

Journal of the

# National Finch & Softbill Society

Vol. 28, No. 5

Sep / Oct 2011

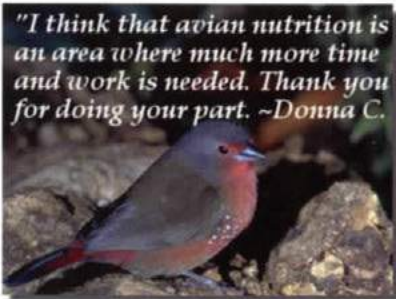




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The National Finch & Softbill Society is dedicated to the introduction of the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhance the knowledge of our members in keeping and care of these birds, encourage breeding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

## Journal of the National Finch & Softbill Society

Publisher: The National Finch & Softbill Society - [www.nfss.org](http://www.nfss.org)

Issue Editor: Tom Keegan

Designer: J. M. Tavenner

NFSS Principal Address: 918 Georgia Avenue Etowah, TN 37331

The Journal of the National Finch & Softbill Society is published bimonthly by NFSS.

Submitting Materials for Publication: All materials should be submitted to 2nd Vice President Tom Keegan, 21 Oakcrest Rd., S. Weymouth, MA 02190, (781) 335-3927, [2ndVP@nfss.org](mailto:2ndVP@nfss.org). NFSS 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 time-sensitive submissions: 15th day of Nov, Jan, Mar, May, Jul, & Sep for following issue.

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Cover: Gouldian Finch nestlings, photo by Tiffany Park.

## Advertising Rates

Covers (color - inside & out) \$90.00/Issue or \$450.00/Year; Full Page (B&W) 60.00/Issue or \$306.00/Year; Half-Page (B&W) \$40.00/Issue or \$204.00/Year; Quarter-Page (B&W) \$20.00/Issue or \$102.00/Year. Misty LaRue, 2154 Belcourt Drive, Villa Rica, GA 30180, email: [advertising@nfss.org](mailto:advertising@nfss.org)

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# President's Message



**A**s we approach the NCBS 2011 National Cage Bird Show, ( Kansas City Missouri, Thursday November 17 thru Saturday November 19, 2011) [http://www.ncbs.org/annual\\_show.htm](http://www.ncbs.org/annual_show.htm) I'm reminded that as much as this is about birds it also about people who share a passion for birds. I'm looking forward to seeing some of you again and hopefully many NFSS members for the first time. There is no better place to meet finch breeders from across the county than at a National Show. This year in Kansas City we will present the very first NFSS NATIONAL AVICULTURIST RECOGNITION AWARD and spend three days where the distractions are birds, bird people and more birds. Please join us if you can!

There will be some significant changes in the NFSS in the next couple of months. Our Journal Editor Tom Keegan who is also 2nd VP - Publications has asked that we begin a search for a new Editor to take over as Editor beginning with the January/February 2012 Journal. Tom has offered to make the transition as pain free as possible but leaves a very large pair of shoes to fill. I want to thank Tom for making the Journal a first class publication during his tenure as editor. We'll miss him. Please contact either Tom Keegan or myself if you are interested in editing the Journal. We're working to make this a smooth transition.

Tom was the push behind the NFSS effort to raise funds in support of the Save the Gouldian Fund STGF. The BOD agreed to match the first \$10 of member contributions of \$10 or more and has to date collected \$553.40 in member contributions with two months remaining in the program. We'll be cutting a check for over \$1000 dollars to the STGF as the year ends. If you haven't contributed please take a look

at the STGF link on our web page <http://nfss.org/> and join the effort to promote the recovery of the wild Gouldian.

See you in Kansas City.

*Respectfully,*

John Wilson

**President**



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Recent estimates suggest that less than 2500 Gouldian finches remain in the wild. The Save The Gouldian Fund was established in 2005 to promote awareness and fund valuable research into the decline of the Gouldian finch, now endangered in the wild.

To assist in this great conservation effort, NFSS will donate \$10 to match your donation of \$10 or more to the Save the Gouldian Fund for the remainder of 2011.\* Your donation will help STGF continue its important conservation efforts.

See the STGF web site at [www.savethegouldian.org](http://www.savethegouldian.org) for details about this remarkable project.

