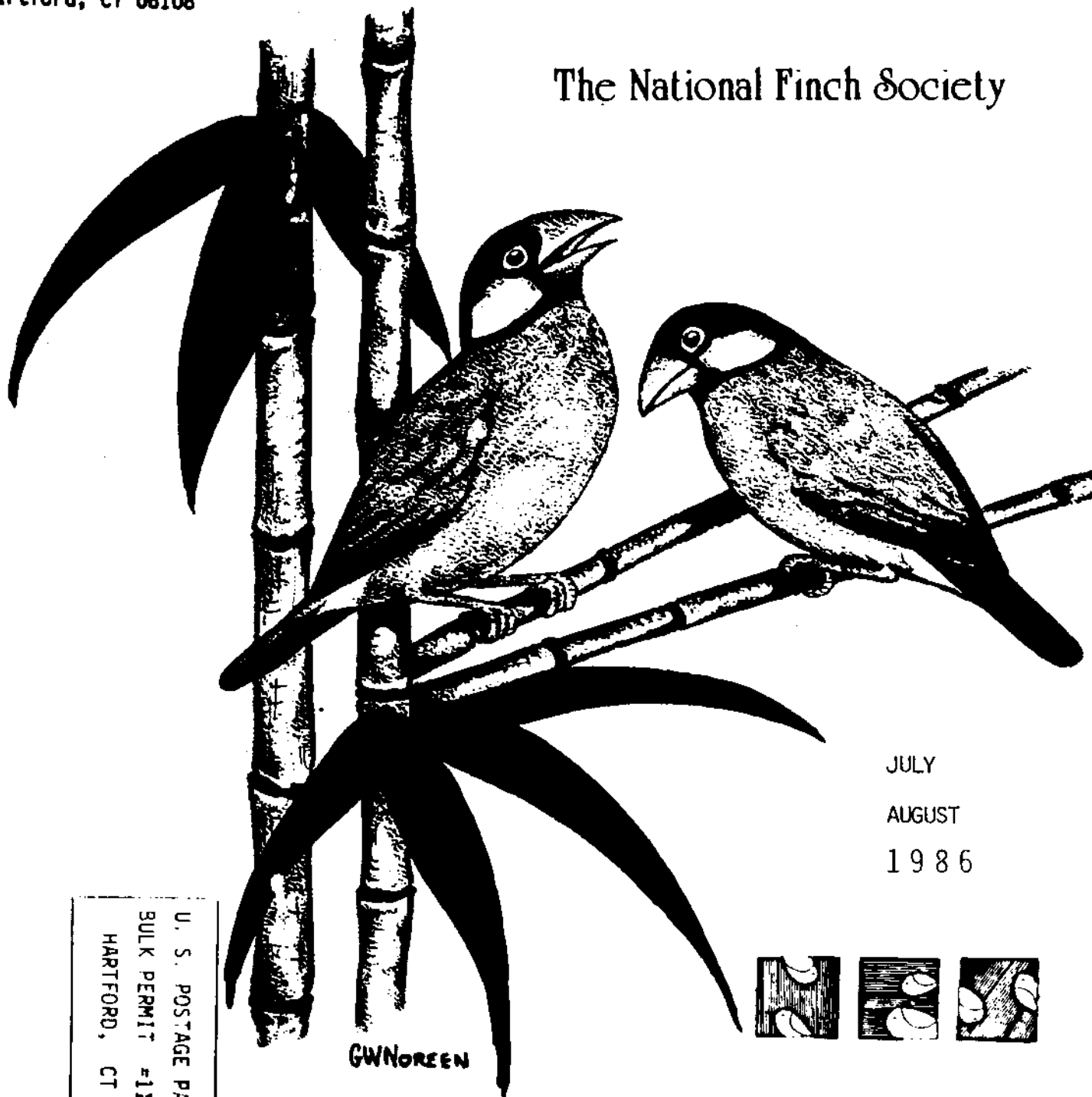


THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY
529 Burnside Avenue
E. Hartford, CT 06108

The National Finch Society



JULY

AUGUST

1986

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Volume 3 Number 3

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach the show season, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all NFS members a happy and successful exhibition season. We the Board Members of the Society hope to see many of you at the local shows, and of course at the National Annual Meeting and Show of the National Finch Society at the National Cage Bird Show in St. Louis, on November 13-16, 1986.

Also NFS Points Chairman, Tony Patterson, would like to point out that to obtain points at the shows this year, you must be a NFS member prior to a show to gain points for wins. Points are not retroactive if a person decides to join subsequent to a show. Enlist your friends to join now.

THE NATIONAL FINCH SHOW 1986

The National Finch Society, National Show for 1986 will be held in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show. This years' show will be held at the Adair Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 15-17, 1986.

Finch registration will be Thursday evening and Friday morning before the start of judging. The exact cut-off time will be announced at a later date.

This years' National Finch Show promises to be the largest and best yet. The new NFS classification system will be in effect for this show. NFS is looking for a participation that will exceed the largest entry of finches for the National Cage Bird Show. The largest entry to date is 182 in 1985. It would seem that with membership support the NFS can expect at least 300 finches for this years' show.

There will be many incentives for those members entering their birds this year. The Kellogg award of course, will be awarded to the Best Finch in Show. The NFS Kaytee Award will be awarded the Best Breed and Banded by the exhibitor entry. These awards are in addition to all the normal Divisional, Sectional and Class trophies and rosettes normally awarded by the National Cage Bird Show.

The National Finch Society will be Awarding a plaque for the Best in each Section. The NFS Divisional awards will include a plaque for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Best in Division along with the ten best Rosettes.

This year as a special treat to Society fanciers, the National Finch Society will be awarding a first and second Best Society medal. These two medals were obtained through Dr. Val Clear, and are donations to our national show by the National Bangalese Society of Great Britain. None of the National Finch Society consider it a great honor to receive these medals. They are sure to be a treasured holding of the winners.

This year's judge for the Finch Division is NFS President and Panel Judge William Parlee. Bill brings with him his years of experience in judging finches and softbills. His style of judging is sure to be educational to all those viewing the judging.

We encourage all NFS members to attend the "National", as it is more than a show it is an education. You will meet with other serious finch breeders and exhibitors and will be able to share your knowledge. Of course you will be able to see old friends and new ones. There will be a National Finch Society booth set up during the entire show. The NFS National Annual meeting will be held Friday evening at the hotel. We hope to meet and greet all our NFS member at "your show of shows", the National Cage Bird Show, St. Louis, 1986.



The National Finch Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual \$15 / / Dual \$20 / / Junior 7.50 / /

Dual Membership is two individuals residing at the same address (one bulletin). Juniors are under 16.

Club affiliations _____

How long have you been involved in finches _____.

How many species have you bred? _____.

Briefly describe your interest in joining the National Finch Society and what you hope to get out of your membership.

