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Presidents' Message:

The message is that I'm doing the best that I can. Our rehabilitation group lost a very valuable full-time volunteer this spring and so the ever-increasing number of orphaned and injured wild birds has been spread among fewer people. I realize that I have a very serious responsibility to NFSS members to get this Bulletin out on time but when emaciated Eastern Bluebird chicks, dehydrated Carolina Wren chicks and injured Baltimore Oriole chicks need help I put them first and I put the computer work second. By the end of this season I think our group will have cared for more than 750 wild birds and we're able to release about 69% of them. I hope that you can understand that this work has priority in the spring and summer months. Thanks.

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NFS PANEL OF JUDGES 1993

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NOTE: For more information on the Judges' Panel, contact Dr. Al Decoteau.

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TO ALL CLUBS WHO WILL BE CONTACTING AN MFS PANEL JUDGE:

PLEASE...Be sure that you are using this current list. It is up to date. Sometimes addresses, phone numbers, etc. change and all other lists are now invalid. Thank you for your attention to this.

Dr. Al Decoteau.
July 1, 1993

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THE GOULDIAN FINCH

by Harold Fryer, New South Wales

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[Editor's note: This article was originally printed in AUSTRALIAN AVICULTURE, September 1985 then in the April 1988 issue of FINCHES, the publication of The New Zealand Finch Breeders Assn., Inc.. They can be contacted at P. O. Box 7D, Albeny, New Zealand. For \$20 a year they'll send you 11 issues of their educational and interesting magazine. We are pleased to say that they are affiliated with NFS.]

INTRODUCTION: the Gouldian Finch was first discovered by John Gould's field-worker, John Gilbert, on Greenhill Island at the head of Van Diemen's Gulf. The species was named the Gouldian Finch by John Gould in 1844 in honor of his wife who had provided such great support throughout Gould's time in Australia, much of which was spent in quite arid territory. In Gould's own words: "It was with feelings of the purest affection that I ventured to dedicate this bird to the memory of my late wife."

Researchers in recent times have found certain relationships between the Gouldian Finch and the genus *Erythrura* (parrot finches) as well as the genus *Lonchura* (mannikins). The Gouldian is known now as a trimorphic species, and not a variety of three distinct species, classified according to head color, as early aviculturists believed. The Gouldian is usually classified as *Chloebia gouldiae*. Presently known scientific data on the species suggests the placement of the species in a genus of its own.

General consensus is that the Gouldian Finch is the most beautiful of the Australian finches and furthermore one of the most magnificent of all bird species. Its striking colors, lovely plumage and quaint mannerisms make it an outstanding avicultural subject. Indeed it would seem that a significant percentage of aviculturists in the country have kept at one time or another this bird which possesses such great beauty and appeal.

DESCRIPTION: The combination of magnificent colors portrayed in this species is indeed difficult to describe in order to do justice to the bird. It is little wonder that the bird has also been known by such names as the rainbow finch or the painted finch. Its colors are like the colors of a rainbow and one could be excused for thinking that the colors were painted on the bird.

In breeding plumage the male Gouldian finch has: the head slightly beyond the middle as well as its face red (red-headed phase) or black (black-headed phase) or yellow to orange (yellow-headed phase). The center of the throat is black edged with a cobalt blue. The neck upper back and upper wing coverts are grass green. The chest is lilac white the breast, sides of body and the abdomen are rich yellow. The under-tail coverts are white. The beak is an off white (distinctly whiter when breeding) which is tipped with red

(or yellow in the yellow-headed phase). The legs and feet are a pale yellowish while the eyes are dark brown. Overall length from eye to tip of tail is about 12.5 cm.

The female Gouldian is a much duller version of the male. Furthermore, the breast may vary in color from a faint purple to a pale lilac, almost as dark as that in the male. The back and upper wing coverts are usually a more olive green than the males and in general the tail feathers are decidedly shorter than in the male. When in breeding condition the beak of the female is a distinct dark grey color.

Immatures have the head and general body color of very pale fawn-brown while the back, wings and tail are a light olive green. The legs and feet are a flesh color while the eyes are brown in color. The beak is the same color as that of the mature bird.

HEAD COLOR: In the middle of the nineteenth century aviculturists believed that the Gouldian finch was a bird consisting of three different species classified according to head color. However, A. G. Butler wrote in the 1890's "it would seem that we have, in this case, to deal with a trimorphic species and that the difference of coloring in the head is actually of no more specific importance than it is in members of one human family".

In more recent times the head color aspect of the Gouldian Finch has been studied in detail by H. W. Southern (1946) and Ray Murray (1963) even though the initial ideas were presented by Abrahams (1884) and Butler (1899).

There are nine genetically different types of male Gouldian Finches and six genetically different types of females. This in turn means there are twenty eight genetically different pairings possible.

Males may be:

1. Red (pure)
2. Black (pure)
3. Yellow (pure)
4. Red/Black
5. Red/Yellow
6. Red/Black/Yellow
7. Black/Yellow (1 factor)
8. Black/Yellow (2 factors - carries yellow beak)
9. Yellow/Black

Hens may be:

1. Red (pure)
2. Black (pure)
3. Yellow (pure)
4. Red/Yellow
5. Black/Yellow (1 factor)
6. Black/Yellow (2 factors - carries yellow beak)

Aviculturists should note that:

- * Red-headedness is dominant to that for black-headedness.
- * Red-headedness is sex linked to that for black-headedness. A sex linked variety is one where only the male can transfer its color to its daughters irrespective of the color of the hen it is mated with.
- * Yellow head-color is brought about by the birds possessing a genetic defect whereby the yellow food carotenoids are not changed into red carotenoids. Hence, yellow-headed birds are genetically either red-headed or black-headed. Consequently, yellow-headedness will be recessive to either red or black head color.
- * the split red-headed or split black males may not be distinguished by their phenotype; that is, appearance. Their genotype (genetic constitution) may only be determined by breeding outcomes. Indeed, accurate records would need to be kept if an aviculturist was to know the exact genetic constitution of birds which were split red-headed or split black-headed males.

It is hopefully clear from the above that pairings are not the cut-and-dried episode some may believe them to be. Much care and recording are needed if the exact outcome (head color wise) of a particular mating is to be known in advance.

Aviculturists not wishing to employ the variables as shown above to their breeding program but yet who desire to breed birds with a specific head color would be well advised to pair two birds which have the same head color as the color they desire in any progeny bred. This method is the one most likely to lead them to the desired end result.

HOUSING: The correct type of housing is crucial not only to the effective propagation of the species but indeed to the effective survival of the species. Aviary design is very much dependent on the locality. Aviculturists living in North Queensland would have very different aviary plans than aviculturists living in Tasmania.

The Gouldian has seldom been seen in the wild below the twenty-sixth parallel as it is a tropical bird. It therefore needs a warm environment if it is to lead a healthy life.

Aviaries may be of several types:

- * large, well planted aviaries of large dimensions.
- * rectangular prism-type aviaries with half as closed-in house quarters and half as open flight.
- * fully enclosed aviaries.

It is most important to house the birds in an aviary which best suits the locality where the birds are being kept. Commonsense procedures must always be used in aviculture. Aviaries should be constructed to maximize the warmth from the sun and to afford maximum light, this being especially important in the winter months. To this end aviaries should, in general have a northerly or north-easterly aspect. (NFS members should remember that Mr. Fryer is in Australia.) Draft-free aviaries with dry floors are vital.

There are an increasing number of aviculturists in Australia today housing individual pairs in cabinets. This method, of course, allows a greater control over the weather elements and allows the use of artificial heating if necessary, something which may be a necessity in some of the cooler climates in southern Australia. I believe we are entering an era in aviculture in Australia where more birds will be housed under these conditions.

FOOD: Basic food for Gouldian finches is provided by means of the various millets and canary seed. Yellow millet (penicum), red millet (small variety), Shirhoe Millet (hybrid seed, developed in Inverell region of New South Wales), white millet, pearl millet (hybrid seed, developed in Tamworth region NSW) and Japanese millet are all consumed. However, Gouldians seem to be very fond of plain canary seed and it would be wise to always include this seed in the diet. These seeds should be fed in separate containers. Gouldians are very partial to seeding grasses and these should be supplied all year round if available. There are various types in different parts of Australia and aviculturists should use the most appropriate seeding grasses found in their locality.

Spray millets and heads of canary seed are appreciated, as well as germinated seed. The feeding of germinated seed should be carefully regulated. In the summer months fungi can appear more quickly in sprouted seed than in winter months and this is very detrimental to the health of seed, of course, is in its very high protein content. Gouldians seem to need a very high protein diet and in this regard germinated seed is a very useful food. Other selected greens should be fed when in season.

A continual supply of calcium in the form of cuttlefish bone, shell grit (both fine and coarse) and crushed egg shells should be available. Cuttlefish bone should be washed and dried before feeding, shell grit should be free of contamination; never collect near sewerage outlets, and egg shells should be baked before feeding. When eggs are laid by a fowl hen they may contain Salmonella, contracted as the hen passes the egg through the oviduct. To avoid the possible transfer to finches bake the egg shells in a moderate oven for 15 minutes before feeding to your Gouldian Finches.

Multi-vitamin supplements should be fed all the year-round and are best given in the water. Normal precautions (avoid sunlight, keep away from beneath perches and so on) must be undertaken otherwise the birds will not obtain the full value of the vitamins. There are various types of vitamins and an aviculturist would be wise to know the chemical value of each vitamin before feeding. Vitamins may be used in liquid form as an additive to the seed or drinking water, in powder form as an additive to the seed or soft food mixture. It seems as though the method using the liquid form of vitamins to the drinking water is the most widely used. Rock salt will be appreciated by the birds as well. Gouldians do not seem to like nor indeed need live food. Few will eat white ants, it is almost unknown for them to eat mealworms and in my experience other forms of live food are seldom eaten.

