

Journal of the

National Finch & Softbill Society

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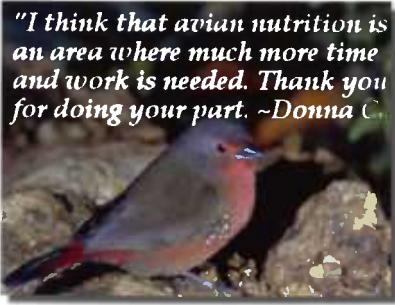
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NFSS Mission Statement

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

Journal of the National Finch & Softbill Society

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Cover: Goldbreasted waxbill fledgling. Photo by Tom Keegan.

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Table of Contents

President's Message	Page 4
NFSS Board Of Directors Meeting 4th Quarter 2010	Page 8
Captive Breeding of the Lavender Waxbill by David Boyd	Page 11
The (Black throated) Yellow Rumped Seed eater	Page 15
A Very Special Finch Division at the Massachusetts Cage Bird Association's 2010 Show: Hybrids and Mules on the Show Bench by Tom Keegan & Tim Roche	Page 22
2011 NFSS General Election For Officers Serving 2012 & 2013	Page 30
NFSS 2011 Panel of Judges	Page 39
The 2011 NFSS Board of Directors & Appointed Officers	Page 40

NFSS is proud to affiliate with:

The American Federation of Aviculture • www.afabirds.org

The Avicultural Society of America • www.asabirds.org

The National Animal Interest Alliance • www.naiaonline.org

President's Message



First I want to congratulate Tiffany Park, who can now remove the "pro tempore" from her title of NFSS Membership Director. It's a job critical to our success and also among the most demanding positions on the board of directors. We're fortunate to have Tiffany in the position and welcome her announcement that she will run in this year's general election.

This brings up the general election and the relatively short time frame we work with to complete the election process and announce results at the NFSS Annual Meeting, held at the National Cage Bird Show. If you are considering running for an office, please quickly contact Rebecca Mikel execsecretary@nfss.org and get your name on the list. Presently, Affiliations Liaison/Awards Director and Region 4 Vice President are without candidates and we welcome interested members to throw their hats in the ring for any NFSS office that interests them.

Now is also a good time to start planning a trip to Missouri in November! Attending and supporting the NFSS Community and the broader bird keeping/breeding and showing community by attending local and regional shows is not only an excellent way to spend time, it is the primary venue for meeting new breeders and putting faces with the names of those we know online. Stretching out to attend the "National" represents an opportunity to meet and visit with the geographically broadest group of breeders available at a single event. I hope to see many of you at the 2011 National Cage Bird Show, which is in Kansas City, Missouri Thursday November 17 through Saturday November 19, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center 2345 McGee Street Kansas City, MO. Check the web site http://www.ncbs.org/annual_show.htm for more information. This has the potential to be a larger than normal NCBS given that the 2010 show was canceled and this year's more central location. Check with your bird buddies and let's plan a big showing in Kansas City. I hope to see many of you there.

Save the Wild Gouldian. In our fourth quarter meeting, the NFSS board of directors passed a motion to support the "Save the Gouldian Fund" (<http://www.savethegouldian.org/>) by matching NFSS members' gifts of ten dollars (\$10) or more to the Save the Gouldian Fund until the total NFSS contribution reaches \$1000. If this generates enough support we could be cutting a check of \$2000 or more to the STGF. Here's your chance to show support for a high profile finch conservation effort while promoting NFSS's objective to build awareness and interest in Avian conservation. Renew your membership early and add a dedicated gift of ten or more dollars to the STGF.

Respectfully,

John Wilson
President



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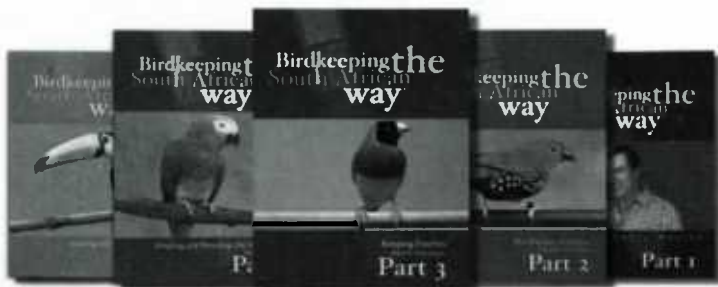
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NFSS Board Of Directors Meeting

4th QUARTER 2010

TREASURY

- Beginning Bank Balance: \$31,116.355
- Ending Bank Balance: \$32,334.76
- IRS 990 will be prepared and submitted by May 15th; 1099's sent by 1/31 to anyone who earned over \$599 in 2010

BANDS

- Plastic bands have arrived, website will be updated

MEMBERSHIP

- 545 total members, 44 total affiliates

CENSUS/FSS

- 2010 Census will run Jan-Feb 2011; FSS preparing for official launch with updates to software and User's Manual continuing

NATIONAL SHOW – *San Diego, California*

- 11 exhibitors, 79 birds, Judge- Vince Moase
- BOD meeting and Membership Meeting held during the event
- Additional funds of \$1403.66 approved by BOD to cover expenses of this event

RED SISKIN RECOVERY PROJECT

- Letter to be drafted to AFA requesting transfer of program and associated funds
- Committee developed: Roland Cristo, Paula Hansen, Cheryl Burns, Jon Wilson

STANDARDS COMMITTEES

- Euro Goldfinch, Orange Cheek Waxbill, & Cuban Melodious have committees & have established rough drafts of standards. The Gouldian standard is being reviewed by a group of volunteers. Laura Bewley, 4th VP, will provide oversight of all.

