



NATIONAL FINCH & SOFTBILL SOCIETY

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THE JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

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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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rebecca Mikel

Lots of Great Changes for NFSS

By the time you get this, the 2016 National Bird Show will be behind us. We'll have "crowned" a new winner, enjoyed another banquet, laughed at new jokes, made new friends - and hugged the ones we've known for a while, but not seen since last year. Hopefully spring will arrive soon after!

2017 is a General Election year for all Board Members. That means all elected voting positions will be open. Persons currently filling those positions are free to run again, as there are no term limits with the NFSS; anyone else interested in one of those positions is free to run as well. It's been several years since we've had more than one position contested by a second candidate. I'd love to see that ballot with at least 3 names under each position.

Michelle McKenzie, Membership Director, announced already she is not running in the election for the 2018-19 term. She's done a wonderful job filling that seat, has brought new-found efficiency to the position, and, in order to make the transition of a new person into that position as seamless as possible, has written step-by-step instructions on how to perform the essential functions of the job. If are interested, please contact Michelle, me, or any other BOD member for more information. We'll include full job descriptions for all positions in an upcoming issue of the Journal - please read through those and give serious thought to helping out with the business end of this society.

The Board of Directors worked this year to provide electronic ballots for the 2017 General Election. We'll continue to include a copy of the ballot in the Journal, but we hope that the addition of electronic voting will increase participation. Participation levels have been very, very low in By-Law votes, Pro-Tem Elections, and General Elections.

2017 is also the first year in which we have a full year of Quarterly Journals - 4 issues per year as opposed to 6. We made this change in the last part of 2016. We shared with the readership in a prior communication that this was a way in which to maintain a healthy treasury. Our hope is to pack those 4 issues with interesting and insightful information, outstanding photographs, and articles that assist us in improving husbandry practices. It is our hope we will ALWAYS

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NFSS Journal Advertising Rates

Premium Ad Positions:

Position/Size	Per Issue	Per Year
Cover Positions–Full (Inside Front, Inside Back, Back):	\$90.00	\$450.00
Centerfold–Full (2 center pages)	\$210.00	\$1,137.00

Run of Press Ads:

Full Page:	\$72.50	\$359.50
Half Page:	\$50.00	\$249.50
Quarter Page:	\$27.50	\$160.50

Deadlines for Submitting Ads

All ads must be received two months prior to publication

Issue	Due Date	Issue	Due Date
First Quarter	November 1 st	Third Quarter	May 1 st
Second Quarter	February 1 st	Fourth Quarter	August 1 st

For more information, contact the Advertising Manager — advertising@nfss.org

(continued from page 2)

be able to provide a paper copy of the Journal. Many other societies have already eliminated hard copies of their publications in favor of electronic-only version, primarily due to budget constraints. We hope to be able to retain that feature which makes us special.

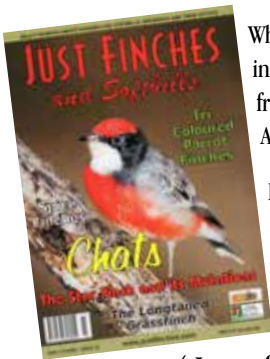
As usual, we are continually in need of articles and welcome your contributions. We have several people willing to help with the compilation, punctuation, spelling, grammar, or just a second set of eyes. Most of us are not professional writers - so please don't be intimidated by this task!

If you're part of a club that hasn't had the privilege of hosting an NFSS Regional Show yet, or for the last few years, why not talk this option over with your group? Regional shows provide "double points" for Top 10 placements, are a terrific way to gather finch and softbill people together, and serve as a great form of publicity for your club

Please stay tuned for further information about the General Election – and please give consideration to a position you may be able to fill for the next two years.



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NFSS BOD – 4th Quarter 2016 Meeting

Membership meeting held at NCBS – discussion regarding appropriate sized show cages for size of bird – cage should allow for handling, comfort of bird, and allows bird to stretch and spread wings, stand without head touching top of cage, and not so large bird can escape thru wires

4th VP – Judges Chair, submits resignation. President notified all Judges of this opening, resumes accepted until January 6th.

