

The NFSS Bulletin

Vol. 13 No. 5



National Finch & Softbill Society

September - October 1996



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Thank you to you all!!

Editorial Policy/Disclaimer

The NFSS Bulletin is published bi-monthly by the National Finch and Softbill Society. The following deadlines normally apply to all aspects of the *Bulletin*: 2/01, 4/01, 6/01, 8/01, 10/01, 12/01. Question? Just call!

NFSS members are encouraged to submit articles, drawings and photographs. NFSS reserves the right to edit and/or reject all editorial, photographic and advertising material submitted to *The NFSS Bulletin* for publication. Photographs, when submitted, shall become the sole property of NFSS and shall be subject to use in any and all NFSS programs. We will return them to you after use, if requested.

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In this issue:

This month's *Bulletin* has a couple of articles from other continents. One of them is an excellent article on the Pintail Parrot Finch (or Nonpareil), which comes to us from the *Estrildian*, a publication from Great Britain. The other article is from Australia's *Finch News*. We have had several superb articles from our own Tim Roche concerning Eurasian Finches, this month we have an article on the Oriental Greenfinch by an Australian Aviculturist.

We also have a very informative article from Mr. Castaner in "Your Bird's Health" about antibiotics. In addition there is a report on the first ever, and apparently highly successful Zebra and Society Finch Show. Another learning tale from a member in "Lessons from Fellow Aviculturists". And finally this month's Softbill article is on the Barbets.

Thank you to all of our contributors! The *Bulletin* needs articles, especially some on softbill species, accidents or things you have learned not to do in your aviary and would help prevent others from repeating the mistake, or how about just telling us about your aviary or aviaries (include photos). If you have any questions, comments, etc., about *The Bulletin*, you may contact me at the Home Office address.



**Deadline for the next issue is
November 1st**

The NFSS Bulletin

Vol. 13, No. 5
September—October 1996

Features

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| 9 | The Oriental Greenfinch | <i>Sean Thouard</i> |
| 13 | Antibiotics Used For Finches | <i>Ron Castaner</i> |
| 19 | A Lesson Learned | <i>Patrick F. Goonan</i> |
| 23 | Pintailed Parrot-finch | <i>Robin Restall</i> |
| 35 | Barbets | <i>Robert Petrie</i> |
| 37 | The First Annual All Zebra & Society Finch Show | <i>Nita Haas</i> |

Departments

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| In This Issue | 1 |
| NFSS News & Notes | 4 |
| Flocking Together: Q & A 's | 8 |
| Changing Your Address? | 47 |
| FINCHSHOP - The NFSS Store | 50 |
| NFSS Leg Band Sizes | 51 |
| NFSS Band Order Form | 52 |
| NFSS Leg Banding Procedure | 53 |
| Classified Ads | 54 |
| <i>Bulletin</i> Advertising Rates | 55 |
| Membership Application | 56 |

Directories

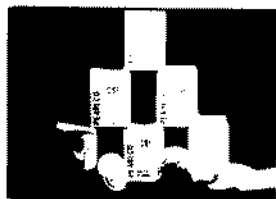
- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Board of Directors - Phone numbers | <i>Inside Front Cover</i> |
| - Mailing Addresses | 7 |
| Affiliates, Delegates and Shows | 43 |
| Show Dates | 48 |
| NFSS Panel of Judges | <i>Inside Back Cover</i> |

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NFSS News & Notes

Compiled by NFSS Directors

News From Region #2

by Dale Laird

The Southeastern Regional NFSS show hosted by the Aviary and Cage Bird Society of South Florida was a huge success. A gorgeous Owl Finch exhibited by Carrie Efstathion took the day. Charlie Anchor was quoted as saying "When I first saw it I knew this was the bird to beat." Well none did. 168 birds later and Carrie's Owl Finch had won the show.

Following the Show a Short Meeting was conducted:

- Board members and Judges were introduced
- The winner of the show took a bow.
- Suggestions for the current Finch Standards being worked were requested to be mailed to Dr. Decoteau
- It was announced the Judges tests are being re-written by Committee members; Steve Hoppin (Chair) and Martha Wigmore, both Panel Judges.
- A status report on the Breeder Recognition Program was given.
- The NFSS fund raiser raffle was held.

The raffle table for the event was spectacular. Noreen Taylor donated a large basket of cheer and snacks. Phil and Denise Barth a framed and matted Eric Peake print plus a beautiful closed-banded 4 month old Blue and Gray Tanager (you will see that bird on the show bench next year). Ron Castaner donated a pair

of Cherry Finches. A pair of Yellow Goulds split to Blue & Silver, a pair of Yellow bodied, White-breasted Goulds, and a pair of White-breasted Goulds. We raised \$339.00 on the raffle table. We also had three new members sign up and one renewal (we gave away raffle tickets for memberships). The FINCHSHOP items did not sell that well but I think a lot of that was because everybody was putting their last dollar in the raffle jar. We will take the FINCHSHOP items to the Kaytee and try again.

This was a great first show of the season and hopefully the remaining 10 shows in our region will be every bit as successful.

From the Band Secretary

The band secretary has been very busy this year mailing out 358 orders containing 27,410 bands. One of the most frequently asked questions is "What size band to use on a particular species of bird?" If you have any input for additional species to add to the recommended list of the "what size band to use on a bird", send them to Eileen. She is working on updating the guide list.

The color for '97' is violet. The first orders of 1997 are arriving now. For those who like order the 1997 bands before the new year, please mark your order clearly for what year you would like. She also ordered 4 larger sizes to evaluate for use on Softbills.

News & Notes Con't

From Panel Judge Chairman

Congratulations are in store for Jacky Civitaresse and her Startling SPBE BRA 15"93". It is the first Softbill Champion in the History of NFSS.

Handfed as a very young chick by Jacky, this magnificent Startling made news throughout its career that was a bit different than most birds. It was twice the top Winning Bird at the Kaytee Great American Bird Show winning over two thousand dollars in prizes after it worked its way through the ranks under several different judges each year. It will perhaps be a long time before any bird repeats this Great American feat!

Board Meeting Minutes

For those of you wondering about the Board Meeting Minutes, I, the editor, have not received any of them for the year. As soon as I receive them they will be in the very next *Bulletin*. Any questions contact the current NFSS President.

Updates

In the article "Breeding Owl Finches", in the Jan/Feb 1996 issue of the *Bulletin*, there was a phone no. given for Avian Publications. That company has moved to Minnesota and their new no. is (612) 571-8902.

In the July/Aug 1996 issue of the *Bulletin*, in the article "European Yellowhammer" a reference was made to a classified ad for Penguin International. Their ad ran out prior to that issue, but for anyone desiring to contact them here is the address:
Penguin International
PO. Box 12345
Miami, FL 33101
Fax (305)381-6020

Additions & Corrections to the 1995 Annual Census

Addition:

Sally Hungington CA-2238
Blue-Capped Waxbill, Cordon-bleu (Red-cheeked) Waxbill, Diamond Sparrow, Fire Finch, Gold-breasted Waxbill, Lady Gouldians, Orange-cheek Waxbills, Owl Finches, Pearl-headed Amadine, Pekin Robin, Red-crested Cardinals, Red-headed Finches, Red-headed Parrot Finches, Society - White, English Zebra Finches.

Corrections:

◆ Change: Yellow Rumped Singing Finch (Gray Singing Finch) OH-2570. VA-1660, OR-1620.

To: Gray Singing Finch VA-1660, OR-1620.
Yellow Rumped Singing Serin OH-2570

◆ Yael Davenport's phone no. was listed incorrectly, the correct no. is (415)285-1858.

From the Editor's Desk...



In order for us humans to comprehend the world around us we need to organize all the pertinent information into workable groups. In the biological sciences this task is done by the Taxonomists. Not taxidermist, that someone who stuffs dead animals. A taxonomist is someone who studies the scientific classification of animals, that is taxonomy.

For example; there is an estimated almost 9000 species of birds in the world. (FYI - that is more than the total estimated number of mammals, reptiles and amphibians combined.) To memorize all those species and their characteristics would be an impossible task. So the ornithologists divides them into groups by their relatedness, that is; the amount of similar genes they share. A person concerned about zoogeography, like an ecologist, might group the various birds by the regions they inhabit: birds of grassland or forest, or maybe birds of Australia or Africa. We aviculturists, group them by the different care and management types they need in captivity.

As far as finches go, a common way to group them is to classify them as easy breeders, fair breeders, or difficult to breed, or something

similar to that. When I'm asked by new aviculturists about various species of finches I frequently list them that way and the vast majority of articles on finches do the very same practice.

But every time I hear or read those comments, I can't help but wonder if we are thinking incorrectly about the management of these birds or at-the-very-least we are showing people the wrong way to think of aviculture. Along time ago a wise old breeder once replied to me "We don't breed birds. Its physically impossible and if it wasn't it is definitely immoral. All we do is to provide the necessary requirements for the birds themselves to reproduce."

The one thing all living things share in common is the need to procreate. It is the one basic goal of all living creatures and the only time an animal is not concerned with reproducing is when condition are such that their offspring will not survive and possibly their own life will be in jeopardy. So to say that an animal is difficult to reproduce is in reality saying that the common captive environment for that species is not suitable. Once a person finds the correct housing for a species then suddenly they are no longer considered difficult, but instead easy for that person to breed. So maybe we all need to use a rating system based on the difficulty on housing and not breeding.

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Flocking Together...

Once again a member is inquiring about the mutations of Zebra Finches. I know there are some excellent, knowledgeable Zebra Finch breeders out there. how about helping the membership out and someone writing an article for us all?

❖ Can anyone please do an article on the color mutations of the Zebra Finch? I have specific questions concerning the difference between Fawn and Silver, the difference between Florida Fancy and Chestnut Flanked White, the difference between Black-breasted and Penguin. I have two babies that are light grey-brown but the feather margins of the wings are rimmed with a more red brown, giving a "lace-wing" look. Is this something new? or is it just a throw back from something else? It's quite pretty. Thank you.

John Floyd
7004 Demay St.
Riverview, FL 33569

Another member has a neat and unique request for the membership.

❖ I am in the process of writing a book on garden architecture. My firm has designed several private aviaries, but I need others to photograph for the book. I anticipate that one chapter will be dedicated to ornamental and working aviaries in private gardens. I would appreciate if you could place a notice in your Bulletin for aviaries to include in my book.

Send submission descriptions and photographs to:
R. Michael Lee, AIA
5504 Ardmore
Houston, TX 77021
phone (713)748-6973
Fax (713)748-6941

Want to correspond with fellow NFSS members who share your interest in a particular species or who may have met a challenge in their bird room similar to the one you are facing? Use the NFSS **Flocking Together** column to send out to the membership. Mail you request to the Editor, *The NFSS Bulletin*.

Readers who can help an inquirer, can write directly to the individual if their address is provided, or to the Editor for forwarding. If you wish, send a copy of your letter to the Editor for publication in the *Bulletin* where your ideas will reach many others with the same or similar needs.

The Oriental Greenfinch

(*Carduelis sinica*)

by Sean Thouard

This article originally appeared in the Finch News vol. 24 no. 8. The Finch News is the official publication of "The Queensland Finch Society Inc."

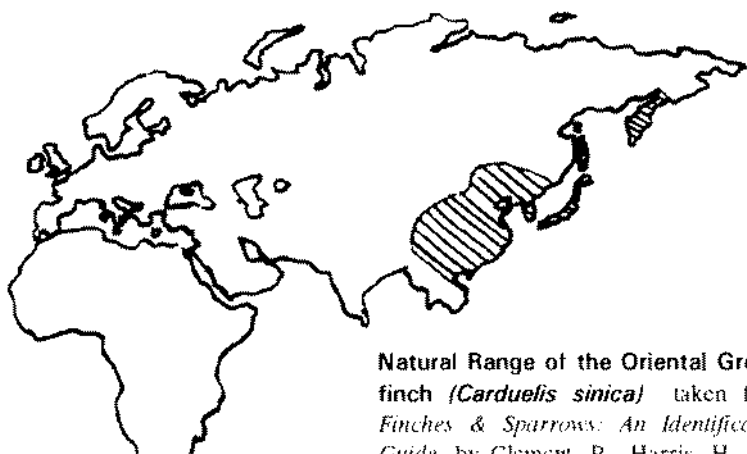
This is a finch that is uncommon and very few people know much about it. Particularly in Queensland where their numbers are low although they do exist in large numbers in the southern states. I do not claim to be an expert on this bird and these writings are about what I have learned in the past twelve months that I have kept these birds.