NFSS JUDGES

- REMINDER: Judge's fees due on April 1st

AFFILIATED CLUBS

- Committee formed to review how we can best meet all needs of Affiliated Clubs. Bob Peers will
- Assume temporary responsibility for Affiliations/Awards Dept. due to illness of current Manager.

SAVE THE GOULDIAN FUND

- NFSS accepting donations and will match first \$500 for 12/31/11 contribution to this cause

GENERAL ELECTION

- Gen. Election to be held in 2011. Request made for volunteers for Chairperson and Committee
- Members for Nominating Committee. Those interested in serving on the NFSS BOD during next
- Term are encouraged to prepare bios for submission to the Nominating Committee.

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Captive Breeding of the Lavender Waxbill (*Estrilda caerulescens*)

by David Boyd, Crest, CA

In this article I describe my personal experience and observations on the captive breeding of the Lavender waxbill. I will defer general discussion of the species, native habitat, behavior (except reproductive behavior), or general husbandry to the myriad publications already available.



Housing and Hygiene

The Lavender waxbill is a gregarious, inquisitive, active and hardy species that tolerates others, including its own, quite well given sufficient space and resources to mitigate any confrontations over basic needs. Space requirements, species compatibility (in a mixed-species enclosure), and environmental considerations for the successful breeding of the Lavender waxbill are not atypical when compared to other Estrildids.

I never house more than one breeding pair of any species within the same enclosure, but I do maintain several pairs

of compatible birds together within the same enclosure (notice that I specified compatible "birds" and not "species". I have found that all else being equal, compatibility is more a matter of individual birds' disposition rather than the species to which it belongs).

I have produced parent-raised offspring in 6'x6'x6' welded wire outdoor aviaries each housing a total of 10 to 14 birds - one pair each of Angolan Blue Breasted, Lavender, and Purple Grenadier waxbills and two pair each of Green-back Twinspot and Gold Breasted waxbills.

My aviaries are equipped in kind, with two feeding/water stations, separate bathing facilities, nest material hangers, a heat lamp, numerous woven nests, manzanita perches, tumbleweeds and dried brush attached to the sides in the upper half of the enclosure, and a washed sand substrate covers the floor.

Each aviary affords the occupants access to unfiltered sunlight. A series of removable redwood lattice panels wrapped in heavy plastic sheeting are attached to the sides of each enclosure and corrugated plastic sheets cover the roof. Outside temperatures as low as 28°F or as high as 105°F have had no adverse affect on breeding, or the viability of brooding chicks or adult birds.

Hygienic practices are not too rigorous, but important. All food and water

coordinated "bowing" of the body up and down, alternating between each bird. At the same time the cock-bird vocalizes "sooo" as each bird turns its' head towards the other.

Another courtship display is that which typically precedes copulation. As for most Estrildids, the cock-bird will hold an object of fancy (twig, feather, string, etc.) in the beak, then perch in a conspicuous location and begin hopping up and down, head bobbing, while vocalizing "ksee yooou". If wooing of the hen is successful, copulation will take place shortly thereafter.

Nest Design and Construction

The nest of the Lavender waxbill is distinctive; an architectural marvel constructed from intricately woven fibers and grasses. The result is an oval shaped structure that incorporates an entrance tunnel, typically 4 to 7cm in length and curved slightly downward.

To enter the nest, the birds must hover for 2 to 3 seconds just below the opening of the entrance tunnel, and then dart into the nest by thrusting themselves upwards and forward.

In Southern California the Lavender waxbill will readily breed in outdoor enclosures during the spring, summer, and fall months. I supply woven bamboo covered nests that are prepared with approximately 1-2 inches of soft grass hay placed in the bottom, compressed slightly to form a bowl. The nests are located as close as possible to the roofline.

Construction materials preferred by the Lavender waxbill include coconut fiber, burlap string, colored crepe paper, and various grasses including soft hay and



native species. Although white feathers are supplied, they are not utilized to a great extent.

The cock-bird alone is tasked with construction of the nest. Once committed, the Lavender waxbill is a diligent and efficient laborer. I have observed a single bird complete construction of a nest in as little as two days.

A unique behavior elicited by the Lavender waxbill is "ornamenting" the nest. Once construction of the nest proper is complete, the cock-bird will gather various objects and meticulously arrange them atop the entrance tunnel. Favored trinkets include dried droppings, leaves, colored paper, feathers, and yes, the corpses of dead chicks! This is the reason for cautioning against too frequent cleaning of the enclosure, which could result in too few "ornaments" to satisfy the cock-birds' penchant for decoration.

