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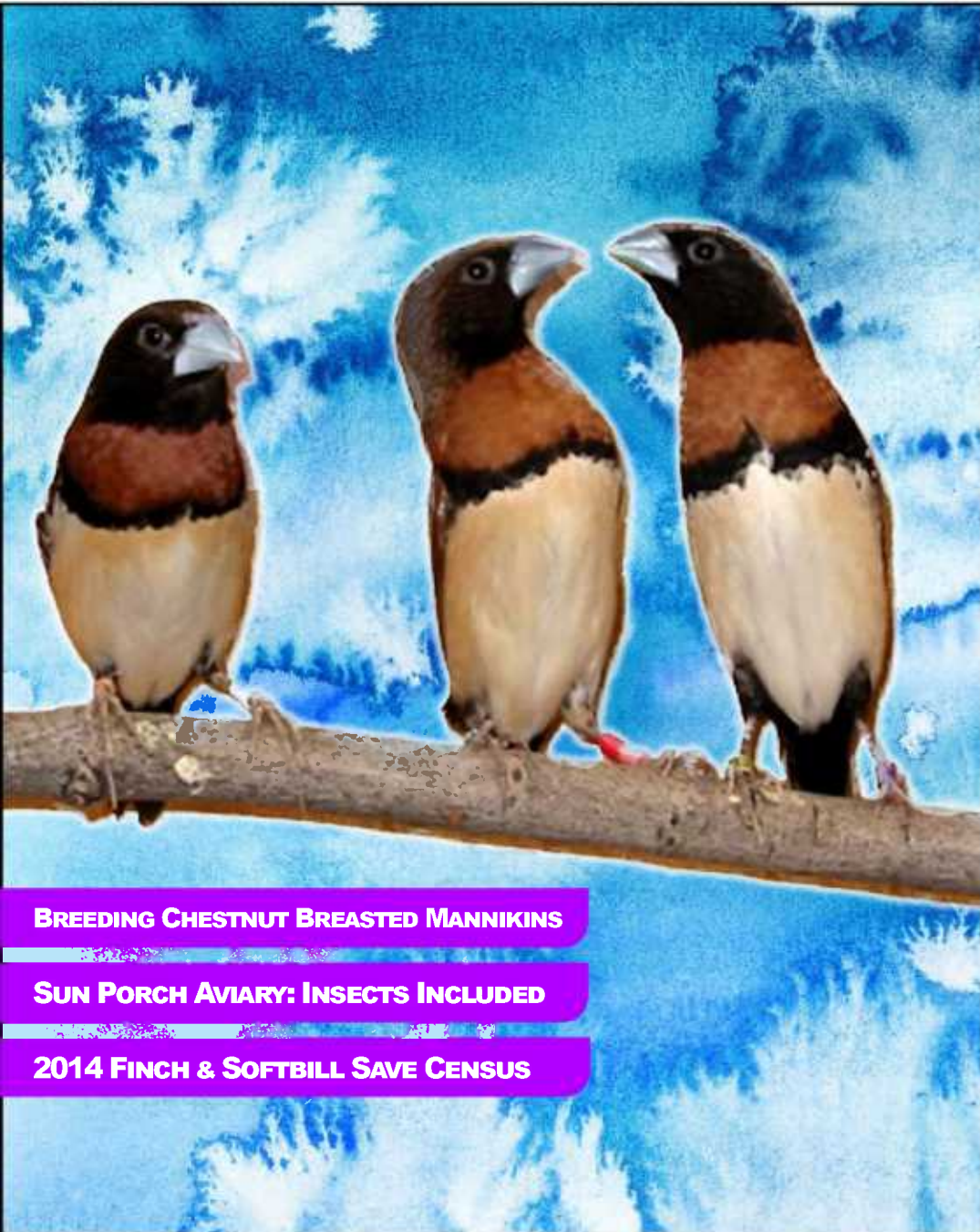
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NATIONAL FINCH & SOFTBILL SOCIETY

VOLUME 32, NO. 1
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THE JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY



BREEDING CHESTNUT BREASTED MANNIKINS

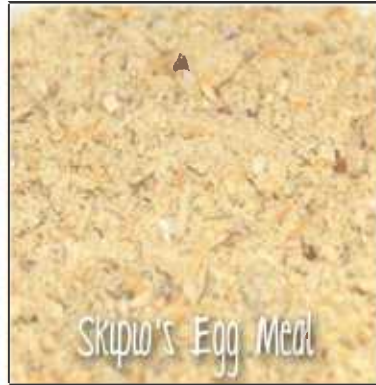
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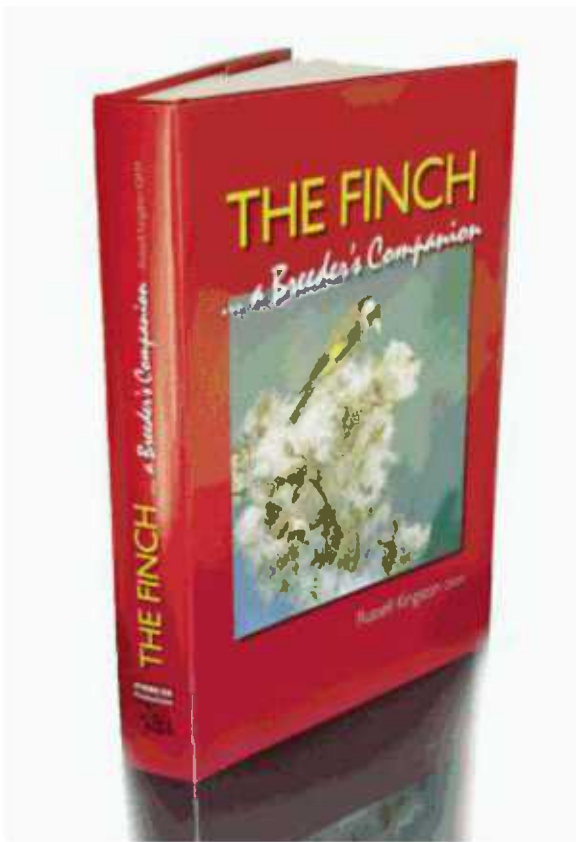
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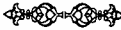
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The National Finch and Softbill Society is dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of keeping and breeding finches and softbills to all interested parties, enhancing our knowledge of the proper care of these birds, encouraging breeding programs, and working with other organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

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NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS. New memberships and late renewals (expired memberships) received by the 15th day of any month immediately preceding an NFSS Journal issue will receive six consecutive 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 15th day of December, February, April, June, August and October.



MEMBERS ONLY PASSWORD



RedSiskin14

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On the Cover...  by Member Harry Bryant

This cover photo was submitted by our very own former editor Harry Bryant, also the author of the Chestnut Breasted Mannikin article on page XX. In this picture his CBMs are seen "peering" which is a behavior he explores more in depth noting, "This behavior was first described in detail for the Spice Finch and has been observed in many other estrilids, especially the highly social mannikins and silverbills.

Peering is a response to the undirected singing of one bird. The respondent, which is often the same sex as the singing bird and seldom its mate, flies or hops to the singing bird and stretches its neck till its head is close to that of the singer. It may stand either close beside or in front of the singing bird. It seems to be peering closely or listening to the other bird but the position of its head and tendency often to peck or poke the singer suggests aggressive tendencies. The singer usually tries to move his head away and often edges away along his perch but the peering bird follows, still peering and occasionally pecking or poking at the singer's head."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I have to confess, nearly anything I come into contact with in my day-to-day life risks becoming the impetus for my next President's Message. Our sermon at church last Sunday was no exception! The Pastor spoke about "encouragement." As I thought about the topic more during the week, I realized just how crucial encouragement is – how it impacts individual lives and the potential it has for transforming corners of our world. While it may seem a bit of a stretch I also began to think about how encouragement translated helps define success not only for the NFSS, but for the hobby we share and love.

None of us would argue the hobby is without its' success, joy, and personal satisfaction. But I expect each of us has had a set-back, a failure, or a loss in the bird room that saddened us. The egg bound hen, the escapee from the "fail-proof" outside aviary who headed for the horizon and never looked back, the bird that found the ONE place in the entire cage on which he/she could damage themselves or get INTO but not OUT of, or the unexplained failing and eventual loss of a bird. Or, how difficult

it is to see that nest of new eggs and anxiously wait, watch, perhaps hand-feed, and do everything JUST right – to no avail. While it's true we've all had our moments of DIScouragement, it's also true the seed of ENCOURAGEMENT we receive from others who share our passion sprouts into perseverance. I speak for myself when I say I accept there's a distinct possibility successes may be less tied to any great level of skill or talent on my part and more to perseverance. I also realize it's because of the encouragement of those who have experienced similar problems and the willingness of others to share their knowledge based on experience, that I have developed perseverance and learned how to be a better, more responsible bird-keeper. I suspect anyone who's been in the hobby for long will agree perseverance must become second nature – especially for those working with some of the less domesticated species.

How many of us are NFSS members because someone we came into contact with encouraged us to join, explaining the benefits of the Journal, the closed bands, but even more importantly the community? How many of you are participating in the new Facebook / Finch Save groups? The encouragement extended by NFSS members to persons interested in birds but not previously associated with the NFSS has resulted in new memberships. We're excited about that success – success I believe is tied in no small way to encouragement! Many times people have communicated an

interest in writing an article for the Journal but were hesitant to follow through – feeling it may not be good enough or interesting enough. But, with a little encouragement we've had submissions from persons who never previously submitted articles. How many persons have studied for the judge's test and had the courage to do so simply because someone in the NFSS community encouraged them to? How about those who made the step to borrow a show cage and showed their birds at a local show for the first time simply because someone more experienced in exhibition encouraged them to and loaned them the cage? I also bet some of us have sat in the gallery cheering for someone else's birds, other than our own, because they were a newbie to showing and we wanted them to feel the encouragement as a result of that first ribbon. I also know we have current board members who once thought they'd never be able to serve adequately in such a position, yet they are now talented and involved Officers on the BOD. Encouragement comes in many forms.

Do each of us take advantage of the opportunity we have at our local bird fairs and shows to reach out to some-

one we haven't met previously? To welcome them, talk to them about the NFSS, encourage them to get involved? Those unfamiliar faces could be our next NCBS winners, authors for Journal articles, panel judges, or board member – with a little encouragement!

Reach out, encourage, walk beside someone and I believe the NFSS will be a better place because of it. The rewards of encouraging someone

and then seeing them succeed is a reward in itself!!

One of the most beautiful gifts in the world is the gift of encouragement.

"WHEN SOMEONE ENCOURAGES YOU, THAT PERSON HELPS YOU OVER A THRESHOLD YOU MIGHT OTHERWISE NEVER HAVE CROSSED ON YOUR OWN."

-JOHN O'DONOHUE

"IT'S NOT THAT I'M SO SMART, IT'S JUST THAT I STAY WITH MY PROBLEMS LONGER."

-ALBERT EINSTEIN

"THANKFULLY, PERSISTENCE IS A GREAT SUBSTITUTE FOR TALENT."