I obtained my original two young pairs about March last year and until the commencement of breeding they were housed together. When the cocks began to sing in August, there was some aggression between the two cocks, so then the two pairs were separated in late September. After doing this, the pair in aviary four were sitting within a week and the other pair in aviary one started sitting a week later. These nests were built in two days, they are cup shaped and are constructed mainly from coconut fibre and lined with a few feathers and cotton wool. The pair in aviary four nested in the brush (*Melaleuca irbyana*) at a height of 1.5 metres. In aviary one

the pair nested in a cup shaped cane basket, and by comparison to the other pair they built a very sparse nest with very little coconut fibre and a small quantity of cotton wool, the basket they chose was 2.2 metres high.

The hen in aviary four laid four eggs and began to incubate them for a total of fourteen days after that time three eggs hatched. Exactly fourteen days later the three youngsters left the nest. They flew as well as could be expected for a youngster and could get to the brush to roost at night. During their time in the nest I never saw the cock feed either the hen or the juveniles but this may be because I was not there at the right time. The pair in aviary one did the same except they had two eggs with two fledglings.

As you may gather, nest inspection is tolerated in fact I often had to chase the hen off to see what was going on. After the youngsters fledged I noticed the condition of both hens went down hill. By using a microscope I was able to identify the problem as coccidia probably brought about by the stress of nesting so after two days on Baycox both improved. Some two weeks later both pairs went to nest again with aviary four producing three more and aviary one had three infertile eggs. They fledged this lot on Boxing Day when the hen (aviary four) deteriorated quickly again, two days later she died. The cock then looked after them without any problems and fed



Natural Range of the Oriental Greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*) taken from *Finches & Sparrows: An Identification Guide*, by Clement, P., Harris, H., and Davis, J.

them until they were independent. The hen was thought to have died of a combination of stress and damaged internal organs caused by a previous infection of megabacteria that had been treated. The bird was cured earlier in the year after the megabacteria was detected but it would appear as the damage was done, but who could complain she produced six healthy birds.

As this was a new bird to me and the literature did not tell me everything I wanted to know so I fed everything, which I soon found out was a waste of time. Because as I found out to successfully rear them, all you need is plain finch mix, Black seeds (i.e., tonic mix, Niger, rape, etc..) and green feed. At all times they had white ants available which they rarely touched so I didn't consider live food important.

Some four months after they fledge, they are fully moulted into adult plumage and are easily sexable.

As with most birds it is always better to have several birds to compare when trying to sex them. Once the Oriental has obtained adult plumage, the difference is obvious, cocks are generally larger and brighter with the most obvious difference being the colour of the belly. The cocks have more yellow and very little white and the hens have a lot of white and less yellow. They are difficult to sex in their juvenile plumage with the only real indication being the difference in size.

The breeding season for me finished in later December as it was obvious by the fact the cocks stopped singing.

In the aviary they are an active bird if they sit still when you go near them I think they are probably dead. They have an unusual flight when they are not panicked, it is a

butterfly like flight in an up and down pattern and they also can fly straight and very fast when they are trying to get away. When you are trying to catch them, they have the habit of flying upwards and clinging to the wire on the roof upside down.

My birds were housed in two different types of aviaries. All my birds are housed in one complex which is built in a six by twelve metre garage with a six by three annex. Inside this shed is a total of 15 aviaries all of which run off the service lane. On one side is a set of nine 1.2 metre by 3.6 metre aviaries and on the other side of the lane is a set of seven aviaries all of which are 1.2 metres wide by either 2.4 metres or 1.2 metres. The internal frame work is made from 38mm by 75mm standard 2.4 metre pine studs of which over 160 were used. Each aviary has a full sized door that is 1.2 metres wide by 2.2 metres high, these doors are the same size as the service lane so when you open them up they block the lane off.

These doors are covered in 1/4 inch wire and attached to the inside is a feed shelf on which you find all seed, grits, livefood, greens and water, this allows for easy access. All the internal walls and ceilings are covered with solarweave that is stapled to the pine. The service lane has 1/4 inch wire on top of it to allow for air flow and ventilation. Each aviary only has two perches, this means the floors are easier to clean. Floors are covered in a combination

of straw and gravel. Under the brush and nesting areas the floor is covered in four to six inches of straw and at the other end of the aviaries the floor has a covering of 6mm gravel to keep it cleaner and drier if the water might happen to spill.

Overall this is a very hardy and easy to look after bird that appears to have very few problems. Other than those that I stated earlier of stress and megabacteria, the mega can be treated and as for stress, the right antibiotic can bring that under control. I have not yet found worms in my Orientals, but it is possible that they could pick them up in the wrong sort of conditions.

In my opinion this is an ideal bird for most aviaries being relatively easy to cater for and not very difficult to breed.

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Mr. Jon Hoffman**

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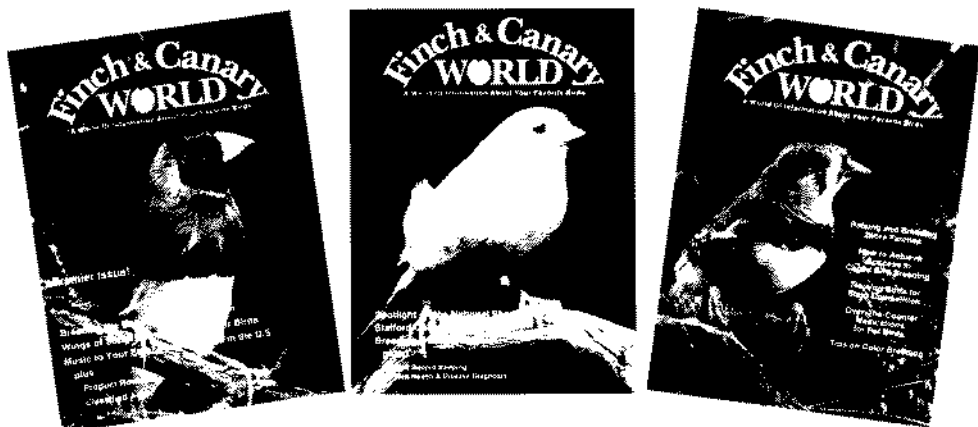
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Your Bird's Health

ANTIBIOTICS USED FOR FINCHES

*by Ron Castaner
West Palm Beach, FL*

There are several things to remember before we start. Antibiotics should never be used as a periodic, preventative drug. Some people confuse their use with vitamin and nutritional supplements, which should be used regularly. Frequent unnecessary use of an antibiotic in a bird, tends to seek out strains of bacteria which are resistant to the drug, this renders it useless in a real disease outbreak.

Critically ill birds may need fluid, therapy and tube feeding. This is the best way to administer the drugs. For the best results they need to be given several times a day in the mouth or tube feeding. In treating certain highly resistant bacteria and in the critically ill bird injectable drugs are used for fast acting results.

Other considerations are made in the choice of an antibiotic. Certain drugs can have side effects on the liver or kidneys. The metabolic rate of a bird is much higher than mammals, this usually means drugs

administered are rapidly eliminated from the body. Therefore, this requires frequent dosages to provide maximum therapeutic success. Treatment should always be at a continuous high level for a least seven days. The practice of three days on and two days off, as far as I am concerned, has no beneficial effect of any kind.

Antibiotics and other drugs can be life saving in emergency situations, but are only part of the solution. Eliminating the problem is more important. To control diseases by introducing good management practice is the best way. Most of the problem is from contaminated water, food, and dirty cages.

Let me explain bacteria to you. Bacterial disease is the most common problem in aviculture. A great number of bacteria reside in the intestinal tracts of healthy birds. These healthy birds have frequent opportunities to ingest the bacteria through normal handling, feed dishes, air, and water. Most of the bacteria cause disease in birds when certain factors are present, for instance, environmental stress, poor sanitation, inadequate nutrition, bad air circulation.

The bird with lowered resistance allows the bacteria to enter the blood

stream, after gaining a hold in the gastrointestinal tract. The bacteria can cause respiratory disease, hepatitis, or septicemia (blood borne body wide infection). To choose the best drug, a culture and antibiotic sensitivity test is run. Samples are taken from the nose, mouth, vent, fresh droppings, or necropsy tissue.

To avoid all of these problems in the first place, the best thing to do is keep the birds area clean, supply them with vitamins and mineral supplements, clean water and clean air. Another thing that is so important, do not bring in more than one or two new birds at a time, and quarantine the new birds for at least 30 days. It does not matter from whom you buy or trade with, for the best interest of all your birds keep them separate from the new ones for at least thirty days.

Keep the bottom of the cage clean, and do not keep too many birds in one cage. Give them fresh vegetables and fruit, if they are not use to eating these, put in a few societies and they will show them how to eat it. Introduce the fresh fruit and vegetables when the birds are young so they will have a better chance to fight any disease and will respond to treatment quicker. A strong and healthy bird will bounce back faster if and when they get sick.

Now, with all that said and done, let me continue with problems I have personally dealt with and treated in finches. Not always successfully, but

I am proud to say that I have had a few miracles.

DIARRHEA: Furoxone, Kaolin, Pectin: one drop in the mouth twice a day for five days. Cases with excessive fluid loss will require fluids such as: electrolytes, Gatorade, or fluids by injections. Lactobacillus, acidophilus, plain yogurt will help in restoring a natural balance of bacteria. The antibiotic can also kill beneficial bacteria normally found in the gut, so you have to put some back into their system for a better chance of recovery.

GIARDIA: A protozoan parasite causing large and widespread losses. Chronic illness and nestling mortality. Is a chunky diarrhea and gradual weight loss. Antibiotics do not generally help, treatment with **DI-METRIDAZOLE (EMTRYL)** is fairly effective. The best way to administer the medication (EMTRYL), is by mixing it with your hand feeding formula and using a crop needle every twelve hours for five days. To me this drug has saved more finches than any other drug available. I truly believe in this drug.

ASPERGILLOSIS: This is a fungal disease and to me is the most deadly to finches. A dusty, damp environment, or exposure to moldy food, or old nesting material may increase the birds chances of catching this disease. Fruit and vegetables, and eggs left in the cage for one or two days uneaten should be removed immediately. You can actually see the mold

growing. You may be familiar with bread and cheese that has grown moldy, this is exactly what the birds are exposed to and are ingesting. Remove any uneaten food the same day, do not wait till the next day just to keep from wasting food. This could prove a deadly practice.

NYSTATIN, AMPHOTERICIN B, KETOCONAZOLE. may help, relapses can occur, so do not overcrowd the birds. Giving good nutrition, and a clean environment is the most important tool to fighting this killer.

ASPERGILLOSIS will effect the lungs and air sacs. Also, birds with long term problems of the lower respiratory tract infections may have aspergillosis. An autopsy of an infected bird found areas of green mold clearly apparent. The bottom line is: **ALL AVIARIES SHOULD BE KEPT CLEAN OF ANY AND ALL DAMP ORGANIC MATTER!!!!**

SCALY FACE, LEGS, AND AIR SAC MITES: Effecting the entire respiratory tract, most frequently in Canaries and Lady Gouldian Finches. All stages of the mites are found within the respiratory tissues. In mild infections birds usually are asymptomatic. In heavy infection, audible high pitch noises, clicking, tail bobbing, and open mouth breathing are noted. Symptoms are accelerated by excessive handling and other types of related stress. Mortality is very high, so please, every bird you

get, treat it with **IVERMECTIN PROPYLENE GLYCOL.** This **IS NOT** the ivermectin you find in the farm store with the picture of a cow on the front of the bottle. This requires a special dilution and if given to a bird full strength or even an improperly diluted amount could cause death. Only the ivermectin available in the correct formula for birds can be given right from the bottle, also used on the feet and legs.

And you people that use other methods, such as olive oil, Vaseline, butter and many others I have heard of, every veterinarian book I have read states that ivermectin is the best, and it is not that expensive so please use it.