Two (2) birds achieved “Champion Bird” Status – Society Finch/Cheryl Burns; Blue Faced Parrot Finch/Laurie Erwin, \$50 donation for each bird made by NFSS to Avian Cause of owner’s choice (American Bird Conservancy (Cheryl) and Save the Gouldian Fund (Laurie Erwin)

Champion Exhibitors (50+ points in one year): Cheryl Burns, Rebecca Mikel, Hiram Morales, Sally Porter, Gene Perez, Susan Stieve, Van To

Exhibitor of Excellence (200 points in lifetime): Laurie Erwin

Bill Parlee Best Finch – Zebra Finch/Laura Tinker; Val Clear Best Softbill – Starling/Laurie Erwin

Judges Panel meeting held at NCBS – change in classifications will occur with “pairs” to be consistent with other classifications; new classes will be added to Parrot Finches; review of proper completion of show reports and submission requirements; 5th Edition of Judge’s Handbook now available, Judges decisions are “final” at shows – be respectful.

New Silhouette of Society Finch on hold until new 4th VP seated

NARA Awards – Jon Wilson/Diamond Firetails – Level A; Lauren Ogburn /Purple Grenadier – Level B

Afternoon of Aviculture – ongoing educational program open to all on day prior to NCBS, all expenses for presenters (hotel, banquet, and travel expenses) paid by Finch Society of San Diego in support of continued mission of education by both organizations

Red Siskin Project joined forces with Texas A&M and Hill Country Aviaries initiating Sun Conure breed and release program in Guyana.

MEMBERSHIP

Single: 271
Dual: 34 (68)
Foreign: 16
Junior: 9
TOTAL: 364

Paula Hansen and assistant Charles working on new program for the census which allows export/import; mutations will be removed from line items of census, with space provided for those wishing to clarify totals listed in the body of the report (i.e. enter ALL Zebras as “Zebras”, etc for Gouldians, Stars, Societies, etc. – but may clarify which mutations are kept if you wish later in the report)

Reminder: Memberships allowed to expire beyond the “grace period” will result in loss of accrued exhibition points and loss of current membership number

Trial Period of digital copy of Journal provided to S African group at discounted rate in exchange for articles submitted for Journal. Will Re-evaluate in one year.

Website updates continue – including new Quarterly Journal schedule,

TREASURY

10/31/16
Checking: \$5792.14
Savings: \$26,440.66

Board approves 2017 Proposed Budget

Eric Peake print auctioned for \$350



Afternoon of Aviculture – December 1, 2016

What You Missed

Sally Huntington

The AOA was supported by the Finch Society of San Diego County and NFSS. It was held on the Thursday before the National Bird Show. Here I would like to share a very brief sample of the three 50 minute presentations.



Andrea Cabibi: Sick Bird Treatment

Andrea reminded the group that a veterinarian should always be consulted when you're concerned about your birds' health. She has worked as a veterinary technician in zoological institutions for many years.

She offered ways to help diagnose sick birds and how to choose the best medicines. Some drug tips were: Doxycycline can get toxic beyond expiration date, do not use Baytril (enrofloxacin) or amoxicillin on growing chicks because it can affect bone growth. And always wash your hands after handling sick birds and wash hands before handling eggs.

Andrea presented a very good video on tube/crop feeding. She suggests using a microscope to help identify parasites to choose the right treatment.

Andrea Cabibi: Artificial Insemination for Finches and Canaries

The anatomy of finches and canaries is different from most animals. The crucial part of artificial insemination is in the timing. Males are the most fertile in the morning, while females have a 15-minute window once the egg is released from the oviduct. Hens lay between 2-6 eggs, usually one every 24 hours, yet the hens can store sperm for up to 13 days.





Rebecca Koch: Using Canaries to Understand Bird Coloration

Rebecca is a Ph.D. Candidate; her research focuses on the mechanisms that link ornamental carotenoid pigmentation to individual performance. She is using house finches and canaries to determine how diet, health or parasites affect pigment. Even the eyes use pigment that may influence behaviors and inheritance in songbirds.



