

# THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY



NOVEMBER  
DECEMBER  
1989



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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FLOCK !**

The 1989 show season will be history by the time this issue is in your hands. All of the staff of the NFS wishes that you achieved all that you hoped to and that you have high hopes for the breeding season. Every year we learn again the value of the show circuit. We see old friends, we make new friends, we learn new tricks, we see new places, we bring home some momentos of triumph and some lessons from defeat.

One of the most important things we achieve when we come together is our increased communication with each other. In our annual meeting in New Orleans we laughed a lot, learned a lot and re-dedicated ourselves to being light-hearted and serious minded. This Society owes its' very existence to its' founder, Bill Parlee. In New Orleans he stressed, again, the importance of open and honest communication. At this time when we are sending greetings of the season let us resolve to send greetings in other seasons and to keep the lines of communication open among ourselves. Let us remember to hear what the other person has to say and to be open to what they have to tell us. Let's be willing to speak our minds, kindly and gently, but clearly to each other. Let us speak openly to each other and not maliciously about each other. Communicate, cooperate and we will continue to achieve good things.

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**NFS PANEL OF JUDGES 1989**

=====

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703 Bonegal Drive  
Papillion, NE 68046  
(402) 339-8772

NOTE: \* indicates a judge who is also certified in another society.

For further information on the NFS Panel of Judges, contact Dr. A. E. Decoteau at the above address.

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NFS APPRENTICE JUDGE PROGRAM REPORT

=====

As of December 1989 there are 5 active apprentices in the National Finch and Softbill Society's apprentice judges program. They are:

Russell Armitage, Jr.  
Jeff Brissette  
Sarah Goodrich  
Dennis Levis  
Roger O'Connell

=====

IN REGARD TO THE NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW, INC.'S UPCOMING ELECTIONS

=====

Many NFS members are also members of the National Cage Bird Show Inc.. Three of our fellow NFS members are nominated for positions on the NCBS Board of Directors. They are Conrad Meinert, Ken Gunby and Michele Lane. Those of you who are NCBS members will soon receive ballots. Please consider voting for more NFS representation on the NCBS Board.

=====

A NIFTY TIP! When you need to move finch eggs...use a Tupperware melon baller. Just the right size, not cold like a metal spoon and easy to handle. Thanks for this tip go to Jean Niley. (And Tupperware.) Send us your "Nifty Tip" and we'll all benefit!

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## NFS NEWS AND NOTES

=====

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the NFS was held on November 17, 1989 in the Clarion Hotel, in conjunction with the National Cage Bird Show. Present were: Russ Armitage, Jr., Laura Bewley, Jeff Brissotte, Denise Capazzi, Al Decoteau, Bruce Evanick, Brenda Geesey, Cecil Gunby, Jon Noffman, Joe Krader, Jerry McCawley, Bill Parlee and Chris Voronovitch.

Russ gave the annual treasurers report and noted that expenses have been high since August and income has not been as high. Dues renewals are several months behind as Russ has been following the mailing schedule of the bulletin and that has delayed second notices for renewals. The leg bands for 1990 have been ordered and have been paid for and the show awards are always a major expense at this season. A motion was made and passed that this report be accepted and printed in the November/December issue of the bulletin.

Stephen Hoppin, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the final slate of nominees for the upcoming election. Gene Miller, Marty Von Raesfeld and Tom Rood were the other Committee members and received a round of applause for their work. The final slate is on the ballot which is the "centerfold" of this issue. Nancy Reed has agreed to receive the ballots and tabulate the election results. Her address appears on the back of the ballot.

Denise Capazzi gave good news with her Band Secretarys' report. She announced that we have sold 16,600 bands to 190 NFS members and that for the first time the band program has made a profit. A total of 255 orders were filled and although our profit as of 11/17/89 was only \$12 it WAS A PROFIT ! Now is the time to order for 1990. As of this date prices and sizes remain the same and so you can use the 1989 form in this issue for your first 1990 order. They will be shipped to arrive in early January 1990.

Bill reported on the lithographs from the original Eric Peake print. The project is proceeding well, the prints are to be advertised again in subsequent bulletin issues and members are strongly encouraged to purchase these limited edition collector's items. Only if we are successful with this initial venture will we be able to do it again !

Dr. Al Decoteau reported that four persons in the Apprentice Program have fulfilled all requirements and are eligible to be presented to the Board for a vote as to whether they will become NFS Panel Judges. The four are:

Roddy Gable

Brenda Geesey

Rita D'Dell

Marty Von Raesfeld

Al mentioned that Geesey and Von Raesfeld are the only applicants who ever have scored 100% on the NFS written test. The Board voted and all were unanimously approved as NFS Panel Judges. Congratulations to all !

Al also announced the Standard Committee for the Star Finch. Bill Parlee and Clarence Culwell will co-chair this committee. Other members will be Gene Miller, Cecil Gunby and Marty Von Raesfeld. Anyone who wishes to join them is cordially invited. If you wish to submit opinions or ideas contact one of the co-chairs who will be happy to hear from you.