This is a double application treatment. After the first application repeat in twelve days, because the first time you are killing the mites but not the eggs. The second application you are killing the mites that hatch from the eggs. Do this twice a year and you will not have any problem. Canaries also have to be done about every six months. Here in Florida, you might have to do it every four months like I do. Every bird that comes into your aviary should be treated with Ivermectin. I cannot stress this enough....

CONJUNCTIVITIS: This is the most common eye problem in finches and other birds, it begins with swelling and closure of the eyelids. The conjunctiva may become swollen and protrude from under the eyelids. Pus

may collect at the corner of the eye. If the pus is not cleansed away, the eyelids will stick together. The bird may constantly rub the eye and face area on the perches.

This problem is mostly caused by irritation, wind, dust, eye worms, tumor or foreign matter. Also, infection from other parts of the body, such as the respiratory tract or the sinuses. I have used an ophthalmological suspension made by Rugby that contains Neomycin and Polymyxin B Sulfate, and Dexamethasone for swelling. I have also used Terramycin or Erythromycin. Make sure that anything you use in the eye is OPTHAMALIC Base for the eye.

I give them one drop twice a day for seven days and I also add Doxycycline in the water for seven days for any infection. In addition, I have used Tylan Injections, you can also use decongestant eye drops. They may not work as well, but you can try, if the infection is not too bad, it may work.

Make sure to isolate the bird if you have eye worms around the outside of the eye. You can try Ivermectin, take a Q-tip and very carefully go around the outside of the eye. The bird will loose some feathers, do this twice in ten days, it frequently takes quite awhile for the feathers to grow back, but at least it is alive and doing better. This is the last measure you will take, when eye problems occur, please take care of it quickly, as there is no time to waste the eye area

is very sensitive and the bird could develop other serious problems.

STARGAZING: Bird is constantly throwing their head back, sleeps with his head between his legs and his beak touching the perch; he goes around in a circle if you try to catch him, always looks at the ceiling, turns his head around in a circle and looks up. If you find any one or all of these symptoms, or a combination of any, please try VITAMIN B-12 COMPLEX. One drop in the mouth for five days and six drops in eight ounces of water for thirty days.

A person brought me several Gouldians with several of the above mentioned symptoms and I was able to cure them with the vitamin B-12 complex. So please, if you have any birds doing this, try it for yourself and see how well it works. I always like to know how well it works for you so if you have any comments you can contact the NFSS Editor and he will know how to get in touch with me. I would really like to hear from you as I keep notes of what other folks have found or tried. I have spent many years reading and studying this problem and would like to share with others and maybe learn something new.

Another very important reason to give vitamin B-12 complex to your birds is that the B-12 complex is responsible for growth of the nervous system. If a bird does not get enough B-12 complex the complications are weakness, slight paralysis

of the toes and legs. He could hang on the perch rather than sitting on it. In more advanced cases, refusal of food, diarrhea, and obvious disturbance of the neck, and the head is put way back, the phenomenon is called STARGAZING or the FLAMINGO EFFECT.

Vitamins are needed in very small amounts, but are essential for normal development, growth, and maintenance of good health. During periods of added stress, such as, molting, reproduction, illness, and antibiotic therapy, the requirements are even higher. As I stated before, birds have a rapid metabolism and this coupled with their selective eating habits make vitamin supplementation essential. If the bird is vitamin deficient you will see improvement in a week to two weeks.

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS: I have successfully used BAYTRIL (enrofloxacin). It is available in three different strengths and also in an injectable form. It works well for respiratory infections, gram negative

and gram positive bacteria. It works very fast, within two hours after dosing and maintained for eight to twelve hours. I used one tablet of 5.6 mg. to 1cc of water mixed well and administer two drops in mouth twice a day for five days.

If you do not know the problem or cause, you might try for four or five days. Discontinue if you do not see any improvement in seven days consult someone with more experience or see your vet.

All medicines mentioned or used have been recommended to me by a veterinarian or medical doctor, and were used without any harmful effects. In closing, I would like to let you know that if I can be of any help to anyone please feel free to get in touch with me. I'll do my best to help anyone I can. We can only learn from one another and it can only be of benefit to our little friends. To each and everyone of you I wish great success and good luck with your fine feathered little friends.

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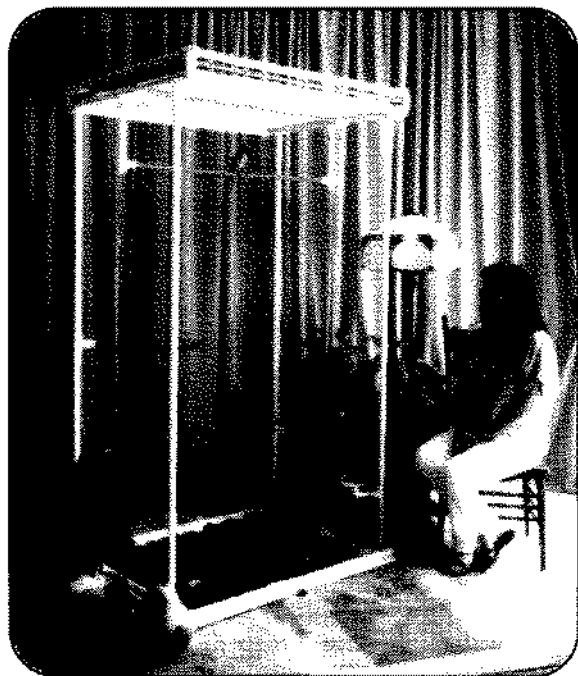
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Lessons from Fellow Aviculturists

A Lesson Learned

by *Patrick F. Goonan*

For many years, I had been raising the more common types of finches (Zebras, Societies, Shafttails) as well as Canaries, Cockatiels, and Ring Necked Doves. I also had a few other breeds of finches such as Cordon Blues, Fire Finches, Cut Throats, Green Singing Finches, etc. but had not had success at breeding them yet. It was time for me to attempt some serious breeding of these rarer varieties. I felt that I had sufficient experience and success with the more common varieties and could use this knowledge, along with advice of experienced friends and bird club members, to begin this venture.

So about five years ago, I purchased my first pair of Owl Finches from a very reputable breeder and friend and brought them home. Owl Finches have always been a favorite of mine, always unavailable and out of reach. I never really thought I would own any, so I was thrilled to say the least. After waiting the recommended amount of time for quarantine, I introduced them to a flight with some of my other finches. I did not immediately set them up for breeding because I

was in the process of transforming a small outside aviary previously used for Ring Necked Doves into one usable for my finches. We live in up-state New York, so I felt I had about a 3-4 month period of time when the weather was warm enough and my finches could benefit from being outside.

When completed, I had a nice flight area outside and another adjacent flight inside my garage. This would offer plenty of space for a number of pairs of finches both inside and outside, and I moved them to their new quarters. This was in late June and I felt there was enough time to raise some young in this area before bringing them all back in prior to colder weather setting in. The Owl Finches, as well as the rest of the finches appeared to adjust well and enjoy their new quarters. Some began going to nest immediately and it wasn't long before I noticed the pair of Owl Finches carrying nesting materials and building a nest. I was very excited about the prospect of raising these "prized" birds. I have had enough experience raising birds, though, to know not to count my clicks before the eggs hatch, so I was also cautiously excited.

About two weeks after I had moved the birds to their outside aviary, I was going about my task of

feeding and watering them, etc. and I decided that I would check the Owl Finches' nest to see if there were any eggs yet. (This nest was located in the flight inside of the garage). I thought that I had seen both of the Owl Finches fly out into the outside flight while putting fresh seed in the flight, so I

carefully lifted the finch nest off of the side of the flight to peek in. I had been mistaken about both Owl Finches being in the other part of the flight and out flew one of them from the nest, past my face and right out of the flight through the door I was leaning through.

My immediate thought was that it was going to be difficult to catch this bird in the garage now and quickly turned to see where it would land. As I turned, I could see that it had not landed and was flying about the garage a bit confused and frightened. I could also see that I had neglected to close the side door to the garage leading to the outside. I realized this at about the same time that the Owl Finch did. It flew through the door and into the open. I quickly re-hung the nest, closed the cage door and rushed out to follow the finch, of course not having the

slightest idea in which direction it went. After several minutes of panic, I tried to collect my thoughts as to what I should logically do. Common sense told me to start saving money to buy a replacement. I determined that the male was left in the flight and that the female had been the one

who "flew the coop". I was totally depressed by the whole situation.

I could also see that I had neglected to close the side door to the garage leading to the outside.

I realized this about the same time that the Owl Finch did. It flew through the door and into the open.

While I was trying to decide what to do, I heard the male Owl begin to call for his mate. After

several calls, I heard a responding call from her, then several more. She was sitting about 14 feet up in a small Birch Tree on the patio. I had an idea! I then set the cage in the open door of the porch off the patio. If the female Owl would fly to the cage, I could attempt to scare her into the screened-in porch and I would have her back. I sat down on the other side of the patio to wait. Both birds kept calling to each other, but the female would not leave her perch in the tree. Finally, after a half hour or so, she began hopping to other branches.

Eventually she attempted to fly to the cage with her mate in it. What I had not counted on was the very windy conditions that had crept

up and her inability to negotiate these winds as wild birds do. Instead of flying to the cage (her apparent destination), she was blown off course and ended up 20 feet higher in another tree several feet away from the patio and in the opposite direction of her mate. I began to feel panic and hopelessness again. My plan was not going to work. Though her mate found her further and further away due to the windy conditions. After several hours, she had been blown into the woods at the rear of our property (5 acres of woodlands), and I was unable to see her and could barely hear her calls. The male continued to call for several more hours. My family life had to go on and I spent enough time in the futile attempt to retrieve the Owl Finch.

After dinner that evening, I was in the garden with my wife planting and weeding. The male Owl Finch was still in a cage on the patio and calling every once in awhile. We had not heard from the hen in a couple of hours. It was a nice quiet summer evening and the wind had died down. As we worked in the garden, I thought I heard a call from the Owl Finch from way out in the woods. I listened but heard nothing. A short time later, the male owl finch began calling louder and more frequently. I listened again, and sure enough, from way off I could hear the hen answer.

I felt that it was futile to even think about it anymore. But,

she was getting closer. Every few minutes the calls from her to her mate were getting louder and stronger. I put down my tools and moved the cage with the male owl to an open area in the yard. I then got a lawn chair and the garden hose. I would be ready for her this time with a new method of capture. Within a half hour of calling back and forth on their part, the female had found her way back to our yard. I could now see her flitting back and forth in the tree top of a very old, large ash tree above the area with the cage.

The garden hose was ready. She began flying closer and lower. The moment she finally landed on the cage with her mate in it, I opened the hose on her. It was my only chance. It was getting dark and I knew if I missed, she'd be gone. My aim was right on target. I sprayed her, the cage and her mate with water. And I kept on until I could see she was soaked and unable to fly. Chasing her around the garden for a few moments on the ground was nerve wracking- I wasn't sure how quickly she'd recover and be able to take wing again. I had her in my hands and back in the garage in minutes. I made sure the garage door was closed. Into the flight she went. I turned my attention to the poor male owl finch who also had no idea what had hit him. Into the garage with the cage. I remembered to close the garage door and released him into the flight also. They looked miserably soaked, but they were back

together and both inside the flight, with the garage door firmly closed.

This pair of Owl Finches proceeded to raise two clutches in the outside flight that summer, ending in late October, at which time I was finally able to bring them back indoors to the bird room. Both birds lived to old age and raised a number of clutches for the next couple of years. My Owl Finch breeding stock originates from this pair, though I have added new bloodlines since then as well.

I now have about 200 as-sorted finches, have several large, walk-in aviaries in my basement bird

room and have just added a third large walk-in aviary outside for the summer months. I still move as many birds to these outside aviaries during the summer as I can and I still set up a number of pairs to breed "out of doors" during this time. I was reminded of this story when I sat watching a young pair of Owl Finches begin building a nest the other day. The male is a descendant of the original pair. I think of the chances in my aviaries since then—the safety entrances both inside the garage and on the outside aviaries. And my routine of ALWAYS closing the garage door before I open any of the aviary doors (even though there is safety entrance).

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Pin-tailed Parrot-finch

by Robin Restall
Hong Kong

This article comes courtesy of The Estrildian magazine. Vol. 2. No. 4. The plates in the middle of the article were originally printed in color, but due to the format of the Bulletin we were unable to do so. In the article the author makes reference concerning interested parties contacting him, if there is anyone wishing to do so please contact the NFSS Bulletin editor.