-STEVE MARTIN

"Reach out, encourage, walk beside someone and I believe the NFSS will be a better place because of it. The rewards of encouraging someone and then seeing them succeed is a reward in itself!!"

Rebecca Mikel
NFSS President



PLIGHT OF THE GOULDIAN

*A most gorgeous fellow,
red, purple and yellow,
Stood watching his "Lady" preen,
With a little romance,
and a comical dance,
They began a courting routine.*

*She, in perfect feather,
a look - all together,
With eyes as dark as the night,
He had one request,
to build her a nest,
Way at the top of the flight.*

*With more romancing,
song and dancing,
High to the nest he flew,
For the Gouldian male
saw the twitch of her tail,
And knew that he could pursue.*

*In a nest, first class,
with soft, dry grass,
Five little eggs she did lay,
But a Society pair,
having an affair,
came and stole it all away.*

Shirley Perkins

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NFSS LEG BAND DIRECTOR

The Band Department experienced an issue with the engraving of our 2015 bands. There is no alpha letter lasered on the bands (ie; A through M) that are being shipped. The alpha letter identifies the size of each individual band. NFSS is the only avicultural organization in the US who does engrave the size on it's bands and pre-pays for the new year as a benefit to our members. Members will continue to experience short wait times for orders in the future.

Notification of the engraving error was late and it was decided to accept the entire order. To compensate for this

error your Leg Band Director will be labeling each string with an adhesive label or stringed tag for each string issued. When receiving your orders to be aware of the absence of the letter on the bands and do not remove the label or tags provided to avoid confusion.

A brief survey was held of random NFSS members and the consensus was this would not be an issue or cause any inconveniences. Future years will have the size engraved.

We hope this will not cause any unforeseen problems for our members.



NFSS CLASSIFIEDS

To view the Classifieds page, visit nfss.org/classifieds or to add your listing contact webmaster@nfss.org. Members must be in good standing to participate in this and all NFSS functions.

WANTED

I am looking for the Pearl Headed Amadine and the Mask Grass Finch. Here is my contact information;
Santos A. Flores
Orlando, Florida
407-234-8392 mobile
Sflores1966@hotmail.com
Facebook nickname is Finch Flores

WANTED

Two (2) Male Blue Dacnis (Dacnis Cayana) Or, will trade a young hen for a male. African Quailfinches (*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*) – Ideally a pair + extra hen. Black-faced Fire Finches (*Lagonosticta larvata*) One or 2 pair. I am located in NE Florida. Local airport is JAX.

Thank you!
Lauren Ogburn
sunbay@comcast.net

BREEDING CHESTNUT- BREASTED MANNIKINS

Harry Bryant
NZSS Member
Former Editor

While at first glance the Chestnut-Breasted Mannikin (*Lonchura castaneothorax*) does not possess the bold bright colors of many other finches, its delicate feather texture and lovely shades of black and brown, make it a deserving beauty queen. A calm demeanor (similar to that of a Gouldian Finch), a lovely song, the fact that it is hardy, easy to keep and breed, and its non-aggressiveness mixing well with other finches, makes them one of my favorite birds. I fully recommend this finch to all aviculturists.

DESCRIPTION

About 4 to 4 1/4 inches (10-11cm) - the size of a Spice Finch but somewhat heavier in build). Weight - 17 grams. Tail bluntly wedge-shaped (when spread) with the central feathers pointed and somewhat elongated.

Face, including lores and stripe over eye, blackish brown with pale brownish shafts to the feathers. Throat brownish black with paler feather shafts only noticeable on close inspection. Forehead, crown and nape a silvery brownish grey with darker feather centres giving a spotted effect. Mantle, back, wing coverts and fringes of the otherwise drab wing quills, warm reddish brown with indistinct greyish subterminal bands on back and mantle feathers. Lower rump and the long upper tail coverts pale golden. Tail feathers drab brown, fringed pale golden. Breast pale chestnut or deep café au lait colour, bordered at lower edge and sides with black. Lower breast and belly white. Flanks barred black and white but more or less suffused with pale chestnut. Lower flanks, tibial feathers and under tail coverts black. Irides brown. Bill pale to medium grey. Legs and feet bluish grey, purplish grey, or blackish.



Females are usually a little duller than the male, with a paler chestnut breast and less pronounced black band dividing the chestnut and white areas of the underparts. There is, however, a great deal of individual variation and differences due to degree of wear and bleaching, in worn plumage the greys on the head and back look very pale.¹

Juveniles are a brownish-grey, being more olive brown on the back and flights. The sides of the face and cheeks are lightly streaked with off-white. The throat is greyish, and the chest a bullish brown. The brown breast bar is somewhat evident although very lightly marked.

Chestnut-Breasted are somewhat difficult to sex, since the sexes look alike. Russell Kingston in "A Guide to Australian Grass-finches" (1997 - ABK Publications) states that "The cock has a larger head than the hen. Looking at the crown, the cock is substantially wider between the eyes than is the hen. The cock also has a more 'bulbous' mandible, albeit shorter than the hen's finer, more pointed mandible. The hen also has more brownish striation in the face mask. The rump and upper tail coverts on the cock are brighter than that of the hen."

My eyes don't really see much difference, so I take the easy way out, and wait for the males to sing, which they do frequently.

COURTSHIP & MATING

The only call appears to be a monosyllabic or (less often) di-syllabic "tit" or "tlit" that seems to function mainly as a contact call. It may be almost inaudible (to humans) when given by members of a small group feeding near to each other, or long-drawn out and with a bell-like quality when given by birds in flight or at a distance from each other.

The Chestnut-Breast has a quiet high-pitched song that is hardly audible over a long distance. With a duration of up to 12 seconds, it is considerably longer than the

song phrases of other grass-finches. Each song phase is preceded by silent mandibulation. Morris describes a full four-phasic song phrase: weeeeeee-eeeeeeee - tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee-tuee - cheeouk-cheeouk-cheeouk-cheeouk-cheeouk - ching-ching-ching-ching-ching. The final "ching" shows some distant similarity to the song of the canary. The long thin whistle ("weeeeeee") also occurs in the song of several other species of *Lonchura* for example, in the Yellow-rumped Finch. In general, the song phases of all species of the genus *Lonchura* show close resemblance to each other in sound-quality, as well as in structure and length of the phrase, which has been pointed out in detail by Hall.²

Chestnut-Breasted also sing in duets and trios. Peering (see photo - left) is also quite common. "Peering" is described by Goodwin as:

"PEERING (LISTENING, ZUHOREN IN GERMAN) THIS BEHAVIOR WAS FIRST DESCRIBED IN DETAIL FOR THE SPICE FINCH (MOYNIHAN & HALL, 1954) AND HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN MANY OTHER ESTRILDIDS, ESPECIALLY THE HIGHLY SOCIAL MANNIKINS AND SILVERBILLS (IMMELMANN & IMMELMANN).

PEERING IS A RESPONSE TO THE UNDIRECTED SINGING OF ONE BIRD. THE RESPONDENT, WHICH IS OFTEN THE SAME SEX AS THE SINGING BIRD AND SELDOM ITS MATE, FLIES OR HOPS TO THE SINGING BIRD AND STRETCHES ITS NECK TILL ITS HEAD IS CLOSE TO THAT OF THE SINGER. IT MAY STAND EITHER CLOSE BESIDE OR IN FRONT OF THE SINGING BIRD. IT SEEMS TO BE PEERING CLOSELY OR LISTENING TO THE OTHER BIRD BUT THE POSITION OF ITS HEAD AND TENDENCY OFTEN TO PECK OR POKE THE SINGER SUGGESTS AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES. THE SINGER USUALLY TRIES TO MOVE HIS HEAD AWAY AND OFTEN EDGES AWAY ALONG HIS PERCH BUT THE PEERING BIRD FOLLOWS, STILL PEERING AND OCCASIONALLY PECKING OR POKING AT THE SING-



ER'S HEAD OR, BUT LESS OFTEN, HE MAY PECK THE SINGER FIERCELY (MOYNIHAN & HALL). SOMETIMES TWO OR MORE BIRDS MAY PEER AT THE SAME SINGING INDIVIDUAL ALTHOUGH THEY THEN TEND TO GET IN EACH OTHER'S WAY. MOYNIHAN & HALL OBSERVED THAT, IN THE SPICE FINCH, IF THE SINGER STOPPED AS A RESULT OF THE PEERING, IT MIGHT INVITE THE PEERER TO PREEN IT, THE TWO MIGHT 'CHUMP' TOGETHER OR THEY MIGHT FIGHT. IN SOME LESS SOCIAL SPECIES AT LEAST, PEERING, OR SOMETHING VERY LIKE IT, MAY BE SHOWN (AGAIN SELDOM BY THE BIRD'S OWN MATE) AS A RESPONSE TO THE COURTSHIP DISPLAY AS WELL AS TO UNDIRECTED SINGING.

PEERING IS SOMETIMES THOUGHT TO HELP FLOCK COHESION AMONG SOCIAL SPECIES. POSSIBLY IT DOES SO ONLY IN SO FAR AS IT MAY, BEHAVIORALLY, BE A RELATIVELY PEACEFUL ALTERNATIVE TO A MORE POSITIVELY AGGRESSIVE RESPONSE TO THE SINGING BIRD."

Males can also be identified by their courtship "crowing display" (photo - above), which can be described as: No nesting material is held. The male starts his song phase with bill wide open and head bent down. The feathers of the head, breast,

belly and rump are erected. In this position he hops up and down for a few moments. After this, he bobs up and down by alternately stretching and bending his legs, frequently interrupting this with bill wiping and body shaking. During this the male approaches the female until the two are in contact. Then both birds, still in bodily contact, make simultaneous deep bows till their bodies are in horizontal, followed by upward movements until their bodies are vertical. The birds' tails are turned towards each other and their belly feathers are even more erected than in the first part of the display. During this second part of the display sequence the male is usually silent. Copulation may follow immediately.

There is also much individual variation in the courtship display. Some males turn their heads from side to side while singing, others do not. Morris observed courtship displays which were initiated by both birds shaking and involved much mutual mandibulation and bill-wiping. Allo-preening occurs between paired birds but not, so far as has been observed, between other individuals.³

NICKNAMES

Barley Bird, Barley Sparrow, Bullie, Bully (slang), Chestnut Finch, Chestnut-Breasted Finch, Chestnut-Breasted Munia, and Dun-coloured Finch.

HABITAT

Coastal eastern Australia, from Sidney to Cape York, northern Australia, including the Kimberleys, Groote Eylandt, Melville Island, New Guinea, Goodenough Island and Vulcan (Manam) Island. Introduced on New Caledonia. Introduced to French Polynesia and France.

Chestnut-Breasted are an extremely social bird of the marshes, living in tall reeds and grasses near rivers, creeks and lakes. In late Autumn and the Winter months they form large flocks of several hundred birds, often mixing with the Yellow-rumped Finch. During the breeding season they break apart into smaller groups, nesting close to the ground. They often venture into agricultural areas (sugar cane) and are considered as pests in some communities.

This finch seems to have developed two slightly different types of flight. Single birds fly in the normal manner of grass-finches, with slight undulations. When in large flocks, however, the birds fly in a straight and very rapid manner with no undulations at all.