*\*up to a maximum donation of \$1000 in 2011*

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# EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF GOULDIAN MUTATIONS

A guide to identifying Gouldian Mutations in the nest

*by Tiffany Park, NFSS Membership Director*

I got my first pair of Gouldian finches in 2006 – I was hooked on the vibrant colors and the silly courtship dance. At the time, I had no inclination to breed the birds. Little did I know this would all change within a year! I joined NFSS and a few of the Yahoo! Forums to learn more about my purchase and when I discovered Gouldians came in multiple mutations I was hooked. I was fascinated with the genetics behind the mutations and this is what pushed me in the direction of breeding and thus expanding my collection past just two birds. With the first mutation pairing, the most puzzling question for me was, “How can I determine the mutations of the babies I have when they hatch? Is it even possible?”

At the time, and this was approximately 2007, I had a very difficult time locating information that would help me to identify at or shortly after hatching, the phenotypes of the babies my pairs produced. I found very few photos online of mutations, and even fewer that went into detail regarding the phenotypic color of the babies. I can't say whether this is simply because most breeders don't photograph their clutches or if I was simply not looking in the right place. From then on, it became my mission (or obsession, really) to photograph virtually every single clutch from the day the babies hatched up until they fledged. By doing so, I began to discover and document some unique identifying features that I realized may

help others who may be interested in identifying mutations at various stages of development.

As Gouldian chicks mature, much like other altricial birds, they begin to develop feathers (a shocking revelation, I'm sure!). This is going to be the first step to learning how to distinguish the mutations. Suffice it to say it's not always that easy; but you will get a good idea of the adult colors simply by looking at the babies as they begin to feather.

It should be noted that, for the most part, head and breast color is not determinable until molting begins unless you have a pair that can only produce a particular head or breast color (e.g., two black headed birds will produce all visually black headed offspring, and similarly, two white breasted birds will only produce white breasted offspring).

Sometimes, subtle differences in the breast feathers can help indicate the difference between a purple breasted and white or a lilac breasted bird, but this can be tricky especially when you are dealing with different sexes.

## Normal Gouldian Babies

Since most people start off breeding wild color birds, identifying normal chicks is a pretty basic starting point. Normal babies at hatch will be a fleshy color with dark grey eyes under the skin. They have dark black inner mouth

markings (gape markings) and the outer nodules are a pearly blue color outlined by black. The center nodules are yellow. When they begin to feather, they will have an all-over olive green appearance. Generally speaking, mutations are best compared against normal hatchlings as this is your point of reference.



*A normal hatchling begging (far right) and a blue hatchling begging (far left). Notice the center white nodules on the blue hatchling compared to the yellowish center nodules on the normal. Also, the skin of a blue hatchling is noticeably pink compared to a normal.*



*A clutch of one blue (bottom of pile) and three normal nestlings. In this photo the difference between the normals and the blue is not noticeable due to the blue baby being under the others.*





*Here is a photo of the same clutch as above 6 days later. The blue is clearly visible now far left. Notice the blue gray coloration of the blue nestling (specifically on the mantle) versus the olive green color of the other three siblings.*



*A clutch of normal nestlings. Although the chick center facing left may look like a blue, note the olive colored feathers on the mantle, versus the bluish grey feathers on the mantle of the chick in the above photo.*



## Dilute Gouldian Babies

Dilute babies are sometimes the most difficult to identify unless there are normal babies in the clutch for comparison purposes. The inner mouth markings would be slightly (you guessed it) diluted, and the black around the outer nodules is not as pronounced. The easiest way to identify dilute babies is when the feathers begin breaking from the quills. Dilutes will usually have primary flight feathers that are light grey tipped, whereas the primary feathers on a normal look more dark grey. The color of the feathers between the mantle is usually a key give-away as well because it is a very pale grey/green and easily distinguished from the dark olive green of a normal nestling.

Many breeders of mutation Gouldians are likely aware of the variation of body feather color among Dilutes - it can range anywhere from lemon-lime to lime-green. It should be noted here that not all hatchlings are immediately identifiable as dilutes, and birds that turn out to be darker bodied dilutes tend to look very similar to normal birds at hatching. This is where being able to identify subtle differences in the feather color becomes helpful. It is also important to note that genetically speaking, a Dilute is defined as a cock bird that is single-factor yellow and purple breasted. What this means in a nutshell for those attempting to identify these birds in the nest is that for the most part, all babies that are genetically single-factor for yellow (i.e., regardless of being purple breast) will look similar. White or lilac-breasted single-factor yellows will be nearly indistinguishable from their purple-breasted counterparts at first. Where you will see the difference is at around 5 days, when the skin on the wings begins to darken in a purple-breasted "Dilute." The skin of a white or lilac-breasted single-factor yellow will remain pink, because these birds will be visually yellow at maturation.



A clutch of three dilutes and three normals. The baby begging for left is a dilute, compared to the baby begging bottom right, which is a normal. Note the "diluted" mouth markings in the dilute hatchling.