The Pin-tailed Parrot-finch, *Erythrura prasina*, is one of my all-time favourites and I need little excuse to begin one of my endless rambling discourses about the species. I first kept a few in a planted garden aviary in England, in 1962. In those days dealers used to separate the yellow-billed variant and sell them as "Yellow bellied Parrot-finches" and charge four times the price. I wrote about them at length in 'Cage Birds', including an illustration of the "looping" display described in these notes, and well remember Dr. C.J.O. Harrison, then at the Bird Room of the Natural History Museum in Kensington, chastising me for publishing valuable scientific data in an ephemeral publication. I have twice written about Pin-tailed Parrot-finches in the

Estrildian (1993 and 1993) and have enjoyed some enthusiastic correspondence with Ian Hinze over the species since then.

In recent years while in Hong Kong I have had some limited experience with the species, and made several colour studies for my own reference. Some of these are reproduced in this issue and the following notes are intended more as an introduction to the species than as specialized observations. The Pin-tailed Parrot-finch is a very distinct and quite beautiful member of the genus. The adult male of the nominate race, *Erythrura prasina prasina*, is about 135 to 140mm long. Clement *et al* (1993) give it 150mm, but the longest male I ever measured was 140mm. Some comparative measurements are given in the study plate. Younger males those in their first year adult plumage, have less well developed tails and measure about 130mm. The wing is about 59mm but may be considerably shorter. I had one old male, when I kept 4 of the birds in Japan, which had 14 tail feathers. It is the two central feathers that are narrow and extended and which give the bird its length.

In contrast, an adult female, which is almost as big in the head and body is about 110 to 112mm long. Juveniles, fully grown but not yet moulting are about 110mm long. The bill is an odd shape, with the culmen being about 11mm, straight, and curving only very lightly at the end. The underside of the lower

black and often ridged and flaking. The cutting edge of the upper mandible is often overgrown. Little is known of the habits of the bird in the wild and no theories have been put forward to explain the shape of the bill as far as I know. The superb photograph of a male in Evans & Fidler (1990) shows the characteristics of the bill perfectly.

There are different colour variants occurring in the wild, and two subspecies. I will describe them briefly now. *Erythrura prasina prasina*, adult male, red variant. The lores are black and the rest of the face is cobalt blue. This graduates into grass-green on the rear crown, sides of neck and edges of the breast to cover the wings, back and upper rump. The outer webs of the primaries may be yellowish green (Goodwin, 1982, and the photograph in Evans and Fidler) but birds I have painted have been green, leaf-green or even buffy. The rump, upper tail-coverts and the edges of the central tail feathers are scarlet red. The extent to which the scarlet covers the rump is quite variable. I checked a shipment of birds from Sumatra to find that the scarlet began at the base of the rump on all the birds. At the time I was able to examine a shipment of birds from Java to find in all of them the scarlet extended up the rump to the level of the tip of the innermost tertiary. I have not extended this study. The variation might be a function of age. The breast, flanks, thighs and under tail-coverts are beige or buff, with a patch of bright

red on the belly. This red patch is also variable, and I have seen the occasional bird where the red extended onto the flanks.

E.p. prasina, adult female, red variant. Entire upper parts except for the lower rump and upper tail coverts grass-green. The lower rump and upper tail coverts, and the two edges of the central tail feathers, crimson. That is to say, a darker red than that of the male. From chin to under tail it is buff, creamer or pale greyish on the throat, paler on the belly. There is a flush of blue on the face that might extend to the throat (but not the bib) and even cover the breast.

Even more than indicated above this species is variable in its colouring. I'm fairly sure it has a propensity for variation within a given population, although birds taken in a small area all have a consistency of colour characteristics.

E.p. prasina, juvenile, red variant. Virtually the same as the adult female, nonetheless it is usually possible to tell the sexes apart if you know the birds are all juveniles. Young males tend to be brighter on the upper tail-coverts, and have the central tail feathers a little longer. In my experience young males invariably show one or two vermilion feathers in the belly.

E.p. prasina, adult, yellow variant. There is a variant that occurs at the rate of between 5 and 10

percent of the population in which the red of the belly, rump and upper tail coverts is bright yellow. In the male the upper tail coverts are bright pure yellow but in the female the colour is much duller, being closer to leaf-green. The edges of the central tail feathers are yellow.

E.p. prasina, adult, turquoise phase. These variants are described in detail in *The Estrildian* (Restall, 1993a). Suffice to repeat here that the green of the upper surfaces is replaced by dark turquoise, the buff or beige below is more stone colour, and the scarlet becomes a vinaceous salmon. I have not seen a yellow-bellied variant in the turquoise phase.

E. prasina coelica, adult. In the male the blue of the face is a little brighter and extends onto the breast, replacing part of the buff. The red of the belly is more extensive, replacing the buff of the lower breast to meet the blue. The buff is only on the flanks and upper tail coverts. The female is more distinctly blue on the face, flushing on to the throat and breast. I have not seen this race alive, and my examinations of it in the museum collections have only been cursory. Goodwin (1982) gives a very misleading indication of the distribution of the species with a map that shows it covering the entire Indo China area to Sumatra, missing out Java and Bali. Clement et al (1993) fail to mention Bali. Evans and Fidler (1990) combine the two.

It is scarce and very irregular in Indo China, being found in pockets of distribution mainly in Thailand, western Burma and northern Laos. The map in Lekagul and Round (1991) shows the irregularity well. Mackinnon and Philips (1993) describe it as local in the Greater Sundas which comprises Sumatra, Java & Bali. Mackinnon (1988) describes it as uncommon. The race *E.p. coelica* is found only on the island of Borneo.

Time and again one comes across references to its being "once common, now uncommon." And the blame is usually placed upon the bird trade. Last year I suggested the bird trade wasn't fully to blame but I fear the reality is that the almost insatiable demand for the species from Europe in the years between 1950 and 1990 caused profound damage. Reports of quantities in the order of 300,000 birds arriving in Europe were appearing in the press. Ten years ago large quantities were regularly shipped from Thailand, today the majority are sourced from Indonesia. They have become reduced to a comparative trickle from Bali, and I believe more come from Sumatra than Java. Increased pressure by the government on rice growers to produce more per hectare has resulted in destructive assaults on rice-eating bird populations, particularly in Bali, and nowadays one usually only sees the local Black-rumped Munia, *Lonchura leucogastroides*, and Spice Birds, *L. punctulata*, around the rice. These two species are

widespread, will eat almost any kind of vegetable matter, and have adapted to destruction of nests in grass and bush by man by nesting in the crown of tall palm trees.

The Pin-tailed Parrot-finch is essentially a bird of bamboo country and, like its congener the Green-tailed or Bamboo Parrot-finch *E. hyperythra*, is a nomad. It travels in small parties wandering in search of seeding bamboo. Bamboo is extraordinarily common in the world, yet very little is known about its habits of reproduction by seeding and much less of the relationship between it and the birds that feed on its seeds. There are other estrildid finches with a strong connection to bamboo, and they too are a mystery in this regard. If any reader should know any reference to the subject, or any source of knowledge or experience, please be kind enough to let the editor know.

Population densities are little understood with bamboo-dependant species. It is probable that small groups offer the most advantages for survival, large flocks consuming the food supplies too quickly. Some species of bamboo seed only every 20 years and few, if any, seed on an annual basis. It is apparent that bamboo, as a source of food, is erratic and uncertain. For birds to elicit preference for it as a source of food suggests it has certain qualities or unusual and quite beneficial characteristics. What these might be can only be guessed at. What is possible is that the birds have

evolved production of specific enzymes or dietary needs that enable them to exploit the food source to the maximum. The implications for aviculture are profound.

It is well known that Pin-tailed Parrot-finches flock in large numbers where enough are dispersed to be able to form large numbers—when they leave the bamboo groves for the paddy fields. This is opportunistic feeding and does not affect the central thesis. *E. hyperythra* is the high country counterpart of *E. prasina*. It only occurs in the lowlands in country not inhabited by *E. prasina* such as Lombok. It is a smaller bird but has a bill with similar characteristics. It is possible the bill shape serves as a particular function in relation to bamboo seeds.

I am not aware of any seed-eating birds that are bamboo-dependant that have been satisfactorily established in captivity, and I include those from South America like the Sooty Grassquit, *Tiaris fuliginosa*, and the Plush-capped Finch, *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*. The Green-faced Parrot-finch, *E. viridifacies*, and the White-spotted Mannikin, *Lonchura leucosticta*, are closer to the present subject. Experience suggests the problem with all of them is finding the right dietary mix. The Pin-tailed Parrot-finch, thanks to having been supplied to bird-keepers by the million, is the one with which we have most experience. It has been bred with the aid of foster parents and seems to have been parent-reared

PINTAILED PARROTFINCH

Erythrura p. prasina

Yellow-bellied morph



Note red green wash on feathers

♂ Length 139.0 mm
Wing 52.0 mm
Culmen 11.5 mm
Tarsus 22.0 mm

Yellow-bellied morph

Yellow-bellied morph
tail with red wash
leucis an.
Brisbane



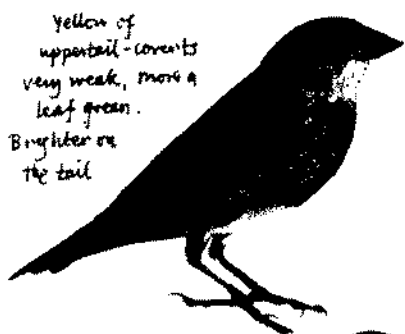
Note yellowish
bill different
from yellow
morph



♂ seen in Singapore, Feb 05
from collection of Patrick Jay



origin Bali
Indonesia



Yellow of
upper tail-coverts
very weak, more a
leaf green.
Brighter on
the tail



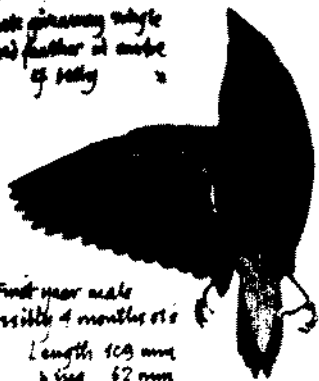
♀
Length 112.0 mm
Wing 60.0 mm
Culmen 11.0 mm
Tarsus 21.0 mm



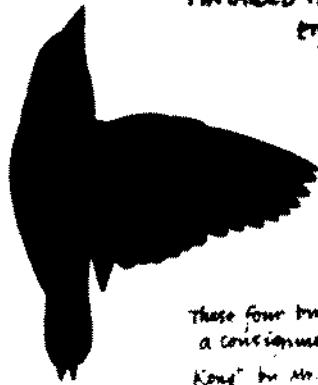
Forstall

PINTAILED PARBITINCH
Erythrura prasina prasina

note primary single
 tail feather in center
 of tail



First year male
 possibly 4 months old
 Length 109 mm
 wing 62 mm
 tarsus 12 mm
 Culmen 12 mm



These four birds were taken from
 a consignment received from Hong
 Kong by Mr. Ishihara in Tokyo, 1964.
 The differences between the first year
 male still in juvenile plumage and
 the presumed fully adult female are
 now subtle.