Brenda Geesey took responsibility for signing up sponsors for the sections of the NFS division in the 1990 National Cage Bird Show in Atlanta, GA. All ten sections now have sponsors whose names will appear in the 1990 NCBS Show Catalog. Thanks go to them. If you would like to contribute to the sponsorship of the division, contact Russ or Brenda.

The Board discussed the purchase of binders for our Bulletins. After discussion it was dismissed as being too costly.

The Official NFS Handbook update was discussed. Since it is done in a looseleaf format members who have the first edition may only wish to purchase whatever additional pages are printed this year. However, editions with all the original and all the new pages will also be available. A price will be set when it is finished, based upon size and weight and the mailing cost. It is now tentatively planned for release in March. A committee will be formed after the election and your participation and input are invited.

Bill Parlee introduced Brenda Geesey, the nominee for President, to the group. He said he supports her and will assist her in the future. He said he will charge her with the great task of improving intra-society communications. He asked her to say what she plans for the Society. Brenda said that she feels, as many do, that Bill has done a great job and has put an incredible effort and given tremendous support to this society that he "invented" for the benefit of us all. She said she plans no major changes on the theory that "if it ain't broke...don't fix it !" She said she feels the society is strong and sound. She said she wants to concentrate more time in giving to the membership through the bulletin and the handbook. She said she would like to see more participation in FINCHSAVE and better communications within the society.

Bill announced the time and place of the annual membership meeting and the Board meeting adjourned.

The 1989 Annual Membership Meeting was held at the Clarion Hotel in New Orleans on November 18, 1989 and was well attended. President Parlee called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Decoteau to give the first reports. Al introduced the twelve judges who were present and spoke of the ongoing success of the Apprentice Program. He reiterated the fact that each judge must serve on a Standards Committee. In answer to a question he confirmed that species chosen to have standards written for them are chosen on the basis of the number of times they had shown up on the top bench.

Exhibitor Excellence Awards achieved by the end of the 1988 show season were announced. They were:

Marty Von Raesfeld, 299 points

Brenda Geesey, 220 points

1988's Championship Exhibitors were announced.

Marty Von Raesfeld	176 points	(In one season...terrific !)
Cecil Gunby	82	
Brenda Geesey	81	
Chris Voronovitch	67	
Hal Koontz	60	
Gene Miller	54	
Tom Rood	51	
Stephen Hoppin	50	

Plaques were presented to the top three birds and best softbill in the 1989 National Show. They went to:

First place	Marvin Yoder
Second place	Stephen Hoppin
Third place	Marvin Yoder
Best Softbill	Cecil Gunby

Bill Parlee, our outgoing President announced that he will be presenting an Annual Founder's Award to a member who has served the Society and its' members faithfully and well. This award will be his own personal way of honoring and thanking a dedicated and hard-working volunteer each year. The First Annual Founder's Award went to;

Russell Araitage, Jr.

....with a warm round of applause for all that Russ has done for this society since its' very first days.

Bill also presented Certificates of Appreciation to Denise Capazzi, Jerry McCawley, Roger O'Connell, Nancy Reed and Brenda Geesey.

Bill again stated that he would help the new elected officers in any way that he could. He asked Brenda to say a few words. She said that she welcomes the opportunity and the challenge to follow in his footsteps and hopes to help the Society flourish within its' present programs. She also said she hopes we can remain light-hearted and serious-minded and that we can increase the laughter and the feeling of "family" within the Finch Family.

In parting Bill said that he wished us all Godspeed and promised not to "disappear". He hopes to help with Standards and Educational activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Voronovitch



To purchase, fill out the form, check the items wanted, total the amount and send a check made out to NFS in the exact amount to:

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    (color cover) \$ 3.00

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NFS '88-89 HANDBOOK SOLD OUT

1990 UPDATE AVAILABLE IN NARCN. ORDERS  
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**AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL NFS MEMBERS**

**FROM JON HOFFMAN**

=====

I need your help.

In September, I received a letter from the show manager of a club which had engaged me to judge. The letter stated that, since my NFS credentials were "no longer current," the club would not require my services.

I wrote back, expressing my surprise: why had I not received a phone call or a letter of inquiry, rather than a flat dismissal? NFS had never notified me of any problem with my credentials. I stated I would honor the commitment and hold the date open. I stated I would not raise a fuss if the club wished to get out of its commitment, but I would expect a reply.