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**National Finch and Softbill Society at
The American Federation of Aviculture**
Susan Stieve

*NFSS Judge Laura Tinker
from Massachusetts*

Julie Corwin and the Lory League hosted a National Finch and Softbill Society show at the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) convention on August 6, 2016, in Cromwell, Connecticut; this show was co-sponsored by NFSS. Every year Julie and her crew do a wonderful job of promoting exhibition and aviculture at the show, hosting divisions for finches and softbills as well as other hookbills. Julie expressed her thanks to all the exhibitors who traveled near and far to support AFA and NFSS.

There was a great turnout for the show, with 79 entries and eleven exhibitors! There was a definite buzz in the room as NFSS judge Laura Tinker started her walk-through, and I was glad to see such a well-attended show. There were many strong representations of their species, with about 25 zebra finches, a good assortment of softbills, and a good variety of both African and Australian species of finches.

Top honors went to a superb starling owned and exhibited by Fran Andersen of Michigan. Fran also won the AFA special award for best bird in the NFSS show owned and exhibited by a member of AFA. Exhibitor Jose Urrutia, Connecticut, received special honors with his third-place normal gray zebra cock by winning the AFA special award for best bird in show bred, banded, and exhibited by an AFA member.

An added bonus of being an AFA member and exhibiting at the Lory League show at AFA, or at other shows hosted by AFA-affiliated clubs throughout the year, is that exhibitors can earn points toward special end-of-year awards presented by AFA. I was fortunate to have won the award for top AFA exhibitor last year, what a special recognition!

The AFA Convention rotates around the United States, so next year it will be in Tucson, Arizona. If you haven't participated in an AFA convention in the past, I would encourage you to consider attending in the future. You will find there is a trade show with vendors selling interesting items, silent auctions and raffles, and best of all informative presentations given by world-renowned experts on a variety of topics. Hope to see you there!

NFSS Results, Lory League Show at AFA (unofficial)

- 1st Superb Starling, Fran Andersen (Best Novice)
- 2nd Red-headed Parrot Finch, Vish Mohan
- 3rd Normal Gray Zebra cock, Jose Urrutia
- 4th Yellow Mutation Diamond Sparrow, Vish Mohan
- 5th African Silverbill, Susan Stieve
- 6th Dilute Gouldian, Susan Stieve
- 7th Normal Gray Zebra Hen, Jose Urrutia (Best Unflighted)
- 8th Black-brown Society Finch, Hiram Rampersaud
- 9th White Zebra Finch Pair, Jose Urrutia
- 10th Red-headed Normal Gouldian Cock, Susan Stieve

Judge Laura Tinker holding the NFSS Best in Show superb starling, owned and exhibited by Fran Andersen of Michigan (R). Fran also won the AFA special award for best bird in the NFSS show owned and exhibited by a member of AFA.





Judge Laura Tinker (L) holding third place normal gray zebra cock owned by exhibitor Jose Urrutia, Connecticut. Jose won the coveted AFA special award for best bird in show bred, banded and exhibited by an AFA member.



Top three birds in show



Top bench, third through sixth place.



Top bench, fifth through seventh place; seventh place normal gray zebra hen exhibited by Jose Urrutia was best unflighted bird, bred in 2016.



Top bench ninth place was the best pair, white zebra finches; tenth best in show was a normal red-headed Lady Gouldian finch cock.

Emergency Disaster Preparedness

Susan Stieve



Do you have a travel cage cleaned and prepared for an emergency veterinary trip at a moment's notice or to use in the event of a natural disaster that requires evacuation? Having a travel cage ready to go provides you with one less stress, one less worry as you get ready to get out the door quickly.

Necessary veterinarian trips or natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes can happen in the blink of an eye. Even an in-home emergency, like an electrical fire, can force you to make a fast decision. This is where having a travel cage and/or supplies comes in very handy.

The travel cage should have a label in permanent ink with the bird's name, your name, address, and telephone number. You might also want to include the veterinarian's name, address, and telephone number. Some people believe that writing "reward when returned to owner" helps to get your pets return to you if they become separated from you during the disaster.

A practice run will help keep him from injuring a wing or a leg after a fright of some kind; maybe all you need is to place your bird into the travel cage to "confine" him for the night. This practice will make an easier transition for both your bird, especially if you have a clean and comfortable travel cage on hand ready to use.