HABITS IN THE WILD

This species feeds mainly on seeds but sometimes takes flying termites and possibly other insects. The seeds of wild rice (*Oryza sativa*) are an important food along with the seed-heads of grasses such as *Echinachloa colonum*, *Chloris virgata*, *Setiima nervosa*, *Panicum maximum* and *Panicum zymbirformae*. They now feed largely on cultivated rice, barley, sorghum (dari), and millet, when they are available.

In contrast to most species of Australian grass-finches, the Chestnut-breast only

rarely feeds on the bare ground. It prefers to alight on grass stalks just below the seed-head where it can easily strip it of seeds. As soon as that seed-head is empty, the bird will stretch out its neck and seize with its bill another stalk, which it pulls back and place underneath its feet. In this way, the bird may collect four or five stalks, holding them all with its feet until it finally takes off, with the stalks flying back in different directions.

Among the Australian finches, the *Lonchura* species are by far the most adept at climbing up and down vertical stalks, with both feet used alternately. This character was noted long ago by John Gould, who compared the Chestnut-Breasted Mannikin with the European Bearded Tit.⁴

NESTING

The nest of the Chestnut-Breasted is usually situated in long grass, reeds or even in sugar cane. It is fixed among the vertical stalks of green grass, bent over and woven into the nest wall. The height of 27 nests measured was between one and three feet from the ground.

Both sexes build a nest that is dome shaped and somewhat laterally compressed so that it is usually only about 4 inches broad but up to 6 inches in depth and length. All nests examined by Immelmann consisted of 200 to 300 pieces of grass and were made of green grass (which quickly turns yellow on



the outside of the nest). The length of the grass used continuously decreased towards the inside of the nest, which is lined with finer and softer grasses and plant wool but not with feathers. It has a small (1 to 1½ inches in diameter) entrance hole which may have a slight porch over it but no entrance tunnel.

No roosting nests are constructed. Outside of the breeding season big flocks roost in long grass or reeds, the vertical stalks of which will bend under the weight of many birds. This action resembles the roosting habits of the introduced European Starling.

A normal clutch is 4 to 6 white eggs, each approximately 12mm x 17mm, exceptionally 3, 7 or 8 eggs. Incubation period is 12 to 13 days. Incubation is shared by both the cock and hen, and both birds remain on the nest at night. The parent birds cease to brood the chicks when they are approximately a week old, especially if the weather is warm at the time or they are housed in a warm bird room. The young fledge at about 21 days. Young in captivity return to the nest to roost for some nights after fledging.

HABITS IN CAPTIVITY

My birds always have access to a bowl of standard finch mix, and a bowl of clean water. Every day they receive soaked either soaked (sprouted) seed (egg food if they are raising babies- my egg food consists of crumbled hard boiled eggs – with the shell, plus 2 tablespoons of RichLife Vionate Vitamin mix, 1 tablespoon of Japanese millet, and 1 tablespoon of Birdcare's "Feast Insectivore" for each egg used.



Spray millet is provided 2 or 3 times a week, and they also receive mealworms and/or wax worms once a week, unless they are feeding babies, when they receive mealworms and/or wax worms daily.

AVIARY NOTES

While I have raised Chestnut-Breasted in breeding cages, I usually set them up as a group of four to six pair to a flight. Living in northern Ohio, my birds are kept indoors, in a basement bird room. My flights range from 3'x6'x6' high to 6'x14'x 6 high. All of the flights have a 4' shoplight and are lighted fourteen hours a day. Temperatures in the bird room range from 68° F at night to 78° F during the day. Chestnut-Breasted don't appear to be overly timid, so I don't usually provide any plants or artificial foliage in their flights. I use corncob bedding on the floor of the flight.

Various size tree branches are provided as perches, and I often add a few large marsh reeds, bull-rushes or cattails to one side of the flight for the birds to investigate.

An assortment of standard wood nest boxes and large bamboo finch baskets are provided at different heights, and they will use both. Chestnut-Breasted do not build or use roosting nests, however the young will sometimes return to the nest to sleep for several days after fledging.

I provide soft grasses for nesting materials; I try to find an abandoned house in the country where the lawn grass has become overgrown. Tall grasses can also be found along roads or in parks. The most important thing is that the grass is fine, and not coarse.

They are usually good reliable parents, and a typical clutch will consist of four to six eggs, incubation being 13 to 16 days. The babies will leave the nest about 3 weeks later, and the parents will continue to feed them for another three weeks. Adult plumage is obtained three to six months later. I leave the babies in with the parents for a month before removing them. The parents don't bother them, but I like to get them out of the breeding flight so it's not so crowded.



HISTORY IN AVICULTURE

The Chestnut-Breasted Mannikin is a hardy bird, easy to keep and reasonably easy to breed, and thus is a favorite aviary bird in Australia as well as abroad. It was first imported to England in 1860 when several birds were exhibited at the London Zoo. As early as 1880 it was quite common in England and on the Continent. Today it is fairly well established in Europe and the United States of America.⁵

MUTATIONS

An Albino mutation of the Chestnut-Breasted Mannikin has been reported in captivity in Australia.⁶

Birds that have a deep chocolate-brown chest color, instead of the normal "chestnut" color, are also being selectively bred in Australia.⁷

A fawn mutation and a crested mutation have also been established.⁸

SPECIES NOTES

Chestnut-Breasted Mannikins are hardy and long lived, with reports of 8 years or more in captivity. Their most productive breeding years being between their second through the fifth year.

Chestnut-Breasted will readily hybridize with other members of the Mannikin family, such as the Bengalese (Society Finch),

Silverbill, Java Sparrow, Spice Finch or any of the Nuns. Housing with these species should be avoided. There have also been reports of cross-breeding with Masked Grassfinches, Owl Finches, Long-tailed Grassfinches (Shafttails) and Zebra Finches.

These birds will breed year round indoors and should be limited to not more than three clutches a year. I remove all nests and nest boxes from the flight when I want to "rest" the birds.

Chestnut-Breasted have claws that grow very, very fast, and must be trimmed regularly. I trim them at least every other month. If the claws are not kept trimmed, the birds tend to become entangled in the wire mesh, leading to tragedy!

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THE NFSS FINCHSAVE GROUPS

A word from Scott Golden ~ 3rd Vice President & Finch Save Director:

The NFSS needs to shift gears if we are going to keep the FSS program and NFSS viable and growing. Our online focus for many years has been the Yahoo! groups, which are closed to all non-NFSS members. Unfortunately, participation in the Yahoo! forums has greatly diminished. Most FSS groups have had no activity for months and the NFSS group has mostly had a few administrative postings for the last several months.

I feel that we are missing the opportunity to appeal for broader participation and new members because most people in the Avicultural community simply do not know that the National Finch and Soffbill Society and the Finch and Soffbill Save program even exist. We have hidden our existence away to new people.

We will be keeping the current Yahoo! groups for those NFSS members that find them useful. In addition, we have established the following groups on Facebook under the umbrella of NFSS and FSS. These groups will each have a triad of moderators, be similar in design and be open to the public (with moderator approval), while advocating for the joining of NFSS and the benefits that membership provides (bands, Journal, greater political voice, etc).

I invite you all to find these groups on Facebook! Invite your friends, far and wide to join us too. With a little bit of time and effort, I feel we will see a resurgence in membership in NFSS and a greater interest in the hobby which we all hold dear.

Red Siskin Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/294815967360043/

Turaco Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/324291101078122/

Blue/Purple Waxbill Cooperative (Uraeginthus)

facebook.com/groups/267170073481793/

African Finch Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/1514844325394753/

Song Bird Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/1451259121801237/

Strawberry Goldbreast Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/417376308400282/

Parrot Finch Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/Parrotfinches

Society Finch (Bengalese) Breeders USA

facebook.com/groups/576249442454227/

Honeycreeper, Dacnis & Tanager Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/302219369963351/

Rare Australian Finch Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/606903272757932/

Bulbul Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/897220236972727/

Mousebird Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/1466950730230669/

Serinus Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/318204341690515/

Munia and Mannikin Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/1512983115580602/

Java Sparrow Cooperative North America

facebook.com/groups/1407482236158564/

Toucans & Aracaris Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/370198129823443/

Zebra Finch Cooperative North America

facebook.com/groups/750499521680623/

South American, Central American &

Caribbean Finches Cooperative

facebook.com/groups/800939559927915/

NFSS: Avian Legislation, Politics and Debate

facebook.com/groups/327893904038852/



NESS



Rare Australian Finch Cooperative

Working together to breed and preserve these rare Australian finches within North American Aviculture



Red Siskin Cooperative

Dedicated to the preservation of wild and domestic Red Siskin populations



Bulbul Cooperative (Pycnonotidae)

Working together to breed & preserve these species within North American Aviculture.

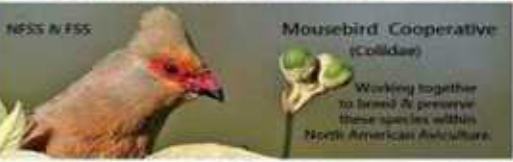
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Turacos Cooperative

Working together to breed & preserve these species within North American Aviculture

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Mousebird Cooperative (Coliidae)

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Blue/Purple Waxbills Cooperative (Urosalpinx)

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Serinus Cooperative

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Java Sparrow Cooperative North America

Working together to breed & preserve these species within North American Aviculture



Strawberry and Goldbreast Cooperative

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Toucans and Aracaris Cooperative

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Parrot Finches Cooperative

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Zebra Finch Breeders USA



Society Finch (Bengalies) Breeders USA

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South American, Central American & Caribbean Finches

Working together to breed & preserve these species within North American Aviculture.

NESS & FSS



Honeycreeper, Dachis & Weaver Cooperative

Working together to breed & preserve these species within North American Aviculture

NESS & FSS



NESS: Avian Legislation, Politics, and Debates

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

AMBER KINCHELOE ~ ADVERTISING MANAGER

My name is Amber Kinche-loe and I am your faithful advertising manager. I have been serving as ad manager since March of 2014. I am a new member of the NFSS, having joined in February 2014. I raise and breed only Society Finches as of now, but I hope to one day branch out into Strawberries, Owl Finches, canaries and most importantly Cordon Bleus. I have been married to my wonderful husband David since 2008 and we are the proud parents of two 14 year old girls. Along with my husband and daughters I live in a house with a small zoo of other pets. I guess you can say I really am an animal lover.

I was born and raised in Omaha Nebraska along with my one sister Jennifer. My parents decided a change was in order and in 1993 we moved to Carlsbad New Mexico. I attended Jr. High School, High School and College here in Carlsbad, eventually earning my degree in Computer Technology. I have had many different jobs since high school, mostly in

pet shops, but the only "career" employment I have had was my stint as the advertising manager for our local country club. Since being married to my husband David, we decided to go on an adventure to become business owners. We decided to open a local beauty salon that we called Stage 5 Hair and Nails. I attended the local beauty college and earned my license as a nail tech while he earned his license as a cosmetologist.