Adult female, age uncertain
 Length 116 mm
 wing 58 mm
 tarsus 12 mm
 Culmen 12 mm



First year male
 possibly 8 months old?
 Length 128 mm
 wing 59 mm
 tarsus 12 mm
 Culmen 12 mm



This first year male has a
 feather in the tail

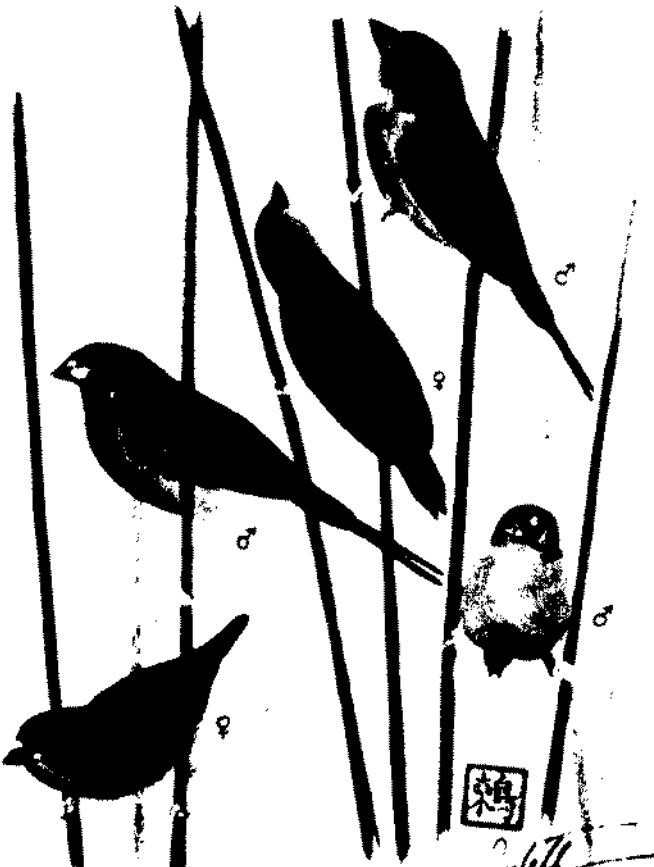
tail extends up to
 middle of second
 tertiary



Adult male
 in 2nd year plumage
 Length 138 mm
 wing 60 mm
 tarsus 12 mm
 Culmen 12 mm



tail extends up
 to innermost
 tertiary



鳥

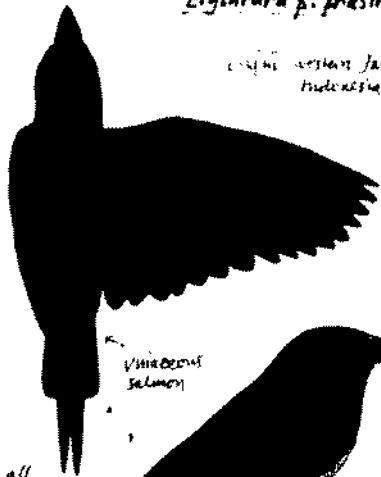
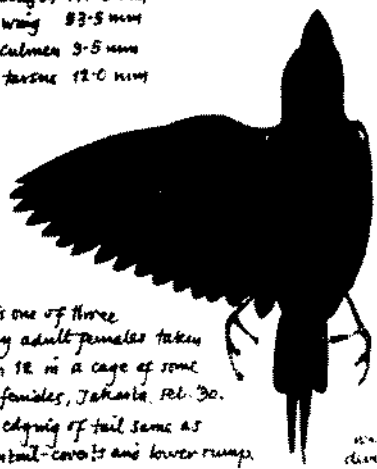
inlet

PINTAILED PARROTFINCH

Erythrura p. prasina

Length 111-0 mm
 wing 83-5 mm
 Culmen 9-5 mm
 Tarsus 12-0 mm

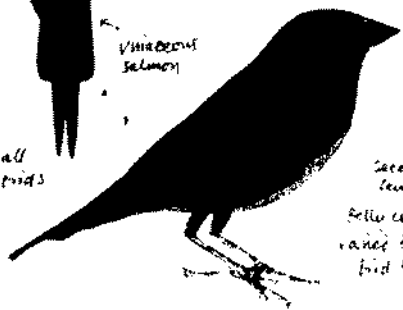
origin western Java
 Indonesia



This is one of three fully adult females taken from 18 in a cage of some 60 females, Jakarta, Feb. 30. Note edging of tail same as Hypobut-corvix and lower rump.

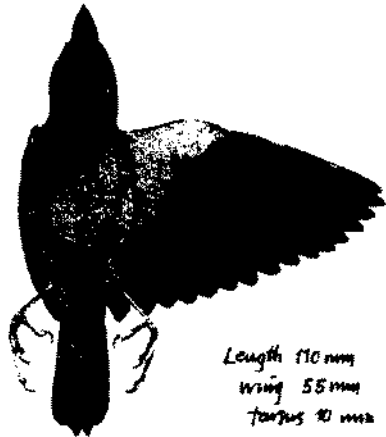
will develop tail on all these birds

virescent salmon



second female. belly colour varies from bird to bird.

This young male from western Java, May 1930. Note the few pale red feathers showing on the belly, same colour as edges to central tail feathers.



tail feathers.

Hypobut-corvix and lower rump are vivescent salmon

Length 110 mm
 wing 55 mm
 Tarsus 10 mm
 Culmen 10 mm

— Smythies' pouch # 94



origin western Java

as well. Unfortunately nobody appears to have bred 2nd generation birds. If anybody has, please be forthcoming with detailed diet information.

Smythies (1980) is not helpful on diet, since the only birds examined were those taken from flocks feeding on paddy. Not surprisingly their crops were full of rice. Medway and Wells (1976) reported on birds in normal life style and said they had been seen feeding on the seeds of bamboo. Disappointingly, neither Riley (1938) nor Deignan (1945) list the species. Lekagul and Round (1991) say it is partly nomadic following the seeding of bamboos. There is a reference to me writing about the Pin-tailed Nonpareil (Restall 1983, in Evans and Fidler 1990) in THE QUILL. I have never submitted anything to THE QUILL for publication and do not even know what it is. The impression gained from the reference is that I would endorse paddy rice as a staple in the diet for these birds. In fact I have found they go off dry paddy quite quickly and many that I have kept will not touch it once they have been weaned onto canary, de-husked oats, various millets and fresh growing grasses. Karl (in Goodwin, 1982) insisted they be weaned off dry paddy as soon as possible. It is interesting to note that some bird farms in Jakarta now feed their Pin-tailed Nonpareils on plain canary seed.

It is worth noting here that German estrildid specialists usually

give their birds much richer and more varied diets than do British bird keepers. Fresh green wheat and oats for example—especially wheat—is gathered in quantity and frozen in daily ration sizes. During availability of fresh growing cereals they are given fresh. In my experience all munias and parrot-finches will take this food in preference to any other. Hoogerwerf (in Goodwin, 1982) is the only source of information on nesting that I know of. He says it builds among creepers or bushes at the forest edge or in bamboo thickets at varying heights, but up to as high as 20m. It is described as roundish with a large side entrance, built of bamboo or rattan leaves, fibres, rootlets and similar materials. It is not lined. The clutch is reported as being 4-6 eggs.

Goodwin describes two courtship displays. The first, after Humelman *et al* (1967 and Karl (1964) is a typical *Estrilda* display when the male holds a single stem of grass or similar material and presents this to the female with a bobbing up and down. If she approaches he drops the item and begins singing, head above hers, tail twisted towards her. The second is after Zisweiler *et al* (1972) in which the male hops toward the female with some bundled nesting material in his bill. He bobs before the female then switches his tail from side to side, and then moves his head from side to side in a pendulum movement. I have several times observed a third display when the male takes a stem of grass and

loops it, holding it both by the end in typical waxbill manner and also half way or so down. With this in his bill he approaches the female, bobbing as he goes. If she approaches, or appears receptive but not moving, he drops the item and begins to sing. I have not heard the song, always being out of earshot (I study my birds at a short distance with the aid of powerful binoculars) but the phrase "clinking sounds used by Immanuel *et al* has been repeated by everyone else writing since then. It would be nice to see a new first-hand description.

It is almost inconceivable that a reader of THE ESTRILDIAN would keep Pin-tailed Nonpareils and not attempt to breed them. That the species has bred, and is being bred in small numbers, is apparent but well-detailed reports are virtually non-existent. The principle of a forum is the discussion of matters of public interest, concern and benefit, and it would be of enormous benefit to all if those keepers of Pin-tailed Nonpareils could all contribute their experiences. I'd like to suggest that you either contribute an article, a letter for publication in the "Readers Write" columns, or notes for inclusion in a general analysis that I'd be happy to do.

So far it seems that Pin-tails will breed in cage or aviary. They will take to a nest-box or a basket. They brood the young until they are about 8 days old, as do many estrildines. This means that the

nestlings will die of exposure if the temperature drops too low. Karl recommends a minimum temperature of 25 deg. C. which should not cause any problems in an indoor flight or birdroom. If the birds go to nest in an outdoor aviary where temperatures are likely to drop below 25 deg C. then the use of foster parents is recommended. Soaked seed, fresh (or exfrozen) green cereals, and fresh greenfood in variety are all highly desirable. A well balanced softfood should be supplied and small live-food dusted with multi-vitamins, etc., should be offered. Some breeding birds have apparently taken live-food when rearing. If softfood is provided, the brand name and list of ingredients, if known, should be recorded.

Pin-tailed Parrot-finches moult twice a year. The only information about breeding in the wild is Hoogerwerf (1949) who found them breeding in February and November in the rainy season. Could this mean a moult in December and January and another in June and July? Are the flights only dropped during the June-July moult? Information from all you keepers, breeders and erstwhile breeders can help here. Snippets of information can fit together like a jigsaw puzzle to form a whole picture.

Evans and Fidler (1990) suggest that because of the brevity of the breeding period it is as well to keep males together in one enclosure, and females in another. As they

come into condition so peak condition males and females are paired up. Whilst it is easy to identify a male in breeding condition I find females of most species to be enigmatic. Being in perfect feather does not necessarily mean breeding condition. This technique, which sounds excellent, implies that there is little or no preferential mate selection in *E. prasina*. Is this known for sure? So many estrildids, including some species of grassfinches and many munias, simply will not breed if the two are not bonded by natural selection. When pairing munias and mannikins from a fresh delivery I band every bird with a different colour and run them all in one big community cage. Gradually, naturally bonded pairs are formed by the female accepting a male. Then that pair can be taken out and placed in their own quarters.

So Pin-tails roost in one nest but breed in another? Possibly not. According to Goodwin (no data source given) it roosts on perches, never in old nests. Does this mean that when a female enters a nest-box or basket she is in breeding condition? If so this might be a valuable bit of knowledge if one opts to try the Evans and Fidler system. The placing of a nest or two in the hens' enclosure might enable an accurate selection of breeding condition birds. Again, more input. Every snippet of information can contribute to the jigsaw.

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Barbets

by Robert Petrie
Kansas City, MO

A little known group of soft-bills, in American aviculture, is the Barbets. Their name is derived from the bristle feathers that are around the base of the beak of these birds. Barbets form a family of their own, the family Capitonidae. They are in the same order (Piciformes) as Woodpeckers and Toucans. There are about seventy-six species of Barbets and they can be found throughout the tropical regions of the Americas and throughout Africa and southern Asia. The diet in the wild is fruit and insects. Some species rely more on fruit while others eat a higher portion of insects. Either way fruit is the major component of all Barbet diets and this is may account for them being restricted from the more temperate regions of the world.

Barbets vary widely in size. The smallest, the African Pygmy Barbet, is about the size of an Owl Finch (9 cm). The larger species can measure up to 32 cm, which is around the size of an Orange-wing Amazon. The Great Hill Barbet is an example of one of those larger species.

Barbets have large powerful beaks. They can be ferocious insect hunters, yet I have observed some of the medium and small species being kept with a variety of Estrilidid finches without any sign of

aggression. All these accommodations were quite spacious. Most species could safely be housed with other types of birds their own size, again as long as there is sufficient space.

Barbets are not extremely active birds. This sedentary habit may account for them being uncommon in aviculture. Barbets may be inactive but they are highly vocal, at least most species are. And their addition to an aviary for their vocalizations alone is justifiable.

Barbets do well on a standard softbill diet. All species would definitely benefit from the addition of insects to their diet, especially if breeding results are to be successful. The birds I have worked with were also offered a meat mix (raw ground horse meat).

Barbets are cavity nesters and they typically chew out their own hollow in a dead tree. My experience has been that a pair is stimulated more into breeding when they were allowed to dig their own nest hollows. This can be accomplished by offering a large partially rotten log, a palm log or taking a prehollowed-out log and filling it tightly with woodchips and covering the opening with a soft piece of wood, for example; a piece of cork bark.

So if you are looking for something a little different and somewhat challenging you might consider a Barbet species.

The First Annual All Zebra and Society Finch Show

by *Nita Haas*

I had been toying with the idea of suggesting an all Zebra Finch show for about 2 years. Having been a dog exhibitor, I was used to Specialty Clubs hosting shows for just their breed of dog. I saw no reason why Zebra Finch fanciers shouldn't do the same thing. But I wondered if there would be anyone interested; after all, I knew NFSS points would not be available since only one species would be shown.