If your travel cage requires a cover, be sure to store that blanket on or in the cage so it's ready at a moment's notice. You might want to have a kit nearby for emergencies. Some sources recommend that your kit contained the following:

- **3 days of bottled water for your bird**
- **Food for 3 days, up to 2 weeks**
- **Paper towels**
- **Cleaner and towels or papers for the cage bottom**
- **A flashlight**

Another important part of disaster preparedness includes figuring out where you might stay in case of an emergency. Whether a friend or relative, a boarding facility, or a pet friendly hotel, you will want to have a plan in motion before you need it. Many so-called pet friendly hotels do not actually welcome birds, so you'll need to call them to find out for sure.

It is worth noting that when electricity is down, credit cards cannot be processed. So although this doesn't have anything to do with the bird himself, it is important to have cash on hand for such emergencies.

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Exhibition Essentials

Susan Stieve

By the time this article is published the 2017 NFSS show season will be under way! I thought I would share some of my show bag essentials – things I make sure I bring with me to each show I travel to throughout the year. After you travel to a show or two and find you have forgotten something at home that might have been useful you might realize, as I have, that it is helpful to keep everything together in a “go-bag,” something that is always packed with everything you need for a show and ready to grab and go during the hectic time of loading your birds into the car and starting on the road to the show. It is easy to forget things in the chaos!

I keep all of my paperwork for the entire show season in a 3-ring binder. I put this in my show bag and take it everywhere. This binder includes a copies of NFSS classifications, NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards for reference (available for download at nfss.org), a printout of all of the leg band numbers for my birds so I don't have to catch them up in the show boxes after the show, show information, hotel reservations, addresses, etc. Yes, by the end of the year this binder is getting a bit heavy as I also exhibit birds in other divisions (parrots, cockatiels, lovebirds) but I like to have everything in one place and have found this system works best for me. Five-tab insertable dividers and clear sheet protectors are useful in keeping the binder organized.

In addition to my binder here are other essentials I include in my show bag, in no particular order:

- Bottled drinking water for birds, and some for me too...I don't like to rely on the quality of water I might find at the hotel or show site
- Mist bottle to spray feathers and clean show boxes
- Squirt bottle to fill drinkers
- Long forceps to remove any last-minute dropped feathers from show boxes
- Spray millet for post-show bird treats
- Extra bird seed for show box bottoms; accidents happen, a box might tip over and you may need to add additional seed
- Extra drinkers in case one is lost or someone needs to borrow one
- Toothbrush and a bit of the stiff bristle side of Velcro for last-minute removal of pin feathers
- A rubber stamp with my name and phone number on it to make filling out cage tags quicker; some exhibitors go an extra step and pre-print their finch leg band numbers and exhibitor information on adhesive labels for use on show tags

- Extra pens for paperwork
- Black Sharpie markers for last-minute fixes to chipped or scratched black show box paint
- Electrolytes to add to water of stressed birds; I and other exhibitors have also used Bach Rescue Remedy in water to try to calm stressed birds during a show. I know one parrot exhibitor who even uses a chamomile tea concoction in the drinker of a bird which stresses out at shows, I was skeptical but it does really seem to help.
- Quick-stop styptic powder for bleeding emergencies
- Antibiotic and/or povidone-iodine ointment
- Alcohol gel hand sanitizer
- Disinfectants; Nolvasan can be used to irrigate wounds; F-10 can be added to mist bottles as an added protection against diseases when misting birds and wiping down show boxes
- Baby wipes
- Scissors
- Nail clippers
- Vet wrap, various sizes, for immobilizing birds or injured body parts
- Hand feeding formula and a syringe or gavage feeding tube, if you know how to use one
- Antibiotics; I usually don't travel with these as I know the birds I'm travelling with are healthy when I leave and I will only be away from home for a few days, but I can think of a couple of instances where antibiotics might have been helpful the past several years. Something broad-spectrum such as Baytril would be my choice
- Medical tape
- Toothpicks and coffee stirrers, useful as splints for injured legs
- Bird net to catch escapees. I have never lost a bird myself, but have helped other exhibitors catch theirs
- Paper towels
- Clip holders for attaching show tags to show boxes, the white ones everyone is using now at the national bird show. They aren't used much by finch exhibitors yet but are used almost exclusively by hookbill exhibitors; quick and easy to use.
- Stapler for closing show tags, plus extra staples; I have been to shows where these were not included in the secretary supplies.
- Leatherman or other multi-tool with screwdriver to tighten loose perches or show box hardware

