

Journal of the

# National Finch & Soft-bill Society

Volume 22, No. 4

July/August, 2005



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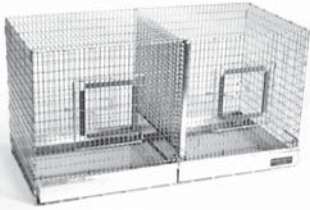
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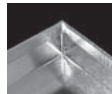
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The National Finch and Softbill Society is dedicated to the introduction of the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhance the knowledge of our members in keeping and care of these birds, encourage breeding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

## Journal of the National Finch and Softbill Society

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This issue's cover is a beautiful photo of a Continental Chestnut Flanked White Zebra Finch was taken by NFSS Region 2 Vice Presiden Ron Castaner at the 2003 Sun Coast Avian Society NFSS Show, St Petersburg, Florida.

*Photo Courtesy © Ron Castaner*

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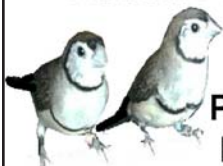
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## NFSS President's Message

### July - August, 2005

Oh where are those 'lazy, hazy days of summer'....

Seems like summer is one of the busiest times for us (Vince and I) in regards to our birds. The fun part of 'busy' is being part of the flurry of nesting, egg sitting, fledging babies, monitoring, sexing and banding all of those fledglings. The 'pain-in-the-vent' part is the time taken for preventive measures necessary in our outside flights. We must ward off the "bird pests" i.e. mites, ants, snakes, lizards, mice, rats, raccoons, skunks, possums, hawks, neighborhood cats, virus carrying mosquitoes et. al., (have I missed any?) With all this seemingly necessary protective work, I do wonder how so many birds make it in the wild



Remember, even if you are small you can think big! Take it from these spotted manikins in my aviary who are determined to sit and hatch our button quail eggs. They take turns sitting on the quail eggs for as long as I leave them in the corner of the mixed flight. The button quail seem to ignore the manikins. So far they have not hatched any button quail, but it certainly isn't because they have not tried. Like NFSS members throughout the country, these manikins have big, hopeful and determined hearts.

If you are monitoring the yahoo site and our journal, you can see "show-season" is starting soon. Please enter a bird or two or three, in your local or area NFSS sponsored show. You will notice that as the birds are judged, the 'bird-talk' is contagious. There is always so much to learn and to share at the bird shows.

**Sally Huntington, President, National Finch & Softbill Society**

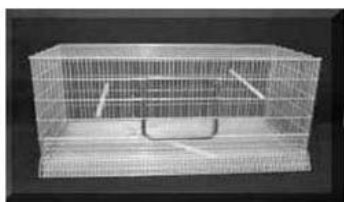
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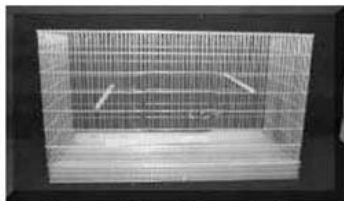
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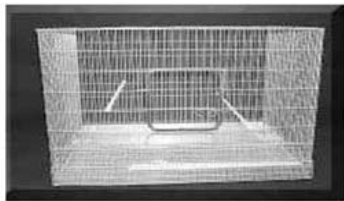
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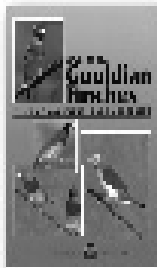
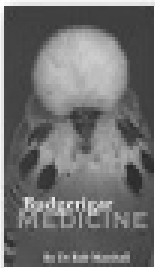


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## Philadelphia Freedom?

### It's for the Birds!

By: Shelly Ortman



Philadelphia Zoo Entrance

The lovely old Bird House of the Philadelphia Zoo is in store for a brand new set of feathers. The bird exhibit is next on the zoo's list for a complete renovation and restoration beginning sometime within the next year. The Victorian era architecture of the original structure will be restored replacing decades old "improvements and modernizations." The original elaborate arched entryways will be seen once again and the weather damaged façade will be restored. There are major improvements slated for the interior of the aviary building too. Old-style wire mesh flights will be replaced with barrier-free exhibitions. This will allow the birds and public to interact, for example, enabling the public to easily photograph the birds, which is nearly impossible through the old-fashioned wire mesh.

A new exhibit in the planning stage is a migratory bird walk. The visitor will travel from a local Philadelphia suburban backyard to a South American coffee plantation, following the migration path of many of our typical mid-Atlantic songbirds. The idea is to inform and involve local zoo visitors of the importance of environmental responsibility throughout a migratory bird's travels. The exhibit will highlight your personal importance to a songbird that may use your back yard as its breeding ground, and emphasize the unbeliev-

able obstacles all along its amazing biannual journey.

Renovation is also in store for the lives of the birds in the aviary. New ideas in bird care have fostered a new training program for many of the avian inhabitants. Almost every species of bird can be trained to perform certain natural behaviors on their trainers cue. An example of such training here at the zoo involves the Inca Terns (*Larosterna inca*) and the Hammerkops (*Scopus umbretta*).

Both birds are housed in a large open enclosure found immediately upon entering the aviary building. When cued by the trainer, each bird lands on a colored target specific to that bird. The bird is then rewarded with a piece of food. This trained behavior can be useful in many ways. In one case, a bird needed medication applied to its foot on a daily basis. The medication was placed on the target and when the bird landed on its target, the foot was medicated. The colored targets can be placed on a scale to easily record a bird's weight which is typically taken on alternate days. The colored target can also be used to train a bird to enter a crate. All of these necessary maintenance chores are made much less stressful to the birds (and humans who care for them) by using the training target, rather than chasing them around with nets. Another

positive use of the target is seen with the Hammerkops. The male Hammerkop displays his dominance over the female by keeping her away from the food. Now they are target trained and the male patiently waits on his target as the female is allowed to eat.



Inca Tern (*Larosterna inca*)

According to Dr. Aliza P. Baltz, Curator of Birds, studies have shown that these training methods keep the birds mentally active and alert. Animals that are given the choice of food offered freely throughout the day or food that they must work for, actually prefer to work for their food. This keeps them mentally active and provides "enrichment" by encouraging them to mimic natural behaviors. Other methods of enrichment include hiding their food so they must hunt for it, and providing food several times throughout the day rather than being provided with one big bowl of food that they pick at all day. Birds that have had problems maintaining a healthy weight tend to put on weight and maintain it when they are forced to work for it. "Psychological hunger is a powerful tool," says Dr. Baltz.

Husbandry at the zoo is

thorough. The zoo has a full time nutritionist to prepare the appropriate diet for each species of bird. Some commercially prepared diets are used as well as supplemented with fresh fruits, vegetables and live food as needed.

Hemochromatosis, also known as iron storage disease, is a concern among some of the softbills. This disease occurs when iron is stored in the bird's liver resulting eventually in the bird's death. The causes and the treatment for Hemochromatosis are controversial, although a low iron diet is usually recommended to help prevent a build up of iron (Iron Storage Disease). In the Philadelphia Zoo certain precautions are taken to prevent problems from developing. Specifically, foods with a moderate iron content are fed several hours apart from citrus fruits to avoid the possibility that vitamin C from the citrus could assist the bird's body in the uptake of dietary iron. The zoo employs two full time veterinarians plus a vet resident to take care of the health care needs of all the animals. A pathologist is on staff for routine testing mainly to check for and prevent any infestation of parasites within the bird population. With such thorough care available, no prophylactic



Hammerkop (*Scopus umbretta*)

treatment of the bird population is required.

Two of the stars of the Philadelphia Zoo are the Guam Rail (*Rallus owstoni*) and the Micronesian Kingfisher (*Halcyon cinnamomina*). Both of these birds are victims of the brown tree snake (*Boigra irregularis*) which was inadvertently introduced to the island of Guam sometime after WWII and has since completely decimated the native bird and mammal population. The few remaining individuals of these bird species were eventually captured and are now being captive bred at zoos and aviaries throughout the world. The intent is to eventually reintroduce native species to Guam and nearby islands.



Guam Rail (*Rallus owstoni*)

The Rail, a small flightless omnivorous bird, has been successfully captive bred and reintroduced on the island of Rota, and also on Guam, where they have reproduced. This requires Herculean efforts: fencing in the birds, fencing out the snakes, and constant trapping of snakes that may enter the area. With some areas of the island hosting up to 13,000 snakes per acre, keeping the 60 acre Rail breeding area snake-free is a remarkable achievement.

The Micronesian Kingfisher has proven to be more difficult to breed in captivity. One problem occurred when the first captive pairs are given pinky mice as a live food to

#### Walk through Rain Forest



feed their young. The chicks soon began disappearing when the birds mistook their own pink naked young for the pinky mice and ate them! Pinky mice were replaced with anoles, a small lizard which occurs in their native habitat, and is a more natural food source. The problem was resolved. The total captive program consists of about 65 birds. The goal is to maintain a captive breeding program of 100 to 200 birds located at 25 separate zoological institutions including the pair at the Philadelphia Zoo.



Micronesian Kingfisher

Spring is a wonderful time to visit the Philadelphia Zoo: animals awakening from winter's lethargy, tulips popping from the ground, Dogwoods and Redbuds blooming and spreading their blossoms over the landscape. This spring promises a re-birth also for the careworn Bird House, celebrating the past by restoring the original splendor of the Bird House in our country's oldest

zoo. It is also a rebirth for the inhabitants as new methods of bird husbandry improve the lives of our remarkable feathered friends.

The Philadelphia Zoo welcomes all donations for the Bird House restoration project. Please send to:

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Older Inside Avaries to be renovated - Philadelphia Zoo

Shelley Ortman breeds and exhibits finches & softbills, concentrating on the tiny African waxbills. She was recently appointed NFSS Region 1 Vice-president, and is seeking election to the position for the next term. She has also been appointed Affiliations Manager 2006 and is looking forward to working with clubs, shows & organizations to further the wonderful hobby of finches & softbills. She is also a full-time 7th grade Teacher of the Handicapped.

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## If It's a Weekend in Autumn, I Must Be at a Bird Show

By: Vonda Zwick & Robert Mehl

### She (Vonda) said:

In the fall of 2004, I began showing birds at bird shows. It was something I had not considered early on - it wasn't until I started contemplating breeding finches that I began to think about what I could learn from a show. I wish I would have considered it earlier - there is so much to be gained from participating in one. My interest in showing grew out of a desire to begin a breeding program - a breeding program in which, over time, subsequent generations of birds would improve in quality over earlier generations. Bird shows would help me to assess my progress.

I had a problem, though. I didn't know how to recognize a good candidate for a breeding program. I was supposed to look at such qualities as size, proportion, conformation, condition, and color/markings, but with no experience and no basis for comparison, I didn't know how to evaluate such things. How was I ever going to breed birds fit to bring to a show if I did not know what to look for in my foundation breeding stock?

So, I did what any beginner would do - I turned to Darla Dandre, a seasoned bird keeper at my local club, and posed that very question. I didn't really expect her to be able to answer it in a sentence or two, and yet, it turned out the answer was so simple and obvious, but yet one I never would have considered: Start showing my existing birds! At first I thought I hadn't been clear. "I can't do that. My current birds are just

pets. I haven't bred any of them myself." But Darla reassured me that it was perfectly acceptable to show un-banded birds that had come out of another breeder's program.

And because show people are so friendly and welcoming and willing to help a novice, the next thing I knew, Darla was at my house tutoring me and lending me her show cages. Then, I was on the road with her heading for Michigan and my first show, with five birds sure to humiliate me, including a fawn and white Society that I thought was just your garden-variety pet-shop pied and a molting Owl finch that looked like a cat had gotten it by the time we got to the show.

To my astonishment, I came home from that show with a third-place plaque for my so-called "garden-variety pet-shop pied" Society as well as two other rosettes for top bench spots and a best novice ribbon. And while my motley Owl really was a bit of an embarrassment (I think the judge struggled not to laugh), no one was hard on him or me, and he went on to redeem himself the next year at Springfield, taking 8th in show out of 115 birds in front of the very same judge (Lesson learned: his show season starts in June, not October!). But more important than any trophy, plaque, or ribbon, I win at every show some new friends, some wonderful experiences, and an unparalleled learning opportunity. If only I had started showing sooner!

**He (Robert) said:**

I was a reluctant shower at first. You know – the shy type and not really into competitive sports. My first show, I had three cages. Well, two show cages and a small wire cage that they sell for like a parakeet. The morning of the show, I went into the bird room and did a “musical chair selection” of birds to take. When the bird stops moving, grab it and put it in the show cage. Well, a red-headed parrot finch, a blue-capped waxbill, and a double-factor blue-faced button quail were the slowest that day. I didn’t even think to choose another bird when I caught the blue-cap near the rump and it lost a few tail feathers. Later that day, I would find out that next time, play another round of musical pick and get another bird.

So off to the show I go, not knowing what a show tag, entry form, Show Secretary, or Show Steward were. I figured out the judge part, – having gone through a divorce, the judge part I knew, although this one, I was hoping, caused a lot less pain. Well I was excited – there I was, sitting in the gallery (what the audience is called at a show), and Wow! – all my birds made first in their selection. It wasn’t a large show, 30 some birds, but I thought, man, I got some beginner’s luck going here!

Well, the judge was examining my blue-cap and he was being a true ham. Singing and dancing on the perch like the judge was his mate. The judge kept playing with his beard and said in a low voice, “This is a great bird but there is something wrong with its tail.” Well, good thing he was looking forward because I could hardly contain myself wanting to yell out, “Yes, the rest of it is home

in his cage!” Well, despite it that, he placed forth. The red-head placed second and the button quail, tenth. After the judging was over, the judge conversed with the gallery. I told him he had a good eye and that next time, I’ll try bringing a bird and the feathers too also!

As we were collecting up the birds, a fellow exhibitor said, “Nice job! You got two points out of your first show.” Points? I thought, I got two nice rosettes but I didn’t even know what the points were for.

Hopefully, these points are better than the kind I got on my license as a young driver! So I collected my birds, showed off my ribbons to friends, and then the fever set in. Just like a cold, it started slow at first, 4 cages, 10 cages, and a 4-hour drive to a show. Then the infection gets going: you find yourself driving 12 hours, planning 13 trips in 4 months, and going to the “Nationals: The Show of Shows.”

Now the difference between the show bug and the normal cold is, rather than meet some stuffy doctor that gives you medicine that makes you feel worse, instead you get to meet some real caring, friendly, helpful people that become a new circle of friends. From fellow exhibitors, to show managers, to judges, almost everyone I have met on the show circuit has been the best. Showing is not just about winning and getting points (I’ll get back to those in a bit). What you learn along the way is priceless.

**That having been said:**

First, you need to learn the basics. Most people find a mentor,

most likely through a local bird club or even at a show.

### How to Find a Show

Local bird clubs sometimes host an annual show, possibly two, and they frequently distribute information about shows in the surrounding states. NFSS keeps a list of all NFSS-affiliated shows on their website ([www.nfss.org](http://www.nfss.org)). There is also a Yahoo! Group called, *BirdShowClub* (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdShowClub/>) has a calendar feature of upcoming shows throughout the country for all types of birds, including finches & softbills. There are also two national shows that are held in different parts of the country each year: The Great American Bird Show (GABS) and The National Cage Bird Show (NCBS).

### Cage Preparation

Finches are commonly shown in Type I or Type II standard show cages. Plans for these show cages as well as the larger Type 3 cages used for softbills and larger finches are available from the NFSS Finch Shop. However, you can use any small cage that you own. Better to enter your bird in a regular cage than not to enter at all. As a general rule, a better bird should not be penalized because of lack of a show cage. However, a show cage offers better visibility and the bird is likely to stay in better feather in a show cage. The exterior of most standard show cages is painted black with glossy black paint. The interior is usually painted white or eggshell blue. It is best not to show an all white bird in a cage with a white interior. However, some exhibitors have expressed a preference for a white interior for other colored birds.