Since then we decided to sell the shop to a very good friend of ours and it remains in business to this day. Since closing the shop I have been a stay at home mom. I act as chauffeur, hair stylist, seamstress, personal assistant and one man fan club for my two daughters who

"I am so thrilled to be a member of the NFSS and I have to thank fellow member Ivan Montes for introducing me to the NFSS. Without him, I would never have found this wonderful group of finch lovers that I am proud to say that I am a part of"

are extremely involved in various different activities such as dance, band, choir, etc. I am very much enjoying my work with the NFSS as your Advertising Manager, and although I have never worked in the Accounting trade before, I am finding that it is all a very fun learning experience.



My husband David was born and raised in Odessa Texas. He has lived briefly in the small town of Snyder Texas and also for a short time in Austin Texas. David and I met through a mutual friend that is originally from Odessa but had moved to Carlsbad and we met and became friends in college. She returned to Odessa and was employed in the same office as my future hubby. We started out sending emails to each other, and then began talking on the phone, which led to him making trips to spend the weekends with me. I knew he was my soul mate from the first time I met him, and in less than a year we were married. Some people we know said that it would never work because we “hadn’t known each other long enough” but six years later he is still my true love and best friend!

I could probably fill an entire journal talking about my daughters, but I’ll keep it short. My daughter Alizay is 14 years old, was born

and raised in Carlsbad and attends Carlsbad Senior High School as a freshman, is a self-titled band nerd and also a member of Cheryl’s School of Dance here in Carlsbad. Alizay plays the flute (just like her mom!) in the CHS Marching Band and says that her favorite classes of the day are band and lunch. She has also been attending dance school since she was three years old. She started by taking ballet classes and then when she entered 4th grade, she became the youngest dancer at Cheryl’s to be allowed to join the Jr. Ballroom group. Presently, this will be her first year with the Sr. Ballroom group, and her third year in pointe ballet. Although she enjoys ballroom, pointe is her main love and you can tell just by looking in her room at all of the ballet posters, pointe shoes and tutus spread everywhere!!

My step-daughter Anah is also 14 years old and is currently living in Madera California with her biological Mom. She made the decision this



past Summer to spend some time with her mom, which of course was hard on those that she left behind, but overall is going to provide her with some good life lessons. Anah is currently enrolled in 8th grade in Madera and is active in the school choir. She says that school is "weird" in California but that she has made some new friends and enjoys it there. While living with David and me, Anah was involved with the school choir, danced at Cheryl's School of Dance in Hip-Hop, Jazz and Lyrical classes, and was a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Student Council. Anah was born in Snyder, Texas and was raised to the age of seven

in Odessa Texas, before moving to Carlsbad when her father and I were married.



As far as the four legged members of my family go, in addition to my finches, I am "mom" to one cockatiel named Jules, a ball python named Mr. Bubbles, a fire skink named Digger, one fresh water aquarium, one salt water aquarium, an orange tabby cat named Boots, a beagle mix named Jack, an Italian Greyhuahua (this is a mix between a miniature greyhound and a Chihuahua) named Lulu La Rue, and a welsh corgi/border collie (picture that in your mind!) named Chance.





I am so thrilled to be a member of the NFSS and I have to thank fellow member Ivan Montes for introducing me to the NFSS. Without him, I would never have found this wonderful group of finch lovers that I am proud to say that I am a part of.

PHOTOS; Page 19: Top - A photo of me. Bottom - My daughters. Left: My wedding dress. Above: My husband David and our two daughters Alizay & Anah at Sea World. Below & Below Left: David and I on our honey moon parasailing in Key West.



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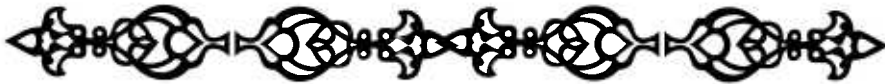
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Full Page	\$85	\$413	\$97	15%
Half Page	\$60	\$294	\$66	15%
Quarter Page	\$35	\$174	\$36	15%

Black & White Journal Ads

Ad Size	One Issue	Full Year	\$ Saved	% Saved
Centerfold	\$180	\$900	\$180	17%
Full Page	\$60	\$306	\$54	15%
Half Page	\$40	\$204	\$36	15%
Quarter Page	\$20	\$102	\$18	15%

BREEDING STRAWBERRY FINCHES IN A SUN PORCH AVIARY

Nancy Ingram
NFSS Member

Strawberry Finches are delightful birds. They get along with other small finches and seem content in cages. There are complicated reasons why they have disappeared from the domestic bird trade since their importation was halted in 2004 because of the H5N1 avian flu virus. Many people are able to get a pair to nest once, and then nothing. I have discovered a breeding trigger for Strawberry Finches which is missing from most aviaries. The nesting structure I have developed is the trigger; it must mimic something they would choose in the wild.

I got my first 2 pairs of Strawberry Finches in 2003. Each pair raised one clutch. I sold some and traded some but kept the parents and 4 of their offspring. Then nothing happened for years. The parents died of old age. I left their offspring in my sun porch where I breed finches because they got along with all my other birds. I put an unusual nesting structure in my porch in 2011 and suddenly these (now) old birds started

carrying around grass, building nests, and laying eggs. This lath nesting structure is covered with artificial foliage. I call this structure a "wall." These very old birds successfully raised 3 chicks in January 2011.

Where was I going to find unrelated mates for them? The lifespan of Strawberry Finches in captivity is 5-7 years. A few people I knew had old males but no one had a female. I tried pairing my hen (Eve) with a beautiful cock a friend of mine had. Eve laid 3 clutches of eggs but they were all infertile. Either he was too old or she was too young. I ended up pairing her with her brother "Steve" in the north flight of my aviary. She didn't seem to like him. She kept sitting near the south flight where "Adam," her other brother, was located. I finally put "Adam" and "Eve" together and they raised 5 healthy chicks in July 2012--8 years after the embargo.

I contacted the National Finch and Soft-bill Society. One of their missions is to encourage and support finch breeding. I was directed to Sally Porter in Texas, the Amandava Species Coordinator for the NFSS. In the fall of 2011 she had





secured 13 Strawberry Finches from Puerto Rico by way of Canada. She had had initial success in breeding these birds in cages. I suggested I trade my 5 chicks for some of her chicks. We met at the Columbia Canary Club bird show in November 2012 and exchanged birds.

Strawberry Finches are similar to many other finches we keep in our aviaries except when it comes to breeding them. A male must be in nuptial plumage or have orange/red flecks on his head indicating that he has enough energy to build a nest, fertilize eggs, take turns incubating eggs, feed chicks, and chase off other birds. The female must be ready too. She signals the male when and where she wants a nest. It usually takes a male 3 mornings to build a nest. She supervises but doesn't help.

I'm still learning about this species and have been able to observe the behavior of these birds in a semi-natural environment in my sun porch. Colony breeding Strawberry Finches requires 3 or more pairs in a flight. I have come to trust the instinctual wisdom of these birds. I had initially planned to pair certain birds. It became obvious to me that they weren't happy with who I had put them with. I finally put all of them in my sun porch and let them pick their own partners. It took the females exactly 2 days to choose. The females chased other females away from the male they wanted.

None of the birds ended up with who I had chosen for them.

I put one of my "wall" nesting structures in my sun porch for each pair. I am careful to have the same number of males and females in a flight so there is no fighting. These birds spend a lot of time foraging. I have several 2' long planter boxes per pair. I think foraging is a necessary activity for this species. I have live food in my sun porch for the birds at all times. I raise fruit flies in suspended bowls (2 bowls per breeding pair). Some plants that support white flies include cabbage, kale, tomato, collard greens, and hibiscus. The compost in each flight supports tiny insects and sprouting seeds. I hoe the composts weekly and add horse manure twice a year.

Females should be at least 1 year old





to insure fertile eggs. I've had male Strawberry Finches spend as many as 3 years with a blotchy brown/black/tan pattern on their chests. I've had other male Strawberry Finches spend most of their lives in nuptial plumage. I've seen some I couldn't tell apart from females. Several males seemed to turn black suddenly and then slowly molt into the tan coloration of a female. One male, who wasn't in nuptial plumage, was constantly building nests for his mate. This male was raised by society finches and overweight compared to parent raised males. Only about 20% of his eggs were fertile. I have tried to put abandoned eggs in my incubator. Several times I marked the eggs and slipped them in another available nest but didn't have any success.

Four pairs in a large flight is optimal. I have experimented with as many as 8 pairs in my sun porch at one time. I had trouble keeping track of that many pairs. I've noticed that Strawberry Finches seem to synchronize their breeding cycles in a colony situation which causes the chicks to all fledge at the same time. In order to be sure I document their lineage correctly I have to band the babies at 10 days of age. I've observed all the males incubating eggs at the same time of day in a colony.

There are problems unique to a sun porch or planted flight. Because it is a somewhat closed environment the insect species can get out of balance. I have to treat the soil every 5 years with predatory nematodes so plant roots will grow properly. Another problem I encountered was egg binding. I tried several things. Obviously the birds either weren't getting enough calcium or were unable to hold on to it. I thought that perhaps they needed real sunshine so I built double walled cages for both flights so my birds could perch outside (during warm weather) and be safe from hawks. This didn't solve the egg binding problem but the birds love to "go outside."

Birds in my sun porch usually ignore the softfood. As a result they do not



consume the vitamin D3 they need. I figured out that if I stir in a little cod liver oil into their seeds (just enough to give the seeds a slight sheen) the egg binding problem goes away. Birds in the house readily eat the softfood I provide to all my birds every other day.

I have fresh grass available in a wall rack for birds building nests. I put feathers from a pillow out on the 4th morning of nest building. During a successful incubation, I see only one member of a pair in the flight. I have observed other aviary members gather nearby to listen to newly hatched chicks. I don't remove a nest until it has been abandoned for at least 10 days. My birds abandoned their nests once following an incredibly loud thunder storm. It took them 70 days to rebuild their nests, after several false starts. I have observed females flying up 1-3 feet above a "wall" several times in succession, possibly to notify the male of their nest site preference.

For bird safety I only tie my plants with cotton yarn (not twine, thread, or polyester yarn). I wipe down spider webs on my sun porch when chicks are due to fledge. (This is one down side of all the live insects in my sun porch.) I remove the bird baths when the chicks are due to fledge. The plastic wall panels are covered with heavy 1" plastic fencing. This acts as a visible barrier so birds don't fly into the transparent plastic panels and allows chicks something to

grasp when learning to fly. I have several large bushes where birds can land and perch at night. I have been breeding finches in my sun porch since 2000. I have worked out a calendar so I know when to open or close manual vents, take out or put in transparent plastic wall panels, replace summer screens with winter blankets, etc. I try to keep the temperature between 60°F. and 90°F.