BREEDING: The breeding season for the Gouldian Finch follows after the

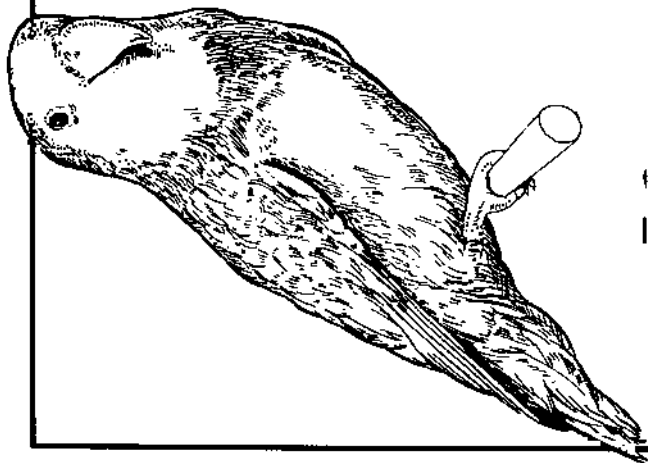
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moult. Pairing up and mating should normally occur in January with breeding commencing in earnest around the middle of February. Some aviculturists pair up in December, others not until February. Naturally enough, the choice is individual but, it should be based on two factors:

- * Condition of the birds. Stock which has not fully completed the moult would not be ready to pair up. During the moult a bird's hormonal balance alters. Birds moulting are not sexually ready for mating.
- * Locality of the birds. In certain parts of Australia, December, January and February are very hot months. Aviculturists living in very warm climates may hold their birds back and not pair up until late February.

Gouldian nest boxes or logs to build in even though some fanciers use tins or wicker baskets. It has been my experience that Gouldians have a distinct preference for boxes. The boxes which are supplied should be of various sizes even though a preference exists for boxes of the size used by budgerigars. Only on one occasion has a pair of my birds chosen to nest in brush.

When the boxes or tins are supplied they should be placed in the aviary so that there are 50% more boxes than the number of pairs. This allows choice of nesting sites and Gouldians DO require such choice.

Gouldian Finches are, in general, poor nest builders. Suitable dry grass should be placed in each nesting receptacle and worked into a dome formation by the aviculturist. The pairs will then complete the nest chamber with more dry grass plus stalks from seeding grassheads. When the chamber has been completed by the birds this is a positive sign that laying is about to take place. Other lining material such as a hessian (burlap) bag which has been shredded and coconut fibers are very seldom used.

The mating display of the Gouldian is most ritualistic. Males turn sideways to face the hen, that is, 90 degrees from their normal perching position, and then begin a most interesting form of behavior. The male lowers his head and rapidly vibrates it from side to side. Vertical movements of a rapid nature are also used and then he usually tucks his beak into his chest and begins to move his whole body up and down. All of this is carried out while still facing the female. On many occasions I have witnessed males dancing during which time their feet have actually left the perch.

The response by the hen, if she wishes to accept the male, is to lower her head sideways towards him and to move it from side to side rapidly too. Her tail quivers as does that of the male but the actual dancing up and down on the perch is not performed by the hen.

Mating will usually take place in the nest chamber but may take place on the aviary floor. It does not take place on a perch which is what happens with some other species of Australian finches.

The clutch size will vary from 4 to 7 or 8 eggs. I have known as many as 10 eggs to be laid and hatched but this is well above the mean quantity.

fertility is usually high with possibly highest fertility occurring in the second and third nests. With the Gouldians both male and female incubate, with the female usually doing the incubation at night.

Gouldians do not, in general, spend long periods off the eggs when incubation has commenced but prevailing weather conditions will have a bearing on the length of time away from the eggs and the frequency with which the eggs are left unattended. In cooler weather the birds stay away from the eggs for only short periods.

When hatched the young are naked with no down and are fully dependent on warmth provided by the nest itself and the warmth from the parent birds' bodies. After the parents stop sitting on the young, at about 9-10 days, losses can occur if a cold snap hits at this time. As the winter draws on, in second and third clutches, high losses may be recorded at this stage of the young ones development. Pairs housed in fully enclosed quarters or those owned by fanciers who provide artificial heat are less prone to lose young at this stage.

When young fly, they should be left with the parents for 3 to 4 weeks and then removed to a holding cage. As the young do not return to the nesting box once they leave it, it may be cleaned out and repacked with fresh grass well before the young are taken from the parents.

Various chemicals are used by some aviculturists to disinfect the nesting box. A simple and very effective method is to immerse the box in boiling water. When the box is thoroughly dry it may be replaced in the aviary and then repacked with grass for further nesting activities. It is advisable to let pairs nest for up to three nests per season. Quality of young will most likely be higher if this policy is adopted and death amongst females significantly less.

FOSTERING: Fanciers in many overseas countries use Zengelese to raise Gouldians. This method is carried out on a large scale in Japan, the USA and to a lesser extent in England. Most breeders foster the Gouldian eggs and produce 30 to 40 youngsters per pair of adults per season. Some breeders maintain that as many as 60 eggs can be taken per pair per breeding season. This method does lead to higher success rate, quantitatively speaking, but the long term deleterious effects such as that of "imprinting", need to be examined closely. In Australia, at present, some aviculturists are fostering on a fairly large scale. The long term results from such breeding programs will be awaited with interest.

MUTATIONS: Most mutations of the Gouldian Finch have occurred as the progeny of closely related birds being paired together. Up until the early 1990's there was a continual supply of wild caught birds arriving in most states, the birds having been trapped in Western Australia. Few mutations did occur. However, now that this supply from the wild has ceased, a period in aviculture where more mutations may occur is distinctly possible. There have been many mutations recorded in Gouldians, mainly in overseas countries, and most likely many which have appeared have not been recorded.

Many mutant Gouldians do not survive for long and only the dilute backed mutation sparrow has reached numbers in Australia where it could safely be said that it has been established. This mutation is being bred in at least three states of Australia at the present time.

Some of the most remarkable mutations that I have either seen or have had reported to me are:

- * In 1964 a bird was seen in Danera in Newcastle where the color was that of a black cock on the one side and that of a red hen on the other. I have also seen the same type of phenomenon on Zebrans on a few occasions.
- * In the middle 1960's a Sydney fancier had some red-headed birds with white breasts and with the remainder of their plumage yellow. They were very attractive specimens. However, they were lost to aviculture.
- * Pied Gouldians appeared in a Caringbah (Sydney) aviary in the middle 1960's but this mutation died out.
- * Few mutant Gouldians which appeared in Victoria in the late 1960's.
- * Albino Gouldians which have been bred in South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales. Enough of these were bred to show that this mutation is not sex-linked.
- * An almost pure white Gouldian appeared in an aviary at Kurri Kurri (NSW) in 1980. The owner was not able to determine the parentage of this mutation and it was lost after a couple of years. It has not reappeared.

Anyone desirous of establishing a mutation must have a great deal of patience, a lot of commonsense, a touch of "lady luck" and must be prepared to accept setbacks. Great credit is given to Ray Murray, co-founder of the Avicultural Society of Australia, for his care, expertise and patience in developing the dilute-backed mutation. This mutation first appeared in Queensland in 1945 and after carefully documenting records, the factor which controlled the dilute-backed mutation was found to be recessive and autosomal. Consequently, this factor is not dependent on the factor which controls the color of the head. The future of this mutation in Australia seems well assured, at least in the foreseeable future.

The breeding of mutations is a choice for the individual aviculturist to make. Careful documentation involving accurate breeding results must be helpful to aviculture in the future. It is a pity that many mutant Gouldians which could have been established seem to have been lost to aviculture.

MALADIES AFFECTING GOULDIANS: the time when most aviculturists suffer their worst losses with Gouldians is during the moult. During this period temperature is a crucial factor and birds should be kept warm at all times. Assuming that a high protein diet is being fed to the birds, you would only need to add a multi-vitamin supplement to their diet to provide all the normal requirements. There are several such supplements available in Australia today. Great care at this period of the year is most assuredly needed.

Perhaps the greatest problem with Gouldians today is with mite infestations. Wild caught birds are often plagued with various body mites while aviary strains seem to be suffering from respiratory mites in epidemic

proportions. there are many types of mites which are know to parasitize the trachea, lungs and air sacs of birds. Donrow, in 1965-65, reported having found 12 new species of such mites. The greatest problem seems to be from one of the commonest species, *Sternostoma tracheacolum*, discovered by Lawrence in 1949. This mite occurs in the respiratory passages of a large variety of birds, including wild birds.

A study carried out by M. D. Murray (Division of Animal Health, McMaster Laboratory, Sydney) published in 1966, showed that it was not uncommon to find 30 to 60 mites in the tracheae of Gouldian finches being examined. His study concluded that severely infested birds failed to breed and, indeed, many died. No cure was found even though some degree of control was achieved. The control was achieved with the feeding of Carbaryl at a dose of 0.04 gm to 50 gm of seed for 40 hours then 19 to 24 hours once a week for two weeks. This dose rate was considered to be the maximum which could be given as some birds died after being given access to the treated seed after 24 to 48 hours. No deaths, however, occurred when the Gouldians were fed treated seed for only 19 to 24 hours once a week for 3 weeks under laboratory conditions.

Many experienced aviculturists consider this problem to be the single most important problem with the keeping of Gouldian Finches. Many aviculturists seem to have achieved some degree of control with these mites by using commercially available pest-strips. The long term effect on the birds however, seems to be unknown.

