

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY
Rules, Procedures, and Official Standards for NFSS Judges

THE 5TH EDITION OF
THE NFSS JUDGES HANDBOOK AND OFFICIAL STANDARDS
IS DEDICATED TO

Dr. Al Decoteau
Cecil Gunby

The NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards, 5th edition
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The NFSS Judges Handbook
and Official Standards
5th edition
(updated 2016)



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A History of the NFSS Judges Hand book

(excerpts from the message of Cecil Gunby,2014)

By Vince Moase

NFSS Judges Panel Chair and 4th VP 2014-2017

In 1985, the year after the inception of the National Finch and Softbill Society, the first Official Judges Handbook was published. Dedicated to the memory of Phillip Shaw, one of the original thirteen NFSS Panel Judges, this publication outlined the policies, rules, and procedures of the NFSS Judges Panel, provided exhibition and award guidelines, and presented the first two official written finch standards adopted by the Society. Designed and created by founding members of the Society, the Handbook became a valuable guide enabling others to better understand the tools available to the Panel Judge and the standards used for evaluating breeding stock and exhibition finches. The Handbook also supported good communication and continuity among the Judges Panel throughout the years.

Written standards have been established by NFSS for finches and softbills to provide objective judging at bird shows, and to provide the aviculturist a goal to reach for in their individual breeding programs. Two criteria used in deciding to create a standard for a particular finch or softbill are frequent appearances, and consistent placing of the variety at NFSS Shows. A NFSS Handbook standard is a consensus of opinions from a committee of NFSS judges. It indicates how the ideal bird of a specific species should appear. Each standard includes conformation, condition, color, markings, deportment, and presentation specific to that particular avian species. In some species a silhouette has also been created to help define the ideal example.

Over the years policies and rules of the Judges Panel and Handbook have been revised, and additional standards have been adopted. This was the case in 1995 by a group of Panel Judges under the direction of Dr. Al Decoteau, and again under the watch of Cecil Gunby. With each revision, new information is included and previous data is assessed in an effort to stay current with accepted values.

Introduction to the 5th Edition

The 5th Edition of the NFSS Judges Handbook includes an updated information regarding the Zebra Finch Mutation Colors, and the corresponding point structure. Judges fees due date changed, two new silhouette standards have been adopted, the Zebra Finch silhouette rendered by Sally Huntington, and the Gouldian Finch developed by Julie Lawson. Both individuals with a wealth of knowledge regarding these species. With the permanent closing of NFSS Finch Shop, it was also necessary to eliminate the bi-laws concerning its operation.

Since 1985, many knowledgeable people have contributed to making this a valuable resource tool for judges, and a standard for exhibitors to work towards. Dr. Al Decoteau and Cecil Gunby, were two such people. Their contribution to aviculture, as judges and mentors will be missed, and so I would like to dedicate the 5th edition of the NFSS Judges Handbook in their memories.

The NFSS Judges Handbook

Rules and Procedures/or the Panel Judges of the National Finch and Softbill Society.

In an effort to provide finch and softbill owners, breeders, and exhibitors consistent and educational evaluations of their birds the National Finch and Softbill Society has prepared a set of rules and procedures which are followed by each of its Panel Judges when hired to adjudicate an exhibition of birds. All questions and inquiries regarding these rules and regulations should be directed to the NFSS Judges Panel Director.

Standard of Conduct for a NFSS Judge

- 1. Annual Judges Listing Fee and Report of Judging Assignments:** National Finch and Softbill Society Panel Judges will pay their annual judges listing fee of Ten Dollars on **January 1st** of each year. They will send this judging fee to the Treasurer. Judges will send a listing of shows to be judged for that year to the Panel Director. The judge **must** pay the listing fee even if judging assignments for that year have not been accepted. It is the responsibility of each judge to report all additions and/or changes to his/her judging assignments to the Panel Director in a timely manner.

After that payment deadline of **January 1st**, a notice may be sent by certified mail to the judge requesting payment of the listing fee. If such fee is not received within the new deadline indicated in the letter, the judge will be removed from the panel for that year. If only the listing of shows to be judged for that year has not been received within the new deadline, the judge will be subject to a fine and/or possible suspension (see #5 below for "Fine System").
- 2. Species Standard Committee:** Every judge must serve on at least one species standard committee every 3 years.
- 3. NFSS Judges Clinic:** It is the responsibility of any judge to convene a judging clinic at any show s/he is judging if there are other judges or apprentices present who wish to have a clinic. The presiding judge must take minutes of the clinic along with an attendance roster and **it is the responsibility of the presiding judge to send the Judges Clinic Report within 14 days to the Panel Director**. Clinics are to be used to discuss present or past shows and are to bring up questions on judging Standards and report other points of interest to the Judges Panel. **Every judge must attend at least one clinic each year.**
- 4. Judges as Exhibitors:** NFSS Panel Judges are expected to set any example to other exhibitors when they themselves are exhibiting. Accordingly, a Panel Judge who as an exhibitor violates show rules, fails to cooperate with the show committee or exhibits birds in less than humane circumstances (i.e., without food or water; in a cage that poses a danger to the bird, etc.) will be subject to dismissal from the judges panel. A complaint in writing or an oral complaint in the presence of the Board of Directors will be sufficient to initiate an investigation of such behavior.
- 5. NFSS Official Show Report:** NFSS judges will report on time for each judging assignment they have accepted. They will wear their NFSS Judges Panel Badge. They will bring with them a NFSS Official Show

Report. Such report must be completed **no later than 14 days after each judging**. Said report and copies thereof must be mailed to the designated persons **no later than 14 days following the date of the show**.

NFSS Fine System

After missing a deadline, a certified letter requesting a report may be sent to the judge. If the report is not received by the deadline indicated in that letter, the judge, if s/he is a first time offender will be subject to a fine of \$25.00. Repeat offenders will automatically be suspended from the Judges Panel for the following year.

6. **Reporting on an Apprentice:** Any judge who fails to report on the apprenticeship of an applicant that he or she has supervised may be contacted by certified mail requesting such report. If the report has not been received within the new deadline, the judge will be subject to a fine and/or possible suspension (see # 5 above for the NFSS "Fine System").
7. **If No Show for 3 Years:** Any judge not judging a reported show for a period of three years may be required to submit to evaluation prescribed by the Panel Director. The outcome of such evaluation could cause the removal of said judge from the Panel. Any such negative evaluation must be presented to the Board of Directors for its vote on the continued status of said judge.
8. **Inactive Status:** Any Judge wishing to become inactive, and remain on the Judges Panel may do so providing they write a letter to the Panel Director giving notification of their desire. The Panel Judge's name will be removed from the Panel Judges listing in The NFSS Bulletin and website. He/she may only remain inactive for up to three years.

At any time during the judge's inactive status the judge may become active again by apprenticing under a Panel Judge approved by the Panel Director. A report approving the apprenticeship must be filed by the Panel Judge supervising the apprenticeship to the Panel Director **within 14 days** following the judging. If an inactive Panel Judge does not request to become active by the end of the three year period, he/she will be dismissed from the Judges Panel.

9. **Judging While Under Suspension:** Any judge who accepts a judging assignment while under suspension will be suspended permanently.
10. **Removal of a Panel Judge:** The Panel Director may bring before the Board of Directors for removal from the Judges Panel the name of any judge who, in the opinion of the Panel Director, has conducted her/himself in a manner determined to be injurious to the Society or who has repeatedly been tardy in the filing of fees or reports.

Duties of the Panel Director

The Judges Panel Director will be elected by the members of the National Finch and Softbill Society, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society. A member accepting the nomination for the position of Fourth Vice-President of the Society must be willing to accept the position of Judges Panel Director. Only a Panel Judge of the Society may accept nomination for that position.

The Judges Panel Director shall conduct the daily business of the Panel. The Director will report to the Board of Directors when appropriate either by policy or request of said Board. The Board of Directors will investigate any complaints against the Panel Director and will take action on any such complaint in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society.

The Judges Panel Director will be responsible for the completion of the following duties in a timely fashion:

1. **Judges Fees:** Will contact the Treasurer no later than January 15th of each year to obtain a list of any judges whose fees have not been paid for that year.
2. **Distribute Show Report Forms:** Will mail no later than August 31st of each year the Show Report forms judges will use to record the results of the shows they will judge that season if required.
3. **Administer rules and regulations:** Will administer the rules and regulations of the Panel and report infractions to the Board of Directors.
4. **Judges Apprenticeship program:** Will administer the NFSS Judges Apprenticeship program.
5. **Complaints:** Will receive and investigate any complaints received regarding any member of the Panel. Will handle all complaints in accordance with the current policy of the Society.
6. **Written tests:** Will along with other Panel members develop written tests as required for the Apprenticeship program.
7. **Recommending Judges:** Will maintain impartiality toward affiliated clubs with regard to the use of Panel members. S/he will always provide at least three names from the Panel when asked for suggestions on securing a judge.
8. **Speaking Publicly:** The Judges Panel Director will never speak negatively in public situation about any Panel Judge.
9. **Reporting to the Board:** The Director will report to the Board via email whenever presence at a Board meeting is not possible.
10. **Use of Certified Mail:** The Director will contact Panel members by certified mail whenever the failure of a member to reply could cause a removal vote by the Board of Directors.
11. **Proposed Standards:** Will present all proposed standards to the Board of Directors for approval.

NFSS Standard of Judging

1. **Explain Criteria Used to Judge:** NFSS Panel judges shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. They will judge each bird on its merits and will, whenever possible, inform a gallery of the criteria used to judge the different types of birds shown.
2. **Bring to Every Judging Assignment:** A NFSS Panel judge will always carry with her/him to the show hall the following items: the necessary show report form, their judge's badge, a device that may be used to move a bird about in its cage, and a copy of the NFSS Judges Handbook, including all current standards for convenient reference while judging or answering questions.
3. **Disqualification of Entries:** A NFSS Panel judge will disqualify any bird that is entered after the judging of the division has started. NFSS judges will also disqualify any bird that may not be judged in accordance with NFSS policy.
4. **Hybrids:** An NFSS judge may not judge a hybridized bird with only the following exceptions in the case of the Society finch due to the lack of consensus on the species origins and the practice of hybridization among Society enthusiasts. Because it is impossible to reliably distinguish a hybrid from a non-hybrid bird on the show bench, all Society finches of American, European, and Japanese origin will be judged within the confines of Section 6.
5. **Welfare of Birds is the First Concern:** The first concern of NFSS should be the welfare of our birds. All NFSS judges are REQUIRED to disqualify any entries caged in an inhumane manner (i.e.; without food or water, in a cage that poses a danger to the bird; etc.) and to explain to the spectators the reasons for the disqualification. The following statement shall be added to our show classification and communicated to all our affiliated clubs:

Food and Water Required

All finch and softbill entries must be supplied by the exhibitors with appropriate food and water. Waterers are not to be removed from cages during judging.

It is suggested that judges instruct stewards to watch for food and water when they arrange entries. If the exhibitor provides food and water before the judge begins the preliminary overview the entries need not be disqualified.

6. **Compromised Bird During NFSS Exhibition:** If/when a judge decides a bird's health is compromised the correct procedure is to direct the steward to remove the cage from the show area and contact the owner or owner's representative or other responsible person to address the bird's compromise. At no time is the presiding judge to open a show cage during his/her judging. At this time it is the judge's discretion to either wait for the problem to be resolved, return the bird to either class, section, or top bench, and continue judging or to eliminate the bird from the day's competition.
7. **Educational Manner Required:** NFSS Panel judges will always work with apprentices or stewards in an educational manner.
8. **Ownership of Entry:** NFSS Panel judges will never allow any person to reveal the ownership of any bird to be judged.

9. **Affiliates Agree to NFSS Policies:** They will not allow Show Officials to dictate policy contrary to the accepted policies of the NFSS. All affiliates agree to abide by the policies of the NFSS at the time of affiliation.
10. **Judging Factors:** NFSS Panel judges will judge each bird entered on **Conformation, Condition, Color and Markings, Deportment, and Presentation**. Rarity is not an important factor and will not be considered.
11. **Judge by Standard:** NFSS Panel judges will judge each bird by the NFSS Standard for that species. If a Species Standard is not in effect, it is recommended that the General Standard for Finches and Softbills be used.
12. **Withholding Award:** NFSS Panel judges may at their discretion withhold any award when they feel that the entry under consideration does not warrant an award.
13. **Calling Back Birds:** NFSS Panel judges may in division or section call back second place birds that may be better than the first place bird; for further consideration third place birds may also be called back if the judge feels they might be better in quality than some of the first or second place birds from other classes or sections. In no case may a bird place higher than a bird which has already defeated it at any point in the competition.
14. **Decisions Are Final:** NFSS Panel judges' decisions are final.
15. **Current Rules Apply:** NFSS Panel judges will adhere to presently adopted rules of the Society and Judges Panel.

Acceptance Procedures for Judging Assignments

When you are approached by a club seeking you as a judge for their show, thank them for contacting you. By all means, try to accept the assignment or aid the club in selecting another NFSS Panel Judge if you are unable to accept the assignment. If you do tentatively accept the assignment, subject to the club's approval of your bid, you may bid on other shows for the same date. You must, however, give the first club, "first rights of refusal." Make it clear that you are not bound to judge a show until a **written confirmation** is received.

The club will ask the fee you will be charging to judge their show or will ask you to bid by telephone, mail or e-mail. Explain to the club that you are required by NFSS Judges Panel rules to charge for transportation, lodging, and meals.

Whenever you are asked to judge an additional division with the Finch and Softbill Division question the club official as to how many finches and softbills they expect to have at the show. If the number is over 200, counsel the club that it might be appropriate for it to select a separate judge for the other division if that division is to be large as well.

Finches and Softbills To Be Judged First

Your first responsibility is to complete your NFSS judging to the best of your abilities. If you will be judging more than one division advise the club that the **Finch and Softbill Division's must be judged first**. Many softbilled birds tire very early in the day. It would not be fair to judge them late in the afternoon.

If the club requires a written bid you should quote the best air fare rates available. The quote should include the single room rate at the show site for the number of nights you will be staying and an estimate for your meals plus any additional fee applicable. Judging fees outside of actual costs are at the option of the judge. Be sure the club knows to confirm your assignment with you at the earliest possible time so that you can lock in the air fare you have quoted and that the club understands that if confirmation is not timely the air fare may not be the same as the original quoted rate. Should your expenses be less than originally quoted any savings will be passed on to the engaging club.

When you have submitted a bid you have bound yourself to that fee so be sure that your quote is precise and accurate.

Suggest to the club that they may wish to purchase the airline ticket for you and mail it several weeks before the show. If this is done for you make sure show officials know of the airport you must travel out of and the exact details of your travel schedule. Many airfares have stiff penalties for changes or changes are not allowed at all without the forfeiture of the entire purchase price. If you purchase your own airline tickets and find at a later date that you must change your tickets. Any additional costs caused by that change may not be charged to the engaging club unless it still falls within the original quote for your services.

Make it known to the club that all of your expenses must be paid to you no later than the close of the show. It is a good idea to contact the show treasurer with a complete accounting of your expenses on the morning of the show.

NFSS will agree to assist with expenses for judges at the National Cage Bird Show, the Great American Bird Show, or certain other national level shows/events, only when the selected judge was one of those specifically recommended for the event by the NFSS Board.

Procedure for Judging

All National Finch and Softbill Society Panel judges will judge following the same procedure. Entries are judged on a "one to one" comparison basis.

Judging the Finch and Softbill Division at a show should be a smooth and organized procedure. Before you start judging ask to speak with the division secretary or head steward. Ask for a catalog listing the number of finches or softbills entered in each class. This will aid you in being sure all of the birds have been brought to the bench in a particular class and will prevent embarrassing mistakes.

Do not assume that your stewards are seasoned veterans of the exhibition circuit. Some simple instructions may save much time during the judging. Be sure that your stewards know what is expected of them. Remind stewards of the National Finch and Softbill Society's requirement for birds to have food, water and proper caging.

Speak to your secretary make sure s/he will keep the necessary records required for her/him or you to complete the NFSS Official Show Report. While the secretary is completing your catalog it will give you time to do an overview of all the birds in your division. This overview will give you an excellent opportunity to see the birds that will be judged. It will also give you the ability to determine if any birds have been incorrectly classified. Ask the head steward if there are any birds that he would like you to check for classification. This is the time to correct mistakes. Birds that are in the wrong classes at the time of judging may have to be disqualified. NFSS judges should not re-judge any class or section due to improperly classified birds.

The name of each softbill species may be written on the outside of the show cage by the secretary or stewards. At the time the NFSS Panel judge does the overview (before judging) if the judge feels that any other bird needs to be identified for the judge's benefit or for the gallery's education then those tags will also have names written on the outside of the show cage tag by the stewards, provided this is agreeable to the local show officials.

Now it is time to start your judging. If you have not been introduced to the gallery, introduce yourself as a Panel judge of the National Finch and Softbill Society. A judge must not only be good at judging, s/he must be a good communicator as well. Make sure that the gallery understands what you are doing. Make sure that NFSS exhibitors understand that points will be awarded in accordance with the current NFSS Points Schedule. Most complaints made against judges would not have been complaints had the judges explained all procedures clearly.

Start your judging. Have the stewards bring the first class of birds to the bench. Check the number on the bench with the number in your show catalog. Check each show tag to be sure it has been filled out correctly and the birds on the bench are actually entered in the correct class. At this time you should also initial each tag or stamp it with an identifying stamp. Each successive time the same bird is before you throughout the day it must be stamped or initialed again. This will assure the exhibitor if they are not available to view the judging that her/his bird was viewed by the judge each time it should have come to the bench as the judging progressed (i.e.; class, section, division). Once you have checked all the birds write the number in class in the box at the top right of the show tag. During this mechanical time of your judging it is also a good time to check for faults in the birds; missing toes and nails, missing feathers, and other obvious faults. Many judges take this for granted only to find that they have overlooked a missing nail later in the judging. Remember mechanical mistakes are unforgivable. A judge's opinion cannot be questioned but a lack of knowledge on mechanics can lose you much esteem.

Now start your actual judging of the birds. Compare the birds on the bench. Start by moving the best birds to the left side of the bench. Birds of lesser quality will end up to your right. Continue this procedure until all of

the classes have been judged. If because of cage size or other reason the birds have not been moved be sure the steward places the ribbons correctly.

Comparison method of judging means just that. Hold the third place bird next to the second place bird and be sure it is placed correctly; the first place bird next to the second place bird and so forth. NFSS Panel Judges do not judge by assigning points on the factors and recording them on a show tag. We do, however consider certain factors more heavily than others. **Conformation** is most important and should be 50% of your decision; **Condition** 20%; **Color and Markings** 20%; **Deportment and Presentation** 10%. Any Species Standards in effect at the time of judging will determine the actual points assigned in these categories. We do not total these points on a cage tag because only a judge can compare the relationship of these factors as it pertains to the whole bird, whereas the point system may actually allow a bird that is not best overall to accumulate the highest number of points.

Once you have completed your judging in a particular class, stand back and view your placements. Be **sure** you are satisfied with them. You still have time to change your decision. Assuming you are satisfied, mark the rear of the cage tag with your placement. Read off the show tag numbers to the secretary or have a steward do so. Announce constructive information on your decision to the gallery. **AFTER THIS YOU MAY NOT CHANGE YOUR DECISION.** Offer as much constructive criticism or praise as you can and that time will allow. Generally speaking, exhibitors are truly interested in your opinion. Remember, you are the "expert" from the National Finch & Softbill Society and exhibitors will look to you for counsel.

Continue this procedure throughout all the classes in this section. You are now ready to judge the section. Instruct the steward to bring all the first place birds back to the bench. During your judging of the classes you may have noticed a particularly strong class of, for instance, Diamond Sparrows. You may wish to see the second or even third place bird in that class again. Because of the strength in that class, the second or even third place Diamond Sparrow may be better than the first place Star Finch. Don't get yourself crossed up. A second place bird can never be placed higher than a bird that has already defeated it. Continue your comparisons until you have selected the placement of birds in section. Again, stand back and be sure of the placement. Announce your decisions to the gallery. If there are any second place or even third place in class birds still on the bench make sure the gallery understands why they have defeated first place birds in other classes.

The same procedure is followed in the divisional judging Compare all the best in sections, and perhaps seconds and thirds as required. It is not uncommon to have a second place bird in section beat out the first in another.