Send your app and fee to Russell Armitage Jr. Treas.
345 Boston Road
Middletown, CT 06457

529 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, Ct 06108

MINUTES: JUNE BOARD MEETING

The June 8, 1986 meeting of the National Finch Society Board of Directors was held at the home of Kelly Dahill and Jerry D'Agata in Windsor, Connecticut. The meeting came to order at 4:12 p.m. Present were Kelly and Jerry, Nancy Reed, Al Decoteau, Chris Varonovitch, Russ Armitage, Pam Liddy, Roger O'Connell and Bill Parlee.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SHOW REPORT: Points remain the same as no shows have taken place since the last report. A new show report format for completion by judges was presented for Tony Patterson, Points Chairman, by Bill Parlee. The new report format is in keeping with the changes made in the awarding of points at NFS shows for 1986. The report was approved, and Dr. Al Decoteau will be forwarding a supply to all Panel Judges for their use. He reminds all NFS judges that the reports must be mailed within seven days of the judging.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE: Bill Parlee suggested the use of a new cover for our Bulletin that had been submitted by NFS member and avian artist George Noreen of Portland, Oregon. The new cover art depicts a pair of Java Rice Birds. The Publishing Committee wishes to thank George for his interest in our art work, and hopes he will continue this fine contributions.

Bill has asked the Board to approve funds for a gradual implementation of a typeset format for our articles and forms in the bi-monthly Bulletin. The first step would be the typesetting of articles and later, the forms and other pages. Bill said he hoped the entire Bulletin could be in the typeset form by the first of the year. To help offset the additional cost to the Society, Bill has suggested we start an advertising campaign offering to our members for the first time: quarter page ads that would sell at \$35 for the year (6 issues). Bill has also asked for the help of all members in obtaining national advertisers for our Bulletin.

On the matter of an updated Judge's Handbook, Bill suggested that we drop the Handbook in favor of a "NFS Yearbook". The "Yearbook" would be available to all members at a cost of \$3. This book would have all the year's news, Species Standards, Judging Standards, By-Laws, listings of educational programs, and general maintenance and care articles. Now that we are associated with the National Cage Bird Show we can no longer produce our own show catalog. This year's book would replace that, and could become a collector's piece. Bill further suggested that the "Yearbook" be made available to all NFS affiliated shows through their regional Vice-President for sale at that particular show. Proceeds of course going to the National Finch Society.

RESEARCH AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE: Dr. Al Decoteau suggested that an ongoing Standards Committee be formed, as our work with Species Standards is not yet complete. It was also suggested that a General Standard for all other finches and softbills be adopted. This general Standard would be for all birds for which the National Finch Society has not as yet adopted an official Standard.

Dr. Al Decoteau read the new official Standard for the Green Singing Finch, which was adopted as presented.

Bill Parlee suggested that the Research Committee investigate the establishment of a Rare and Endangered Species Propagation Program. Bill stated that the National Finch Society should be at the forefront of this effort. The enhancement of domestic breeding programs for seldom imported birds, or species that are becoming rare or endangered must be undertaken. Bill feels the Research Committee should consider what part the NFS can play in this endeavor. The Black-Headed Red Siskin and the Lavender-eared Waxbill were mentioned, although many other species must be brought into this program if adopted. Bill asked the Committee to consider these ideas and to present further discussion at the next Board meeting in September. Any member who has thoughts on this idea, please send them to Bill Parlee, 529 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, CT 06108-3592.

PROMOTIONS AND PRODUCTS COMMITTEE: Kelly Dahill presented the Board with a graphic stylized design of a Zebra Finch with the NFS logo below for use on our proposed T-Shirts. The design was approved by the Board, and the T-Shirts will hopefully be available for the AFA Convention in New Orleans. The cost for the three color shirts will be \$8.

Eric Peake has been contacted about the possibility of painting the NFS Standards. It is the thought of the Products Committee that the original Standard artwork could be auctioned off, and prints could be made available for additional sale as a way to defray the cost of the original Standards' paintings.

JUDGES PANEL COMMITTEE: Committee Chairman, Al Decoteau, reported that all but one judge had paid their 1986 Judges fees. Al reported on the outcome of the California Judging tests. He stated that Bill had administered written tests to four judges wishing to be tested. Bill also judged 100 birds provided by the members of the Aviary Association of Kern, and the Fresno Canary and Finch Club. The judges then separately judged the same birds while Bill evaluated their judging mechanics, placement, and educational presentation. Three of the judges names were brought before the Board for approval. Hal Koontz, Joe Krader, and Brian Manderich have been elected to the Judges Panel.

Al asked that all requests by Apprentice Judges to apprentice at specific shows must be received by him by September 1, 1986. Send requests to A.E. Decoteau, Groton Rd., Dunstable, MA 01827

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: The National Finch Society now has a membership of 370. Affiliated clubs total 31!

LEG BAND REPORT: Russ Armitage reported that over 4,000 of the 5,600 1986 bands we ordered have been sold to NFS members. He stated that sizes C and E will be reordered so that we will have enough to last the year. Russ pointed out that this amount is double that of 1985.

ELECTION COMMITTEE: No report.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: No report.

AFFILIATED CLUBS REPORT: The Fresno Canary and Finch Club, and the Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture have been approved for Regional Shows in their respective regions.

A.F.A. REPORT: The American Federation of Aviculture 1986 annual convention will be held August 6-10 at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. A full schedule of events are listed elsewhere in the NFS Bulletin. It should be pointed out however that the Audubon Zoo tour is at 11 a.m., on August 5th, the day before the convention officially starts.

The National Finch Society will maintain a booth at the convention, and will host a hospitality room for NFS members and interested parties at the hotel following the Regional membership meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: The idea of show tags with geographical and other pertinent information on show cages was reintroduced and dropped, due to a lack of interest. The main stumbling block seemed to be that the Board could not imagine how this cumbersome project could be implemented in an organized fashion at shows throughout the country.

No additional information, articles, or input on show cages has been received from Bob Travnicek, or any other Softbill people as presented at the last Board Meeting. The Board has taken a "wait and see" attitude regarding the Softbill question, and our impending by-line for our logo. The Board dropped further consideration of the matter until additional interest is shown.

NEW BUSINESS: The Standard for the Green Singing Finch was approved.

Funds for typesetting the Bulletin were approved.

The Board approved the 3 nominees for the Judges Panel.

The adoption of a Region 6 to encompass California, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Hawaii was approved.

Appointment of Hal Koontz of Bakersfield, California to fill the Regional Vice President's post for Region 6 was approved until the next election of officers.

Presidential funds in the amount of \$200 were approved for use at the New Orleans AFA convention.

Nominations were entertained by the Board for a Panel Judge for our National Show in Ohio in 1987. The Board nominated George Warren of Portsmouth, England; Dr. Val Clear of Anderson, Indiana; and Charles Anchor of Addison, Illinois. The election was by secret ballot and counted by Election Committee Chairwoman., Pam Liddy. After the ballots were counted, it was announced that George Warren was first choice to judge our National in Ohio in 1987, followed by Dr. Val Clear and Charles Anchor as 2nd and 3rd nominations respectively.

Show cage changes have been approved. Cages will now have round doors, and perches will be affixed with bosses and will not touch the front of the cage wire. Specifications will be added to the Cage Plans. Anyone who already has NFS plans may request supplemental sheets to update their plans by writing Nancy A. Reed, 109 Stagecoach Road, Windsor, CT 06095. There will be no charge if original plans were ordered.

An administrative change was announced by Bill Parlee. Effective December 26, 1986, Roger O'Connell will be NFS Band Secretary. The new 1987 Band Order Forms will so indicate. Russ Armitage, who has done a great job as Band Secretary from the formation of our band program to the present, will become in charge of the Membership Services Department which will handle all new and renewal memberships. President Parlee thanked both Roger and Russ for the fine jobs that they have been doing and for accepting these responsibilities.