Gouldians, like other types of finches, can and do suffer with bacterial diseases. A broad spectrum antibiotic should always be on hand but be sure the correct dosage is known and know what you are treating the bird for. There is no "wonder drug" to cure all illnesses and knowing what is wrong with your stock before using drugs should always be the thing to aim for. If you know what you are treating for, then the task is made more simple.

NOTES FROM THE WILD: There is little doubt that in the wild the Gouldian Finch is in some degree of danger. Some people believe the species is in grave danger in the wild while others believe the situation is not quite so desperate. Throughout its range a fairly significant drop in numbers has been evident in the last five to seven years. In particular localities within its range the Gouldian population has remained fairly stable. In the wild there are three main regions occupied by Gouldian finches:

- * The Kimberleys (Western Australia).
- * The Katherine Region (Northern Territory).
- * An area south of Cape York Peninsula (Queensland).

The first two regions are where a high percentage of the resident population is to be found. These regions cover tens of thousands of square kilometers but the Gouldian will only be found certain parts of these regions, and then, only in the dry season. It is, like most species of Australian finches, much more

difficult to locate in the wet season.

I believe there are three reasons why this bird has declined in the wild:

- o Excessive trapping.
- o Excessive burning-off of grasslands each year.
- * Mite infestation.

POSSIBILITY A: Trapping has gone on for almost 100 years. As far back as the 1890's birds were trapped, some of which were sent to England. I quote from A. G. Butler's book Foreign Birds in Captivity, (1899): "During the last few years both red and black-faced have been freely imported and everybody seems to be acquainted with them".

Many thousands have been trapped for the Australian market over a period of many years by both legal and illegal trappers. If the number trapped is greater than the number produced by means of natural increase, (reproduction less deaths) then, the species must decline. The most evident decrease in numbers of the Gouldian has been in the last five years. Most of the trapping seems to have taken place in the Kimberleys and in the region west of Katherine. Gouldians have been trapped in these regions for many years. Licenses for trapping in Western Australia were suspended in 1901.

POSSIBILITY B: The annual burning off of grasslands in the Northern Territory is a real problem to resident bird populations. The burning off, which takes place at the end of the wet season, is very helpful for cattle, in that the perennial grasses are replaced by annuals. Mature grass is cleared away in order to promote tender shoots. However, repeated burnings consume humus, kill seedlings and thin out veteran trees much faster than they are able to be replaced. The composition of grass seeds which birds have been used to feeding on may be changed. This ecological change could have far reaching effects which the resident populations of birds are now experiencing.

No account can be made of the loss of bird life by these fires which rage for hundreds of kilometers, and cover a high percentage of the area where this species was formerly found in adequate numbers. To my mind, some form of control of these fires is needed. We may be in a situation, right now, where the environment can no longer support the population of Gouldians it formerly did.

POSSIBILITY C: Mite infestation is of more concern than many may believe. The degree to which this species has contracted infestations of mites in the last few years has been quite noticeable. Much research is needed in relation to this matter if a worthwhile program of eradication of the mites is to be undertaken. Feather mites, body mites and internal mites are known to be found in wild populations of Gouldians and their very existence is detrimental to the bird's future stability.

In the dry season Gouldian Finches formerly flocked in large numbers, with some flocks containing 1000 birds. They would arrive at waterholes very early in the morning, sometimes just before daylight and come in from very

significant heights. When a Gouldian drinks at a waterhole he has a long drink and then maybe a second shorter drink. Normally, he will then fly away to feeding grounds, unless he decides to feed on a salt pad near the waterhole. These salt pads are usually used by cattle as a natural cattle lick. Gouldians mostly feed kilometers from waterholes. They normally congregate and feed in large numbers in the morning and sometimes in the evening. They feed on grass seeds in the morning but during the day they seem to shelter in the shade of trees.

Nesting in the wild is confined to the trunks of trees and hollow branches of eucalyptus trees. Nests are constructed with dry grass and dried soft bark. Often no nest is constructed and the eggs are laid on the pulp material which is left in the hollow branches. The quantity of eggs in nests in the wild usually numbers from three to six. Ray Perez, a licensed trapper in the 1930's, did report once seeing 8 young birds in one nest. The *Pictorialis*, mainly uncolored ones, is the only species I have ever seen to regularly fly with the Gouldian in the wild.

Fortunately, many people are now aware of the problems facing the Gouldian Finch in the wild. Recently the "World Wildlife Fund - Australia 1985 Conservation Program" stated as one of their projects, indeed Project 01, to try to ascertain "Why The Gouldian Finch Is In The Decline". The funding required for 1985 is \$11,000 and the funding required for 1986 is \$11,000. The money is needed to fund a study which will be centered in Katherine, in the Northern Territory. The study will examine nesting habitat requirements, nesting success and social biology. As a spin-off, and a very important one, a scheme for grassland management will be, hopefully, developed to assist in the recovery of the Gouldian Finch in the wild. I am sure that other finch populations would, in turn, benefit.

HYBRIDS: In 1958 Mr. W. Czupkay of California, USA, successfully mated a Tri-colored Parrot Finch male with a Gouldian female. (No head color is mentioned.) One young was fledged and survived for two years. The breeder had the bird treated by a taxidermist and a skin was prepared. In 1936 a male black-headed Gouldian was mated with a female Blue-faced Parrot Finch in Germany. Two young were fledged and were sold to the Copenhagen Zoo. The skins are now preserved there in the Zoological Museum. To my knowledge, no hybrid Gouldian has ever been bred in Australia. As a result of the apparent affinities between the Gouldian and the Parrot Finches, such a pairing would seem to be the most sensible for the aviculturist to make if they were desirous of hybridizing the Gouldian. The polymorphism in head color, the development of iridescent nodules in the young and the similar nesting habits suggest that a strong relationship does exist between these two species. Apart from aesthetic appeal and a sense of achievement, little would be gained from hybridizing, from an avicultural point of view.

CONCLUSION: It would seem that the Gouldian Finch is one of the most widely kept Australian finches in the world today. Its beauty has given many moments of satisfaction to aviculturists in many parts of the world for

several decades, and, in some parts of the world, for approximately a century. There is no doubt that, in captivity, a significant number of birds are being kept by aviculturists. These aviculturists seem to be experiencing varying degrees of success in their breeding programs. Whether the progeny of these captive birds will be sufficient in number to meet avicultural demand in the future, only time will tell.

The Gouldian in the wild has declined rapidly in the last five years. This fact is now evident to many aviculturists, to researchers in government positions, and to ornithologists alike. The conservation programs which have begun, and hopefully will begin in the near future, will be a great help in understanding why this species has declined so noticeably in the wild.

Maybe the time will come when a selected group of aviculturists will be able to breed birds under a program financially backed by some government body, whereby the progeny of birds being used in the program are released back into the wild. This may be a revolutionary idea but it is clear that many aviculturists in this country are being recognized to a much greater extent, in the 1980's, than was previously the case. This is pleasing as there is a wealth of information possessed by Australian aviculturists.

There are now a number of societies in Australia publishing quality avicultural magazines and fanciers are being encouraged to express their ideas in them. Excellent articles are being written for these publications and a large amount of avicultural information is therefore available to the readers.

To those people who breed the Gouldian - I hope you continue to do so. To those people who would like to keep the species - may you be encouraged to do so. The Gouldian Finch may, sometimes, be a great challenge to you but I'm sure it will never cease to fascinate you.

=====

SUPPORT FINCHSAVE

This puzzle is courtesy of Laura Shermaa, a FINCHSAVE participant and a very helpful member. Thanks Laura, The Editor.

FINCH CIRCLE - WORD SEARCH

N B T M A N N I K I N J Y P H D D H
A L L G I P L U C U F S E M E F N C
I U I M V P L X E C E T M T I A U N
D E A Y A Y I L C S E A N R P E O I
L C T N U U B Z I R G I E O C T S F
U A N A R N X D S P A F L I S V S D
O P I H O O A T I P I E P W S F A L
G N P D R R W E Y N A S B P D Y B O
I O R A A I R H C N I F A B L E M G
J O T P N H A H H U L W O H K N O R
C S G S R V E O W L F I N C H D C D
P I P H O O D E D S I S K I N I W S
N O S I L V E R B I L L J L G S O A
T U W K X G R A E T E L O I V C T V
Z E B R A R I C E B I R D L I A U Q
G U M A S K E D J G O L D E N G S K
G O L D B R E A S T E D T G X I S I
T D I A M O N D C T T Y M I I T F A

Find the following 33 words in the 18 X 18 puzzle above which are hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

AURORA
DIAMOND
GOLDFINCH
MANNIKIN
NAPOLEAN
PARADISE
REDEARWAXBILL
SOCIETY
ZEBRA
BLUECAP
FIREFINCH
GOULDIAN
MASKED
OWL
PETERSTWINSPOT
RICEBIRD
SPICE

COMBASSOU
GOLDBREASTED
HOODEDSISKIN
MELBAFINCH
OWLFINCH
PINTAIL
SIDNEY
STAR
CORDONBLEU
GOLDEN
MAGPIE
MYNAH
PAINTED
QUAIL
SILVERBILL
VIOLETEAR

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Thanks Jon, from the Editor.