A National Finch & Softbill Society Panel judge does not consider rarity in judging. When a judge has a tie in his/her mind and it is impossible to place one bird above another under our normal procedures, it is time to use other considerations i.e.; degree of difficulty, perch cleanliness, etc.

There are a few important considerations when judging a show. A defeated bird can never be placed above the bird that previously defeated it when placing the birds in a higher section or division. There is no rule that says the top bird in each section will end up on the top ten bench in the divisional judging. You may have a very strong class of Gouldians and a very small showing of Parsons. The Parsons could be left out of the final judging if all Gouldians are better.

The standard procedure is to judge from right to left with the first place bird being placed to the far left of the birds on the bench.

Remember an NFSS judge **never** enters until she/he is asked to by a show official. From time to time a steward may ask you to the judging area before the show starts to look at a bird for a decision on classification. Ask the steward to bring the bird to you, before judging begins, for your examination or tell her/him you will look at it

during the overview. Never enter the judging area before judging begins. It is a good idea if you are staying at a hotel where the judging is to be held to contact the show officials and alert them that you have arrived. Ask them if there is a time that they wish your judging to be completed. If so, try to accommodate them. Also let them know where you will be in the morning so that they may contact you when they are ready.

Your knowledge of finches and softbills and your abilities will become quite apparent to the gallery as you do your judging. Share your knowledge with the gallery and always temper your criticism with praise. There is generally something always encouraging about most entries. However, there are times that praise is not appropriate. If it is apparent that a bird, because of serious faults or deformities, is truly not of show quality, you can do the exhibitor a favor by saying so in as tactful a way as possible. Never praise a bad bird.

You are an educational arm of the National Finch & Softbill Society. Do not answer any questions during the judging that may identify an owner of a bird, point out to the gallery that you will be available after NFSS judging for any questions that may arise.

Finally, be a good judge of time. Determine the number of birds that you have to judge and watch your time. If time allows, you may break for lunch. You may spend as much time as you please on your comments. However, if time is short, because of the number of birds to be judged or the time that you must finish, you may decide that a break is not in order and you may find that you will have to limit your comments. Always watch your time periodically and adjust your speed so that you may finish at the appropriate time.

Awarding Points

NFSS members and the NFSS closed-banded or cross-registered birds they have exhibited automatically receive points at a show where an NFSS judge is judging, provided there are 20 or more entries. These points are determined by the number of birds shown in the division. All points are awarded in accordance with the schedule below, are not official until the official show report is received, and the points are recorded by the NFSS Points Director.

Points Schedule

Please keep in mind that in order for a softbill, finch or dove to attain points, it must be closed-banded with an NFSS or cross-registered band, and have been judged by a NFSS Panel Judge against all the birds in the Finch and Softbill Division. Points will not be allowed in a specialty show where finches are not judged against softbills or other birds within the division.

National Finch and Softbill Society

Points Schedule

Entries	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
11-20	3	2	1							
21-30	4	3	2	1						
31-40	5	4	3	2	1					
41-50	6	5	4	3	2	1				
51-60	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
61-70	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
71-80	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
81-90	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
91-100	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
101-110	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
111-120	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
121-130	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
131-140	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
141-150	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7
151-160	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
161-170	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
171-180	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
181-190	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
191-200	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
201-210	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13
211>	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14

Show Tags

The show cage tag is very important. It identifies the entry by class, section, and division. Don't forget to fill in the number of entries in each class in the box provided. The show tag provides the exhibitors with valuable information on how their bird placed in class, section, and division. Be sure that you have filled out all this information on the tag. Be aware that some exhibitors will be exhibiting in different divisions, and may not be able to watch all the judging going on at a particular time. You may also wish to make a comment on the remarks area of the tag. Don't forget you must verbally communicate your decisions to the gallery.

Champion Awards

An **NFSS** exhibitor achieves **Champion Exhibitor** status when she has accumulated 50 points or more during a calendar year.

An **NFSS** exhibitor who accumulates 200 or more points during her lifetime achieves **Exhibitor of Excellence** status.

If an **NFSS** exhibitor places in the top ten in a show judged by a NFSS Panel Judge s/he will automatically receive the same number of points for that placement for her/his NFSS closed banded bird, per the NFSS Points Schedule. A bird can achieve **Champion Bird** status when it accumulates 50 NFSS points or more during its lifetime. NFSS will make a \$50.00 cash donation to a worthy avicultural cause on behalf of each Champion Bird, as selected by the bird's owner.

Novice Awards

An exhibitor who has not placed three times in the top ten in the Finch & Softbill Division at a show(s) judged by an NFSS judge is a **Novice Exhibitor** for NFSS purposes.

Junior Awards

An exhibitor who is 18 years of age or younger is a **Junior Exhibitor** for NFSS purposes.

A History of NFSS Band Colors

The colors of the NFSS-issued closed bands for each year are as follows:

YEAR	Band Color
2019	Black with white lettering
2018	Red with white lettering
2017	Dark Blue with white lettering
2016	Orange with white lettering
2015	Violet with white lettering
2014	Green with white lettering
2013	Silver with white lettering
2012	Purple with white lettering
2011	Light Blue with white lettering
2010	Black with white lettering
2009	Gold with white lettering
2008	Gold with dark lettering
2007	Dark Red with white lettering
2006	Copper with white lettering
2005	Green with white lettering
2004	Silver with white lettering
2003	Violet with black lettering
2002	Red with white lettering
2001	Blue with white lettering
2000	Yellow with black lettering
1999	Blue with black lettering
1998	Dark Green with white lettering
1997	Purple with white lettering
1996	Orange with white lettering
1995	Blue with white lettering
1994	Red with white lettering
1993	Gold with white lettering
1992	Pink with black lettering
1991	Green with white lettering
1990	Blue with black lettering
1989	Purple with white lettering
1988	**Unknown
1987	**Unknown
1986	Dark Blue with white lettering
1985*	**First year that NFSS sold bands to its members
1984	Year NFSS founded NFSS bands not available

** Color unknown - Can you provide NFSS with this information?

Cross-registering Bands with NFSS

Any finch or softbill wearing a closed traceable band issued by a national society other than NFSS can qualify to earn NFSS Championship points, by registering the band with NFSS. All judges and officials will recognize these as valid NFSS registered bands. To register, send the species of finch or softbill, the name of the issuing society, the inscription on the band and a \$5.00 per band fee to the NFSS Band Secretary. The \$5.00 per band/bird cross-registration fee for all FINCHSAVE registered offspring wearing a closed traceable band equivalent to the NFSS band size M or larger will be waived.

The Band Secretary will issue a letter confirming this registration and the exhibitor should carry this letter with the bird when it is exhibited.

Bird Species	A	B	C	D	E	G	H	J	K	L	M	R*	S*	T*
Aracais													•	
Black & White Mannikin			•											
Black Cheeked Waxbill		•												
Black Crested Finch					•									
Blue Capped Waxbill			•											
Blue Head Parrot Finch				•										
Bronze Wing Mannikin			•											
Cherry Finch			•											
Chestnut Breasted Finch				•										
Cordon Bleu Waxbill		•												
Cuban melodious Finch		•												
Diamond Dove										•				
Diamond Sparrow					•									
Dove (other small)										•				
European Goldfinch								•						
European Greenfinch					•									
Fire Finch		•												
Gold Breasted Waxbill	•													
Golden Song Sparrow					•									
Gouldian Finch				•										
Green Singing Finch		•	•											
Green/Purple Starlings												•		
Grey Singing Finch		•	•											
Heck's Shaftail			•											
Hornbills														•
Indian Hill Mynah													•	
Java Mynah													•	
Java Rice Bird									•					

Bird Species	A	B	C	D	E	G	H	J	K	L	M	R*	S*	T*
Lavender Finch			•											
Leaf Birds											•			
Magpie Mannikin						•								
Mannikin (most small)			•	•										
Mannikin (other larger)						•								
Nuns					•									
Olive Finch		•												
Orange Cheeked Waxbill	•	•												
Owl Finch	•	•												
Pagoda Mynah											•			
Painted Finch			•											
Parrot Finch (most other)				•										
Pekin Robin								•						
Peter's Twinspot					•									
Pictorella Finch				•										
Pileated Finch			•											
Pintailed Nonpareil				•										
Plush Capped Jay														•
Pytilias			•											
Quail										•				
Quail Finch	•													
Red Crested Cardinal									•					
Red Eared Waxbill	•													
Red Headed Parrot Finch			•											
Ring Neck Dove													•	
Rufus Backed Mannikin		•												
Saffron Finch										•				
Shafttail Finch			•											
Shama Thrush									•					
Silver Eared Mesias								•						
Silverbill			•											
Siskin (European)						•								
Red Siskin (South American)		•	•											
Society Finch			•											
Softbills (other small)								•						
Softbills (other)										•				

Bird Species	A	B	C	D	E	G	H	J	K	L	M	R*	S*	T*
Spice Finch				•	•									
Star Finch			•											
Strawberry Finch	•	•												
Sunbirds (large)											•			
Superb Starlings												•		
Tanager (small)						•								
Toucanettes (small)													•	
Touracos (small)														•
Twinspots (most)				•										
White Tailed Jay														•
Waxbill (small)	•													
Yellow Rumped Finch				•										
Zebra Finch				•										

*R-S-T Bands discontinued 2009

The NFSS Apprentice Judge Program

1. **Letter of Intent:** Any new apprentice is required to write a letter of request to the Panel Director, listing her/his qualifications.
2. **Qualifications:** Qualifications **MUST** include:
 - a) An applicant must be 21 years of age or older.
 - b) Currently are and have been a member of NFSS for at least three years. Please list years.
 - c) Have bred finches and/or softbills for five years. List type of finches and/or softbills bred and years bred.
 - d) Have exhibited under own name (or own aviary name) for three years. List when and where exhibited.
 - e) Must have won points five (5) times in top ten in shows under (at least) three (3) NFSS Panel Judges. List when, where and under what judge's points were won.
3. **Written Test:** Must take and pass a written test with 90% or better. If not passed, must study for one year and take the test again (not within one year). The test to be taken by pre-arrangement only with at least a 60-day advance notice to the Panel Director, at the Kaytee Great American, the National Cage Bird Show, or at sites where Panel Director is judging.

If the person is unable to attend the Kaytee Great American, the National Cage Bird Show, or a show where the Panel Director is judging the following applies:

- a) The candidate contacts the Panel Director with the name, address, and phone number of a local college examiner.
- b) The Panel Director will contact the examiner within 30 working days to verify examiner's authenticity, authority, affiliation and willingness.
- c) At the discretion of the Panel Director, arrangements will be made for the candidate to take the exam.
- d) If all the requirements are met to the Panel Director's satisfaction, the test packet will be mailed to the college examiner.
- e) The candidate is responsible for all costs incurred in this process.
- f) The results, pass/fail, will be held by the Panel Director until all costs are paid.
- g) Failure to pay all fees will result in membership suspension until all NFSS costs are reimbursed.

Note: Should the candidate not pass, the exam can be retaken (not within one year, as above), all fees having been paid.

4. **Three Apprenticeships:** Cannot apprentice until the test is passed. Each of three apprenticeships to be pre-approved by the Panel Director, the Panel Judge invoked and the Show Manager of the show invoked. In the event s/he must cancel the apprenticeship, the apprentice must notify all three individuals - the Panel Director, the Panel Judge involved and the Show Manager - prior to the day of the show.

5. **Request in Writing for Board's Approval:** Once three apprenticeships are completed and satisfactory reports are received from the judges involved, the apprentice must submit a request through the Panel Director for final Board approval.
6. **Agree to the Following:** The apprentice must appear before the Board (or submit a notarized statement) indicating s/he understands and agrees to the following
 - a) When requested to write a report, it must be done immediately. (Example - reports of shows to be judged.)
 - b) All show reports must be in within two weeks
 - c) All judges must respond to all inquiries and must participate on Standard committees.
 - d) NFSS Panel Judges must adhere to all NFSS Judges rules and must judge by current NFSS Standards.
7. **Board to Approve:** All paperwork involved in the apprenticeship process, according to the current NFSS Apprentice Judge Program policy and procedure, excluding the test taken, will be presented to the Board to allow for complete review of the applicant.

Procedure for Judging with an Apprentice

The following are questions for judging with an apprentice judge. We hope that you will follow these suggestions as closely as possible so that all new judges will be trained and evaluated in a similar manner.

Share your experience with your apprentice

1. **Accepting Apprentices:** You may be contacted by the Panel Director and asked to accept an apprentice at a show you will be judging, or an apprentice may approach you directly. The Panel hopes that you will accept as many apprentices as you are asked to during the course of a judging season. This is the best way for a prospective judge to gain the experience and training to become a good judge.
2. **Permission of Show Management:** Contact the show involved and ask for permission to work with an apprentice. Let the show management know the importance of the Apprenticeship program, and that you will make every effort to complete you're judging within the time frame they request.
3. **Apprentice Obtains Approval of Panel Director:** After you have obtained permission from the club, contact the apprentice informing her/him of your ability to allow him/her to apprentice with you. Inform the apprentice that s/he must contact the Panel Director, telling him of the acceptance of the judge and show invoked and request final approval. Only the Panel Director actually assigns an apprentice with a judge for a particular show. If for some reason the apprentice finds s/he cannot fulfill this apprenticeship assignment s/he must inform the Panel Director. Failure to do so may cause harm to her/his position in the Apprenticeship program.
4. **Introduce Apprentice:** On the day of the judging, after you have been introduced to your gallery, introduce your apprentice. Make sure the spectators understand it is **YOU** who will be doing the judging but that you will be asking the apprentice to "mock" judge so that s/he may be evaluated.
5. **Review Mechanics:** Make sure your apprentice understands the mechanics of judging for example, what the judge fills in on the show tag, the placement of the birds on the bench as they are being judged, and what comes back later in the judging for further consideration.
6. **Have Apprentice Place Birds:** After you have initialed each show tag, ask your apprentice to inspect the birds on the bench and ask her/him to place the birds on the bench as s/he would award them. When this has been accomplished, judge the birds yourself and ask for the apprentice's comment on the birds where you have differed. Explain to your apprentice why you are changing her/his placements (assuming that you will differ somewhat). Then briefly explain to your apprentice how you will tell the gallery of your choices. Tell her/him that there is generally a way to balance your criticism with praise.
7. **Watch your time:** You may not be able to follow #6 of this procedure throughout the entire judging. If you find that time is running short, discuss only the important points with your apprentice (the points you feel will be most beneficial to his/her training). You must; however, allow your apprentice to place at least two classes and one section of the division.
8. **Written Report Required:** After the judging has been completed, you must send a written report using the current form provided by the Panel Director, giving your comment on the apprentice's performance. Be descriptive on the areas that you feel your apprentice needs improvement. You must also inform the Panel Director if you would recommend this apprentice for the Panel based on your evaluation of her/his performance. Such report must be mailed to the Panel Director within **14 days**, as prescribed by Panel rules.

9. **Share Your Experience:** Above all, remember, share your experience with your apprentice. Make her/him a better judge for having apprenticed with you.

Official NFSS Show Report

The official NFSS Show Report form must be completed for each show judged. The number of exhibitors and the number of entries must be filled in by the show secretary. The number of entries will determine the awarding of points for a given show.

Placements and other pertinent information should be listed. The top ten birds in show, best unflighted, best novice, and best junior must be listed on the report. Best novice and best junior are listed whenever these awards are given at the show. The report must be signed by the show secretary, judge, and apprentice if applicable.

Copy **1** of the form must be mailed or emailed to the Points Director (the Judges Panel Director). Copy **2** is sent by mail or email to the NFSS Editor. Copy **3** stays with the Panel Judge, and Copy **4** remains with the local club secretary.

All show reports must be mailed **within 14 days**, in accordance with the NFSS Judges Panel Rules.

The NFSS Show Report may be viewed at the NFSS website, www.nfss.org. The panel judge will provide the report for completion at the show.

JUDGES AND SHOW SECRETARIES:

Please note when completing the official **NFSS Show Report**:

BAND NUMBER - A **complete band number** must be recorded in the appropriate squares starting with the club identification letters (most often this is NFSS but it can differ), the last two digits of the year on the band, the size, and finally the sequential number on the band. If the bird is not closed- banded leave this space on the form blank.

SPECIES - Provide the type of finch or softbill. Include color mutation, if other than normal. If sex is known, please indicate cock or hen (i.e. African Silverbill, Indian I-Jill Mynah, Fawn Shafttail, Senegal Fire Finch cock, Chestnut flank White Zebra hen).

JUDGE'S OBSERVATIONS - This information is required from NFSS Panel Judges. This is the means by which our experienced judges share with the NFSS general membership what is happening currently within our hobby through their observations of what is being shared at NFSS shows by finch and softbill enthusiasts across the country.

NFSS Panel Judges Report

(Due March 1st of each year)

Please complete this form and the list shows you have been contracted to judge in the current year. (Do not list tentative shows.) If you presently have no judging assignments write NONE. Please remember it is your responsibility to send information of additional shows contracted following this annual report.

The Judges Panel Director by March 1st.

NFSS Panel Judge: _____ Date: _____

Please send me (#) _____ NFSS Show Report forms for this year.

Current Contact Information:

As Panel Director, I need COMPLETE and current contact information for you!

If you don't want certain information published in NFSS print & web media, please let me know.

List ALL the information below.

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location of Show</u>	<u>Name of Host Society</u>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

National Finch and Softbill Society Judges Clinic Report

It is the responsibility of any judge to convene a judging clinic at any show he/she is judging if there are other judges present who wish to have a clinic. The presiding judge **must take minutes** of the clinic along with an attendance roster. Said report must be mailed or emailed to the NFSS Judges Panel Director **within 14 days**. Clinics are to be used to discuss present or past shows and are to bring up questions on judging standards and other points of interest to the Judges Panel. **EVERY JUDGE MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE CLINIC EACH YEAR.**

Should you need additional space to write your report use reverse side.

Name of Presiding Panel Judge: _____

Date: _____

Show: _____

Location: _____

Names of NFSS Panel Judges and Apprentices present:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Minutes

National Finch and Softbill Society

Apprentice Judge Program Questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide specific information pertinent to NFSS members' qualifications when applying to the NFSS Apprentice Judge Program. Please complete and return this form with your letter of intent to the NFSS Judges Panel Director.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Street Address City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Qualifications:

1. Must be 21 years of age or older to apply to program.

Date of birth: _____

2. Currently are and have been a member of NFSS for at least three years.

a) Are you currently a member of NFSS? Yes No

b) What is your NFSS number? _____ N/A

c) Have you been a member of NFSS for three years?

List years: _____

3. Have bred finches for five years.

a) What species of finches or softbills have you bred during the five years?

List species: _____

List year(s) finches or softbills bred: _____

4. Have exhibited under own name (or own aviary name) for 3 years.

a) Under what name did you exhibit? _____

b) What years have you exhibited? Please list: _____

5. Must have won points five (5) times in top ten in shows under (at least) three (3) NFSS Panel Judges.

(List name of show, date, and Panel Judge when points were won.)

Name of Show

Date

NFSS Panel Judge

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

National Finch and Softbill Society Apprentice Report

Please complete the following form for your recent judging with an apprentice. Answer all the questions objectively, comment on the individual's strengths and weaknesses and offer constructive criticisms where appropriate. Should you need more space you may write on the reverse side of this form. This evaluation will be a part of the paperwork presented before the NFSS Board for final review of the apprentice. Send the completed form to the NFSS Judges Panel Director within 14 days of the apprenticeship.

Date: _____

Show: _____

Location: _____ NFSS Panel Judge: _____ NFSS Apprentice Judge: _____

- A. Did he/she report on time for scheduled apprenticeship? yes no
- B. Did he/she conduct themselves in a professional manner? yes no
- C. Did he/she follow the NFSS rules and procedures for judging? yes no
- D. Knowledge and practice of mechanics of judging: fair good very good excellent
- E. Knowledge of finch and softbill species exhibited: fair good very good excellent
- F. Communication skills with gallery: fair good very good excellent

Other constructive criticisms: _____

I would I would not recommend this apprentice for the NFSS Judges Panel based upon my evaluation of his/her performance.

NFSS Panel Judge's Signature: _____ Date: _____

NFSS BY-LAWS

(Revised 2016)

Mission Statement: 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.

ARTICLE 1: NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be known as the National Finch and Softbill Society. It shall also be known in a more casual manner as "NFSS", hereafter known as the Society.