I finally got up the nerve, after a couple of alcoholic beverages, to mention my plan at lunch after the show in Wichita, KS, in September. My dining companions were: Earl Courts, Tom Rood, and Warren Lillygren. Surprisingly enough, no one laughed at me. Tom said, "Have it during the summer, throw in Society Finches and I'll come!" Great! I told the group I would work on it. We all agreed that an entry of 50 birds would make us happy. So, our plans went forward.

After Christmas, Tom and I set the date for August 3 and I asked Warren to look into possible sites to hold our show. In the meantime, I called Martha Wigmore of Elk River, MN, and asked if she would be interested in judging. She gave me an overwhelming "YES!" Warren

located a motel that would have us and reserve a block of rooms for our exhibitors.

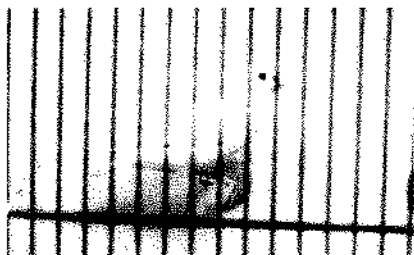
So we had our judge and our site. Now to keep people interested. Tom and I sent brochures and letters all summer long to keep interest levels high and "nudge" the wishy-washies into attending. Tom also corresponded with his connections in Britain and obtained dozens and dozens of special Zebra and Bengalese ribbons, Zebra pins, and Zebra Notepaper. He also arranged to buy and have shipped an autographed copy of Chris Blackwell's out of print "Keeping and Breeding Zebra Finches." What accomplishment! (I threatened to pilfer a few items for myself, but Tom insisted he had carefully counted each and every one).

Would people really come when there would be no NFSS points for the winners? I worried constantly as I went about ordering ribbons and trophies. I was also worried about expenses; however, several people sent additional money and donated birds to sell which helped the cause a great deal.

Exhibitors kept telling us that they were coming. (Even Jamie Jackson, assured me that he would be there. Jamie is one of those people who really does have fabulous birds at home, but never gets around to showing them. Tom teased him unmercifully in his letters) So, I was feeling giddy at the prospect of about 75 entries.



The work is almost! Judge Martha Wigmore looks over the Top 30 Zebras to find the Best in Show. First All-Zebra Finch Show (photo courtesy of Bob Vargo)



Best Society Finch in Show. White Society bred by Gene and June Miller, Seminole, OK. (photo courtesy of Martha Wigmore)



Best Zebra Finch in Show. A 1996 Normal Grey Hen bred by Tom Rood, Shelbyville, IL (photo courtesy of Martha Wigmore)



The Top Bench First All-Society Finch Show. Attended by 7 NESS Panel Judges, and a Canary Judge or two. (photo courtesy of Martha Wigmore)

The show weekend finally came (I couldn't believe it had been almost a year since we started talking about it). Earl Courts and Warren Lillygren loaded up the borrowed benching equipment and off to the motel we went. Warren had just started setting up tables when Charlie Anchor arrived, followed shortly by Tom Rood and his wife, Jane. Birds started filling up the show hall. More and more people kept bringing in more birds. And more birds... and more birds. Later that evening, we had a wonderful hospitality get together arranged by Vera and Moses Linn.

There was plenty of good food and good company.

My husband, Tim, finally showed up with Martha about 8:30 p.m. (She was to have arrived at 4 p.m.) Her flight had been delayed in St. Louis. Both were tired, but managed to eat some dinner and join in the fun.

Jamie came in and bought his cage tags. I decided there was nothing to worry about! This show was going to be a success!

Saturday, August 3.

SHOW TIME! Everyone was up early, preparing their exhibits, checking out sale birds and the raffle table. We were quickly running out of benching space. Tom, Charlie, and Jamie started classifying the birds and moving them all

around. The final count: 38 Societies and 106 Zebras, 12 exhibitors (13 if you count the absent sky-diver!) I was flabbergasted at the entry. So was Martha!

Societies were judged first. Class after class of beautiful, type Society Finches were placed on the bench for Martha's opinion. A few unusual colors showed up such as dilute chocolate, and solid white. Society Finches usually get an unfair rap, being prized solely for the fostering abilities. I was thrilled to see so many beautiful entries of quality Society Finches. (These birds deserve more credit than they usually get. Breeding good one is not easy! Placing good ones on the top bench isn't either!) The Society Section was finally won by a beautiful solid white bird owned by Gene & June Miller. (A complete listing of placements follows this article).

Then came the Zebra Finches. More Zebras than I had seen in my life! (except in Jamie's aviary). So many beautiful birds in every class... I didn't know how Martha did it. But she did! She brought visual aids she made, Zebra books, a picture book of good and bad type, and a picture book of various color mutations that she had put together. All of these she shared with the audience, education being a prime consideration. Then she sorted, and sorted, and sorted... then placed first, second, third in class after class after class. Whenever a bird of an unusual or rare color appeared

on the bench, Martha invited the audience to "Come take a look." We would probably never see some these colors again at a show for many years. What a treat for the Novice and not so Novice exhibitor/breeder

Zebras that especially caught my eye were: a white cheeked pastel (silver) cock, a black faced CFW cock, and a beautiful black faced, black bodied cock with no dots on his orange flanking, all owned by Jamie Jackson . A gorgeous CFW hen and WCP cock

owned by Bob Vargo and several orange-breasted birds owned by Clarence Culwell rounded out my list of beauties.

The Midwest Society and Zebra Finch Club Show was an outstanding success. As Show Manager, I want to thank all the people who supported the show with their beautiful exhibits, raffle donations, special awards, cash and moral support. Shall we do it again next year?

ZEBRA FINCHES

Section #1

106 Birds

| Award | Cage No. | Description/ Band No. | Exhibitor |
|-------|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 47 | Grey Y Hen / NFSD386 '96 | Tom Rood |
| 2 | 45 | Grey O Cock / 1621 '94 | Tom Rood |
| 3 | 101 | CFW Hen / NFS15906 | Bob Vargo |
| 4 | 58 | Pr. Old Greys / 5264 '95 1591 '94 | Tom Rood |
| 5 | 48 | Grey O Hen / 5267 '95 | Tom Rood |
| 6 | 78 | CFW / 93d4360 | Nita Haas |
| 7 | 55 | Fawn O Hen / 4228 '93 | Tom Rood |
| 8 | 54 | Fawn Y Hen / D408 '96 | Tom Rood |
| 9 | 56 | Pr. Y Greys / 411 '96 384 '96 | Tom Rood |
| 10 | 44 | Grey Y Cock / 410 '96 | Tom Rood |

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Best Unflighted | 47 | Grey Y Hen / 386 '96 | Tom Rood |
| 2nd Best | 54 | Fawn Y Hen / D408 '96 | Tom Rood |
| 3rd Best | 56 | Pr. Y Greys / 411 '96 386 '96' | Tom Rood |

ZEBRA (Cont.)

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------|--------------|
| Best Nov- ice Pair | 124 | Fawn Pair - Old | Jackie Meyer |
| Best Nov- ice Fawn | 125 | Fawn Hen - Old | Jackie Meyer |
| Best Nov- ice Hen | 73 | CFW Hen | Brad Cassidy |
| Best Nov- ice Cock | 75 | CFW Cock | Brad Cassidy |

SOCIETY FINCHES Section # 2 38 Birds

| | | | |
|----|-----|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 138 | White Self / E-36-95 | June & Gene Miller |
| 2 | 129 | Choc. & White / NFS95E4694 | (Best Novice) Jackie Miller |
| 3 | 106 | Self Fawn / 3598 | Bob Vargo |
| 4 | 81 | Dilute / 92E1668 | Nita Haas |
| 5 | 77 | Dilute / 95E732 | Nita Haas |
| 6 | 137 | Chestnut Self / D-37-95 | June & Gene Miller |
| 7 | 24 | Choc. & White | Clarence Culwell |
| 8 | 17 | Fawn & White Crested | Clarence Culwell |
| 9 | 63 | Pr. Yng. Dilutes / 100-96 94-96 | Tom Rood |
| 10 | 145 | Choc. - Self / NFS3415'96' | Rose & Rich Dickman |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Best Unflighted | 63 | Pr. Yng. Dilutes / 100-96 94-96 | Tom Rood |
| 2nd Best Unflighted | 145 | Choc. Self / NFS-3415'96' | Rose & Rich Dickman |
| 3rd Best Unflighted | 90 | Choc. / White 0390'96' | Nita Haas |

KAYTEE

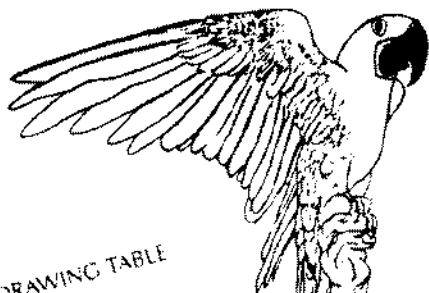
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| NCA CANARIES | IGNATIO PEREA SR |
| | LIPOCHROME AND MELANIN |
| NCS COCKATIELS | DON DUNN |
| NFS FINCHES/SOFTBILLS | STEPHEN HOPPIN |
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NFSS Affiliates, Delegates & Shows

(Listing as of March 1, 1996)

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society

Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168

Show August 31, 1996

Montgomery, AL

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Rocket City Cage Bird Club

Ron Clifton (205) 852-7155

CALIFORNIA

Aviary Assn. of Kern County

Willis & Velva Baker (805) 765-6110

Show December 7, 1996

Taft, CA

Panel Judge: Marty von Racsfeld

Capitol City Bird Society

Darc B. Cagle (916) 944-2437

Show October 20, 1996

Placer County Fairgrounds

20th Anniversary Show

Roseville, CA

Panel Judge: Marty von Racsfeld

Finch Society of San Diego County

Sharon Russell (619) 273-2005

Show November 2, 1996

San Diego, CA

Fresno Canary and Finch Society

Dixie Lea (209) 584-3764

Golden Gate Avian Society

Claudia Salo (510) 455-9909

Show November 9, 1996

Livermore, CA

Panel Judge: Clayton Jones

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club

Neil Crowley (408) 258-4601

Show November 30, 1996

Santa Clara, CA

Panel Judge: Marty von Racsfeld

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

Julie Kern (303) 753-6145

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Association for Aviculture

Chris Voronovitch (203) 649-8220

Show October 26, 1996

Manchester, CT

Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

New England Finch Fanciers

Russell Armitage, Jr. (203) 756-1753

FLORIDA

Aviary & Cage Bird Society of South Florida

Phil Barth (305) 426-5340

Show August 24, 1996

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

Central Florida Bird Breeders

Eugene F. Goss, Jr. (407) 957-1274

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami

Armando J. Lee (305) 270-1000

Show November 30, 1996

25th Anniversary Show

Hialeah, FL

Panel Judge: Stephen Hoppin

Exotic Bird Club of Florida

Jonathan Jones (407) 724-9498

Florida West Coast Avian Society

Florida State Fair Exotic Bird Show

Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

Double Show

February 15, 1997 *Saturday*

February 16, 1997 *Sunday*

Tampa, FL

* not NFSS affiliate, but points
earnable under NFSS Panel Judge.

Greater Brandon Avian Society, Inc.

John Floyd (813) 677-7679

Sun Coast Avian Society

Joe Ventimiglia (813) 392-9391

Show October 19, 1996

St. Petersburg, FL

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

Sunshine State Cage Bird Society

Dale Laird (407) 657-7989

Show October 12, 1996

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

GEORGIA**Georgia Cage Bird Society**

Candy Wright (404) 633-4364

Show November 2, 1996

Marietta, GA

40th Annual Show & Fair

Panel Judge: Earl Courts

HAWAII**Honolulu Canary and Finch Club**

Kathy Perreira (808) 839-2269

ILLINOIS**Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club**

Jane Muscato (708) 305-9043

Show November 2, 1996

Rolling Meadows, IL

Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Illini Bird Fanciers

Jan Marcott (217) 347-9690

Show June, 1996

Shelbyville, IL

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

**National Institute of Red-Orange
Canaries (NIROC)**

Stephan V. Hopman (815) 469-8455

Show November 30, 1996

Elk Grove, IL

Panel Judge: Clarence Culwell

Springfield Pct Bird Club**INDIANA****Indiana Bird Fanciers**

Conrad Meinert (219) 269-2873

Show October 12, 1996

Ft. Wayne, IN

Panel Judge: Charles Anchor

IOWA**Mid-America Cage Bird Society**

Rhoda Shirley (515) 243-1511

Show October 5, 1996

Des Moines, IA

Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

KANSAS**Kansas Avicultural Society**

Jim Cowan (316) 263-8835

Show October 12, 1996

Wichita, KS

Panel Judge: Laura Bewely

KENTUCKY**Central Kentucky Cage Bird Society**

Patricia Wilkins (606) 271-0273

LOUISIANA**Capital Area Avicultural Society**

Tim Schexnaydre (504) 562-3579

Gulf South Bird Club, Inc.