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

=====

NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW, INC.: Kerol Deem, (409) 737-1557
November 18 to 21, 1993 Wyndham Greene Springs Hotel, Houston, TX \$59 room
rate. Reservations, (713) 875-2222. Hosted by The Bay Area Cockatiel and
Cage Bird Club. Panel Judge: Dr. A. E. Decoteau

KAYTEE GREAT AMERICAN BIRD SHOW Ermafern Collins, (515) 992 3539
September 30 to October 3rd, 1993 Crystal Inn & Conference Center (formerly
Des Moines Airport Hilton), Des Moines, IA \$54.00 room rate. Reservations,
(515) 287-2400. Hosted by The Mid-America Cage Bird Society
Panel Judge: Charlea Anchor

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society: Lorene Clebb, (205) 571 3817
Show: September 4, 1993 Montgomery, AL Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

CALIFORNIA

Aviary Assn. of Kern Co.: Velma Baker, (805) 765-6110

Capital City Bird Society: Mary Ann Meije, (916) 452 2037
Show: October 23 & 24, 1993 Roseville, CA Panel Judge: Drian Manderich

Finch Society of San Diego County: Sharon Rusaell, (619) 546 1870

Fresno Canary and Finch Society: Dixie Lee, (289) 584-3764
REGIONAL SHOW: October 29-31, 1993 Madere, CA Panel Judge: Cleyton Jones

Golden Gate Avian Society: Cleudio Salo, (510) 455 9909
Show: November 11 to 13, 1993 Tracy, CA Panel Judge: Brenda Gaehey

San Diego Bird Show, Inc.: Sharon Gussell, (619) 546 1870
Show: November 6, 1993 San Diego, CA Panel Judge: Joe Kredar

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic B. C.: Nail Crowley, (408) 258 4601
Show: November 27, 1993 San Joaquin, CA Panel Judge: Joe Kredar

COLORADO

Colorado Cage Bird Association: Terri McAuliffe (719) 576 9009
REGIONAL SHOW: October 16, 1993 Colorado Springs, CO
Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture; Julie Kern, (303) 753-6145
Show: November 13, 1993 Denver, CO Panel Judge: Marty von Oesfeld

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture; Chris Voronovitch, (203) 649 8220
Show: October 23, 1993 Manchester, CT Panel Judge: William Parlee

New England Finch Fanciers; Ouaael Armitaga, Jr., (203) 756 1753
Show: November 27, 1993 E. Hartford, CT Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida; Phil Berth, (385) 426 5340
Show: August 21, 1993 Margata, FL Panel Judge: Tom Hood

Colorbrad Canary Club of Miami, Inc.; Armando J. Lee, (305) 270 1000
Show: December 2-5, 1993 Miami, FL Non-Panel Judge, Dr. Lindsay Clack

Exotic Bird Club of Florida; Mary Petty, (407) 632-7494
Show November 6, 1993 Panel Judge: Laura Bewley

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show; Dale Laird, (407) 657 7989

Gold Coast All Bird Club; Mike Mariscano, (305) 929 1606

Gulf Coast Exotic Bird Club; Diane Pittman, (813) 772-1150
Pat Show: November 21, 1993 Ft. Myers

Grestar Brandon Avian Society, Inc.; Carole Miller, (813) 971-1190
REGIONAL SHOW: September 18, 1993 Tampa, FL Panel Judge: Ken Gunby

Jacksonville Cage Bird Assn.; Paul D. Stickweh, (904) 744-5811

Suncoast Avian Society; Joa Ventimiglia, (813) 392 9391
Shows: October 16 and 17, 1993 Tampa, FL
Panel Judges: Conrad Mainert and Stephan Hoppin

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society; Oula Laird, (407) 657 7989
Show: October 9, 1993 Orlando FL Panel Judge: Kenneth Gunby

West Florida Avian Society, Inc.; Barbara Farrell, (904) 683 1634

GEORGIA

Central Georgia Exotic Bird Club; Dawn Miller, (404) 460 8233

HAWAII

Honolulu Canary and Finch Club; Lorraine Chang, (808) 595 3689

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club; Jane Nucato, (708) 385 9043

Show: November 6, 1993 Rolling Meadows, IL Panel Judge: Clareca Culwell

Illia Bird Fanciera; Jan Marcott, (217) 347-9690

Springfield Pat Bird Club; Tom Rood, (217) 774 5265

Show: September 11, 1993 Springfield, IL Panel Judge: Tom Rood

INDIANA

Indiana Bird Fanciera; Conrad Mainert, (219) 269 2673

Show: October 9, 1993 Fort Wayne, IN Panel Judge: Harold Bowlea

West Central Indiana Bird Club; Tom Rood, (217) 774 5265

IOWA

Mid-America Cage Bird Society; Ermafern Collins, (515) 992 3539

Show: Hosting the 1993 KAYTEE Great American Bird Show

KANSAS

Kansas Avicultural Society; Jamea Williams, (316) 663-5609

Show: October 9, 1993 Wichita, KS Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Heartland Canary & Finch Club; Shirley Landkamer, (913) 594 6795

Show: October 23, 1993 Lawrence, KS Panel Judge: Laura Gewley

KENTUCKY

Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society; Steve Slatea, (606) 223 2608

Show: November 6, 1993 Lexington, KY Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

LOUISIANA

Gulf South Bird Club; Evon Krusa, (504) 649 2392

REGIONAL SHOW: October 16, 1993 New Orleans, LA

Panel Judge, Marty von Raefeld

Cajun Canary Club; Ernie Brown, (504) 634 5100

Capital Area Avicultural Society; Tim Schernaydre, (504) 562 3579

MAINE

Maine State Caged Bird Society; Sheryl Adams, (207) 727 5633

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fenciers; Deb Clark, (410) 242 8471

Show: October 18, 1993 Baltimore, MD Panel Judge: Woddy Gabel

Maryland Cage Bird Society; Theresa Drown, (410) 735 7862

Show: September 11, 1993 Frederick, MD Panel Judge: Ken Gunby

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association; Dienne Smith (508) 548 3214

Show: October 18, 1993 South Easton, MA Panel Judge: Brenda Geesey

MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Avicultural Society; Joan Lenon, (616) 877 5882

Show: October 18, 1993 Grand Rapids, MI Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

Mid-Michigan Bird Club; Mary Lou Terwilliger, (517) 483 5695

Show: November 8, 1993 Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

Mid-West Cage Bird Club; Patrick Vance, (313) 443 8843

Show: November 13, 1993 Westland, MI Panel Judge: Roddy Gabel

Motor City Bird Breeders; Patrick Vance, (313) 443 8843

Show: October 23 & 24, 1993 Detroit, MI Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders; Patrick Vance, (313) 443 8643

Show: October 28 & 31, 1993 Livonia, MI Panel Judge: Tom Rood

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society; Jim Laech, (816) 254 0415

Show: October 17, 1993 Grandview, MO Panel Judge: Kenneth Ganby

Heart of America Mockbill & Finch Society; James Johnson, (913) 268 3289

Show: October 17, 1993 Blue Springs, MO Panel Judge: Clarence Cullaeill

Missouri Cage Bird Association; Dennis Burhans, (314) 441 8525

Show: November 5 & 8, 1993

NEW JERSEY

South Jersey Bird Club; Raymond Passaro, (201) 291 9224

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society; Denise McCabe, (603) 485 8184

Panel Judge: William Parlee

New Hampshire Avicultural Society; Larry Martin, (508) 392-9137
Shou: October 9, 1993 Hudson, NH Panel Judge: Brenda Geeay

NEW YORK

Autoria Bird Club; Lealie Leber, (516) 431 9267

Buffalo Canary & Doudgeriger Society; Oavid Cooper, (716) 096 6014

Finger Lakes Coge Bird Aaeociation; Rene Rouse, (315) 252 7673

New York Finch & Type Cenery Club; Ron Caaper, (215) 723 8643

Shou: October 23, 1993 Franklin Square, (LI) NY Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Rocheater Coge Bird Club; Vicki Steffenhagen, (716) 964 2840

REGIONAL SHOW: October 38, 1993 Rocheater, NY Panel Judge: Herold Soufee

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte Metroline Coge Bird Society; Melvin Yoder, (803) 459 5319

Shou: Hoating Carolina Claasic September 11 & 12, 1993 Anderaon, SC

Panel Judges: Conred Meinert and Or. A. E. Oecoteeu

Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Asociation; Karen Whitlow, (919) 557 0450

OHIO

Cleesic Feethers; John Neff, Jr., (419) 784-5985

Shou: October 2, 1993 Defience, OH Panel Judge: Conred Meinert

Cleveland Coge Bird Society; Neureen Mehozonek, (216) 234 7674

Shou: October 9, 1993 Cleveland, OH Panel Judge: Earl Courts

Toledo Bird Assn. A Zebre Finch Club of America; Petrick Vence, (313) 443 0643

Shou: September 25, 1993 Toledo, OH Non-Panel Judge

OREGON

Rose City Exotic Bird Club; Sally Smith, (503) 658-5242

Shou: November 6 & 7, 1993 Portland, OR Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

OKLAHOMA

Bird Fanciers of Oklehome; Gene end Juna Miller, (405) 382 7066

REGIONAL SHOW: September 25, 1993 Oklahoma City, OK Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

PENNSYLVANIA

Centrel Pennsylvania Coge Bird Society; Pet Krichten, (717) 632 8092

Shou: October 23, 1993 Grantville, PA Panel Judge: Brenda Geeay

Chester County Bird Breeders; Barbera Archibald, (215) 844 1780
Show: September 25, 1993 King of Prussia, PA Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Delaware Valley Bird Club; Krie Kroner, (215) 62W 4143
Show: November 13, 1993 Ft. Washington, PA Panel Judge: Cherlea Anchor

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society; Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 363 8438
Show: November 8, 1993 Monroeville, PA Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Philadelphia Avicultural Society; Rick Szlachto, (215) 835 2897

Seven Mountains Exotic Bird Club; Steven Funk, (717) 667 W5W4

SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Cage Bird Club; Melvin Yoder, (803) 45W-5319
Hosting the Carolina Classic, September 11 & 12, 1993 Anderson, SC
Panel Judge: Dr. A. E. Decoteau and Conrad Meinert

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club; Eva Buffey, (615) 361 5938
Show: October 30, 1993 Nashville, TN Panel Judge: Earl Courts

TEXAS

Bay Area Cockatiel & Cage Bird Club; Karol Oem, (408) 737 1557
Hosting the 1893 National Cage Bird Show, Inc.