- Black electrical tape to hold show box doors shut as needed, in case hardware breaks
- Duct tape; endless uses for everything from taping down electrical cords to performing temporary repair on a broken show box
- Several hand towels for holding birds or a last-minute wipe down of show boxes
- Night light or low wattage light bulbs (blue or red) for hotel room; these can provide enough light to help prevent night frights in strange environments
- Sheets or plastic trash bags to keep seed off of hotel room floors are also a must! Be a considerate guest so shows and exhibitors are welcomed back to the hotel in the future, don't leave a mess behind. I always set my birds on top of sheets in hotel rooms, they fold up easily to catch and control seed and feather messes
- Vacuum in case you make a mess; sometimes they can be borrowed from the hotel, or it may be useful to invest in a small 1.5 Shop-Vac type vacuum if you are prone to messes
- Crib-size fitted sheets work well for wrapping around 18 x 30 wire travel cages for travel, they can help contain seed and feather mess
- An extra bag to bring all of your ribbons, raffle winnings, and other goodies home in!



Show bag packed and ready to go!



Some show essentials including dish clothes for cleaning cages and handling birds, a squirt bottle, scissors, long forceps, multi-tool, stapler and extra staples.

The majority of these items fit in my show bag, which is a large zip-top multi-pocketed affair from Thirty-One, approximately 20" L x 14" H x 8" W. Depending how many essentials you need to carry you might also consider a tool box to keep your smaller items or emergency medical supplies organized, most of my medical supplies fit in a gallon zip lock bag, which is easy to see and grab in an emergency.

By the time you have all of your essentials in your show bag along with birds and show boxes you either need a lot of energy, helpful friends, or a cart to haul everything around in. I have tried many types of carts over the past several years and after trial and error have concluded the Rock N Roller R8 Multicart meets my needs the best, it is available for around \$150 from online stores including Amazon. It can carry quite a few show boxes and my show bag at once, yet folds up small so it doesn't take up much room in my car.



A cart like this Rock N Roller R8 Multicart is useful for moving your show bag, birds, and show boxes to the show hall.

When I travel with many finches to a show I generally carry them in plastic storage tubs which are able to hold five or six show boxes each. These storage tubs prevent show boxes from tipping over and can easily be stacked three or four high in my car and also on the multicart, allowing me to easily move up to 24 finch cages at once into the show hall. Travelling with finch show boxes in plastic tubs also cuts down on seed mess in my car.

I hope you find this information useful and if you have any essentials that I forgot to list, mention them to me the next time I see you at a show!



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Raising an Unflighted Champion Blue-Faced Parrot Finch

Laurie Erwin



While I am relatively new to showing finches, the enjoyment I have gained in keeping and raising parrot finches over the past decade has been priceless. In addition to Blue-faced Parrot Finches, I have had the joy of raising Red-Throated, Forbes, and Peales parrot finches. My husband has been raising Gouldians and several parrot finch species since he was a child and his help has been invaluable, especially during the breeding season. While all of these species have unique characteristics, parrot finches in general are lively, energetic, and always on the move, which can make them a challenging species to show.

Over the past decade, my husband and I have had the fortune to meet with numerous delightful breeders of Gouldians and parrot finches both in person and by phone, email, skype, etc. The advice we have received has been irreplaceable, and the enduring relationships we have built have enabled us to blend multiple bloodlines from all over the globe.

When selecting a show bird I look at size, shape, and coloration. Parrot finches are generally set up in a 30 x 18 x 36 cage, which is two times bigger than a standard 30-inch breeding cage. This is because parrot finches have a tendency to become overweight, which limits fertility and can cause other unwanted effects. As breeding season approaches, pairs are given a good finch mix, canary mix, egg food, millet spray, and meal worms. Fresh water in 2 inch deep cups for bathing is available at all times; parrot finches love to bathe on a daily basis, which helps shine their feathers for shows.

