

Journal of the

National Finch and Softbill Society

Vol. 30, No. 4 Jul/Aug 2013



PHOTO BY DICK SCHROEDER

BALI MYNAHS

Leucopsar rothschildi

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NFSS MISSION STATEMENT

The National Finch and Softbill Society is dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhancing our knowledge of the proper care of these birds, encouraging breeding programs, and working with other organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

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PASSWORD TO ACCESS JOURNAL ARCHIVES
www.nfss.org, ENTER *clearwing2012*

Advertising Rates and Deadlines has been moved. See Page 46.

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COVER PHOTO

Bali Mynah *Leucopsar rothschildi*

NFSS would like to thank Dick Schroeder for sharing this photo with NFSS members. To read Dick's article about this extremely endangered bird, go to page 22.

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY SHOPPING

Shopping at NFSS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ABOUT A MONTH AGO I posted a link to the NFSS Finch/Softbill Forum <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USPS-2013-0030-0001> New Mailing Standards for Live Animals and Special Handling. There was some discussion on the Forum both in favor of widening the number of species acceptable for USPS shipment (the proposal actually opens the door very wide) and some dismissive of the service offered by USPS. To me it's an obvious call to solicit support, yet many members are reluctant to jump aboard. I'm not suggesting that those who prefer scheduled airlines for their live shipments should change. What I want to suggest is that we all take a step back and look not only at the community of finch and softbill breeders that NFSS represents but at aviculture generally and even the entire pet trade in live animals. We are a part of something larger that is valuable and being lost.

If the transport of our birds is by default expensive with no lower cost options we will price out many if not most of those newly interested in bird keeping and breeding. If the market for entry level birds is priced too high we cannot recruit new breeders. The bottom line is that we must promote market and shipping access even of types that we don't personally use.

For many years I've kept and occasionally bred and reared ornamental pheasants. For the last 8 or so years the flights have been home to a hen and two male Lady Amherst pheasants. And as anyone who keeps livestock must accept, keeping livestock insures there will be dead stock. I lost both males in the last month and am faced with a time sensitive decision. It's spring and I can buy hatching eggs, something I won't be able to do in a short time. Do I dust off an incubator? Where might I go to explore my options? There are 44 listings for Golden and Lady Amherst pheasant eggs on Ebay, 2482 Ebay listings under hatching eggs. It's worth taking a look.

When we look at bird clubs dwindling memberships and note the longer periods between bird marts and shows and the generally smaller foot print of both it's difficult to not think bird keeping is in permanent decline. The number and variety of listings on Ebay argues that at least within the poultry community there is reason for optimism. I'd argue that much of the difference between the outlook for the small cage bird keeper and poultry/gamebird community is access to markets.

If the birds we keep are to remain available (even to us) we must take the broader view and promote bird marts, shows and most critically, access to inexpensive transportation. I didn't mention, almost every egg listing on Ebay offers shipment via USPS. I haven't decided which if any eggs to buy and will bring you up to date in the next Journal.

This Journal will be the last edited by Gerta Noble. Gerta deserves our appreciation for a job well done. Thank You!

John Wilson
President NFSS



From the Editor

When I started doing the journal I told Barbara I would do four issues but it turned into nine and it is now time to call it quits. As I do this final issue, I want to thank the people who sent me articles and pictures and tell them I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all. Without your help I could not have done it. If I tried to list all your names I would forget someone so will not try but I do want to thank Paula for everything she did. Even when she was sick she would still help me. I don't care what I asked her, she always had the answer and provided whatever help I needed. Thanks, Paula, NFSS is lucky to have you.

NFSS GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

For officers serving in 2014 - 2015

NFSS Membership Number _____

THIS MUST BE COMPLETED OR THE BALLOT WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

Dual members will each have one (1) vote (ballot may be photocopied)

BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2013

MAIL BALLOTS TO

John Wilson

NFSS GENERAL ELECTION

1238 Vermont St.

San Francisco, CA 94110

**Vote for one candidate in each category by making an X
in the box or writing in the name of a candidate**

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1st VICE PRESIDENT (Education)

- Sally Huntington
Write-in Candidate _____

2nd VICE PRESIDENT (Publications)

- John Wilson
Write-in Candidate _____

3rd VICE PRESIDENT (Finch/Softbill Save)

- Scott Golden
Write-in Candidate _____

4th VICE PRESIDENT (Judges Panel/Standards/Research)

- Laura Bewley
 Vince Moase
 Bob Peers
Write-in Candidate _____

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Janet Edmonds
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TREASURER

- Lisa Murphy
Write-in Candidate _____

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Tiffany Park
Write-in Candidate _____

AFFILIATIONS/AWARDS DIRECTOR

Jody Lewis
Write-in Candidate _____

BAND SECRETARY

Paula Hansen
Write-in Candidate _____

FINCH SHOP MANAGER

Sharon Dvorak
Write-in Candidate _____

REGION 1 VICE PRESIDENT (Northeast)

Only members residing in CT, DE, ME, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA., RI, VT, and CANADA can vote for this candidate.