Clutching, Incubation, and Brooding

As construction of the nest nears completion, reproductive activity begins in earnest. More frequent cock-bird calling, greeting and courtship displays, and copulation might be observed

(although I believe copulation occurs most frequently within the nest).

Clutching entails the production of one uniformly white egg per day for a total of 3 to 6 eggs. During this time, the hen will disappear for a short period each day to deposit an egg within the nest.

Incubation ensues once most of the eggs have been deposited. Both birds share responsibility for incubation of the eggs. Overt signs of incubation include the absence of one bird, disheveled and curved tail feathers, and extraordinarily large droppings. The eggs hatch after incubating for 12 to 15 days and over a period of 2 to 3 days.

The newly hatched chicks are naked with pink skin, dark patches on the head and back, and brilliant white flesh on both sides of the beak where the mandibles join. These fleshy patches, the gape flanges, likely facilitate location and feeding of the young by the parents. Both parents brood the young, alternating with each other between incubating and feeding activities.

Chick begging sounds can be described as a "squeaky shopping cart wheel" and are not readily audible for approximately the first 7 days post-hatch. Begging activity escalates around days 7 to 10 as the eyes open and pinfeathers appear. At this point, the parent birds spend less time actually in the nest and more time in pursuit of foodstuffs. Birds that are actively feeding young engage in more frequent visits to the feed station, search intently for live food, and exhibit crop loading (an action that resembles gasping for air and precedes feeding of the young).

It is not uncommon for the first several clutches produced by inexperienced parents to fail before viable chicks are realized. Tossing of chicks or nest abandonment generally occurs within 7 days of hatching and are most often associated with inexperienced birds. Nest abandonment typically results from small clutches, infertile and dead-in-shell eggs, or chicks that are not viable. I have not identified a systematic cause for these behaviors other than a significant oversight in husbandry practices, including the lack of live food when working with wild caught specimens.

Fledging and Maturation

Fledging of the chicks occurs 18 to 21 days post-hatch. I close band the chicks within 2 days of fledging using size "D" NFSS bands.



Fledging of all chicks can take up to 3 days. The young will sometimes return to the nest, or another suitable shelter, for the first 5 to 7 days after fledging.

The fledglings are well feathered with adult-like plumage and short tail feathers. The brilliant white flesh at the gape flanges is still prominent and disappears within 7 to 10 days.

The fledglings are weaned approximately 16 to 21 days post-fledge. Both parents continue to feed the young. It is not uncommon for a new nest to be constructed and another clutch of eggs produced prior to weaning of the fledglings.

The molt into adult plumage occurs around 4 to 8 weeks after fledge. Young cock-birds begin developing their song around this time and practice incessantly producing a variety of warble-like refrains punctuated by squeaky trills and slurred call notes.

At 4 to 6 months of age the birds are sexually mature and manifest reproductive behaviors.



About the Author

David Boyd is a retired biotechnology professional and amateur aviculturist specializing in the captive breeding of African Estrildids.

The (Black throated) Yellow Rumped Seedeater (*Serinus atrogularis* or *Ochrospiza atrogularis*)

by [Name] [Location], [Country] Netherlands

I acquired these birds in the beginning of August 2005 from bird trader Eric van Tendeloo in Nijlen, Belgium. I was able to choose from about 30 imported species and in the end acquired two pairs. This importer/trader had the good habit of naming the birds with their scientific name. This is restricted to the species; subspecies are not mentioned. What I purchased were *Serinus atrogularis*.

I already had a pair of "Black throated Yellow rumped seedeaters," but the markings of these birds were clearly

different. Once at home I tried to determine the right subspecies. For this I used the following reference books:

Finches & Sparrows, Peter Clement and others; *Zeisige, Girlitze*, Gimpel und Kernbeiser, Horst Bielefeld (Germany). *Handbuch der Cardueliden*, Dr. Hans Classen/Karlheinz Massoth (Germany). "Genus *Serinus*" Cees van Berkel, from *Onze Vogels* August 1987 (Netherlands).

My conclusion is, with reference to the above mentioned publications and



Young Black throated Yellow rumped seedeater having a treat of fresh evening primrose seed. Photo courtesy ESSB.

articles, that the newly acquired bird species in 2005 is "Serinus atrogularis somereni". This has a darker and larger throat spot than the nominate species. Both the cock bird and hen show these differences, with the throat/head markings of the hen being more dark grey. With the cock bird this is black, thus the difference between the sexes of this Serinus species is visible.

The birds were in perfect condition and, after a three week quarantine period

at my home, I placed the four birds in my uncovered outside flight. At that time they had to share this space with some White Bellied canaries (*Serinus dorostriatus*), Grey Singers (*Serinus leucopygius*), Green Singers (*Serinus mozambicus*), Yellow rumped seedeaters (*Serinus reichenowi*), the already present Black throated Yellow rumped seedeaters (*Serinus atrogularis*), African citril (*Serinus citrinelloides*), Lemon Breasted canaries (*Serinus citrinpectus*) and canaries (*Serinus canaria domesticus*).