*A dilute hatchling (center bottom begging). Notice the diluted gape markings. The baby begging directly above it is a normal for comparison.*



*A clutch of 7 – center on the right is a dilute nestling – notice the lighter mouth markings. The other two darker chicks are normals, and there are 4 yellows.*





Same clutch as above just before fledging – the dilute is top right.

### Yellow Gouldian Babies

Yellow babies are when things start to get a little bit tricky. The good news is yellow females and males that are double-factor (DF) yellow are easy to spot. If your pair can produce yellow offspring of either sex (yellow hens or DF yellow males), you might be able to identify sex males that are purple breasted because they have a much "dirtier" yellow color to them. However, if you have white breasted birds, it will be much more difficult to distinguish the sexes, and you might not know what sex you have until your birds begin to sing (or not). In the previous photo of the clutch of 7 getting ready to fledge, the two center yellow babies were males, the top being a lilac breasted bird, the bottom being purple breasted. The yellow on the far right under the dilute was a hen (a bit difficult to see, but she is much paler in color, this is not always the case, however).

Yellow babies that are female or DF Yellow will look pink in comparison to a normal hatchling. This is likely exacerbated because the eyes tend to look a bit red under the eye lids, as well. Although the eyes may appear red or pink in color at first, mature yellow Gouldians do not have pink/red eyes and are not to be confused with albinistic or lutino Gouldians. The eyes will turn dark as the chick ages.

The mouth markings differ significantly in a yellow hatchling compared to a normal. The black that usually exists around the outer nodules will be reduced or even almost completely gone, and the blue will be diluted to a pale light blue color. The middle nodules will still be yellow, and the markings inside of the mouth are very pale. As the babies get older, the skin takes on a noticeable yellow hue. If you look at the skin



color of the wings on young normals, you will see it start to turn dark before the pins start breaking through. On all visual yellows, this skin will remain pink.

All yellows are pretty easy to spot once they begin feathering, because they are yellow/white in color when they begin to feather out.



*A yellow hatchling begging.*

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Three DF Yellow Nestlings and one male Silver nestling (Center). Notice how pink the skin on the Silver is in comparison to the yellows. Note also the primary quills and wings and how they are light compared to a normal.



The same clutch as above just before fledging - all three of these yellows were DF Yellow males. Notice how dark, or 'dingy' looking, if you will, the yellow color is on these fledglings.

Things get tricky if/when you start producing lilac or white breast single-factor (SF) yellow males. These look very similar to dilute hatchlings and can "trick" you into thinking you have dilutes (or even normals, since dilutes vary greatly in hue and can be such a bugger to identify). If you are an astute picture taker of your babies and you can get a good shot of all babies gaping to compare the mouth markings, you can usually get a sense of birds that may be SF yellow (and visually yellow), but it is really difficult to differentiate them between SF yellow DILUTES (if they will be produced in the clutch) because visually as hatchlings they are very similar, if not identical. The best way to distinguish these is when the babies are old enough and the skin color on the wings begins to change. Again - on a dilute the wings will show darker skin before the primary pins erupt, but if they are SF yellows (visually yellow), the skin on the wings (and the pins that erupt) will stay pink/white.

One last tip I recently learned, which can help you identify SF yellow males from DF yellows, is males that are SF yellow will have a dark grey beak in the nest. Yellow hens and DF yellow males will have pink beaks.



Two LB SF Yellow Male Nestlings- Notice the dark charcoal colored beaks.





*The two LB SF Yellows close to fledge (the nestling between them is a dilute).*

## Blue Gouldian Babies

Blue babies are a very pale bluish pink color when hatched. In a clutch containing normals, they are automatically noticeable as "different" and can be identified immediately if you have normals for comparison.

The eyes are still dark, and the only remarkable difference in the nodules is that genetic blues will always have white middle nodules. This goes for all of the blue mutations: blues, pastels, and silvers.



*Blue hatchling (far left) demonstrating pink skin and white center nodules compared to its siblings.*



*Blue hatchling (far left) demonstrating pink skin and white center nodules compared to its siblings.*

In a single instance, I had a baby with seemingly white center nodules that turned out normal. But this pair had a history of producing very strange chicks (and only produced three total babies, none of which survived, so I believe there may have been a genetic defect occurring in this pairing).

I have heard others speculate that Normal/Blue (normal-split-for-blue) babies will also have white center nodules, but I have not personally found this to be the case, as I have produced multiple clutches of Normal/Blues that did not have white center nodules. Either way – if there are instances where a normal baby possesses white center nodules, I believe these are anomalies, whereas a genetic blue will never have yellow center nodules.