State/Province Where You Reside _____

Julie Lawson
Write-in Candidate _____

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Only members residing in AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, VA, WV, Puerto Rico, and Caribbean Basin can vote for this candidate.

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Cecil Gunby
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Only members residing in AR, IL, IN, KY, LA, MI, MO, OH, WI, TN, Australia, Bermuda, and England can vote for this candidate.

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Jason Crean
Write-in Candidate _____

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Only members residing IA, KS, MN, NE, ND, SD, OK, TX, AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY can vote for this candidate.

State/Province Where You Reside _____

Cheryl Burns
Write-in Candidate _____

REGION 5 VICE PRESIDENT (Pacific)

Only members residing in AK, CA, HI, OR, and WA can vote for this candidate.

State/Province Where You Reside _____

Doug White
Write-in Candidate _____

NFSS GENERAL ELECTION GUIDELINES

A big thank-you to Rebecca and Lisa for editing and condensing the bios to fit.

REBECCA MIKEL — President

I have served on the NFSS Board since December of 2006 in the position of Executive Secretary, served on the Dept. Back-up Committee, the By-Law Revision Committee, compiled “Annual Activity Reports”, conducted audits of the financial records of the Society, served as General Election Chairperson for 3 elections, and assisted with several other responsibilities for the Society. I have Bachelor's Degrees in Human Resources and Business Administration. My husband and I keep several species of Finches, Softbills, and Hookbills & are active in NFSS shows. While I have big shoes to fill in terms of the Presidency, my years on the Board (providing me a unique insight into the organization), my “real job” (allowing me to gain experience in several applicable areas – leadership, budgeting and financial practices, general business knowledge), and my passion for the hobby will allow me to continue to contribute to the high quality of leadership this organization has had in the past. Thank you for your vote.

SALLY HUNTINGTON — 1st Vice President

I have served on the NFSS BOD in the past as President and most recently as AFA Delegate. I am MAP (model aviculture program) certified, a life member of AFA, a charter member of National Avian Welfare Alliance, a participant in Finch Save, member of Aviculture Society of American, and member of the Finch Society of San Diego County. I keep several types of Finches (Zebras, Gouldians, Societies, Forbes, RH Finches) and Softbills (White Ear Bulbuls, Pekins, Yhinas, Mousebirds, Brazilian Cardinals and Fruit Doves). I have published avian-related articles and chapters (AFA Watchbird, NFSS Journal, Bird Talk magazine, Just Finches and Softbills magazine). I am the sponsor and coordinator of NFSS's annual Afternoon of Aviculture, consisting of speaker presentation on subjects of aviculture interest. I work as a licensed psychotherapist in private practice in La Jolla, California.

JOHN WILSON — 2nd Vice President

I've been honored to serve two terms as NFSS President and served as 1st Vice President on the 2008/2009 BOD. I've moderated the NFSS Finch Softbill Forum since its establishment in Dec. 1998. In my time on the BOD I've served on numerous committees including the recent bi-law revision committee. It has been my good fortune this term to preside over a group of dedicated BOD members whose service has built and maintained a solid financial position and continued to improve our exposure to both the general public and the avicultural community. My background in aviculture spans nearly fifty years including racing pigeons, ornamental pheasants, gamebirds small hookbills and yes finches. I reside in San Francisco California with my wife who tolerates my passion for brightly colored birds. My interests include plant propagation primarily platycerium (staghorn ferns) and Clivia. I'm a self employed garage door contractor.

SCOTT GOLDEN — 3rd Vice President
FINCHSAVE / CENSUS MANAGER

I have been raising birds for almost 40 years, starting out with pigeons, bantam chickens and ornamental pheasants. About 25 years ago, I bought my first pair of finches and from that time on, raising finches has been a great passion, focusing on Parrot Finches the past 10 years. I received the NFSS National Avicultural Recognition Award for my efforts in 2010. I am running for the position of 3rd Vice *President of NFSS because I feel strongly about fellow aviculturalists networking* and sharing information in order to establish viable breeding populations of the many finch species that exist in U.S. aviculture. I've been moderator of the NFSS Erythrura/Parrot Finch group since its inception in 2010. As 3rd Vice President, I'll work to make sure the census reflects the diversity of finch species kept in the United States and continue to grow the Finch Save Program, providing further links for NFSS members who are raising common species.