*Black throated Yellow rumped seedeaters: Birds rich in contrast. Here probably the subspecies *Serinus atrogularis somereni* (cock bird at front). Photo courtesy ESSB.*

Typical Serins

This subspecies of the Black throated Yellow rumped seedeater proves to be a typical Seedeater in its behavior. Within days they were fully accepted into the mixed aviary. They have the same flying characteristics as my other Seedeaters, the same way of foraging and the same behavior. Also the song of the cock birds is similar, as is the shape of the bill, the posture and the type. The food consists of tropical seed

mix and a wild seed mix. A tropical mix only - with mainly millets – I find too one sided. Most Seedeater's also like to eat grass seeds, some niger, lettuce seed, chicory, plain canary seed and perilla. This main food is complemented with, every now and then, some "weeds," mealworms and green stuff. Egg food is also supplied regularly. Because of a lack of facilities I decided later that year to sell the Yellow Rumped Seedeaters and the other Black throated Yellow



Young Black throated Yellow rumped seedeaters some 6 days old. The yellow bill surround is often observed in birds of the genus *Serinus*. Photo courtesy ESSB.

rumped seedeaters and only keep the two new pairs.

Breeding Period

Around the end of September/beginning of October 2005 I noticed the bonding of my Seedeaters was taking place. The couples who bonded were caught and placed in a breeding cage. Imported Seedeaters get into breeding condition in autumn.

The two new pairs of Black throated Yellow rumped seedeaters, however, reached breeding condition a little later than my other Seedeaters and remained a little longer in the flight. (note: in 2006 these Seedeater's too were in breeding condition around the end of September/beginning of October. I probably acquired young birds)

Especially during the mating time, the beautiful song of the cock bird is heard readily. The singing is energetically

presented to the hen bird with spread, hanging wings. Just before Christmas 2005 both these couples too were placed in the breeding cages, measuring 40cm high x 40cm wide x 35cm deep. Over a short period of time the hours of daylight were increased with the fluorescent lights in the breeding area being on from 05.30 till 21.45 hours. The breeding area is moderately heated, in such a way that the minimum temperature does not drop below 8 degrees C. The fact that little or no breeding results with Seedeaters in the (open) outside aviary is achieved is, in my opinion, due to the fact that it is too cold in autumn, winter and early spring and the natural light is too short.

Nesting materials was a mixture of sisal, cotton wool and animal hair. The nesting box was a wooden barred nesting box with both sides removed. In that I placed a well secured pre molded nest of coco fiber.

Breeding Results

Both pairs quickly got on with the building of the nest and in both nests three eggs were laid. The eggs are a dirty white in color with pinkish/red smudges. Unfortunately all the eggs from one of the pairs were infertile. The other pair had three fertile eggs, which were perfectly incubated. The cock birds remained with the hens in the breeding cages without any problems and fed the hens on the nest. Most of the time, they also hopped quickly on the eggs when the hen left the nest to relieve herself.

On the 29th January 2006, after thirteen day of incubation, three young

were born with a very dark skin color. The cock bird continued to feed the hen on the nest with the hen feeding the young in return. The young grew quickly and were able to be ringed on the fourth day with 2.3 mm rings. The young of these Black throated Yellow rumped Seedeaters have yellow bill surrounds.

The soft food was made of "homemade egg food" (three crushed Dutch rusks 1, one egg and a small scoop of Breed-max2) complemented with fresh mealworms, frozen maggots and buffalo worms. Every now and again some chickweed was given. After approximately three weeks the young left the

Pair Black throated Yellow rumped seedeaters on the nest. This cock bird is very tolerant of the hen. Photo courtesy ESSB





Cock bird Serinus atrogularis somereni. Note the distinctive black throat markings. Photo courtesy European Society of Serinus Breeders (ESSB).

nest and three days later were placed in a baby cage. Unfortunately, after a while one of these young died.

This was followed by another breeding round with this pair. On the 26 of March 2006 three young were born, all of which reached maturity. The other pair had, as already mentioned, infertile eggs in the first round, but in the second round all three eggs did prove fertile.

Unfortunately the cock bird died during the breeding, so it was left to the hen alone. When the three eggs hatched, the loss of the cock bird did not prove to

be an obstacle for this hen. She raised these three young by herself without any problem. One of these young also died after a while.

The year 2005/2006 took the total of young Black throated Yellow rumped seedeaters to seven from two pairs. During the summer months the birds went through the moult and remained in my outside aviary with my other Seed-eaters. For the 2006/2007 breeding season, I have been able to get three unrelated pairs out of my parent birds and their young. I had the first young in the nest by mid October 2006.

Also Interested in Serins?