For finches, two perches should be provided, running from the back of the cage to the front, placed a few inches apart. The width of the perch should be appropriate to the species. If the perch is too wide, the bird will have difficulty staying on the perch, and this will affect its score. When seated on a perch, the bird's tail should not reach the sides of the cage. Doves are often shown in cages with one perch and quails in a cage with no perches at all. The cage should be cleaned thoroughly before the show. With softbills, you may even need to clean up the cage right before entering them. Do not submerge a wooden show cage in water or it may rot or mold may develop. A black Sharpie marker can touch up nicks and scratches on a standard black show cage and can hide the places where the powder coating has worn off the cage bars.

Food and water must be provided or your bird will be disqualified. Seed is usually used to line the bottom of the cage, eliminating the need for a seed cup. Use only as much seed as is needed to cover the bottom. Never use seed that has colored pellets in it or your white zebra, society, or dove may get an unintentional dye job before seeing the judge. Placing a folded piece of paper towel or a cut piece of wax paper on the bottom of the show cage before adding the seed will make cleanup easier after the show. If seed is not used to line the bottom of the cage, corncob bedding should be used instead and seed must be offered elsewhere. For softbills and quails, seed would not be an appropriate food source, and either pellets or fruit/nectar should be available according to the bird being shown. Water is usually offered with a small

L-shaped tube-style drinker, placed as low and off to the side as possible, so as not to obscure the judge's view of the bird. If you're concerned that with no nearby perch, the birds may not reach the drinker, rest assured they learn quickly where to find the water and how to reach it.

No toys or identifying marks should be in or on the cage. Nothing indicating who the bird owner is should appear on the cage. No advertising on the cage is allowed. If using a standard show cage, after placing the bird inside, tape the door shut with black electrical tape or black masking tape to prevent the door from swinging open accidentally during handling at the show. Many cages are designed with a wire latch that secures the bird inside, making tape unnecessary.

### **Bird Preparation**

Make sure your birds bathe regularly every day for a few weeks before the show to ensure good feather condition. If your birds do not bathe, mist them daily with water in a spray bottle. Cage training is often helpful in making the bird feel calm and comfortable in the show cage. This involves putting the bird in the show cage for periods of time in the days before a show. Picking up and moving the cage suddenly from behind will help prepare them for the unexpected cage movement that occurs at a show. You may also want to keep the bird in the show cage for couple days before the show so they are comfortable come show day. If your bird will not stay on the perch (a common problem), cage training will help. Try covering the bottom half of the cage front with cardboard until the bird becomes accustomed to the

perches. If the bird cannot see out, it will eventually take to the perch. Alternatively, you can fill the cage with as much seed as it will hold. When the bird sinks into the seed, it learns to prefer the perch. Do not try this on show day, however.

The day before the show, any broken feathers should be pulled. If a few pinfeathers are present, a toothbrush or the stiff side of a piece of Velcro can be used to scratch off the sheath, freeing the new feather. Long nails should be trimmed, and many exhibitors do so a few weeks early for a more rounded appearance come show day. An overgrown beak will count against the bird, so it is best to trim or file it down to its natural size, being careful not to trim too much.

The bird should be placed in the show cage the day before the show (if not earlier), so that it will have time to adjust to the cage. The night before the show, the cages should be covered so that the birds spend their time sleeping and are not overly tired when it is time to enter them in the competition. Only one bird should occupy a cage unless you are showing birds as a pair.

Just before entering the bird in the show, mist it using a spray bottle filled with water. This will get the bird preening itself so that it looks its best when judged. Remove any loose feathers from the bottom of the cage, as the presence of feathers will hurt your bird's score.

### **Forms, Cage Tags, & Show Catalog**

At the show, you will purchase a **cage tag** for each cage (they usually cost about a dollar or two).

You may be able to purchase these in advance from the sponsoring club. When you purchase your tags, you will also receive an **entry form** and a **show catalog** containing the classifications of the birds to be judged.

### Show Catalog

The catalog will be organized into divisions (in our case, Finches and Softbills), sections (eg, Finches of Africa), and classes (eg,



Cordon Bleu). The division is assigned a letter or number designation in large shows, but often in local shows this is not used. Currently, NFSS show classifications are divided into 11 sections. They are: Softbills, Zebra Finches, Gouldian Finches (new in 2005), Finches of Australia, Finches of Africa, Society Finches, Indo-Pacific Finches, Finches of Europe, Finches of the Americas, Doves & Quail, and Pairs. Zebras, Societies, and Gouldians were given their own sections because of the large numbers being exhibited and the many mutations of each. Each section is assigned a number. This number is most often the NFSS classification number but may vary according to the sponsoring club guidelines.

Each section is then divided into classes. For example, Blue-Capped Waxbill and St Helena's Waxbill are classes under African finches; Normal Gray and Fawn are

classes under the Zebra finch section. Each class is split into young (or unflighted) and old (flighted). The unflighted class is only for birds with current-year closed bands. All other birds belong in the old class, regardless of age. If your bird does not fit into any of the classes listed, it may be entered under the AOV (any other variety) class for the appropriate section. Each class is assigned a unique 3-digit number. The first digit is the same as the NFSS section number. If you need help determining how to classify your bird, the division steward will be on hand to assist you. If you mis-classify your bird, the judge will correct the classification when he/she does the walk-through.

Usually, birds are exhibited singly. However, you may also exhibit your birds as a pair in the Pairs section. This is something unique to Finches and Softbills. A word of caution when showing pairs, the pair's score will reflect the score of the lesser bird; thus, to do well, both birds must be in excellent condition. According to the current standards the birds should make up a "true" male-female pair. Birds exhibited as a pair should compliment each other.

### Cage Tag

The class, section, and division numbers from the catalog must be recorded on the tag. Also record a



description of the bird (eg, normal gray zebra cock) and the bird's band number if banded. If the bird has split plastic bands, enter the color of the bands for identification purposes. Write your name and address in the designated location on the cage tag (bring address labels if you are entering many birds). When your bird is turned over to the steward, he or she will fold over your personal information and staple the tag so that the judging is anonymous.

If you are a novice exhibitor (have not placed on the top 10 bench for the Division division three different times with three different judges), write the letter "N" on the top left corner of the tag. If the bird is bred and banded by you with a closed dated traceable band, write "BB" on the top left corner. Affix the tag to the cage with string. String is not always provided, so remember to bring string and scissors with you. Fasten the tag in the lower left-hand corner of the cage.

## Entry Form

NOTE: Your Exhibitor Number will be provided when you purchase your cage tags. Many smaller shows will omit this feature.

Once the tags are filled out, list all the cage tag numbers on your entry form and duplicate the cage tag information for each entry on the form. Write "NOVICE" on the top of your entry form if you are a novice.

Write your NFSS number on the top of the form if you are a member. If you cannot get tags in advance, it is helpful to record the appropriate tag information on a sheet of paper as you are collecting your birds, or alternatively, mark it on a piece of masking tape on the show cage (which you must remember to remove before entering your birds). Another option would be to make a small address label for each cage with the class and section above your name and the band number below. At the show, you can stick the label on the cage tag like an address label and then copy or write the section and class in the space above.

## What to Do After the Paperwork

Once your cage tags are filled out and attached, the show steward verifies the tags match the entries on your form, then folds and staples the tag so that your name and address are hidden. He or she will then take your birds from you. You will not have access to your birds again until the judging is over.

After the steward takes your birds, it is a considerate thing to do to ask if you can help. The shows are staffed by volunteers, and while clubs try to have volunteers lined up ahead of time, there are frequently some unfilled positions come show date.

**Show Volunteers** (Some great sources of information)

The **division secretary** is responsible for recording the entries and the results of the judging. As the judging proceeds, the secretary checks the cage numbers being judged against the entries in the book to ensure all birds of the class are present and accounted for. When

judging is over, the secretary fills out the show report.

The **steward** is responsible for accepting the birds entered into the show. The steward will check to make sure the paperwork is filled out correctly and will answer related questions. The steward will then position the entries on the benches according to their division, section, and class numbers. Just before judging, the steward will walk through all the entries with the judge, while the judge takes a cursory look at all the birds so he/she knows what to expect. When it is time for judging, the steward will bring out the birds to be judged and will rearrange them as directed by the judge. The steward then proceeds to move the judged birds off the judging table and bring the next set of birds out, until judging is complete.

**Ribbon tier** is an ideal volunteer position for novices. The ribbon tier works in close proximity to the judge and gets a close-up view of all the birds. The ribbon tier follows the judge as he/she makes the final place determination for class, section, and division. When the judge writes the place on the cage tag, the ribbon tier attaches the ribbon. The ribbon can be attached by wrapping the string around the cage tag. Rosettes for the top bench can be affixed by attaching the clips to the cage bars. The ribbon tier must also affix ribbons for best novice, best unflighted, and best bred and banded, if available.

### **How the Show Works**

The steward will place all entries on tables behind the judging benches, ordered by class and section. The judging bench is set up in front of the tables, with lights over-

head for good viewing. At a 90-degree angle to the judging bench is a table where the secretary sits and records the entries and the results. In front of the judging bench is the gallery seats where the exhibitors and general public can watch the judging.

Before the judging begins, the judge and steward do a walk-through of all the entries to become familiar with them and ensure all birds are classified appropriately. The judge may reclassify birds entered in the wrong class at this time. When the judge is satisfied, judging can begin.

For any given section, the birds of each class are judged together first. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in class are awarded at this time. The judge will write the bird's place on the tag when he/she has made an official decision. The ribbon tier attaches the appropriate ribbons/stickers. Best Novice in Class and Best Unflighted in Class may also be awarded. While judging is in progress, the judge will discuss the merits and flaws of the birds being judged. People in the gallery may ask questions, but one cannot say anything that identifies a specific bird as being his/her own. This would disqualify the bird.

After all birds in the section have been judged against birds in their like class, the top birds are judged against each other for the Best in Section awards. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in section are awarded at this time, as well as Best Novice in Section and Best Unflighted in Section, if available. It is very possible for a low-placed bird in one class to place higher than a 1st place bird in another class. However, if birds A and B are in the same class, and bird

A placed higher than bird B in its class, bird B cannot place higher than bird A when the section is judged. The same holds true when the division is judged. After one section is judged, the classes in the next section are judged.

After all classes and sections have been judged, the top birds in section compete for Best in Division. Once again, a lower placed bird in one section can do better than a higher placed bird in another section.

Awards for the division winners are given to the top ten birds. This is called the Top Bench. Also, a Best Novice in Division, a Best Unflighted in Division, and a Best Bred and Banded in Division may be awarded. The 1st in Division bird is usually referred to as Best In Show. After the awards are distributed, the cage tags are opened and the names of the winners are announced.

Some shows have a Best Overall in Show award. In this case, the Best in Division (Best in Show) birds from all divisions (finches/soft-bills, hookbills, lovebirds, cockatiels, budgies, canaries, etc) compete against each other for Best Overall in Show. The judges of the different divisions get together and discuss the merits of the birds. They then vote based on a points system to determine a Best Overall in Show.

Many shows have a banquet afterward. Sometimes there is a speaker at the banquet. The banquet costs extra and is optional. Some shows also have a raffle table. Proceeds from the raffle table help pay for the costs of the show.

## How the Birds Are Judged

The birds are judged based on conformation, condition, color and markings, and deportment or demeanor. The NFSS standards break down how many points are awarded for each. It also defines how the bird should look for a number of common species. However, judges rarely record a point score for the birds being judged.

Conformation describes the body shape and posture of the bird. Is the bird proportionate? Does its back form a straight line at the proper angle, or is it humped? Is the bird cobby or snaky? Is the head proportionate? Is it rounded or flat? Do the wings stay close to the body or droop down? Is it too small or too large for its species. Conformation is broken down into Head and Body, Wings and Tail, and Legs and Feet. For the most part, conformation is a genetic trait of the bird. Only good breeding can lead to good conformation, although age and injury can be a factor.

Condition, on the other hand, is in the control of the keeper. Are the feathers torn, shredded, damaged, or missing? Is the bird overweight? Is the bird in optimal health (as a result of good diet, proper environment, freedom to exercise)? Are the nails trim and clean?

Color of the bird should be appropriate for the species or mutation. The color is judged based on depth of color, evenness of color, and lack of irregular blotches or markings. How the markings are judged varies between species and mutations. Pied birds should be evenly pied, preferably 50/50, with white breaking up all major areas of the body, but not



obscuring features that identify sex.

Deportment pertains to how the bird acts and carries itself in the show cage. A bird that clings to the cage bars or sits on the floor will not do very well. Cage training can help a bird feel comfortable in a show cage and perform better in the deportment/demeanor category. A bird with good deportment sits calmly on the perch and is unfazed if the judge approaches and runs a baton gently across the cage. A bird with poor deportment will jump on and off the perch and startle easily when the judge approaches. Birds such as zebra finches, java rice finches, society finches, and many grassfinches should exhibit good deportment.

Demeanor applies to many of the smaller wilder birds such as the waxbills. Waxbills are expected to be active and move about. They are not expected to sit still on the perch. Ideal behavior would be hopping back and forth from perch to perch and exhibiting proper head, tail, and body movements for the species.

### **NFSS Points (finally about those points)**

For those serious about showing, the NFSS awards points to members every time they place a bird. Three awards honor point accumulation: Champion Exhibitor (an NFSS member who scores 50 points or more during a calendar year), Champion Bird (an NFSS-banded bird that accumulates 50 points or more during its lifetime), and Exhibitor of Excellence (an NFSS member who accumulates 200 points or more during his or her lifetime). You do not have to be an NFSS

member to compete in shows, but you do have to be an NFSS member if you would like to accumulate points (be sure to include your NFSS member number on your form).

### **Other Items to Bring to the Show**

- Cardboard File Boxes for Packing
- Show Cages
- The NFSS Judges Handbook
- Pens and Pencils
- Black Sharpie Marker
- Electrical Tape/Masking Tape
- Scotch Tape
- String (for securing cage tags)
- Scissors (for cutting string)
- Stapler with Extra Staples
- Return Address Labels
- Spray Bottle with Water
- Extra seed
- Towels
- Nail Clippers
- Tweezers
- Blood Stop Powder
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Hand Sanitizer
- Bird Net

### **Further Reading:**

- Preparing Birds for Show, by Ron Castaner
- Showing Birds, by Michael Marcotrigiano
- Showing Finches, by Myra Markley

### **Sources for more information on Showing:**

NFSS Judge Handbook available through FinchShop - [www.nfss.org](http://www.nfss.org)

Vonda Wick's website with detailed information:  
<http://www.finchaviary.com/ShowingFinches.htm>

## AFA IN BRIEF - July-August 2005

### Carol Brasaemle, Editor

#### EDUCATIONAL RETREAT

The American Federation of Aviculture and the Tambopata Macaw Project present: Parrots in the wild and in aviculture - An educational retreat to Tambopata, Peru, 8 - 16 November 2005.

See the rain forest and parrots in the wild. Visit the world's largest clay lick, see up to 15 species of wild parrots and macaws, observe wild parrot behavior up close and see the forest canopy from a 140 ft tower.

*Lectures and discussions include:*

- The role of aviculture in conservation
- Captive & wild parrot nutrition
- Community-based conservation efforts
- Macaw reintroduction
- How YOU can help conserve wild parrots
- Disease risks to captive & wild parrots
- Clay licks & parrots: What's the real dirt?
- The Tambopata Macaw Project

Trip leaders are Donald Brightsmith, Ph.D., Duke University, Macaw Project Leader, and Dr. Brian Speer .

*Trip details:*

- 9 days, 8 nights
- Hosted at the famed Tambopata Research Center
- \$2,000 per person from Lima, Peru
- Proceeds to benefit the AFA and The Tambopata Macaw Project

*For reservations contact:*

Milagros Saux -  
msaux@rainforest.com.pe

For more information visit  
[www.duke.edu/~djb4](http://www.duke.edu/~djb4)

#### NEW SPECIAL EDITION CITES PINS TO BE RELEASED AT THE AFA 2005 CONVENTION IN MIAMI!

The long-awaited next round of CITES pins will be available at the 2005 AFA Convention in Miami in August. This set of five pins spell out the initials for CITES. They are:

- C - Fig Parrot
- I - Paradise Tanager
- T - Cock of the Rock
- E - Hooded Parrot
- S - Bearded Barbet

This limited edition is available individually or as a framed and mounted set. A few samples of the framed sets will be available at the AFA Booth in Miami, so stop by and check them out. This is a "must have" for the long-time collectors or new members who wish to support the AFA and its CITES Committee efforts.