The breeding triggers for this species are elusive. We've probably complicated

"These birds spend a lot of time foraging. I have several 2' long planter boxes per pair. I think foraging is a necessary activity for this species. I have live food in my sun porch for the birds at all times. I raise fruit flies in suspended bowls (2 bowls per breeding pair)."

it unwittingly by including individuals of all 3 subspecies in our breeding programs. I have my birds in a relatively natural setting in my sun porch. The offspring of my first birds didn't breed for 6 years, until I put in my "wall" nesting structure that mimics a dense low bush facing an open area. Colony breeding Strawberry Finches requires

at least 3 pairs. If there are only two pairs in a breeding situation one male may kill the other. There needs to be an even number of males and females. The exception to this are newly fledged chicks which are protected by their parents. Remove independent chicks 21-24 days after fledging. House only young birds together in a cage. Never put newly independent chicks in a cage with an adult male. Keep one pair in a cage or put all the females together in a cage and all the males in another cage. I do

not keep adult males and females together (except single pairs). Most males in a non-breeding situation are peaceful but there are occasional aggressive males who may keep another male or female from food or water.

I have noticed more false nesting starts with Strawberry Finches than other finch species. A couple eggs might mysteriously be abandoned. I often think I should try to save these eggs. Slipping them into another nest is usually too disruptive to the host birds. Even removing infertile eggs from a nest that the parents continue to refurbish will cause them to abandon the nest. One pair of Strawberry Finches I had built successive nests in "walls." They laid eggs but were never successful in raising chicks. There doesn't seem to be any correlation with the season or hours of daylight. Once their eggs hatch they raise their own chicks.

The element of competition is added with multiple pairs. I experimented with 8 pairs in my sun porch in 2014. Initially the only successful pair built their nest in a wire passageway between two cages. This location was fairly inaccessible. There was a little stealing of nest materials and a couple eggs went missing from nests in "walls." All the birds were peaceful in common areas while foraging. I have a 2' x 2' sheet of closed cell foam behind each "wall" to buffer the temperature of the perimeter of my sun porch. I decided I needed to pro-

vide more privacy for nesting birds. I attached 2' x 10" pieces of 1/4" plywood as end caps for my "walls" and replaced the artificial foliage on some backs and sides with shade cloth. These finches are very inquisitive and check out every new thing I put in their environment. It is now harder for birds to move through one "wall" to another and easier for a pair to defend their nest.

If birds don't build a nest they can't progress to the next step. The offspring of my initial birds did nothing in my sun porch for 6 years. My nesting structure or something similar to it, is the breeding trigger for Strawberry Finches missing from most aviaries. I rotate pairs into my sun porch about every 6 months (January-June and July-December). They are constantly building nests.

Ideally it would be possible to translate my nesting structure for Strawberry Finches to a flight cage. I have built several prototypes for a cage situation (a "wallet") but haven't been successful. My temperature controlled planted sun porch is a lot different from a cage. It allows birds the natural activity of foraging. The stimulus of competition can be accomplished in cages by placing them close to each other. Breeding birds is a lot of work, no matter how you do it. My methods are out of the comfort zone of some people but my methods meet the breeding needs of Strawberry Finches.



- Resigned: David Kincheloe/WebMaster, Roland Cristo/Legislative Liaison
- Pro-Tem Election Results: Region 3 VP – Susan Stieve-Region 3 VP; Javier Perez-Region 2VP; Brianna McCauley-Membership
- TREASURY:
 - Bank Balance 6/30/14: \$37,144.57
 - Bank Balance 9/30/14: \$39,323.23
 - 2015 Budget presented and approved by BOD
 - Brianna McCauley will conduct 1st audit of 2013 financial records, Amber Kincheloe will conduct 2nd
- MEMBERSHIP: Single: 332 dual: 35 Foreign: 13 Junior: 3: TOTAL: 418
- 4th VP: 3 persons have passed judges test and will now do apprenticeship judging: Ken Rampersaud, Gene Perez, Ricardo Gaskin
- RED SISKIN PROJECT: Donations to date - \$254.90. Donation button on NFSS website. Currently 6 active members, Seven prs of birds transferred from NY to 3 breeders in Pacific NW and 2 male and female returned in July to breeder in Utah. Paula has located other breeders willing to supply unrelated birds for 2015.
- BANDS: 2015 Bands printed without alpha letter – Paula Hansen/Band Manager, will label all strings of bands prior to shipping. Will return to alpha-numeric bands in 2016. Conducted survey with random members who indicated “inconvenient but no major difficulties”
- Rosette awards pricing has been increased due to an increase in our cost.
- 2014 NCBS, Dayton, Ohio –Finch Division had 157 birds, 18 exhibitors – 1st place winner was a Junior Exhibitor Abbie Burhans! Sales table resulted in sales of pins, band cutters, EZ rings, cups, and orders for membership. Judges jackets handed out for display at future shows.
- CHAMPION EXHIBITORS: (50 points in a year): Cheryl/Leland Burns, Gene Perez, Susan Stieve, Mike Manley
- EXHIBITOR OF EXCELLENCE (200 pts in lifetime): Cheryl/Leland Burns
- HIGH POINT FLIGHTED: Self Chocolate Society/Cheryl-Leland Burns
- HIGH POINT UNFLIGHTED: DS BB Zebra /Gene Perez
- NARA: Level A; Kateri Davis – Mousebirds; Level B: Nancy Ingram-Strawberries & Kateri Davis-Turacos
- BOD approves development of “Linked In” page for NFSS
- BOD approves affiliation with PJJAC
- Web Master develops profiles on website for BOD members
- BOD approves adoption of language printed in current Journals regarding cut off dates for Journal as it relates to purchase/renewal of membership (15th of December, February, April, June, August, October)
- BOD approves continuing publishing NFSS show reports in one “annual issue of the Journal each year

FOR FULL VERSION OF MINUTES, PLEASE SEE NFSS WEBSITE OR CONTACT REBECCA MIKEL AT

SPKENNEL@AOL.COM

Nominations Sought for the National Aviculturist Recognition Award (NARA)

The National Finch and Softbill Society is currently seeking nominations for the **National Aviculturist Recognition Award (NARA)**. The NARA was established to recognize Finch and Softbill Save (FSS) participants who have developed a program of avian breeding success involving sequential generations of rare, endangered, difficult-to-breed, or CITES-listed birds.

The NARA is a multi-level award program with minimum requirements as follow:

Level B (First Step)

1. The aviculturist must be a member of FSS for 2 years.
2. Detailed genealogical records must be kept.
3. Four generations of birds must be closed –banded and/or documentation must be provided in the form of a pedigree. (This requirement may be eased for long-lived softbill species at the discretion of the NARA Committee).
4. References are preferred but not required.

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 above 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 that is 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.

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 3rd 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 3rd Quarter BOD Meeting will not be considered for the award that year.

Selection Process

1. Candidates will be presented to the Board of Directors at the 3rd Quarter BOD Meeting, along with all the paperwork submitted on their behalf.
2. The Board of Directors will discuss the candidates.
3. The Board of Directors will select 0-3 candidates to receive the Level B award.
4. The Board of Directors will select 1 candidate to receive the Level A Full NARA if there is an outstanding and worthy candidate who is ready for the award.
5. Award recipients will be announced at the Annual Member Meeting.

Send Nominations To

Scott Golden

1645 Dixon Street NE

Keizer, OR 97303

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- * Have you written an article in the past for the NFSS or your own personal use?
- * Ever been to a bird-related event and would like to recount your experience?
- * Have you purchased an item or book and would like to write a review?
- * Got some advice for other hobbyists and breeders of a certain species?
- * Have you purchased a new flock member and would like to tell us your story?
- * Ever written a blog post for your website/social media or someone else's?

Send your submissions or suggestions to editor@nfss.org



JUST FINCHES *and Softbills* **MAGAZINE**



While focusing primarily on Australasia, this magazine incorporates what's happening with finches and 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 breeder setups. We also have a Question and Answer section and provision for comments from a leading avian vet.

4 Issues for \$62NZD (about \$52USD) postage paid

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Finch and Softbill Save (FSS)

A Conservation Program Established by the
National Finch and Softbill Society

Most finch and softbill species are not bred enough in the US and Canada, leading to a decline in the number of individual birds and bird species available today. A number of factors have contributed to this decline, including import restrictions, lack of motivation to breed these species, and difficulty finding other breeders with whom we can exchange bloodlines. Finch and Softbill Save strives to increase the number of captive-bred birds by sharing information that may lead to improved breeding success and by providing a way for breeders to work cooperatively.

NEW - Finch and Softbill Save is Going Online!

Finch and Softbill Save is taking advantage of the web to make it easier to fulfill the program requirements and to improve our ability to analyze the data reported by participants. A web-based application is being developed that will allow participants to record their breeding results online along with observations about the environment and conditions that led to those results. The program will include the following features:

- **Annual reporting routines** will evaluate the data reported by participants and tally the statistics provided for each species. Such analyses offer a snapshot of the state of aviculture for each species and can lead to species profiles to assist our breeding efforts.
- **A studbook** will maintain the documented ancestral history of all birds in the program, providing pedigrees and tools to help ensure genetic diversity.
- Breeders of rare species can easily **network to exchange bloodlines** and expand flocks, without sacrificing each participant's **control over private information**.

We Need You!

No conservation effort, no matter how well conceived and well designed, can succeed without participation from the avicultural community. You can help by joining FSS and sharing your results. All species of finches and softbills that can be legally kept in captivity in the US and Canada are included except zebra finches, society finches, gouldian finches, and java rice finches, which are already well-established. There is no fee to join, but you must be a member of the National Finch and Softbill Society.

How to Join:

NFSS: Visit the NFSS website at www.nfss.org.

FSS: Ensure your NFSS membership is current and join the Finch and Softbill Save Yahoo! group at: http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Finch_SoftbillSave/. Software development has just begun, but progress reports will be made to the Finch and Softbill Save Yahoo! group.