There are over thirty of these Serinus species known. Some of these have seldom reached Western Europe; others were imported in restricted numbers. Imported Grey Singers and Green Singers were in Europe still offered for sale in reasonable numbers till the end of 2005. They were not imported in Europe in 2006. As they are bird species who can be bred in breeding cages with some knowledge and not too difficult conditions, it is specially now of importance that the owners of these birds in Europe concentrate on the breeding of these birds. One should endeavor to breed with every serin cock bird and every hen, to preserve as many species of this genus Serinus for aviculture as possible. It is preferred not to interbreed species with sub species. The "European Society of Serinus Breeders" (ESSB) aims to stimulate the breeding of birds of the genus Serinus and to bring breeders together. Interested? Please visit: www.serinus-society.eu.

End Notes

1. rusks are hard, dry biscuits such as zwieback toast sold in the US.
2. a granular protein/vitamin/mineral supplement

About the Author

John Santegoeds lives in Lierop, Netherlands, he is a member of the NBvV, and a breeder of several Serin-species and Hybrids, mostly Canaries x European birds, active in local bird clubs. He can be reached by email at fam_santegoeds@hotmail.com.

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A Very Special Finch Division at the Massachusetts Cage Bird Association's 2010 Show: Hybrids and Mules on the Show Bench

By Tom Keegan, NFSS 2nd Vice President

Show Committee Member, Massachusetts Cage Bird Association

& Tim Roche, NFSS Member

Mule-Hybrid Division Judge, Massachusetts Cage Bird Association 2010 Show



Hybrids? Mules? These are not sections in any NFSS show. Currently, NFSS standards do not allow the exhibition of hybridized birds, with the sole exception of the Society Finch, whose genetic history has long been debated (long before NFSS existed!). But breeding and exhibiting inter-species crosses has a long history in bird keeping and

exhibition. So what is a Show Committee to do?

At the Massachusetts Cage Bird Association (MCBA), we have typically tacked on a small sub-division for mules and hybrids to one of the existing regular show divisions, wherever there was a judge that was willing and able to judge the birds. Obviously, this system



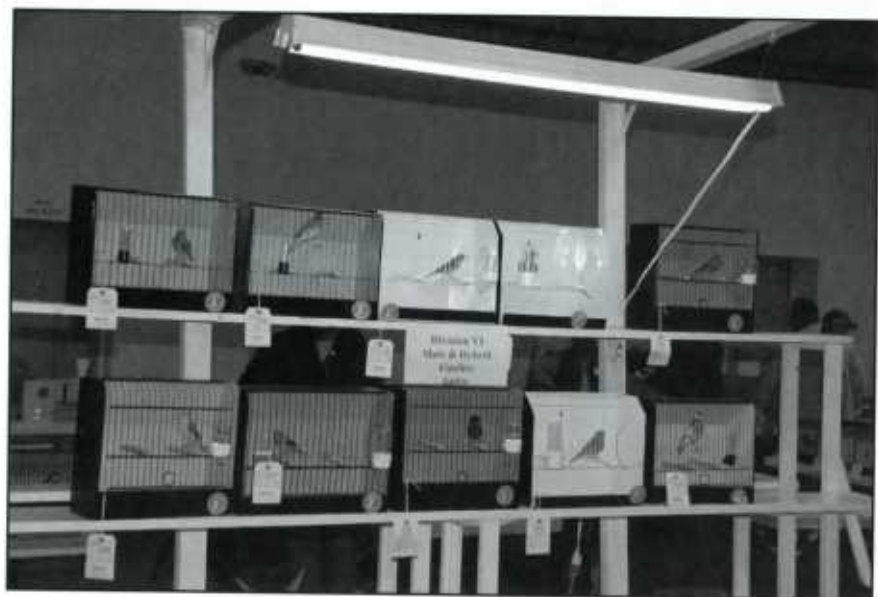
is less than ideal from the standpoint of the exhibitor who wants to show his or her birds and have some serious competition. So, in 2010, NFSS members Tim Roche and Charlie Loukeris decided they could do better. They worked with the 2010 MCBA Show Committee to develop a full-fledged division at the show for mules and hybrids. They even donated some money so that we could offer cash awards for the best birds!

The first step was to develop show standards. Tim and Charlie greatly expanded the past classifications we had used and developed a good system of classes, with two sub-divisions: mules and hybrids. The mule subdivision was for any canary cross. The hybrid division was for crosses of two (non-canary) finch species. The full classifications are printed at the end of this article.

The most important factor when judging mules and hybrids is parent

identification. A hybrid must clearly display traits from both parents to be viable as a show specimen. Individuals, even nestmates, may vary a great deal, and this makes for interesting comparisons on the show bench. A Green Singer cock x Grey Singer hen can look substantially different from a Grey Singer cock x Green Singer hen. Degree of difficulty in obtaining offspring also factors in when choosing top hybrids. Something akin to a Chaffinch x Greenfinch would rate very much higher than an offspring from the aforementioned Green x Grey Singer, given that decent conformation is present in both birds. The usual factors of plumage, condition, conformation etc then round out the judging criteria.