The next Board meeting will be held on Sunday September 7, 1986. Minutes transcribed from tape and notes.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Voronovitch, Secretary.

ATTENTION TO ANYONE NOT RECEIVING NFS BULLETINS!!

(...and obviously, if you're not receiving this bulletin, you're not going to read this!) If anyone knows of a disgruntled NFS member who is not getting our mailings, please notify the NFS Editor or Membership Chairman immediately! Case at point: Recently an NFS Board member in talking with an aviculturist friend in Texas learned that he had given his barber, a finch enthusiast, information on joining NFS. The man sent in his check, received his membership number, but no forthcoming bulletins. It turned out that there was an error in his zip code (bulletins going to Colorado!), and because bulletins are sent third class mailing, no wrong addresses are returned to NFS. We had no way of knowing of the error. Please contact NFS if you, or anyone you know, is having any problems! We don't want any disgruntled NFS members!

NFS PANEL OF JUDGES

CHARLES ANCHOR
630 Lake Park Drive
Addison, IL 60101
(312) 543-3757

MARCO ARIDA
10480 S.W. 62nd
Miami, FL 33173
(305) 271-1238

DR. VAL CLEAR
1001 Martin Drive
Anderson, IN 46012
(317) 642-0795

CLARENCE CULWELL
Rt. 3 Box 61-7
Springtown, TX 76082
(817) 523-5568

GERALD D'AGATA
109 Seymour St.
Mindsor, CT 06095
(203) 688-9403

KELLY S. DAHILL
109 Seymour St.
Mindsor, CT 06095
(203) 688-9403

DR. A. E. DECOTEAU
Groton St.
Dunstable, MA 01827
(617) 649-6103

DAREN DECOTEAU
Groton St.
Dunstable, MA 01827
(617) 649-6103

HAL M. KOONTZ
2604 Auburn Court
Bakersfield, CA xxxxx
(805) 872-1063

JOSEPH KRADER
17347 Aspenglow Dr.
Yorba Linda, CA 92686
(714) 996-5538

BRIAN WANDERICH
4743 E.Hedges Ave.
Fresno, CA 93703
(209) 255-6508

JUANITA MCLAIN
2410 Madrid Ave.
Safety Harbor, FL 33572
(813) 726-8326

CONRAD WEINERT
RR 3, Box 392
Warsaw, IN 46580
(219) 269-2873

WILLIAM G. PARLEE
529 Burnside Ave.
E. Hartford, CT 06108
(203) 528-1458

PAUL WILLIAMS
703 Donegal Drive
Papillion, NE 68046
(402) 339-8772

GEORGE WARREN, 28 Chedworth Crescent, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, England, Zip PO6-4ET. Phone: Cosham (Portsmouth) 386304.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE NFS JUDGES PANEL: Write Panel Director A.E. Decoteau, Groton St. Dunstable, MA 01827.

CLASSIFIED:

GREY-NEADED SOCIAL WEAVER; Excellent condition; can be seen at NFS Northeast shows; could be delivered at St. Louis; \$75;
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QUESTIONNAIRE TO NFS JUDGES

We thought it might be fun to contact our NFS Judges Panel with a list of questions. Their answers have proven educational, as well as giving a bit of a personal glimpse of some of this venerable crew's experience and thoughts.

Responding to this questionnaire were: Charles Anchor, Dr. Val Clear, Dr. Al Decoteau, Daren Decoteau, Juanita McLain, Conrad Meinert, Bill Parlee, and George Warren.

My thanks to those of you who took the time to contribute.

1. WHAT IS YOUR ONE FAVORITE SPECIES OF FINCHES OR SOFTBILLS?

Charlie Anchor: Zebras. **Val Clear:** Finch: Zebra. Softbill: "Hummingbird (really is Nectarine). **Al Decoteau:** "I change from time to time - now it's the Shafttail and Peter's Twin-spot." **Daren Decoteau:** Bali Mynah and Lady Gouldian. **Juanita McLain:** Finch: Violet Eared Waxbill. Softbill: Pekin (Robin) Nightingale. **Conrad Melnert:** "I honestly don't have a favorite." **Bill Parlee:** "Personal favorite is the Zebra." **George Warren:** Gouldians, Star Finches. Violet Eared Waxbills, and Chestnut Breasted Waxbills. Softbills: Sunbirds and Hummingbirds.

2. IF MONEY WERE NO OBJECT, WHAT ONE PAIR OF FINCHES OR SOFTBILLS WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO OWN?

Anchor: Variegated Wren (Malurus Lamberti). **Clear:** Rothschild's Mynahs. **A.Decoteau:** Crimson Seedcrackers. **D.Decoteau:** Blue Legged Honey Creeper. **McLain:** Violet Eared and Pekin Robin. **Meinert:** "Not exactly a finch or softbill - Victorian Crown Pigeons." **Parlee:** "Touracos - Red Crested to be exact." **Warren:** Rare Sunbirds (Yellow Tufted).

3. WHAT IS YOUR MOST EXCITING BREEDING SUCCESS? (RARITY, SIZE OF CLUTCH, MUTATION, WHATEVER?)

Anchor: "Every time I see a new chick!" **Clear:** "This year I raised single chicks in two nests of Neorynchus peruviansis: Parrot-billed Seedeater. I believe this is a world first-breeding. (Wow! Val. contact AFA's AVY Committee for verification as to a U.S. first breeding!)" **A.Decoteau:** "Probably repeat breeding of the Green Singing Finch." **D.Decoteau:** "Violet Eared Waxbills - 2 chicks at a time when they were not as rare as today." **McLain:** Yellow Bellied Waxbills, and Cordon Bleus - "7 babies in one clutch." **Melnert:** Bali (Rothschild) Mynah - 3 young. **Parlee:** Peter's Twin-spots. **Warren:** Violet Eared Waxbills "(very nervous when nesting)—4 eggs, 3 chicks."

4. HAVE YOU SUCCESSFULLY BRED AND RAISED ANY SOFTBILLS? WHAT?

Anchor: Urraca Jay (Cyanocorax Chrysops). **A.Decoteau:** Bali Mynahs (Al. contact Val: question #2 where money is no object!), Plush Crested Jays. **D.Decoteau:** Bali Mynahs. **McLain:** "No - eggs only of the Pekin Robin." **Meinert:** Bali (Rothschild) Mynahs. (Val may go bankrupt!)

5. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS?

Anchor: over 25 years. **Clear:** 50+ years. **A.Decoteau:** "a long time" (Al doesn't want to jeopardize his 39 year old image.) **D.Decoteau:** "Since I was 6." (Daren is Al's son, and if he divulges his 20+ years of age. it could wreck Al's eternal youth.) **McLain:** "10 years (not now)." **Meinert:** 30 years. **Parlee:** 14 years. **Warren:** 40 years.

6. DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL TIP THAT IS PERHAPS UNIQUE TO YOUR FACILITY? (NESTING, NUTRITION, CAGING, WHATEVER?)