LAURA BEWLEY — 4th Vice President
JUDGES PANEL / STANDARDS, RESEARCH

I have been an NFSS member since the mid 80s and an NFSS judge since the late 80s, I am the current 4th V.P., serve on BOD for the National Cage Bird Show, and my local club. In my past term we revised the NFSS Judges Panel Handbook, added two new judges, worked on new standards (Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Cuban Melodious, and European Goldfinch), and have a committee working on the Gouldian standard. When I started my goals were to provide easy access to the judges handbook and standards and continue adding to our standards. I have made progress with both goals. I want to continue working to provide educational opportunities for judges, improve procedures for reporting show information, and increase interaction judges have with members at shows enabling them to provide information, support and to lobby for NFSS. Thank you for your vote.

VINCE Moase — 4th Vice President
JUDGES PANEL / STANDARDS, RESEARCH

I have been involved with birds and aviculture most of my life. My work experience was with a waterfowl research station and as a zookeeper at the Toronto Zoo, specializing there with many different bird species. In my own collection, I currently keep 9 Finch species, 3 Softbill species, 1 partridge species, and 1 Quail. Besides my NFSS affiliation, I am a member of the Zebra Finch Society of England and maintain memberships in 5 Ontario bird clubs. Over the last 30 years I have held positions of president, show manager, secretary, treasurer, membership and rings, and bulletin editor of the Durham Aviculture Society, or the Canadian Finch and Softbill Society, providing familiarity with problems commonly occurring within bird clubs. I have been judging finches and softbills across Canada the past 30 years, including 3 Canadian National Shows, and I am an NFSS Panel Judge. At this time I serve as the NFSS Region 1 V.P. (Northeast). My wife and I enjoy regularly showing birds and attending the NCBS. Over the years, I have developed contacts across Canada and throughout the United States with aviculturists I've met while judging or showing birds. Because of my background, I feel I have a lot to offer NFSS members.

BOB PEERS — 4th Vice President
JUDGES PANEL / STANDARDS, RESEARCH

I have served on the NFSS BOD nearly eight years as President, 1st VP, Region VP, and Awards manager. I am an active NFSS Panel Judge, recently judging shows for Illinois, Washington, Texas, Michigan, Florida, Puerto Rico, and California, providing the opportunity to speak with members in all regions of the country. I have been a part of the BOD involved with projects that included increasing financial strength and improving visibility with a website. I was the driving force in establishing the new awards for Best Flighted and Best Unflighted Bird of the year. If elected I plan to bring back the Judges Panel column in the journal, giving exhibitors and judges an avenue to discuss topics of interest. With your vote I will continue to work hard to improve NFSS and keep it the preeminent Society you have come to know.

JANET EDMONDS
Secretary

Living in Yucaipa, CA. since 1972, I've kept Parakeets, Cockatiels, Zebras, and Societies since the mid-70s. In 2004 I looked into Gouldians and met Laura Watkins. In 2005 she took me to my first bird show, the West Coast Zebra and Finch Society Specialty Show, where I saw Zebras that looked like Cornish Game Hens! It was there I met many well-informed people who I can turn to when I need help. I worked in secretarial positions for private business 3 years; clerical/ secretary for the State of California 16 years; and Licensing Investigator for the Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control 15 years, retiring in 2003. I continue to hold secretarial positions for my quilting guild and car club. I now keep/ breed/show Gouldians, Owl, Star, Cherry Finch, and Diamond Doves but my first love is the Zebra Finch.

LISA MURPHY
Treasurer

As Treasurer the past seven years (2006) I have worked with the NFSS BOD to improve the organization's record-keeping and overall financial status. I have also served on several committees to improve the organization for all, including the Department Backup, Bylaws Revision, Polices and Procedures, and General Election Nominating Committee. I am originally from Texas but moved to Tennessee in 1993 due to my husband's job. We have spent the last 14 years remodeling a 100-year-old home in Etowah, located in the foothills of the Smokey Mountains. We call this home and share it with our 21-year-old grandson, three dogs and 60 + birds. Our two children and 4 other grandchildren live close, so we share many happy times together. I have been raising/breeding/showing birds since 2001 and a member of NFSS since 2001. I hope as members you will continue to support the NFSS Board of Directors and remember to VOTE.