Fort Worth Bird Club; Clarence Culwell, (817) 228-5568
Show: October 2, 1993 Arlington, TX Panel Judge: Cecil Gunby

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Assn; Clarence Culwell, (817) 228-5588
Show: November 8, 1993 Kiloan, TX Panel Judge: Moy Johnson

VIRGINIA

Peninsula Cage Bird Society; Linda Oje, (804) 874 8581

WISCONSIN

Badger Canary Club; Patrice Ripple, (414) 527 1988
Show: October 23, 1993 Milwaukee, WI Panel Judge: Tom Rood

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton; Peter Webb, (416) 575 8W58

Confederacion Ornitologica Nacional; Rafael Seuraz, (809) 752 4433
Show: December 2 to 5, 1993 Bayamon, PR Panel Judge: Wrende Geeay

Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society of Canada: Brinn Eddy, (416) 244-6976
Hosting the 34th Annual Canadian National Show, October 16 & 17, 1993
Panel Judge: Jon Hoffman

Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario: Vincent Moane, (416) 723 1978
Show: September 24 to 26, 1993 Pickering, ONT

Essex-Kent Cnge Bird Society: Alfred Mion, (519) 948 6398
Show: October 1 to 3, 1993 Windsor, Ont. Non-panel judge.

New Zealand Finch Breeders Assn.: Mne Zinaid, Mrs. E. M. Foster

Queensland Finch Society: Queensland, Australia Gavin Dietz

Zebra Finch Society, England: Brinn Binna, Manchester, England

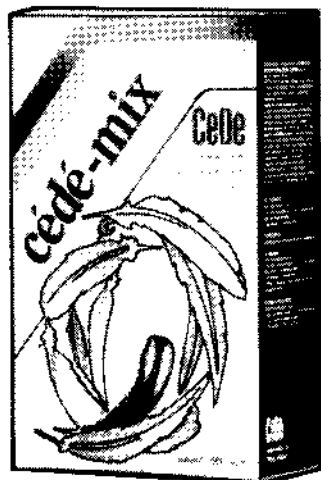


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NUTRIENTS: WHERE TO FIND THEM

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compiled by Lillian Mount

=====

[Editor's note: I've mentioned before how much I enjoy and admire the newsletter that Lillian Mount does for the Greater Bradon Avian Society (FL). Here is another article I've been given permission to reprint for you. I appreciate Lillian's generosity.]

| <u>Nutrient</u> | <u>important (but not exclusive) sources</u> |
|------------------------------|---|
| Protein | Meat, poultry, fish, dried beans, eggs, milk, cheese |
| Vitamin A | Liver, carrots, sweet potatoes, greens, butter, margarine |
| Vitamin C | Broccoli, oranges, papaya, grapefruit, mango, strawberry |
| Thiamine (B ₁) | Lean pork, nuts, fortified cereal products |
| Riboflavin (B ₂) | Liver, milk, yogurt, cottage cheese |
| Niacin | Liver, peanuts, meat, fish, poultry, fortified cereal products |
| Calcium | Milk, yogurt, cheese, sardines and salmon with bones, collard, kale, turnip and mustard greens |
| Iron | Enriched flour, red meat, prune juice, liver, dried beans and peas |
| Vitamin D | Vitamin D milk, fish, liver, oils, sunshine on skin |
| Vitamin E | Vegetable oils, green leafy vegetables, whole grain cereals, wheat germ, butter, egg yolk, milkfat |
| Vitamin B ₆ | Beef, liver, pork, ham, lima beans, bananas, whole grain cereals |
| Folic acid | Green leafy vegetables, liver, dry legumes, nuts, whole grain cereals, some fruits such as oranges |
| Vitamin B ₁₂ | Only in animal products - liver, meat, fish, shellfish, milk, milk products, eggs, poultry. Vegetarian diets should include milk or a B ₁₂ supplement. |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Phosphoroua | Milk and milk productn, meet, poeltry, fish, eggs, ehole grain cereala, legumes |
| Iodine | Seafoodn, iodized nalt |
| Mageezium | Legumes, ehole greie cereala, milk, maat, eutn, seafood, egge, green vegetebles |
| Zinc | Meet, liver, eggs, oysters, other seafoodn, milk, ehola grein cereala |

FROM A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

=====

WHAT DO THEY DO ?

=====

PROTEIN Constitutes part of the structure of every cell, such as muscle, blood and bone; supports groeth and maintains healty body cells.

VITAMIN A Aenists formation and maintenance of skin and mucoes membrenes that line the body cavitiem and tractn, such as nanaal passagas and intastinal tract, thus increasing resintance to infection..

VITAMIN C Forms cementing substances, such as collagen, that hold body cells together, thus increasing strengthening blood vessefs, hantening heeling of eoundn and bonen and increasing resintance to infection.

THIAMINE (B₁) Aids in utilization of energy. Promotes healthy skin and eyes.

NIACIN Aids in utilization of energy. Aids digestion and fosters normal appatita.

CALCIUM Combinen eith other minerals eithin s protein framework to give structure and strength to bones and teeth.

IRON Combines eith protein to form hemoglobin, the red substance in blood that carries oxygen to and carbon dioxide from the celln. Prevents nutritional enemia and its accompanying fetigua. Increeas rasistance to infaction,

VITAMIN D Halps absorb calcium from the digastive tract and buildn celcium and phosphorous into bone.

VITAMIN E Protects Vitamin A and unsaturated fatty acids from destruction by oxygen. Exact biochemical mechanism by which it functions still unknown.

VITAMIN B₆ Assists in red blood cell regeneration. Helps regulate the use of protein, fat and carbohydrates.

FOLIC ACID Assists in normal blood formation, helps enzyme and other biochemical systems function.

VITAMIN B₁₂ Assists in the maintenance of nerve tissues and normal blood formation.

PHOSPHOROUS Combines with calcium to give bones and teeth strength, helps regulate many internal activities of the body.

IODINE Helps regulate the rate at which the body uses energy.

MAGNESIUM Helps regulate the use of carbohydrates and production of energy within the cells. Helps nerves and muscles.

ZINC Becomes part of several enzymes and insulin.

=====
Although this information came from charts prepared for humans, vitamin content is the same in the foods we present to our birds as in the foods we eat and with a few minor differences, as are their needs.

=====
[The Editor again: If your finches and softbills are not getting sufficient amounts of these nutrients because they're not eating oysters or liver (for instance) you should be adding supplements in the form of a broad spectrum, high potency, prepared vitamin/mineral/amino acid product. Read the label on the supplement that you are using. It SHOULD have a guaranteed analysis and that should include ALL of these elements, unless you're SURE that their food intake includes sufficient amounts of these elements. It is generally accepted that adding supplements to the water is NOT satisfactory for birds. The additions change the taste so they don't drink enough. The additions make the water more likely to harbor and to grow bacteria and other pathogenic organisms. A palatable, soluble supplement added to or sprinkled on a soft food product is more likely to be eaten and less likely to foster harmful organisms.

=====

THE CARIBBEAN REGION! A NEW NFSS REGION!

**AND AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEWEST
REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT**

by Brenda Geesey

=====

One of the most pleasurable experiences of my years in NFSS occurred last December when I was invited to judge the First National Bird Show of Puerto Rico. Of course, the weather was wonderful and the island is very beautiful but the very best part of the trip was meeting the warm and wonderful people of the Organizacion Puertorriquena de Aves Exoticas, Inc.

Rafael (Pile) Suarez, one of founders and one of the very competent primary organizers of the show; Julio Mateo, the very gracious current President who invited us to his house and wstounded us with his collection of birds; Anacelis Gordian, our sweet and caring hostess at the banquet and in the show hall, Julio Rivera, President in 1992 who presided with grace and skill at the show; Rich "Sunshine" Morelee, of Sunshine Tours, our charming guide who has spent so much time introducing us to the fabulous natural beauties of the island; and my very efficient head steward and delightful traveling companion, Alfredo Bruguera. If I had four more pages to fill I could go on and on about how kind and pleasant all of the people are...Alberto, Lulu, Carlos, Dwight, Lucie, Nelson, Eliazio, and many others who, I hope, are not offended that their names are not mentioned.

Many of the bird keepers that we met have skills and experience far beyond ours and knowledge that exceeds ours by a great deal. The club's monthly newsletter carries articles about genetics and other subjects that are very advanced. The love that the members have for their birds and the degree of trouble that they go to to take care of them is very impressive.

NFSS now has many, many members on the island and I agreed with Alfredo that it is time to have a new region and a new regional vice-president and I was pleased when he offered to serve in that capacity. He is a finch specialist whose knowledge is very deep, and his devotion to his birds. In the recent "board meeting by mail" the members of the Board agreed and so NFSS has a new region and our new Regional Vice-President is:

Alfredo M. Bruguera
Lima Street, B-3
Daisy Gardens
Guaynabo PR 00969
(889) 799 1862

NFSS Regional Vice-President
Cwribbejn Region
NFSS Region 7

Please welcome him and please join us in
Puerto Rico this December for the Second
National Show.

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FINCHSAVE REPORT

by Linda Oja

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Participation in the FINCHSAVE program has increased tremendously. We presently have one or more of the following species enrolled in the program.