ARTICLE 2: STATUS

The National Finch and Softbill Society, is a nonprofit organization as described in section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The fiscal year of the Society shall be January 1st, through December 31st.

ARTICLE 3: HOME OFFICE

The principal office of the Society shall be that of the Treasurer or as otherwise specified by the Board of Directors and so publicized in the Society Journal. This address will be the official address for communicating with the Society and thus shall remain as static as possible.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Paragraph One

The dues for membership in the Society shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Paragraph Two

Membership is available to single members as well as dual members. Dual means any two individuals residing at the same address. Any dual membership will receive only one copy of a NFSS publication; however, dual members will count as two individual votes in regard to Society elections or other business. Dual members shall record their vote in a way as then adopted by the Society

Paragraph Three

Junior membership will be available at a reduced rate determined by the Board to any applicant under the age of eighteen.

Paragraph Four

If a member's dues remain unpaid beyond the twelve month membership period, said membership shall cease. Should a member's membership cease and be renewed at a later date, the membership shall begin at that payment date. To retain the members membership number and related data, said membership must be renewed within (60) sixty days of expiration.

Paragraph Five

Membership in the Society is a privilege. Any member who misrepresents the Society, holds Society property without authorization, or in any way is injurious to this Society as defined as, but not limited to, violating the bylaws or making a flagrant action against the good of the Society, may lose his/her privileges of membership, and receive a prorated refund of his/her unused dues. In order to cause action under this paragraph, a member must file a deposit of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) with the Society Treasurer, along with papers, which shall support a claim against a member of this Society. Such claim shall be taken up by the Board of Directors. If the claim is ruled legitimate and results in the removal of a member, the claimant will receive his/her deposit back. If a claim is determined by a majority of the Board not to meet its then criteria, the deposit shall be forfeited by the claimant.

Paragraph Six

Affiliated clubs are not members, but are affiliated for the purpose of promotion and recognition by the way of awards for exhibitions. NFSS will publicize show dates and results for affiliates in the official Journal of the Society as then prescribed by the Board of Directors. Affiliates cannot vote in elections but do receive a copy of the society journal. Types of awards and affiliation costs will be determined by the Board of Directors."

ARTICLE 5: TERM OF OFFICE, ELECTIONS, OFFICERS

TERM OF OFFICE

Paragraph One

All officers elected by the membership of the Society shall serve for a period of two years. Each officer, elected or holding an elected position will have one vote. If a board member has assumed two positions, he/she may exercise only one vote. Appointed Manager position, and other non-voting positions in service of the Society are created or eliminated as needed by a majority vote of the Board. The outgoing President of the Society shall be a non-voting member of the board for the following term. The Board by majority vote may reject an application for any position, either elected or appointed, if the Board feels the applicant is not qualified to hold that position.

ELECTION

Paragraph Two

Elections will be held every two years, with the results announced at the annual membership meeting or as maybe occasioned by death or removal of an officer (note paragraph 5 below). Election ballots, either separate or included in the official journal of the Society, shall be mailed at least forty five (45) days prior to the date that ballots must be returned by mail. This date shall be determined for each election by the Board of Directors. Any such ballot be will counted by at least two members of the Society and one witness as pre-approved by the Board of Directors, or an accounting firm selected by the Board of Directors. Ballots will be counted in sufficient time for the results to be announced at the general membership meeting. An officer is elected by receiving the greatest number of votes cast for that office. In the case of a tie in any election result, the tie will be broken by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Paragraph Three

The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the 2nd Quarter meeting consisting of at least three members, who must produce a slate of officers for the election. The committee shall produce at least one name and not more than three names for each office by August 1st. A write-in space must be allowed for each office on the ballot. Nominees must be at least 18 years of age when nominated and a current member of the Society and may not run for more than one voting position on the Board of Directors. A presently elected officer may temporarily assume the duties of another officer at the direction of the Board of Directors and in accordance with the Backup Officers document and other provisions of the By-laws. The

nominating committee is responsible for producing the ballot and sending it to the NFSS President and the editor of the NFSS Journal for printing and mailing. Should submission of more than three names be received for any office, they will be presented to the Board, and the Board will select the three most qualified applicants for each position.

Paragraph Four

All elections of this Society shall be by secret ballot only. Ballots will be counted by no less than two members of the society and one witness as pre-approved by the Board of Directors or a counting firm selected by the Board of Directors.

Paragraph Five

In the event an Officer, either elected or appointed, dies, resigns, or is removed, the Board may appoint a Pro Tem Officer. If less than 180 days remain until the next regularly scheduled election the Pro Tem Officer will serve until that time. If more than 180 days remain until the next regularly scheduled election, the Pro Tem officer will serve until a special election is held, such period not to exceed 180 days or the publication of the next published Journal, following the 180 day limit.

ELECTED OFFICERS

Paragraph Six

President - The President of NFSS shall preside over all Board of Directors meetings, annual membership meetings, and attend to the day to day operations of the Society. He/she shall abide by the bylaws of the Society, and coordinate and delegate the activities of the other officers of NFSS.

Paragraph Seven

First Vice-President (Education) - Shall fill the position of the President in absentia. Shall be first in succession to fill the position of the President should the President be unable to fulfill his/her term, in accordance with all other terms of the by-laws. The First Vice-President coordinates the activities of, and is responsible for all Regional Vice-Presidents and will coordinate the educational programs of the Society. The First Vice-President also approves any checks made payable to the President.

Paragraph Eight

Second Vice-President (Publications) - Shall be second in succession to fill the position of President. The Second Vice-President shall chair the publishing committee and is responsible for all publications produced by the Society both in print and electronic media. This officer may also supervise the NFSS Web Site. The Second Vice-President additionally supervises the Advertising and Promotions Manager.

Paragraph Nine

Third Vice-President (NFSS Finch/Softbill Save-FSS) - The Finch and Softbill Save Director coordinates the activities of the NFSS Captive Breeding Program. He/she complies and assists in publishing the yearly census as well as collecting data and maintaining. Said officer shall be responsible for the forwarding of funds and reports in a timely manner to Treasurer.

Paragraph Ten

Fourth Vice-President (Judges Panel/Standards/Research) - This officer must be a NFSS Panel Judge as he/she will serve as the Judges Panel Director. He/she shall also chair the Research and Standards Committee and be in charge of Specie Classifications, be responsible for shows or exhibitions of the Society and maintain the records points earned by members and birds from these exhibitions. In addition, the Fourth Vice-President represents the NFSS as liaison with the National Cage Bird Show Board and other National bird shows. Said officer shall be responsible for the forwarding of funds and reports in a timely manner to the Treasurer.

Paragraph Eleven

Executive Secretary - This officer takes minutes during all board meetings, including those conducted electronically on the Internet. The Executive Secretary, or designated representative, shall maintain an archive of all minutes and the Society's official documents, and assist other board members with correspondence as necessary.

Paragraph Twelve

Treasurer - 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.

Paragraph Thirteen

Membership Director - Shall be responsible for the receipt and processing of new and renewal memberships in the Society and for the maintenance of the NFSS Membership data base and its confidentiality. Said officer shall be responsible for the forwarding of funds and reports in a timely manner to the Treasurer.

Paragraph Fourteen

Affiliate/Awards Director - Shall be responsible for club affiliations, selection of clubs hosting Regional Shows and for the processing of awards for NFSS sanctioned shows and annual awards for the Society. Said officer shall be responsible for the forwarding of funds and reports in a timely manner to the Treasurer.

Paragraph Fifteen

Band Secretary- Shall be responsible for the ordering and issuance of official numbered closed bands in accordance with the policy of the Society, and maintaining the NFSS Band Secretary's permanent band records. Said officer shall be responsible for the forwarding of funds and reports in a timely manner to the Treasurer.

Paragraph Sixteen

Regional Vice-Presidents- Shall be responsible for encouraging membership and club affiliation in the Society within the region in which he/she resides. Regional Vice Presidents are responsible to the First Vice-President and will serve as part of the Education Committee. Regional Vice Presidents are encouraged to attend the Regional Show of their area and hold at least one membership meeting annually within their region. They will assist the Legislative Liaison by keeping abreast of legislative activity within their region that could affect NFSS and its members, and report any activity. Regional Vice Presidents must report quarterly to the Board of Directors, what activities they have taken part in, or sponsored on behalf of NFSS.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Paragraph Seventeen

NFSS JOURNAL Editor (responsible to the Second Vice-President and the President)-. He/she is responsible for all activities related to the production of the NFSS JOURNAL and its timely delivery to NFSS members. These include procuring articles and photographs, maintaining communication with all NFSS Board members to

insure accuracy of NFSS information and forms to be included in each issue, create/edit each NFSS JOURNAL issue, deliver it to the printer in a timely manner and approve payment of a printer invoice for each issue. Said officer shall provide to the Treasurer, Board approved documentation which supports the timely delivery of the Journal to the Printer".

Paragraph Eighteen

NFSS Web Site Manager (responsible to the Second Vice-President) - He/she is responsible for maintaining and updating the NFSS Web Site.

Paragraph Nineteen

Advertising and Promotions Manager (responsible to the 2nd Vice President)-Shall be responsible for seeking and collecting advertisements for the NFSS Journal and Web Site, and collecting payment for same. At the direction of the Board of Directors, he/she will place advertisements in major show and avicultural publications. The Advertising and Promotions Manager is responsible to the 2nd Vice President and will work with the NFSS Journal Editor. Said officer shall be responsible for the forwarding of funds and reports in a timely manner to the Treasurer. Said officer cooperates with Regional Vice-Presidents in the promotion of Regional shows.

Paragraph Twenty

Forum Moderator (responsible to the President) - Shall be responsible for writing and distributing list rules and enforcing a civil forum through moderation. Works with the Membership Director to coordinate subscription to the forum and is responsible for the unsubscription of members who continually prevent a civil forum from taking place.

Paragraph Twenty-one

Legislative Liaison (responsible to the President)-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.

Paragraph Twenty-two

American Federation of Aviculture Representative (responsible to the President) shall be responsible for keeping the NFSS membership informed as to activities of the AFA through the NFSS JOURNAL and electronic media.

Paragraph Twenty-three

Parliamentarian: The Parliamentarian shall be charged with interpreting the by-laws of the Society. She/he may select a committee of not more than three members to assist in resolving questions initiated by the Board of Directors. The committee's determinations will be binding. In cases where submitted issues are determined not to be covered by the NFSS by-laws, the committee will use the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, in determining questions.

Paragraph Twenty-four

The Board of Directors, may, by a majority vote, create a non-voting Board position to recognize a member's outstanding contribution to the Society.

ARTICLE 6: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paragraph One

The Board of Directors shall consist of all elected and appointed officers of the Society.

Paragraph Two

The Board of Directors has the sole authority to conduct the business of the Society. The regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held either in person, by mail, or electronically via email online, on a quarterly basis as designated by the Board of Directors. The quarters shall be Calendar quarters beginning with the January-March quarter. The 4th Quarter Board Meeting may be started prior to the annual membership meeting and completed during the normally scheduled online meeting. The Board of Directors may not occasion a meeting without first sending a notice to all board members. Such a notice must be sent by mail or email at least ten days prior to said meeting.

Paragraph Three

Quorum: If 50% of the Board is in attendance, a director's vote received by mail or email prior to the closing of the vote, shall be valid. If 50% of the Board members are not in attendance, business may be discussed but official actions may not take place. The agenda for Board meetings will be presented to the Board by the President or other designee, ten days prior to the beginning of the meeting. Additional items may be submitted to the Secretary by any Board member before the start of the meeting. The Secretary will provide the final agenda at the start of the meeting. A Board member may add an urgent item to the agenda during the meeting at the pleasure of the President.

Paragraph Four

4.0 Board meetings will be conducted in accordance with the bylaws. Meetings will be online and attendance is required by all elected officers. Elected Board members that are unexcused from missing a meeting may be removed in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws. All Board members should make themselves available during meetings to offer comments.

4.1 An agenda will be offered; items will come up for a short period of discussion, after which motions and seconds will be entertained. During this time elected officers should monitor daily postings to the Board's Forum. If a motion is seconded, a vote will be called for. This will continue until all items on the agenda are presented or tabled for a future meeting.

4.2 Should there be electronic failures that prevent a Board member from voting, his/her vote may be accepted by email by the Secretary.

Paragraph Five

Emergency Board Meetings: These may take place after a twenty-four hour email notice to all Board members, when four elected members of the Board and the President or next officer in line of ascension deem it necessary. A quorum of 50% of the elected Board is required to hold an Emergency Board meeting. During an emergency meeting of the Board, no action may be taken on the removal of an officer or on an amendment to these bylaws.

Paragraph Six

Any officer of the Society found by the Board to be injurious to the Society, as defined in, but not limited to, the Membership Article 4 Paragraph 5, may be removed from office by a two thirds vote of all directors. A written complaint against said officer must be signed by at least two Board members and must be received by the President by certified mail only in order to be considered by the whole Board.

Paragraph Seven

The Board of Directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the corporation. No part of the income or assets of this corporation shall be used to the benefit of any private individual or member, unless specifically authorized by provisions of the by-laws, or by vote of the Board of Directors. Any monies authorized will be for the sole purpose of conducting NFSS business. This Society shall have no capital stock, its object and purpose being solely of a benevolent character, and not for individual pecuniary gain or profit to its members.

Paragraph Eight

The President or Board of Directors may ask for or accept volunteers to fill positions for the completion of work needed by the Society. Volunteers that hold positions that are not elected or listed as department heads in the By-laws will not be required to be on the Board of Directors and may not have to take part in Board meetings.

ARTICLE 7: COMMITTEES

Paragraph One

The President or Board of Directors may form a committee for the purpose of carrying out the goals and administration of the Society. Standing Committees may include, but are not limited to the following: Show Committee, Publishing Committee, Research Committee, Judge's Panel, Standards Committee, Education Committee and Finch Save Committee. Committees may be established or disbanded as needed.

Paragraph Two

Show Committee: The Show Committee, chaired by the Fourth Vice-President, shall be responsible for all activities required to achieve the Society's participation in National level exhibitions.

Paragraph Three

Publishing Committee: The Publishing Committee, chaired by the Second Vice-President, shall assist in the responsibility for the Society Web site, all publications and printed materials of this Society. The committee shall include but is not limited to the Second Vice President, the Journal editor, the Advertising Director and the Web site Manager.

Paragraph Four

Research Committee: Shall conduct research on a given subject at the pleasure of the Board of Directors, and will assist members of the Society with matters of avicultural interest.

Paragraph Five

Education Committee: This committee will assist its chairman, the First Vice-President, in developing educational programs for the members of this Society. The membership of this Committee shall include the Regional Vice Presidents.

Paragraph Six

Standards Committees: The Standards Committees shall work with the Judges Panel and other interested parties in an ongoing effort to establish Standards of Perfection for individual species.

Paragraph Seven

7.0 Judges Panel: Shall consist of all approved judges in accordance with the standards set forth by the Society. The procedure for nominating a judge for the Judges Panel shall consist of a written application by the potential judge, who is a current member of the Society. Nomination to the Judges Panel may not take place until the potential judge has completed testing and apprenticeship under the formula as then required by the

Board of Directors of the Society. Said apprentice must be nominated by at least two of the judges that the apprentice, apprenticed under.

7.1 Final approval of a new judge shall be by the Board of Directors. This will consist of a majority vote of the Board after verification from the Judges Panel Chair that the requirements have been completed. All associated paperwork, including the test will be retained by the Judges Panel Chair. If the Board deems necessary, it may review copies of all paperwork in the apprentice process, excluding the test taken. 7.2 A Panel judge may be either sanctioned or removed from the Judges Panel as recommended by the director of the Judges Panel and approved by the majority of the Board in accord with the most current NFSS Judges Handbook procedures. NFSS judges may not judge a show if they are not in current with their membership and judging fees.

Paragraph Eight

FINCHSAVE Committee: The FINCHSAVE Committee shall assist the Director of the program. It shall consist of Society members designated by the Director. This Committee shall help develop and preserve policy in regard to this nationwide multi-species captive breeding program. The Committee may request funds for the administration of the FINCHSAVE program only. All funds used for the program must be authorized by the Board of Directors. All data, statistics, and information collected for this program will remain the sole property of the Society.

ARTICLE 8 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Paragraph One

The Society shall have an annual membership meeting held in conjunction with the National Show of the Society.

Paragraph Two

There is no Board of Directors meeting during the general membership meeting. Therefore no motions may be made and no votes taken as no official business is conducted.

Paragraph Three

The annual membership meeting of the Society shall consist of, but is not limited to, a State of the Society report given by the President or his/her representative, the Treasurer or appointed representative will report on our year to date financial condition and possible suggestions for the future budget year, awards presentation, announcement of election results, if applicable and a longer more casual discussion period when members may make their views known to the Board of Directors.

Paragraph Four

Regional meetings may be held at the direction of the Regional Vice-Presidents. Official business is not conducted at regional meetings. These meetings are for the general membership of the Society and are primarily to discuss ideas which may be presented to the Board of Directors at a later time. These meetings may also sponsor educational programs for the membership.

ARTICLE 9 DISSOLUTION

Paragraph One

Should it become necessary to dissolve the Society all properties of the Society shall be sold or auctioned off, as determined by the Board of Directors. After all debts of the Society have been fully paid, the remaining monies of the Society shall be given to a non-profit avicultural organization as determined by the Board of Directors.

Paragraph Two

No part of the net earnings or the Treasury of the Society shall accrue to the benefit of or be distributed to members, officers, or other private persons upon dissolution.

ARTICLE 10 AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Paragraph One

Proposed amendments to the bylaws must be sponsored by at least two members of the Society and received by the President by certified mail only. Any properly submitted by-law change that is considered by a vote of the majority of the Board members to not be in the best interest of the Society as a whole may be denied consideration.

Paragraph Two

Proposed amendments to the bylaws must be published in Journal of the Society at least 30 days prior to the vote. Any amendment to the bylaws of this Society must be approved by two-thirds of those responding. Any such ballot will be counted by at least two members of the Society and one witness as pre-approved by the Board of Directors, or an accounting firm selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 11: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

All matters of the Society will be conducted in accordance with the by-laws or Robert's rules of order as described in Article 5, paragraph 24.

Introduction to the NFSS Official Standards

By Stephen Hoppin
NFSS Judges Panel Director,
Fourth Vice President 1998-2001

Specific standards have been established by NFSS for species of finches and softbills to provide objective judging at bird shows and to assist the aviculturist in achieving excellence in breeding programs. NFSS standards are a consensus of opinions of judges on how the ideal bird of a specific species should look. They provide a written measure of quality to which a comparison is made. Each standard reviews conformation, color and markings, condition, deportment, and presentation specific for that particular avian species. NFSS is pleased to inform you Official Standards have been written and adopted for the following birds:

Society (Bengalese) - *Lonchura striata*, domesticated form, adopted February 1995, revised 2006.

Shafttail - *Peophila acuticauda*, adopted December 1987.

Cherry Finch - *Aidemosyne modesta*, adopted November 1993.

Cordon Bleu - *Uroeginthus bengalus*, adopted March 1986.

Diamond Sparrow - *Steganopleura guttata*, *Emblema guttata*, adopted November 1990.

Pekin Robin - *Leiothrix lutea*, adopted February 1995.

Java Rice Bird - *Padda oryzivora*, adopted June 1988.

Lavendar Finch - *Estrilda coerulescens*, adopted November 1990.

Gouldian Finch - *Chloebia gouldiae*, adopted March 1986, revised 2014.

Green Singing Finch - *Serinus mozambicus*, adopted June 1986.

Fire Finch - *Lagonosticta senegala*, adopted November 1992.

Zebra Finch - *Poephilaguttata*, adopted June 1998, revised 2016.

Star Finch - *Neochmia ruficauda*, adopted May 2003.