Jeanne Murphy (504) 833-4241

MARYLAND**Baltimore Bird Fanciers****Maryland Cage Bird Society**

Theresa Brown (301) 735-7662

MASSACHUSETTS**Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc.**

Dianna Smith (508) 540-3214

Show October 19, 1996

Hanover, MA

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

MICHIGAN**Great Lakes Avicultural Society**

Diana Hugo (616) 842-0163

Show October 19, 1996

Rockford, MI

Panel Judge: Miki Sparzak

Mid-Michigan Bird Club

Mary Lou Tewilliger (517) 463-5695

Mid-West Cage-Bird Club, Inc.

Patrick Vance (810) 443-0643

Show September 21, 1996

Roundtop, MI

Panel Judge: Bill Parlee

**NFSS
INTERNATIONAL
AFFILIATES**

CANADA

**Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society
of Ontario**
Jim Marks (416) 292-3852

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton

**Durham Avicultural Society of
Ontario**
Vincent Moase (905) 723-1978
Show September 27, 28 & 2, 1996
Oshawa, Ontario, Canada
Panel Judge: Sam Crabbe

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society
Allred Mion (519) 948-6398
Show October 18, 19 & 20
Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Motor City Bird Breeders, Inc.
Robert Zalewski (313) 356-5942
Show October 26, 1996
Warren, MI
Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders
Patrick Vance (810) 443-0643

MISSOURI

Greater Kansas City Avic. Society
Nita Haas (816) 331-5285
Show October 19, 1996
Raymore, MO
Panel Judge: Patrick Vance

**NFSS
INTERNATIONAL
CORRESPONDENTS**

AUSTRALIA

Queensland Finch Society
Gavin Dietz, P.O. Box 1600,
Coorparoo DC 4151
Queensland, Australia

GREAT BRITAIN

The Estrildian
Ian Hinz, Coetref, Tyn Lon,
Holyhead, Gwynedd LL65 3LJ,
Wales, United Kingdom

The Waxbill Finch Society
Mr. Buzz Hope-Inglis,
10 Litchfield Close, Plympton,
Plymouth PL7 3UU, England

Zebra Finch Society, England
Margaret Binns, 97 Bent Lanes,
Davyhulme, Nr. Urmston, Manchester,
M31 8WZ England

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Finch Breeders Assn.
293 Albany Highway
Albany, New Zealand

**Heart of America Hookbill & Finch
Society**
Moses Linn (816) 523-4661
Show June 8 & 9, 1996
Grandview, MO
Panel Judge: Miki Spartzak & Harold
Bowles

Missouri Cage Bird Association
Richard & Rose Dickman
(314) 928-3444
Show November 2, 1996
Eureka, MO
Panel Judge: Martha Wigmore

NEW HAMPSHIRE**Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society****NEW MEXICO****New Mexico Bird Club, Inc.**

Gail Ranshaw (505) 822-1483

Show September 28, 1996

Albuquerque, NM

Panel Judge: Harold Bowles

NEW YORK**Finger Lakes Cage Bird Association**

Rena Rouse (315) 252-7673

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Marie Grein (718) 468-0881

Rochester Cage Bird Club

Patrick Goonan (716) 288-5653

NORTH CAROLINA**Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society**

April Blazich (919) 851-8079

Smokey Mtn. Cage Bird Society

Jim Cody (704) 686-5157

OHIO**Cleveland Cage Bird Society**

Arnette Howard (216) 337-7654

Show October 12, 1996

Defiance, OH

Panel Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

Fort Defiance Bird Club

Larry Endsley (419) 263-2795

Show September 28, 1996

Toledo, OH

**Toledo Bird Assn. & Zebra Finch Club
of America**

Robert Ayling (419) 536-8736

OKLAHOMA**Bird Fanciers of Oklahoma**

Gene and June Miller (405) 382-7066

Show September 28, 1996

Oklahoma City, OK

Panel Judge: Marty von Racsfeld

Oklahoma Cage Bird Society

Doug Paris (918) 446-2447

Show October 26, 1996

Tulsa, OK

Panel Judge: Ray Johnson

OREGON**The Finch Connection**

Kristine Spencer (206) 253-4572

Rose City Exotic Bird Club**PENNSYLVANIA****Central Pennsylvania Cage Bird
Society**

Donald Strause (610) 926-5210

Show September 28, 1996

Grantville, PA

Panel Judge: Hal Koontz

Chester County Bird Breeders

Lorraine LaBoyne (610) 269-6003

Show September 14, 1996

Kimberton, Pa

Delaware Valley Bird Club

Kris Kroner (215) 628-4143

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society

Dr. Lindsay Clack (412) 363-6438

Northeastern Penn. Cage Bird Club

Gary Fino (717) 829-3891

PUERTO RICO**Organización Puertorriqueña de Aves
Exóticas, Inc.**

Jacky Civitares (787) 752-4433

Show December 7, 1996

Carolina, PR

Panel Judge: Daren Decoteau

SOUTH CAROLINA**Palmetto Cage Bird Club**

Melvin Yoder (803) 459-5319

Show September 21 & 22, 1996

Anderson, SC

Panel Judge: Harold Bowles &

Conrad Meibert

TENNESSEE**Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club**

Eva Duffey (615) 361-5939

Show October 5, 1996

Nashville, TN

Panel Judge: Conrad Meinert

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

Show October 26, 1996

Temple, TX

Panel Judge: Tom Rood

TEXAS**Bay Area Cage Bird Club**

Linda Beeman (713) 485-0291

Capital City Cage Bird Club

Fenton R. Mereness (512) 310-1802

Fort Worth Bird Club

Clarence Culwell (817) 220-5568

Show October 6, 1996

Arlington, TX

Panel Judge: Paul Williams

Texas Canary Club

Chris Davis (713) 361-3364

Show November 2, 1996

Panel Judge: Laura Bewely

VIRGINIA**Peninsula Cage Bird Society**

Linda Oja (804) 874-8581

WISCONSIN**Badger Canary Fanciers Ltd.**

Patrice (Ripple) Bruski (414) 785-8988

Show October 12, 1996

Milwaukee, WI

Panel Judge: Paul Williams



Changing Your Address?

Let NFSS be the first to greet you at your new address! Please send this form or this information to:

Lynda Bakula
NFSS Membership Director
P.O. Box 3232
Ballwin, MO 63022

Club Delegates should also send their change of address separately to:

Jerry McCawley
NFSS Liason Manager
506 Candlewyck Rd
Lancaster, PA 17601

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Membership # _____

1996 Chronological Show List

There's an NFSS Show for Everyone!

February

2/17 FL
Florida State Fair
Exotic Bird Show -
Day 1
(Daren Decoteau)

2/19 FL
Florida State Fair
Exotic Bird Show -
Day 2
(Harold Bowles)

April

4/18 WA
Pacific NW Spring Bird
Expo
Day 1
(Dr. Al Decoteau)

4/19 WA
Pacific NW Spring Bird
Expo
Day 2
(Conrad Meinert)

4/20 WA
Pacific NW Spring Bird
Expo
Day 3
(Harold Bowles)

June

6/01 IL
Illini Bird Fanciers
(Clarence Culwell)

6/08 MO
Heart of America
Day 1
(Miki Sparzak)

6/09 MO
Heart of America
Day 2
(Harold Bowles)

August

8/24 FL
Aviarty & Cage Bird
of South Florida
(Charles Anchor)

8/19 AL
Central Alabama
Avicultural Society.
(Conrad Meinert)

8/31 TX
Bay Area Bird Show
(Ray Johnson)

September

9/01 TX
Canary & Finch
Soc.
(Ray Johnson)

9/14 PA
Chester County Bird
Breeders

9/21 SC
Palmetto Cage Bird
Day 1
(Harold Bowles)

■ MI
Mid-West Cage-Bird
Club
(Bill Parlee)

■ NH
Birds of a Feather
(Dr. Al Decoteau)

9/22 SC
Palmetto Cage Bird
Day 2
(Conrad Meinert)
■ NM
New Mexico Bird Club
(Charles Anchor)

9/28 OH
Ft. Defiance Bird Club
(Dr. Al Decoteau)

■ PA
Central Pennsylvania
Cage Bird Club
(Hal Koontz)

■ OK
Bird Fanciers of
Oklahoma
(Marty von Raesfeld)

October

10/05 FL
Kaytee Great American
Bird Show
(Stephen Hoppin)

■ IA
Mid-America Cage Bird
Society
(Martha Wigmore)

■ TN
Middle Tennessee Cage
Bird Club
(Conrad Meinert)

■ TX
Fort Worth Bird Club
(Paul Williams)

10/12 FL
Sunshine State Cage Bird
Society
(Clarence Culwell)

■ IN
Indiana Bird Fanciers
(Charles Anchor)

■ KS
Kansas Avicultural
Society
(Laura Bewley)

■ OH
Cleveland Cage Bird
Society
(Tom Rood)

■ WI
Badger Canary & Finch
Club
(Paul Williams)

10/19 Ontario
Essex-Kent Cage Bird
Society
(Paul Williams)

■ FL
Sun Coast Avian Society
(Tom Rood)

■ MA
Massachusetts Cage Bird
Association
(Conrad Meinert)

■ MI
Great Lakes Avic.
Society
(Miki Spartzak)

■ MO
Greater Kansas City
Avic. Society
(Patrick Vance)

■ NY
NY Finch & Canary Type
Club
(Laura Bewley)

10/20 CA
Capital City Bird
Society, Inc.
Region #6 Show
(Marty von Raesfeld)

10/25 CT
Connecticut Association
for Aviculture
(Daren Decoteau)

■ MI
Motor City Bird Breeders
(Harold Bowles)

■ OK (24 entries)
Oklahoma Cage Bird
Society
(Ray Johnson)

■ TX
Texas Bird Breeders
& Fanciers Assn.
(Tom Rood)

November

11/02 CA
San Diego Bird
Show

■ CO
Rocky Mountain
Society of
Aviculture
(Hal Koontz)

■ IL
Greater Chicago
Cage Bird Club
(Paul Williams)

■ GA
Georgia Cage Bird
Society
(Clarence Culwell)

■ LA
Baton Rouge
(Miki Spartzak)

■ MO
Missouri Cage Bird
(Martha Wigmore)

■ PA
Greater Pittsburgh
(Conrad Meinert)

■ TX
Texas Canary Club
(Laura Bewley)

11/09 CA
Golden Gate Avian
Society
(Clayton Jones)

■ FL
Exotic Bird Club of
South Florida
(Martha Wigmore)

11/14, 15, & 16 MI
National Cage Bird
Show
(Stephen Hoppin)

11/30 CA
Santa Clara Valley Can-
ary & Exotic Bird
Club
(Marty von Raesfeld)

■ FL
Colorbred Canary Club
of Miami
(Stephen Hoppin)

■ IL
National Institute of
Red-Orange Canaries
(Clarence Culwell)

December

12/07 CA
Aviary Assn. of Kern
County
(Marty von Raesfeld)

■ PR
Organización
Puerto Rico
(Daren Decoteau)