SOFTBILLS

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Mynah: India Hill, Pagoda, Wali and Dumonte | |
| White-eye (Zoeterope) | Laughing Kookaburra |
| Silver-eared Noddy | Lilac-breasted Noddy |
| Von Der Dacken Hornbill | Pahin Webin |

FINCHES

| | |
|--|---|
| Waxbill: Blue-capped, Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu, Black-cheeked, Orange-cheeked, Red-eared, Strawberry, Lavender, Violet-eared, St. Helena, Yellow-bellied, Gold-breasted | |
| Purple Grenadier | Diamond Sparrow |
| Green Avadavat | Owl Finch |
| Peter's Tainpet | Star Finch |
| Green Tainepot | Red-headed Parrot Finch |
| Malbe Finch | Blue-faced Parrot Finch |
| Yellow-bellied Pytilia | Pintailed Non-pariel |
| Aurora | Siberian Goldfinch |
| Green Singer, Grey Singer | Brazilian Cardinal |
| Scaly-crowned Weaver | Black-crested Finch |
| Rufous-necked Weaver | Green Siskin |
| Queen and Paradise Whydahs | Black and White, Rufous-backed and Moluccan Manakin |
| Catbird, Red-headed Finch | |
| Red-breasted Bluebill | African and Indian Silverbill |
| Cyanops-breasted Red Bunting | |

(Please pardon me Linda, for scrambling your list in the interest of saving space. The Editor.)

There are 36 participants as of July 1993 with 55 different species for a total of more than 600 birds nationwide in the program.

Perhaps a little history would be appropriate for the newer members of NFSS. The founders and leaders of the National Finch and Softbill Society wanted to do more than just set up an organization for finch fanciers. At the 1987 AFA Convention Hal Koontz, the late Dr. Yel Claar, Norman Kepechy and William Parlee, acting as the FINCHSAVE Committee, completed the structure of its Breeding Specialist Program. In 1988, the program was implemented for members "who wanted to give something back to aviculture".

Initially there were many requirements and stipulations that were well intentioned but kept many interested individuals from participating. With changes in management and structure FINCHSAVE has become a successful breeding program which is serving as a model for others to follow.

Some of the changes which have helped the program grow include:

- Distribution of the workload of the Director. Members of the Peninsula Cage Bird Society and FINCHSAVE participants are making significant contributions relative to policy, and working on projects such as logo, nursery development and slide presentation/publicity.
- Relaxation of the requirements concerning numbers of pairs and elimination of fees.
- Emphasis on education of participants to become more knowledgeable in keeping and branding their species.
- Developing networks to buy and sell birds for brooding.
- Publishing of periodic newsletter to keep participants informed and exchange information.
- An active FINCHSAVE Committee of NFSS Board and non-board members.

The requirements that remain are necessary in order for us to qualify as a Cooperative Breeding Program and be recognized by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service so that we may be allowed to import species for specific breeding purposes. We are willing to make compromises on the banding requirement and we have some useful information on methods of close-banding chicks without disturbing the nest.

We've decided to recommend rather than require a 3 pair minimum as there are still many species needed in the program.

Participants in The FINCHSAVE Program must:

- be members in good standing of The National Finch and Softbill Society.
- agree to close-band chicks with the appropriate size NFSS bands.
- agree to complete a brief annual report so progress can be monitored.

Starting with a minimum of 3 pairs (unrelated, if possible) of each species of finch or softbill is still advised but exceptions can be made if the species is difficult to obtain or very expensive (\$298 a pair or more). You may participate with more than one species.

No Zebra, Societies, Goldfinches, Jays, Shuftails or hybrids are admitted to the FINCHSAVE Program. Those birds are either plentiful and/or their genetic purity is questionable.

For information on participating, write or call:

Linda Ojn, FINCHSAVE Director
268 Exeter Road
Newport News VA 23692
(804) 564 1581

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FINCHSAVE BREEDING SUCCESSES 1992

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THE 1992 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINCHSAVE PARTICIPANTS INDICATES SUCCESS IN

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| DIAMOND SPURROW | STEGANAPLEURA GUTTATA |
| OWL (DICRENO) FINCH | PEOPHILA DICRENOVI |
| BLUE-FACED PARROT FINCH | ERYTHRNA TRICHNOA |
| RED-HEADED PARROT FINCH | ERYTHRNA PSITTACEA |
| PINTAILED NONPARIEL | ERYTHRNA PHASINA |
| GOLD-BREASTED WAXBILL | ESTRILBA SUBFLAVA SUBFLAVA |
| RED-CHEEK CORDON BLEU | URAEGINTHUS DENGALUS |
| STRAWBERRY FINCH | ANANDAUA ARANDAYA |
| RED-BREASTED BLUEBILL | SPERNAPRAGA HAENATINA |
| CUTTHROAT | ARANDINA FASCIATA |
| YELLOW-RINGED PYTILIA | PYTILIA HYPOGRAMMICA |
| AURORA (CRIMSON-RINGED) | PYTILIA PHOENICOPTERA |
| GREEN SINGING FINCH | SEMINUS MOZARDICUS |
| SCALY-CROWNED WEAVER | SPOROPIPES SQUAMIFRONS |
| SILVER-EARED NESTIA | LEIOTHRIX ARGENTAUROS |
| DUMONT'S MYNNA | MINO DUMONTI |
| BLACK AND WHITE NANNIKIN | LONGCHURA STRIATA |
| MOLUCCAN NANNIKIN | LONGCHURA BOLLUCA |
| INDIAN SILVERDILL | LONGCHURA BALADARICA |
| AFRICAN SILVERDILL | LONGCHURA CANTANS |
| BLACK CHESTED FINCH | LOPROSPINGUS PUSILLUS |
| BRAZILIAN CARDINAL | PAROARIA COCONATA |

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS
TO THE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE PRESERVING THESE SPECIES
FOR THEIR FUTURE AND FOR OURS.

**NOBODY MADE A GREATER
MISTAKE THAN HE WHO DID
NOTHING BECAUSE HE
COULD ONLY DO A LITTLE.**

Edmund Burke, 1729-1797, English orator, statesman

You can make a difference

=====

SO YOU WANT TO SHOW YOUR BIRD?

=====

by Malinda Pope

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[Editor's note: When I read this article in the terrific Newsletter of the Greater Brandon Avian Society my first thought was that I wanted to reprint it here. I called Malinda and she was enthusiastically willing to share her knowledge with NFSS members. Malinda is the current president of the American Cockatiel Society and she and Charlie Kruger, the current president of the National Cockatiel Society are effectively working to consolidate the skills and energies of cockatiel breeders and exhibitors. I appreciate her giving permission for this reprint.]

I love bird shows...that's one of the primary reasons I put up with seed covered floors, ventilation systems that are clogged with down feathers, dirty feed dishes and the constant chatter of a flock of birds that need attention EVERY day. I have been known to attend a show without bringing any birds. However, most of the fun of a show comes from exhibiting...and to have any hope of success, there is a certain amount of preparation that needs to take place.

Every national society has certain qualities or traits that it looks for in its "ideal" bird. Most of these qualities are predetermined by genetics and cannot be altered. However, there are many things that a potential exhibitor can do in order to prepare a bird for exhibiting.

1. Eight to ten weeks before "showtime" examine the bird closely. If tail feathers are rough or broken, remove them. Some exhibitors remove all the tail feathers at one time. That way, there is less of a chance that a bird will "drop" a crucial feather just before the show.

2. If you are going to be training more than one bird, separate them according to sex. Place your "showbirds" in a cage with an perch room as possible. With cockatiels, I put no more than four birds in a cage 2' x 2' x 4' in size. If possible, I use flight cages. Some exhibitors feel that smaller cages are better since it restricts flying and the bird can gain a little weight before the show.

3. Since you have (hopefully) been feeding a good diet, now is the time to supplement in preparation for show season. Corn is great. It can be purchased from an animal feed store as whole grain, dry corn. Cook for about 12 hours on low, in a crock pot. Wheat bread, oat groats, raw shelled peanuts, hemp and sprouted millet are all good additions to the diet. Now is the time to give your birds a little "extra" of the special foods that they like. The added weight will help them handle the stresses of exhibition.

4. Begin training and conditioning no later than July for the fall show. Start by putting your bird in the cage you will use every four or five

days. Have visitors, neighbors, etc., talk to the bird. Your bird will not be familiar with the judge and must learn to be calm around strangers. Increase the number of days in the show cage to three times a week until you feel that the bird is comfortable. When trained, you will only need to return the bird to its show cage once or twice a week until the show. The week before the show, do not show train your bird. He should be in his regular cage putting on weight.

5. About six weeks before the first show, start misting your bird with tepid water until it is soaked. Spray the bird several times a week until the water begins to bend up and roll off the feathers. Water will not soak into the feathers of a conditioned bird. Once conditioned, continue to mist your bird two or three times a week.

6. The week before the show, check your bird for overgrown nails and rough beaks. Clip nails end smooth with a fingernail file. Rough beaks can also be smoothed with a small file. Some exhibitors will also use a drop of baby oil, smoothed over the beak, prior to a show.

7. If your bird is to be shown in a standardized show cage, as with cockatiels and budgies, try to locate one ahead of time. If you do not have access to such a cage, many divisions will accept any clean (preferably flint-topped...for stacking) cage that is appropriate for the particular type of bird. Remove any toys and extra perches (one or two perches running from front to back is all that is usually necessary). Place a layer of seed or appropriate feed mix in the bottom of the cage. Make sure that the cage perches and any water containers are CLEAN! It is probably best to contact the show chairman for the show you wish to attend concerning show cage requirements.

If you feel that you have a continued interest in exhibiting your birds it is best to join organized societies that are specific to your interests. These societies will be able to provide additional resources concerning individual standards and requirements for your own type of bird. Take advantage of this information, along with that gained from other exhibitors.

Come to the shows and join us in the fun !

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SUPPORT
FINCHSAVE

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B I G N E W S ! !

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We are closer to being able to use the United States Postal Service's Express Mail Service to ship finches!

Mr. George P. Drewry, Director of Research and Development
Horizon Micro-Environments
1081 Industrial Drive
Watkinsville GA 39677

in a letter to the National Finch and Softbill Society says:

"We are a research and development company specializing in microbial barrier for animal, plant, and tissue culture transportation. Our work is supported by contracts with private industry and grants from the National Institutes of Health.