Cuban Melodious - *Tiariscanora*, adopted May 2013

Orange Cheeked Waxbill - *Extrilda melpod*, adopted May 2013

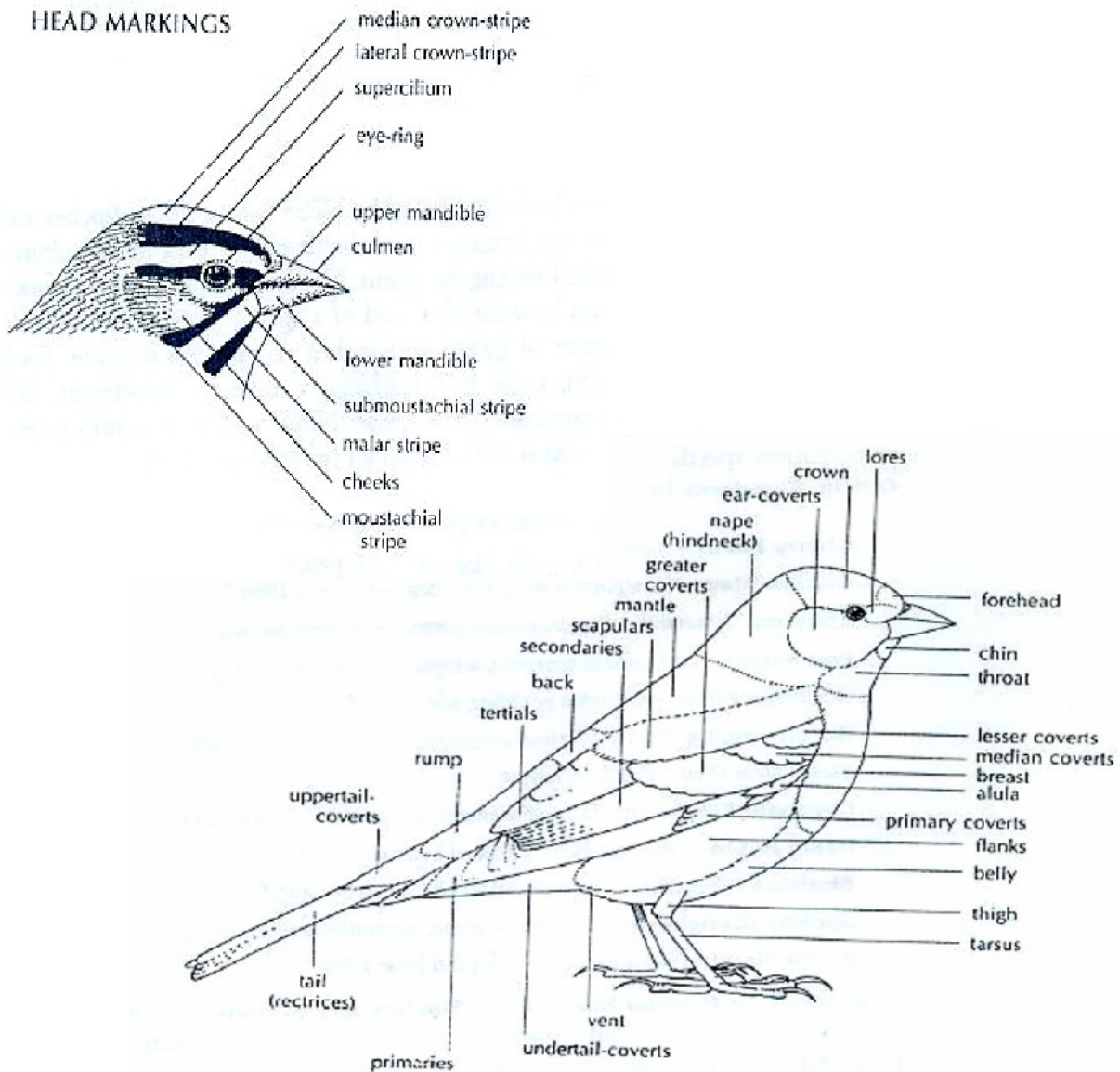
Pairs- Standard was developed by the NFSS Judges Panel and adopted by NFSS in October 2001.

In addition, the **General Standard for Finches and Softbills** provides an excellent and in-depth discussion of conformation, condition, color and markings, deportment, and presentation as they apply to the many other varieties of finches and softbills which we are privileged to enjoy in aviculture.

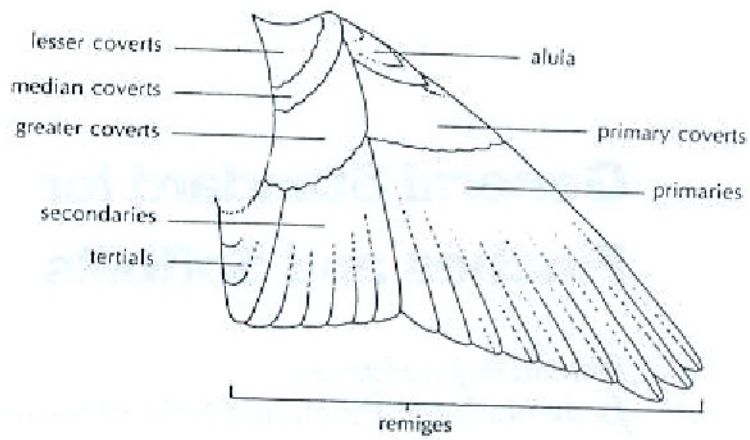
Bird Topography

Presented by Peter Clement, Alan Harris and John Davis in
FINCHES & SPARROWS: An Identification Guide
 Princeton University Press, Princeton; New Jersey, 1993
 ISBN: 0691034249

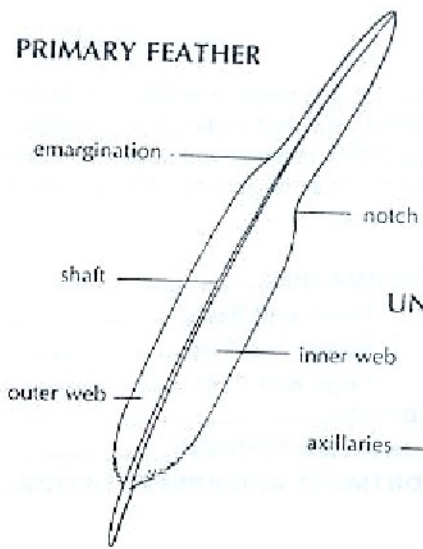
Bird Topography



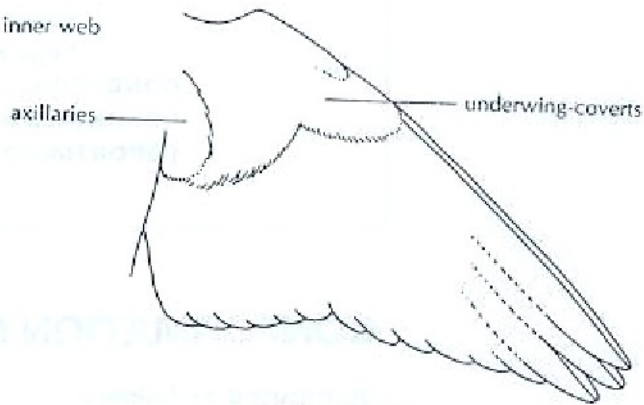
UPPERWING



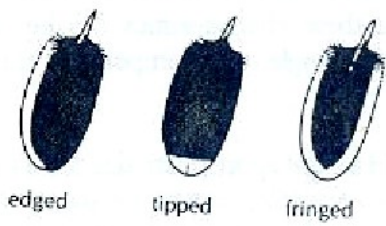
PRIMARY FEATHER



UNDERWING



FEATHER PATTERNS



FEATHER ABRASION



General Standard for Finches and Softbills

Proposed by Jon Hoffman

For the National Finch and Softbill Society June 1992

Approved September 2005

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	30 Points
Wings and Tail	10 Points
Legs and Feet	10 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	15 POINTS
DEPARTMENT AND PRESENTATION	15 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 30 points.

Conformation includes many inherited characteristics such as size, proportion and substance. Because these characteristics can be vital in a captive-breeding program, conformation is the single most important consideration in judging finches and softbills.

A show bird should be the appropriate size for its kind. Bigger is not necessarily better. Many waxbills for example, should be dainty and diminutive in appearance. Size should be within normal parameters for the species or sub-species, not undersized or oversized.

All finches and softbills need good substance, the relationship of a bird's musculature and bulk to its bone structure and overall length. Proportion and overall balance are of prime importance, the look of the whole bird outweighing the sum of the individual characteristics. All proportions should be appropriate to the species or sub-species.

The head must be in proportion to the body, of the appropriate shape and contour. Eyes should also be of the correct size and shape, placed in proper relationship to the overall shape of the head. The beak should be in the proper proportion to the head as well, and there must be no imperfection or deformity.

Wings and Tail: 10 points.

Wing carriage must be given appropriate weight, as it largely determines the nature of the back line. Most finches and softbills should carry their wings tightly against the body; the wings will lie flat along the back. Some of the more robustly-built birds, like barbets, hold the wings close to, but not directly against, the body, causing the wings to lie slightly above the line of the back, rump and tail. The back should be full and smooth, with no lumpiness or hunched look. The line of the back should run in a straight line or gentle curve down to the rump and tail.

The wings in repose will not normally cross at the tips except momentarily. Wings should lie neatly together and there should be no drooping or holding of the wings unnaturally away from the body, except in the display

behavior. In most species, the tail will continue the line of the back. In any case, the tail should be held at the correct angle. The tail should also be of appropriate length, width and shape, as well as being in proper proportion to the overall balance of the bird.

In most species, the tail will continue the line of the back. In any case, the tail should be held at the correct angle. The tail should also be of appropriate length, width and shape, as well as being in proper proportion to the overall balance of the bird.

Legs and Feet: 10 Points

Feet and legs should be strong and clean, with no growths or abnormalities. Legs of most birds will be parallel or will extend out from the body at a slight angle. All toes and toenails should be present and nails should be of the proper length. A missing nail is counted as a minor fault, as it will not ordinarily impair normal breeding. A missing toe is more serious and will rate a heavier deduction.

CONDITION: (20 POINTS)

Condition includes the general health and grooming of the bird, and it is of invaluable importance to the enhancement of a bird's appearance. The condition and texture of the feathers is of prime importance. All feathers should be present and undamaged. Any sign of trimming of tail or wing feathers for evenness will be penalized. While visible pin-feathers are undesirable, this will not ordinarily be faulted as heavily as will missing or damaged feathers. The feathers of the head and body should lie smoothly in most species; feathers should be clean and free of all foreign matter, "lumps", fraying or any roughness not normal to the species or sub-species.

Some birds (most waxbills, Gouldian, parson finch, etc.) normally keep their own plumage in good condition, and such birds will be judged very rigorously on condition. Other birds such as European goldfinches, parrot finches, and owl finches are rarely seen in perfect condition on the show bench and will be especially impressive if they appear in excellent plumage. Birds with a high degree of difficulty that have achieved the highest degree of perfection may take precedence over similar birds with a lesser degree of difficulty when all other attributes are considered equal.

Due consideration is to be given to the different feather textures normal to different species or sub-species. Coarse-feathered birds (barbets, etc.) or normally loose-feathered birds (goldfinches, etc.) are not expected to have the tight flat-lying feathers one sees in green singing finches and fire finches. The nuptial plumage of certain weavers is of a crushed-velvet texture, and there are other configurations and textures in the feathers of other birds. Each should be judged according to the type of feathers desirable in its species or sub-species. Nor should the erecting or ruffling of feathers in display be mistaken for poor condition.

Eyes should be bright and clear, without any discharge or abnormality. The beak must be clean, with no excessive scaling. Hairline cracks in the beak are counted as minor faults.

Legs and feet must be neat and clean. Nails and beaks must be of proper length and shape. The bird's overall impression should indicate excellent health and care.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

Color is given special significance in judging finches and softbills, as color is a kind of hallmark among many species.

While color expectations will vary considerably - depending on the species, sub-species or mutation - judges will look for (a) color appropriate to the species, sub-species or mutation; (b) depth and evenness of color, (c) evenness of color suffusions or gradations; (d) color unsullied by inappropriate suffusions, "tarnish", blotching or markings.

In pied mutations, a high degree of pied markings is most desirable. A bird where markings are symmetrically pleasing will take precedence over a bird of unequal markings when the percentage of pied markings to ground color is equal. In sexually dimorphic birds, pied markings should not completely obscure the color patterns that distinguish gender.

No preference is given to male or female color patterns in sexually dimorphic birds, nor - in birds which have light or dark factors - to one color factor over another. No bird is penalized for being what it is. But all other attributes being equal, a bird in full color, or nuptial plumage, will take precedence over a bird that is in eclipse plumage.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Deportment: 10 points.

This refers to the bird's stance and behavior on the show bench. Good deportment causes a bird to stand at the proper angle, grip the perch firmly, avoid "hunching" over, and to hold its head and tail in proper relationship to the body. Stance should be erect and confident.

The bird should seem comfortable in the show cage. Behavior should be appropriate to the bird's kind. The bird should perch, without attempting to hide, flee or cling to the bars of the cage, unless its natural behavior is to do so (i.e. the Mousebirds). The bird should show itself to advantage, projecting an air of alert confidence and behavior normal to its kind.

Presentation: 5 points.

Presentation refers to the show cage and the overall "finish" of the entry. NFSS does not require the use of a standard show cage, but it is highly recommended. The cage should be of a size and shape that allows and encourages the bird to perch and display. The construction must admit enough light to permit a thorough evaluation of the bird, and the judge should be able to view the bird from above, as well as in profile.

Perches should be fastened firmly, and they must be of a thickness appropriate for the bird's feet. In cages with more than one perch, placement should permit easy and natural movement from one perch to the other. Placement of perches must also permit the bird to stand erect without any rubbing of head or feathers against the cage walls or wires.

The cage should be large enough to permit some natural movement but small enough to provide the bird with a sense of security. The cage will, ideally, allow the judge to focus attention on the bird, with no distractions. Box cages should be painted black on the outside and white, off-white or powder blue on the interior.

No swings, toys, ornaments or other distinguishing marks will be permitted. The use of ornately constructed cages is to be discouraged. Cages with flat tops are preferred. The cage floor may be covered with seed, plain white or brown paper, ground corncob litter, pellets or other substrate appropriate to the bird.

All entries must be provided with appropriate food and water. Failure to do so, or the use of any cage that poses a danger to the bird, will be grounds for disqualification. Showing any bird in an inhumane manner will result in mandatory disqualification of the entry.

The Official Society (Bengalese) Finch Standard

Lonchura striata, domesticated form

Approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society 2007

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	25 Points
Wings and Tail	10 Points
Legs and Feet	15 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	20 POINTS
DEPARTMENT AND PRESENTATION	10 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 25 points.

The ideal Society Finch will have a combined beak, head, body, and tail length of between 4 1/4 and 4 1/2 inches. The body appears trim and slightly muscular, with its broadest point about the chest and shoulders. From the chin, the lower body line flows outward to its deepest point at the chest, continuing smoothly through the abdomen, with only slight roundness, tapering slightly to the legs. Behind the legs to the tail, the body tapers to the vent. The line of the back runs smoothly and slightly rounded from the base of the neck to the tail. The back is slightly rounded from shoulder to shoulder, and the sides of the body are slightly rounded from the shoulders through the vent.

In typical mannikin fashion, the forehead flows directly from the line of the upper mandibles with no rise. The head has a slightly rounded crown, flowing smoothly to the neck. Eyes are set forward of the center of the head, with the bottom of the eye even with the line where the mandibles meet. The neck is, from all views, broader than the head, increasing in width as it approaches the shoulders. There is little or no dip in the backline of the neck. The Society Finch should sit on the perch at an angle of 35 degrees from the horizontal; it is natural for the Society Finch to frequently assume a more upright position of up to 45 degrees from the horizontal. The legs must be equal and parallel. Missing toes or nails are faulted. Nails are of suitable length to assure proper grip.

Wings: 10 points.

The wings are carried evenly and set close to the body. The wings blend smoothly into the back with the wing tips meeting at the root of the tail. Crossed or drooping wings are faulted.

Tail: 15 points.

The tail approaches 2 inches in length. It smoothly follows the top and bottom lines off the body with the upper and under coverts. The flight feathers of the tail are neat and gradually taper and the central feathers form a neat and obvious "V" up. It should not droop or rise from the back line.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

A healthy well-conditioned Society Finch appears clean, alert, and tight-feathered. The eyes are clear and bright. Feathers are not ragged, frayed, or broken. The legs and feet are clean and freed of scaling. The upper

and lower mandibles must be smooth, clean, and free of imperfections, with the sides of the mandibles curving inward slightly where they meet.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (20 POINTS)

The color and markings should be as described in the following color varieties.

VARIEGATED SERIES

Mottled Pied:

Any plumage color as defined in the self colors (except for the following: dilutes, clearwings, inos, pearls), with this change: bird to have white patches of plumage, pink patches on the legs and feet, and horn colored patches on the mandible, judged for symmetry and extent. Should have more than 30% variegation, but should not be overly variegated (not to approach saddleback coloration). While ideally displaying as much white as possible, it must maintain at least a thin "collar" mark of colored plumage on the chest. Bird faulted for excessive white, approaching saddleback markings, or for too little variegation.

Saddleback (Marked-White) Pied:

Any plumage color as defined in the self colors (except for the following: dilutes, clearwings, inos, pearls), with this change: bird to have white patches of plumage, and horn colored patches on the mandible, judged for symmetry and extent; also, the legs and feet are to be pink and matched in color. Should have more than 60% variegation. No colored plumage allowed on frontal area. Color should only remain on the upper shoulders, cap, and rump/upper tail coverts. All markings are to be separated by areas of uncolored (pied) plumage, being penalized for any running together of the above listed markings. It is accepted for saddleback to lack any of the above listed markings, but must not show ticking in said area. No fault for markings around the eyes, such as an eye line or eye ring.

Dark-Eyed White:

The white should be solid white: no colored feathers permissible. The legs must be pink and matched in color. The beak, both upper and lower mandibles, should be horn and even in color with a slight pinkish tinge.

AMERICAN COLOR SERIES

Chocolate Self:

The chocolate should be the color of deep plain chocolate. Must show the chocolate on the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast. The tail, the wings, and the facial area may be of darker shade, while the cheeks and upper back/shoulder areas are to be slightly lighter golden chocolate. The lower half of the breast and belly are to be a light beige/chocolate, showing little to no chocolate flecking, and faulted if showing a sharp scale-like pattern associated with the European Color Series. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. The legs must be dark and matched in color. The upper mandible should be dark, as the body color, and the lower mandible should be steel gray.

Fawn Self:

The fawn self should be a creamy cinnamon-brown, similar to the red/orange tones of the cheek patch of a Normal Zebra Finch. Must show the fawn coloration on the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast. The color should remain even on all these areas, not lightening at any point. The lower half of the breast and belly are to be light beige/fawn, showing little to no fawn flecking, and faulted if showing a sharp scale-like pattern associated with the European Color Series. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. The legs must be pink and

matched in color. The beak, both upper and lower mandibles, should be light and even in color with a slight pinkish tinge.

Chestnut Self:

The chestnut self should be a warm reddish brown. It shall not be so red as to approach fawn coloration, nor be as dark as to approach chocolate coloration. Must show the chestnut on the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast. The color should remain even on all of these areas, not darkening at any point. The lower half of the breast, with the belly, is to be light beige/chestnut, showing little to no chestnut flecking, and faulted if showing a sharp scale-like pattern associated with the European Color Series. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. The legs must be dark and matched in color. The upper mandible should be dark and the lower mandible steel gray (as in the chocolate society).

Dilute:

The feather color should be a less intense shade of its self color form: chocolate, fawn, or chestnut. This color should not appear in variegated birds. Should not appear too close to original color (barely lightened), nor become colorless (over-diluted). Ideally dilution should approach 50%. It should be understood that the lighter the color (i.e. fawn), the more easily it is diluted, while darker colors are more difficult to dilute.

EUROPEAN COLOR SERIES

Euro Chocolate (Black / Brown Self):

The Black/Brown should be a deep black brown, a darker color being more desirable. This deep black color shall extend evenly over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast; a slight lightening of color, to a deep brown coloration, is permissible on the upper shoulder/back area. The lower half of the breast and belly shall be white with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be black. A tendency toward a dirty white color on the belly shall be faulted. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle of the Black/Brown the shaft of the feathers shall be colorless, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be gray to black with black nails. The upper mandible should be black and the lower mandible should be light gray. The eyes should be dark brown.

Euro Chocolate Gray (Black / Gray Self):

The Black/Gray should be a deep black-gray. This black-gray color shall extend evenly over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast; the near black shade shall appear over most of this area, with a grayer shade appearing over the upper shoulders. The lower half of the breast and belly shall be stark white with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be black/gray. A tendency toward a dirty white color on the belly shall be faulted. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle of the Black/Gray the shaft of the feathers shall be colorless, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be gray to black with black nails. The upper mandible should be black and the lower mandible should be light gray. The eyes should be dark brown.