Clear: "I am using the plastic-mold cages developed by Dale Thompson but use plastic freezer-boxes (1 1/2 pint size. 4" X 4" X 4") for nests. I cut half the bottom out. then hang the carton on a side so that the front of the box (i.e.. the previous "bottom") is half open. Works well. and cleaning is simple: dunk in a bucket of disinfectant."

A.Decoteau: outside flights. (Realize that Al lives on the border of Mass. and N.H. But I believe Al uses these outdoor flights only late spring through fall.) **D.Decoteau:** "We have success in breeding Java Rice Birds due to our constant feeding of Oat Groats." **McLain:** "I had a 30' X 40' aviary. planted and running water. that was most successful." **Meinert:** "Outside aviaries are the greatest asset." (Again, I don't know if Conrad is talking year round in Indiana.)

Parlee: "Only that when breeding attempts are not successful, change your diet and possible caging." **Warren:** "A common fault over here (in England) is: visiting nest boxes too many times during nesting period. Thus disturbing birds. causing birds to leave nest boxes. A set time each day is enough."

7. WHAT ONE SPECIES OR MUTATION WOULD YOU WISH TO BECOME MORE PROLIFIC. AND THEREFORE MADE MORE EASILY AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE?

Clear: "Any of the colorful Tanagers." **A.Decoteau:** the Fawn Shaft-tail. **D.Decoteau:** Violet Eared Waxbill. **McLain:** Violet Eared Waxbill. **Meinert:** White Shafttails. **Parlee:** Violet Eared Waxbill. **Warren:** Peter's Twinspot. "Ideal for keen finch breeder and exhibitor."

8. DO YOU BREED YOUR FINCHES/SOFTBILLS IN: INDIVIDUAL CAGES? FLIGHTS? MIXED?

8A. WHAT/ WHERE/ WITH WHAT? (SUCCESSFULLY)

Anchor: "Zebras seem to do better inside in single cages 16" X 16" X 32". Waxbills outside: I have three flights 3' X 3' X 6', 4' X 5' X 10', and 6' X 6' X 6'." **Clear:** Individual cages: yes. "I have a tropical garden in the house about 12' X 15'. My Neorhynchus (see question 3) were bred in the garden. Also, my Jacarinis have bred there like mice this year."

A.Decoteau: Individual cages, flights, mixed: yes. With what successfully: "using Nekton Vitamins." **McLain:** All yes to #8. #8A: (All prefaced by "R" means raised.): R. Red Eared, R. Cordon Blue and Blue Capped, R. Fire Finch, R. All Mannikins, R. Strawberry (2 kinds), R. Yellow Bellied Waxbill. R. Zebra, R. Lady Gould, R. Orange Cheek. Crimson Pileated, R. Lavender. R. Hecks, R. Star, R. Owl. Plumhead, Diamond Sparrow. R. Green Strawberry. Black Cheek, R. Violet Eared, R. Green Singers. Melba, R. Aurora, Pintailed Wydah, Weavers, R. Black Crested. (WOW! Juanita, that's an IMPRESSIVE track record!) **Warren:** Gouldians. Star Finches. Chestnut Breasted Waxbills, and Violet Eared Waxbills in individual cages.

9. HAVE YOU EVER FOSTERED EGGS? CHICKS?

9A. WHAT/ WITH WHAT?

Anchor: Yes (eggs). "Zebras and Goulds only under Societies." **A. & D.Decoteau:** Never. **McLain:** 9: yes, yes. 9A: "All Waxbills and Australian - under Societies." **Melnert:** 9: yes, yes. 9A: "Goulds with Societies: Diamond Doves and Cape Dove chicks to Diamond Doves. Cutthroat finches to Societies." **Parlee:** Red Eared to Societies. **Warren:** Has fostered Gouldian eggs with Star Finches. "Result: not very satisfactory."

10. WHAT ULTIMATE MUTATION OF A SPECIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE PRODUCED? (BE IMAGINATIVE)

Anchor: "Canary & Junco. (I assume Charlie means a hybrid, but I sure wish he had explained his thought!)" **Clear:** "Paradise Tanager with a crest like a Cockatiel, forked tail like a swallow. Females should have a crest like a Greater Hill Mynah." (Here's a man with a great imagination!) **A.Decoteau:** "In finches I prefer the standard type - they are more beautiful." **D.Decoteau:** "The all blue Bali Mynah." (Daren, close to my idea of an all blue Cockatiel—alas, we'll never see.) **Meinert:** Lutino Shafttail and Diamond Sparrow. **Parlee:** A Lady Gouldian (White Breasted) with the flanks of a Diamond Sparrow.

11. ARE FINCHES/SOFTBILLS YOUR MAIN INTEREST? 11A. IF NO, WHAT IS YOUR SPECIALTY? 11B. WHAT SPECIES OTHER THAN FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS DO YOU KEEP?

Anchor: Finches. "Hummingbirds, until my job started taking so much time. The Hummers got fed three times a day." Charlie also has Chickens (Bantams), Ducks and Pheasants. **Clear:** Yes. "I have sold all my psittacine cages. No more large birds in my collection, although I remain interested in them." Val also keeps Chinese Budgies (15 pairs pay the feed bill for the rest); *Forpus coelestis* now breeding in the F-1 generation; Spanish Timbrado Canaries (imported last November); Diamond Doves. **A.Decoteau:** 11: Not necessarily - I

like them all. **11A:** Finches and Parrots. **11B:** "You name it - you might guess it. Actually, I have 40 species of Parrots, 30 species of finches. and 4 species of softbills at the moment." **D.Decoteau:** "No. I prefer Hookbills, but I like Finches and Softbills." **11A:** Scarlett Macaws. **11B:** "Several parrots, and Bronze Wing Doves." **McLain:** **11A:** Cockatiels and Sun Conures. **11B:** Cockatiels, Suns. Gold Capped Conure. White Eye Conure. African Grays. Noble Macaws, Jendays. Blue Crowned Conures. Lovebirds. **Meinert:** **11A:** Diamond Doves, and Java Rice Birds. **11B:** Ringneck Parakeets. Many Colored Parakeets. Crimson Winged Parrots. Cockatiels. Bourke Parakeets. Red Rump Parakeets. Twenty Eight Parrots, Rosellas. Princess of Whales Parakeets, Rock Pebbler. Scarlet Chested Parakeets, variety of exotic doves, Citron Crested Cockatoos. **Parlee:** "Yes, although I raise Budgies and Cockatiels as well. I'm also working with some of the Australian Parakeets and the Lilac Crowned Amazon Parrot." **Warren:** Yes. finches and softbills main interest.

12. WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FAULT FOUND IN EXHIBITION BIRDS?

Anchor: "No Composure. A judge cannot properly judge if the bird hides on the bottom (of the cage) or hangs on the wires." **Clear:** Poor condition. **A.Decoteau:** Feather condition. **D.Decoteau:** Poor feather condition. **McLain:** Cages. **Meinert:** Lack of training. **Parlee:** Condition. and poor quality Society finches. **Warren:** Poor presentation: i.e. non-spraying.

13. WHEN YOU COME TO JUDGING THE BEST IN SHOW, WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST COMMONLY APPARENT FACTOR FOR A BIRD PLACING LOWER IN THE TOP TEN?