The price of the CITES pins will increase to \$6.95 as of August 1, 2005. This will cover all pins sold at the Convention and beyond until the next price increase. After the convention, you will be able to order the pins via the AFA website at <http://www.AFAbirds.org> and click on AFA Store.



# American Federation of Aviculture

*Serving Aviculture since 1974*

The American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) is a non profit, 501C 3 educational organization established in 1974 whose purpose is to represent all aspects of aviculture and to educate the public about keeping and breeding birds in captivity.

AFA's primary goals are the education and dissemination of information related to aviculture among pet owners, hobbyists, avicultural societies, zoos, veterinarians, research institutions, the pet industry and government officials. In addition, AFA is concerned about the welfare and humane care of all birds and promotes the establishment of high standards of avian care both in the United States and abroad.

The AFA supports your rights to acquire, keep, breed and sell birds in a responsible manner. The organization monitors proposed laws and regulations at the state, federal and international level that effect your future as an aviculturist and the well being of birds.

The AFA is primarily a volunteer organization. Our efforts to ensure the future growth and development of aviculture are totally dependent upon people like YOU joining and supporting AFA. The AFA believes that aviculture is a valuable conservation tool and that the care and breeding of birds in captivity is an exciting and fulfilling endeavor.

AFA offers many different services to its members because AFA has so many different types of members.

Membership Services and Benefits include:

- **AFA Watchbird Journal** - the official publication of the AFA, filled with articles covering topics such as: avian health, nutrition, housing and care, breeding, species profile, conservation, legislative updates and more!
- **Classifieds** - nationwide ads for exotic birds, bird related supplies and bird events in each issue of the AFA Watchbird Journal.
- **Traceable AFA Logo Bands** - both open and closed bands available from Canary to Macaw.
- **National Conventions** - combining both fun and education, featuring world-renowned speakers, the latest and newest bird products, exciting behind the scene tours and YOU, the member, making AFA's Convention the MAJOR bird event of the year.
- **Legislative Information and Updates** - provided on laws and regulation that impact avicultural activities.
- **AFA Exotic Bird Registry** - one of the only nonprofit registries for exotic birds in the world.

*And Much More!*

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## Annual Membership Application

Individual \$40: \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$45: \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting \$75: \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial \$125: \_\_\_\_\_

*Foreign Members: Add \$18. U.S. Funds Only. First Class rates available on request.*

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*Revised March 2002*

## **NFSS ELECTION**

### **- NFSS Candidate Biographies -**

As you know, 2005 is an election year for the NFSS. In the May/June issue, all positions were described and a call for candidates was made with a good response from the members. This section of the Journal is your opportunity to see who is running for each position, get to know them a bit, and to start deciding who you would like to represent you on the NFSS board.

#### **Candidate: NFSS President**

#### ***Sally Huntington***

Sally Huntington on "why I am running for NFSS president"

Because of its past growth and promising potential, I would appreciate the privilege of continuing as president of the NFSS into a third term. I have learned so much from the ever-changing NFSS 'teams of volunteers', and wish to continue leadership in its future. I have helped NFSS grow from having a reputation as a somewhat bird-show-centered organization to where its reputation is now as a strong national (and in some cases, international) influence in all aspects of aviculture. This has been exciting and demanding work, and I relish it.

The NFSS finch & softbill save is a true model for avian inventorying. Our Yahoo site devotes itself to learning from one aviculture extreme to another through enthusiastic daily exchange of ideas regarding hobbyists' needs, cage and flights construction, policy effectiveness, bird locating to help both hobbyists and breeders, sharing results of nutritional 'models', monitoring and sharing the best ways to ship birds, and overall, through the ever constant 'talking birds', learning what works, why it does, or why it doesn't.

Outside of NFSS, we supply supported advice to the local, state and federal governments on avian care and on international 'politics' of CITES compliance. NFSS now helps the hobbyist, the full or part-time professional, and the policy makers.

I have been an NFSS member since the early 90's and its president since 2002. I have a lifetime membership in the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA), I am past three-time president and lifetime member of the 250 member (perhaps the largest all-finch society in the U.S) Finch Society of San Diego County. I actively participate in the Model Aviculture Program (MAP) the NFSS Finch and Softbill Save Program (NFSS-FSSP) and the National Cage Bird Show (NCBS) and several other national and international avian groups.

I have been privileged to publish numerous aviculture related papers, magazine articles and presentations. I have especially enjoyed my work on hand-raising finches and softbills to help clarify what "captive breeding requirements" really are and to search for more on why some finches and softbills can be taught to say elementary words similar to parrotting. I wish now to continue to take all I have learned and combine it with what the NFSS members know, to further develop the work-in-progress that is NFSS.

Thank you, Sally Huntington

**Candidate: NFSS 1st Vice-President (Regional V.P.'s/Education)**  
***Wick Goss***

I am 57 years old. Married with 4 children and 5 granddaughters. Supposedly retired 1998. My real name...Walter Welcome Goss, Jr.....but I am only known as Wick. My love of birds began with the purchasing of 8 pairs of wild caught red siskins during my senior year of high school. In 1969, while in Vietnam, I constantly saw a semi-wild flock of lady gouldians that numbered in the low 100's that had multiplied, over the years, from birds turned free by a French family that left Vietnam to return to France. When I got out of the army in 1971, I purchased 3 pairs of normal gouldians at 2 pet shops for the princely sum of 350.00 per pair.

Since that time I've worn many hats, so to speak, from outlaw biker to founding member and president of 2 large new england rabbit clubs and president of a third to breed standards committee member (3 members) of the Lop Rabbit Club of America (responsible for making any changes to the breed standards) to surveyor for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to drag racer and engine builder to successful business owner. My local club affiliation is with the Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society (B.O.A.F.) In 1998, when I first retired, I expanded my bird hobby into a fulltime business. Best decision I ever made....with the exception of letting my wife talk me into marriage. I am now in the process of bringing a new line of bird care products to the fancy at prices that don't include international shipping and inflated business profits. Most everything I do, and think, now is for the birds. I have good ideas that may help to make the NFSS even better. Ideas that I thought "what if" and then developed around that.

At the time of writing there are 2 candidates for this office. There may be more by voting time. Whether you cast your vote for me or another candidate isn't important . What is important is that you exercise your right to vote Your vote is the most valuable tool that your NFSS membership entitles you to. If there are any questions, feel free to email me. [NASCARis50@aol.com](mailto:NASCARis50@aol.com)

Thank you, Wick Goss

**Candidate: NFSS 1st Vice-President (Regional V.P.'s/Education)**  
***Shelly Ortman***

I am a teacher by profession, specializing in the middle school grades. I have taught every grade from 3rd through 8th, although my primary focus is teaching students with learning disabilities.

I was first introduced to finches when I was 15 and took care of a pair of Zebra finches. I fell in love with the finches and the owner gave them to me. I have had birds in my life ever since, although it has just been within the last 3 years that I have seriously begun to collect, breed, and show them. My children are in college and it is only now that I have the time and resources to devote to the wonderful hobby of keeping finches and softbills.

I was appointed Region 1 Vice President Pro Tem during the winter of 2005 to temporarily fill in a vacancy. During my brief tenure as VP Region 1, I have attended several finch shows; in addition to showing my own birds, I've assisted the show steward, manned the Finch Shop table, acted as show announcer, and held an

NFSS Regional Meeting. During the 2004 AFA Convention, in response to a challenge by our President Sally Huntington, I recruited six new members to NFSS.

I am always learning new important information related to birds and I wish to help this hobby and our organization grow and to help others as I have been helped. It is in this spirit that I would like to use my skills as an educator and organizer to contribute to the NFSS as First Vice President.

Thank you, Shelly Ortman

**Candidate: NFSS 2nd Vice-President (Publications)**  
***Harry Bryant***

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your support as a candidate for the position of 2nd Vice President of the National Finch and Softbill Society.

I have been a member (NFSS #1675) of the NFSS for the past 16 years and during the last six years, I have revised and maintained the NFSS website in it's current form. I have also authored and published many articles for the NFSS over the years.

I have held the 2nd Vice President position for the last two terms, and I would like to continue in this position to help strengthen the NFSS, both by expanding the website and the Journal to educate and appeal to all aviculturists, both beginners and advanced, who are interested in finches and softbills.

During my tenure of the last two terms, I have overseen the "modernization" of the NFSS Journal (formerly the 'Bulletin'), and also served as the NFSS Legislative Representative and as one of the NFSS representatives of NAWA.

I firmly believe we need to reach out to all fellow aviculturists throughout the world, and I also pledge to continue to increase our "presence" as a professional organization through education and our website and Journal.

In addition to my 2nd Vice President and webmaster's duties, I have also recently assumed the position of editor of the Journal, and I am exploring new ways to improve our "already improved" publication, and am seeking more volunteers to decrease the workload on any one individual, while maintaining our high standards and efficiency.

Thank you, Harry Bryant

**Candidate: NFSS 3rd Vice-President**  
**(NFSS Finch/Softbill Save Program/Census Manager)**  
***Daniel P. Gonzalez (No Bio provided)***

**Candidate: NFSS 4th Vice-President**  
**(Judges' Panel/Standards/Research)**  
***No Candidate***

**Candidate: NFSS Membership Director**  
**Brenda Josselet**

I have been involved with birds since I was a child. My family's first bird was a budgie. One of the highlights of my childhood was going to visit my aunt and getting to go into her aviary. The first time I actually had my own aviary and kept birds was in the mid-to late 1970s. I bred budgies, zebra finches, cockatiels, and a few canaries. I was fairly successful considering that I learned by trial and error since there was no Internet and I didn't know about the NFSS and other bird organizations that offered a wealth of information. I worked with these birds until we moved in 1984. As my kids were growing up, I almost always had some kind of bird around and even had a couple of small flights with some cockatiels that I bred. Then, several years ago, my husband purchased a pair of Gouldian finches for me.

That was the beginning of my life-long dream of breeding the more exotic finches and softbills. My husband also became interested in the finches and, within a year, we had a house full of cages and decided to have another building built to house our birds. I have actively read and studied almost everything I could get my hands on to learn more about these beautiful creatures. I have served as the NFSS Advertising & Promotions Manager for a little over a year. I have always been a person who steps up to serve the best I can whenever I see a need.

Thank you, Brenda Josselet

**Candidate: NFSS Membership Director**  
**Cathy Luttrell**

My name is Cathy Luttrell. I am 26 years old, and I live in Marietta, Georgia with my husband, 3 year old daughter and about 40 finches. I am a stay-at-home mom, which has been my most rewarding job so far. I have been a bird fancier since I got my first parakeet at age 9.

I feel my talents would be best suited in the position of membership director because of my organizational skills, work ethic and my attention to detail. I am a new member, but I feel this is an advantage in the position of membership director. I would be thrilled to volunteer for this position.

Thank you, Cathy Luttrell

**Candidate: NFSS Executive Secretary**  
**Jim Heffernan**

My name is Jim Heffernan. I am married with four children. I have been keeping birds since my early teens in my native Ireland and here in the USA for over 25 years.

I was a member of the Irish Zebra & Society Finch club judges panel since it was formed, also a member of the Irish foreign bird society judges panel and judged my first table show at 19 and judged many shows in my native Ireland over the years. I am also a member and trustee of my local club here in Michigan. My main interest for exhibition purposes in birds is the Zebra Finch. I also keep many other types of finch/quail/doves and Australian Parakeets.

I would like your vote for executive secretary in the upcoming election, a position I now fill pro term and hope to meet many of you at the various shows around the Midwest over the coming year.

Thank you, Jim Heffernan

**Candidate: NFSS Treasurer**  
***Bob French***

The Treasurer of NFSS is an important position. It must be filled by someone who can not only be trusted but can do the job. I feel I am that person. My name is Bob French. While I only have an Associates Degree, I have taken just about every course I can find about accounting. I began my working career in accounting but switched to retail management – a field which involves much accounting as well as management.

I have worked in several positions where I was required to be bonded because of the amount of money I handled. In one of those positions I was handling about \$8000 - \$10,000 per day, seven days per week. Never once has my honesty been questioned.

At the present time I own my own store and do all my bookkeeping myself. To do this, I have acquired a very sophisticated computer accounting program. I intend to use this same program as Treasurer of NFSS.

I am currently on the Board of NFSS in a non-voting position, that of Advertising - Promotions Manager. I took over when, unfortunately, Brenda could no longer fill the position. As your Treasurer, an elected position, I will also be a voting member of the Board. In that capacity, I pledge to try and represent your interests. I believe the Board should represent the general membership as opposed to dictate to it. While I do have beliefs and ideas, it is you, the members, who are "NFSS".

I ask for your support by voting for me in the upcoming elections. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. My contact information is on the Board information page.

Thank you, Bob French

**Candidate: NFSS Liaison Officer**  
***Doug White***

I am running for the position of club liason. I am exited about the possibility of helping the NFSS continue to grow and working with the many clubs already affiliated and those that will affiliate in the future.

I have been an NFSS member for a few years now, joining after I started back into birds. I originally started into birds with a pair of zebra finches back when I was in elementary school. I changed course a bit and moved into lovebirds and cockatiels when I was in High School. I then had several years without birds, but would always pick up one of the bird magazines to see what had changed and what was available. I then decided to get a pair of zebras, instead of just going to the local pet store and picking up a pair I looked up zebra finches on the internet, I could not believe the variety that was available. In the several years that have passed since I decided to get a pair of zebra finches the numbers and species have grown to



pearl headed silverbills, stars, cordon blues, orange weavers, spice, nuns, and nearly every mutation of zebra finch.

Thank you, Doug White

**Candidate: Band Secretary**  
***Paula Hansen***

It has been 12 years since I was bitten by the bird bug and I still enjoy listening to someone's first experience breeding birds. During those 12 years countless birds bought and sold. 9 of those years I held the position of President of Oregon's Finch Connection Bird Club. Organizing monthly meetings and yearly aviary tours. I've been a member of NFSS for 6 years, AFA for 8 years, and ASA for 2 years. In 1996 I was accepted in the AFA's Red Siskin Recovery Project. In 1997 I became actively involved with Oregon's FWL "Integrity panel". Working closely with an BLM ornithologist, submitting over 103 classifications of which 3 did not meet uncontrolled criteria. Those "permitted birds" have maintained being part of Oregon's Administrative Rules.

10/2000, I coordinated an official NFSS 2 day show and expo. I Maintained and built and sponsored the club's webpage for access of information for the club members, sponsors, and interested parties. Proceeds were donated to the AFA's RSP totaling \$2,000.00.

6/2002 I was appointed Band Secretary Pro-Tem due to the existing secretary being unable to complete her term. I was voted-in by the members since that time. I personnal enjoy working with the NFSS Board of Directors, communicating with our members. If you will allow me, I am looking forward to another 2 year term as your Band Secretary.

I love to attend bird shows, expos and conventions. I have made many contacts with NFSS members around the US. I especially enjoy visiting members while touring on vacation or as time allows.

Thank you, Paula Hanson

**NFSS Region 1 Vice-President**  
**(CT, DE, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV)**  
***Bob French***

My name is Bob French, and I am running for the position of Region 1 Vice President. Currently, I am a nonvoting Board member working as the Advertising Promotions Manager. I am single and have lived in Whitman, Massachusetts for the last 30 years where I raised my two daughters.

NFSS is not the first organization I have been actively involved with. Previously, I have filled several offices in various organizations, including President. In addition to my finch hobby, I am also a Civil War reenactor. I was responsible for incorporating my unit as a nonprofit corporation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In order to incorporate, I wrote the bylaws, filled out the required paperwork and submitted the incorporation forms to the State. I also served as the President of this corporation for a year.