Euro Chestnut (Mocha / Brown Self):

The Mocha/Brown should be an even coffee brown with a gray haze. It shall not be so dark as to approach Black/Brown coloration, nor shall it be so red as to approach Red/Brown coloration. This coffee brown with gray haze shall extend evenly over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast. The lower breast and belly shall be a light cream color with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be coffee brown with a gray haze. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be

slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle, which is the same even coffee brown as the wings, the shaft of the feathers shall be near colorless, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be dark gray with dark gray nails. The upper mandible should be dark brown and the lower mandible should be light gray. The eyes should be dark brown.

Euro Chestnut Gray (Mocha / Gray Self):

The Mocha/Gray should be an even, charcoal gray. It shall not be so dark as to approach Black/Gray coloration, nor shall it be so light as to approach Red/Gray coloration. This charcoal gray shall extend evenly over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast.

Standard

The lower breast and belly shall be near white with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be beige gray. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle, which is the same even charcoal gray as the wings, the shaft of the feathers shall be colorless, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be dark gray with dark gray nails. The upper mandible should be dark brown and the lower mandible should be light gray. The eyes should be dark brown.

Euro Chestnut Dilute (Mocha / Brown Dilute Self):

The dilute Mocha/Brown should be a uniform light coffee brown with a gray haze in color. Ideally the color should approach 50% dilution from normal (Mocha/Brown) coloration, neither too light nor too dark. This light coffee brown with a gray haze shall extend evenly over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast. The lower breast and belly shall be near white with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be gray. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle, which is the same light coffee brown with a gray haze as the wings, the shaft of the feathers shall be colorless, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be gray with gray nails. The upper mandible should be dark brown and the lower mandible should be light gray. The eyes should be dark brown.

Euro Chestnut Gray Dilute (Mocha / Gray Dilute):

The Mocha/Gray dilute should be a uniform light gray. Ideally the color should approach 50% dilution from normal (Mocha/Gray) coloration, neither too light nor too dark. This color shall not be so light as to approach the silver tones of a Red/Brown dilute gray, but shall maintain the slightly deeper charcoal-gray tones. The light gray shall extend evenly over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast; the color shall remain even over this entire area. The lower breast and belly shall be almost white with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be light gray. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle, which is the same even light gray as the wings, the shaft of the feathers shall be colorless, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be gray with gray nails. The upper mandible should be gray and the lower mandible should be light gray. The eyes should be dark brown.

Euro Chestnut Clearwing (Mocha / Brown Clearwing Self):

The Mocha/Brown clearwing should be a uniform coffee brown with a gray tint on the forehead, top of the head, back of the head, cheeks, and throat and halfway down the breast. The Mocha/Brown clearwing is a bit lighter in color overall than the Mocha/Brown, though ideally these listed areas should aim to match the original Mocha/Brown color. The greater, median, and lesser wing coverts, the flight feathers and upper feathers of the nape are white with a light gray haze; this shall be uniform, and ideally be nearly white. The lower breast and belly shall be very light cream, ideally near white, with no markings. The legs should be gray

with gray nails. The upper mandible should be dark brown and the lower mandible should be light gray. The eyes should be dark brown.

Euro Chestnut Gray Clearwing (Mocha / Gray Clearwing Self):

The Mocha/Gray clearwing should be a uniform gray on the forehead, top of the head, back of the head, cheeks, and throat and halfway down the breast. The Mocha/Gray clearwing is a bit lighter in color overall than the Mocha/Gray, though ideally these listed areas should aim to match the original Mocha/Gray color. The greater, median, and lesser wing coverts, the flight feathers and upper feathers of the nape are white with a light gray haze; this shall be uniform, and ideally approaches white. The lower breast and belly shall be near white with no markings. The legs should be gray with gray nails. The upper mandible should be dark gray and the lower mandible should be light gray. The eyes should be dark brown.

Euro Fawn (Red / Brown Self):

The Red/Brown should be a uniform red brown. This color shall be as red as possible, and shall extend evenly over the head, wings, tail and halfway down the breast. The lower breast and belly shall be cream with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be red brown. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle, which is the same red brown as the wings, the shaft of the feathers shall be bright cream, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be flesh colored and the nails horn colored. The upper mandible should be beige and the lower mandible should be light beige. The eyes should be brown.

Euro Fawn Gray (Red / Gray Self):

The Red/Gray should be uniform beige gray with a silvery tone. This color shall extend over the head, wings, tail and halfway down the breast. The lower breast and belly shall be nearly white with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be beige gray. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle, which is the same even beige gray as the wings, the shaft of the feathers shall be colorless, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be flesh colored and the nails horn colored. The upper mandible should be beige gray and the lower mandible should be light beige. The eyes should be dark brown.

Euro Fawn Dilute (Red / Brown Dilute Self):

The Red/Brown dilute should be a uniform light red brown. Ideally the color should approach 50% dilution from normal (Red/Brown) coloration, neither too light nor too dark. This light red brown shall extend evenly over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast. The lower breast and belly shall be light cream with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped Society/Bengalese markings that should be light red brown. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle, which is the same even red brown as the wings, the shaft of these feathers shall be light red brown, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be flesh colored and the nails horn colored. The upper mandible should be beige and the lower mandible a shade lighter. The eyes should be brown.

Euro Fawn Gray Dilute (Red / Gray Dilute Self):

The Red/Gray dilute should be uniform light beige gray. Ideally the color should approach a 50% dilution from normal (Red/Gray) coloration, neither too light nor too dark. This light beige gray color shall extend evenly over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast. The lower breast and belly shall be nearly white with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be light beige gray. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On

the mantle, which is the same even light beige gray as the wings, the shaft of these feathers shall be colorless, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs should be flesh colored and the nails horn colored. The upper mandible should be light beige gray and the lower mandible a shade lighter. The eyes should be brown.

Euro Fawn Clearwing (Red / Brown Clearwing):

The Red/Brown clearwing should be a uniform red brown with a gray tint on the forehead, top of the head, back of the head, cheeks, and throat and halfway down the breast. The Red/Brown clearwing is a bit lighter in color overall than the Red/Brown, though ideally these listed areas should aim to match the original Red/Brown color. The greater, median, and lesser wing coverts, the flight feathers and upper feathers of the nape are white with a light cream hue; this shall be uniform, and ideally should be near white. The lower breast and belly shall be near white with no markings. The legs should be flesh colored and the nails horn colored. The upper mandible should be beige and the lower mandible should be light beige. The eyes should be brown.

Euro Fawn Gray Clearwing (Red / Gray Clearwing):

The Red/Gray clearwing should be uniform beige gray on the forehead, top of the head, back of the head, cheeks, and throat and halfway down the breast. It shall be a more silvery tone than the charcoal-gray of the Mocha/Gray clearwing. The Red/Gray clearwing is a bit lighter in color overall than the Red/Gray, though ideally these listed areas should aim to match the original Red/Gray color. The greater, median, and lesser wing coverts, the flight feathers and upper feathers of the nape are white with a light beige tint; this shall be uniform, and ideally should be near white. The lower breast and belly shall be near white with no markings. The legs should be flesh colored and the nails horn colored. The upper mandible should be beige gray and the lower mandible should be light beige. The eyes should be dark brown.

Creamino ("Ino"):

The creamino is a uniform warm cream. This color shall not approach white, but shall maintain a visible depth of "cream" tone coloration. This color shall extend over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast. The breast and belly shall be near white sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be warm cream. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle, which is the same even warm cream as the wings, the shaft of these feathers shall be light cream, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs and nails should be horn colored. The upper mandible should be horn colored, with the lower mandible being a bit lighter. The eyes should be bright red.

Grayino:

The grayino is a uniform soft, pearly gray, not as deep as the Red/Gray coloration. This color shall not approach white, but shall maintain a visible depth of "gray" tone coloration. This color shall extend over the head, wings, tail, and halfway down the breast. The lower breast and belly shall closely approach white with sharp, fine, even, well-defined V-shaped markings that should be pearly gray. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. On the mantle, which is the same even pearly gray as the wings, the shaft of these feathers shall be near white, creating the image of fine, sharp, small stripes running parallel to the mid-line of the body. The legs and nails should be horn colored. The upper mandible should be horn colored, with the lower mandible being a bit lighter. The eyes should be bright red.

Albino:

The albino is solid bright white over all areas of plumage. The legs and nails are horn colored. The upper and lower mandibles are horn colored, with the lower mandible being a bit lighter. The eyes are bright red.

JAPANESE COLOR SERIES

Pearl:

The pearl is a uniform color equal or near that of the Euro Chestnut (Mocha/Brown,) that is, an even coffee brown with a slight gray haze, with darker tone being preferable over lighter tone. This color shall extend evenly over the body where not otherwise noted below. The wings and the top of the head should be pure silver gray to blue silver, ideally approaching the latter. On the neck and halfway down the breast there shall be a series of gray to silver spots. These spots should appear in rows and not coalesce into an ill-defined pattern. The contrast on the neck between the spots and the background color should be high, and the definition of the edges of the spots should be clear. This feature is among the primary points of judging pearl color. In the Japanese Pearl, the lower breast and belly shall be a light cream with little to no scaling, and faulted if showing a sharp scale-like pattern associated with the European Color Series. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. The legs should be dark gray with dark gray nails. The upper mandible should be dark brown and the lower mandible should be a silvery gray to light gray. The eyes should be dark brown. Pearl cocks will show a significant tendency toward higher contrast between the silver areas and the chestnut areas, whereas the hens will generally show a more muted affect.

Pearl Gray :

The pearl gray is a uniform color equal or near that of the Euro Chestnut Gray (Mocha/Gray), that is, an even charcoal gray, with darker tone being preferable over lighter tone. The wings and the top of the head should be pure silver gray to blue silver, ideally approaching the latter. On the neck and halfway down the breast there shall be a series of gray to silver spots. These spots should appear in rows and not coalesce into an ill-defined pattern. The contrast on the neck between the spots and the background color should be high, and the definition of the edges of the spots should be clear. In the Japanese Pearl Gray, the lower breast and belly shall be near white with little to no scaling, and faulted if showing a sharp scale-like pattern associated with the European Color Series. This belly coloration shall appear to carry over in a band across the rump, but shall be slightly lighter with less distinction in pattern. The legs should be dark gray with dark gray nails. The upper mandible should be dark brown and the lower mandible should be a silvery gray to light gray. The eyes should be dark brown. Pearl gray cocks will show a significant tendency toward higher contrast between the silver areas and the charcoal gray areas, whereas the hens will generally show a more muted affect.

FRILLED SERIES

Crested (Bonnet):

The crested shall have a large radiating crest, beginning from a single center point centered above the eyes. This neat rosette pattern shall not be interrupted by feathers in other directions, nor shall there be gaps in the crest. The crest feathers should be long and dense, rising slightly, then drooping forward over the top of the upper mandible, and covering the eyes at least slightly; it shall not be a simple two- dimensional ring. The crest should be as close to a single crest as possible, with stray feathers being faulted slightly, and any additional rosette formations (double crest) being more heavily faulted. The crested may come in any plumage color, as described for its specific color in the color standards.

Chest-Frilled (Chiyoda):

The chest-frilled shall have a part, at the level of the chest, which directs the normally downward growing feathers upward towards the neck. This shall create a frontal collar that should extend completely around the front of the bird. The chest frill feathers should be long and dense, and shall not radiate outward in a spiral pattern, but rather extend in a uniform upsweep. This shall form a well- defined, uniform line marking the junction of normal feathers and upswept feathers. This mutation is often correlated to truncated wings with

primaries of near equal length, and with a shorter tail. This is permissible, but ideally the bird will display normal primaries and a lengthy tail. In addition, this mutation tends to decrease the size of the bird and this should be taken into account in judging. The chest frilled may come in any plumage color, as described for its specific color in the color standards.

Neck-Frilled (Tachi-Eri):

The neck-frilled shall have a part, on the back of the neck, which directs the normally downward growing feathers of the head/neck area upwards towards the top of the head. This shall create a collar that shall extend a full one hundred and eighty degrees around the back of the neck, while not extending into the chest. The neck frill feathers should be long and dense, and shall form a clean part, without creating any kind of spiral pattern. The neck frilled may come in any plumage color, as described for its specific color in the color standards.

Neck-Frilled / Crested (Chuunagon or Tachi-EriBonten):

This variety is the combination of traits as described for the neck-frilled and the crested varieties, though it may be present in two indistinguishable genetic forms (chuunagon mutation or tachi-eri + bonten combination). The neck-frilled/crested may come in any plumage color, as described for its specific color in the color standards.

Chest-Frilled / Crested (Chiyoda Bonten):

This variety is the combination of traits as described for the chest-frilled and the crested varieties. Note that the decreased size of the body is a common factor in this combination, as carried over by the chest-frilled gene. The chest-frilled/crested may come in any plumage color, as described for its specific color in the color standards.

Neck-frilled / Chest-Frilled (Wa-Chiyoda [Tachi-eri/Chiyoda]):

This variety is the combination of traits as described for the neck-frilled and chest-frilled varieties. Note that the decreased size of the body is a common factor in this combination, as carried over by the chest-frilled gene. The neck-frilled/chest-frilled may come in any plumage color, as described for its specific color in the color standards.

Crested / Neck-frilled / Chest-frilled (Dainagon):

This variety is the combination of the traits as described for the crested, neck-frilled, and chest-frilled varieties. Note that the decreased size of the body is a common factor in this combination, as carried over by the chest-frilled gene. The crested/neck-frilled/chest-frill may come in any plumage color, as described for its specific color in the color standards.

DEPARTMENT AND PRESENTATION (10 POINTS)

Department:

The Society Finch stands confidently on the perch. It is quite calm and steady on the perch. The Society Finch does not "swim" or "roost" on the perch; the judge easily moves the bird with the use of a judging stick. Overly nervous or flighty birds are faulted.

Presentation:

A #2 National Finch and Softbill Society standard show cage or any other box type show cage of appropriate size is recommended. The cage is clean and in good repair. There are no distinguishing or identifying marks on the show cage. The perches are securely fastened and of the proper thickness for the bird's feet.

The Official Shafttail Finch Standard

For the National Finch and Softbill Society December 1987

Peophila acuticauda

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	25 Points
Wings and Tail	10 Points
Legs and Feet	15 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	20 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION	10 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 25 points.

The ideal Shafttail finch will have combined beak, head, and body length of 3-3/4" not including the tail. The body should appear trim and muscular, with its broadest point about the chest and shoulders. The chest should have a smooth curve. The body should only taper slightly in width and less in depth to the point where the legs appear from the feathering. Behind the legs to the tail, the body will taper more sharply but will still appear full. A small portion of the thigh will show below the body and should be of some substance. The line of the back will run straight and smooth from the base of the neck to the tail. It should be slightly rounded from shoulder to shoulder and continue that decreasing contour to the tail.

The upper and lower mandible must be smooth, clean, and meet evenly and be free of imperfections. The head should, from all views, be slightly broader than the head, and should increase slightly in width as it approaches the shoulders. The neck and head, less beak, should be equal in length.

The legs must be equal, parallel, clean, and free from scaling. Missing toes or nails shall be faulted. Nails should be of suitable length.

Wings: 10 points

The wings must be neat and compact and carried very close to the body. The tips should just meet and be centered over the upper tail coverts with no crossing or drooping. All flight feathers and coverts must be present, clean, and smooth

Tail: 15 points

The tail should approach 4 inches in length. It should smoothly follow the top and bottom lines of the body with the upper and under coverts. The flight feathers of the tail should be sleek and tapered, and the two central shaft feathers should be predominant, finely tapered and neat, with a slight upward curve, and they must remain parallel to each other.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

The shafttail finch is naturally fastidious, and exhibited specimens must feathers, skin and beak must be clean, smooth and lustrous. Contour feathers on the body should be so smooth that they are not perceived as individual feathers. Eyes should be bright and the bird should appear vital, agile, and alert. be immaculate in every way. All

COLOR AND MARKINGS (20 POINTS)

Normal:

Normal cocks and hens alike, but cock's "bib" may be broader at the base. Top and sides of the head and face to nape, delicate pale silver gray slightly lighter on cheeks with sharply delineated black lores. "Bib" on the throat very black with smooth rounded edges. These feathers may be erected and extended forward separate from other body feathers when the bird is displaying. Back beige and can appear somewhat pinkish. Chest a slightly more pale shade of the body color and the belly even lighter, nearly white around the vent. Wing flight feathers slightly darker and more brownish. Upper - and undertailcoverts are white.

A broad black band crosses the rump in front of the upper coverts and extends down each side tapering very slightly as it descends, ending before going under the body. Tail black. Beak, legs and feet may shade from yellowish-horn to orange to red. The subspecies *P. a. heckii* (Heck's Shafttail finch) has the reddest color on the beak, etc., while the color mutations and crosses between subspecies will show the yellowish and orange shades. On any individual, however the color must be even and consistent. The red-beaked birds may show a more rosy beige body tone, particularly males, who may also have a darker grey cap.

Fawn:

Light pinkish beige body with no gray overtones and lighter clear beige shades on cheeks, chest and belly. Lores, bib, rump band and tail "milk chocolate" brown. Less color difference on the flight feathers on fawns, and normals. Feet, legs, and beak in the same range from yellowish horn to red.

White:

It is most desirable that all body feathers should appear very dilute. Bird's body color should be as nearly white as possible, with markings comparatively dilute and uniform on each specimen. Beak, legs and feet should be red.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (10 POINTS)

Stance:

The Shafttail finch should stand well up on his legs, and should not "swim" or "roost" on the perch. It will not be faulted for occasionally assuming the head-down, rump-up position as this behavior is natural for this species when exhibition curiosity. When in a heads-up position the angle of the body from crown to rump shall be 45 degrees.

Demeanor:

The Shafttail finch should be bold and steady, willing to stand still and look at the judge. It should not be lethargic but animated without being agitated. It should show curiosity and inquisitiveness and should not seem fearful or nervous. It should move from perch to perch in a controlled manner.

Presentation:

A National Finch and Softbill Society Standard show cage size #2 is recommended.

The Official Cherry Finch Standard

For the National Finch and Softbill Society November 1993

Aidemosyne modesta

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	25 Points
Wings	15 Points
Tail	10 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	15 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION	15 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 25 points.

The Cherry Finch should measure 4-4.5 inches from the tip of beak to end of tail. The head should be nicely rounded. The line from the beak over the crown, nape, back, rump, and tail should be smooth without any breaks. The body and chest of the bird should be nicely rounded but not bulging or squared off. The line from the lower mandible, over the chin, throat chest, abdomen, vent, and to the tail should flow evenly. There should be just enough substance between the legs as to make the bird not look too thin. The Cherry's eyes should always be bright and alert. The Cherry Finch exhibits a sleek appearance, not a cobby look typical of the Zebra Finch.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Deportment: 10 points.

This refers to the bird's stance and behavior on the show bench. Good deportment causes a bird to stand at the proper angle, grip the perch firmly, avoid "hunching" over, and hold its head and tail in proper relationship to the body. Stance should be erect and confident.

The bird should seem comfortable in the show cage. Behavior should be appropriate to the bird's kind. The bird should perch, without attempting to hid, flee or cling to the bars of the cage, unless it's natural behavior is t do so (i.e., the Mousebird). The bird should show itself to advantage, projecting in the air of alert confidence and behavior normal to its kind.

Presentation: 5 points.

Presentation refers to the show cage and overall "finish" of the entry. NFSS does not require the use of a standard show cage, but it is highly recommended. The cage should be of a size and shape that allows and encourages the bird to perch and display. The construction must admit enough light to permit a thorough evaluation of the bird, and the judge should be able to review the bird from above, as well as in profile.

Perches should be fastened firmly, and they must be of thickness appropriate for the bird's feet. In cages with more than one perch, placement should permit easy and natural movement from the perch to the other.

Placement of perches must also permit the bird to stand erect without any rubbing of the head or feathers against the cage walls or wires.

The cage should be large enough to permit some natural movement but small enough to provide the bird with sense of security. The cage will, ideally, allow the judge to focus attention on the bird, with no distractions. Box cages must be painted black on the outside and white, off- white or powder blue on the interior.

No swings, toys ornaments or other distinguishing marks will be permitted. The use of ornately constructed cages is to be discouraged. Cages with flat tops are preferred.