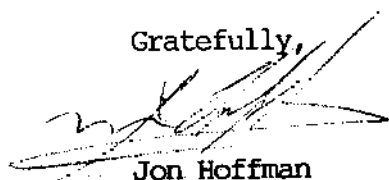
A week before the show, having no response, I phoned the show manager. She apologized for not answering my letter. She said she thought she had made it clear that the club no longer wanted me to judge. I stated that I thought I had made it clear that decision was based on false information, and that I had expected her to get back to me. She then strongly implied that the club had really wanted the other judge (my replacement) to begin with, and that she had jumped the gun when she initially engaged me. She claimed she did not know who had told the show committee that my NFS credentials were no good. She said it had "come up through the club." She admitted that Russ Armitage, Jr., had verified my denial of the rumor, but she insisted the club had voted to go with the other judge anyway.

Why am I bothering to write this letter?

Because I learned in October that these rumors had spread. They surfaced in Florida, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee. They alarmed the management of at least one show that had hired me (these people had the presence of mind to check out the rumor before acting on it). They have cost me at least one judging assignment and have caused me a great deal of pain and humiliation; frankly, I am angry about the whole mess. The truth -- which I can prove -- is that there has never been any problem with my NFS judging credentials. I am a panel judge in good standing, and I resent what amounts to an attack on my good name.

Please help me by simply stating the truth if anyone repeats these rumors to you.

Gratefully,



Jon Hoffman  
NFS panel judge

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY 1989 BAND ORDER FORM

MAIL TO: DENISE CAPAZZI  
280 Burningtreet Drive  
GROTON, CT 06340

**1990**

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G	_____	Larger Mannikins and Canaries.
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It has been my pleasure to have the "Firetails" issued by the National Finch and Softbill Society as a Limited Edition print. Please support the Society by purchasing a print. I will continue to paint one subject a year, if it proves successful."

*Eric Peake (UK)*



# The National Finch and Softbill Society

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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Reg.# \_\_\_\_\_ Dues \_\_\_\_\_

Ann. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check type of membership desired:

Single  15.00, Dual  20.00, Junior  7.50(-16yrs), Canada add \$5.

Foreign add \$10. Canada and Foreign Subscriptions are first class.  
Please list other name to be included in a dual membership:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please answer a few questions for us:

How long have you been involved in finches and softbills? \_\_\_\_\_ yrs.

How many species have you kept? \_\_\_\_\_

How many species have you successfully bred? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you exhibit in bird shows? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you keep softbilled birds? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list an occupation or special talent that may be helpful to  
the NFS (printer, artist, lawyer, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in participating in the NFS Judges Panel? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below the items you are most interested in.

Nutrition \_\_\_ breeding \_\_\_ management \_\_\_ exhibition \_\_\_ bulletin \_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL YOUR APPLICATION AND DUES TO:

NFS Member Services c/o Russ Armitage Jr.  
345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457

# THE IMPORTANCE OF STANDARDS

by Jeff Brissette

The importance of judging standards for all our birds was highlighted at the National Cage Bird Show in New Orleans.

Bill Parlee, in his speech as outgoing NFS President, opined the need for a standard for each variety of finch and softbill. He further indicated that he would be dedicating his time and effort towards developing them.

Judging standards may not be familiar to someone not involved in exhibitions and breeding programs. A standard is written measure of quality to which a comparison is made. In other words, a description of the ideal bird of that species, to which our birds are compared. Standards are not, and never should be, based solely on "beauty". They must be based on structural soundness and they must describe a bird that is true to it's species type and will be an asset in a breeding program aimed at perpetuating that species.

Poultry producers have benefited from standards for well over one hundred years. Poultry fanciers have available to them a book called "The Standard of Perfection". It contains a written description of each breed of poultry and waterfowl along with an artist's rendering of each bird. Breeders only have to open this book to determine what they should aim for in their breeding programs.

Finch and softbill aviculture has yet to reach this level of sophistication, but we are on our way.

Some of the most common species we see at our local shows have written standards. At present, Zebras, Societies, Gouldians, Cordon Bleus, Green Singers, Shafttails and Javas have written standards. There is also a basic, generalized standard for all other species. The specific standards contain a detailed breakdown of what the NFS Panel Judge looks for when judging our birds.

It is not a coincidence that the birds for whom we have specific standards are frequently seen on the show bench. Two criteria used to decide which species next needs a specific standard are the number of appearances and placements in NFS affiliated club shows. When a species shows up repeatedly it becomes a candidate to have its own standard written. That procedure is as follows:

A committee of breeders and exhibitors of that species and at least one judge is formed. They each research the physical characteristics of the bird. Sources of information include pet bird books, field guides, magazine articles and personal observation. This author used no less than twelve publications to research the proposed Lavender Finch standard. Personal observation also is used to determine what type of deportment is to be



expected of the bird in a show cage.

After each committee member completes his proposals for the standard a copy is resitted to the chairman. The chairman then adds his input and blends all of them into one proposed standard. This version is then sent back to each committee member for approval.

When all copies arrive back to the chairman with no changes the proposed standard is presented to the Board of Directors where it is read and voted on.

The accepted standard is distributed to NFS Panel Judges for them to use in their judging. Copies are available to anyone on request, for a nominal charge, and are compiled each year in the updates of the NFS Handbook. This Handbook is available through the NFS Membership services "Finchshop". (See address elsewhere in this issue.)