Once feathered, juvenile blues will have an all-over blue-gray body coloration that is significantly different when compared to a normal-backed bird. You may also notice their legs are pink whereas normal babies will have a darker (sometimes yellowish) leg color. This is more noticeable on pastels and silvers.



Three normal nestlings compared to a blue (top of pile) nestling. Notice the grey feathers on the mantle compared to the olive feathers on the normal nestlings.





Two normal fledglings compared to a blue fledgling

### Pastel Blue Gouldian Babies

Pastel babies, when feathered, will differ from blue babies in that their color will be a lighter, pale-blue grey all over. As babies - they will very closely resemble blue hatchlings. The best way to distinguish them, as with dilutes and SF yellows, is to get a picture when the babies are between 1-3 days of age and their mouths are open. With other colors to compare to, you may be able to distinguish them from any blues by looking at the outer two mouth nodules and the inner mouth markings. The pastel (yellow) gene affects the darker bluish-black nodules on the outside so that they are lighter in color (similar to a dilute's). You'll be able to distinguish them from normal because of the white center nodules, which indicates the baby is a genetic blue.

When the primary feathers start to pin out, the tips of the primary quills will be a lighter color than on a blue, and when the bird begins to feather out in the mantle, the difference will generally be immediately noticed. Again, however, there is a great deal of variation in hue among pastel birds. Some pastels are powdery blue-gray, others a much darker diluted blue-gray color, so the difference can be extreme or extremely subtle!



*A Pastel hatchling begging (top right). Front two: silver (left), yellow (right). Far left (dark chick) is a normal. Top left above normal is another silver. Baby underneath pastel hatchling is a yellow.*



*The same clutch above at around 11 days old. Pastel nestling (darker nestling on the left) with two silvers (top), two yellows (bottom and smushed in the middle), and a normal (center right).*



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Some clutch close to fledging – top row, left to right: Silver, Yellow, Silver. Bottom row, left to right: Normal, Pastel, Yellow. Notice the powder grey color of the pastel chick.



Three pastel and two blue (left and bottom of pile) nestlings. Although it's difficult to see in this photo due to the age differences of the nestlings, the lighter skin color between the mantle is somewhat evident as well as the light primary quills on the pastel babies.



*The above clutch just before fledging. Three pastel and two blue (center and far right) fledglings. Notice the darker blue-gray coloration of the blue siblings.*

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## Silver Gouldian Babies

Silver babies (hens and silver cocks that are genetically DF) will be very pink skinned when they hatch. The outer nodules are virtually white, along with having white center nodules, which makes them easy to distinguish from yellows. Further, in a clutch with silvers and yellows you will generally be able to see an obvious difference, because with silvers next to yellows, you can see just how pink the silvers are. Yellows look pinkish on their own, but you can really see the difference if you have a clutch with both.



5 Silvers and 1 Yellow (2nd from bottom)

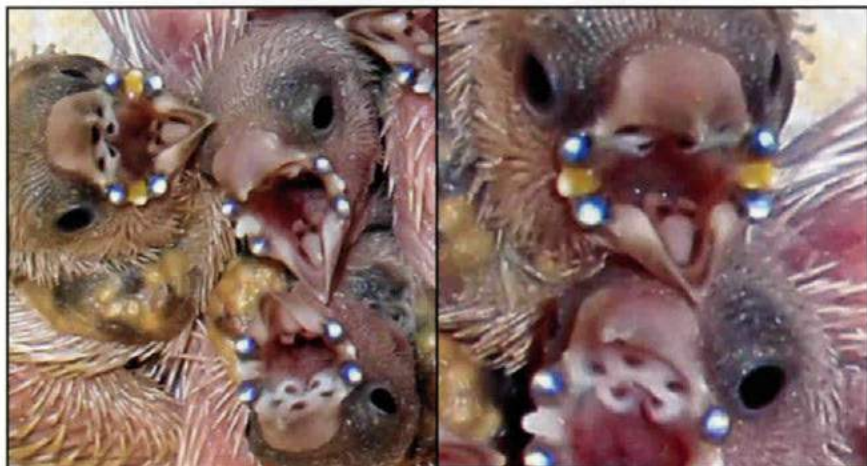


Silver hatchlings vs Yellow hatchling begging (center left). Note the yellow center nodules and the yellow looking skin compared to the other hatchlings which are all silver.