Unfortunately, parrot finches only stay in show condition for a short period of time – approximately one to two months, peaking at only half that in most cases. As such, the timing of shows tends to involve a bit of luck in addition to preparation. Their soft feather quality is different than other species, making it challenging to keep them in good condition when showing. While I do not cage train my birds, I have found that parrot finches whose cages have been placed in a high traffic area tend to perform better in shows, as they are accustomed to a lot of movement around them. Approximately a week before the show, nails are trimmed again if needed. If a bird is just finishing their molt, I will sometimes use a toothbrush to brush out any pin feathers and make the final touches.

The blue-faced parrot finch which won the champion bird award last year as an unflighted youth comes from a line that has performed well in the past. In 2014 his father placed on the top bench at the National Cage Bird Show in Tulsa, OK. As is the case with many blue face parrot finches, he is an excellent parent. The picture below shows some of his babies - he has been used in several projects including making “splits” for the Dark Eyed Yellow mutation project:

Over the past years, I have come to love the camaraderie that comes with showing – we all support each other and look forward to coming together each year. In addition, the judges provide an expert perspective by commenting on strengths and weaknesses of all the birds. It is important that we continue to attract new people to keeping, breeding and showing birds and welcome them with open arms so that aviculture can continue into the future.



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Red Siskins Around the World

Brian Coyle – Smithsonian Research Institute



In February, Will Ruhl, Principal of Ruhl Walker Architects and Warren Lynch, Bird Unit Manager at Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), made visits to private and professional breeding programs in Australia to study husbandry, breeding methods and facility design.

Locations visited include: Taronga zoo, Priam Parrot Breeding Center, Australia National University and home aviaries of Michael Fidler, Save the Gouldian Fund, Sam Davis, President of the Finch Society of Australia and other Red Siskin breeders. Warren Lynch also participated in round table discussions with the Canberra and Hawkesbury Finch Clubs and together with Sam Davis, John Martin and Daniel Gowland, met with John Berry, the current United States Ambassador to Australia and a former director of the Smithsonian National Zoo. These trips were generously sponsored by the Scion Foundation and the Finch Society of Australia.



Australia Photo: left to right: Nick Boyle (Curator at Taronga), Warren Lynch (SCBI), Michael Shiels (Taronga Bird Keeper), Don Findlater (FSA Treasurer – chief penny pincher), John Martin (FSA member and very experienced bird guide, breeder, bander) Many thanks to Mike and Sam for hosting Will Ruhl and Warren Lynch and arranging tours and tutorials!

Field Research

Puerto Rico – Jack Eitnear, Director of Center for Study of Tropical Birds, will lead the first of a series of 2016 trips to systematically search for Siskins in Puerto Rico.

Venezuela – Jhonathan Miranda, RSI, Alejandro Nagy, RSI, Miguel Lentino, Phelps Institute for Ornithological Studies, Peter Bichier, UC Santa Cruz, and David Ascanio, Ascanio Birding Tours, will search for Red Siskins and Tachira Antpitta in northwest Venezuela, in June - 2016.

Guyana – EPA-GY is reviewing an application to collect Red Siskin blood samples from across the range to study local structure and diversity, starting in late April.

Education and Outreach

Barquisimeto Venezuela – Global Embassy of Activists for Peace, Parque Zoológico Botánico Bararida and the National Guard organized a World Wildlife Day parade in Barquisimeto, Venezuela on March 3rd culminating in an event at the zoo, focused on Red Siskin conservation.

Smithsonian National Zoo – The NZP birdhouse will feature Red Siskin graphics and history in new education materials about wildlife trafficking.

Pan-Smithsonian Initiative – Mike Braun invited to Join the Smithsonian Wildlife Trafficking and Ivory Initiative committee.

Recent Press

Smithsonian Institute for Biodiversity Genomics – Read a great new article on RSI at www.biogenomics.si.edu

Neotropical Birding Magazine – Issue (18) will feature the Red Siskin and RSI as part of the Globally Threatened Bird series.

Finch Society of Australia – Red Siskins are the cover story of the next Finch Breeders Review Vol 59 (2). Many thanks to Michael Fidler and Sam Davis for graciously hosting RSI visitors and providing excellent instruction. The RSI welcomes our new Australian partners and is looking forward to ongoing research collaborations in genetics, captive breeding and more.

SCBI Captive Colony-The SCBI colony is now up to full strength with 12 birds! Research planning is underway and we anticipate a summer intern to assist with data collection and management.