FINCHSHOP

the National Finch and Softbill Society store

| ITEM | QTY | SIZE/ STYLE | PRICE EACH | TOTAL AMT |
|---|-----|---|--------------------|--------------|
| NEW T-Shirt Design! 10 Colorful Finches in Stalks of Grass w/NFSS | | M•L•XL•XXL (circle size) All 50/50 White | \$18.00 | |
| Video "The Wonderful World of Finches and Soft- bills: An Introduction" | | Members & Affiliates: Non-Members: | \$17.00 \$22.00 | |
| Show Cage Plans (see sizes below) | | | \$4.00 | |
| All 3 Show Cage Plans (set of all three) | | | \$10.00 | |
| NFSS Plastic Water Bottle | | | \$6.00 | |
| NFSS Zebra Pin | | | \$6.00 | |
| NFSS Gouldian Pin | | | \$6.00 | |
| Eric Peake Lithograph The Diamond Firetails Signed by the artist | | | \$35.00 | |
| Name Badge (members only) *Print name clearly | | 1 line engraving 2 lines - add \$1. Magnetic back add - \$1.00 | \$7.50 | |
| Past Bulletin Issues-1994 and later issues | | | \$4.00 | |
| -1993 and earlier issues | | | \$3.00 | |
| 1995 NFSS Handbook (Membership Yearbook) | | Includes Census, Index & much more (Jul/Aug '95 issue) | \$4.00 | |
| NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards | | In handsome small 3-ring binder. Updated in 1995! | \$15.00 | |

NFSS SHOW CAGE PLANS

- # 1 Cage Finches up to and including Zebras
2 Cage Finches larger than Zebras

SHIPPING & HANDLING \$

under \$10 add \$2.00
over \$10 add \$3.00

TOTAL \$

Member

Name _____ # _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail form and payment
(check or money order
payable to NFSS) to
FINCHSHOP

c/o Julie Duinstra
4400 NW Walnut Blvd. #68

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

GUIDE TO ORDERING NFSS CLOSED LEG BANDS

NFSS welcomes comments and suggestions for this Guide. Contact the home office.

size "A"

Small Waxbills
Gold-breasted Waxbill
Orange-cheeked Waxbill
Bicheno (Owl) Finch
Quail Finch
Red-eared Waxbill
Strawberry Finch

size "B"

Black-checked Waxbill
Cordon Bleu Waxbill
Cuban Melodious Finch
Fire Finch
Lavender Finch
Olive Finch
Rufous-backed Mannikin

size "C"

Black and White Mannikin
Blue-capped Waxbill
Bronze-winged Mannikin
Cherry Finch
Green Singing Finch
Grey Singing Finch
Heck's Shafttail
Painted Finch
Pileated Finch
Pytilias
Red-headed Parrot Finch
Shafttail Finch
Silverbills
Star Finch

size "D"

Blue-faced Parrot Finch
most other Parrot finches
Chestnut-breasted Finch
Gouldian Finch
Pictorella Finch
Pin-tailed Nonpareil
Yellow-rumped Finch
Zebra Finch

more size "D"

most smaller Mannikins
most Twinspots

size "E"

Black-crested Finch
Diamond Sparrow
Golden Song Sparrow
Nuns
Peter's Twinspot
Siskins
Society Finch
Spice Finch

size "G"

European Goldfinch
Magpie Mannikin
other large Mannikins
small Tanagers

size "J"

Pekin Robin
Silver-eared Mesia
other small softbills

size "K"

Java Rice Bird
Red-crested Cardinal
Saffron
Shama Thrush

size "L"

Diamond Dove
other small doves
Quail
other softbills

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

BAND ORDER FORM

NFSS offers to **members only** closed traceable aluminum bands. Available only in the NFSS color of the year, the bands are engraved with the initials *NFSS*, size code, year and number. No choice of numbers.

NO RUSH ORDERS!

Allow 30 days from receipt of your order for delivery.

Cashier's Check or Money Order will expedite your order.

Anticipate your needs to avoid frequent re-orders.

All orders are recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of ten, all the same size. New members may order before receiving membership number. Write "New" for membership # on order form.

| BAND SIZE | # OF STRINGS | PRICE/ STRING | TOTAL AMT |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| A | | \$2.75 | |
| B | | \$2.75 | |
| C | | \$2.75 | |
| D | | \$2.75 | |
| E | | \$2.75 | |
| G | | \$2.75 | |
| J | | \$2.75 | |
| K | | \$2.75 | |
| L | | \$2.75 | |

POSTAL INSURANCE:

Under \$50 - \$.75

From \$50 to \$100 - \$1.60

Over \$100 - \$2.50

If you choose not to include this sum NFSS will not be responsible for replacement of bands lost in shipment.

SUBTOTAL _____

INSURANCE _____

TOTAL _____

Please circle one year

This order is for

1996 1997 bands

Mail form and payment payable to **NFSS** to:

Ms. Eileen Laird
NFSS Band Secretary
1166 Village Forest Pl.
Winter Park, FL 32792
(407) 657-7989

Name _____ Membership # _____

Address _____

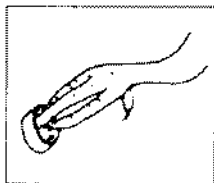
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

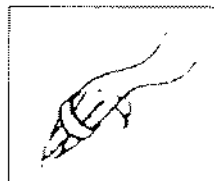
Phone _____

LEG BANDING PROCEDURE

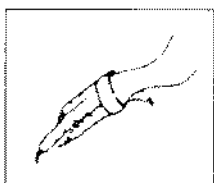
courtesy of
The National Finch and Softbill Society



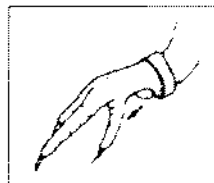
The most important thing to remember when banding chicks is to do it over a counter or table so if the chick is dropped it doesn't fall to the floor. The age to band varies between species but is generally between 5 and 10 days. You can tell by looking at the ankle joint (the joint where the toes come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



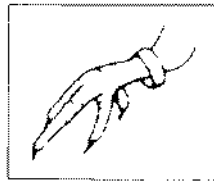
Have the bands, a toothpick (or other small blunt instrument) and some lubricant ready. Be sure you have the bands "right side up" for easier reading.



The band is generally placed on the bird's 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 and so that you don't harm it. Remember, their bodies cannot tolerate compression. Put a little bit of lubricant on the chick's 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 scrapes or irritations on the foot or leg.

NFSS Classified Ads

Classified ads (except *FINCHSAVE* ads) are \$.15 per word, per issue.

FOR SALE

Domestic, Parent-raised African

Silverbills. First & second generation birds.

Dylan Burge, (916) 345-6878 (CA)

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Show cage fronts snap-in type;

heavy chrome plated; no canary fronts. Ex. small fits NFS show cage #1- \$4.75 each. Small fits NFS show cage #2- \$6.00 each. Medium fits ABS & ALBS show cages \$6.00 each. Large fits ACS & NCS show cages \$8.50 each. Ex. large fits larger design of standard cockatiel show cage \$10.00 each. Larger quantities at lower prices.

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236 Angela Ave.,

Arabi, LA. 70032-1004

(504) 271-1840

so96

Diamond Sparrows, Normals/

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360 Clinton Ave

Tiffin, OH. 44883

or (419)-449-447-5909 evenings

so96

Show cages- finch, canaries.

cockatiel, hookbill, lovebird,

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Gouldians- Parent-raised only!

'95- '96 Blues, Yellows, Dilutes,

Normals, on good varied diet.

Will consider trading bloodlines.

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Gouldians, Owls, Fires, Parrot

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fax: (510) 223-0928.

nd96

Glamorous Gouldians Galore!

Specializing in parent raised: Normal,

White breasted, Yellow-bodies, Blues,

Silvers and Split to Blues.

Quality birds at reasonable prices.

Call Kerri Petzey

after 6pm, M-F,

anytime on weekends

(503) 761-2371

so96

FINCHSAVE Classifieds

FINCHSAVE classifieds run *FREE* of charge to FINCHSAVE participants. All readers are welcome to respond to Finchsave ads.

Wanted

Wanted: One unrelated pair Dybowski's Twinspots, and one extra male, 1 pair of Cherry Finches, and a Normal Diamond Sparrow female.

Julie Duimstra

(541) 757-3117 (OR) so96

Wanted: Male Plush Cap (crested) Jay for use in FINCHSAVE program. Please contact Finchsave participant Stephen Hoppin at (941) 7-6377 or mail via address listed under Judges Panel.

For Sale

Peter's Twinspot male, for sale or trade. Finchsave registered, mate died, ready to breed! Call John or Erick at (904) 388-2323, please leave message, will return all calls. so96

For sale or possible trade- parent raised, closed banded Red Cheeked Cordon Bleu, Senegal Fire finches, Gold Breasted Waxbills, Orange Cheeked Waxbills, St. Helena Waxbills, Red and Yellow Faced Stars. All '95 or '96 virgin birds ready to go. Please contact Finchsave Participant, Stephen Hopping at (914) 997-2237. Fax (914) 997-6377 or mail via address listed under Judges Panel.

NFSS Bulletin Advertising Rates New rates effective 1/01/95

Display (camera ready) Ads:

Full page \$50/issue; \$200/year
Half page \$30/issue; \$120/year
Qtr. page \$20/issue; \$80/year
Inside cover \$70/issue; \$300/year

Classified Advertisements

FINCHSAVE: free to participants
Others: \$.15 per word, per issue

Deadlines

12/1, 2/1, 4/1, 6/1, 8/1, 10/1
for next bi-monthly issue.

Send ad and payment (payable to NFSS) to

Robert Petrie
NFSS Bulletin Editor
4325 NE 53 rd St



The NFSS Bulletin Needs You!

Everyone has something to tell, how about writing an article. Need articles on lessons you've learned in your aviary, on softbills and finch species. Or how about writing an article on your own aviary! Let everyone know & see your pride and joy (include pictures).



the National Finch and Softbill Society

Welcomes Finch and Softbill Breeders and Enthusiasts!

- FINCHSAVE - aviculture's foremost cooperative breeding program •
 - Bi-monthly magazine - *The NFSS Bulletin* • Annual census •
 - Affiliated clubs worldwide • Show standards • Panel judges •
 - Awards • NFSS traceable bands in 9 sizes •

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PHONE NUMBER _____ New _____ Renew _____
Member? _____ NFSS # _____

ANNUAL DUES: Single \$20 _____ Dual \$25* _____ (under 16 yrs) \$12.50 _____
Junior

* 2nd name for dual membership _____

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Canadian, add \$5.00 Foreign, add \$10.00



Mail application and check payable to NFSS
to Lynda Bakula - NFSS Membership Services

P.O. Box 3232
Ballwin, MO 63022

NFSS Panel of Judges 1996

Charles Anchor

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

Laura Bewley

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Atlanta, TX 75551-2524
(903) 796-4521

Harold Bowles

230 College Circle
Cedartown, GA 30125
(770) 748-4627

Earl Courts

1807 N.E. Colburn
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-0921

Clarence Culwell

250 Horseshoe Dr.
Springtown, TX 76082
(817) 220-5568

**Dr. Al E. Decoteau
Panel Chairman**

P.O. Box 369
Groton, MA 01450
Phone (603) 672-4568
Fax (603) 672-3120

Daren Decoteau

89 Pleasantview Ave.
Stratford, CT 06497
(203) 377-2049

Stephen Hoppin

3836 Hidden Acres Circle
N. Fort Myers, FL 33903
(941) 997-2237

Ray Johnson

175 Stoneridge Way
Fayetteville, GA 30214
(404) 461-8675

Clayton Jones

P.O. Box 266
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(408) 728-8676

Hal M. Koontz

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Bakersfield, CA 93306
(805) 872-1063

Joseph Krader

29831 Weather wood
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
(714) 692-8051

Brian Mandarich

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

Conrad Meinert

1212 E. Cr. 300 S.
Warsaw, IN 46580
(219) 269-2873

William G. Parlee

631 4N Talcottville Rd.
Vernon, CT 06066
(203) 569-0200

Tom Rood

313 N. Broadway
Shelbyville, IL 62565
(217) 774-5265

Marion (Miki) Sparzak

517 Old North Point Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21224
(410) 282-9233

Patrick Vance

18175 Avilla
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
(810) 443-0643

Marty Von Raesfeld

1135 Chapman St.
San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 985-2712

Martha Wigmore

18913 Boston St. NW
Elk River, MN 55330
(612) 241-0071

Paul S. Williams

703 Donegal Drive
Papillion, NE 68046
(402) 592-5488

FOR INFORMATION ON
THE NFSS JUDGES PANEL
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