For anyone interested in working on a standards committee, or in fact, anyone raising or exhibiting finches and softbills it would be of great benefit to read an existing standard. The standard on the Shafttail is perhaps the most comprehensive that we now have. It is, at this point, the "standards standard".

=====

Editor's note: Jeff's broad background in raising and exhibiting many types of birds has certainly made him very aware of the value of standards. His expertise is very welcome. Members will note that he is one of the excellent selections made by the Nominating Committee.

=====

Many of you are familiar with the recently published "Monograph on Endangered Parrots". The same publisher is planning a similar monograph on Toucans. The tentative publication date is 1994. The publisher would like very much to receive any slides, photos, notes on behavior in the wild or in captivity, any observations of breeding, breeding records, feeding programs, and any other data that would assist in his effort. His address is:

Silvio Mattacchione & Co.  
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(416) 831 1373      FAX 416 831 3734

=====

New Zealand Finch Breeders; New Zealand, Valerie Hughes

Zebra Finch Society, England; Chris Blackwell, Durham, England

=====

# AN NFS "VOTERS GUIDE"

In an effort to assist members in making choices on the enclosed ballot the "job descriptions" of the officers as published in the NFS BYLAWS is included.

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY BYLAWS AS OF MARCH 15, 1987

## ARTICLE 6 - OFFICERS

President: The President of the society shall preside over all Board of Directors meetings of this society. The President shall also preside at the National annual meeting. The President shall attend to the day-by-day operations of the society, shall abide by the bylaws of the society, and shall coordinate and delegate the activities of other officers of this society.

First Vice-President: Shall fill the position of the President in absentia. Shall be first in succession to fill the position of the President should the President be unable to fill his term. The First Vice-President shall coordinate the activities of, and be responsible for, all Regional Vice Presidents.

Second Vice-President: Shall be second in line to the Presidency and first in line to succeed the First Vice-President. The Second Vice-President shall chair the Education Committee and coordinate the educational programs of the society. The Second Vice President shall also chair the Publishing Committee as well as sit on all Committees of the Society.

Third Vice-President: Shall be in charge of FINCHSAVE, the captive breeding program of the society. He shall participate in the committee and guide the captains and breeders involved in the program.

Fourth vice-President: Must be an NFS Panel Judge as he/she shall serve as the Panel Director. Shall also chair the Research and Standards Committees and be in charge of Species Classifications. He/she shall also be responsible for shows or exhibitions of the society and member points arising therefrom.

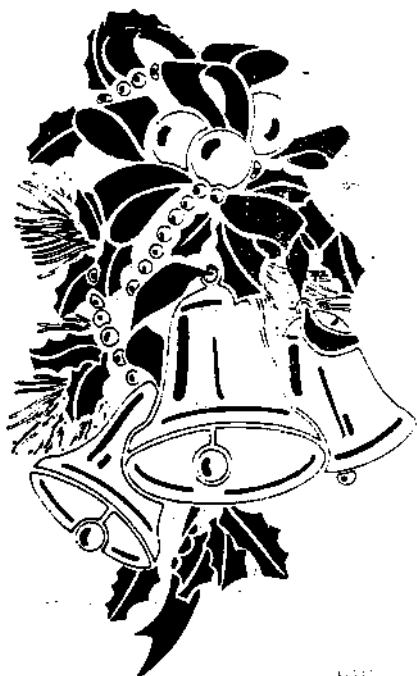
Corresponding Secretary: Shall be responsible for all correspondence of the society. Shall also serve as the Membership Chairman for the society.

Recording Secretary: Shall be responsible for the minutes of all Board of Directors meetings of the society. Will further direct the recording of all minutes of special or national membership meetings that may be called from time to time. Will present to the President or the Bulletin Editor a copy of all meeting minutes of this society.

Treasurer: Shall be responsible for the collection and keeping of all society funds and assessments. Shall maintain a bank account and deposit said funds in the account under the name of the National Finch and Softbill Society. All funds, with the exception of operating funds, are to be kept in

a saving account. The Treasurer will pay, with society funds, kept in a checking account, all debts incurred by the society at the directions of the Board of Directors. Society funds shall be used for society business only. Regional Vice-President: Shall be responsible for encouraging membership and club affiliation in the National Finch and Softbill Society within a given region. Regional Vice-Presidents are responsible to the First Vice-President. Regional Vice-Presidents are to encourage at least one membership meeting within their regions annually.

Season's  
Greetings

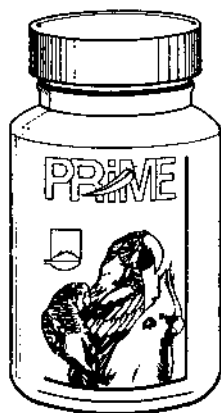


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# OFFICIAL NFS BALLOT 1989

This election is for the two year term, 1990 & 1991. The line beneath each set of nominees may be used for write-in's. Please place a check in the space to the right of the name you are voting for. These are secret ballots. Do NOT include your name or NFS membership number. Each member should vote for each of the first eight positions. Cast ONLY ONE vote for Regional Vice President ONLY in the region in which you live.