Research

Red Siskin Genome – de novo assembly of a Red Siskin reference genome has been completed with impressive results! This important work was led by Paul Frandsen, Biodiversity Research Data Scientist at the Smithsonian, and Aleksey Zimin, Assistant Research Scientist at the University of Maryland, College Park. Next steps include genome annotation, identifying variable markers and comparing to genomes of other species that may have hybridized frequently with Red Siskin. Ancient DNA ~ Brian Coyle, RSI coordinator and post doc at Smithsonian, is recovering DNA from museum specimens for sequencing to examine genetic diversity and structure and to assess if any Siskin populations were native to the Caribbean.

Presentations

VZP- Marshall Jones, Senior Conservation Advisor at SCBI, highlighted the RSI in a training; presentation given to volunteer staff at NZP.

AZA ~ Paut Marinari, Senior Curator of Animal Operations at SCBI, presented an update on the RSI to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums at the mid-year meeting at Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, Nebraska in March

NAOC ~ Brian Coyle, RSI coordinator at 51, gave a talk about the project at the reception of the Sustainability Consortium conference at the National Museum of Natural History in late April 1 and at the North American Ornithological Conference in August 2016.

Institutional Partners

Environmental Protection Agency Guyana;
Institute Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas (IVIC), VE;
National Finch and Softbiti Society, USA;
Parque Zoológico y Botánico Bararida, VE;
Parque Zoológico El Pinar, VE;
Provita – Conservation NGO,
VE; Ruhi Walker Architects, USA
Smithsonian Institution;
South. Rupununi Conservation Society, GY;
Universidad Central de Venezuela, VE.

Support

American Bird Conservancy,
Federation of Aviculture,
BAND Foundation Life Int'l,
Conservation Leadership Program,
Finch Society of Australia,
IVIC,
Ornithological Council,
Rufford Foundation,
Scion Natural Science Association,
Smithsonian Grand Chalidnges;
Consortia and National Museum of Natural History.

Bird Friendly Shade Coffee Initiative

The RSI is developing a project that would preserve and improve agroforestry habitat for migratory and resident wildlife, including the Red Siskin, by facilitating a new market opportunity to restore profitability to a 200 hectare cluster of historic shade coffee farms under threat of deforestation. This area presents a potential site for Red Siskin reintroduction and forms part of an important wildlife corridor between national parks in NW Venezuela.

New Recent Awards

Smithsonian James Bond Fund – \$70,000 for project coordination, field and molecular research to study the origin and persistence of Red Siskins in Puerto Rico.

American Bird Conservancy – William Benton Fund – \$5000 for rare bird surveys in Venezuela.

SCION foundation – \$3000 for travel to Australia.

Mohammed bin Zayed Foundation to continue banding and tracking Red Siskins to study seasonal movement patterns for The South Rupununi Conservation Society. Additionally, the SRCS will be collecting blood samples for molecular analysis that will be performed by researchers at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. These complementary projects will lead to a better understanding of Red Siskin ecology and genetics, both essential for evaluating conservation needs.



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CALIFORNIA

West Coast Zebra and Society Finch - NFSS Speciality Club

Meetings: None

Website: www.efinch.com/show

Finch Society of San Diego County

Meetings: 4th Sunday of each month

Location: Poway Elks Lodge, 13219 Poway Road, Poway, CA

Website: www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com

Email: sdfinchsociety@gmail.com

Central California Cage Bird Club

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of month

Location: Stanislaus Ag Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA

Website: www.mycccbc.org

Club Email: terryr@mycccbc.org

CONNECTICUT

Lory League, Triangle Bird Club, LPS & NFSS

Meetings: None

Website: <http://www.LoryLeague.org>

Contact: (206) 501-7428

Email: blconnection@hotmail.com

FLORIDA

First Coast Finch and Softbill Society

Meetings: 1st Saturday every 3 months

Location: 860 Fruit Cove Road, Saint Johns, FL 32259

Contact: Lauren Ogburn and Van To

Phone: 904-923-7431

Email: sunbay@comcast.net

Website/Social Media/Facebook

Suncoast Canary & Finch Club

Meetings: 1st Wed. Of month, 1419 Collingswood Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Website: www.suncoastcanaryandfinchclub.com

Email: vetagator@yahoo.com

Florida Canary Fanciers, Inc.