Anchor: "The lack of finish on the birds. A certain sheen." **Clear:** "Condition. Usually this decision is a tight one. but a missing feather here or there tends to be the determining factor. (Consistent with the decision of the NFS. I try not to let rarity influence my decision. although if I had my choice. it would.)" **A.Decoteau:** "It has to be a combination of factors." **D.Decoteau:** Condition. **McLain:** Overall condition. **Meinert:** Condition and training. **Parlee:** "The owner's lack of attention to detail in the showing and preparation of an exhibit."

14. DO YOU FEEL FINCHES AND SOFTBILLS ALWAYS SHOW BETTER IN A SHOW BOX?

Anchor: "Birds seem to be calmer in a show box." **Clear:** Always. **A.Decoteau:** "Yes. it show box is large enough." **D.Decoteau:** Definitely. **McLain:** "Yes. small finches."

The additional part of question 14 was: "OR DO YOU THINK CERTAIN SPECIES MAY SHOW BETTER IN AN OPEN CAGE? FOR INSTANCE. WHAT TYPE OR SPECIES?"

McLain: "Wydahs and Pekin Robins - and always with 2 perches." **Meinert:** No. yes. "Usually Mynahs show better in open cages, I think." **Parlee:** Most always (show box); Wydahs (better in open cage). **Warren:** Yes (for show box). "In an open cage you would lose the colours of the birds against an open background. The white of a box cage displays the colours better." (English spelling of "colour". I wish I could typewrite George's wonderful accent!)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS (AND YOUR ANSWERS) THAT YOU FEEL WOULD HELP IN THIS SURVEY:

Clear: "I sense a reaction against the groundswell of interest in the large psittacines. We are about to see an ebbtide, I think. Finches and softbills should come into their own in the next few years. I think NFS has appeared at a propitious moment in avicultural history."

D.Decoteau: "I would like to see more hummingbird enthusiasts, both in breeding and in the exhibition hall." **Parlee:** "What the exhibitor feels is the most annoying trait for a judge? I feel it is that he or she may not always appear to give each bird an equal chance, or that the judge may not explain his decisions." **Warren:** "Q: At which stage of judging is the cage taken into consideration? A: When you have two birds of equal merit and it shows the keenness of the exhibitor."

* * * * *

O.K. I hope the above has been of interest and educational. Perhaps we can expand this survey to general membership (anyone who would like to respond to any or all of the above questions?) Are there other questions you'd like to have included? Is there a specific NFS member you'd like me to contact to answer these, or other questions? Please write me with your answers, requests, or ideas!!

Nancy A.Reed

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NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY AFFILIATED CLUBS

CALIFORNIA

The Fresno Canary and Finch Society.
Delegate: Graham Southerland
Show: Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 1986
Panel Judge: Joseph Krader
Place: Madera Cty. Fairgrounds
Reg. 6 Meeting, Nov. 1, 1986

Capitol City Bird Society
Delegate: Helen Caudle
Show: Oct. 17-19, 1986
Judge: Ray Johnson ***
Place: Rusch Park, Citrus Hqts.

Golden Gate Avian Society
Delegate: Mary Payne
Show: Nov. 7-9, 1986
Panel Judge: Brian Manderich
Place: Alameda Fairgrounds

The Aviary Assoc. of Kern Cty.
Delegate: Hal Koontz
Show: November 15, 1986
Panel Judge: Hal Koontz
Place: Kern Cty. Fairgrounds
Hall of Flowers.

COLORADO

Colorado Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Martha Nigmore
Show: October 11, 1986
Judge:
Place: Springs Mall

Rocky Mt. Society of Aviculture
Delegate: Martha Nigmore
Show: October 25, 1986
Panel Judge: Paul Williams
Place: Continental Inn, Denver
Reg. 5 Meeting, Oct. 25, 1986

CONNECTICUT

The Conn. Assoc. for Aviculture
Delegate: Jerry D'Agata
Show: October 25, 1986
Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert
Place: Vet. Memorial Bldg.
E. Hartford, CT.
Reg. 1 Meeting, Oct. 25, 1986

FLORIDA

Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Karl Kline
Show: October 25, 1986
Panel Judge: William Parlee
Place: Anacapri Inn, Ft. Lauderdale
Reg. 2 Meeting, Oct 25, 1986

Str. Miami Avicultural Society
Delegate: Hector Ugalde
Bird Fair this year.

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society
Delegate: Ann Hurst
Show: October 11, 1986
Judge: Ray Johnson
Place: Sheraton, International
Inn, Orlando, FL

GEORGIA

The Georgia Cage Bird Society
Delegate: Cecil Gunby
Show: November 1, 1986
Panel Judge: A.E.Decoteau

ILLINOIS

Str. Chicago Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Charles Anchor
Show: October 2-4, 1986
Panel Judge: A.E.Decoteau
Place: Ramada O'Hare
Rosemont, Ill. (GABS)
Reg. 3 Meeting

Kaytee Great American Cage
Bird Show. Delegate: Harvey
Smith. Date: Oct. 2-4, 1986
Conjunction with Chicago Show.

INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciers
Delegate: Val Clear
Show: October 11, 1986
Judge: Wayne Thomann ***
Place: Ft. Wayne, IN

LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club Inc.
Delegate: Evon Kruse
Show: October 18, 1986
Panel Judge: Garen Decoteau
Place: Clarion Hotel, N.D., La.

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers Inc.
Delegate: Brenda Geesey
Show: October 18, 1986
Judge: Roddy Sable ***
Place: Essex, MD

The Maryland Cage Bird Assoc.
Delegate: Dallas Johnson
Show: November 8, 1986
Panel Judge: Garen Decoteau
Conjunction with Cent.Pa.Show
Place: Quality Inn, York, Pa.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Boston Cockatiel Society
Delegate: Roger O'Connell
Show: September 27, 1986
Panel Judge: Jerry D'Agata
Place: Neston Town Hall.

The Boston Society for
Aviculture Inc.
Delegate: Roger O'Connell
No Show this year.

The Mass. Cage Bird Assoc.
Delegate: Shirley Eaton
Show: October 18, 1986
Panel Judge: William Parlee
Place: Reed Hall, Kingston, Ma.

Western New England Cage Bird
Society.
Delegate: Charles Giaquinta
Show: November 8, 1986
Panel Judge: William Parlee
Place: Christ the King Church

MICHIGAN

Mid-West Canary and Cage Bird
Society.
Delegate: Mary Kaszyca
Show: October 3-4, 1986
Judge: Charles Kruger ***
Place: Holiday Inn, Southfield

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Cage Bird Society
Delegate: Micheal Bronson
Show: October 11, 1986
Panel Judge: William Parlee
Place: Knollwood, Minneapolis

MISSOURI

The Kansas City Avicultural
Society.
Delegate: Earl Courts
Show: October 18, 1986
Judge: Dr. Roger Harlan ***
Place: Ho Jo's, Independence

Missouri Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Tow Rood
Show: November 13-16, 1986
Panel Judge: William Parlee
Conjunction with National
Cage Bird Show.

The National Cage Bird Show
Show: November 13-16, 1986
Finch Division
Panel Judge: Hilliam Parlee
Place: Adams Mark Hotel
St. Louis, Mo.

The National Finch Society
National Show
Show: November 13-16, 1986
Conjunction with National
Cage Bird Show, St. Louis.