President.....	Brenda Geesey	-----
	-----	-----
1st Vice President.....	Cecil Gunby	-----
	Hal Koontz	-----
	-----	-----
2nd Vice President.....	Jon Hoffman	-----
	Richard Bewley	-----
	-----	-----
3rd Vice President.....	Jeff Brissette	-----
	Laura Bewley	-----
	-----	-----
4th Vice President.....	Dr. Al Decoteau	-----
	-----	-----
Corresponding Secretary.....	Marty Von Raesfeld	-----
	-----	-----
Recording Secretary.....	Denise Capazzi	-----
	Ken Gunby	-----
	-----	-----
Treasurer.....	Russell Araitage, Jr.	-----
	Joe Heard	-----
	-----	-----

OFFICIAL NFS BALLOT 1989

FOR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Region One (Northeast).....	Roger O'Connell	-----	-----
Region Two (Southeast).....	Stephen Hoppin	-----	-----
Region Three (Mid-Central).....	Tom Raod	-----	-----
Region Four (Mid-West).....	Gene Miller	-----	-----
Region Five (Mountain).....	Rita O'Deli	-----	-----
Region Six (Pacific Coast).....	Helen Laurie	-----	-----

This ballot has been printed in the center position in this issue of the bulletin so that you can easily remove it from the staples without damaging your bulletin. The reverse pages are blank so that you do not lose other valuable information from this issue.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS BALLOT TODAY !

MAIL TO:

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WINDSOR, CT 06095

Because of production problems with this issue the deadline is extended to:

FEBRUARY 28, 1990.

=====

## CRAWFISH (CRAWDADS) FOR BIRDS ?

### WHY NOT ?

Patrice L. Ripple

=====

These little lobsters entered my birds diets when the critters were in season. This past summer, at our family cottage, one of our family projects was setting traps for the summer/fall catch of crawfish. The usual take per trap is about 25 to 50 of them, depending on the time of the year.

After the traps are brought in, the crawfish are cooked. In the past we cooked the whole critter then saved just the tails and larger claws to eat. We then peeled them and used them like shrimp.

This was enough for us humans but some curious birds of mine decided to help one day. My Yellow Red Rump Parakeet and Lutino Ringneck decided to get into the scraps; the bodies, heads, small claws, tails and legs. They gorged themselves and had to be placed back into their cages to keep them away from the crawfish remains !

After discovering that birds liked crawfish I saved the parts that us human folks didn't want to eat for them. Some of the birds didn't take to them right away and some still haven't. As for my Javas', I believe that they will eat anything and they have yet to prove me wrong. The Societies are still skeptical of this new item, but I haven't given up on them yet. The birds receive the legs, tails and claws. Some of the claws and tails from the older crawfish are hard and the shells have to be cracked to assist the birds. I found that the birds get bored with the hard shells and abandon their efforts to eat the crawfish pieces. Even the birds in my home that will eat all of the crawfish, including the shell, will eat the meat first. For the smaller birds, I put the parts into a food processor and grind them.

I asked a nutritionist from Kaytee about the value of crawfish and he said the meat would be protein and the shell would be protein and calcium. Of course there would be other vitamins, minerals and oils but he would not commit himself further without a full analysis. In the future I plan to learn more about the nutritional values of shellfish. I believe that if added to a birds' diet it will add to their health and long life.

The following is my method for preparing approximately 50 crawfish.

Bring a four quart pot of water to a boil, place live crawfish into boiling water, bring back to boil and continue at a boil for 5 to 7 minutes. Drain and cool immediately under running cold water. Break off tails, legs, claws and arms and discard heads and bodies. Place in freezer bag and store in freezer till needed. Don't forget to thaw before serving to human or feathered friend. Remember to crack the shell of the tough large pieces.

=====

Ed: Patrice is from Milwaukee and raises Societies, Javas and several Hookbill species and obviously has lots of Innovative ideas ! Thanks !