Meetings: 3rd Sunday Every Other Month 2:00pm

Website: www.floridacanaryfanciers.com

Email: RudiTour@aol.com

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Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club

Meetings: 4th Sunday of Month
Location: Port Salerno Civic Center, 4710 Anchor Ave., Port Salerno FL
Email: jim.dwyer@netzero.net

ILLINOIS

Illini Bird Fanciers Inc.

Meetings: First Sunday of the month; Noon to 4pm.
Location: Harvard Park Baptist Church, 2401 S. 9th, Springfield, IL
Website: www.illinibirdfanciers.com
Email: contact@illiniBirdFanciers.com

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association
Address: PO Box 595, South Easton, MA 02375
Email: goshawk3@aol.com
Meeting Dates: no regularly scheduled meetings
Website masscagebird.org
Contact Officer: Denise Cabral President
Phone: 508-479-2789

MISSOURI

Gateway Parrot Club

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of the month,
Location: Varietees Bird Store, 60 Meramec Valley Plaza Valley Park, Mo. 63088
Website: www.gatewayparrotclub.org
Club Contact: Georgia Fletcher
Email: president@gatewayparrot.org

MICHIGAN

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders of Michigan

Meetings: 3rd weekend of the month at members homes, Livonia, MI
Website: www.scfbmichigan.com
Email: mtarsitano@gmail.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of A Feather Avicultural Society

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month
Location: Villa Crest Retirement Center
Email: Prismsdad@aol.com
Website: www.BOAF.com

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NEW YORK

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of most months (Except July & August)
Location: Averill Blvd. Park, Elmont (Long Island), NY 11001
Phone: 718-967-6899
Email: barstand@verizon.net

OREGON

Columbia Canary Club

Meetings: 1st Sunday of each month, 2:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.,
Website: www.columbiacanaryclub.org
Facebook: Columbia Canary Club
Location: Milwaukie Granger Hall, 12015 S.E. 22nd Avenue, Milwaukie, OR
Contact: Kristine Rigdon
Email: Kristine@pcez.com

TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club

Meetings: 4th Sunday of Every month
Location: St John Methodist Church, 2202 Bandera Rd, San Antonio, TX 78228
Website: aebc.org/wp | Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/127537545516
Club Contact: Ben Garza – 210-275-3369

Fort Worth Bird Club

Website: fortworthbirdclub.com
Club Contact Email: FWBC@fortworthbirdclub.com

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association

Website: texasbirdbreeders.org
Club Contact Email: Cheryl@newworldranch.com

Canary and Finch Society

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of Every month, Sheraton Hotel, Houston, TX
Website: <http://canaryfinchsociety.tripod.com/>
Club Contact Email: wingsong.hj41@gmail.com

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WASHINGTON

Lori League, Triangle Bird Club, LPS & NFSS – Specialty Club

Website: <https://www.loryleague.org>
Email: julie@loryleague.org
Phone: (206) 501-7428

Cascade Canary Breeders Association

Meetings: 4th Sunday of the Month
Woodinville, Washington
Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/cascadecanary/annual-show>
Email: dwhite3511@msn.com

Canada

Durham Avicultural Society

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, Sept to June, 7:30pm
Ajox Rotary Pavilion, 177 Lake Driveway West, Ajox ON
Website: www.birddobdos.blogspot.ca
Club Contact Email: karen.smith@sunnybrook.ca

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

Website: www.essexkentcbs.com/
Contact: Julianne Mion
Phone: 519-948-6398
Email: julianne@mnsi.net
Contact: David or Sue Sylvester
Phone: 519-727-3766
Email: d.sylvestr@gmail.com

Puerto Rico

Asociacion de Criadores de Finches Inc.

Meetings: Wednesdays 7 to 9pm, Lus Catalina Mall Food Court, Caguas P.R.
Website: Asociacion Criadores de Finches (Facebook)
Email: finchrurico@hotmail.com

Puerto Rico Zebra Finch Club

Meeting Dates and Location: Arecibo
Contact Officer: Gene Perez
Email: genecuba1@yahoo.com
Phone: 787-385-2972
Club Website/Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/przfc/>

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