NEBRASKA

The Gtr. Omaha Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Nayne Eichelberger
Show: November 8, 1986
Panel Judge: Charles Anchor
Reg. 4 Meeting

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather
Avicultural Society
Delegate: Larry Brandt
No show this year.

The New Hampshire Avicultural
Society
Delegate: Ken Akey
Show: October 11, 1986
Panel Judge: Al Decoteau

NEW YORK

The Astoria Bird Club
Delegate: Alex Grivas
Show: November 1, 1986
Panel Judge: Kelly Dahill
Place: An. Legion, Hempstead

NORTH CAROLINA

The Charlotte Metrolina Cage
Bird Society.
Delegate: Patricia Gibson
Show: September 13, 1986
Panel Judge: A.E. Decoteau
Place: Holiday Inn - 177
Charlotte, NC

OHIO

Central Ohio Bird Fanciers
Delegate: Kevin Resch
Show: Oct. 17-18, 1986
Panel Judge: Dr. Val Clear
Place: Radisson Hotel, Columbus

OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma
Delegate: Gene Miller
Show: October 25, 1986
Panel Judge: Charles Anchor
Place: Camelot Hotel, Tulsa.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Central Pennsylvania
Cage Bird Society.
Delegate: Hilliam Lumley
Show: November 8, 1986
Conjunction with Maryland
Cage Bird Assoc.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee Bird Society
Delegate: Bernard Knuth
Show: Nov. 21-22, 1986
Panel Judge: A.E. Decoteau
Place: Ramada Sands, Milwaukee

The Wisconsin Cage Bird Club
Delegate: Mary Zuidema
Show: Sept. 26-27, 1986
Judge: Ron Philip ***
Place: Travelers Inn,
Fond du lac, WI

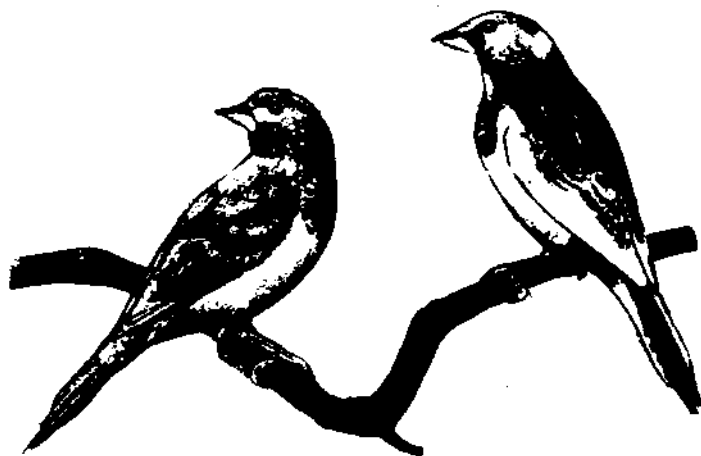
INTERNATIONAL

New Zealand Finch Breeders
Association.
Delegate: Valerie Hughes

*** Non-accredited judge (no points)

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N F S REGIONAL S H O W S

REGION 1 - Greater New England Cage Bird Show, Oct. 25, 1986. All bird show. NFS Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert. The show will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Bldg., E. Hartford, CT. Special 10th Anniversary Show. For information write: Russ Armitage Jr., 345 Boston Rd., Middletown, CT 06457.

REGION 2 - Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club, October 25, 1986. All bird show. NFS Panel Judge: William G. Parlee. The show will be held at the Anacapri Inn, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. For information write: Karl Kline, 9574 Saddlebrook Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33434.

REGION 3 - The Great American Bird Show. Oct. 2-4, 1986. This show offers cash prizes for Division winners. Sponsored by The Greater Chicago Bird Club and Kaytee Products. NFS Panel Judge will be Dr. A.E. Decoteau. This is an all bird show. The show will be held at the Ramada Inn, O'Hare at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. For further information contact: Harvey Smith of Kaytee Products, P.O. Box 230 in Chilton, WI 53014.

REGION 4 - There has been no request for a regional show in this region.

REGION 5 - The Rocky Mountain Society for Aviculture Show. October 25, 1986. NFS Panel Judge: Paul Williams. The show is an all bird show and will be held at the Continental Inn in Denver, Colorado. For more info see the paid ad elsewhere in this issue.

REGION 6 - The Fresno Canary and Finch Club Show. The show will be held at the Madera County Fairgrounds in Fresno, California. The show will take place on October 31 - November 2, 1986. NFS Panel Judge will be Joseph Krader. For more info write: Graham South-erland, 2029 North Katy Lane, Fresno, CA 93711.

REGIONAL SHOWS are generally larger shows and wins at these shows will carry a higher point count. NFS Regional Rosettes are awarded in addition to other awards normally offered. Regional NFS membership meetings are also held at these shows.

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<i>Fonda Collins</i>	<i>American Budgies</i>
<i>Paul Williams</i>	<i>Finches & Softbills</i>
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BREEDING THE SHAFTTAIL

By Hal M. Koontz

The Shafttail finch in good condition is one of the most beautiful and most impressive of all the Australian finches. It is also one of the most common of the Australian finches. The Shafttail is well established in the United States and should be available for purchase in most parts of the United States. Because the Shafttail is a fairly good breeder, it is an ideal bird for the beginner. It is also one of the least expensive of the Australian finches.

A description of a bird never does justice to its beauty. You really must see the bird to appreciate how the colors and patterns fit together to make it a beautiful bird. Nevertheless, I will attempt here to describe the Shafttail. (the drawing by Wanda Deacon will help you envision Hal's description.) The Shafttail has a gray head and neck and a brownish back and wings. Its distinctive characteristics are a black bib on its throat and chest, its yellow or red beak and its very long tail (from which it gets its name). The tail is black with two long shafts which extend beyond the other tail feathers several inches. The yellow beaked variety is what the English call the "Shafttail" and the Australians call the "Longtail. The red beaked variety is usually called "Heck's Grassfinch. The two varieties will readily interbreed and you can find examples of beak colors varying in color from yellow through orange to red. The Shafttail has a pinkish fawn underside, a white rump, red feet and legs, and brown eyes. There are two color mutations that I am familiar with: the Fawn Shafttail and the White Shafttail. The Fawn is a light brown color and the White is a white bird. I find the fawn to be a very attractive bird.

From what I have read, captive Shafttails do not have tails as long as feral Australian Shafttails. Still, I have seen several Shafttails with extremely long tails. These birds, if in good condition, do very well in shows. I have seen several show won by nice Shafttails. Shafttails generally stay in good condition most of the year. The Shafttail is in the Poephila family along with the Masked Grassfinch and the Parson finch. I will try to point out some differences and similarities between these other members of the Poephila family in this article.

The Shafttail is a peaceful bird and does well in a mixed collection of finches. I would put the Shafttail in the middle between the Parson finch and the Masked Grassfinch in terms of aggressiveness. (The Masked is the least aggressive and the Parson is the most aggressive.) I have had a few male Shafttails pick the necks of hens but this has occurred rarely. Shafttails usually hold their own in disputes with larger bodied Diamond Sparrows or Gouldians. I have found Shafttails to be hardy and they take our temperature extremes of 25 - 115 degrees without any problem.