=====  
NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY  
AFFILIATES, DELEGATES AND SHOW DATES  
=====

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society; Danny Hall, (205) 491 8603

CALIFORNIA

Aviary Association of Kern County; Hal Koontz, (805) 872 1063

Capitol City Bird Society; Helen Caudle, (916) 933 1619

Central California Cage Bird Club; Marty Von Raesfeld, (408) 985 2712

Finch Society of San Diego County; Larry Russell, (619) 274 2095

Fresno Canary and Finch Society; Richard Lujan, (408) 984 1453

Golden Gate Avian Society; Dawn Senna, (415) 449 8719

San Diego Bird Show, Inc.; Janice Pritchard, (619) 443 6684

Santa Clara Valley Canary and Exotic Bird Club; Marty Von Raesfeld  
(408) 985 2712

COLORADO

Colorado Cage Bird Association; Martha Wigmore, (303) 574 1594

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture; Donald Locke, Jr. (303) 289 5721

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture; Christine Voronovitch,  
(203) 649 8220

New England Finch Fanciers; Russell Armitage, Jr., (203) 346 5875

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida; Len Brover (305) 931 3468

Exotic Bird Club of Florida, Inc.; Teddy Richens, (407) 783 3205

Gold Coast Exotic Bird Club; Cynthia Patton, (407) 439 6582



Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.: Andrea Whiting, (813) 888 5935

Jacksonville Avicultural Society; Bobby Nipper, (904) 372 0299

Jacksonville Cage Bird Assn.: Jerri Weisenfeld (904) 731 7173

Suncoast Avian Society; Joe Ventimiglia, (813) 392 9391

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society; Dennis Lewis, (407) 695 7484

#### GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society; Cecil Gunby, (404) 254 1261

#### ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club; Charles Anchor, (312) 543 3757

National Institute Red-Orange Canaries; Catherine Wiegale, (219) 922 1146

#### INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciers; Dr.Val Clear, (317) 642 0795

#### IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society; Rhoda Shirley, (515) 243 2255

#### KANSAS

Kansas Avicultural Society;

#### LOUISIANA

Capitol Area Avicultural Society; Tin Schexnayre, (504) 562 3579

Gulf South Bird Club; Evon Kruse, (504) 469 2435

#### MARYLAND

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Maryland Cage Bird Association; Theresa Brown, (301) 386 3907

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Cockatiel Society; Elizabeth Vaughn, (508) 663 7879

Boston Society for Aviculture; Kathy Wilcox, (508) 339 7684

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association; Kin Rendigs, (508) 540 2248

Western New England Cage Bird Society; Bob Clark,

## MICHIGAN

Mid-Michigan Bird Club; Mary Rue, (517) 394 1047

Mid-West Cage Bird Club; Jean Wiley, (313) 326 2424

## MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Cage Bird Society; Cathy Overland,

## MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society; Chris Hunsberger, (816) 461 5582

Missouri Cage Bird Association; Eileen Laebert, (314) 962 8186

## NEW JERSEY

South Jersey Bird Club; Kristine Kroner, (215) 628 4143

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather; Ken Black, (508) 462 3822

New Hampshire Avicultural Society; Ken Akey, (603) 880 9804

## NEW YORK

Astoria Bird Club; Douglas Olsen, (212) 865 5841

Rochester Cage Bird Club; Jeanne Murphy, (714) 232 5477

## NORTH CAROLINA

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## OHIO

Cleveland Cage Bird Society; Dennis Sherean, (216) 582 9443

Golden Crescent Cage Bird Club; Joan Gangle, (216) 666 9773

## OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma; Gene Miller, (405) 382 7066

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society; Laura Bewley, (918) 369 2580

## PENNSYLVANIA

Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird Society; Jerry McCawley, (717) 288 0529

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March 24 - 25th. Hershey, PA. Lectures and workshops on management and care of cage birds. For info: Paul Crow, 215 775 2081

Chester County Bird Breeders, Joe Kessler (215) 326 5109

Delaware Valley Bird Club; Kris Kroner, (215) 628 4143

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society; Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 323 7235

Philadelphia Avicultural Society; Rick Szlachta, (215) 635 2097

#### TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club; Eva Duffey, (615) 361 5949

#### TEXAS

Avicultural Council of Texas; Kevin Burch (713) 485 8424

Bay Area Bird Club; Paul Mensley, (713) 331 3983

Capitol City Cage Bird Club; Sarah Goodrich, (512) 258 5048

Fort Worth Bird Club; Clarence Culwell, (817) 523 5568

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association; Sarah Goodrich,  
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Milwaukee Bird Society, Ltd.; Susan Feldstein (414) 968 4514

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## AFA HELPS FUND CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR SOFTBILLS

by Linda Rubin

=====

Since 1987, the American Federation of Aviculture has awarded over \$20,000 in small grants to 17 conservation projects. Four of the studies focused on softbills and a fifth involved the Socorro Dove.

The first studied the rare Mariana or Guam Crow. It focused on the breeding biology of the endangered crow and documented the species reproductive behavior on the island of Guam. A special sub-committee of the AFA's Conservation Committee was established to investigate the possibility of establishing the species in captivity.

Another project is an educational film, in Spanish, on tropical Andean natural resources. It is currently in production for use by environmental professionals. This film documents a highly threatened region with a great many species and extraordinary biological diversity. Significant footage on nesting Toucan Barbets, nesting Brown Inca Hummingbirds and Plate-Billed Mountain Toucans, among others, was obtained. The AFA, together with World Wildlife Fund, New York Zoological Society and Institute of International Education (Fulbright), funded the film.

