY**

Annual Show: Pritchard Community Center, 404 S. Mulberry St., Elizabethtown, KY 41065. For show information, contact: Josh Perkins, 504-741-6767.

*perkinstiels@yahoo.com***SEPTEMBER 8, 2012****Heart of Tennessee Aviculture Society • Murfreesboro, TN**

Fall Show and Fair: Middle Tennessee State University, 1720 Greenland Dr., Murfreesboro, TN 37130, Judge: TBA. Show Contact: Wilma Crawford, 615-396-8440. *tnmla2@comcast.net*, <http://www.heartoftnaviculturesociety.com>

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2012****Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society • Manchester, NH**

Annual Fall Show and Mart: All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Road, Hillsborough, NH; 603-669-4644. <http://www.boaf.com/birdShow.htm>

**SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2012****Mountain States Avian Society • Brighton, CO**

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Show: Adams County Fairgrounds, Al Lesser Memorial Building, 9755 Henderson, Brighton, CO 80601. Contact: Jesse Avila, 7910 Greenland Road, Franktown, CO 80116; 303-664-0399, *pjbavila@aol.com*. [www.msasbirds.org](http://www.msasbirds.org).

**SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2012****Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario**

33rd Annual Exotic Bird Show: Ajax Community Centre, Ajax, ON, Canada. Visit website for more information. <http://www.birdclub.ca>

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2012****Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Show**

Fogolar Furlan-Dante Costa Hall, 1800 EC Row, N Service Road, Windsor, ON, Canada.

Judge: Clarence Culwell. Contact: Dave Sylvester, 519-727-3766. *d.sylvester@gmail.com*

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2012****New York Finch and Type Canary Club • New York**

Annual Show: St. Jude Church, 1677 Canarsie Road, Brooklyn NY. Entries: 8-10 a.m.;

Judging, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Judge: TBA

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2012****Illini Bird Fanciers Fall Fair • Springfield, IL**

9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Illinois State Fairgrounds, Twilight Ballroom, Springfield, Illinois. Contact:

Gail or Karen, 217-391-4648, *fairs@illinibirdfanciers.com*

**OCTOBER 12, 2012****Suncoast Canary and Finch Club • Port Charlotte, FL**

2<sup>nd</sup> Suncoast Canary & Finch Club Annual Show: Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gordo, FL 33950. Contact: 941-661-1115.

<http://community-2.webtv.net/suncoastcanaryclub2010/SUNCOASTCANARYCLUB/>

**OCTOBER 13, 2012****Kings County Canary Club • Brooklyn**

Annual Show: St Jude's Hall, 1696 Canarsie Road, Brooklyn, NY 11236.

**OCTOBER 20, 2012****Baltimore Bird Fanciers • Baltimore, MD**

Baltimore Bird Fanciers Annual Show and Mart: Tall Cedars Hall, 250 Putty Hill Ave., Baltimore, MD 21234. Show contact: Christine Roberts. 410-343-1807.

[compteacher@yahoo.com](mailto:compteacher@yahoo.com), <http://www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org>

**OCTOBER 20-21, 2012****Cascade Canary Breeders Association • Issagna, WA**

44th Annual Canary and Finch Show: Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Ave. SE, Monroe, WA. Show Contact: Brian Johansson, 604-465-8047,

[brian.johansson@canadapost.ca](mailto:brian.johansson@canadapost.ca)

**OCTOBER 27, 2012****Central California Cage Bird Club • Modesto, CA**

Annual Show: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Judges listed on website, <http://www.mycccbc.org>

**OCTOBER 30, 2012****Heart of Illinois Bird Club • Pekin, IL**

Fall Fair: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Avanti's Dome, 3401 Griffin, Pekin, IL 62520. Contact: [hoibc@yahoo.com](mailto:hoibc@yahoo.com)

**NOVEMBER 3, 2012****Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club • Chicago, IL**

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club Show (Region 3 Regional Show): Weitendorf Agricultural Center, 17840 Laraway Road, Joliet, IL 60433. <http://www.gccbc.org>

**NOVEMBER 3, 2012****Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association • Arlington, TX**

Annual Show: 9 a.m., Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX. Open to public, 9 a.m.; Judging starts, 10 a.m. Show Contact: Clarence Culwell, 817-220-5568.

<http://www.texasbirdbreeders.org>

**NOVEMBER 3-4, 2012****Columbia Canary Club • Portland, WA**

**November 3-4, 2012:** 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Canary and Finch Show: Red Lion at the Quay Hotel, 100 Columbia St., Vancouver, WA 98660. Show Co-chairs: Faye Silverstein, 503-788-3753 and Hector Diaz, 505-659-6119., [diazf47@msn.com](mailto:diazf47@msn.com).