The Shafttail has an interesting head bobbing characteristic. When a Shafttail approaches another Shafttail, it will greet the other bird by very quickly stretching and contracting its neck. I have noticed this bobbing mainly when two Shafttails are coming in contact with each other and not when birds of another species are involved. It has been suggested that this behavior is an appeasement gesture to show each other that no aggression is intended. Shafttails have several calls. One that lets me identify the species is a fairly loud single syllable identity call which lasts for 2 to 3 seconds. It is pleasant to hear even though it sounds a little bit sad to my ears.

Sexing Shafttails is fairly difficult as it also is with the Parson and Masked. I sex them by looking at the width of the black bib. A male tends to have a wider and larger bib while a female tends to have a narrower and smaller bib. There always are a number of birds in the middle which are too close to call. I pair them up to the best of my ability and then modify this (if necessary) when I observe their behavior. I am never really sure until I see fertile eggs.

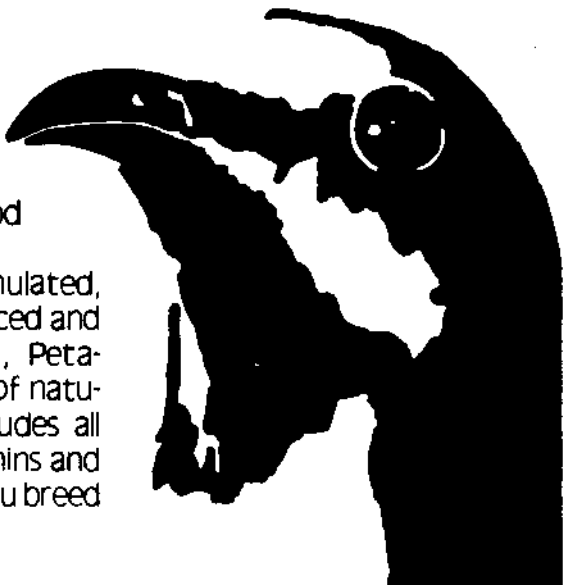
My Shafttails almost exclusively use nest boxes. Only 1 pair in probably 100 used a nest site other than a box (it was a tumbleweed). The type of box that they prefer is the Gouldian nest box with the front porch. They do not build their nest inside the box; they build their nest on the porch. In essence it is a totally open nest box in front (as opposed to the half open nest boxes). A close second favorite box is the standard 5" cube with a round entrance hole.

Shafttails generally lay 5 eggs with fairly good fertility. I have had some pairs that laid infertile eggs and it has not been as infrequent as I would wish. If you get a good compatible pair together, every egg should be fertile. The Masked has given me less problems with fertility. Shafttails make average parents. I again have had some pairs that would not feed their babies or would toss them out of the nest. And I have had some pairs that would only rear 2 babies out of the 4 or 5 that hatched. On the other hand, some pairs can be excellent breeders and turn out 4 babies per nest for several nests.

The Shafttail nest is made of grass and is located as high as possible. My Shafttails roost in a box at night even when they are not breeding. I rarely see them roosting on a perch when there is a nest box available to them. There is no particular time of year when my Shafttails breed. I generally have a couple pairs breeding at all times during the year. Shafttails are suitable for aviaries or flight cages. I know of people who have bred them in cages although I have never tried this. Shafttails seem to have a tight pair bond which could explain some of the trouble in getting compatible pairs. Individual birds frequently refuse to pair up and this is critical for breeding success. The secret may be to purchase young birds which have never been bred and to pair them up carefully the first time.

This column is designed in part to answer your questions on Australian finches. If you have any such questions, please send them to me at 2604 Auburn Court, Bakersfield, CA 93396.

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ZEBRA FINCHES PART II

By Bill Parlee

In part two of this article we shall discuss setting up the aviary, preparations for breeding, diets, and some of the mutations we may wish to breed. Part one of the article was printed in the NFS Bulletin, May/June issue.

In setting up our aviary we may wish to consider the ease of which it can be maintained. You may wish to hang or shelf your cages. Whichever you decide on, be sure the cages are uniform and all positioned on the same level. Having uniform cages arranged in even lines will greatly aid in your feeding and cleaning routines. When you're organized, you are least likely to forget or miss a cage because of the confusion of your aviary setup.

When setting the cages up, be sure you leave enough room to add nest boxes on either side or the front (depends on type of cage you are using). Bear in mind that when placing cages above one another, enough room must be left between the cages for proper distribution of artificial or available light. Sitting cages on top of each other generally does not work out well. This causes difficulty in cleaning, and seldom allows in enough light for a successful breeding experience.

To aid you in your daily feeding routine, I suggest that you buy or build a roll around cart. This cart can hold your seed buckets and other food stuffs. I use old doughnut filling buckets. These can generally be gotten for free or at reasonable cost at your local doughnut shop. When you get the buckets home, wash them out with dish cleaning soap. After this has been done, add a cup of bleach and fill the bucket with hot water. Let them set for an hour or so and rinse them thoroughly. You now have a sanitized bucket for aviary use.

In my aviary I have a small refrigerator in which I keep my perishables: greens, corn, and fruits that I will use to supplement my birds' diet. On my cart, along with the seed buckets, I have space for a cutting board. I also keep a couple of coffee cans for tools, parts and pieces that I frequently find use for in my daily chores. My cart is large enough to house the buckets, cutting board, and enough room to lay out my millet sprays and other foods I will be feeding. I also hang a bucket off the side for the disposition of waste materials. The cart measures 48" x 18" on one level only. If a cart of this size is too cumbersome for the area in which you are working, a smaller cart with two levels will serve you well.



Zebra Finch (Poephila guttata castanotis)

drawing by George Noreen

When setting up your breeders, the type of cage will generally dictate the way in which your birds will be watered and fed. If you have a choice, front feeders and waterers will make your job easier. The less you have to go into the cage the better. You may wish to use water bottles or tubes. For some reason or other I use bottles with my Cockatiels and Australian Parakeets, but use tubes for my Finches and Budgies. I would suppose that bottles would be best all around. Please keep in mind that all small birds will drink from a tube waterer, but bottles sometimes take some training for some birds. If you have a question, use both until you are sure the birds are drinking from the bottles.

I find in the food department that my Zebras eat more white Millet and less of the other smaller Millets in the seed mix. It therefore follows that the more expensive finch mixes are probably a waste of money. Again, I use the front loaded seed cups that can be changed from the outside of the cage.

If your going to start breeding with several pairs you'll want to have a large selection of nests available. I use wicker nests. The hooded variety will generally be most successful. I also use finch boxes and the cone variety of wicker nests. Some of your pairs will use one type, whereas another pair may not give that same type of nest a second glance. This is why we offer a selection of nest types.

Most breeders I speak to seem to have the best luck with boxes, although as I said, hooded nests have been most successful for me. Some breeders who are colony raising their finches in aviaries use hollow gourds, tumbleweeds, or just throw a bunch of materials on the floor of the aviary and let the finches build their own nests.

Many materials can be offered as nest liners. I used to use old blue jeans. I would cut the jeans into squares and pull the threads apart. Once I had a fair amount of string I would place it on the floor of the cage. Usually by the next morning it would be all gone; stuffed into the nests.

For the past couple of years I have been using hay cob or dried alfalfa, which is readily used by my Zebras. My Gouldians love it for making their nests in boxes. All of this takes care of the utilities for breeding. Now all you have to do is to administer a good nutritional program for your birds.