I have been in the retail field all my life and currently own my own store. I don't work at the store, but rather I make all business decisions including planning and purchasing. Daily operations of the store are carried out by my store manager. As a result, I have a very flexible schedule and the freedom to devote the necessary time for the needs of NFSS Region 1 members. My business experience should prove invaluable while serving as your Region 1 representative.

Although I'm fairly new to the NFSS, I have plenty of experience raising finches. I began about 20 years ago with Zebra Finches. They might not have done well at any show, but I sure did learn a lot from them. I kept several colors and successfully raised many clutches. I learned about zebra finch genetics both from books and from personal experience. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control, I had to sell all my birds. Over the years, I tried raising budgies, canaries, love birds, and a few other bird species, however I never really got the satisfaction from the other birds that I had with the finches. I now have gone back to my nice little finches. This time I did some research and have acquired what I hope to be some great foundation show stock.

Prior to my cage bird experience, I raised and showed bantam chickens and Himalayan cats. I was also a 4H Rabbit and Cavy (Guinea Pig) Leader when my children were young. I am no stranger to breeding and showing animals. I have been actively involved in organizing & running many animal and bird shows. Through my 4H experience, I served as Show Results Chairman for a national club. In this position, it was my responsibility to keep track of all members' show records from across the country. Integrating all that information was challenging but also very rewarding.

I feel that the time has come when you, the members of NFSS, are asking for change. Some of those changes involve standards changes and specialty clubs. I have stated many times I will actively pursue these. I feel Specialty Clubs can be a great asset to NFSS and to the hobby in general. There is, to my understanding, a committee now formed looking into the point allocations in the standard. I will be following this issue very closely. Another concern has been the color standards for Zebra finches. Even if you do not show, this is an important issue. It sets forth the correct coloration of Zebras. Our standard has fallen behind the hobby with colors. There are standards for colors not readily available in the areas covered by NFSS but no standards for other colors which are currently available. As your representative, I will be addressing this issue and actively pursuing a solution.

I personally pledge to represent your interests in the NFSS. Once elected Region 1 VP, I pledge to voice the concerns and issues of ALL Region 1 members to the NFSS Board. Should you have any comments, suggestions, or questions please check the NFSS Officers' page in this bulletin for my contact information.

Thank you, Bob French

**NFSS Region 2 Vice-President (AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN)**  
***Ron Castaner***

My name is Ron Castaner from West Palm Beach Fl. With your help I hope to get reelected for the South Regional 2 V.P.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I was former NFSS President and a member of the NFSS Board for a few years. I am a member of the AFA, Gouldian Finch Society in the UK, member of the AFA Red Siskin Project and Board Member; I obtained the highest review score on record for the Red Siskin Project a few years ago. I made a CD & DVD and designed the Red Siskin project logo for the Red Siskin Project to raise money for a very good cause. I was a member of the Finch & Canary World as a writer for the magazine, I have written many articles for the NFSS, ASA magazine, AFA Watchbird, (one of the articles and many pictures were published in the center fold of the AFA Watchbird magazine), the Aviary Cage Bird Society of Fort Lauderdale, and for the Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club of Stuart FL, of which I am the Vice President. Many of my articles have appeared in birds clubs around the USA and abroad for members to read and enjoy at no cost to anyone. I assisted in setting the standards for the Peking Robin for the NFSS; I hold classes for clubs on finches care and behavior in their natural habitat. I hold many honors in finches too many to mention.

I breed many rare & endangered finches. My experience has been spread over thirty five years dealing with these loveable creatures God has given us to enjoy.

Thank you, Ron Castaner

**NFSS Region 3 Vice-President (AR, IL, IN, KY, LA, MI, MO, OH)**  
***Jim Heffernan***

My name is Jim Heffernan. I am married with four children. I have been keeping birds since my early teens in my native Ireland and here in the USA for over 25 years. I was a member of the Irish Zebra & Society Finch club judges panel since it was formed, also a member of the Irish foreign bird society judges panel and judged my first table show at 19 and judged many shows in my native Ireland over the years. I am also a member and trustee of my local club here in Michigan.

My main interest for exhibition purposes in birds is the Zebra Finch. I also keep many other types of finch/quail/doves and Australian Parakeets. I hope to meet many of you at the various shows around the Midwest over the coming year.

Thank you, Jim Heffernan

**NFSS Region 4 Vice-President (IA, KS, MN, NE, ND, OK, SD, TX)**  
***No Candidate***

**NFSS Region 5 Vice-President (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY)**  
***Terry Cox***

I have sat here for some time trying to come up with something to say about myself. This is very hard to do when you are not in the habit of blowing your own horn. I do know that I have been dedicated since 1965 to these finches and that's the bigger part of my life.

I have been involved with three bird clubs here in Arizona for the past fourteen years holding down the President and Vice-presidents position in one of them and

Treasurer in another. I was also active in putting on the GABS Show here in Tucson, Az. last season and that went very well I thought.

I would be honored to serve with the same dedication to the office of Region 5 VP as I have given my birds over these many years.

Thank you, Terry Lane Cox

**Candidate: NFSS Region 6 Vice-President (Pacific Coast)**  
**(AK, CA, HI, OR, WA)**  
***Raspberry***

My name is Raspberry, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I breed primarily zebra & society finches for exhibition. I also breed Masked Grass finches, Parson's finches, Indian Silverbills, & Diamond Firetails. I have served one term on the Board of Directors as Region 6 Vice President and would like to volunteer again.

During the first term, I got to know the current board and how NFSS leaders work to support the organization. My primary focus has been to start a youth finch club and to promote youth involvement in aviculture through my youth finch club as well as the NFSS Journal's Youth Section. I have also served on the society standards committee and will be serving on the zebra standards committee when that committee begins. A secondary role that I have played is general promotion of NFSS membership.

I am active on the NFSS e-mail forum, and Garrie Landry's society and zebra Yahoo forums. I also promote NFSS through local bird marts.

One area in which I would like to improve as an officer of NFSS is to have more contact with NFSS members in California, Hawaii, and Alaska.

During my first term, I was one of several new board members. Many board members have noted that I bring new ideas to the board but am also willing to listen to how things have been done in the past. Founding board member, Bill Parlee, among others, has been instrumental in helping me see the value of working together to help NFSS grow.

If elected, I will continue supporting youth in Aviculture, promoting NFSS membership, and helping NFSS become an even stronger organization which supports your interests.

Thank you, Raspberry

**Candidate: NFSS Region 7 Vice-President (Puerto Rico)**  
***No Candidate***

**Candidate: NFSS Region 8 Vice-President**  
**(Canada)**  
***Alfred Mion (No Bio provided)***

## Demystifying the Lady Gouldian Finch

### by: Margaret Rizzuto-Smith

Not too hot, not too cold, make sure you have enough light, don't forget the charcoal, and minerals, and iodine – oh my! While it is true that Gouldians have certain requirements that should be met in order for them to thrive, I think that for finch enthusiasts not to include Gouldians in their collection because of fear is regrettable.

Aside from the stunning beauty of the Lady Gouldian, these are delightful birds. They are endlessly curious with the world around them. They notice and are interested in everything they see. More so than some of the smaller, more active finches, Gouldians seem to be aware of your presence, often cocking their heads this way and that when you are near their space in what seems like an expression of both curiosity and fascination. They are passive birds who get along well with other finches of the same personality type. I have noticed time and time again a first time Gouldian buyer who just becomes enchanted with these wonderful little birds and is soon adding more to their collection. I always feel sad when people talk about how they would never keep Gouldians because they are "so hard to keep". While I readily admit that keeping Gouldians rather than say, Zebra or Society finches, requires a little more thought, the pay back is tenfold. To be surrounded by their beauty, stunning colors, soft song, and delightful personalities, is truly a gift.

The Normal green backed, purple breasted, black and red headed



Blue Male Gouldian (by Margaret Rizzuto-Smith)

Gouldians are the ones found in nature. All others including Yellow backed, Dilutes, Blues, and Silvers are mutations. According to several books and articles, Gouldians first entered the United States around 1960. In that 45 year period we have learned a lot about keeping Gouldians. This year alone, so far 2 new books have been published on Gouldians: *A Guide to Gouldians and Their Mutations*, ABK Publications and *Gouldian and Finch Health* by Dr. Marshall. So while Gouldians have the reputation of being "hard to keep finches" clearly people are interested in them.

I always recommend that someone new to Gouldians start off with a pair of Normal backed Gouldians as they are most hardy. Take a little time to do your homework and understand the needs of the Gouldian before you bring them home, you'll feel more confident and both you and your birds will be happier. One quick search for Gouldians on the Internet will bring you more information than you could read in a month!

Basically, Gouldians, not unlike other finches, need a clean environment, that is to say they should never continually walk in droppings, their water should be changed daily, their cages should be cleaned and disinfected regularly. They love to splash and bathe and while this provides entertainment for you and your birds, baths add to their good health. They do want natural light, especially when breeding, however, not having a sun drenched room in which to house them should not stop you.

Fluorescent lights, especially with a CRI (color rating indicator) of 90 or higher provides the closest simulation of natural light. Aside from a good seed mix, millet, vitamins and minerals, they will enjoy some fruits and vegetables. As curious as they are they tend to be hesitant about trying new foods, so be patient. I usually place new foods right on top of their seeds so they have to try it (or at least move it around) to get to their seeds. Gouldians love sprouted seeds and many greens, especially dandelion. While warmth is important, you needn't have a 90 degree room in which to house them. Normal household temperatures of 74 – 76 degrees seem to be fine. Although,



Baby Gouldian - 22 days (photo - Lynda Snyder)

of course if you have a bird that is puffy or showing other symptoms of illness you should immediately place them under a heat lamp.

I would feel remiss if I didn't mention that Gouldians do get sick so it's always important to buy your birds from a reputable breeder – check their eyes, vents, activity level before purchasing to make sure you are starting out with a healthy bird. Observe them daily so you can tell immediately if there is a change in their health, meet their requirements and you should have birds that are happy, healthy, and provide you with a great deal of pleasure.



R/H normal gouldians (photo - Lynda Snyder)

NFSS member Margaret Rizzuto Smith is a Gouldian enthusiast who has a collection of over 100 Gouldians of all mutations. She is currently corresponding with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy in hopes of planning a trip to do some volunteer work. Margaret has recently provided The Bronx Zoo with Gouldians which will become part of their permanent exhibit.

Margaret can be reached at: [Margaret@enchantedfinch.com](mailto:Margaret@enchantedfinch.com) or you can visit her website at: [www.enchantedfinch.com/](http://www.enchantedfinch.com/)

## 2nd Quarter, 2005 NFSS Board Meeting

The Second Quarter NFSS Board Meeting began online 4-10-05.

In attendance Jim Heffernan, Randy Taylor, Sally Huntington, Patrick Vance, Easpberry, Bill Parlee, Darla Dandre, Alfred Mion, Ron Castner, Armando Lee, Harry Bryant, Martha Wigmore, Mark Phelps, Robert Mehl, Shelly Ortman, Paula Hansen

Mark Phelps reported we are in the 'black', and if we continue this trend through out 2005 we will have an extra \$2300 to add into our current savings account of \$13,000.

Several board members gave ideas on how to use this extra money: ie extra pages in the Journal, color photos in the Journal, renting tables at local bird fairs, NFSS banners, improve our exposure on the Internet, place an add in AFA and work on expanding Finch and Softbill Save. Robert Mehl reminded the Board 119 members have paid multiple for years, which can give a skewed income for 2005.

Raspberry encouraged a discussion of the zebra and the society committees.

04/12/05 Darla Dandre announced she would have to resign her positions as NFSS Affiliations manager and NFSS Awards manager due to health and other reasons. Darla posted a file to the group giving the regional show applications received.

Shelly Ortman offered to take over the Affiliations, pro tem. Bob French volunteered to take over as the Awards Manager pro tem. AFA dues are to be renewed.

Robert Mehl suggested NFSS develop an exhibitor handbook, to answer questions ref showing birds not found in judges handbook. Bill Parlee volunteered to do an outline for said handbook. Robert Mehl would work on a booklet and present it at the next board meeting

Following are the motions voted on:

### Motion 2005-06 - PASSED

Motion to accept Robert Mehl as Membership Director pro tem; by Raspberry, seconded Paula Hansen

### Motion 2005-07 - DID NOT PASS

Motion to maintain Saving Cushion of 8 - 10 thousand dollars; by Paula Hansen, seconded Raspberry.

### Motion 2005-08 - PASSED

Motion to accept Bob French as pro tem for the Awards Manager; by Raspberry, seconded Jim Heffernan.

### Motion 2005-09 - PASSED

Motion to accept Shelley Ortman as Liaison Officer: by Raspberry, seconded Jim Heffernan.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Heffernan - Acting Executive Secretary

## REPORT OF 2003 FINANCIAL AUDIT

An audit of the 2003 financial records of the National Finch and Softbill Society has been conducted by two members of the NFSS Board, Armando Lee and Martha Wigmore, as appointed by NFSS President Sally Huntington, and in accordance with the NFSS Bylaws. This Report of the results of our audit, conducted separately in January and March 2005 and compiled by e-mail correspondence, is submitted today for review by the NFSS Board. Questions raised about particular transactions have been resolved to our satisfaction. (My

apologies to the Board and Mr. Lee for the delay in completion and reporting of the results of this audit. -M-)

The 2003 records compiled by NFSS Treasurer Mark Phelps are complete and well-organized, all bank records present, all NFSS payment and deposit transactions well documented and traceable. No questionable bank transactions were found. We particularly would like to compliment Mr. Phelps on the degree of professionalism with which he has handled vendors and

government agencies.

- 12/31/03 Activity by Department
- Other reports

We reviewed available:

- Check Requests
- Requests for payment (to vendor or reimbursement)
- Receipts for expenses
- Approvals by NFSS President Sally Huntington of all expenditures
- Approvals for NFSS President Sally Huntington's expenditures
- Receipts for Expenses for those with Cash Advances
- Deposits
- Details of payments received by Officer, when available
- Bank Statements
- Checking
- Savings account passbook copy
- 2003 Short Form 990-EZ "Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax"
- Excel Financial Reports for the year
- Account Balances Reports
- 12/31/02 from previous year's records

As internal auditors, we found that every 2003 financial transaction has an acceptable audit trail. The Treasurer and President successfully implemented our recommendations stemming from our audit of the 2002 records. The Treasurer obtained appropriate approvals for all financial activities. The financial systems in place in 2003 demonstrate good control, oversight, and proper accountability. We thank Mark Phelps for his fine efforts as NFSS Treasurer with what has become a more complicated environment for NFSS financial affairs. He has demonstrated incredible dedication to NFSS' well-being and continued financial viability.