Studies approved for 1989-90 including softbills include:

- \* Campaign for the preservation of the Seven-Colored Tanager.
- \* Cooperative breeding and habitat utilization by the Toucan Barbet.
- \* The use of starch-gel electrophoresis to assess the degree of genetic variability in a captive population of Socorro Doves.

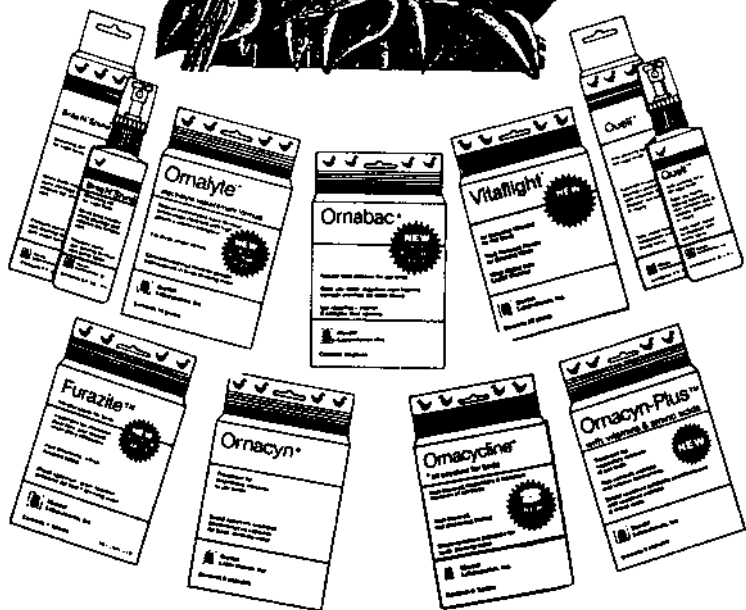
The Conservation Fund is supported by proceeds from membership renewals, donations from individuals and clubs and the sale of a special "conservation tee-shirt" by renowned wildlife artist Ray Shaw. The shirt features drawings of six endangered species whose status has been enhanced by captive propagation and the slogan, "Aviculture is Conservation".

The AFA is a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation of bird wildlife through encouragement of captive breeding, scientific research and education of the general public. Individual and commercial memberships are available by writing: AFA, Membership Services, P. O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ, 85079-6218. Included is the bi-monthly magazine, the AFA Watchbird. To apply for funding for conservation programs, contact the AFA Conservation Committee Chairman, Jack Clinton-Eitniew at the Phoenix address.

For more information contact:

Linda Rubin, Public Relations Chairman, 93 Woodcliff Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167.

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# ODE TO THE PAUPER OF FINCHES

by Gail Stahlman

=====

In a flash of white and fawn feathers a little hen lands delicately on my hand as I place a dish of veggies in her cage. She cocks her head and looks at me with one glossy black eye. She ruffles her feathers, picks up a pea from the dish and, holding it deftly between her toe and the perch, nibbles the inside until only a thin hull remains. Her mate, a pristine white and black/brown cock, makes tic-tic sounds in excitement, his tail moving precisely back and forth. As soon as my hand leaves the cage he joins his mate.

What is this delightful and captivating bird I am describing? It is the pauper of finches, it is the Society Finch.

Take a minute to appreciate this sweet little bird. They come in an infinite number of spots, bars, and color patterns from white to the darkest of browns and every shade in between. Like snow flakes, no two of these birds is marked alike. One of the pleasures of raising them is wondering what colors and patterns the chicks will be.

The voice of this bird is interesting too. They sound very much like a cricket chirping and the song of the cocks differs from bird to bird.

Talk about personality! They are curious, (almost to a fault), even tempered, tame and tolerant. We often take advantage of their sweet dispositions. We remove their eggs and replace them with those of another bird. We can even place chicks the same age as their own in the nest and, being the excellent parents that they are, the new little ones will be raised right along with their own youngsters. We often use them for the sole purpose of being incubators for finches that will not raise their own chicks. Some of these prettier, costlier finches might not be so numerous were it not for the Society Finch.

I have heard breeders put down the lowly Society Finch. I have even heard this sweet little bird called stupid. I don't think so! The next time that you are in your aviary pay some respect to the pauper of finches, the Society Finch.

=====

BRAVO GAIL ! Well said ! You're right. ...Societies don't get enough respect. Too often they are treated like second-class citizens in the bird world and not appreciated enough for their own merits. I love your comparison to snowflakes too. I know some other enthusiastic Society breeders near you in Colorado Springs share your lifelong love for these birds. The Editor.