Good nutrition for the Zebra is a relatively simple problem to solve. Here is my program: I of course feed and water daily. In addition to my seed mix. I keep a fresh millet spray in the cage at all times. Petamine conditioning food is fed the year round, although the birds eat at least twice as much of this egg rich food while teeding babies.

On alternating days I give one half of a hard-boiled egg along with greens and fresh corn or if not available I will use canned corn. I have found that if you shave the tips of the fresh corn kernels with a sharp knife your Zebras will eat more of the corn. Of course, I keep a fresh cuttlebone in the cage. Shortly before a clutch is laid, you will notice the hen devouring the cuttlebone which she uses for the production of the egg shells.

(For further information on Finch Nutrition, see these NFS articles: Dietary comments. General Nutrition, Parlee, Sept/Oct 85 - Millet Sprays, Parlee, Nov/Dec 85 - and Vitamins and other Supplements. Parlee, Jan/Feb 1986.)

In The final part of this article, Part III, we will discuss the actual breeding of your Zebras and the rearing of the young. We will also discuss Zebra genetics.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the above article, back issues of the NFS Bulletin are mentioned - To obtain back issues, see the back issue order form, found elsewhere in this issue. Other NFS information on Zebra Finches can be found in these articles: Zebra Finches, Val Clear, Nov/Dec 85: Zebra Finch Standard. NFS. Sept. 84; and Zebra Finch, Part 1. Parlee, May/June 1986.

**NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY
EXHIBITION POINTS SCHEDULE**

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY POINTS SYSTEM. AS YOU CAN SEE, THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM THAT OF PREVIOUS YEARS. THIS SYSTEM HAS ALEVIATED THE PITFALLS OF THE OLD SYSTEM, AND MORE EVENLY DISTRIBUTES POINTS BASED ON THE SIZE OF ENTRIES. DUE TO THIS CHANGE IN POINTAGE, THE TOTALS NEEDED FOR CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITOR AND EXHIBITOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS HAVE ALSO CHANGED.

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POINTS SCHEDULE

Number of finches in a show	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
20-29	3	2	1	x	x	x	x	x	=	x
30-39	4	3	2	1	x	x	x	x	x	x
40-49	5	4	3	2	1	x	x	x	x	x
50-59	6	5	4	3	2	1	x	x	x	x
60-69	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	x	x	x
70-79	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	x	x
80-89	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	x
90-99	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
100-119	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
120-139	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
140-159	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
Over 160	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5

The number of points to be awarded for a win, 1st through 10th are listed under the place. Follow the entry size line for the number of finches shown at the particular show over to the place which you have won. The points shown under that place are the points you have recieved for that win.

Remember, regardless of the size of the entry, if the show is not being judged by a NFS Panel Judge, there will be no points awarded. The club involved does not necessarily have to be an affiliate of NFS, but the judge must be a panel judge for points to count. Plaques and Rosettes from the National Finch Society are only awarded at NFS affiliated shows.



The National Finch Society



1986 BANDS
FOR SHIPMENT ON
DEC. 26, 1985

1986 CLOSED ALUMINUM LEG BANDS

THE STANDARD NFS LEG BANDS FOR MEMBERS ONLY
Bands are available in standard NFS color of the year only

Size	for	Cost
A	smaller Waxbills, and Owl Finches	MAY BE ORDERED IN LOTS OF 10 BANDS AT \$1.25 PER LOT
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D	Chestnut Breasted, Yellow Rumped, Pectoralis	
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G	Larger Waxbills and Canaries	
J	Yorkshires, Norwich, Pekin Robins, etc.	
K	Java Rice Birds, Indian Shama, etc.	
L	Quail, Doves, and other softbills	

NFS bands may be ordered in lots of 10 bands, consecutively numbered at 1.25 per each lot. \$1.00 shipping and handling should be included with each order, whether 10 or 100 bands are being ordered. Bands will be shipped within 30 days of receipt of your order, although most orders will be shipped the same week as received. There is no color choice. The standard NFS color of the year will be used. Each band will have stamped: "NFS", the band size code, year and number. All numbers will be recorded by the NFS band secretary for permanent record.

TO: NFS BAND SECRETARY, C/O Russ Armitage, 345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT. 06457. Payable to NFS. Please send me the following bands. (Use multiples of 10 only.)

A B C D E G J K L

Total number of 10 units () x 1.25 per unit + 1.00 shipping = ()

ORDER YOUR 1986 NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY BANDS TODAY

If you will need 1986 bands, please order now as supplies are running short. . .



GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
OCTOBER 2-4, 1986

SHOW MANAGER
Harvey Smith

TO ALL NFS MEMBERS:

Russ Armitage Jr. and myself wish to invite you to participate in the first ever GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW. This unique new show is sponsored this year by Kaytee Products and the Greater Chicago Bird Club. Russ and I have been honored this year to serve on this new shows Advisory Board.

We both can speak first hand in telling you that you will not want to miss this show. Through the vision of Harvey Smith of Kaytee, this show will be different from any show you have attended. He, Kaytee, and the Greater Chicago club have some truly great events planned for you.

The show will be like most any other show in so far as the exhibition portion is concerned, except that substantial cash awards will be offered for the Best in Show as well as Divisional winners. The show should bring out the best exhibitors and offer good competition.

In addition to the bird exhibition several seminars are planned as well as a talking bird contest. PIJAC will conduct a conference, and the Chicago club will stage one of the country's largest raffles. National Specialty clubs such as the National Finch Society will host national membership meetings during the show.

The NFS Panel Judge for this event is the popular Dr. Al Decoteau. The Best in Show judging will be completed by a panel of three judges. The Judges are Dr. David S. Quinn, Raymond Johnson, and chaired by William Parlee.

Registration of entries will start at Noon on Thursday, Oct. 2nd, and close at 9 a.m. Friday morning. The awards banquet on Saturday evening will highlight AFA President Jerry Jennings as the keynote speaker. We hope to see you at the show!

Best regards,

William Parlee
GABS Advisory Board

ADVISORY BOARD

Randal N. Brub, Ph.D.
Director of Nutritional Research
Kaytee Products Incorporated

Russell A. Armitage, Jr.
National Finch Society
345 Boston Road
Middletown, CT 06457
(203) 344-5475

Ermaezra Collins
American Budgerigar Society
304 Hallogg
Dallas Center, IA 50663
(515) 992-3539

Dr. A. E. Decoteau
Society of Parrot Breeders & Exhibitors
Gorton Road
Dunstable, MA 01827
(617) 649-6103

Dr. David S. Quinn
National Colibrifed Association
Rt. 1, Box 329-A
Yorktown, IN 47396
(317) 759-9638

Lee Horton
African Love Bird Society
2376 Bella Vista Drive
Vero, CA 92083
(419) 727-1486

William A. Parlee
National Finch Society
529 Burnside Avenue
East Hartford, CT 06108
(203) 528-1438

Donald Penn
2801 Mayfield Dr.
Park Ridge, IL 60064
(312) 692-4189

Nancy A. Reed
American Cockatiel Society
109 Stage Coach Road
Woodstock, CT 06095
(203) 688-4059

John Schaefer
National American Singers Club
4127 North Odell
Norridge, IL 60634
(312) 452-5447