For more information

Vonda Zwick (VondaFSfinchaviary.com)
Finch & Softbill Saveogram Director
611 Hingham Ln
Schaumburg, IL

Species - Finches	Cocks	Hens	Unsexed	Breeding (Y/N)
African Citril (<i>Serinus citrinelloides</i>)				
African Silverbill (<i>Lonchura cantans</i>)				
Black And White Mannikin (<i>Lonchura bicolor</i>)				
Black And White Seedeater (<i>Sporophila luctuosa</i>)				
Black Siskin (<i>Carduelis atrata</i>)				
Black-bellied Firefinch (<i>Lagonosticta rara</i>)				
Black-cheeked Waxbill (<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>)				
Black-crowned Waxbill (<i>Estrilda nonnula</i>)				
Black-faced Firefinch (<i>Lagonosticta larvata</i>)				
Black-headed Nun (<i>Lonchura malacca atricapilla</i>)				
Black-headed Siskin (<i>Carduelis notata</i>)				
Black-rumped Waxbill (<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>)				
Black-winged Bishop (<i>Euplectes hordeacea</i>)				
Blue-billed (African) Firefinch (<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>)				
Blue-breasted Cordon Bleu (<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>)				
Blue-capped Cordon-bleu (<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>)				
Blue-faced Parrotfinch (<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>)				
Brimstone Canary (<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>)				
Bronze-winged Mannikin (<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>)				
Brown Twinspot (<i>Clytopiza monteiri</i>)				
Canary (<i>Serinus canaria</i>)				
Chaffinch (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>)				
Cherry Finch (<i>Neochmia modesta</i>)				
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater (<i>Sporophila castaneiventris</i>)				
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (<i>Lonchura castaneothorax</i>)				
Chinese Grosbeak (<i>Eophona migratoria</i>)				
Combassou (<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>)				
Crimson-winged Pytilia (<i>Pytilia phoenicoptera</i>)				
Cuban Melodious Finch (<i>Tiaras canora</i>)				
Cutthroat Finch (<i>Amadina fasciata</i>)				
Diamond Firetail (<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>)				
European Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>)				
European Greenfinch (<i>Carduelis chloris</i>)				
European Serin (<i>Serinus serinus</i>)				
European Siskin (<i>Carduelis spinus</i>)				
Five-colored Munia (<i>Lonchura quinticolor</i>)				
Goldbreasted Waxbill (<i>Amandava subflava</i>)				
Golden Song Sparrow (<i>Passer luteus</i>)				
Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>) Mutation: Normal Body				
Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>) Mutation: Blue Body				
Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>) Mutation: Dilute Body				
Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>) Mutation: Pastel Body				
Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>) Mutation: Silver Body				
Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>) Mutation: Yellow Body				
Gouldian Finch (<i>Chloebia gouldiae</i>) Mutation: Other Body Color				
Grand Mannikin (<i>Lonchura grandis</i>)				
Green Singer (<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>)				
Green-backed Twinspot (<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>)				
Green-winged Pytilia (<i>Pytilia melba</i>)				
Grey Singer (<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>)				
Grey-crowned Mannikin (<i>Lonchura nevermanni</i>)				
Grey-headed Mannikin (<i>Lonchura caniceps</i>)				
Grey-headed Silverbill (<i>Lonchura griseicapilla</i>)				
Heck's Shafftail (<i>Poephila acuticauda hecki</i>)				
Indian Silverbill (<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>)				
Jacarini Finch (<i>Volatinia jacarini</i>)				
Jameson's Firefinch (<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>)				
Japanese Grosbeak (<i>Eophona personata</i>)				
Java Rice Finch (<i>Padda oryzivora</i>)				
Lavender Finch (<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>)				
Lemon-breasted Canary (<i>Serinus citrinipectus</i>)				
Linnet (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>)				
Madagascar Mannikin (<i>Lonchura nana</i>)				
Maggie Mannikin (<i>Lonchura fringilloides</i>)				
Masked Grassfinch (<i>Poephila personata</i>)				
Napoleon Weaver (<i>Euplectes afra</i>)				
Orange Bishop (<i>Euplectes orix franciscana</i>)				
Orange-cheeked Waxbill (<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>)				
Orange-winged Pytilia (<i>Pytilia afra</i>)				
Owl Finch (<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii</i>)				
Owl Finch - Black Rumped (<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii annulosa</i>)				
Painted Firetail (<i>Emblema picta</i>)				
Paradise Whydah (<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>)				
Parson Finch (<i>Poephila cincta</i>)				

Species - Finches (<i>continued</i>)	Cocks	Hens	Unsexed	Breeding (Y/N)
Peales Parrotfinch (<i>Erythrura pealii</i>)				
Peruvian Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella bellicosa</i>)				
Peters' Twinspot (<i>Hypargos niveoguttatus</i>)				
Pin-tailed Nonpareil (<i>Erythrura prasina</i>)				
Pin-tailed Whydah (<i>Vidua macroura</i>)				
Purple Grenadier (<i>Uraeginthus lanthinogaster</i>)				
Quail Finch (<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>)				
Red Siskin (<i>Carduelis cucullata</i>)				
Red-billed (Senegal) Firefinch (<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>)				
Red-billed Firefinch (<i>Lagonosticta senegala ruberrima</i>)				
Red-capped Cardinal (<i>Paroaria gularis</i>)				
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu (<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>)				
Red-collard Whydah (<i>Euplectes ardens</i>)				
Red-crested Cardinal (<i>Paroaria coronata</i>)				
Red-crested Finch (<i>Coryphospingus cullatus</i>)				
Red-faced Crimson-wing (<i>Cryptospiza reichenovii</i>)				
Red-faced Pytilia (<i>Pytilia hypogrammica</i>)				
Red-headed Finch (<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>)				
Red-headed Parrotfinch (<i>Erythrura cyaneovirens</i>)				
Red-headed Quelea (<i>Quelea erythroptis</i>)				
Red-throated Parrotfinch (<i>Erythrura psittacea</i>) Mutation: Normal				
Red-throated Parrotfinch (<i>Erythrura psittacea</i>) Mutation: Pied				
Red-throated Parrotfinch (<i>Erythrura psittacea</i>) Mutation: Seagreen				
Rosy Twinspot (<i>Hypargos margaritatus</i>)				
Rosy-rumped Waxbill (<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>)				
Saffron Finch (<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>)				
Scaly-crowned Weaver (<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>)				
Shafttail (<i>Poephila acuticauda</i>)				
Siberian Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis major</i>)				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: All White				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Chestnut and White Pied				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Chestnut Self				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Chocolate and White Pied				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Chocolate Self				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Crested (Any Body Color)				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Euro Black Brown				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Euro Grey				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Euro Red Brown				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Fawn and White Pied				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Fawn Self				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Pearl				
Society Finch (<i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>) Mutation: Other				
Spice Finch (<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>)				
St. Helena Waxbill (<i>Estrilda astrild</i>)				
Star Finch (<i>Neochmia ruficauda</i>) Mutation: Normal (Red-faced)				
Star Finch (<i>Neochmia ruficauda</i>) Mutation: Isabelle (Any Head Color)				
Star Finch (<i>Neochmia ruficauda</i>) Mutation: Pied (Any Body/Head Color)				
Star Finch (<i>Neochmia ruficauda</i>) Mutation: Yellow-faced				
Straw-tailed Whydah (<i>Vidua fischeri</i>)				
Strawberry Finch (<i>Amandava amandava</i>)				
Sweet Waxbill (<i>Estrilda melanotis</i>)				
Timor Zebra (<i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>)				
Tri-colored Nun (<i>Lonchura malacca</i>)				
Tri-colored Parrotfinch (<i>Erythrura tricolor</i>)				
Violet-eared Waxbill (<i>Uraeginthus granatina</i>)				
Western Bluebill (<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>)				
White-bellied Canary (<i>Serinus dorostriatus</i>)				
White-headed Nun (<i>Lonchura maja</i>)				
Yellow-rumped Seedeater (<i>Serinus atrogularis reichenowi</i>)				
Zanzibar Red Bishop (<i>Euplectes nigroventris</i>)				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Normal Grey				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Black-breasted				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Black-cheeked				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Black-faced				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Chestnut-flanked White				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Cream				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Crested				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Dominant Silver				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Fumo				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Fawn				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Fawn-cheeked				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Florida Fancy				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Lightback				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Orange-breasted				

Species - Finches (<i>continued</i>)	Cocks	Hens	Unsexed	Breeding (Y/N)
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Other				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Penguin				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Pied				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: Recessive Silver				
Zebra Finch (<i>Taeniopygia guttata castanotis</i>) Mutation: White				
Other Finch (specify):				
Other Finch (specify):				
Other Finch (specify):				
Other Finch (specify):				
Species - Softbills	Cocks	Hens	Unsexed	Breeding (Y/N)
African Black Crane (<i>Porzana flavirostra</i>)				
African Yellow White Eye (<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>)				
Allen's Gallinule (<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>)				
Amethyst Starling (<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>)				
Bali Mynah (<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i>)				
Bananaquit (<i>Coereba flaveola</i>)				
Barbary Shrike (<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>)				
Bearded Barbet (<i>Lybius dubius</i>)				
Black-faced Dacnis (<i>Dacnis lineata</i>)				
Black-spotted Barbet (<i>Capito niger</i>)				
Black-throated Laughing Thrush (<i>Garrulax chinensis</i>)				
Blacksmith Plover (<i>Vanellus armatus</i>)				
Blue Dacnis (<i>Dacnis cayana</i>)				
Blue Tit (<i>Parus caeruleus</i>)				
Blue-gray Tanager (<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>)				
Blue-naped Mousebird (<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>)				
Blyth's Hornbill (<i>Aceros plicatus</i>)				
Burnished-buff Tanager (<i>Tangara cayana</i>)				
Chestnut-eared Aracari (<i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i>)				
Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (<i>Ramphastos swainsonii</i>)				
Cissa (<i>Cissa chinensis</i>)				
Collared Aracari (<i>Pteroglossus torquatus</i>)				
Collies Magpie Jay (<i>Calocitta colliei</i>)				
Common Mynah (<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>)				
Crimson-rumped Toucanet (<i>Aulacorhynchus haematopygus</i>)				
Double-toothed Barbet (<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>)				
Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill (<i>Tockus flavirostris</i>)				
Emerald Starling (<i>Coccycolius iris</i>)				
European Blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>)				
European Roller (<i>Coracias garrulus</i>)				
European Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)				
European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)				
Garden/black Eye Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>)				
Golden Tanager (<i>Tangara arthus</i>)				
Green & Gold Tanager (<i>Tangara schrankii</i>)				
Green Aracari (<i>Pteroglossus viridis</i>)				
Green Honeycreeper (<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>)				
Guianan Toucanette (<i>Selenidera piperivora</i>)				
Guinea Turaco (<i>Tauraco persa</i>)				
Hartlaub Turaco (<i>Tauraco hartlaubi</i>)				
Hwamei (<i>Garrulax canorus</i>)				
Indian Hill Mynah (<i>Gracula religiosa</i>)				
Jackson's Hornbill (<i>Tockus deckeni jacksoni</i>)				
Japanese White Eye (<i>Zosterops japonica</i>)				
Kikuyu White Eye (<i>Zosterops polioaster kikuyuensis</i>)				
Laughing Kookabura (<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>)				
Livingstone's Turaco (<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>)				
Oriental Pied Hornbill (<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>)				
Paradise Tanager (<i>Tangara chilensis</i>)				
Pekin Robin (<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>)				
Piping Hornbill (<i>Bycanistes fistulator</i>)				
Plush-crested Jay (<i>Cyanocorax chrysops</i>)				
Purple Glossy Starling (<i>Lamprolornis purpureus</i>)				
Purple Honeycreeper (<i>Cyanerpes caeruleus</i>)				
Purplish Back Jay (<i>Cyanocorax beecheii</i>)				
Red And Yellow Barbet (<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>)				
Red-billed Blue Magpie (<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>)				
Red-billed Hornbill (<i>Tockus erythrorhynchos</i>)				
Red-crested Turaco (<i>Tauraco erythrolophus</i>)				
Red-faced Liocichla (<i>Liocichla phoenicea</i>)				
Red-faced Mousebird (<i>Urocolius indicus</i>)				
Red-legged Honeycreeper (<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>)				
Red-tailed Laughing Thrush (<i>Garrulax milnei</i>)				
Red-vented Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>)				