Mules tend to visualize a little differently due to the influence of the domestic canary as a partner. Offspring, by and large, look very much like the finch partner and, as with the hybrids, parentage



should be clearly identifiable. Exhibition mules, particularly in Europe, are bred from Norwich or Norwich x Border canaries which impart great size to the birds. Miniature mules, such as those bred from Red Siskins and small European Goldfinch races are usually run with red factor canaries. The flood of mutation colors now available within these two finch families nowadays are leading to some stunning mules when paired to their counterparts in the colored canary fancy. Originally, the mule was developed in order to produce a bird that would have a finch song, which could be delivered with the longevity of the canary's repertoire. These birds are specifically tutored, having select song CDs played to them repeatedly from the time they are weaned until after molting is completed. They should not be exposed to canary song or they will revert. In many European countries, competition is fierce within this realm, with superior specimens changing hands for good sums of money.

At the 2010 MCBA show, turnout was a little lighter than expected, based on past experience and the expectation that a new division and cash awards would lure more exhibitors. However, we were able to bring in about the same number of entries as we had in the NFSS finch division this year. Results were as follows:

Judge: Tim Roche

Secretary: Charlie Loukeris

No. exhibitors: 6

No. entries: 19

Placing	Bird	Exhibitor
1 st	Himalayan Goldfinch x Canary	Charlie Loukeris
2nd	Siberian Goldfinch x Canary	Joe da Rocha
3rd	European Greenfinch x Canary	Rick Bellantone

All the birds exhibited were in the Mule subdivision (no hybrids were entered). It is likely that there will always be more mules entered than hybrids, due to the fact that it's much easier to get a canary hen to raise chicks vs. one of the other serin species. But it would be nice to see more hybrids in the future.

As the future of exhibition becomes less and less clear, it is important that we look to bird exhibitors themselves for answers. After all, bird shows exist because people want to show their birds. It's exciting to see a new division added to a show when interest in shows seems to be on a downturn in many ways. Although hybrids and mules may or may not be something that NFSS wishes to add to its show classifications, it is nonetheless important to listen to the exhibition community to find out what they want and how changing our shows might increase interest in showing.

DIVISION VI: MULES & HYBRIDS

Division VI-A: Hybrids

Cock or Hen Flighted or Unflighted, use same numbers

Section 1

Eurasian	Class
Any European Goldfinch hybrid (Specify)	1326
Any European Siskin hybrid (Specify)	1327
Any European Serin hybrid (Specify)	1328
Any European Greenfinch hybrid (Specify)	1329
Any European Linnet hybrid (Specify)	1330
Any European Twite hybrid (Specify)	1331
Any Red Fronted Serin hybrid (Specify)	1332
Any Himalayan Greenfinch hybrid (Specify)	1333
Any Himalayan Goldfinch hybrid (Specify)	1334
AOV Eurasian hybrid (Specify)	1335

Section 2

South American

Any Black Siskin hybrid (Specify)	1336
Any Hooded Siskin hybrid (Specify)	1337
Any Red Siskin hybrid (Specify)	1338
AOV South American hybrid (Specify)	1339

DIVISION VI: MULES & HYBRIDS

Division VI-B: Mules

Cock or Hen Flighted or Unflighted, use same numbers

Section 1

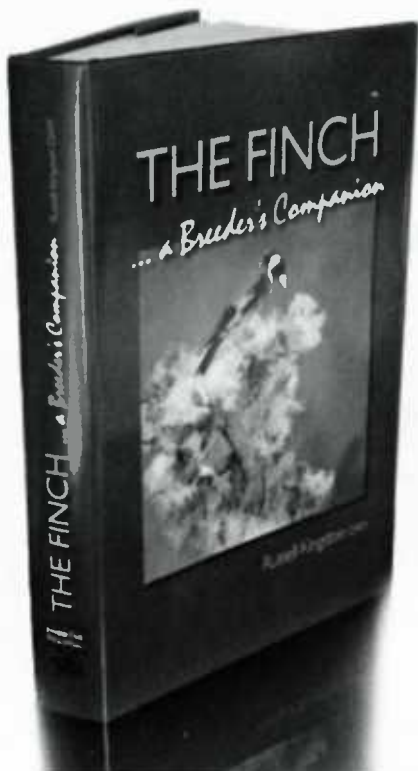
Eurasian

	Class
European Goldfinch (any race) X Canary	1301
European Siskin x Canary	1302
European Serin x Canary	1303
European Linnet x Canary	1304
European Greenfinch x Canary	1305
European Twite x Canary	1306
Red Fronted Serin x Canary	1307
Himalayan Greenfinch x Canary	1308
Himalayan Goldfinch x Canary	1309
AOV Eurasian mule (Specify)	1310

Section 2

South American

Black Siskin x Canary	1311
Hooded Siskin x Canary	1312
Red Siskin x Canary	1313
AOV South American mule (Specify)	1314



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2011 NFSS GENERAL ELECTION

For Officers Serving 2012 & 2013

The NFSS By-laws require that the Society have an election of Officers every two years. A ballot which includes all positions open for election and the names of candidates running for each position in the 2011 General Election will be published in the **July/August** NFSS Journal.