Respectfully submitted,  
Armando Lee, NFSS First Vice President  
Martha Wigmore, NFSS Fourth Vice President

## 2nd Quarter 2005 Financial Report

2nd Quarter 2005 Financial Report  
For the period 1/1/05 - 7/4/05  
(all numbers in parenthesis are the 2005 budget figures for comparison)

### CASH IN ACCOUNTS:

Checking - Main & Bands \$5,000.00  
Checking - FinchShop \$237.33  
Checking - Membership \$773.62  
Savings \$14,164.95  
Advances \$1,190.32

Total Cash in Accounts: \$21,366.22

### INCOME:

Bands \$8,642.95 (\$16,150.00)  
FinchShop \$1,607.63 (\$4,000.00)  
Membership \$14,183.50 (\$23,770.00)  
Journal \$473.00 (\$2,500.00)  
Affiliations/Awards \$2,147.47 (\$4,250.00)  
Finch/Softbill Save \$0.00 (\$150.00)  
4th VP/Judges Fees \$170.00 (\$240.00)  
1st VP/Regional VP's \$0.00 (\$0.00)  
Advertising \$0.00 (\$0.00)

Misc. \$35.25 (\$1,210.00)  
Total Income: \$27,257.80 (\$52,270.00)

### EXPENSES:

Bands \$7,499.09 (\$12,275.00)  
FinchShop \$827.53 (\$2,075.00)  
Membership \$453.89 (\$1,117.00)  
Journal \$17,854.04 (\$27,000.00)  
Affiliations/Awards \$400.51 (\$3,025.00)  
Finch/Softbill Save \$0.00 (\$300.00)  
4th VP/Judges Fees \$319.71 (\$200.00)  
1st VP/Regional VP's \$0.00 (\$1,000.00)  
Advertising \$0.00 (\$1,000.00)  
Misc. \$615.92 (\$1,905.00)

Total Expenses: \$27,970.69 (\$49,897.00)

Total Gain/Loss -\$712.89 (\$2,373.00)

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Phelps  
NFSS Treasurer



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Myra Markley  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405  
[www.finchniche.com](http://www.finchniche.com)

#### Finch Elegance

Margaret Rizzuto Smith  
New York  
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#### The Gouldian Lady

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#### The Enchanted Finch

Margaret Rizzuto Smith  
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[www.enchantedfinch.com](http://www.enchantedfinch.com)

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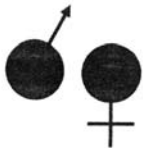
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# Youth and Aviculture

NFSS now has a new forum dedicated to the youth. NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups is the brain-child of Mr. Raspberry, Region 6 VP, and our internet wizard Mr. John Wilson. Moderators for this group are Raspberry, John Wilson and Armando J. Lee. Please have your kids visit NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups.com where they can chat, ask questions, and exchange ideas about the wonderful world of finches and softbills.

NFSS welcomes any and all submissions for the Youth and Aviculture page. Please send your art work, photos, jokes, riddles and any ideas to the

NFSS Journal Youth Editor: Raspberry, Youth Edito  
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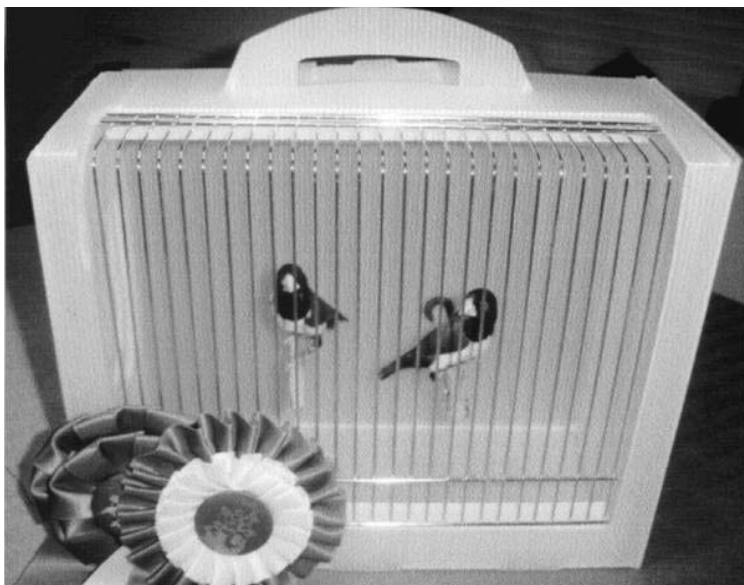
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Shafttail, Fawn.....	\$ 75	Red Mahogany.....	\$95
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Star, Yellow Face .....	\$ 75	Red Mosaic .....	\$85
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Owl or Bicheno .....	\$ 80	Gloster.....	\$90
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## NFSS Annual Census Report - 2004/2005 - Introduction

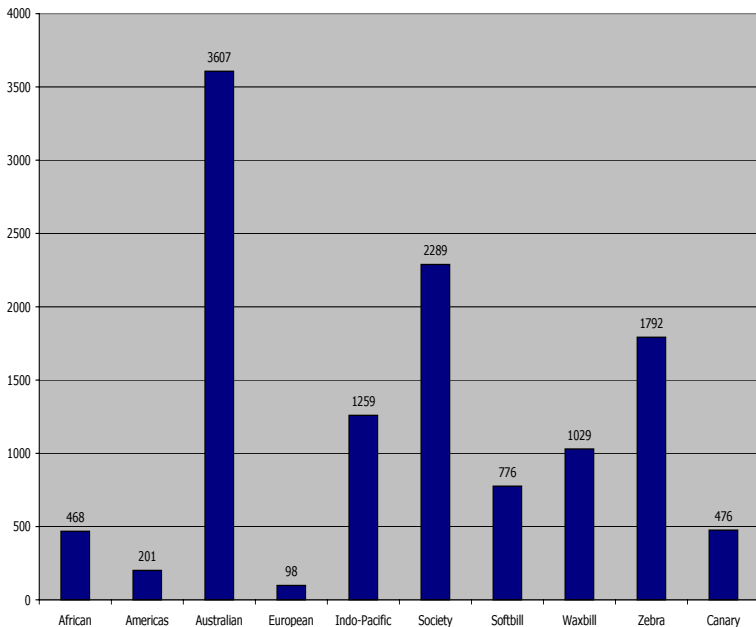
The NFSS is pleased to announce that the 2004/2005 NFSS voluntary census has now been completed, and is being presented this year in an entirely different form by Randy Taylor, 3rd VP - NFSS Finch/Softbill Save program.

The NFSS census continues to be a valuable tool and a beneficial service to Finch and Softbill breeders by giving us an idea of what species need further work to establish in captivity. Remeber, breeding the rarer species in large numbers is the only hope we have of preserving these species for future generations.

There have been many finch and softbill species that were once imported but are no longer available because aviculturists did not make the effort to fully establish them in captivity.

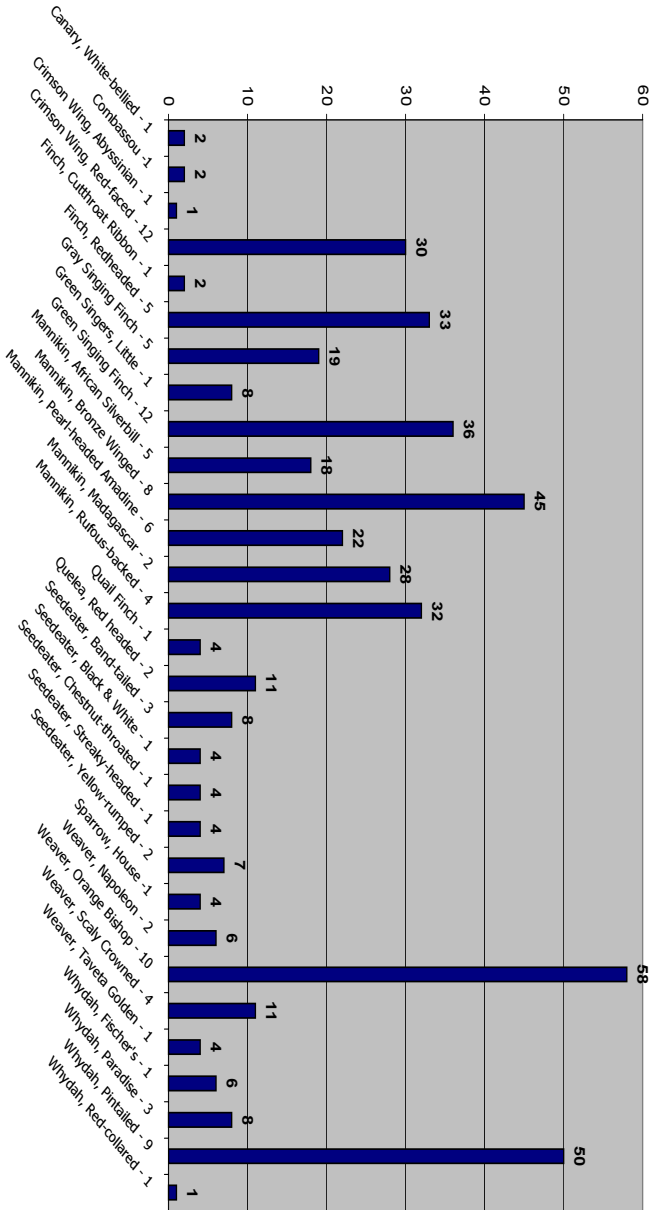
NFSS was founded on the concept of mutual sharing in all aspects of aviculture and the NFSS census can only be as complete as the participation of the membership will allow.

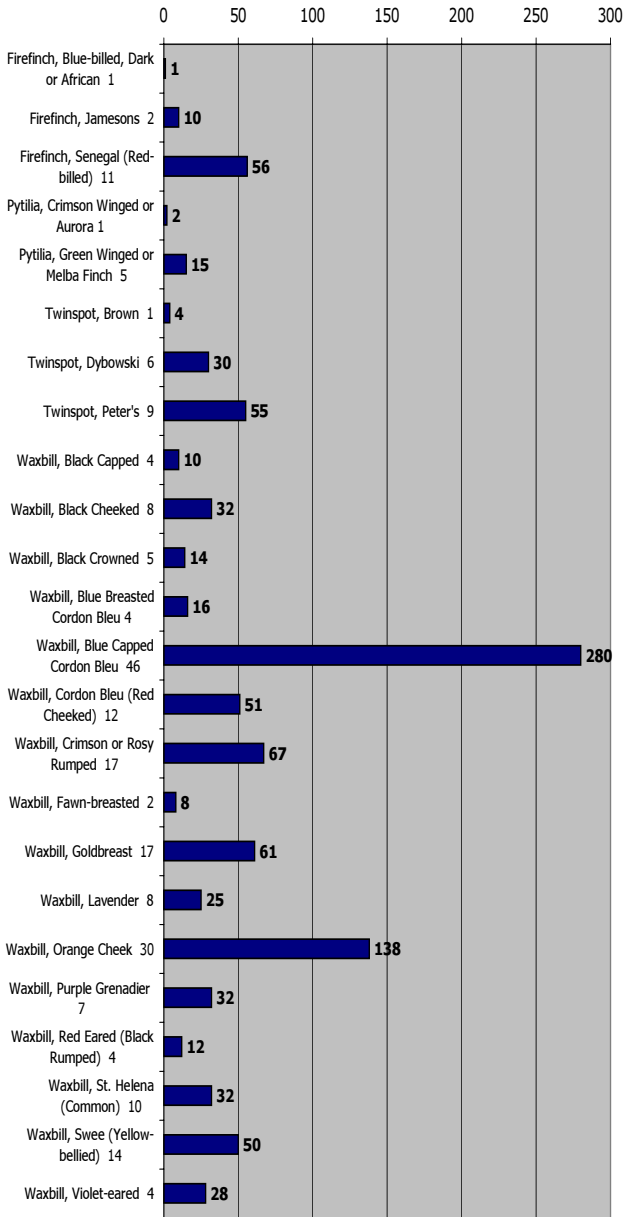
Group Comparison 2004 NFSS Annual Census





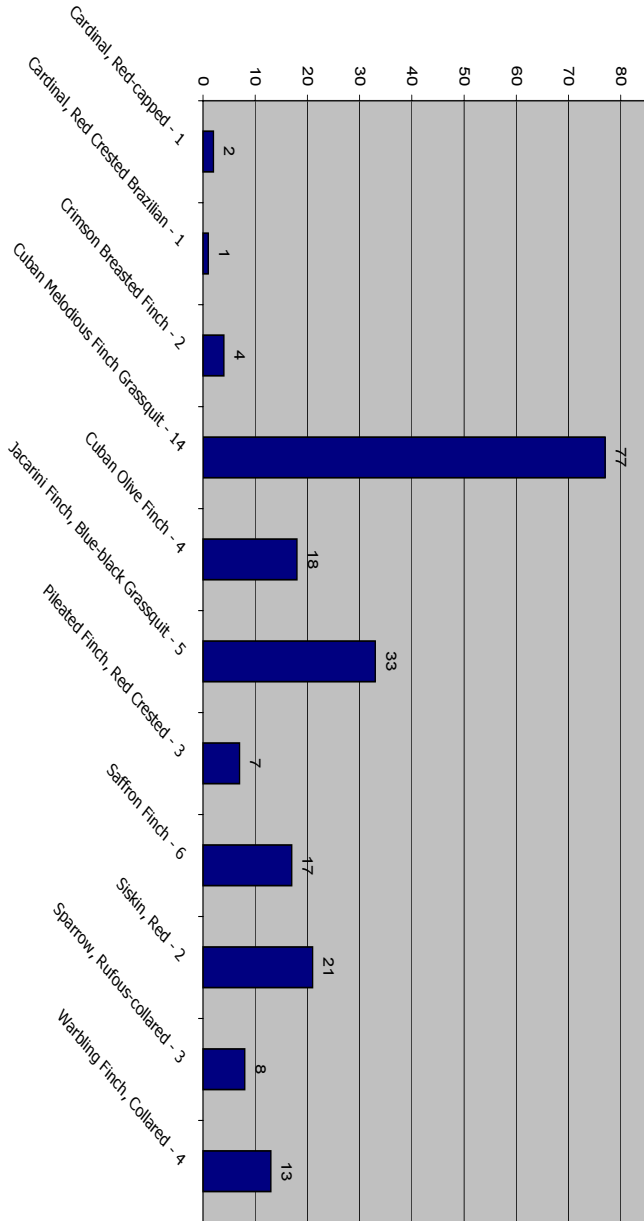
African Finches 2004 NFSS Annual Census - 468 total