The cage floor may be covered with seed, plain white or brown paper, ground corn cob litter, pellets or other substrate appropriate to the bird.

All entries must be provided with appropriate food and water. Failure to do so, or the use of any cage that poses a danger to the bird, will be grounds for disqualification. Showing any bird in an inhumane manner will result in mandatory disqualification of the entry.

Wings: 15 points.

The wings should be held close to the body, carried evenly, and the wing tips should just meet at the base of the upper tail coverts and they should not cross.

Tail: 10 points.

The tail should be approximately 1.5 inches in length. It should flow evenly from the rump, carrying equal length. The tail should taper evenly on both sides with the central tail feathers being the longest. There should be no missing feathers. A drooping or coked tail would be fault.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

The Cherry's condition must be smooth and sleek. Missing toes, nails, or damaged or missing feathers are major condition faults. The beak and feet should be clean with no evidence of flaking or scaling.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

Cock:

The upperparts are deep brown with white spots on the wings. Top of head dark claret-red extending to the mid-point of the eyes. A Small dark claret-red, almost black bib beneath the beak of the male. Under parts are white, transversely barred brown. Center of breast, abdomen, and undertail coverts white. Tail is black with white spots on outer feathers. Eyes are dark brown, beak black, legs flesh brown.

Hen:

The female is a smaller area of dark claret-red on head and lacks the bib. White tips of feathers on sides of forehead form a line extending from the base of the upper mandible over the eye. The red on the head will extend to this white line. The barring is less pronounced than on the male.

Fawn:

The fawn Cherry should have the same color pattern as the normal. The base color should be that of light plywood fawn. The top of the head is a lighter red than that of a normal. The tail is a dark brown. Feet and legs pink.

The Official Cordon Bleu Standard

For the National Finch and Softbill Society March 1986

Uraeginthus bengalus

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	25 Points
Wings	10 Points
Tail	15 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	20 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION	10 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 20 points.

The head should be relatively flat above the eyes, but not so flat as to appear chiseled or wedge-shaped. The beak should be elongated rather than compact and should be sharp at the tip, clean and free from old beak layering. The Cordon Bleu should appear sleek and not cobby. However, the bird should have enough substance so as not to appear snaky.

Wings: 15 points.

The wings should be held close to the body, carried evenly, and should not droop. They should lie smoothly along the back and meet just beyond the root of the tail.

Tail: 15 points.

The tail is important on the Cordon Bleu, and its length, in the male, should almost equal that of the body. The tail should be nearly two inches in length; the tail of the hen will be slightly shorter. The tail must be compact from the root, and taper to a slightly rounded point at the tip. The tail may fan slightly as it is flicked from the side to side.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

The condition of the Cordon Bleu is of special significance, as this bird normally presents a good appearance, and the degree of difficulty in keeping the bird in top condition is not great. The Cordon Bleu must be immaculate with no soiled or frayed feathers. There must be no visible pin feathers. Missing toes, nails, or damaged or missing feathers are show faults and will count heavily against the bird.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (20 POINTS)

Cock:

The beak should be of a fairly strong rose color where it meets the skull, and it will become paler toward the center, where it will blend into a silvery lustrous rose-gray to the tip. The face, cheeks and much of the under parts should be a shiny sky-blue. The under coverts of the tail, vent, lower chest and abdomen should be a relatively dark tan coloration, whereas the top of the head and neck area are darker shade of mousey brown.

The upper side of the tail and coverts are blue of less intensity than the sky-blue of the face. The male will have a bright, elliptically shaped, vivid crimson patch set at a slight diagonal across the cheek. There must be no stray maroon feathers.

Hen:

The hen bird will have no cheek patch and will have less extensive, less intense blue about the head and body.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Angolan Cordon Bleu (*Uraeginthus angolensis*):

The male bird will have no cheek patch. The blue, particularly on the under parts, will appear more extensive, but less intense. The Angolan, overall will be a more lustrous bird. This bird is somewhat less slender than the Cordon Bleu, with a bit more substance in the chest and shoulders, and with a slightly shorter tail.

Females of both the Angolan and blue capped will be slightly duller in the color than their male counterparts.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (10 POINTS)

The Cordon Bleu should be fairly calm on the perch; it should not jump to the side bars of the cage, but should demonstrate Waxbill behavior, by calmly jumping back and forth from one perch to the other. After each jump, the Cordon Bleu does an about-face, flicks its tail, and then jumps back. This is the ideal Waxbill behavior. A judge's use of a pointer should not cause the bird to lose its composure.

The Official Diamond Sparrow Standard

For the National Finch and Softbill Society November 1990

Steganopleura guttata

Emblema guttata

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	25 Points
Wings	15 Points
Tail	10 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	20 POINTS
DEPARTMENT AND PRESENTATION	10 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 25 points.

From the beak to the tip of the tail the Diamond Sparrow should measure between 4.5" and 5". The head should be nicely rounded, blending with the thick neck and back. There should be a slight dip in the nape area between the head and the backline. The beak should be straight and conical in shape. Eyes are large with an orbital ring. The Diamond Sparrow should be a robust and full-bodied bird of substance. The body should be thick, muscular and compact. However, a lumpy chest is considered a fault. The dorsal line of the back should be a consistently smooth straight line from nape to top of tail. The ventral line should be slightly concave in the throat region, and then gently curve into a rounded chest. This curve continues to the undertail coverts. The legs should be parallel and both feet should grasp the perch appropriately.

Wings: 15 points.

The wings should be held close against the body and meet evenly atop the upper tail coverts. Crossed wings are to be considered a fault.

Tail: 10 points

The Diamond Sparrow has a short, squared tail with gently rounded outer tail feathers. The tail should follow the straight dorsal line of the bird. A tail angling downward or cocked upward is considered a fault.

CONDITION (20 PONTs)

While Diamond Sparrows are not difficult to maintain, achieving excellent condition required additional work, including frequent bathing. Fore exhibit, all feathers should be present, clean, and shiny. Legs and feet should be clean and free of abnormal growths and scaling. Visible pin feathers, missing feathers, soiled or frayed feathers, missing toes or toenails are all condition faults and will count against the bird. While Diamond Sparrows are full-bodied birds, noticeably overweight birds will be heavily faulted. Any sign of obvious disease shall be faulted.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (20 POINTS)

Cock:

Beak should be deep red with silvery gray cast covering all but the thin rim at the base. Forehead, crown, nape and lower neck are medium dull gray. This fades evenly to a pale silvery gray white on ear coverts, lower cheeks and throat areas. Broad black markings of the lores begin at the base of beak (centered evenly at the point which maxilla and mandible meet) and extend to the back of the eye. Reddish-to-dark-brown eyes are fully surrounded by a ring of pink orbital skin. The back and wing coverts are a dull grayish brown. Primaries and secondaries are a darker grayish brown with narrow, pale fringes on the outer webs. Under wing coverts are whitish. A broad horizontal black band extends across the chest, marks sides of chest, and halts at posterior flanks. Bold white spots dot the back sides and flanks, with rump and upper tail coverts a brilliant scarlet red. Tail is jet black. Legs and feet are a dark bluish gray with a silvery cast.

Hen:

Similar, except more narrow chest band and paler orbital skin.

Fawn:

Fawn replaces all gray areas and deeper, darker fawn replaces black areas. Scarlet rump and also somewhat dilute.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (10 POINTS)

Deportment: 5 points.

Having been domesticated in cage or aviary for several generations, the Diamond Sparrow should display in a composed manner. Appearing alert, steady and bold, the Diamond Sparrow should stand up straight and move from perch to perch calmly. Roosting or crouching on the perch is to be faulted.

Presentation: 5 points.

A National Finch and Softbill Society standard show cage, size #2 is recommended. Perches suitable to the size of the bird's feet need to be used. Perches should run from the cage front to rear and be positioned far enough from the sides to as not to injure the tail when the bird moves from perch to perch. Position perches to give the judge a full lateral view of the bird.

The Official Pekin Robin Standard

For the National Finch and Softbill Society February 1995

Leiothrix lutea

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	20 Points
Wings	15 Points
Tail	15 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	25 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION	15 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 20 points.

The Pekin Robin should measure 5" from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail. The head should be nicely rounded, blending with a thick neck. The top line allows for a dip in the neck; the line of the back runs smoothly and slightly rounded from the base of the neck to the base of the tail. The Pekin Robin should be robust and full-bodied bird showing good substance. The eyes should be large and dark.

Wings: 15 points.

The wings should be held close against the body; there should be a slight gap of up to 1.2" at the tips.

Tail: 15 points.

The Pekin Robin has a forked tail which is gently rounded at the ends. The tail should be 2 1/2" in length, 1/2" wide stemming from the base of the rump extending to 1 3/4" in width at the broadest forked end. The upper tail coverts extend to cover just over half of the tail.

Condition (20 POINTS)

While the Pekin Robin is not extremely difficult to keep, excellent condition is expected on the show bench. All feathers should be present, clean, shiny, and smooth. Legs and feet should be clean. Pin feathers, missing feathers, soiled or frayed feathers, missing toes or toenails are all condition faults.

COLOR and MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

The bases of both the upper and lower mandibles are blackish, while the remaining portion fades into a reddish orange. Behind the beak is a pale pink area covering the lores, drawing a sharp dividing line between a dark and light area over and behind the eye. The head is dark olive, shading gradually into a grayish olive over most of the upperparts. Ear coverts are a silvery gray. There is a bold black moustachial shape. Upper tail coverts are grayish olive while undertail coverts are whitish gray. The tip of the tail comes blackish. Primary flight feathers are edged in bright yellow. Several fine lines of yellow show along the length of the flight feathers in contrast with lines of deep rust orange. A yellow throat patch under the chin fans down into a rusty orange. The under parts are a pale olive becoming very light in the abdomen and vent.

A whitish yellow spot (the size of pencil eraser) is noted on the wings just above a rust area where secondary's become apparent from under greater coverts. If the wing is extended it clearly shows this spot. This seen over 1/8" of the five secondary feathers.

Legs are grayish black; feet are dark gray with orange overtones.

Hens tend to have lighter colored beak; moustachial stripe is much lighter in color, appearing nearly absent. In some cases the throat patch is paler yellow and the wings have a duller orange. Keep in mind that birds maintained in captivity for some time may be more difficult to sex due to color fading.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

Deportment: 10 points.

The Pekin Robin should be very active in the cage moving back and forth. It should be extremely alert. Crouching on the perch is to be faulted.

Presentation: 5 points.

Perches should be firmly attached and of suitable size for the Pekin Robin. Show cage must be clean. As in all softbills, food and water must be in the cage.

The Official Java Rice Standard

For the National Finch and Softbill Society June 1988

Padda oryzivona

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	25 Points
Wings	15 Points
Tail	10 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	15 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION	15 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 25 points.

The ideal Java Rice Bird is a strong, full-bodied finch approximately 6 (six) inches in length from the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail. The head should be nicely rounded, somewhat egg-shaped, with the eyes set on center between the tip of the upper mandible and the back of the head. The eyes should be clear glossy black. The beak is somewhat massive, with a top mandible prominent and curving downward and out from the top of the head; the lower mandible extends the line of the throat upward and out to meet the top mandible at the tip.

The body should also be egg-shaped and should taper gracefully to the tail. The bird should have a full, heavy-bodied appearance with a full chest. All lines of the Java Rice Bird should be gracefully curved. The cheek patch area should curve slightly outward from the face so it is noticeable, even in those birds where it is not color-delineated.

The legs and feet should be strong, and all toes and nails should be present.

Wings: 15 points.

The wings should be carried evenly and held close to the body so the wing tips do not protrude. The wing tips should not cross or droop and must meet evenly at the tail without breaking the line of the back.

Tail: 10 points.

The tail should be approximately 1-1/4" in length and maintain consistent width from origin at the root to the tail.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

The Java Rice Bird is meticulous in its grooming, so it will be judged with a very critical eye. Feather condition should be immaculate, with no soiled, frayed or missing feathers. Nothing should detract from the sleek, smooth, "finished" look of the bird. Any missing or frayed feathers will be viewed as serious show faults and will be weighed heavily. Legs, feet and beak must also be immaculate, with no scaling or overgrowth. Nails should be of proper length and shape.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

The color pattern of the Java Rice Bird is distinctive; evenness and intensity of color are of paramount importance. In all varieties which display cheek patches, there should be a sharp delineation of color, and any bleeding of color into the cheek patch will be considered a serious fault. All color patterns should appear crisp, clean, and even.

Normal Gray Java:

The ground color of the head is a deep, glossy black except for the characteristic cheek patch which is pure white with no bleeding of color. The beak is pinkish white, becoming pink to red at the base depending on age and sex of the bird. The eye ring is reddish flesh color and quite prominent.

The back, wings and chest are uniform slate gray, velvet-like in appearance. The gray on the abdomen has a subtle pink or buff suffusion and is lighter than the slate-gray of the upper body parts. The undertail coverts are white; the ventral area is whitish gray. The tail is black, and wing flights are often tinged with charcoal or black. The overall impression is of smooth, even uniformity. The legs and feet are an even pinkish flesh tone.

White Java:

Except for the beak, feet, legs and eye ring, the color of the White Java Rice Bird is a pure, velvet-like white with a bright, dark eye. The beak, eye ring, legs and feet are as for the Normal Java Rice Bird, although the pink in the beak may be slightly dilute.

Pied Java:

Because the characteristic evenness and contrast of the Normal Java Rice Bird is of such importance, birds with 50% to 60% pied markings are preferred. A pleasing degree of contrast and evenness of color will be considered more important than symmetry of pied markings. All colors should be even, uniform and free of bleeding from adjoining colors. The quality of the colors should be the same for the Normal and White standards. Beak, feet, legs and eye ring are as for Normals.

Cinnamon Java:

The markings of the cinnamon Java Rice Bird should be identical to those for the Normal, with the exception that, instead of the ground colors of black and gray, those of the cinnamon should be warm, even cinnamon-brown. The head, tail, wing flights, chin and neck band will be even medium brown, while those areas that on the feet and eye ring remain the same for the Normal. In this color mutation the eye is a deep red-brown rather than the normal black. Although the ground colors have changed, the requirements of evenness and pleasing degree of contrast remain the same for the Normal.

Cinnamon-Pied Java:

As in the Normal pied, birds with 50% to 50% pied markings are desirable, with the ground colors those of the cinnamon. The legs, feet, beak and eye ring remain the same, and the eye color is the same as that of the Cinnamon.

Black-Cheeked Java:

All colors the same as for the Normal, except that the white area is replaced with black. Ideally there shall be no white ticking in the black cheek patch. All other characteristics are the same as those of the Normal.

DEPARTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

Department: 10 points.

Today the Java Rice Bird is a domestic bird, being either cage or aviary bred. It should therefore conduct itself more calmly than its ancestors. An ideal Java Rice Bird should perch firmly and appear alert, erect, and confident. Any wild or flighty behavior will be faulted. Cage training and general deportment will be judged rigorously.

Presentation: 5 points.

Though the standard show cage is not required, a clean cage of appropriate size, with perches properly fastened, and of correct size for the birds feet must be used. The cage must admit enough light for adequate viewing by the judge. The floor of the cage should be covered with an appropriate floor covering (seed, gravel, plain paper or cob). The cage should be secure and safe for the occupant as well as the judging staff.

The Official Lavender Finch Standard

For the National Finch and Softbill Society November 1990

Estrilda caerulescens

CONFORMATION	45 POINTS
Head and Body	20 Points
Wings	15 Points
Tail	10 Points
CONDITION	25 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	15 POINTS
DEPARTMENT AND PRESENTATION	15 POINTS

CONFORMATION (45 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 20 points.

This bird must be approximately 3 to 3-1/2 inches. The head should be gently rounded at the crown and somewhat broader at the jaw, with smooth mandibles that meet evenly at the tip. There should be a straight dorsal line with no obvious curves. The line from under the chin past the neck and the chest should be gracefully curved. The Lavender finch is deep-bodied bird with a full curved abdomen. The legs must be wide set and parallel. The straight back should be widest at the shoulder, gradually tapering to the tail.

Wings: 15 points.

The wings must be carried evenly while the blending smoothly into the back. The wing tips must meet at the base of the tail and not cross. The Lavender finch frequently drops its wings so that the primary flight feathers form a straight line with the tail. This exposes the crimson rump. This is a typical behavior and should not be faulted unless it is noted as a chronic weakness in the wing carriage.

Tail: 10 points.

The tail should be ¼ of the total length of the Lavender finch. It must be carried to follow the backline. It should not be elevated or droop. It must be compact and full. Fanning of the tail is important.

CONDITION (25 POINTS)

The Lavender finch must be a bird of immaculate feather. Show specimens must be in top condition. All feathers, skin beak, legs, and feet must be clean, smooth, lustrous and free of scaling. There must be not pinfeathers or any missing feathers, toes or toenails.

COLOR and Markings (15 POINTS)

The Lavender finch is a bird of soft feather with a pearly white to pearly red beak ending with a black tip. Legs are reddish brown to black. There must be a sharp black stripe running from the gape of the mouth to just past the eye. The cheeks, ear converts, throat and upper breast are whitish gray. This blends into a delicate bluish gray above the eye stripe, over the back and wing, & through the flank. This shades to a sooty gray in the lower flank. There are small white spots on the lower flanks, most readily seen when the Lavender finch is

in motion. The lower back, long trail coverts, rump and tail are a rich vivid crimson. The Lavender finch is prone to melanism; this should be penalized heavily if it occurs.

NOTE:

The Black Tailed Lavender (*Estrildaperreini*), is slightly larger and darker with a darker red over the rump and a black tail. There is a more velvet-like look to the finish of the feathers.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

Deportment: 10 points.

This waxbill is, and should be, a very active bird. It is bright and inquisitive and quite active in the show cage. On the perch it must have a back line with 35-degree angle. The legs should be strong, with the weight of the bird evenly distributed. The bird moves from perch to perch spreading or fanning out the tail as it moves giving a bold appearance.

Presentation: 5 points.

An NFSS cage #1 is recommended. Use suitable size perches and position them to go from front to back of the cage, giving the judge a full side view of the bird.

The Official Gouldian Finch Standard

*Approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society March 1986,
Updated January 2014.*

Chloebia gouldiae

CONFORMATION	45 POINTS
Head and Body	20 Points
Wings	10 Points
Tail	15 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	30 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION	5 POINTS

CONFORMATION (45 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 20 points.

The head should be nicely rounded with eyes set on the center line of the head. The body should be approximately 5-1/2", or 14cm. The body shape should be slightly tapered from the shoulders to the tail. The Gouldian Finch body must be substantial without being overly robust. The Gouldian Finch must never be a snaky bird. The line from the beak over the crown, nape back, rump and tail should be smooth and complete without breaks. The line from the lower mandible, over the chin, throat, chest, abdomen, vent, and to the tail should flow evenly and smoothly. Faults in conformation would include drooped tails, pouted (overly broad) chest, nipped necks and cocked tails.

Wings: 10 points.

The wings should be carried evenly and held close to the body. The tips of the wings should meet evenly at the tail and should not droop or cross.

Tail: 15 points.

In conformation, the tail is of great importance. Tail feathers should be of equal length and held evenly. The central pin tail feathers must be elongated, separated, and running parallel with each other. These pin tail feathers, however, should be as long as possible with other tail feathers being in proportion to the body.

General Standard for Hens:

Hens will differ from the cocks in that the two central pin feathers of the tail will not be as long. The hen will tend to be a little more robust than the cock.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

The condition of the Gouldian Finch is of special significance, as this bird normally holds a good appearance, and the degree of difficulty is not great in keeping the bird in top condition. The Gouldian Finch must be immaculate with no soiled or frayed feathers. There must be no visible pin feathers. Missing toes, nails, or damaged or missing feathers are show faults and will count heavily against the bird.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (30 POINTS)

The National Finch and Softbill Society consider conformation to be of primary importance in the Finch Standards. Color and markings are ordinarily assigned 20 points as a guideline in judging. However, for the Gouldian Finch, color takes on an added importance, and is assigned 30 points. Evenness and intensity of color are usually dominant considerations in the Gouldian Finch.

Color Standard for Red-Headed Cock.

The forehead, crown and ear coverts will be deep scarlet red, which should be even, with no black or orange flecking. Chin and throat deep black, with a thin border of black continuing around the head. This border is ringed by a second line of royal blue, which extends and merges into the green of the side of the neck and mantle. The red, black, and royal blue markings should be sharply delineated from the chest color.