All votes must be returned to the designated address for collecting and counting the ballots with a postmark of **NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1st, 2011**. Specific instructions will be included in the ballot.

The announcement of the winners in the election will be made at the 2011 National Cage Bird Show .

Please remember these deadlines as it pertains to renewal of your membership – don't allow an interruption in your active membership to occur – especially if your renewal date is near any of these deadlines. You must allow the Membership Director adequate time to process renewals and prepare mailing lists. New members and existing members who renew their membership **BEFORE OCTOBER 15th, 2011**, will be provided with a ballot, but it will be their personal responsibility to make sure it is returned and postmarked **BY NOVEMBER 1, 2011** in order to be eligible.

Dual members will each have one (1) vote each and will be allowed to copy the ballot.

Rebecca Mikel

Election Committee Chair

Lisa Murphy, Bob Peers, Larry Baum

Election Committee



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NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

2011 Affiliates will be printed in the March/April issue of the Journal

Liaison Officer - Alfredo Bruguera

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affiliations@nfss.org

California

Finch Society of San Diego - Poway www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com Contact: sdfinchsociety@gmail.com. Meetings 4th Sunday of the month 2-4 PM, Poway Elks Club, 13219 Poway Road, Poway CA 92064 on 3/27, 4/17, 5/22, 6/19, 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 12/4 (2011)

Santa Clara Bird Club, Santa Clara, www.santaclarabirdclub.org. Club Meeting: Sundays at noon- 3/13, 4/10, 5/15, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/6. Event: 50th Annual Cage Bird Show See website for more info. Date: 12/3/11 Location: San Jose, CA. Contact: Cecile Aguilera Email: showinfo@santaclarabirdclub.org (2011)

West Coast Zebra & Society Finch Show, Sacramento (Regional Show) www.efinch.com/show. Event: 6th Annual West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show, July 30, La Quinta Inn Downtown Sacramento. Contact: jamiarndt@comcast.net

Florida

Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club, Stuart, www.tcoastbirdclub.com. Contact: 772-380-9882 or tm50er@yahoo.com. Event: Exotic Bird Expo 2011, March 20, Martin County Fairgrounds.

RAZ, Orlando. Contact (Annette Howard): 330-337-7654 howardaj78@yahoo.com. Event: TBA.

Illinois

Finch & Softbill Breeders & Exhibitors Club, Chicagoland: www.fsbec.finchfiles.com 847-963-1926 gailsouldians@comcast.net. Event: TBA

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club, Lombard, www.gccbc.org. Contact: secretary@gccbc.org. Event: The Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club Show, Nov 5th, Weitendorf Agricultural Center, 17840 Laraway Rd., Joliet, IL 60433. Show Contact: Shar Toby, sharlant2000@yahoo.com, 847-217-4751

Heart of Illinois Bird Club, 755 N. 4th Ave, Canton 61520 Meetings every third Sunday. 2pm (unless holiday). Meetings, fairs and show are all held at the Grand Hotel, 4400 N. Brandywine Dr, Peoria 61614. Contact: Jody, 309-645-7773 or hoibc@yahoo.com

Mid West Bird Breeders & Exhibitors, Lawrenceville Event: TBA. Contact Lisa Grimes, lgtiels@yahoo.com

Iowa

Mid America Cage Bird Society, Des Moines, www.MACBS.org. Events - Bird fairs March 27th, June 5th, August 28 2011, Des Moines Botanical Center. contact - John Thielking: JThielking@comcast.net

Maryland

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Baltimore www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org. Contact: info@baltimorebirdfanciers.org. Events: TBA

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc, Foxboro, 781-335-3927, www.masscagebird.org. Event: Annual Bird Show, Oct. 15, Lowell Elks Lodge, 40 Old Ferry Rd, Lowell 01854. Contact: Tom Keegan, 781-335-3927, nfss.pubs@gmail.com.

Missouri

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society, Grandview, www.gkcas.org. Contact: dayforthebirds@aol.com, 816-252-1120

New Hampshire

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society, Manchester, www.boaf.com. Contact: member.support@BOAF.com or 603-362-6106. Events: TBA

New York

Empire Finch & Canary Club, West Hempstead, irmanperez@aol.com Club meets 1st Thursday every month at 8 PM, Averill Blvd Park, Elmont, NY. Contact: John Lund, irmanperez@aol.com. Event: TBA

New York Finch & Type Canary Club, NYC, barstand@verizon.net Meets 2nd Sunday of the month- 1:00 PM to 4:00 Pm, except July & August Events: TBA.

Oregon

Columbia Canary Club, Portland. Contact: jeeperspeepers55@aol.com or 503-266-7606. Meeting location: Milwaukie, Oregon Grange.