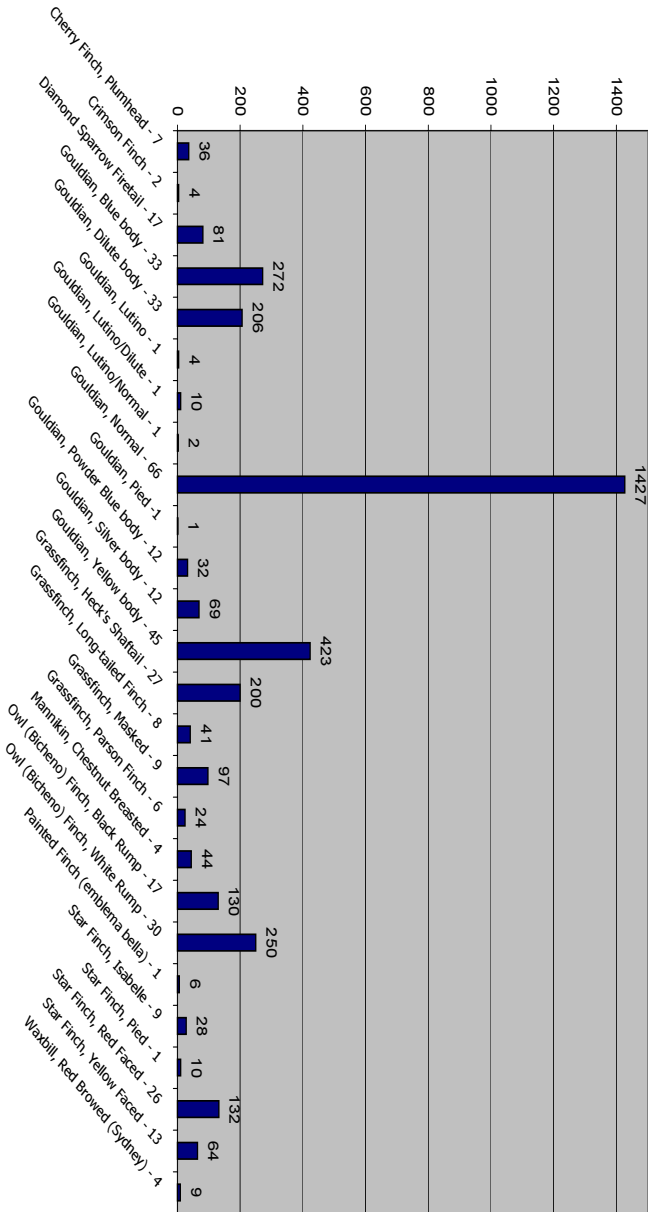


Waxbill Finches 2004 NFSS Annual Census - Total 1029

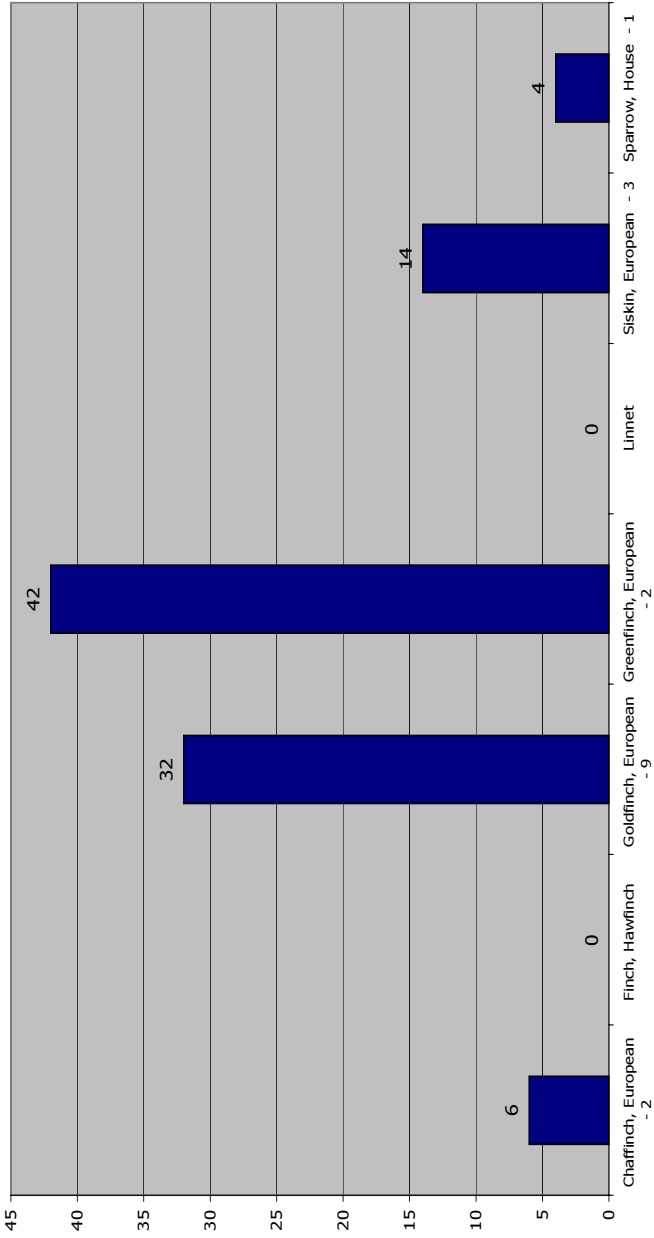
**Finches of the Americas 2004 NFSS Annual Census - Total 201**



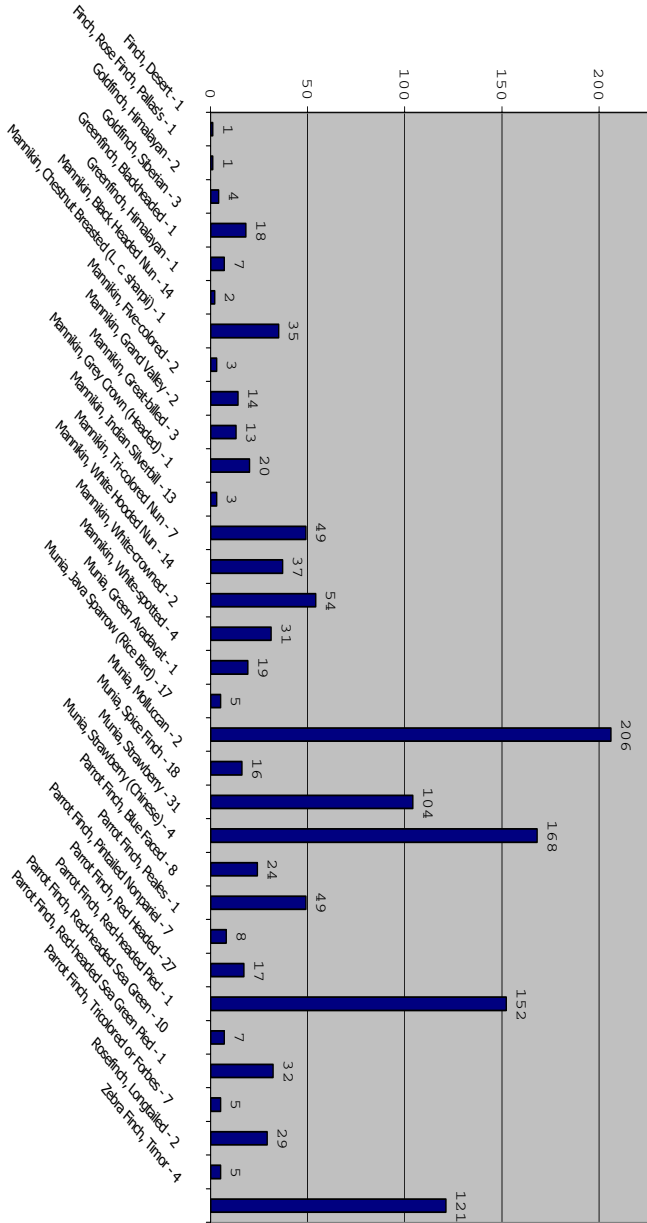
**Australian Finches 2004 NFSS Annual Census - Total 3607**



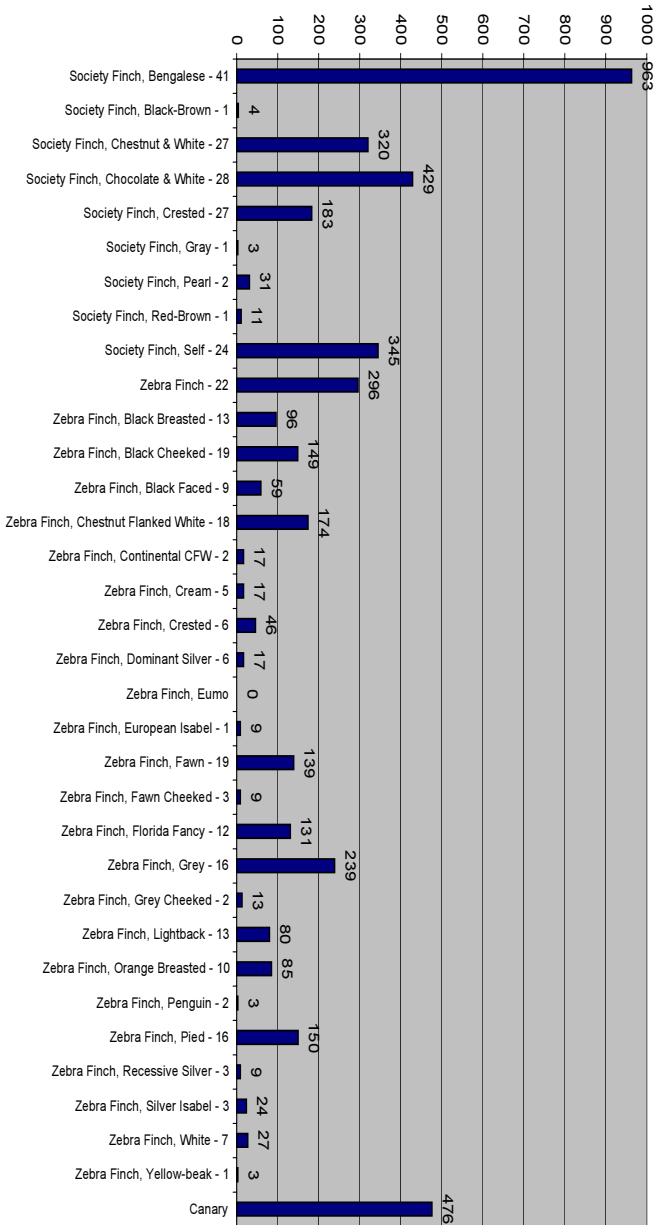
### European Finches 2004 NFSS Annual Census - Total 98



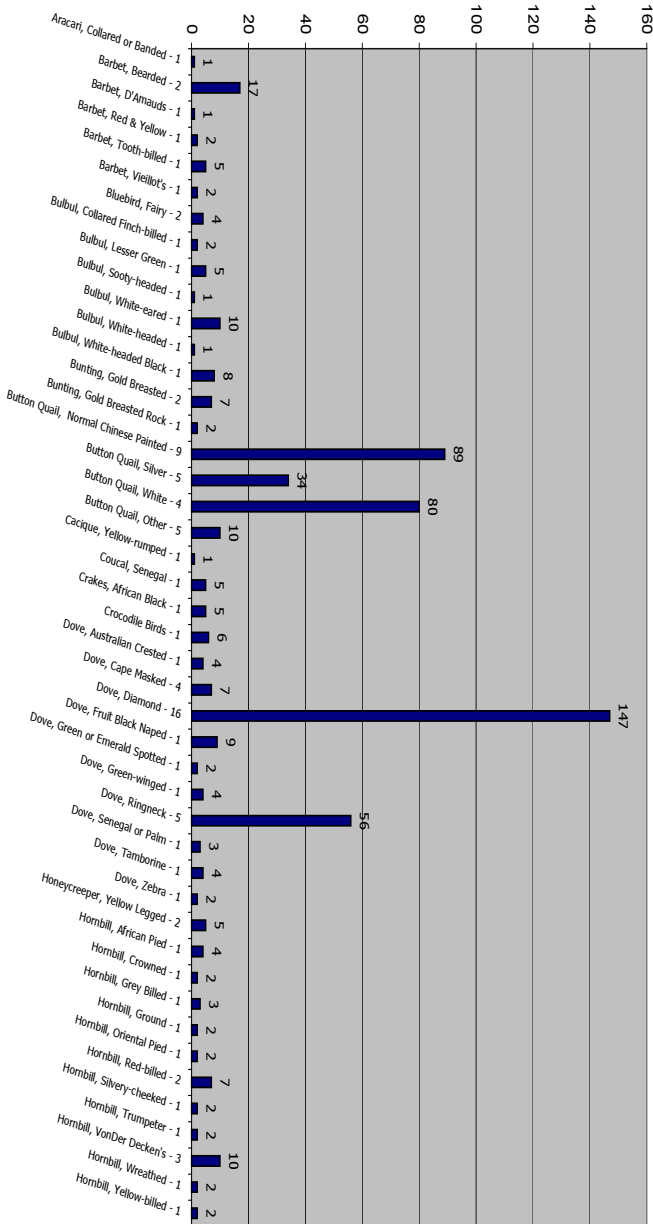
Indo-Pacific Finches 2004 NFSS Annual Census - Total 1259



Societies, Zebras & Canaries 2004 NFSS Annual Census

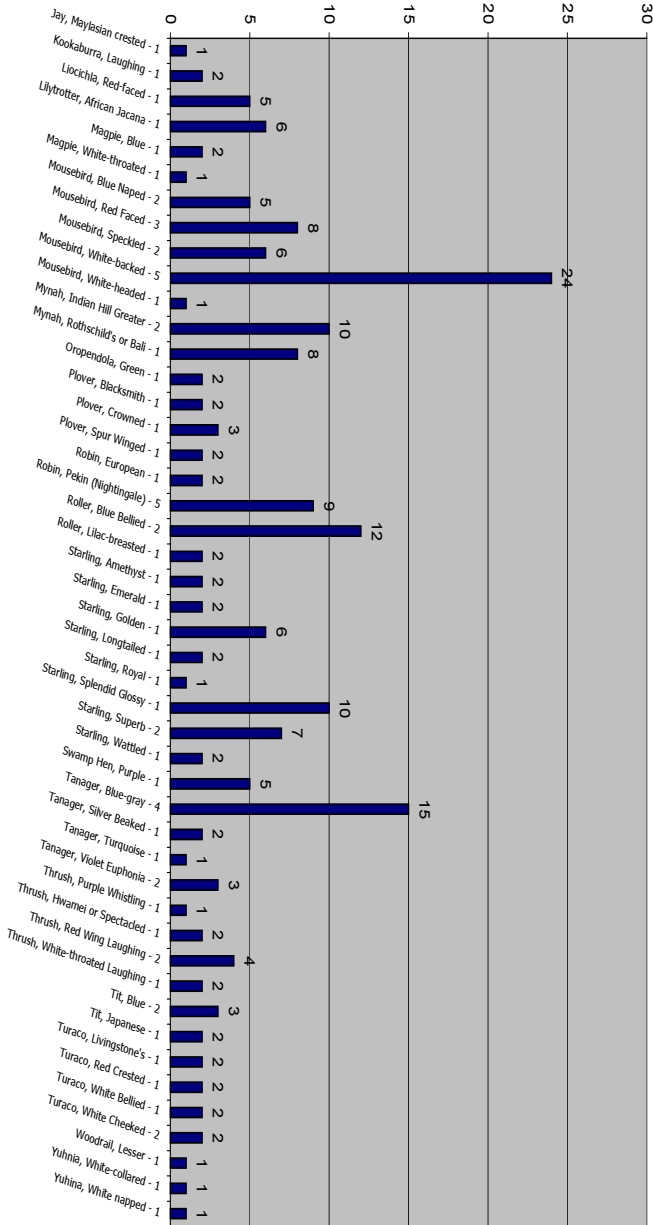


Softbills Part I - 2004 NFSS Annual Census





Softbills Part II - 2004 NFSS Annual Census - Total 776





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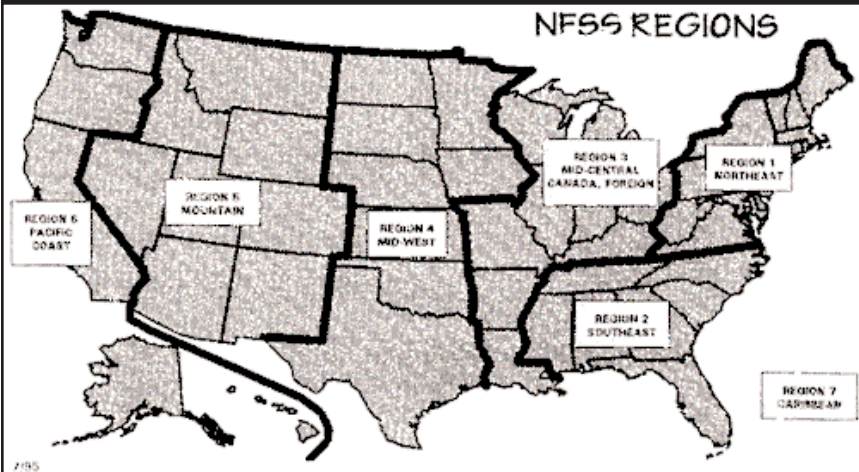
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Meeting time/location: 2nd Sunday of month @ 2:30pm – Montgomery Zoo Education Bldg,  
Montgomery, Alabama; Club Website: [www.caasociety.com](http://www.caasociety.com)  
Show: Labor Day Weekend Bird Show and Fair - Sep. 3 & 4, Judge: TBA  
-Location: Governor's House Hotel (now Quality Inn), 2705 East South Blvd., Montgomery, AL  
-Information Contact: Margie Lanier 334-567-4073 or [margielanier@yahoo.com](mailto:margielanier@yahoo.com)

## CANADA

### Amateurs Doiseaux Centre Du Quebec (Quebec CANADA)

Club Delegate: Jean Beliveau, Phone:450-564-2520, E-mail Address: [jeanbeliveau@sympatico.ca](mailto:jeanbeliveau@sympatico.ca)  
Meeting Dates and Locations: First Sunday of Each Month; Club E-mail Address:  
[jeanbeliveau@sympatico.ca](mailto:jeanbeliveau@sympatico.ca), Club Web Address: [www.aocq.org](http://www.aocq.org); No Show

### **Cage Bird Society of Hamilton (Hamilton, Ontario)**

Delegate: Peter Webb, (905) 385-4706, E-mail:PD4PINS@msn.com  
 Meeting time/location: Last Sunday of the month excluding July & August. Valley Park Community Center, 970 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek, ONT  
 Show: Bird Show (and monthly meeting) - October 28-30, 2005 (Show: Saturday, October 29, 2005)  
 Judge: Alfred Mion; Location: Valley Park Community Center, 970 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek, ONT;  
 Information Contact: Peter Webb, (905) 385-4706, E-mail:PD4PINS@msn.com