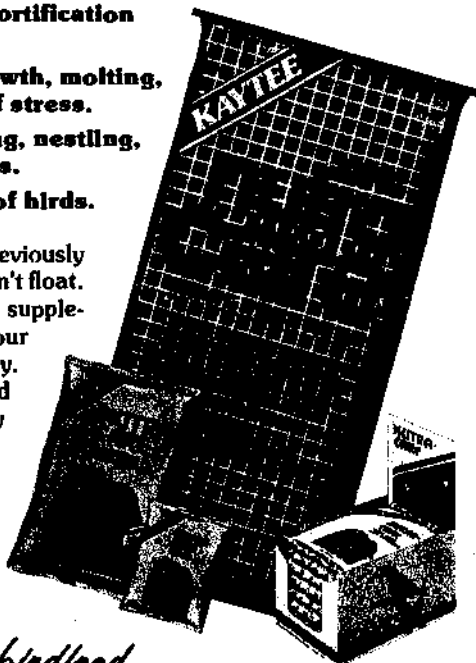
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NATIONAL FINCH & SOFTBILL SOCIETY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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# BREEDING THE JAVA RICE BIRD

by Jerri C. Wiesenfeld

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I would like to share my personal experiences raising Java Rice Birds. I raise and exhibit several species and the Java is one of my favorites.

The size of the Java, about 5 1/2", including the tail, makes it one of the larger species of finches. Their origin is Java, Bali, Malaya, the Philippines and other localities in Southeast Asia.

Males and females can be differentiated easily. Only the males sing and their song is quite pleasant. Males have a larger and broader beak with a "hump" appearing at the base. Males' eye rings are darker red than hens' on the normals. This is harder to distinguish on other colors. Hens' beaks are slightly smaller and more narrow and their overall body size is less also.

I believe that Javas should be no less than one year old when set up in a breeding situation. I begin by putting several in a flight and let them pair off. I feel that this is very important. Once they have selected their mates, which may only take a week or two, I set the individual pairs up in 2' by 18" by 18" cages with Budgie size nest boxes attached to the outside of the cages. To have your Javas breed successfully you must supply plenty of water and plenty of light, either natural or artificial.

Both males and females will fill the nest boxes with any nesting material you supply. I give them material that was used to pack cuttlebone for shipment, burlap that has been washed, dried and cut up, dryer lint, strips of newspaper and cotton balls; whatever I have on hand.

They will build a sloppy nest at first but then the hen will select a corner of the box and will excavate an area about 2" to 3" in diameter. Once this is done, she will begin laying her eggs in a day or two. The hen does almost all of the incubation alone. The male will visit the nest box briefly but he will do very little to assist in incubation or raising the chicks. He will only occasionally feed them and I have not seen any males feeding their hens as my Cockatiels and Budgies do.

Besides basic finch seed mix, my Javas love Hemp seed which is found in many Canary "song foods". They also love mealworms, dried fly larvae, soaked monkey biscuits, apple chunks, whole wheat bread and spray millet. I use margarine tubs for their water dishes and I wash and refill them twice daily. They will bathe every time fresh water is given to them and it is very important that it be kept clear and clean.

When the chicks are approximately 7 to 10 days old the parents begin to carry spray millet and whole wheat bread into the box. When the chicks are 4 weeks old they begin to leave the nest box during the day and within 7 to

10 days more they are weaned. I feel that the reason they wean so quickly is that the parents carry food into the box so early and the chicks begin to nibble on it at an early age.

I band my Java chicks with closed NFS bands easily at about 2 to 3 weeks of age although the usual recommendation is to band chicks between 7 and 10 days. I hope sharing my experiences with these lovely finches will help others who love the beauties of aviculture as I do.

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 Editor's note: Jerri's article was originally printed in the Jacksonville Cage Bird Association Bulletin after she gave a talk on the subject of Java Rice Birds at a club meeting. We thank her and the club for sharing with us. Jerri is a member of NFS, NCS and ABS who raises Finches, Budgies, Cockatiels and Canaries.  
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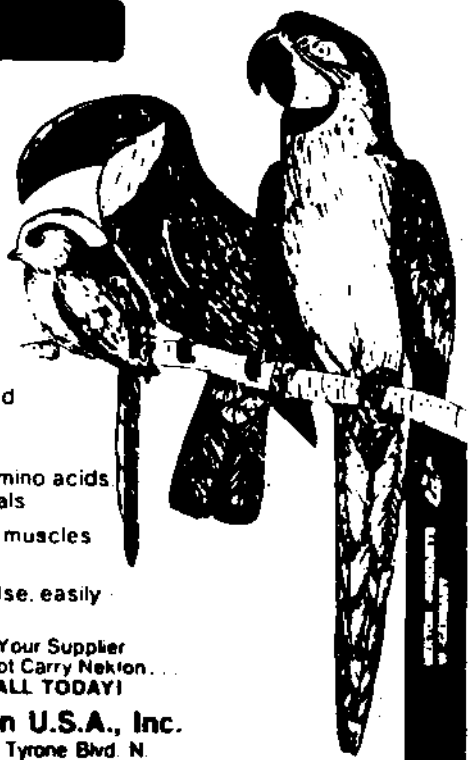
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