Wing coverts should be of dark grass-green with a slight glossiness. The primaries should be dark gray, almost black, with a lighter edging to the flight feathers.

The deep violet breast should extend from the royal blue throat band to the line funning across the chest at the level of the lesser wing coverts. This line should be clear cut and have a reddish tinge. Below this line and running over the abdomen and flanks, the colors should be deep buttercup yellow gradually finding to white in the area of the vent. The back should have a blue band, which merges on the head with the grass green of the mantle and back. The area should carry a gold suffusion, more intense on the mantle and approaching the rump. The rump should be royal blue. The undertail coverts should be clear white, while the uppertail coverts will be light sky blue. Some white frosting of the feather edges acceptable. The tail will be black.

The bill should be pearl white and the tip either rose or yellow. The legs should be flesh-colored and the nails horn-colored. The eyes should be black with a thin flesh-colored eye ring.

Color Standard-Black-Headed Cock:

Same as for Red-headed, but the forehead, crown, ear coverts, chin and throat should be deep black with a slight glossy sheen. A line of royal blue at the edge of this black extends from the throat right around the back of the head. The edges between the blue band and the black should be sharply defined. On the throat, the line of blue should be sharply defined from the chest color, but should extend and merge into the green of the side of the neck and the mantle.

Color Standard - Orange-Headed Cock:

As for Red-headed cock, but red is replaced by either a golden-orange or a deep buttercup- yellow.

Color Standard - White-Breasted Cock:

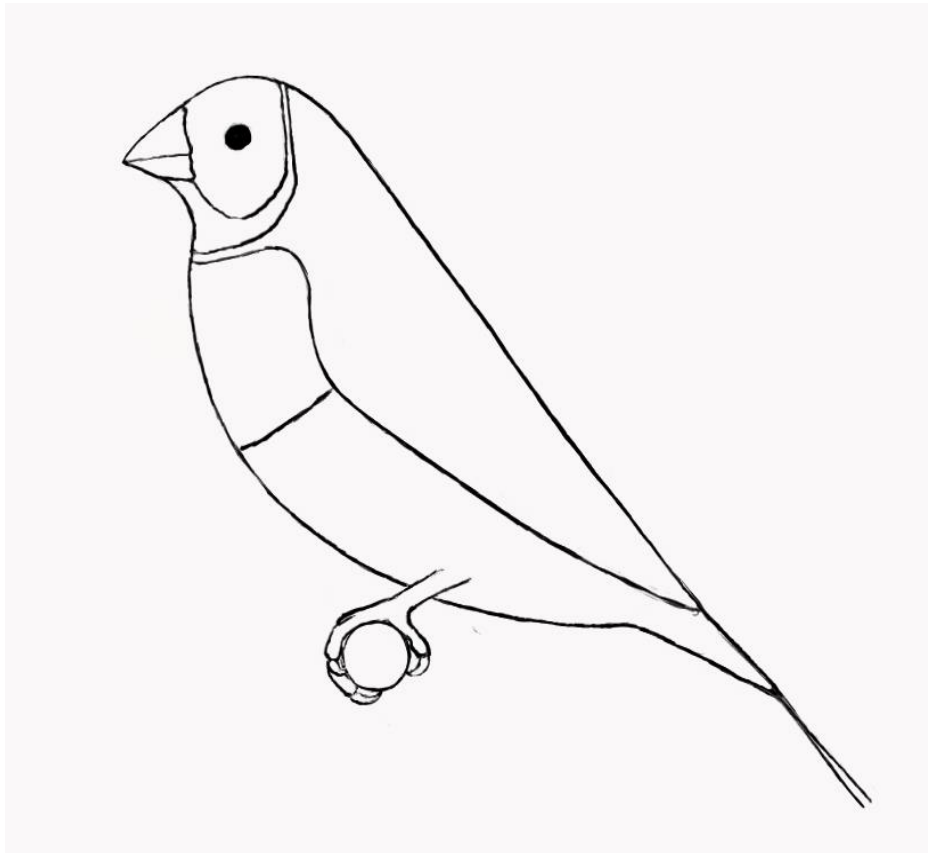
As for normal cock, but the chest violet is replaced by clear intense white, with not flecking.

Color Standard for Hens:

As for the male coloration except that chest violet (of the red-headed, black-headed and orange-headed varieties) will be much more pale, the mantle and black lack the gold suffusion, and the whole plumage is duller and lacks the glossiness of cocks.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (5 POINTS)

The Gouldian Finch being a well domesticated bird, should be quite calm on the perch. Nervous birds will be faulted. The judge should be able to use a pointer without overly disturbing the bird.



The Official Green Singing Finch Standard

Approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society June 1986

Serinus mozambicus

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	20 Points
Wings	15 Points
Tail	15 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	15 POINTS
DEPARTMENT AND PRESENTATION	15 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 20 points.

The head is round and relatively small. It should not appear overly flat. It should blend evenly into the line of the neck and back. From the head to the tip of the tail, the Green Singing finch should be four inches long. The bird should not be cobby, nor should it be slender or snaky.

Wings: 15 points.

The wings should be held closely to the body and should not droop. Crossed wings at the root of the tail should be considered a show fault.

Tail: 15 points.

The tail should not fan; nor should it be pinched. It will be approximately equal in width at the root and tip. Ideal length of the tail is 1-1/2".

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

Maintaining perfect condition in the Green Singing finch can be accomplished with a moderate degree of difficulty. Those birds showing less than perfect feather will score accordingly. There must be no visible pin feathers. Missing, soiled or frayed feathers, missing toes or nails are condition faults and will count heavily against the bird.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

Cock:

The beak will be grayish horn in coloration. The underparts will be brilliant yellow and will extend from the rump to an hourglass-shaped chest area and into the face. There will be a bright yellow eyebrow band which connects across the forehead. The top of the head is a diffused patten of greenish gray extending on to the back and tail. Each feather is darker in the center and grayer toward the edges. The hourglass chest pattern is caused by a mandarin style mustache mark which extends out and down from the lower mandible on each side. The lore area is diffused gray-green.

Hen:

The hen is similar to the male, except that all colors and patterns will appear more dull and diffused. The bright yellow will be far less noticeable. The hen will sport an ill defined necklace of darker spots that cross the throat area. The more defined and complete this necklace is the higher rated this hen will be in the Color and Marking portion of the judging.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

The stance or cage composure of the Green Singing finch is judged more rigorously than in other African finches. The Green Singing finch is easily cage-trained and should perch quite fearlessly. Wild behavior in the show box will count heavily against this bird.

SPECIAL NOTE:

A close relative of the Green Singing finch is the Yellow Eyed Finch or Yellow Crowned Canary, as it is sometimes called. This bird, although very similar, should not be shown in this class.

The Official Fire Finch Standard

Approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society November 1992

Logonosticta senegala

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	20 Points
Wings	15 Points
Tail	15 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	15 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION	15 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 20 points.

The head should be slightly rounded over the top from the base of the upper mandible to the nape of the neck, so the overall shape of the head is slightly elliptical, front to back. The neck should flow smoothly into the back, which should be straight to the tail. Birds should have good substance, with a somewhat rounded chest but not lumpy in the chest or fat. This roundness should continue in the gentle curve through the abdomen to the under tail coverts, which taper into the tail. A nipped neck, an abrupt break from the neck into the body or snaky, gawky appearance should be faulted. Eye should be centered front to back and slightly above the midline of the beak. The beak should be conical and slender. Overall length 3 inches from the crown to the tail tip.

Wings: 15 points.

Wings should be carried close to the body and meet evenly over the back, with the tips of the primaries just meeting over the rump at the base of the tail. Drooping or crossed wings are a fault.

Tail: 15 points.

The tail should continue on a straight line with the top line of the bird. A tail held consistently above the horizontal or a drooping tail should be penalized, although the tail may be slightly elevated when the bird are excited and flicking it from side to side in a typical waxbill manner. The tail should be about 1 inch long and should be compact and blunt, with slightly rounded edges as the tip.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

Missing toes, nails etc are faults. Feathers should fit the body tightly and should have a slight gloss, giving an impression of smoothness and sheen. There should be no missing feathers, especially down the midline of the chest or around the legs.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

Beak and Legs: 5 points.

Beak, red or pint (may be slightly paler in females) with black lines running along the midline of the top and lower mandibles, from the base of the beak out the tip. Legs, brown to brownish- flesh colored.

Plumage, Eye, and Eye Ring: 10 points.

Ruddy to bright red on the forehead and hind neck, less bright on the hind crown and nape, face, sides of neck, chest, and most of underparts variable shades of rosy red, purplish red, dull scarlet, or an intermediate shade. Intensity of the red is important in comparisons of birds on the show bench. Some chest feathers have very small white dots, variable in number, singly or in pairs on individual feathers. Other plumage: brown, darker on wings with some red along fringes of wing coverts. Rump, upper tail coverts, and central tail feathers have varying shades of red along webbing. Outer tail feathers, dull brown, others dull black. Area around vent and undertail, buffish brown. Eye, Iris brown to brownish red. Old birds (2 or more years) should have a bright yellow, conspicuous eye ring.

Hen:

Red mark from base of lower mandible to or over the eye. Rump: upper tail coverts, and tail similar to male, otherwise uniform buffish to grayish brown, but with larger and more numerous white spots than males. In areas that would be red in the male, hens may show a rosy or reddish suffusion. Eye ring paler than that of the male, can be whitish or silvery.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

Deportment: 10 points.

Stance should be about 30° ABOVE THE HORIZONTAL. A HORIZONTAL POSTURE OR ROOSTING IS FAULTED, AS IS A TOO-ERRECT STANCE. Firefinches should show typical waxbill demeanor, i.e., active by not flighty-and definitely not lethargic. Like other waxbills, the Firefinch should move from one perch to another, flicking the tail with each hop. The Firefinch should display a degree of curiosity that contributes to a pleasant personality. Pairs should be attentive to one another if shown together.

Presentation: 5 points.

A #1 National Finch and Softbill Society show cage is recommended, or a flat-topped open wire cage appropriate to the size and requirements of the bird. There should be no identifying marks, swings or toys. Perches should be firmly attached, of correct thickness, and placed to enhance the birds' natural movement.

NOTES ON OTHER FIREFINCHES:

Although the Red-billed Firefinch is the most commonly seen of the genus *Lagonosticta*, other species exist and occasionally appear on the show bench, so a cursory treatment of these is given for purposes of identification and comparison.

Bar-breasted Firefinch (*L.rufopicta*):

Similar to the Red-billed Firefinch but plumper with slightly wider tail and larger bill. The primary distinguishing characteristics of this species are that the female is nearly identical to the male, except the red on the faces and breasts of some females may be slightly paler. The coloration is more uniformly wine-red in this species, and as the name indicates, the white spots on the breast are elongated and give the appearance of barring. The eye rings are also silvery gray to whitish instead of yellow in *L. senegala*.

Brown Firefinch (*L. nitidula*):

This species is "appreciably larger" than the previous species according to Goodwin (1982) and ismauvish pink to mauvish red with large breast spots. The pink-red hues of the female are less intense and extensive than on the male. Eye rings are blueish white.

Black-bellied Firefinch (*L.rara*):

As its name implies, this species is best identified by its black coloration in the center of the lower breast, belly and undertail coverts. This species also lacks the spots on the breast and has grayish eye rings. It is about the same size as or slightly larger than *L. senegala*.

Dark Firefinch (*L. rubricata*):

This species is similar in size to the previous one, but is distinguishable from other firefinches because of its gray or blackish bill with a black tip. This species is also known as the Black-billed Firefinch. It is similar to the previous species in that it has sooty gray where *L. rara* has black on the undersides. However, the Dark Firefinch does have spots on the breast and flanks, although these generally appear singly rather than in pairs on individual feathers.

The Official Zebra Finch Standard

Approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society November 1992

Updated August 2016

Poephila guttata

CONFORMATION	40 POINTS
Head and Body	20 Points
Wings	10 Points
Tail	10 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	30 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION	10 POINTS

CONFORMATION (40 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 20 points.

The ideal Zebra Finch will measure about 4" from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail. The head should be large and proportional to the body, broad from all angles, blending into the shoulders, back and front, with a slight nip at the neck when at rest. The eyes must be round, with the lower edge of the eye just above the line where the mandibles meet. There is a noticeable brow in the ideal bird, resulting from the slight indentation of the feathering at the eye. The beak should be coral in color; deeper coral in the cock bird, broad at the base, and centered in the face.

The crown rises up from the top of the upper mandible in a rounded arc through to the neck. The neck should be broad and expand smooth, from the neck through the tip of the tail, except in the displaying bird (see Tail below).

The sides are slightly rounded from the shoulders through the tail. The bird is full-bodied, showing good substance. The bottom line bows outward deeply, smoothly rounded, from just below the chin through to the vent, the deepest and broadest point being between the chest and the stomach. The stomach feathers of the ideal bird are just above the perch because of the roundness of the bottom line, but not because of poor position.

From the perch the legs rise slightly from the horizontal. The thigh is not exposed. The feet grip the perch properly.

Wings: 10 points.

The wings should be carried evenly, and should not droop nor entirely cover the flanking. They should blend into the back smoothly with the wing tips meeting at the root of the tail. Crossed wings, overlapping one another, or drooping wings are faulted.

Tail: 10 points.

The line of the tail shall continue the line of the back and must not droop or be carried high. The tail may rise slightly from the back line in the displaying bird. The tail will be proportional to the body.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

Eyes should be bright and clear. There should be an overall sheen to the Zebra's feathering, and the feather condition should be immaculate, with no soiled, frayed or missing feathers. There should be no pin-feathers. All toes and nails should be present, and the beak, legs, and nails must also be immaculate, with no scaling or overgrowth.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (30 POINTS)

STANDARD ZEBRA FINCH MARKINGS (BOTH COLOR AND MELANIN)

Exceptions are noted in the Standards and Descriptions, which follow.

Cock:

Eyes black or near black. The beak should be coral red. Loes are white, bordered by a thin dark line from the base of the bill to nostril and a heavier line dropping below the eye (the tear marking), creating a clear and distinct 'teardrop' effect. A distinct cheek patch of color covers the cheeks and ear-coverts. The throat and upper chest area (to the breast bar) should be thinly and evenly striped. The breast bar should be clear, distinct and even, and not less than 1/8" wide. The side flanking should be prominent and should extend from the wing's greater coverts to the upper tail coverts and contain numerous small round clearly defined white spots. The center of the lower rump is white. The tail should be horizontally barred with white. The feet and legs should be pale coral red.

Hen:

As for the cock, minus the cheek patches, throat stripes and breast bar. The loes and flanking will show the same color as the hen's throat. The beak should be a paler shade of red.

ZEBRA FINCH COLOR STANDARDS FOR STANDARD VARIETIES

The following Zebra Finch color varieties have color Standards, presented here:

Normal Gray	Fawn	Penguin
Lightback Normal Gray	Lightback Fawn	
Dominant Silver	Dominant Cream	
Chestnut Flanked White	White	
Chestnut-Flanked Continental	Pied	

Descriptions of less commonly exhibited and newer varieties are offered for informational purposes in the subsequent section.

Normal Gray Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings dark gray, even throughout. The throat should be pale gray. The cheek patch should be rich dark orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be jet black. The flanking should be rich reddish brown with white spots. The underparts should be white, but may have some fawn shading near the vent and thighs. **Show Faults:** uneven or patchy color, "bleeding" of the cheek patches into the ground color.

Normal Gray Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be mid-gray. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar or flanking. Underpants should be buff. **Show Faults:** uneven or patchy color; showing cock markings.

Fawn Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings a deep fawn color, even throughout. The throat should be pale grayish brown. The cheek patch should be a rich dark orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be blackish brown. The flanking should be rich reddish brown with white spots. The underpants should be white, but may have some fawn shading near the vent and thighs. **Show Faults:** uneven or patchy color; "bleeding" of the cheek patches into the ground color.

Fawn Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be buff. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underpants should be buff. **Show faults:** uneven or patchy color; showing cock markings.

Light back Normal Gray Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings light gray, even throughout. The throat should be light silvery gray. The cheek patch should be pale orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be black. The flanking should be pale or reddish brown with white spots. The underpants should be white with no shading. **Show Faults:** uneven or patchy color; "bleeding" of cheek patches into the ground color.

Light back Normal Gray Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be light silvery gray. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underpants should be white. **Show Faults:** uneven or patchy color; showing cock markings.

Light back Fawn Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings pale fawn, even throughout. The throat should be off-white. The cheek patch should be pale orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be blackish brown. The flanking should be pale reddish brown with white spots. The underparts should be white with no shading. **Show Faults:** uneven or patchy color; "bleeding" of cheek patches into the ground color.

Lightback Fawn Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be off-white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underparts should be white. **Show Faults:** uneven or patchy color; showing cock markings.

Dominant Silver Cock:

There are various shades of Dominant Silver. The head, neck, back, and wings should be from light bluish gray to pale silvery gray. There may be some patchiness to the color. The throat should be from pale silvery gray to off-white. The cheek patch should be from pale orange to cream. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be a matching shade of gray. The flanking should be pale reddish orange with white spots. The underparts should be white, but may have some silver shading near the vent and thighs. **Show Faults:** excessively uneven or patchy color, including fawn shading in the ground color; characteristic cock markings showing no dilution, or indistinct.

Dominant Silver Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be from pale silvery gray to off-white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underparts should be buff. **Show Faults:** excessively uneven or patchy color, including fawn shading in the ground color; showing cock markings.

Dominant Cream Cock:

There are various shades of cream. The head, neck, back, and wings should be from deep cream to pale cream. The throat should be from pale cream to off-white. The cheek patch should be from pale orange to cream. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be a matching shade of fawn. The flanking should be pale reddish orange with white spots. The underparts should be white, but may have some cream shading near the vents and thighs. **Show Faults:** excessively uneven or patchy color; characteristic cock markings showing no dilution, or indistinct.

Dominant Cream Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast should be from pale cream to off-white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Underparts should be pale cream. **Show Faults:** excessively uneven or patchy color, showing cock markings.

Chestnut Flanked White Cock:

The head, neck, back, wings, throat and underparts are as white as possible. The cheek patch should be as dark orange as possible. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars should be as near black as possible. The flanking should be rich reddish brown with white spots. **Show Faults:** characteristic cock markings pale; "bleeding" of cheek patches into the ground color.

Chestnut Flanked White Hen:

As near white as possible, with no cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar, or flanking. Remaining tear marking and tail bars as near black as possible. A small amount of gray wash or very light flecking on the head is acceptable. **Show Faults:** showing cock markings.

Chestnut Flanked Continental Cock:

The head, neck, back, wings, throat, and under parts are cream. The cheek patch is orange-brown and as deep color as possible. The tear markings, throat and upper chest stripping, breast bar, and tail bars should be black. The flanking should be a rich orange brown, dark as possible with regular round white dots. **Show Faults:** pale cock markings, "bleeding" of cheek patches, sooty markings on the head.

Chestnut Flanked Continental Hen:

Cream in color with no cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars, or flanking. Remaining tear markings and tail bars black. **Show Faults:** sooty head or presence of male markings.

White Cock and Hen:

Color to be pure white all over. As with other varieties, hen's beak to be a paler shade of red. **Show Faults:** Any colored feathering, including flecking in the shoulder and back area.

Pied Cock and Hen:

The body should be approximately 50% white and 50% color with markings as symmetrical as possible. Cock to retain all characteristic cock markings, but all markings should be broken with white. Hen should show tear markings and tail bars, but broken with white. **Show Faults:** An excessive percentage of white feathering or colored feathering (from the 50/50 mix); cocks showing complete loss of characteristic cock markings; hens showing cock markings.

Note: Pies can be exhibited in all recognized colors, except white.

Penguin Cock:

Head, neck, back, and wings light silvery gray with flights, secondaries and coverts edged with a paler shade of gray, giving a laced appearance. Older birds may display more lacing than younger birds. The throat and underparts are to be white without a trace of barring. The cheek patch should be rich dark orange. Tear marking absent. The flanking should be reddish brown with white spots. The tail should match the back color, barred with white. **Show Faults:** Any trace of breast barring or tear markings.

Penguin Hen:

Head, neck, back, and wings as for the cock The throat, breast, flanking and underparts should be absent. **Show Faults:** any trace of cock markings or tear markings.

Note: Penguins can be exhibited in other recognized colors.