Some yellows can confuse individuals into thinking they have a silver because the primaries and other feather tips breaking out of the quills look, or maybe are, white. If you have trouble seeing the nodule difference, what you can look for at this time is the mantle feathers coming in between the shoulders. On a yellow, these will always be yellow or have a yellow hue, whereas on silvers they will always only be white or greyish white/silver.



Silver (bottom) vs yellow (top) nestling, displaying the grayish white mantle feathers and pink skin compared to the yellow.



Two pictures highlighting the nodule and mouth (gape) marking differences, along with skin color difference, between Silvers and Yellows

Like dilutes, a "pastel" Gouldian is defined as a purple-breasted blue bird that is also genetically single-factor for yellow. So, similar to SF yellow white or lilac-breast hatchlings, "pastel" males that are genetically single-factor yellow and white or lilac-breasted will be visually silver. These birds are generally referred to as white or lilac-breasted silvers, or white or lilac breasted single-factor pastel blues. If your pair can produce this mutation, the babies may confuse you into thinking they are pastel or blue.

If you don't notice the difference in the gape markings at first, then you will generally catch these guys either when they begin to develop their primaries, or possibly earlier, when they should start developing dark color on the skin of their wings (remember: in a blue or pastel, the skin will be turning dark; in silvers, as with yellows, it remains pink). With a good photo between 1-3 days of hatch, you might be able to tell based on the mouth markings that you've got a silver male that is genetically single-factor for yellow. As with SF yellow babies, SF pastel blues that are white or lilac breast (visually silver) will have a dark beak – distinguishing them from any possible silver sisters or DF brothers.



A LB SF YellowBlue (aka Silver) Male hatchling. Pastels are very similar in coloring with subtle differences in the depth of color in the nodules and mouth markings. Also, the wing tips will display pink at an earlier age (see below) whereas Pastels will be dark. In the second picture the baby in the background is more visible, this baby is a blue.





*The silver baby above at banding age, displaying the lack of color on the wings. [Compare to the baby next to it with dark pins erupting]*



*The silver baby above as an older nestling. Notice the dark charcoal beak indicative of being single-factor for yellow, thus being either white, or in this case, lilac breasted.*

I hope this information will prove to be useful for Gouldian breeders, and wish everyone luck identifying their hatchlings!

More information and pictures can be found on my website:  
[www.GouldiansGalore.net](http://www.GouldiansGalore.net)

### About the Author

I had been breeding Gouldians heavily since 2007, up until this year when I took a hiatus from breeding for personal reasons. I am still involved in showing the birds I have left in my flock and hope to return to breeding again in the near future. While I do not consider myself an expert by any means, I have a degree in biology and keen interest in birds and genetics. I was drawn in and fascinated with the mutations available within the domestic Gouldian Finch. I have a profound appreciation for the beauty of the wild type, but an admitted obsession with the various mutations and how they're achieved. I previously submitted an article in the NFSS journal on Reverse Gouldian Genetics, and I hope to continue to be able to contribute to Gouldian finch knowledge in aviculture. I always enjoy the emails I get requesting assistance in identifying individuals' babies. This way, I get to live vicariously through those who are currently breeding their birds!



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by Nancy Ingram, Medford, Oregon

Strawberry Finches are native to South-east Asia, from India through Thailand, Burma, and Sumatra. Domestic breeding in the U.S. does not keep up with demand. Availability of this species in the American bird trade has fluctuated wildly over the years, along with the price. These are gentle inquisitive birds which get along with other small birds. Strawberry Finches are prolific breeders if they are in an appropriate aviary, get adequate nutrition, and are provided with specific nesting sites.

### Breeding Strawberries

I breed Strawberry Finches on a sun porch. I try to keep the temperature between 60°-90°F. I keep one pair of

Strawberry Finches in a flight with other small finch species. In an effort to make my birds feel more secure I have developed several nesting structures. These include screens covered with shade cloth and artificial leaves in the form of "corners," "tubes," and "walls." Most Strawberry Finches prefer my "walls." This structure consists of 2 pieces of lath which are 2 feet square. The sides are held apart by 4" thick wire baskets. The lath sides and baskets are tied together with twist wire and the structure is decorated with artificial foliage. (I use fir garlands and recycled Christmas tree branches to cover the structure.) I fasten 2 canary nests and 1 closed split bamboo nest inside the "wall."



A "corner" with nest basket



A "wall".