### **Central Island Bird Club (Vancouver Island, BC, CANADA)**

Delegate: Bridget Malo, (250) 715-1373, E-mail: bebadbirds@shaw.ca  
 Club Email: centralislandbirdclub@shaw.ca; Club Website: <http://www.members.shaw.ca/centralislandbirdclub>; Show: Bird Show - October 21-23, 2005, -Judge: Alfred Mion; Location: Moose Hall, Duncan, British Columbia, CANADA; Information Contact: Bridget Malo, (250) 715-1373, E-mail: bebadbirds@shaw.ca

### **The Durham Avicultural Society (Ontario, CANADA)**

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of month, Rotary Park Pavilion, Ajax, Ontario CANADA Contact: Jacquie Blackburn, Sect., 416-282-5997 or Jacquies.parrots@sympatico.ca; Club e-mail: secretary@birdclub.ca; Club web site: [www.birdclub.ca](http://www.birdclub.ca); Bird Show: 9/17 & 18/2005 Judge: Vince Moose; Location: Pickering Recreational Complex, Valley Farm Road, Pickering, Ontario, CANADA; Show Manager: Marianne Orlecki, 905-623-4642 or xtreme\_babe2002@yahoo.com

### **Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society (Windsor, Ontario)**

Meetings: Monthly – Members Homes - Contact: Julianne & Alfred Mion, 519-948-6398 or julianne@mnsi.net - Club web site: [www.essexkentcbs.com](http://www.essexkentcbs.com)  
 Bird Show: 10/14-16/2005 Judge: Patrick Vance; Fogolar Furlan, Udine Building, 1800 E.C. Row, North Service Road, Windsor; Show Manager: Alfred Mion, 519-948-6398 or julianne@mnsi.net

## **CALIFORNIA**

### **Central California Avian Society (Fresno, CA)**

Delegate: E. Gabriel Guillen, (559) 252-2447, Email: el.viejo7@sbc.com  
 Club Email: hisbirds@sierratel.com - Club Website: <http://www.ccasbirds.org/>  
 Fair & Events: BIRD MART - June 5, 2005 - -Location: Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno, CA  
 Information Contact: Beth Marhenke (559) 226-4377; Fair & Events: BIRD MART - November 6, 2005, Location: Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno, CA; Contact: Beth Marhenke (559) 226-4377

### **Finch Society of San Diego County (San Diego, CA)**

Club Delegate: Mary Hibner, (858) 549-3705, E-mail: mary37@yahoo.com  
 Show Date: Saturday, October 08, 2005; Judge: TBA; Location: TBA

## **FLORIDA**

### **Aviary & Cage Bird Club of South Florida (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)**

Delegate - Marcia David; Phone: (954) 321-9229 or marbilld@comcast.net  
 Meeting time/location: 2nd Sunday of month @ 2 pm - Flamingo Gardens Gallery, Flamingo Rd., Davie, FL - (954) 473-2955; Club Website: <http://www.feathers.org>

### **Cage Bird Club of Charlotte County (Port Charlotte, FL)**

Delegate - Godfrey Richardson; Phone: 941-764-8129  
 Meeting time/location: 3rd Thursday of month - Port Charlotte Cultural Center  
 Show date: Host Club for GABS;  
 Location: Port Charlotte Cultural Center, Port Charlotte, Florida

### **Exotic Bird Club of Florida (Palm Bay, FL)**

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month at 1275 Culver Rd., Palm Bay, FL 32905  
 Contact: Ginny Heptig, 321-952-9780 or YngAtHrt@aol.com  
 Club Web Site: <http://exoticbirdclubofflorida.homestead.com/index.html>.  
 Bird Show: 3-13-2005 -  
 Judge: Jerri Wiesenfeld, Palm Bay Senior Ctr., 1275 Culver Rd, Palm Bay  
 Show Manager: Jim McNamara , 321-723-7739 or jimmc\_33m@yahoo.com

### **The Great American Bird Show (Punta Gorda, FL)**

Club Delegate: Miki Spartzak, (410) 687-8915, E-mail Address: MJS5295@comcast.net  
 Club E-mail Address: sandhillexotics@aol.com, Web Address: www.greatamericanbirdshow.org  
 ANNUAL NATIONAL SHOW - October 8 & 9, 2005  
 Judge: Dale Laird / Marion Spartzak; Location: Port Charlotte Cultural Center, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte, FL; Show Manager: David Dollar; (352) 799-7294; email: sandhillexotics@aol.com

### **Sun Coast Avian Society (Clearwater, FL)**

Meetings: 1st Sun of the month at Leisure World Mobile Home Park, Clearwater, FL  
 Contact: Joe Ventimiglia 727-392-9391  
 Club e-mail address: whoward7@tampabay.rr.com Club Web Site: www.suncoastaviansociety.org  
 Bird Show: 8-6-2005, Judge: Conrad Meinert, St. Petersburg Coliseum, 535 4th Ave, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, Show Manager: Mari Howard, 727-726-6864 or howard7@tampabay.rr.com

### **Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club (Stuart, FL 34995)**

Club Delegate: Timothy McCormick; email: donglo57@bellsouth.net  
 Club E-mail: jim.dwyer@netzero.net; Fair and Event Dates: Date: TBA, Judge: TBA  
 Location: Port St. Lucie Civic Center, Port St. Lucie, FL

### **Tri-State Avian Society (Tallahassee, FL)**

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of the month, Leon County Agri Extension Office, 615 Paul Russell Road, Tallahassee, Florida, Contact: Christine Maples, 850-562-2800 or christine@maplerun.net  
 Event: Spring Bird Fair - 5/14 & 15/2005, North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee, FL  
 Contact: Barry Lester- barryl7523@comcast.net

## **ILLINOIS**

### **Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club (Elmhurst, IL)**

Meetings: 3rd Friday of the Month at the American Legion Hall, Butterfield Road, Elmhurst. No meeting in November - Contact: Robert Wild, 630-985-4416 or r.wild@comcast.com  
 Club e-mail address: president@gccbc.org; Club web address: www.gccbc.org  
 Events: Chicagoland Pet Expo: 3-18/20/2005, Arlington Hts Racecourse, Contact: Nancy Carlson 708-301-4607  
 Events: Spring Bird Fair: 4-30-2005, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Bldgs A & B, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL 60187; For more info call: 630-927-1152  
 Event: SPBE Sanctioned Hookbill Show 3-19-05, Arlington Heights Racecourse, Contact: Shar Toby, sharlant2000@yahoo.com  
 Bird Show: 11-5-2005, Judge: TBA; Park Plaza Hotel - 847-364-7600, 75 W. Algonquin Rd, Arlington Hgts, IL; For more information contact: www.gccbc.org

**NIROC - The National Institute of Red-Orange Canaries & other Cage Birds**  
(Westchester, IL)

Meetings: 1st Friday of the month @ 8 pm, corner of Bristol & Devonshire, Westchester, IL  
 Contact: Steve Hopman (708) 235-0505 or Birdhop@aol.com  
 Bird Show: November 26, 2005; Judge: Conrad Meinert; Location (to be announced)  
 Show Manager: Nancy Serchuk, (847) 437-5704 or cserchuk@sbcglobal.net

**Illini Bird Fanciers** (Springfield, IL)

Meetings: 4th Sun of Each Month, 1236 N. Oaklane Road #200, Springfield, IL 62707  
 Contact: Jodith Wilson, 217-492-1510 or balu6960@sbcglobal.net  
 Club e-mail address: illinibirdfanciers@yahoo.com  
 Bird Show: 6-18-05; Judge: Conrad Meinert;  
 20th Annual Bird Show & Fair, Signature Inn, 3090 Stevens Dr. Springfield, IL 62703  
 Show Manager: Jody Wilson, 217-492-1510 or balu6960@sbcglobal.net

**TASC – The Avicultural Society of Chicagoland** (Downers Grove, IL)

Meetings: 4th Friday of the Month at Prarieview Elementary School, 699 Plainfield Rd., Downers Grove, IL  
 Contact: Jason Crean, 630-985-8130 or tascchicago@aol.com  
 Club e-mail: tascchicago@aol.com  
 Club website: www.tasc-chicago.org,  
 Events: Chicagoland Pet Expo:3-18/20-2005, Arlington Heights Racecourse  
 Contact: Jason Crean, tascchicago@aol.com  
 Events: Mega Bird Fair - 05-21-2005, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL.  
 Contact: Jason Crean tascchicago@aol.com

**IOWA**

**Mid America Cage Bird Society** (Des Moines, IA)

Meetings: 4th Sun of the Month at the Des Moines Botanical Ctr., 909 Robert D Ray Dr.  
 Contact: John Thielking, 515-278-9159 or thielking@iowalink.com  
 Club Website: www.midamericacagebirdsociety.org  
 Bird Show: 10-1-2005 - Judge: Dale Laird;  
 Location: Best Western Des Moines North, 5055 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131  
 Show Manager: John Thielking, 515-278-9159 or thielking@iowalink.co

**KANSAS**

**Midwest Zebra & Society Finch Club** (Shawnee, KS)

Contact: Charlie Anchor 847-515-1090  
 Bird Show: 7/22 & 7/23/2005  
 Monticello United Methodist Church, 23860 W. 75th Street (1 block west of Hwy 7 on 75th Street)  
 Lenexa/Shawnee, Kansas (a southwestern suburb of Kansas City, MO)  
 Judges: Robert Varga (Zebra Finches), Martha Wigmore (Society Finches)  
 Show Manager: Charlie Anchor 847-515-1090 or Jamie Jackson 913-268-3209 or  
 Martha Wigmore-newdlwig@mindspring.com  
 Accommodations: Drury Inn, Ph: 913-236-9200, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Merriam, KS, 66202  
 (just 10 min from Show Hall)



## MARYLAND

### Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Inc. (Baltimore, MD)

Meetings: Towson Public Library  
 Contact: Robert Mehl, 210-581-7955 or [Robertmehl@verizon.net](mailto:Robertmehl@verizon.net)  
 Club email: [baltimorebirdfanciers@verizon.net](mailto:baltimorebirdfanciers@verizon.net)  
 Club website: <http://www.baltimorebirdfancier.org>  
 Bird Show: 5/21/05  
 Judge: Miki Sparsak; Spring Fair & Finch Division  
 Show Location: Tall Cedars Hall, Parkville, MD 21234;  
 Show Manager: Robert Mehl 210-581-7955 or [Robertmehl@verizon.net](mailto:Robertmehl@verizon.net)

### Maryland All Canary Club (Parkville, MD)

Contact: Mary Ellen Schott, 410-668-7483

## MICHIGAN

### The Society of Canary & Finch Breeders (Farmington Hills, MI)

Contact: Patrick Vance, (248) 445-0643 or [spartanfinchman@cs.com](mailto:spartanfinchman@cs.com)  
 Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month; Farmington Hills, MI  
 Event: Bird Fair - September 2005 (Details to be announced)  
 Event: Bird Show: December 10, 2005 (NFSS REGIONAL SHOW)  
 Judge: Conrad Meinert; (Details to be announced)

## MISSOURI

### The Gateway Parrot Club (*High Ridge, MO*)

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of each month at 2 PM at Humane Society of Missouri Pet Training Center Bldg, 1201 Macklind, St. Louis, MO, Contact: Christine Kincaid, 636-343-8097 [parrotsx10@aol.com](mailto:parrotsx10@aol.com)  
 Club e-mail: [introfish@aol.com](mailto:introfish@aol.com)  
 Club website: [www.gatewayparrotclub.org](http://www.gatewayparrotclub.org)  
 Events: All American Hookbill Fair- Aug, 2005; Greensfielder Recreation Complex at Queeny Pk., 550 Weidman Road, Ballwin, MO 63021

### Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society (Kansas City, MO)

Delegate - Anthony Day; 816-255-5068; Club Meeting time/location: 2nd Sunday of month, Coronation of Our Lady Church, Grandview, MO; Club Website: <http://www.gkcas.org>  
 Event: Bird Fair - June 18, 2004; -Location: Coronation of Our Lady Church, Grandview, MO  
 -Information Contact: Maria Michel - [mcbirdsetcmichel@kc.rr.com](mailto:mcbirdsetcmichel@kc.rr.com)  
 Show: Bird Show - October 15, 2004  
 Location: Best Western KC South, 5701 Longview Road, Kansas City, MO 64137  
 Judge: Dennis Lewis; -Information Contact: Maria Michel - [mcbirdsetcmichel@kc.rr.com](mailto:mcbirdsetcmichel@kc.rr.com)

### Zebra Finch & Society Finch Specialty Show

Contact: Charlie Anchor 847-515-109; Bird Show: 7/22 & 7/23/2005  
 Monticello United Methodist Church, 23860 W. 75th Street (1 block west of Hwy 7 on 75th Street)  
 Lenexa/Shawnee, Kansas (a southwestern suburb of Kansas City, MO)  
 Judges: Robert Varga (Zebra Finches), Martha Wigmore (Society Finches)  
 Show Manager: Charlie Anchor 847-515-1090 or Jamie Jackson 913-268-3209 or  
 Martha Wigmore-newdlwig@mindspring.com; Accommodations: Drury Inn, Ph: 913-236-9200, I-35  
 & Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Merriam, KS, 66202 (just 10 min from Show Hall)

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society (Manchester, NH)

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month in Villa Crest Retirement Center; Contact: Ray Schwartz, 603-362-6106 or Prismsdad@aol.com; Club e-mail: editor@boaf.com; Club website: www.boaf.com  
 Event: Spring Mart & Expo, Center of New Hampshire Radisson Hotel, Contact: Ray Schwartz at Prismsdad@aol.com; Bird Show: 10-29-05 - Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau, Center of New Hampshire Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03103, Show Manager: Katy Secor 978-251-3653, email: KatyS@netway.com

## NEW YORK

### Empire Finch & Canary Club (West Hampstead, NY)

Meetings: First Thursday of the Month – 8 PM at Averill Blvd Park, Elmont, NY; Contact: John Lund 516-564-4692; Bird Show: 11-12-05 - 5th Annual Empire Finch & Canary Club Show, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 200 Hempstead Avenue, Rockville Center, NY, Judge: Laura Tinke, Show Manager: Gabe Dillon 516-593-2841

### New York Finch & Type Canary Club (New York, NY)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month except July & August - Contact: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899 or barstand@aaahawk.com; Club Web Site: www.newyorkfinch.com  
 Bird Show: 6-12-05; Judge: TBA  
 Annual Feather Show, for Birds Bred and Banded in 2005, Meeting Hall - Averill Blvd Park, Elmont, NY, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Show Manager: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899 or barstand@aaahawk.com  
 Bird Show: 10-15-05 Judge: Bob Vargo Non-NFSS  
 Annual Bird Show, St. Jude School in Gyne Hall, 1677 Canarsie Road, 9401 Seaview Ave. (same building), Brooklyn, NY - Show Manager: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899 or barstand@aaahawk.com

### Astoria Bird Club (Astoria, New York)

Delegate - Robert Gallo; Phone: 718-380-3935; Email: robertgallo@earthlink.net  
 Meeting time/location: 3rd Sunday of Month, Bohemian Hall, 2919 24th Ave. Astoria, NY

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Raleigh-Durham Cage Bird Society (Raleigh, NC)

Contact: April Blazich (919) 851-8079, aprilb@bellsouth.net  
 Meetings: 3rd Sun of ea. month, Glen Eden, Pilot Park, Glen Eden Dr., Raleigh  
 Website: www.rdcbs.org

## OREGON

### Eastside Finch Connection (Portland, OR)

Contact: Rasperry (503) 233-4274, rasperry@europa.com

## PUERTO RICO

### Asociacion De Criadores de Finches Del Este (Cagues, PR)

Meetings: First Sun of the Month, Contact: Victor Cordero, 787-893-7723 or denise805@hotmail.com  
 The Summer National Bird Show - Puerto Rico 6/24-26/05 Judge: Clarence Culwell  
 Chancha Raul Papaleo in Cagues, Puerto Rico  
 The Winter National Bird Show - Puerto Rico: 11/4-6/05 - Judge: Cecil Gunby  
 Chancha Raul Papaleo in Cagues, Puerto Rico

## TENNESSEE

### Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club (Nashville, TN)

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM, Donelson Senior Center, Donelson, TN  
 Contact: Wilma Crawford, 615-890-6906 or tnma2@comcast.net  
 Event: Spring Fair- April 16th & 17th 2005, Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN - For more information contact: Bob Bryant at: lbryant@vci.net or 270-825-3628  
 Event: Fall Fair & Show - October 8th & 9th 2005, TN State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN, For more information contact Wilma Crawford at: tnma2@comcast.net or 615-890-6906  
 Bird Show: 10-8-2005 - Judge: Jerri Wiesenfeld  
 TN St. Fairgrounds, Wilson Dr., Nashville, TN. - Show Mgr.: Wilma Crawford, nma2@comcast.net

### Southeast TN Avicultural Society (Niota, TN)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month, 2 pm, Niota Elementary School;  
 Contact: Janet Burrell, (423) 472-1306 or jab2202@aol.com -  
 Fall Fair & Annual Show: 10-22-05 - Judge: TBA; Niota Elementary School, Niota, TN ; Show Manager: Theresa Burnette, 423-337-4597 or tjburn2000@yahoo.com

### Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club (Knoxville, TN)

Delegate - Lisa Murphy; (423) 263-0483; E-mail - wlmurphy@usit.net  
 Meeting time/location: First Tuesday of the Month, Church of Good Samaritan  
 Event: BIRD SHOW AND FAIR - May 14, 2005  
 -Judge: Annette Howard -Location: Knoxville Expo Center - 5441 Clinton Hwy, Knoxville, TN  
 -Information Contact: Lisa Murphy; (423) 263-0483; E-mail - wlmurphy@usit.net

## TEXAS

### Alamo Exhibition Bird Club Inc. (New Braunfels, TX)

Meetings: 3:00 pm - 4th Sunday of month, Becker CPA Center, 8033 Pinebrook, San Antonio, TX  
 Club Website: www.aebc.org - For more information (210) 657-0069 or email tkinsey1@satx.rr.com.