Species - Softbills (<i>continued</i>)	Cocks	Hens	Unsexed	Breeding (Y/N)
Red-winged Laughing Thrush (<i>Garrulax formosus</i>)				
Ross' Turaco (<i>Musophaga rossae</i>)				
Royal Starling (<i>Cosmopsarus regius</i>)				
Silver-eared Mesia (<i>Leiothrix argenteauris</i>)				
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill (<i>Ceratogymna brevis</i>)				
Southern Ground Hornbill (<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>)				
Speckled Mousebird (<i>Colius striatus</i>)				
Spotted Laughing Thrush (<i>Garrulax ocellatus</i>)				
Spur-winged Plover (<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>)				
Trumpeter Hornbill (<i>Ceratogymna bucinator</i>)				
Turquoise Tanager (<i>Tangara mexicana</i>)				
Viellot's Barbet (<i>Lybius vielloti</i>)				
Violaceous Euphonia (<i>Euphonia violacea</i>)				
Violaceous Turaco (<i>Musophaga violacea</i>)				
Von Der Decken's Hornbill (<i>Tockus deckeni</i>)				
White Head Black Bulbul (<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>)				
White-backed Mousebird (<i>Colius colius</i>)				
White-cheeked Turaco (<i>Tauraco leucotis</i>)				
White-collared Mynah (<i>Acridotheres albocinctus</i>)				
White-collared Yuhina (<i>Yuhina diademata</i>)				
White-crested Thrush (<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>)				
White-eared Bulbul (<i>Pycnonotus leucotis</i>)				
White-headed Mousebird (<i>Colius leucocephalus</i>)				
White-rumped Shama (<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>)				
White-throated Laughing Thrush (<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>)				
Yellow-breasted Cissa (<i>Cissa hypoleuca</i>)				
Yellow-hooded Blackbird (<i>Chrysomus icterocephalus</i>)				
Yellow-rumped Cacique (<i>Cacicus cela</i>)				
Other Softbill (specify):				
Other Softbill (specify):				
Other Softbill (specify):				
Other Softbill (specify):				
Species - Doves and Quail	Cocks	Hens	Unsexed	Breeding (Y/N)
Bare-faced Ground Dove (<i>Metriopelia ceciliae</i>)				
Barred Cuckoo Dove (<i>Macropygia unchall</i>)				
Bartlett's Bleeding Heart Dove (<i>Gallinolumba criniger</i>)				
Black-naped Fruit Dove (<i>Ptilinopus melanospila</i>)				
Button Quail (<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>) Mutation: Normal				
Button Quail (<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>) Mutation: Silver				
Button Quail (<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>) Mutation: White				
Button Quail (<i>Coturnix chinensis</i>) Mutation: Other				
Cape Dove (<i>Oena capensis</i>)				
Diamond Dove (<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>)				
Emerald Dove (<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>)				
Golden Heart Dove (<i>Gallinolumba rufigula</i>)				
Island Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia bitorquata</i>)				
Luzon Bleeding Heart Dove (<i>Gallinolumba luzonica</i>)				
Peruvian Ground Dove (<i>Columbina cruziana</i>)				
Pink-headed Fruit Dove (<i>Ptilinopus porphyrea</i>)				
Ringneck Dove (<i>Streptopelia risoria</i>)				
Roul-roul Partridge (<i>Rollulus rouloul</i>)				
Stephan's Dove (<i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>)				
Sulawesi Quail Dove (<i>Gallinolumba tristigmata</i>)				
Tambourine Dove (<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>)				
Victoria Crowned Pigeon (<i>Goura victoria</i>)				
Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove (<i>Ptilinopus occipitalis</i>)				
Other Dove/Quail (specify):				
Other Dove/Quail (specify):				
Other Dove/Quail (specify):				
Other Dove/Quail (specify):				
Personal Information	Check the box to list each item in the report. NOTE: Your NFSS Region (1-8) will be listed if you list your name.			
Name:				
Address:				
City, State, Zip/Postal:				
Telephone:				
E-mail:				

THE RED SISKIN SPECIES NEEDS OUR HELP!

The Red Siskin is one of the world's most endangered birds and, tragically, remains a prized target for wildlife traffickers. Trapping has eliminated this species from much of its historic range in northern South America but a few small populations persist in Venezuela, where it is culturally iconic and a well-recognized symbol for wildlife conservation. NFSS supports efforts to conserve species under threat in the wild and has been actively involved with international partners



on a plan to recover the Red Siskin in Venezuela through an innovative captive breeding and reintroduction program. There is now a strong team in place to provide essential scientific support and execute the recovery strategy, including the Smithsonian Institution in the US and Parque Zoológico y Botánico Bararida, the conservation NGO Provita, and the Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas in Venezuela. Also, scientists from the Smithsonian and the University of

Kansas recently discovered a population of Red Siskins in Guyana, which offers a new opportunity for conservation of this bird. However, the long-term success of any conservation effort depends most critically on sustained public support.

Please express your support for Red Siskin conservation by clicking the donation button and contributing to the recovery fund. Contributions will fund immediate priorities: improving

facilities to receive confiscated birds in Venezuela, assessing reintroduction locations, educating the public to reduce trapping pressure, establishing a research population to optimize breeding conditions, reintroduction techniques, and building a captive breeding facility specifically designed for Red Siskins at Parque Zoológico y Botánico Bararida. We will continue to provide regular updates on project activities and progress to the NFSS Journal and website.

Thank you for your support.

DONATE TO THE RED SISKIN CONSERVATION & MONITORING EFFORTS



Through Our New Paypal Donate Button @ NFSS.org
And Join the New Red Siskin NFSS and FSS Facebook Group:
facebook.com/groups/294815967360043/

**EVERY DONATION HELPS!
SHARE OUR GROUP WITH YOUR FRIENDS!**

2014 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
NFSS Board of Directors

MEMBERSHIP

1/1/14: 386 12/31/14: 404

AFFILIATED CLUBS

1/1/14: 30 12/31/14: 28

TREASURY

1/1/14 Bank Balance: \$35,547.85

12/31/14 Bank Balance: \$36,295.84

Audits of financial records conducted by 2 BOD members

Development and approval of annual operating budget

BAND DEPARTMENT

415 strings of split bands, 186t strips of metal bands, and 130 EZ bands sold

16 band cutters sold

On-going negotiations for purchases of bands, monitoring of EU exchange rates,

Verifying current membership status prior to shipping orders

EXHIBITION/JUDGE'S PANEL

4 persons passed Judge's test, awaiting apprenticeship assignments and BOD approval

Orange Cheek and Cuban Melodious standards completed and added to Judge's Handbook

New silhouette developed for Gouldian standard

Participation in AFA/Lorry League Finch Show

NCBS held in Dayton, Ohio

5 NFSS Regional Shows awarded

AWARDS

4 Champion Exhibitor, 1 Exhibitor of Excellence, 1 Level A NARA and 2 Level B NARA awards presented

New pricing developed for NFSS rosettes

ADMINISTRATIVE

Seating of new BOD officers following 2013 General Election

2 Pro Tem Elections

Quarterly BOD meetings, compilation/posting/publishing of minutes

Nomination of 3 names for Finch/Softbill judge for 2015 NCBS

Investigation and final selection of new publishing company for Journal

CONSERVATION

Completion/compilation/publication of annual Census data

Red Siskin donation button added to Website

Paula Hansen attends Washington DC Annual Convention for Red Siskin

TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION

Overhaul of Website

Development of Linked-In page

Development of new species specific Facebook pages

Purchase of Quick Books for Advertising Department

Purchase of computer for Bands Department

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT/PROMOTION

Afternoon of Aviculture at NCBS sponsored by NFSS through donations from Finch Society of San Diego

Development and Distribution of NFSS binders to NFSS Panel Judges with NFSS materials

ADVERTISING

Development and approval of new color ad rates for Journal

NATIONALS 2014: NCBS

Rebecca Mikel
NFSS President

The Crown Plaza Hotel/Convention Center in Dayton Ohio was the home of the 2014 National Caged Bird Show. Weather in Dayton that time of year is not the warmest - but fortunately, the convention center in which the actual show was held was attached via a walk-way to the Hotel. The rooftop restaurant/lounge of the 12 story motel offered a beautiful view of the city and was the gathering place in the evening for those wishing to enjoy the live piano bar and lively conversation. The "Oregon District" - a historical part of downtown Dayton offering restaurants and pubs with live music, and boutique shopping was only a block away.

This was the first year NCBS used electronic secretary books and we struggled a bit initially with the new system. Our "struggles" were tied primarily to incorrect or incomplete information on show tags or data entry errors on the part of those entering the information into the Secretary Books. As with anything new, there's a learning curve and you quickly realize what you'd do different "the next time" to avoid some of the problems resulting in delays. But, in the end, I would advocate for continued use of that format.

Vince Moase, NFSS Panel Judge from Canada, was our Judge for the event, Sally Huntington and I took turns as Show Secretary; and Show Stewards were Ken Rampersaud, Ricardo Gaskin, and Laura Erwin. Photos by Daniel M.

The Finch/Softbill Division had 157 entries this year, by 18 different exhibitors. Breakdowns by Division are as follows:

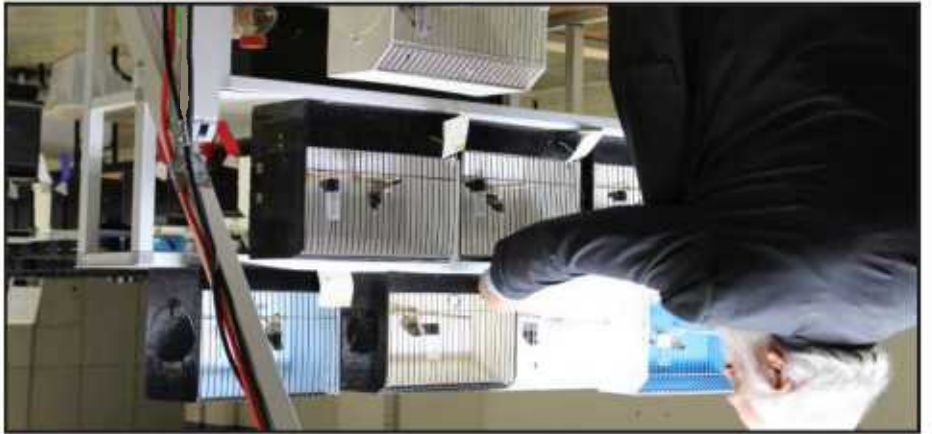
Section 1 Softbills: 4 entries
Section 2 Zebra Finches: 43 entries
Section 3 Gouldians: 28 entries
Section 4 Other Australians: 20 entries
Section 5 Indo-Pacific: 11 entries
Section 6 Society Finches: 19 entries
Section 7 European: 7 entries
Section 8 African: 7 entries
Section 9 Finches of the Americas: 2 entries
Section 10 Doves/Quail: 2 entries
Section 11 Pairs: 14 entries

Our Top 10 Winners for the Day:

1st: Abigail Burhans (Jr): Zebra Finch
2nd: Sally/Vince Huntington: Pekin Robin (p42)
3rd: Susan Stieve: Shaftail
4th: Laura Erwin: Gouldian
5th: Alex Villareal: Zebra Pair (p41)
6th: Abigail Burhans (Junior Exhibitor): Euro Chocolate Society (below)
7th: Rebecca Mikel/Andrew Green: Crimson Pileated (p42 - bottom)
8th: Dennis Burhans: Fawn Self Society (p42)
9th: Charlie Schembri: European Green Finch (p41)
10th: Brianna McCauley: Society Pair (p41)

Bill Parlee Best Softbill:
Pekin - Sally/Vince Huntington
Bill Parlee Best Finch:
Zebra/Abigail Burhans
Charlie Anchor Best Zebra:
Abigail Burhans









VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AVAILABLE BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITIONS

The following positions are available to all interested & qualified members. Applicants will be screened and final candidates that are selected will then run for office in the 2015 elections this Summer. For more information contact the Election Committee Chairman & Advertising Manager Amber Kincheloe at advertising@nfss.org.