ZEBRA FINCH COLOR DESCRIPTIONS FOR NON-STANDARD VARIETIES

The following Zebra Finch color mutations are less commonly exhibited and/or newer varieties:

Lightback Silver	Lightback Cream
Recessive Silver	Recessive Cream
Created	Yellow Beaked
Black Breasted	Orange Breasted
Isabel	Phaeo
Florida Fancy	Agate
Black Cheeked	Gray Cheeked
Fawn Cheeked	Black Faced
Black	Saddleback

Lightback Silver Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings are pale silvery gray. There may be some patchiness to the color. The throat is off-white. The cheek patch is near white. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars are charcoal gray. The flanking is pale orange with white spots. The underparts are white.

Lightback Silver Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast are off- white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars or flanking. Underparts are white.

Lightback Cream Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings are pale cream. There may be some patchiness to the color. The throat is off-white. The cheek patch is near white. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars are pale chocolate. The flanking is pale orange with white spots. The underparts are white.

Lightback Cream Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast are off- white. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars or flanking. Underparts are white.

Recessive Silver Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings are bluish gray. The throat is silvery gray. The cheek patch is orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars are a matching shade of gray. The flanking is reddish brown with white spots. The underparts are white.

Recessive Silver Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast are bluish gray. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars or flanking. Underparts are from pale buff to pale gray.

Recessive Cream Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings are pale fawn. The throat is cream. The cheek patch is orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars are a matching shade of pale fawn. The flanking is reddish brown with white spots. The underparts are white, but may have some fawn shading near the vent and thighs.

Recessive Cream Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking and tail bars as for the cock. The throat and breast are cream. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bars or flanking. Underparts are cream.

Crested Cock and Hen:

Crested can be exhibited in all recognized colors, and are the same as any other color variety except they have a crest. We should strive for a crest that has a full circular appearance, finishing level with top of eye.

Yellow Beaked Cock and Hen:

Yellow Beaks can be exhibited in all recognized colors, and are the same as any other color variety except the beak should be as near yellow as possible, not orange. The legs and feet are a very pale coral red.

Black Breasted Normal Gray Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings are as in Normal Gray, but with feathers outlined with reddish brown. The cheek patch has no definite outline and "bleeds" onto the neck and head. It has no tear marking, but retains the black edging along the beak. It displays a lighter throat under the beak mottled with black feathering. The Black Breasted's breast bar tends to be blacker and broader than the normal breast bar. The side flanks are poorly defined and are marked with white ticks or slashes of white rather than spots. The underparts are white, with some fawn shading at the vent. The upper tail feathers are normal colored but outlined in white, creating a vertically barred effect.

Black Breasted Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, tear marking, beak edging and tail barring as for the cock. It may show traces of a breast bar.

Note: The Black Breasted can be exhibited in all recognized colors, although the reddish brown outlining on the head, back, and wing feathers will be less evident on some mutations, such as the Black Breasted Chestnut Flanked White.

Orange Breasted Normal Gray Cock:

Color and markings are as in Normal Gray, except that most black markings are replaced or at least partially masked by orange. Tear markings are masked by orange. The throat striping and breast bar, while mostly orange with this mutation, may show some black coloration. The breast bar will have a less precise size and shape than in the Normal Gray. Orange is mixed in with the black and white tail bars.

Orange Breasted Hen:

Color and markings as for a Normal Gray hen, except that the Orange Breasted hen has no visible black tear marking, no evidence of chest barring, and must have visible orange on tail barring.

Note: The Orange Breasted can be exhibited in all recognized colors. In all, orange replaces most of the black on the tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, breast bar and tail bars.

Isabel Cock:

The head, neck, back, and wings from cream to off-white, with pale orange lacing to the feathers. The throat and upper chest from buff to off-white. The cheek patch is a rich dark orange. The tear marking, throat and upper chest striping, and breast bar are absent. The flanking is rich reddish brown with white spots. The underparts are white, with some pale orange shading near the vent and thighs. Tail bars from fawn to very-pale fawn.

Isabel Hen:

The head, neck, back, wings, and tail bars as for the cock. Tear marking absent. The throat and breast, extending through the underparts should be very pale buff. No cheek patches, throat stripes, breast bar or flanking.

Phaeo Cock:

A combination of the Isabel x Black Breasted mutations, showing the effects of both. The head, neck, back, and wings are diluted to off-white. The orange lacing to the feathers is more evident. There is no chest barring. The cheek patch has no definite outline and "bleeds" onto the neck and head. The side flanks change to orange and are poorly defined and are marked with white ticks or slashes of white rather than spots. The underparts are white, with some cream shading at the vent. The upper tail feathers are cream colored but outlined in white, creating a vertically barred effect.

Phaeo Hen:

Hens are very similar to Isabel hens, with orange lacing to the generally off-white head, neck, back, and wings. Phaeo hens also lack the tear marking. Phaeo hens can be distinguished from Isabel hens by the tail: the Phaeo's tail has orange colored vertical striping; the Isabel shows light fawn horizontal bars.

Note: The Phaeo is often combined with other mutations. When combined with the Orange Breasted, orange throat and upper chest striping and an orange breast bar appears, making a brightly colored bird.

Florida Fancy Cock:

A white bird (with some faint gray lacing of feathers on back and wings) with rich orange cheek patch and rich reddish brown flanking with white spots. No tear marking, throat and upper chest striping or breast bar, and only faint light gray tail bars. Appears to be a combination of Penguin and Chestnut Flanked White.

Florida Fancy Hen:

As for the cock, with no cheek patch or flanking.

Agate Cock:

The normal Agate could be described as a bird with the head color and markings of a Normal Gray, but the body and wing color of a light fawn. The Agate also appears in other mutations, such as the Fawn and Lightback.

Agate Hen:

The hens are the same color minus the cock markings.

Black Cheeked Cock:

The cheek patch is black. Other color and markings are normal, but with complete absence of reddish brown in the flankings, which is replaced by- black

Black Cheeked Hen:

As in normal hen, but will have cock type black cheek patch. The hen's cheek patch color is patchier than the cock's.

Gray Cheeked Cock:

The Gray Cheeked has dark eyes, red beak, orange legs and feet, with the head, neck, and wings being white. The throat and upper chest are light gray with darker gray lines running across the throat from the chest bar up to the beak. The cheek patch color is gray. The tear markings and chest bar are a darker gray. Underparts are warm cream. Flank markings are orange with even white spots. The tail feathers have no barring.

Gray Cheeked Hen:

As in the Gray Cheeked Cock, but will not have chest barring or flank markings. Flanks will be dark cream and the throat will be silver gray. Cock type cheek patch color.

Fawn Cheeked Cock:

The Fawn Cheeked has dark eyes, red beak, orange legs and feet, with the head, neck, and wings being white. The throat and upper chest are light fawn with darker fawn lines running across the throat from the chest bar up to the beak. The cheek patch color is fawn. The tear markings and chest bar are a darker fawn. Underparts are warm cream. Flank markings are orange with even white spots. The tail feathers have no barring.

Fawn Cheeked Hen:

As in the Fawn Cheeked Cock, but will not have chest barring or flank markings. Flanks will be dark cream. Cock type cheek patch color.

Black Faced Cock:

As for Normal cock, except that the lores (the normally white feathers between the beak and cheek patch) are black, and the underparts, normally white, are molded dark brownish black. The flanking can be from the normal rich reddish brown to dark reddish brown, with the normal white spots.

Black Faced Hen:

As for Normal hen, except that the lores are gray, and the underparts are gray.

Black Zebra Cock:

The nearest thing to a solid black Zebra is produced when the Black Faced, Black Breasted and the Black Cheeked are combined. The cock will have a completely black head and will be black from beak to vent (or black near the beak changing to dark brownish black on the underparts), with only a trace of white ticks or slashes in the flanking.

Black Zebra Hen:

Hens are darker than normal with visual cock markings.

Saddleback Cock and Hen:

A nearly all-white bird with a triangle of the normal ground color across the back, as well as some ground color on the rump.

DEPARTMENT AND PRESENTATION (10 POINTS)

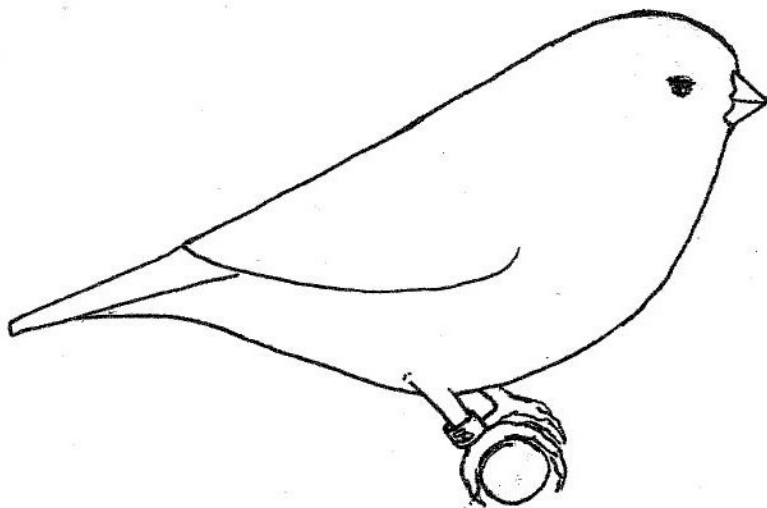
Department: 5 points.

The angle of the Zebra Finch is between 40 and 45 degrees; its stance should not appear too upright nor too low over the perch. It should display a bright personality, yet be calm on the perch; it should be active, yet confident. The ideal Zebra will easily and often times display in the show cage.

Presentation: 5 points.

A National Finch and Softbill Society standard show cage, size ff2 is recommended. Perches suitable to the size of a Zebra's feet need to be used. Perches should run from the cage front to the rear and be positioned far enough from the sides so as not to injure the tail when the bird moves from perch to perch. Position perches to give the judge a full lateral view of the bird. The waterer should be placed to give the judge an unobstructed view of the bird.

Zebra Silhouette



The Official Star Finch Standard

Approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society May 2003

Neochmia ruficauda

Amadina ruficauda

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
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Head and Body	25 Points
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Wings	15 Points
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Tail	10 Points
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CONDITION	25 POINTS
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COLOR AND MARKINGS	20 POINTS
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DEPARTMENT AND PRESENTATION	5 POINTS
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CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 25 points.

The head of the Star Finch shall be rounded and blend gently and smoothly into the back without any depression or nip of the neck. The head of the cock bird will be more flat at the top.

The body, including the tail, should approach 4". The body must not be snaky in appearance but shall be full and rounded about the shoulders and chest tapering gradually to the tail area. Trim may be the best description of the body.

Wings: 15 points.

The wings of the Star Finch shall be carried tightly to the body and must not hang down or puff out from the body. The wings must meet neatly at the base of the tail.

Tail: 10 points.

The tail of the Star Finch shall be of a 1-1/4" length. It shall taper slightly and should appear compact. It should not fan or appear uneven.

CONDITION (25 POINTS)

The Star Finch should be considered easily kept and should have an appearance of top condition. The feathering should appear to have a clean satin-like appearance. All feathers must be clean and neat; no fraying or misplaced feathers should be present. Nails and beaks must be clean and of proper length. Eyes should be round, dark and bright.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (20 POINTS)

Cock:

The beak is bright red. This same color red spreads over the facial area of the forehead, throat and cheeks. This bright red must, in the cock bird, extend to completely encircle beyond the eye. The upper body is olive with some dull red-brown on the tail. There is rose red on the uppertail coverts where a few white spots tinged with red will occur. The underside of the tail is a dull grayish shade. Feet and legs are of flesh coloration. The upper chest and lower throat are olive and blend into the lower chest to bright yellow. The yellow fades gradually in the abdominal area through the undertail coverts. The face, flanks, and chest are superimposed with white spots that are small on the facial area and larger and further apart as they radiate in the chest and flank areas.

Hen:

The beak is bright red, but the red on the forehead of the female is not extensive. The bright yellow on the chest is less vivid, and all other colors in the male will be of lesser intensity.

Pied:

The Pied Star Finch will have areas of white feathering about the back feathers; pied markings on the chest or facial areas will be faulted. Symmetry of markings will be more important than the degree of piedness. Ideally, the pied markings on the back parts should be 50% white and 50% base color.

Yellow-faced:

Same as normal bird but the red on beak, forehead, and facial areas is replaced by a bright yellow- orange color.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (5 POINTS)

Deportment: 5 points.

The Star Finch should remain fairly calm in the show cage. It should perch alertly and at a 45 degree angle. The Star Finch should also display a degree of inquisitiveness when being judged.

The Official Cuban Melodious Finch Standard

Approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society – May 2013

Tiaris canora

CONFORMATION	45 POINTS
Head and Body	25 Points
Wings	10 Points
Tail	10 Points
CONDITION	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	20 POINTS
DEPARTMENT	10 POINTS
PRESENTATION	5 POINTS

CONFORMATION (45 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 25 points.

The Cuban Melodious Finch should have a combined beak, head, body and tail length of 3 ½ inches. The body is rounded and in proportion to the head. The head should be small, rounded and sit nicely on shoulders with no excess of neck showing. The breast should be robust and the body equally wide. The shape of the hen is slightly slimmer in comparison to the cock, mostly notable through the head and neck. The line of the back should be straight to the tail.

Wings: 10 points

The wings should be compact to the body. The wing tips should meet at the center of the base of the tail. All flight feathers should lie smoothly when the bird is relaxed.

Tail: 10 points

The tail is about one third of the length of the bird. The end of the tail should be square and the feathers should be evenly stacked at the tip of the tail when the bird is at rest.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

The Cuban Melodious is a soft-feathered bird. All feathers should be softly layered to not show any single feather outline except the wing and tail feathers. The feathers softly fluff together and the chest feathers may softly layer over the edge of the breast and onto the wings. The beak should be smooth and the eyes a bright black color. The legs and feet should be a pink or light grey color with smooth skin and no scaling. The toenails should not be long and all toes should be present. The bird should be lively and moving around the cage often.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (20 POINTS)

Normal

The cock and hen are dimorphic. The cock has a black face and black beak. The black on the face extends over the crown and under the beak down the top one third of the chest. Black beak, face, chin and throat

surrounded by a yellow crescent-shaped band beginning just above the eye, extending over the ears and under the throat like the collar on a shirt giving the appearance of a chin strap/beard. The yellow should be solid in color to the center but a slight break in the color to black under the beak is normal. The belly of the cock is a dark grey. The wings and tail feathers are an olive green with the tail feathers being a darker shade. The hen is similar to the cock with a dark grey beak and rusty brown on the face. Like the cock, the hen also has yellow that extends from over the eyes and under the beak with color not as brilliant as the cock. The hen has a lighter grey breast and belly with her back and tail feathers similar to the cock.

Rare Color Mutations

Lutino

Pied

DEPARTMENT (10 POINTS)

The bird should readily show on the perches. This is a naturally active bird and should display similar behavior in the cage. The bird should be comfortable in the cage and not be panicked by the judge when moving the bird from perch to perch. The bird should easily move from perch to perch when requested by the judge. These birds are very active with a lot of energy. They should sit at a 45-degree angle on the perch with feathers somewhat loose when relaxed. The cock may be seen calling or singing.

PRESENTATION (5 POINTS)

A #1 National Finch and Softbill Society show cage is recommended, or a flat-topped open wire cage appropriate to the size and requirements of the bird. The bird should be shown in a cage with two perches to allow the natural movement of the bird to take place. Perch size (thickness) should allow the bird to sit naturally.

Pairs

Birds being shown in the pair class should be the same size. They should act as a pair showing tolerance and consideration of each other. Care must be taken when showing pairs as both male and female birds can be aggressive in close confinement.

Alternate Names:

Cuban Finch, Cuban Grassquit

The Official Orange Cheeked Waxbill Standard

Approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society – May 2013

Extrilda melpod

CONFORMATION	50 POINTS
Head and Body	25 Points
Wings	15 Points
Tail	10 Points
CONDITION	25 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS	15 POINTS
DEPORTMENT	5 POINTS
PRESENTATION	5 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 25 points.

The bird should be approximately 4 inches in length, about 10cm from head to tail. The head should be gently rounded at the crown and slightly broader at the jaw, with smooth mandibles that meet evenly at the tip. The shape of the head from the side view is slightly elliptical front to back. The eye should be included in the orange cheek patch and in a horizontal line with the beak. The bird should have a straight dorsal line with no obvious curves continuing down to the tip of the tail. The bottom line should be slightly curved beginning at the chin, running down the neck and chest to the vent. This is a slender bird with the widest part being at the upper chest. The bird should have good substance with no evidence of a prominent, puffed out, or harshly divided breast, this is a petite bird. There should not be any flatness to the chest or abdomen. The straight back should be widest at the shoulder, tapering gradually to the tail. The beak is conical and red, with a look resembling sealing wax. The legs must be set parallel. The legs and feet are grey and refined as is the bird.

Wings: 15 points

The wings will be carried evenly over the back meeting at the base of the tail. The wings should blend smoothly into the back and not be crossed or drooped when the bird is at rest. Expect the wings to move, crossing and uncrossing with naturally active waxbill deportment.

Tail: 15 points

The tail should be more than one third the total length of the bird. It must be carried to follow the backline. The tail should not be elevated or droop when the bird is at rest but will be moving up and down and side to side as the bird moves around the cage. As the bird displays in the cage expect to see the tail fan into a soft v-shape. When perching, the tail will be slender with feathers held tightly tapering to a slightly rounded tip.

CONDITION (25 POINTS)

The Orange Cheeked Waxbill must be in immaculate feather. Feathers, skin, beak, legs, and feet must be clean, smooth, lustrous and free of scaling. There should be not pinfeathers or missing feathers, toes, or toenails. The eyes should be bright and clear, without any discharge. The beak must be clean, bright, and

present a waxy appearance. Missing tail feathers should be penalized. The feathers are soft in appearance but are not ragged. They are easy keepers and need minimal conditioning for show.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

The cock and hen are very difficult to sex by color. Both sexes should have orange to red cheeks/cheek patches which extend over the eyes. A yellow stripe at the vent may be more intense in color in a cock than on a hen. The cocks may or may not exhibit brighter color at cheek or vent. Color and marking intensity should not be used to give more points to one bird over another. The beak should be a bright waxy red. The top of the head should be a medium blue-grey, light grey under chin, light brown-grey chest, buff to light grey lower belly, rich brown back and wings, crimson tail coverts, grey tail, yellow to deep yellow-orange streak across the vent area. The colors are rich and softly delineated; there should be no bleeding of one color on to the next. Juveniles look like the adults but with subdued markings. There are sometimes different intensities in the color of the beak, with some being more orangey than red. There are no known color mutations.

DEPORTMENT (5 POINTS)

The Orange Cheeked Waxbill is timid, nervous, and energetic. The bird should move from perch to perch twitching its wings and tail. The bird should not be flighty or frantic in the cage. These are active little birds and their quick movement around the show cage should not be held against them. An Orange Cheeked Waxbill should have a 40 to 45 degree stance on the perch. The bird should not have a roosting or horizontal posture. They do not hunch on the perch.

PRESENTATION (5 POINTS)

The exhibitor should show birds in a #1 NFSS show cage or flat top open wire cage fitting for a small bird. Two perches should be provided for the bird to display and show normal movement. Ensure that there are no large gaps where waters are attached and a small wire width cage is used for the safety of the bird. Proper seed mix is the best for flooring, and always have water available to one side of the cage.

Pairs should be of the same size and attentive to one another. Different color intensity may be present in pairs between male and female. The male may sing.

Alternative name:

Red-cheeked Waxbill

There is at least one sub-species of the Orange Cheek, *Estrildamelpodatschadensis*, which displays generally ruddier appearance.

The Official Pairs Standard

Approved by the National Finch and Softbill Society - October 2001

An ideal exhibition pair is a true pair and as closely matched as possible. A true pair will be a cock and a hen of the same species or sub-species, although it is recognized that in species that are not dimorphic the distinction between sexes may not be readily evident while the pair is being judged. It will be the Judge's discretion as to assigning pair status, but pair status will not be withheld with prejudice. Each bird of the exhibition pair will be judged according to the NFSS standard, and ideally the pair will be closely matched, except for gender differences, in conformation, condition, color and markings. Both birds will be of the same mutation, i.e. same color mutation, both crested, or both non- crested, etc. In terms of deportment, the ideal pair will show similar and complementary demeanor in the show cage, both birds confident, alert and displaying characteristic pair behavior.