### Fort Worth Bird Club (Fort Worth, TX)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month, Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, (Azalea Room)  
 Contact: Clarence Culwell , 817-220-5568 or COculwell@myfam.com  
 Show: 9-24-05 - Judge: Laura Bewley - Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main, Grapevine, TX 76051 - Show Manager: Jerry Cason, 817-237-5867 or Jerrycason@mindspring.com

### Canary & Finch Society (Houston, TX)

Meeting Date: Second Sunday @ 2:00pm at Town Place Mall in Pasedena, Texas.  
 Club Delegate: Alicia Baker, Phone: 281-320-9936, E-mail: aliciabaker@myway.com  
 Club E-mail Address: aliciabaker@myway.com  
 Show Information, Date: Saturday, October 08, 2005  
 Judge: Cecil Gunby  
 Location: Holiday Inn Houston - Intercontinental Airport, 15222 JFK Blvd., Houston, TX 77032  
 Show Manager: Alicia Baker, Phone: 281-320-9936, E-mail: aliciabaker@myway.com

### Texas Bird Breeders Association (Temple, Texas)

Delegate - Clarence Culwell; Phone: (817) 220-5568; Email - Coculwell@myfam.com  
 Club Meeting time/location: 2nd Sat. at noon, February and August on third weekend.  
 Show: Annual Show and Fair - 11/5/05  
 -Show Location: Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX (Exit 304 - I-35)  
 -Information Contact: Clarence Culwell; Phone: (817) 220-5568; Email - Coculwell@myfam.com

## VIRGINIA

### Peninsula Cage Bird Society, Inc. (Hampton, VA)

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of the month at 2 PM, Thomas Nelson Community College, Moore Hall,  
 Contact: Bea Rogers 757-484-6001 - Club e-mail: dwilson786@aol.com; Club website:  
 www.vapeninsulacagedbirdsociety.org - Events: Spring Bird Mart – Fall Bird Mart – Annual Bird  
 Clubs of Virginia Convention – see web site for info

## WASHINGTON

### Cascade Canary Breeders Association (Seattle, WA)

Delegate - Janel C. Johnson; Phone: 425-226-8899; Email - katbird57@aol.com  
 Meeting time/location: 1pm, 3rd Sunday of month, Keppler's Feed, 16442 S. E. Renton-Issaquah  
 Road, Renton, WA  
 Club Contact/Email: Janel C. Johnson; katbird57@aol.com

### Wings Over Washington (Seattle, Washington)

Club Delegate: Doug White, (425) 870-7298, E-mail: dwhite3511@msn.com  
 Show Information - Date: Saturday, July 23, 2005  
 Judge: Annette Howard  
 Location: Pet Professionals, 7521 W. Lake Samm Parkway NE, Redmond, WA 98053  
 Club Delegate: Doug White, (425) 870-7298, E-mail: dwhite3511@msn.com

## WISCONSIN

### Central WI Cage & Wild Bird Connection (Pittsville, WI)

Meetings: First Saturday of month in alternating members homes  
 Contact: Carolyn Belisle, 608-427-6674 or secretarybirdwi@yahoo.com  
 Club email: secretarybirdwi@yahoo.com; Club website: http://www.cwvcbc.us/bc  
 Events: All Bird Fair - 5-21-2005, Marshfield Fairgrounds, Marshfield, WI.  
 Contact: Marlene Minor at minor@tds.net  
 Bird Show: 7-2-2005 Judge: Martha Wigmore  
 Location: Oshkosh, WI ,  
 Contact: Dave Bluma DavidBluma@aol.com or Marlene Minor - mminor@tds.net



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# 2005 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

NFSS



The basic affiliation fee is \$25.00.

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club City/St: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Club affiliation entitles your organization to receive all NFSS publications and to exercise the privileges of the Society. These include, but are not limited to:

- **NFSS Journal** --- Our newly formatted bi-monthly publication connects you with other finch and softbill enthusiasts around the world. It includes articles on breeding, housing, diet, management, products, specific species, and experiences of other aviculturists.
- **www.nfss.org** --- Visit our ever-expanding website for the latest information on NFSS activities, officers, affiliated clubs and their websites, 2004 affiliated shows and events, archives, advertisements and Avicultural links.
- **Finchshop** --- Looking for an unusual gift? Finchshop is our department store. Items and order forms are available in the NFSS Journal and on the website - [www.nfss.org](http://www.nfss.org)
- **Finch Save** --- The goal of this restructured member participation group is to establish and maintain all finch and softbill species in American aviculture.
- **Census** --- The annual NFSS Census can connect you with other breeders for the purpose of exchanging breeding stock.
- **Affiliated Shows and Events** --- are advertised in the NFSS Journal and on the website.
- **NFSS Panel Judges** --- are available for shows. Awards with the NFSS Logo--- (plaques and rosettes) are available at new reduced prices.
- **Annual Achievement Awards** --- are presented at the National Cage Bird Show.

Once we receive your application and fee, we will list your organization among the affiliated clubs in the NFSS Journal and on the NFSS website. Please write, email or phone me for an Affiliation Application and Awards Catalog!

Send your check for \$25.00  
made payable to NFSS to:

Darla Dandre  
NFSS Affiliations & Awards Manager  
PO Box 4092, Joliet, IL 60434  
Phone: 815-729-9789  
E-Mail: [Dbirdranch@aol.com](mailto:Dbirdranch@aol.com)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

S h o w \_\_\_\_\_ w

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Show Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

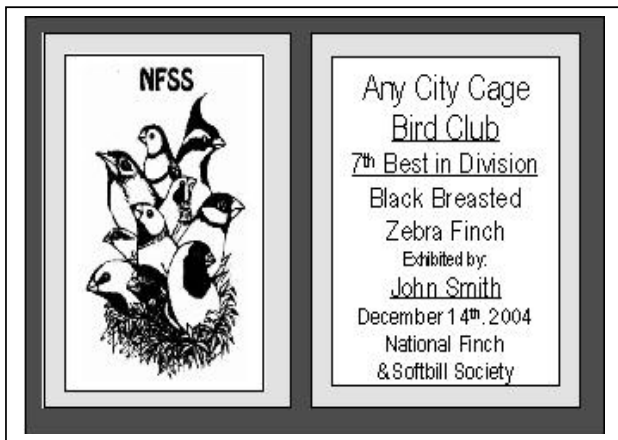
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S h o w \_\_\_\_\_ w

Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

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**NFSS MEMBER and NON-MEMBER ORDER FORM**

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**SPLIT PLASTIC BANDS - \$1.50 PER STRING OF 10 BANDS**

**INDICATE QUANTITY BELOW AND COLOR**

XF	XCS	XCL	XB	X3	SUBTOTAL

**NFSS MEMBERS ONLY** *Closed traceable aluminum bands available in only the NFSS color of the year. Aluminum bands are engraved with initials NFS, Size Code, Year, and Number. There is no choice of number. All aluminum bands are recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of 10, same size. New members may order before receiving their membership number. Write "New" for an NFSS Member #. Orders are processed weekly as received. Please, no mail requiring signatures.*

**The banding and marking of wild birds is very tightly regulated by the Federal government. It is illegal to use ANY band on a bird that is released to the wild except a Federal band issued by US Fish and Wildlife.**

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A	B	C	D	E	G	J	K	L	M	R	S	T	SUBTOTAL

If you choose not to include this sum, NFSS will NOT be responsible for replacements.

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**PLASTIC & ALUMINUM SUBTOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**BANDS FOR YEAR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NFSS MEMBER #:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**PAYMENT PAYABLE TO NFSS**

**MAIL TO: Paula Hansen, 2234 Juneau Ct. S., Salem, OR 97302**



## The National Finch and Softbill Society Guide to Ordering NFSS Closed Leg Bands

- Size A: Gold-breasted Waxbill, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Owl (Bicheno) Finch, Quail Finch, Red-eared Waxbill, Strawberry Finch, and other small waxbills.
- Size B: Black-cheeked Waxbill, Cordon Bleu, Cuban Melodious Finch, Fire Finch, Olive Finch, Rufous-backed Mannikin, Timor Zebra, Peales Parrot Finch.
- Size C: B&W Mannikin, Violet Eared & Blue-capped Waxbills, Purple Grenadier, Bronze-winged Mannikin, Cherry Finch, Green Singing Finch, Grey Singing Finch, Heck's Shaftail, Lavender Finch, Painted Finch, Pileated Finch, Pytilias, Red-headed & Forbes (Blue-Breasted) Parrot Finches, Shaftail Finch, Silverbills, Star Finch, Red Siskin, Society (Bengalese) Finch, Standard Zebra.
- Size D: Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Lady Gouldian Finch, Chestnut-breasted & most smaller mannikins, most other Parrot finches, Pictorella Finch, Pintailed Nonpareil, most Twinspots, Yellow-rumped Finch.
- Size E: Black-crested Finch, Diamond sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Siskins, Spice Finch, European Goldfinch, European Zebra.
- Size G: Magpie Mannikin, Siberian Goldfinch, larger mannikins, small tanagers.
- Size J: Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias, most small softbills.
- Size K: Java Rice Birds, Red-crested Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Shama Thrush
- Size L: Diamond Dove, Mousebirds, other small doves, quail, softbills.
- Size M: Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah, large Sunbirds, Superb Starlings.
- Size R: Green/Purple Starlings.
- Size S: Indian Hill Mynah, Java Mynah, Ring-necked Dove, Toucanettes, White-tailed Jay.
- Size T: Small Hornbills, Plush-capped Jay, small Toucans, small Touracos.

*Banding instructions are included with each order.*

## Guide to Ordering Open Plastic Leg Bands

- Size XF: Cordon Bleu, Fire, Orange-Cheeked, Red-Eared, Lavender, Blue Capped Waxbills, Owl, Cherry, Green & Grey Singers, Painted, Hecks & Masked Grassfinch, Gouldian, Most Parrot Finches, Zebra, Bengalese (Society), Stars.
- Size XCS: Nuns, Cutthroats, Diamond Firetails (Diamond Sparrows), most Twinspots, Siskins, (Canaries - Gloster, Fife, Miniature & Fancy).
- Size XCL: Red Faced Pytilia, Pekin Robin, (Canaries - Roller, Borders, Lizard, Norwich, Yorkshire, Red Factor).
- Size XB: Indian Shama, Diamond Dove, Chinese Painted (Button) Quail, Budgies, Grass Parakeets.
- Size X3: Lovebirds, Rosellas, Many Softbills.

# NFSS FinchShop

## FINCH & SOFTBILL PHOTO CD/ SCREEN SAVER



The NFSS photo CD is a compilation of nearly 500 photographs provided by NFSS members and a Microsoft Windows compatible screensaver comprised of more than 150 of the photos. All photos are in .jpg format for ease of viewing. The CD includes photos representing numerous species native to several continents, from Societies to Starlings, Waxbills to Weavers. **\$9.99**

## NFSS Logo Polo Shirt



A short sleeve, tan, 100% pre-shrunk cotton Polo Shirt with embroidered Logo over left chest. Bird graphic is blue with National Finch & Softbill Society in green. Available in men's sizes: M, L, and XL. **\$28.00**

## NFSS Logo Cap



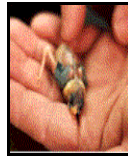
An adjustable (one size fits most) 100% cotton dark blue cap with the graphic in tan and green National Finch & Softbill Society lettering. **\$16.00**

## Leg Band Cutters



No bird owner should be without one of these for those emergencies that happen with banded birds. Having them handy can mean the difference between a mild injury to a lose foot or bird. **\$7.00**

## VIDEO—FINCH HUSBANDRY



This video (VHS or DVD Format) by Vince Moase, formerly of the Metro Toronto Zoo, spans time and aviaries built in two different residences. It was originally produced to help budding aviculturalists in Vince's local bird club. **\$15.00** (Be sure to specify format with order)

## JUDGE'S HANDBOOK AND OFFICIAL STANDARDS



Official show standards adopted by The National Finch and Softbill Society. Included are the standards of conduct for an NFSS Panel Judge, the current show classification schedule, points/awards schedules, banding information, Judge's report forms, the NFSS Bylaws, and information for those aspiring to become an NFSS Panel Judge. **\$15.00**

## Egg Candler



The world's most powerful pocket light with xenon bulb. Includes a light bender for inspection of eggs in the nest that can be used for species that are sensitive to nest inspection. Uses 2 "AAA" batteries that are included. Candler will be shipped with information on interpreting the results of egg candling. **\$20.00**

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# NFSS FinchShop

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5 1/2 x 4 1/4" Note Cards (With Envelopes)

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*the National Finch  
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## FinchShop Order Form

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Mail completed form with your check payable to NFSS to:

**Robert Mehl**

NFSS Finch Shop Manager

11108 Hollowbrook Road

Owings Mills, MD 21117-1379

## CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED RATES: \$4.00/Issue (Up to four lines of text). Free Classifieds to NFSS Finch/Softbill Save Program Members. All ads are also posted on the NFSS website ([www.nfss.org](http://www.nfss.org)) at no extra charge. Contact Bob French, 90 Myrtle Ave #515, Whitman, MA 02382, (phone) (781) 447-3112, email: [bobfrenchnfss@gmail.com](mailto:bobfrenchnfss@gmail.com)

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Email: [utuweb@aol.com](mailto:utuweb@aol.com)

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State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal (List NFSS #) \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues (Select One)

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<b>1 Year:</b>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$22.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3 Years:</b>	\$85 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$99 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$99 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>5 Years:</b>	\$140 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Life:</b>	\$1500 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1740 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1740 <input type="checkbox"/>	

*Mail Application and Check Payable to NFSS:*

**Robert Mehl  
11108 Hollowbrook Rd.  
Owings Mills,  
MD 21117-1379**



## NFSS FINCH/SOFTBILL SAVE Information/Application Request

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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