My first experience with Strawberry Finches involved a newly acquired pair. They chose a closed split bamboo nest low in a philodendron<sup>1</sup> overhanging a compost. The female quickly laid 6 eggs. The morning they all hatched I found the mother dead on the floor. I observed the male assume all the feeding chores. During the day I stirred the compost in their flight with a hoe and he would jump in and catch insects and small worms. I became accustomed to the loud cries of his chicks and would hurry out to the sun porch and help him find live food when I heard them. He successfully raised all 6 chicks by himself!! I thought all Strawberry Finch chicks were noisy and was surprised when another pair "silently" raised 5 babies.

The most common problem in the captive breeding of Strawberry Finches is egg-binding. This problem ceases when a small amount of cod liver oil is stirred into the seeds—just enough to give the seeds a slight sheen. (You have added too much fish oil if you notice that the seeds clump up in several days.) I provide softfood every other day to all my birds. Those in cages readily eat softfood, but many finches on my sun porch ignore it.

Male and female birds look alike for part of the year. Both have red beaks. The coloring of the male changes during the year and varies with individuals. The beautiful copper red nuptial plumage of the male can be quite striking. The female has a pale yellow/tan front with white spots on brown wings and back. These birds are very tiny. Many commercial cages are designed for larger birds. Bar spacing should be 3/8" or less. I keep only small species together.



Strawberry Finch cock in eclipse plumage.

I cut fresh grass and have it available in a wall framework. They usually lay about 4 eggs. The incubation period is 12-14 days. I have observed one male doing most of the incubation during the day. I wait to band the chicks until after they fledge because the parents stop feeding the nestlings if they are touched. The chicks stay in the nest for 21 days. After they leave the nest they are dependent on their parents for another 21 days. The parents will feed the chicks as long as the male is still in nuptial plumage. (Rescue and feed any babies that are still dependent if the male molts.)

Small live insects are vital in the successful breeding of this finch. Each flight has a compost in a small plastic wading pool. The compost is 3 feet in diameter



and contains dirt, plant debris, spent seeds, sand, etc. The compost supports worms, small moths, and gnats. I raise fruit flies in small screen covered containers suspended from the ceiling. I add pieces of fruit every few days to keep their life cycle going. I have one fruit fly bowl for every pair of birds. I grow some plants on my sun porch because they host certain insects. Tomatoes, hibiscus, and bottlebrush support white flies. I also raise mealworms. I have never had birds on my sun porch throw out chicks due to lack of protein. I grow some herbs and edible plants. Millet is sprouted on a screen and rinsed 4 times a day on a timer.

I had several old Strawberry Finches on my sun porch. The average life span of this species is 8 years. These were offspring of birds I had had in my aviary. I banded them as chicks so I knew the females were 5 years old and the males were 6 years old. I had never observed any breeding behavior from these 4 birds and decided that they were probably now too old. The males were bald and had missing feathers and one female had a droopy wing. In an attempt to get another species to nest I placed one of my privacy "walls" near the compost at the far end of a 10' by 15' flight on my sun porch. Within 2 weeks the males were carrying around nesting materials and building nests in the "wall." One male Strawberry Finch seemed to be doing most of the work. He spent his time during the day incubating 3 eggs. These old birds successfully raised these chicks.

I decided I needed to verify my nesting structure theory before I shared it with anyone other than members of my local bird club. (Strawberry finches at the time I am writing this are unavailable

at U.S. bird marts.) A friend offered to loan me a Strawberry Finch male in nuptial plumage. I told her our birds were so old that we had nothing to lose and I would give her half of any chicks produced.



*Six-year old Strawberry Finch cock in nuptial plumage.*

I put her 6 year old male in a flight on my sun porch. I placed several "walls" on the floor around the room so that other species wouldn't compete for nesting sites. The first few days he spent learning where things were. He paired up with a 5 year old female within 8 days. I supplied long pieces of fresh grass, pillow feathers, and 1" lengths of cotton string every week. Unlike the birds that were used to my sun porch, it took this new pair about 5 weeks to build a nest. This particular pair started a nest in a "wall" but chose to lay eggs in a "tube"<sup>2</sup> on a trellis over the compost. I think the lesson here is to provide a variety of hidden nests at different heights that make the birds feel safe.

### Conclusion

I do not recommend colony breeding this species. Several pairs together become distracted. Most Strawberry Finches are eager to breed. Adding vitamin D3 and calcium to their diet is crucial. The placement of a hidden





A "tube".



Two Strawberry Finch cocks in eclipse plumage.

nesting site near the floor facing an open area seems to act as a trigger for this species. My "wall" must mimic their natural nesting site preference. Having a variety of live insects insures that they will feed their chicks. The advantages of breeding Strawberry Finches on a sun porch far outweigh the problems. Not everyone has a sun porch (or year round outdoor aviary) but my protocol may buy us time if this species is no longer imported.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Plants listed as poisonous are less dangerous on a sun porch if there is also a wide variety of safe plants and plenty of food available.