<http://www.columbiacanaryclub.com>

**NOVEMBER 9-10, 2012****Asociacion De Criadores de Finces Inc. • Puerto Rico**

Winter Show: Ball Room Center, Alturas De Villas Del Rey Francia St., Caguas, P.R. Hwy. 52, Exit #21. Judge: Ken Gunby. Only the following finch species allowed for competition: Zebra, Society, Lady Gouldian, Cutthroat, Cordon Bleu, Green Singer, and Brazilian-crested Cardinal. FREE Entrance. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Asociacion-de-Criadores-de-Finches/170742106273049>

**DECEMBER 2, 2012****Finch Society of San Diego County • San Diego, CA**

Holiday Bird Mart and Craft Fair. Contact club for information.

<http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com>

**NOTICE TO ALL CLUBS****FROM THE EDITOR**

When submitting club and/or show/fair information it is important that you **submit all information**. Many hours have been spent in an attempt to include all information for your club and the events you have scheduled. If you don't submit the information we cannot print it in the journal and you don't receive the coverage you need and deserve. Please look at your club listing and send any information not listed to me so I can have it correct in the Nov/Dec issue. Give complete information. Don't write **Meetings last Friday of each month** and stop there. Tell people the time and location of the meetings. How can they attend if you don't tell them when and where. At a minimum, club and event listings should **include the following**.

**CLUB LISTINGS**

- Club name
- Club's complete mailing address
- Club's website address
- Contact person's full name, address, telephone number, e-mail
- Any other information the club deems necessary

**CLUB EVENT(S) LISTINGS**

- Club name and website address
- Date and time of event
- Location of event
- Complete description of event: judges, etc., if a show
- Contact person(s) name(s), address, telephone, e-mail address
- Any other information you feel is necessary

No special form or style needs to be completed to submit this information. Just put it in an e-mail and send it to me so I can update all clubs and have all information correct. Thank you.

***gertanoble@aol.com***

QTY	AWARDS	COST	*S/H	TOTAL
___	Top 10 Rosettes and Best Unflighted	\$ 30.00	\$ 9.50	\$ _____
___	Judge's Award	6.00	2.65	\$ _____
___	Youth Award	4.00	2.65	\$ _____
___	Novice Award	4.00	2.65	\$ _____
___	Unflighted Add-on 2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.00	2.65	\$ _____
___	Unflighted Add-on 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4.00	2.65	\$ _____
___	1 <sup>st</sup> in Section	2.00	2.65	\$ _____
___	2 <sup>nd</sup> in Section	2.00	2.65	\$ _____
___	3 <sup>rd</sup> in Section	2.00	2.65	\$ _____
___	1 <sup>st</sup> in Class (set of 25)	8.00	<b>9.50</b>	\$ _____
___	2 <sup>nd</sup> in Class (set of 25)	8.00	<b>All 3</b>	\$ _____
___	3 <sup>rd</sup> in Class (set of 25)	8.00	<b>Sets</b>	\$ _____
___	** Plaque [see note below]	28.00	9.00	\$ _____
___	*** 2 to 4 Plaques [see note below]		13.00	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL AWARD COST</b>				<b>\$ _____</b>

**ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR SHIPPING**

- \* **S/H COST FOR EACH ORDER**
- \*\* **PLAQUE SHIPPING IS DIRECT FROM SUPPLIER**
- \*\*\* **ALL PLAQUES SHIPPED PRIORITY MAIL WITH DELIVERY CONFIRMATION**  
**PLAQUE ENGRAVING INFORMATION IS NEEDED**

**SHIPPING****MERCHANDISE INSURANCE COVERAGE IF DESIRED**

\$ 0.01 - \$ 50.00	\$ 1.75		
\$ 50.01 - \$ 100.00	\$ 2.25		
\$ 101.00 - \$ 200.00	\$ 2.75	<b>Total Insurance</b>	\$ _____
Club Affiliation Fee	\$ 30.00	<b>Fee</b>	\$ _____

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Send To \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Show \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable to NFSS • Mail To**

**NFSS Affiliations**  
**Jody Lewis, Liaison/Awards Director**  
**755 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.**  
**Canton, IL 61520**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:****309-645-7773 • [affiliations@nfss.org](mailto:affiliations@nfss.org)**



**NFSS JUDGES PANEL**

**4<sup>th</sup> Vice President – Judges Panel/Standards/Research — Laura Bewley**  
**3538 S. 65 W. Avenue, Tulsa OK 74107 • [lbewley@yahoo.com](mailto:lbewley@yahoo.com)**