WEBMASTER

Requirements: A fast & steady internet connection, html and/or WordPress experience is preferred but not mandatory.
Job Description: After our recent website re-design the Webmaster position has changed greatly to become easier to manage. Through the WordPress platform and a custom-made layout builder installed into the site, changes and/or updates are made in minutes.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

Requirements: A basic knowledge of the legislative process as it relates to aviculture.
Job Description: Shall be responsible along with Regional Vice Presidents in keeping abreast of both local and national legislative activities that could affect bird owners, breeders, and exhibitors. Further, to report possible efforts that are not in our best interests to the Board of Directors in a timely manner. Shall be responsible for working with other local and national Avicultural organizations in protecting our right to own and enjoy our birds. Shall, at Board direction, report all developments to our membership, in the way then set forth by the Board of Directors.

TREASURER

Requirements: Background Check, Training, & Professional Experience.
Job Description: The Treasurer shall prepare and submit to the Board at the 4th Quarter Board meeting a budget to be approved by the Board, indicating proposed income and expenditures for the upcoming year. He/she is responsible for establishing and maintaining Society financial accounts. The Treasurer is responsible for receiving and depositing funds into those accounts, and paying the Society's debts in a timely manner. The Treasurer is required to file in a timely manner all tax information and returns as required by our IRS 990(501c) status. All funds, records, receipts, and expenditures for the previous year or shorter period upon relief of the Treasurer, will be reviewed by two members of the Board of Directors, not to include the current Treasurer, as appointed by the Board of Directors. The results of the review will be presented to the Board of Directors upon completion. Further, an audit of the financial accounts will be completed as above upon the removal or resignation of any Treasurer.

FINCH SHOP MANAGER

Requirements: Enough time & dedication to turn around our Finch Shop.
Job Description: Shall be responsible for the inventory and sales of merchandise offered to the general public. He/she must receive and process customer orders, order from vendors, and work with the NFSS Journal editor and the Webmaster to update the Finch Shop Catalog as needed. New products must also be sought and recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. Said officer shall be responsible for the forwarding of funds and reports in a timely manner to the Treasurer. Any Society inventory must be maintained in good order and forwarded in a timely manner upon resignation or when a newly appointed director has been appointed.

AFFILIATED CLUBS

CALIFORNIA

Central California Cage Bird Club (www.mycccbc.org)

Meetings: 3rd Sun. of the month at 3800 Cornucopia Way #B, Harvest Hall, Modesto, CA 95358-9492 / Contact: Jane Perez at janep.plymouth@gmail.com or 209-245-3582

Finch Society of San Diego (www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com)

Meetings: 4th Sun., 2-4 p.m. Poway Elks Club, 13219 Poway Road, Poway, CA 92064 / Contact: Sally Huntington—5634 Carnegie St., San Diego, CA 92122; 858-452-9423 sdfinchsociety@gmail.com

West Coast Zebra & Society Finch Show (www.efinch.com/show)

Meetings: No club meetings, show committee meeting in July.
Contact: Sally Huntington, 5634 Carnegie St., San Diego, CA 92122
858-452-9423

COLORADO

Mountain States Avian Society (www.msasbirds.org)

Meetings: 2nd Sat. 1 p.m. at Animal Central, 8308 Church Ranch Blvd., Westminster CO 80021 / Contact: Gary Morgan, 15341 Kingston St., Brighton, CO 80602; 303-659-9554 burdmn@aol.com
NFSS Delegate: Jesse Avila, 7910 Greenland Road, Franktown CO 80116
303-664-0399, pjbavila@aol.com

FLORIDA

Florida Canary Fanciers, Inc. (www.floridacanaryfanciers.com)

Meetings: 3rd Sun. every other month, 2:00 p.m., Perkins Restaurant, Davenport, FL / Contact: Ruth Ann Stearns 352-394-3668 or ra.canary@gmail.com

Suncoast Canary & Finch Club (www.suncoastcanaryandfinchclub.com)

Meetings: 1st Wed. of every month at 7p.m., Collingswood Animal Hospital, 1419 Collingswood Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Contact: vetagator@yahoo.com

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club (www.gccbc.org)

Meetings: 3rd Fri., except Nov & Dec, at 204 S. Villa Ave., Villa Park, IL 60181 / Contact: Robert Wild, 305 Grosvenor Ct., Bolingbrook, IL 60440
630-980-4416, wild@comcast.net or secretary@gccbc.org

National Institute of Red Orange Canaries (www.niroc.org)

Meetings: 4th Fri. monthly, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Westchester
Contact: druprr@gmail.com

Illini Bird Fanciers Inc. (www.illinibirdfanciers.com)

Meetings: 4th Sun. of the month from Noon to 4 p.m. at 3233 Mathers Rd., Springfield, IL / Contact: Karen Williams at 217-391-4648 or contact@illinibirdfanciers.com

AFFILIATED CLUBS

IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society (www.macbs.org)

Meetings: 4th Sun., locations vary; Exceptions: No Nov. meeting.

Contact: President - John Thielking, 239-851-8132, JThielking@comcast.net

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers (www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org)

Meetings: 3rd Sun., 2 p.m. at Towson Library, 320 York Rd., Baltimore, MD 21204 /

Contact: Christine Roberts, 11 Prettyboy Garth, Parkton, MD 21120

410-343-1807, compteacher@yahoo.com

MICHIGAN

Society of Canary & Finch Breeders (www.scfbmichigan.com)

Meetings: 3rd Sat. of month, location varies.

Contact: Mary Tarsitano 586-781-6429 or mtarsitano@gmail.com

MISSOURI

Gateway Parrot Club (www.gatewayparrotclub.org)

Meetings: 3rd Sun., 2 p.m. at Varieties Exotic Bird Store, 60 Meramec Valley Plaza, Valley Park, MO 63088, (Exceptions: No meetings in June, Aug & Dec)

Contact: Christine A. Kinkade, 2412 Angela Dr., High Ridge, MO 63049

636-343-8097 Boardmember2@GatewayParrotClub.org or

President@GatewayParrotClub.org

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society (www.gkcas.org)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of each month, 2-4 p.m.

Email: gkcas@live.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society (www.boaf.com)

Meetings: 2nd Mon. at Villa Crest Retirement Home

Contact: Ray Schwartz, 19 Olde Common Dr., Atkinson, NH 03811;

603-362-6106 President@BOAF.com or Prismsdad@aol.com

NEW JERSEY

Garden State Bird Association (www.gsbirda.com)

Meetings: 1st Fri. of each month, 7:30 p.m., 409 Route 1 & 9 South,

Elizabeth, NJ / Contact: Rui Goncalves, 908-868-1605

rui Goncalves65@icloud.com

NEW YORK

Colorbred Canary Club of New York (www.newyorkcolorbredcanaryclub.com)

Meetings: 1st Sun. each month at 50-21 193 St., Fresh Meadows, NY

Contact: Jose Zelada, 20 N Goodwin Ave., Elmsford, NY 10523; 914-345-5707

JZelada@optonline.net

Kings County Canary Club

Meetings: 3rd Sun., 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn, NY 11229

Contact: Kathleen Guise Schaefer, 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn, NY 11229

718-332-3413, kanarykate@aol.com

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Meetings: 2nd Sun. each month except July & August

Contact: barstand@verizon.net

OREGON

Columbia Canary Club (www.facebook.com/ColumbiaCanaryClub)

Meetings: 1st Fri. of each month, 7:30 p.m., 409 Route 1 & 9 South,

Elizabeth, NJ / Contact: Sandra Gregory, 680 Douglas Avenue, NE, Gervais, Oregon 97026-7770

Email is sfoote@pressdata.net and phone is: 503-792-3582 or 503-310-3133

AFFILIATED CLUBS

PENNSYLVANIA

Chester County Club (www.ccbirdclub.com)
Meetings: 2nd Sun., E. Whiteland Township Bldg., Frazer, PA
Contact: info@ccbirdclub.com

TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club (www.aebc.org)
Meetings: 4th Sun. at 2 p.m., Kirby Senior Center, San Antonio, TX
Contact: alamobirdclub@yahoo.com

Canary & Finch Society (www.canaryfinchsociety.tripod.com)
Meetings: 2nd Sun. at Sheraton Hotel, Houston, TX
Contact: windsong.hj41@gmail.com

Fort Worth Bird Club (www.fortworthbirdclub.com)
Meetings: 2nd Sun. (except April & May) at Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, 3220 University Dr. - North of I-30 in Fort Worth
Contact: Cheryl Burns fwbc@fortworthbirdclub.com or thebirdmart@fortworthbirdclub.com

Texas Bird Breeders & Fanciers Association (www.texasbirdbreeders.org)
Meetings: March 29th & Nov 1st, Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX
Contact: Barbara Irwin 817-572-6262

WASHINGTON

Cascade Canary Breeders Association (www.sites.google.com/site/cascadecanary)
Meetings: 4th Sun. of the month in Woodinville (check website for more info)
Contact: dwhite3511@msn.com

CANADA

Durham Avicultural Society (www.birdclub.ca)
Meetings: 2nd Tues of every month; Sept-June at Ajax Rotary Park Pavilion, 151 Lake Driveway W., Ajax, ON 4S 7J1 / Contact: Karen Smith, PO Box 4, Pickering, ON L1V 2R2; 905-839-2157
Email: Karen.Smith@sunnybrook.ca

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society (www.essexkentcbs.com)
Meetings: Member homes, Windsor, Ontario
Contact: Julianne Mion 519-948-6398; julianne@mnsi.net

Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society (www.bfbsbirdclub.com)
Contact: bfbs_editor@yahoo.com

PUERTO RICO

Asociacion de Criadores de Finces, Inc. (Search for us on Facebook!)
Meetings: 7 p.m., Tue., Las Catalinaís Mall, Food Court Area
Contact: Juan Alicea, 12203 Urb Serenna, Los Prados, Apt. L-302, Caguas, PR 00727; 787-479-7405; juanalicea@yahoo.com

THE NFSS IS PROUD TO AFFILIATE WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

American Federation of Aviculture (www.afabirds.org)
P.O. Box 91717, Austin, TX 78709

Avicultural Society of America (www.asabirds.org)
Contact: Steve Duncan, P.O. Box 3161, San Dimas, CA 91773
Founded in 1927, this is the oldest aviculture society in the US

National Animal Interest Alliance (www.naiaonline.org)

Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (www.pijac.org)

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Interested in Becoming
a NFSS Judge?



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