<sup>2</sup> My "tubes" are rolled ¼" wire screen about 11" square, upper side covered with greenhouse cloth and artificial leaves with a short entry perch and a small open nest fastened at the far end. I attach an inspection port at the back.





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# NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

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

Liaison Officer - Alfredo Brugeruas

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## California

### Central California Cage Bird Club

**Finch Society of San Diego**, Poway [www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com](http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com) Contact: [sdfinchsociety@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:showinfo@santaclarabirdclub.org) (2011)

## Colorado

**Mountain States Avian Society**, Brighton. Denise Cook 303-588-7050 [www.msasbirds.org](http://www.msasbirds.org). Event: September 17-18, 2011.

## Florida

**Suncoast Canary & Finch Club**, Port Charlotte, FL. Event: 2nd Annual suncoast Canary and finch Show. October 14, 15, 2011 Location: Punta Gorda, FL. Contact Alexander Villarreal, email [vetagator@yahoo.com](mailto:vetagator@yahoo.com).

**Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club**, Stuart, [www.tcexoticbirdclub.com](http://www.tcexoticbirdclub.com). Contact: 772-380-9882 or [tm50et@yahoo.com](mailto:tm50et@yahoo.com). Event: Exotic Bird Expo 2011, March 20, Martin County Fairgrounds.

## Illinois

**Finch & Softbill Breeders & Exhibitors Club**, Chicagoland. [www.fsbec.finchfiles.com](http://www.fsbec.finchfiles.com), 847-963-1926 [gailsgouldians@comcast.net](mailto:gailsgouldians@comcast.net). Event: TBA

**Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club**, Lombard. [www.gccbc.org](http://www.gccbc.org). Contact: [secretary@gccbc.org](mailto: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](mailto:sharlant2000@yahoo.com), 847-217-4751

**Heart of Illinois Bird Club**, 755 N. 4th Ave, Canton 61520 Meetings every third Sunday, 2pm (unless holiday). Bird Show & Fair, June 18. 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](mailto:hoibc@yahoo.com)

**Mid West Bird Breeders & Exhibitors**, Lawrenceville Event: TBA. Contact Lisa Grimes, [lgtiels@yahoo.com](mailto:lgtiels@yahoo.com)

**Mid America Cage Bird Society**, Des Moines, [www.MACBS.org](http://www.MACBS.org) Events: Bird Fairs March 27th, June 5th, August 28, Des Moines Botanical Center. Contact: John Thielking, [Thielking@lowalink.com](mailto:Thielking@lowalink.com)

## Iowa

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



**Maryland**

**Baltimore Bird Fanciers**, Baltimore [www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org](http://www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org) Club meets 3rd Sun of month, 2:00, Towson Library. Contact: [info@baltimorebirdfanciers.org](mailto:info@baltimorebirdfanciers.org). Events: Spring Bird Mart, May 21. Tall Cedars Hall, 250 Putty Hill Ave, Baltimore 21234. Contact George at: [amazon\\_parrot@comcast.net](mailto:amazon_parrot@comcast.net)

**Massachusetts**

**Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc**, Foxboro, 781-335-3927, [www.masscagebird.org](http://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](mailto:nfss.pubs@gmail.com).

**Minnesota**

**Minnesota Canary and Finch Club**, Minneapolis. Contact/Journal: Jerry Noble 10413 360th St., Onamia, MN 56359 320-532-3822.....Club event: 22nd Annual Canary and Finch Show October 29, 2011, Prescott, WI Contact: Jerry Noble, 320-532-3822.

**Missouri**

**Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society**, Grandview, [www.gkcas.org](http://www.gkcas.org) Contact: [dayforthebirds@aol.com](mailto:dayforthebirds@aol.com) or [GKCAS.org@aol.com](mailto:GKCAS.org@aol.com), 816-252-1120. Event: BIRD FAIR Aug 5, 6 & 7, Hilton Garden Inn, 19677 E Jackson Dr, Independence 64055. Contact: Maria, [maria-michel@live.com](mailto:maria-michel@live.com)

**New Hampshire**

**Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society**, Manchester, [www.boaf.com](http://www.boaf.com) Contact: [member.support@BOAF.com](mailto:member.support@BOAF.com) or 603-362-6106. Events: Spring Mart & Expo April 17 and Fall Show & Mart, Sat., Oct 22 location: All Dogs Gym and Inn, Manchester. Judge: Al Decoteau. Contact: Ray Schwartz, [President@BOAF.com](mailto:President@BOAF.com)

**New York**

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

**New York Finch & Type Canary Club**, NYC, [barstand@verizon.net](mailto:barstand@verizon.net) Meets 2nd Sunday of the month: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, except July & August. Events: Annual Show, September 24, St. Jude Church, 1677 Canarsie Rd, Brooklyn NY. Entries: 8-10:00, Judging: 10-4:00 pm. Judge: Laura Tinker.