**Nizam Ali**  
 135-11 114<sup>th</sup> St.  
 South Ozone Park, NY 11420  
 Phone: 781-835-8590

**Laura Bewley**  
 3538 S. 65 W. Ave.  
 Tulsa, OK 74107  
 Phone: 918-446-3999  
[lbewley@yahoo.com](mailto:lbewley@yahoo.com)

**Alfredo M. Brugueras**  
 174 CR 2317  
 Mineola, TX 75773  
 Phone: 903-569-6979  
[elmaridodealba@yahoo.com](mailto:elmaridodealba@yahoo.com)

**Clarence Culwell**  
 250 Horseshoe Dr.  
 Springtown, TX 76082  
 Phone: 817-220-5568  
[coculwell@verizon.net](mailto:coculwell@verizon.net)

**Dr. Al Decoteau**  
 P.O. Box 546  
 Hollis, NH 03049  
 Phone: 603-878-3435  
[spbe1@aol.com](mailto:spbe1@aol.com)

**Julie R. Duimstra**  
 628 N. Nesmith Ave.  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
 Phone: 605-332-5054  
[julie.duimstra@gmail.com](mailto:julie.duimstra@gmail.com)

**Cecil Gunby**  
 8121 Rte. 1, Hwy. 54  
 Sharpsburg, GA 30277  
 Phone/FAX: 770-254-1261  
[cgunby@bellsouth.net](mailto:cgunby@bellsouth.net)

**Kenneth Gunby**  
 3692 Mandarin Woods Dr. N  
 Jacksonville, FL 32223  
 Phone: 904-403-3078  
[gunbybird@aol.com](mailto:gunbybird@aol.com)

**Annette Howard**  
 1271 Conser Dr.  
 Salem, OH 44460  
 Phone: 330-337-7654  
[howardaj78@yahoo.com](mailto:howardaj78@yahoo.com)

**Sally Huntington**  
 5634 Carnegie St.  
 San Diego, CA 92122  
 Phone: 858-452-9423  
[sallych@san.rr.com](mailto:sallych@san.rr.com)

**Armando Lee**  
 2825 SW 36<sup>th</sup> Terr.  
 Cape Coral, FL 33914  
 Phone: 239-242-7675  
 FAX: 239-471-2800  
[alee21@comcast.net](mailto:alee21@comcast.net)

**Brian Mandarich**  
 4743 E. Hedges Ave.  
 Fresno, CA 93703  
 Phone: 559-255-6508

**Conrad Meinert**  
 1212 E 300 S  
 Warsaw, IN 46580  
 Phone: 574-269-2873  
[birdmanofwarsaw@embarqmail.com](mailto:birdmanofwarsaw@embarqmail.com)

**Vince Moase**  
 1078 Roundelay Ct.  
 Oshawa, ON L1J 7R7  
 Canada  
 Phone: 905-723-1978  
[vmoase@rogers.com](mailto:vmoase@rogers.com)

**Bob Peers**  
 535 W. 61<sup>st</sup> St., Apt. D  
 Westmont, IL 60559  
 Phone/FAX: 630-740-7389  
[pastpresident@nfss.org](mailto:pastpresident@nfss.org)

**Marion (Miki) Spartzak**  
 945 Rosedale Ave.  
 Baltimore, MD 21237  
 Phone: 410-687-8915  
[mjs5295@comcast.net](mailto:mjs5295@comcast.net)

**Laura Tinker**  
 31 Grape Hollow Road  
 Holmes, NY 12531  
 Phone: 845-855-2662  
[LKTinker@comcast.net](mailto:LKTinker@comcast.net)

**Christine Voronovitch**  
 38 Liberty St.  
 Manchester, CT 06040  
 Phone: 860-649-8220  
[lbtbyeagle@aol.com](mailto:lbtbyeagle@aol.com)

**Jerri Wiesenfeld**  
 2379 Water Bluff Dr.  
 Jacksonville, FL 32218  
 Phone: 904-714-2133  
[jerrijavas@aol.com](mailto:jerrijavas@aol.com)

**Martha Wigmore**  
 18913 Boston St. NW  
 Elk River, MN 55330  
 Phone: 763-241-0071  
[newdlwig@mindspring.com](mailto:newdlwig@mindspring.com)

**Paul S. Williams**  
 101 Linden Dr.  
 Eufaula, AL 36027  
 Phone: 334-687-1713  
[pwilliams@eufaula.rr.com](mailto:pwilliams@eufaula.rr.com)

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN NFSS JUDGE?**  
**CONTACT LAURA BEWLEY AT [4thVP@nfss.org](mailto:4thVP@nfss.org)**

# NFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**

John Wilson  
San Francisco, CA 94110

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Bob Peers  
535 W. 61<sup>st</sup> St., Apt. D  
Westmont., IL 60559  
Phone/FAX: 630-740-7389  
*pastpresident@nfss.org*

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

Bob Peers  
535 W. 61<sup>st</sup> St., Apt. D  
Westmont., IL 60559  
Phone/FAX: 630-740-7389  
*1stVP@NFSS.ORG*

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

**WEBSITE**  
Barbara Jaquez  
P.O. Box 492  
Loyalton, CA 96118  
Phone: 530-993-1336  
*2ndvp@nfss.org*

**3<sup>rd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT,  
FINCH-SOFTBILL SAVE  
PROGRAM/CENSUS MGR.**

Vonda Zwick  
611 Hingham Lane  
Schau<sup>u</sup>mburg, IL 60193  
*3<sup>rd</sup> vp@nfss.org*

**4<sup>th</sup> VICE PRESIDENT—JUDGES  
PANEL/STANDARDS/RESEARCH**

Laura Bewley  
Phone: 918-446-3999  
*lbewley@yahoo.com*

**LIAISON/AWARDS DIRECTOR**

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

**BAND SECRETARY**

Paula Hansen  
2234 Juneau Ct. S  
Salem, OR 97302  
*bands@nfss.org*

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS**

William Parlee  
Phone: 860-569-0200  
*presidentemeritus@nfss.org*

**REGION 1 VICE PRESIDENT  
(NORTHEAST)**

Vince Moase  
1078 Roundelay Ct.  
Oshawa, ON L1J 7R7  
Phone: 905-723-1978  
*Canadatreasurer@nfss.org*  
*region1vp@nfss.org*

**REGION 2 VICE PRESIDENT  
(SOUTHEAST)**

Michael Gravely  
*mgravely@  
therefinedgarden.com*

**REGION 3 VICE PRESIDENT  
(MID-CENTRAL)**

Jason Crean  
*beaksbirdhouse@aol.com*

**REGION 4 VICE PRESIDENT  
(Midwest)**

Cheryl Burns  
336 S. Pearson Lane  
Keller, TX 76248  
Phone: (H) 817-337-7492  
Phone: (C) 817-445-2016  
*region4vp@nfss.org*

**REGION 5 VICE PRESIDENT  
(MOUNTAIN)**

Doug White  
13013 311<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Sultan WA 98240  
*dwhite3511@msn.com*

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

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

**FINCH SHOP MANAGER**

Sharon Dvorak  
Phone: 919-266-4935  
*finchshop@nfss.org*

**TREASURER**

Lisa R. Murphy  
918 Georgia Ave.  
Etowah, TN 37331

**ADVERTISING,  
PROMOTIONS MANAGER**

Barbara Jaquez  
P.O. Box 492  
Loyalton, CA 96118  
Phone: 530-993-1336  
*advertosomg@nfss.org*

**MODERATOR, NFSS FORUMS**

John Wilson  
*Jwilson153@aol.com*

**NFSS WEBMASTER**

Barbara Jaquez  
*loyaltonjaquez@psln.com*

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

Tiffany Park  
Phone: 850-321-6162  
*membership@nfss.org*

**NFSS JOURNAL EDITOR**

Gertrude A. Noble  
3989 Forest Park Way #212  
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120  
Phone: 716-525-1249  
*gertanoble@aol.com*

**LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**

Roland Crista  
*legis@nfss.org*

# PARADISE EARTH

Birds, Products, & Premium Feed



## Softbills & Finches IN STOCK NOW:

- Paradise Tanagers
- Bearded Barbets
- Red-legged Honeycreepers
- Owl Finches
- Purple Grenadiers

We Proudly Offer our Paradise Earth  
**PREMIUM FINCH BLEND**, & now our  
**SOFTBILL DIET**.

Our premium diets are complete feeds,  
specifically designed for the dietary needs  
of finches and softbills.



Ask about  
our

**BIRD  
GUARANTEE!**

We have worked diligently over the past several years on our special feeds, which include **Dried Insects, Bee Pollen, Vitamins, Dried Fruits, & Dried Vegetables.**

*Feed your birds our Paradise Earth  
Premium Feed & see improved  
feathers, breeding & overall health.*

Buy Softbills, Finches and our Premium Feeds online at

**[www.BirdProduct.com](http://www.BirdProduct.com)**

First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Shawnee Msn KS  
Permit No. 84



Gertrude A. Biele  
3983 Forest Park Way #712  
North Tonawanda, NY 14170

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

Call 1.800.456.6780

*We cage 'em, You raise 'em™*



**CC** Corners Limited  
CUSTOM CAGING SPECIALISTS