We have recently completed contract testing of cell culture devices being used for bone marrow studies aboard the space shuttle. The products we are most noted for, though, are the Bird M.E.S.T.s, the natural environmentally-secure transporters. These shipping containers are for shipping live birds primarily through Express Mail within the United States Postal Service.

Although we produce viral-proof containers for Express Mail, we also design them in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) rules and guidelines. They are also inspected and regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The reason why I am contacting your association is to insure that our immediate product is perfectly suited to the professionals. This project is producing a shipping container for the order Passeriformes.

My questions to you are contingent to our product's success. Should we continue our plans to build this box from inexpensive cardboard, or from sturdy plastics in order to include Poittacines? Could the market support a biologically-secure container just for Passeriformes?

Our container will be viral-proof and will have an ample airflow. Should we supply this feature built into the container or only as an option? This should not affect the price but by very little.

Should we devote much time and effort to expand the rules and regulations of the U. S. Postal Service's Express Mail to include Passeriformes? Express Mail is one-fifth the price of air-freight!

How should Horizon market and advertise this product? What journals do you prefer and does your society have a newsletter with which we could advertise? Is there a price barrier for a shipping container such as this? What boxes do you currently use? When do you ship?

I would appreciate any response to my questions by letter or by calling me toll-free at 1-800-443-2498. The aviculture industry is depending on

societies each as years to help expand itself into greater markets by keeping safety and cost controls foremost in mind."

=====

Since this letter I have written to Mr. Dreaury and spoken to him on the phone several times. Recently he sent a "prototype" shipping box for me to inspect and asked for comments on it. I told him that I think it is WONDERFUL!

I am very, very impressed with the engineering ability that has gone into this design. The box is made of strong corrugated cardboard. It is about 12" long by 16" wide by 11" tall. It is divided into two compartments, each about 8" by 12" and each has a circular entrance door, near the bottom with a "curtain" on the inside to prevent escape while loading. These doors are closed securely with tight fitting plastic circular "lid" type closures. On two sides the box is pierced with multiple small holes, just large enough to pass a pencil through. The top half of each 12" side slants inward and locks together in the center of the top. They lock down into projecting triangular "rings" on the sides to securely hold it closed. These "rings" also serve another important purpose as they would prevent any other box or package from being wedged against this one in a way that would block air circulation. On the slanted sides there are also rectangular openings covered on the inside by screening that would ensure ventilation and since they are near the top would assist in venting warm air in warm weather. These are covered on the outside by notched cardboard flaps that can be secured closed to keep in heat in cooler weather shipping.

If you are getting the idea that the design is complex - you're right! However, it is simple to use and we have used it to transport birds on several trips in the car and it is convenient and easy to use and accommodates 6 to 8 finches in each side with comfort. Since the interior is rather dim when closed they ride quietly with very little fuss or distress.

My only suggestions for additions are for a perch to span the 12" length inside each half of the box and for something (we used several layers of paper towels) on the floor to give better traction, soak up spills and keep the interior cleaner for the next use. These boxes are strong enough to use again and again and I am delighted to have this one.

I told Mr. Dreaury that I will do anything to assist in getting the U.S.P.S. regulations to include Passeriformes among the birds that are now permitted to be shipped by Express Mail. I have "volunteered" my finches to take the first trips (test pilots) and I have offered space on the NFSS tables at the KAYTEE Great American Bird Show and at the National Cage Bird Show so that this GREAT new product can be shown to the public. I think they will retail for under \$15 each - a real bargain and a MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN SHIPPING FINCHES !!

Contact Mr. Dreaury with your opinions - we need to let him know that we will buy and use his product so his efforts will be worthwhile to him! This box, if accepted for Passeriformes by the U.S.P.S. will revolutionize shipping.

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THE CRIMSON BREASTED BLUE-BILL
Spermophaga haematina

by **Kanneth Archar**

=====

The *Spermophaga haematina* is a bird about the size of a sparrow. Originally they come from west central Africa. The male is blue/black with a bright red throat, breast and flanks. His bill is a pearly blue color with a reddish tip. When first received, he made very quiet chirping sounds. As he became more familiar with his surroundings he became louder. His alarm call is a very long tweep which starts low and goes higher in pitch and gets louder. He was never seen eating, but had finch seed, spray millet, meal worms, hard boiled egg, fruits and vegetables on a daily basis, grit, crushed cuttlebone, a color food and a food supplement. No vitamins were given. A large bowl of water was provided for bathing and drinking and he bathed at least once a day.

I kept a male red-breasted for about one year. He was kept out of doors April to November 1992. He was brought inside and placed in an aviary 5' by 5' and 7' tall. He had eight other finches as companions. He paired up with an extra female Fire finch with a crippled foot. They sat next to each other, preened and he protected her whenever I entered the aviary. She never went to the nests he built.

The aviary had a small ficus tree, a schefflera tree and a large monster. They were two Vitelites and 2 cool white fluorescent bulbs in the aviary which were on timers. The water dish was on the floor and the feeding station was on a shelf. The floor was covered with hay. The hay consisted of field grasses, weeds, clover and small twigs.

During the winter of 1992 to the spring of 1993, he built four nests. Each nest was better than the previously built nest, none was destroyed, only abandoned. The nests were the size of a soccer ball but looked like clumps of hay on the floor. They were built slowly and were not obvious to the casual observer. The outside was made of coarse grasses, twigs and stems. They were woven and interspersed in a random pattern, the strength and complexity became apparent upon study on how difficult the nests were to tear apart. The entrance was about one and one-half inches in diameter and four inches deep. The nesting chamber was the size of a softball and was lined with fine grasses, but no feathers, plants or other materials. In the last two nests he made a very definite path to the entrance which had feathers in the path pointing toward the entrance. He would guard the entrance to his nests and fly only when I would come close to the aviary. His actions reminded me of a bower bird and the weaving of a weaver bird though not as sophisticated as Taveta Weavers. Upon entering the bird room in the evenings he would often fly up from a low perch. I do not know if he slept in the nest or low in the plants. He did spend much of his time near the floor flying to the top of the aviary only when



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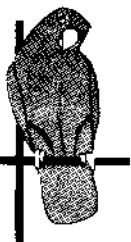
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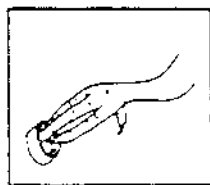
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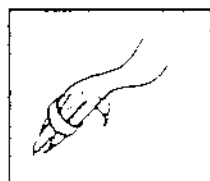
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Leg banding Procedure

courtesy of the
NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY



The most important thing to remember when banding chicks is to do it over a counter or table so if the chick is dropped it doesn't fall to the floor. The age to band varies between species but is generally between 5 and 10 days. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come together) and the size of the band.



Have the bands, a toothpick (or other small blunt instrument) and some lubricant ready. Be sure you have the bands "right side up" for easier reading.



The band is generally placed on the birds' right leg. Banding just before the parents go to roost in the evening will prevent them from picking at the band. By the next morning they will have forgotten about it.



Hold the chick firmly but in such a way as to not cut off its breathing end so that you don't harm it. Remember, their bodies cannot tolerate compression. Put a little bit of lubricant on the chicks' foot and slide the band over the three front toes and finally over the ankle joint. The back toe will probably have to be gently pried out from under the band with a toothpick. The band now should be in the proper location between the ankle and the elbow joints.



Check on the chick the next few days to be sure that the band has not slipped off and that there are no chafe or irritation on the foot or leg.

GUIDE TO ORDERING 1991 NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY CLOSED LEG BANDS

Thanks to the work done by the Band Size Committee we are able to offer an expanded list of suggested sizes for more species of finches and softbills. We're hoping to get more updates from societies overseas in 1991. We also welcome members suggestions for the list.

SIZE TO FIT LEGS OF:

-
- A Small Maxbills, Owls, Strawberry, Orange-cheeks, Red-ears, Gold-breasted, Quail Finch.
-
- B Cordon Bleu, Black-cheeked Maxbills, Fire, Cuban Melodious, Olive, Lavenders, Rufous-backed Mannikin and others.
-
- C Blue Caps, Green Singers, Silverbills, Stars, Shafttails, Cherry, Red-headed Parrot, Painted, Heck's, Pileated, Grey Singers, Pytilias, Bronze-wing and Black and White Mannikin.
-
- D Zebras, Gouldians, Pictorellas, Yellow-rumps, Chestnut-breasted, Blue-faced Parrot, Pintail Nonpareil, most other Parrot finches, most smaller Mannikins and most Twin Spots.
-
- E Society, Spice, Siskins, Golden Song Sparrows, Diamond Sparrows, Nuns, Peter's Twin Spots and Black Crested Finches.
-
- G Magpie Mannikins, and other large Mannikins, European Goldfinch and small Tanagers.
-
- J Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias and other small softbills.
-
- K Java Rice, Shama Thrush, Saffron and Red-crested Cardinal.
-
- L Diamond Doves, other small doves, Quail and other softbills.
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| SIZE | # OF STRINGS | SIZE | # OF STRINGS |
|------|--------------|------|--------------|
| A | _____ | G | _____ |
| B | _____ | J | _____ |
| C | _____ | K | _____ |
| O | _____ | L | _____ |
| E | _____ | | |

See expanded list of sizes recommended for particular species on previous page.

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STREET _____

CITY _____

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THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

1993 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

There are only two requirements that your club will have to meet.