**Ohio**

**RAZ**: Salem. Contact [Annette Howard]: 330-337-7654, [howardaj78@yahoo.com](mailto:howardaj78@yahoo.com). Event: TBA.

**Oregon**

**Columbia Canary Club**, Portland. Contact: [jeeperspeepers55@aol.com](mailto:jeeperspeepers55@aol.com) or 503-266-7606. Meeting location: Milwaukie, Oregon Grange.

**Puerto Rico**

**Asociacion De Criadores de Fines Inc.** Contact: [finchespr@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:juanalicea@yahoo.com). Events: Summer Show June 3-5, 2011 Judge: Laura Tinker. Winter Show November 4-6, 2001 Judge: Annette Howard. Both Shows at Centro Comunal, Alturas de Villas del Rey, Caguas PR. Note: Only the following finch species are allowed for the competition: Zebra, Society, Lady Gouldian, Cuthroat, Cordon Bleu, Green Singer, and Brazilian Crested Cardinal.

**Puerto Rico Zebra Finch Club**, Gurabo. [www.przfc.com](http://www.przfc.com) Contact: [przfc@yahoo.com](mailto: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 GUEBRADILLAS 00678 (<http://hotelguajataca.com>) Show contact: Jorge Mojica: [puchosbirds@yahoo.com](mailto:puchosbirds@yahoo.com), 787- 550- 3163 Division : Zebra Finches. (2) PRZFC Christmas Show, 2-4 Dec. 2011, Judge Alfredo Brugerias, Centro Comunal Santa Juana 2, Caguas. Show Manager: Nydia Rodriguez, 787 746 7141, [finch4u@gmail.com](mailto:finch4u@gmail.com). Division: Zebra Finches.

**Tennessee**

**Heart of Tennessee Aviculture Society**, [www.heartofnaviculturesociety.com](http://www.heartofnaviculturesociety.com). Contact: Lisa Murphy, [wlmurphy@usit.net](mailto: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 [inma2@comcast.net](mailto:inma2@comcast.net)

**Texas**

**Fort Worth Bird Club**, Fort Worth, [www.fwbc.org](http://www.fwbc.org). Contact: [coculwell@wccs.net](mailto:coculwell@wccs.net) or 817-220-5568.

**Alamos Exhibition Bird Club**, San Antonio. Bird show and Fall Bird Mart September 24, 2011.

**Virginia**

**Peninsula Caged Bird Society**, Newport News, Contact: Peggy Duval, [finchbreeder@earthlink.net](mailto:finchbreeder@earthlink.net) or 757-623-4786. Events: Spring & Fall Marts & Shows, Columbian Center. Contact Deb Wilson, [dwilson786@aol.com](mailto: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, [mminor@tds.net](mailto:mminor@tds.net) 715-884-2659

**Regional/National**

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

**National Institute of Red Canaries (NIROC)** Westchester, IL [www.niroc.org](http://www.niroc.org) Club meeting: 4th Sunday of month. No meeting in Aug/Nov. Meetings held at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1101 Manchester Av., Westchester, IL at 7:30 p.m. Event: September 24, 2011 held at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church NIROC Fall Baby Feather Show and Mart. Contact Donald Perez 630-664-4649

**Northeast Bird Group**: Northeast Regional Club (New England, NY, NJ, PA), [www.northeastbirdgroup.com](http://www.northeastbirdgroup.com). Contact: Tom Keegan at [thomkeegan@gmail.com](mailto:thomkeegan@gmail.com) or Donna Rosciti at [donnarosciti@aol.com](mailto: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.

**West Coast Zebra & Society Finch Show**, Sacramento (Regional Show) [www.efinch.com/show](http://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](mailto:jamiarndt@comcast.net)

**INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES****Canada**

**Canadian Finch & Softbill Society**, Ontario. Contact: Vince Moase, [vmoase@rogers.com](mailto:vmoase@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 Moase, 905-723-1978 or [vmoase@rogers.com](mailto:vmoase@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](mailto:julianne@mnsi.net), [www.essexkentcbs.com](http://www.essexkentcbs.com). Event: TBA.

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



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