Puerto Rico

Asociacion De Criadores de Fincas Inc. Contact: finchespr@yahoo.com / 787-479-7405. Meetings Every Tuesday @7:00 PM, Las Catalinas Mall Food Court Area. Club Officer & Show Contact: Juan Alicea 787-479-7405 or juanalicea@yahoo.com. Events: Summer Show June 3-5, 2011 Judge: Laura Tinker Winter Show November 4-6, 2001 Judge: Annette Howard

Puerto Rico Zebra Finch Club, Gurabo, www.przfc.com. Contact: przfc@yahoo.com. Events: (1) PRZFC Summer Show, 15-17 July 2011, Judge Bob Peers, Hotel El Guajataca, CARR #2 #6301 KM 103.8 BARRIO TERRANOVA QUEBRADILLAS 00678 (<http://hotelguajataca.com>) Show contact: Jorge Mojica: puchosbirds@yahoo.com, 787- 550- 3163 Division Zebra Finches. (2) PRZFC Christmas Show, 2-4 Dec. 2011, Judge Alfredo Bruguera, Centro Comunal Santa Juana 2, Caguas. Show Manager: Nydia Rodriguez, 787 746 7141, finch4u@gmail.com. Division: Zebra Finches.

Tennessee

Heart of Tennessee Aviculture Society, www.heartofnaviculturesociety.com. Contact: Lisa Murphy, wlmurphy@usit.net. Event: Fall Show and Fair, 10 September, Middle Tennessee State University, 1720 Greenland Dr. Murfreesboro, TN 37130, Judge: TBA. Show Contact: Wilma Crawford, 615-396-8440 tnma2@comcast.net

Texas

Fort Worth Bird Club, Fort Worth, www.fwbc.org. Contact: coculwell@wccs.net or 817-220-5568.

Virginia

Peninsula Caged Bird Society, Newport News, Contact: Peggy Duval, finchbreeder@earthlink.net or 757-623-4786. Events: Spring & Fall Marts & Shows, Columbian Center. Contact Deb Wilson, dwilson786@aol.com

Wisconsin

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

Regional/National

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

Northeast Bird Group: Northeast Regional Club (New England, NY, NJ, PA), www.northeastbirdgroup.com. Contact: Tom Keegan at thomkeegan@gmail.com or Donna Rosciti at donnarosciti@aol.com. Club meets quarterly and has several events per year. Events: Summer Bird Fair, June 26, Fall River Elks Club, 4500 N Main St, Fall River, MA. Divisions: SPBE, NCS, NFSS.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

Canada

Canadian Finch & Softbill Society, Ontario. Contact: Vince Moose, vmoose@rogers.com. Event: Show November 12-13, Brampton Fairgrounds, 12942 Heart Lake Rd, Brampton State: Ontario L6T 3S1, Judge: Bob Peers (NFSS). Show Contact: Vince Moose, 905-723-1978 or vmoose@rogers.com Other Divisions: Coloured Canary, Hamilton Roller Canary, American Singer Canary, Small Parrot.

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 519-948-6398, julianne@mnsi.net, www.essexkentcbs.com Event: TBA

Ottawa Bird Fanciers Society, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, www.ottawabirdfanciersociety.org Contact: Mario Gauci, mariogauciobfs@gmail.com or 613-244-1678. Meets 2nd Thurs of month, 7:30 PM, St. Mark's Church, 1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa.



**National Finch and Softball Society
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135-11 114th Street
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Laura Bewley

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

Alfredo M. Bruguera

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

Clarence Culwell

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

Dr. Al Decoteau

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

Julie R. Duimstra

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

Cecil Gunby

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

Kenneth Gunby

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

Annette Howard

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

Sally Huntington

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

Armando Lee

2825 SW 36th Terrace
Cape Coral, FL 33914
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Fax: 239-471-2800
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Birdmanofwarsaw@
embarqmail.com

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905-723-1978
vmoase@rogers.com

Bob Peers

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

Liaison/Awards Director

Mr. Alfredo Bruguera
174 County Road 2317
Mineola, TX 75773
(903) 569-6979
affiliations@nfss.org

Band Secretary

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

President Emeritus

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

Region 1 V.P. (Northeast)

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

Region 2 V.P. (Southeast)

Mr. Michael Gravely
mgravely@therefinedgarden.com

Region 3 V.P. (Mid-Central)

Mr. Jason Crean
beaksbirdhouse@aol.com

Region 4 V.P. (Midwest)

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

Region 5 V.P. (Mountain)

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

Region 6 V.P. (Pacific Coast)

Mr. Doug White
dwhite3511@msn.com

Region 7 V.P. (Caribbean)

Mr. Orlando Rivera
landyor@gmail.com

Region 8 V.P. (Canada)

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

Executive Secretary

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

FinchShop Manager

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

Treasurer

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

Advertising & Promotions Manager

Misty LaRue
2154 Belcourt Drive
Villa Rica, GA 30180
advertising@nfss.org

Moderator, NFSS Forums

Mr. John Wilson
jwilson153@aol.com

NFSS Webmaster

Barbara Jaquez
loyaltonjaquez@psln.com

Membership Director

Tiffany Park (pro tem)
850-321-6162
membership@nfss.org

NFSS Journal Editor

Currently Vacant
Contact 2nd V.P. Tom Keegan
about journal matters
editor@nfss.org

Legislative Liaison

Mr. Roland Cristo
legis@nfss.org

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