- * Select a delegate to represent your club in dealing with NFS. That delegate must be an individual member of NFS who is willing to keep in touch with the Home Office and supply information on your show date, etc.
- * Send the appropriate fee, the Delegate Information Form, and this form to the address at the bottom by June 30, 1993

_____ Service/Breeder Award Plaque - \$25.00

This is designed for clubs that do not have shows. Your benefits include all the educational publications of the society. Also, in October of your affiliation year, you will receive a beautiful 7" x 9" plaque for your club. This plaque can be a service or breeder award for one of your members. (Need not be an NFS Member.) Requests for the wording on the plaque must be received by NFS no later than June 30, 1993.

_____ Best In Show Plaque - \$25.00

A 7" x 9" plaque that is given to the Best Finch or Softbill in Division at your show.

_____ Second Best In Show Plaque - \$25.00

A 6" x 8" plaque that is given to the Second Best Finch or Softbill in Division at your show.

_____ Third Best In Show Plaque - \$25.00

A 6" x 8" plaque that is given to the Third Best Finch or Softbill in Division at your show.

_____ Best Softbill in Show Plaque - \$25.00

A 6" x 8" plaque that is given to the Best Softbill in Division at your show.

_____ Rosettes - \$25.00

10 long streamer rosettes for the ten best Finches or Softbills in Division, plus 3 rosettes for the three best Unflighted in Division at your show.

Please place a check mark with the award(s) your club wants to order and send this application, along with a check for the proper amount made payable to NFS, to: The National Finch and Softbill Society, Affiliation Director, c/o Russell A. Armitage, Jr., 345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

CLUB NAME: _____

DELEGATE'S NAME: _____

frightened.

I wanted to find a mate for him but could not locate a hen. One day I received a phone call for someone looking for a male for his two hens. I gladly sent him to a new home.

There is not much written about Red-breasted Blue-bills. Based on readings and experience I would recommend them. They are nervous, fast flying birds who need room to fly. My mate never bothered any of his finch companions. They do require tree type plants and they on the floor eat very much appreciated. They need adequate water for bathing and a good varied diet. They are beautifully colored, peaceful and have a pleasant but strong song.

Reference

Geodwin, Derek. (1982). Estrildid Finches of the World. New York: Cornell University Press.

=====

ARE YOU A BIT TIMID ABOUT WRITING ?

Jon Hoffman, our Second Vice President, and well-known BIRD TALK columnist, has volunteered to help you! In a letter to me Jon wrote, "since some people are shy about writing and aren't comfortable about their ability to write, perhaps they could submit the outline or sketch of what they want to say, and then I can put it into an edited-form of article for them. The procedure might be that a breeder sends me the information or calls me to discuss what they want to say. I then write it up and it goes back to the breeder for approval. The breeder makes notes of any clarifications or requests for changes and sends it back to me. I put it into a final form and send it to the bulletin editor for publication."

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This is a very generous offer and I hope many members who have hesitated to write for the bulletin will be contacting you soon Jon! Thanks. The Editor.
Send your ideas to Jon at:

1226 S. 6th Street
Louisville, KY 40203

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**A REPLY TO "HAND-RAISING A
GOULDIAN FINCH" MAY/JUNE ISSUE**

by Val Baker

=====

I found the article very informative. Only one item struck me as a misperception - "It is well known from both anecdotal reports and people's direct experience that the beautiful Gouldian finches (*Peophila gouldii*) do NOT make good parents". I have been raising Gouldian finches for over 7 years as a hobby and for my own enjoyment. I have found my Gouldian finches to be excellent parents. Occasionally I have received a Gouldian that does not have the parenting instinct. Each time this has happened, I have gone back to the previous owner and have discovered that this bird was fostered. However, I have been able to get these birds to raise their young after a couple of clutches. How? First, I make sure I mate it with a bird that I know was raised by its' parents. Second, I try to help out when the chicks are first hatched. If I assist in the feeding for the first 3 to 5 days, the parents usually take over from that point on and raise the chicks to maturity. The following clutches are usually done completely by the parents.

Not only do I let the parents raise the chicks, I have started to let the chicks from a previous clutch stay in the cage with the parents even when the next clutch has been laid. If you have a large enough cage for this, it is worth the time and effort. I have seen the older chicks help the parents feed in the nest and when the new clutch has fledged.

Please understand, I have lost a few clutches trying to make the parents raise their own young. It is very heartbreaking. But I did not have anyone to foster the youngsters with nor an incubator. Overall, I find watching the parents raise their young and seeing the older clutch help with the newer chicks very gratifying. Maybe next time you have some Gouldians, you will let them try to raise a clutch or two. It's worthwhile.

=====

Thanks for writing Val. Although this is your first submission to the Bulletin it's great and I hope we'll have more. Your style is nice, your typing is perfect and your observations of the Gouldian is informative. Thanks. The Editor.

=====

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A CORRECTION

by Les Gibson

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(From a letter to the Editor.)

There was a typo in the article "the Easy Approach to Nutrition and Raising Waxbills" in the May/June Bulletin Issue - the first I have seen. (Thanks Les.) Page 32, 3rd line from the bottom should have read... "the letter two of more limited amino acids than insect protein. This was an unfortunate omission as it completely reversed the meaning. In retrospect, it was poor phrasology and I should have said "of fewer kinds of amino acids".

You can also add after ...insect protein... "Seeds are of course especially concentrated, and contain much higher percentages of nutrients than fruits and leaves."

Also, I have since discovered that Fleischmann's margarine contains Vitamin D (and I have been using it) so you could also mention it (credit where credit is due!).

=====



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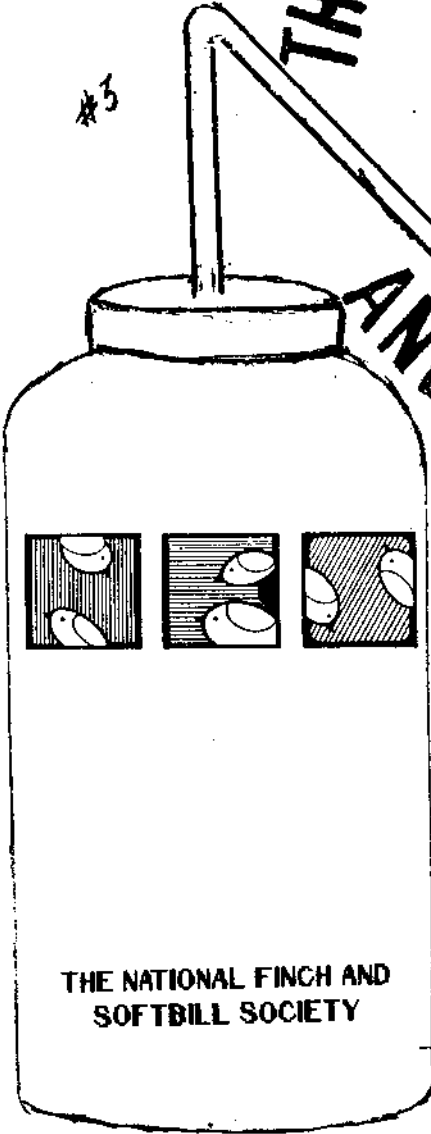
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#2. This is the design that is approximately 10" wide on the new T-shirts. The Shafttail is white, outlined in black, red beak and legs and the lettering is blue. Sharp! The shirts are 100% cotton. Sizes M, L, XL a few XXL. \$15.00.

#3. Handy water bottle. Makes it easy to refill those show cage water cups. Keeps water from home fresh while you travel. Holds 18 oz. NFS logo on both sides. Clear plastic. \$6.00

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

AND...Bruce, the cut and paste master, got them all on one page! Hooray! The Editor.

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WANTED: To trade or buy new blood, Blue faced parrot finches. Jodie Davis, (VA) (703) 754-9643.

WANTED: Golden Song Sparrows, Gold breasted Ounting cocke, Sylvia (VA) (703) 347 7249.

WANTED: Mele Green Twinapote. Ken or Carol Miller, (FL) (913) 971 1190.

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1. Our bi-monthly Bulletin connects you with other finch and softbill keepers around the country. It includes articles on diet, breeding, management and the experiences of other aviculturists. NFS keeps you abreast of the news on legislation.
2. NFS has a program named "FINCHSAVE". The goal is to establish and maintain all finch and softbill species in American aviculture. All members are encouraged to enhance the propagation of finches and softbills.
3. NFS maintains an annual census that can connect you with other breeders for the purpose of exchanging information or breeding stock.
4. NFS offers, to members, closed, traceable, leg bands.
5. NFS has an affiliation program. Your club can affiliate and receive plaques and rosettes as show awards. Non-show clubs can affiliate and receive service awards for members. Speakers are available, with slide programs that feature finches and softbills.
6. Each year NFS holds a National show. All members are encouraged to attend and participate. An International Patronage Exchange brings awards from foreign countries.
7. NFS has a Judges Panel, composed of individuals who have completed the apprenticeship program. All judge by the NFS Standard of Judging, are approved by the Board of Directors and are available to local clubs.
8. NFS has established exhibition standards for; Cordon Bleu Waxbills, Gouldians, Green Singing Finches, Java Rice Birds, Shafttails, Society Finches and Zebra Finch Standards. Lavenders, Star Finches, Fire Finchs, Diamond Sparrows and Pekin Robin Standards are now "in the works".
9. NFS sponsors a "Championship Exhibitor" award program and a "Championship Bird" program. Both reward high achievements on the show bench.
11. "Finchshop", the sales division, offers various items for sale to members. The profits are used to support the Society's other programs.

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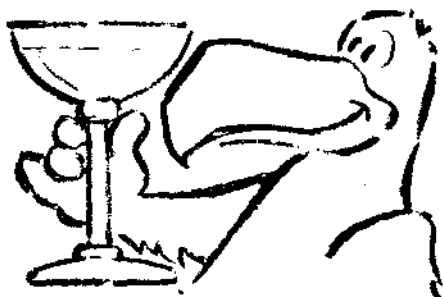
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