PAULA HANSEN

Band Manager

I am a native New Yorker but have resided in Oregon the past 29 years. A brief overview of my history in the hobby includes the following: 1991—Starting with the basics, Zebra and Society Finch and moving over to Red Factor and Gloster Canary. 1994—Interests turned to breeding Shaftails, Button and Coturnix Quail. 1996—I shifted to BH/RH Gouldians, Cordon Bleus, Gold-breasted Waxbills, and AFA Red Siskin Project. I am presently focusing on Finch Save and continue breeding Red Siskins. I have worked 21 years with several unofficial and official bird shows and marts, served as club president of the Finch Connection Bird Club nine years, and continue supporting bird clubs in the Pacific NW as show secretary and classifier. I became involved with AFA Red Siskin Project (RSP) 17 years ago and in 2002 chaired this project. I served as AFA Oregon State Coordinator two years and was Northwest Regional Director and Board member in 2005. I have been a member of NFSS 21 years. holding the position of Band Secretary 11 years. I am a current member of the Columbia Canary Club (Oregon) and Cascade Canary Breeders Association (Washington). I received the prestigious NFSS National Avicultural Recognition Award in 2011.

TIFFANY PARK

Membership Director

At this time I am the Membership Director for the NFSS Board of Directors; I have served in this position since 2010. I currently live in Maryland and have owned and bred Gouldian finches over the last six years. I also work with Owl Finches, Blue-faced Parrot Finches, and Self Society Finches. I work at the Society for Neuroscience in the Technology Service department.

Jody Lewis

Affiliate/Awards Director

My work experience includes office manager, customer service, collections, intake, and scheduling. I currently work with Close to My Heart scrapbook supplies. I have raised various types of Finches, Canaries, and Diamond Doves. I was a member of Illini Bird Fanciers 20 years where I served as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Fair/Show Manager, and was responsible for newsletters. In 2009 a friend and I started Heart of Illinois Bird Club. As Show Manager and President of a club, I understand the importance of being affiliated with NFSS and the importance of showing birds. I would appreciate your vote for Affiliate/Awards Director in the upcoming NFSS General Election.

SHARON DVORAK — Finch Shop Manager

I am the current Finch Shop Manager. I have worked to change procedures enabling members to purchase quality NFSS merchandise at reasonable prices. I have been a Raleigh Bird Club member 13 years, serving as Secretary 4 years and Treasurer the past 5 years. I am currently the Interim SE Regional Director for AFA. I have been a finch/canary breeder 5 years and exhibit at NFSS shows. My husband and I reside in North Carolina. I was raised to take my responsibilities seriously, be honest, work hard, and do my best even if things don't come out perfectly every time. I would appreciate your vote to re-elect me as Finch Shop Manager.

JULIE LAWSON — Region 1 Vice President

NORTHEAST

I live in Ontario, Canada where I am a certified professional dog trainer. I have been involved with aviculture most of my life. I specialize in Gouldians and have kept many different species of finches. I have memberships in 3 Canadian bird clubs. I have held positions as newsletter editor, assistant show manager, vice president, designed the club's graphics, and served as a general director in the Canadian Finch and Softbill Society. I enjoy the opportunities I have had to show my birds at the National Cage Bird Show. I am very interested in promoting the avian hobby through the sharing of knowledge and exhibition of birds. I would like to represent NFSS members in region 8 and hope to be your VP in the new term.

CECIL GUNBY — Region 2 Vice President

SOUTHEAST

I have been an NFSS member since 1985 when the New England Finch Society became the National Finch Society. I was one of the early members outside of New England. I have served in different board positions; on judges panel over 20 years, most recently as Judges Panel Chair. I am an avid supporter of the NCBS and would be happy to serve as the Southeast Region V.P. I have bred over 35 species of finches and softbills over 30 years. Thank you for your consideration and vote.

JASON CREAN — Region 3 Vice President

MID-CENTRAL

I have served as Region 3 Vice President the past few years. I have been a biology instructor 17 years, currently serving as a faculty member at Lyons Township High School, teaching biology at Saint Xavier University, and adjunct faculty for Aurora and Illinois Benedictine Universities. I am a curriculum designer and instructor in the Brookfield Zoo education department and do live animal education programs. My love of birds has led me to be a breeder of softbilled birds, in particular, Green Aracaris and White-backed Mousebirds, using these birds in educational programs to increase the public interest in avian life.

CHERYL BURNS — Region 4 Vice President, MIDWEST

I have been a bird owner/ hobby breeder 20 +years and active in bird clubs and organizations most of that time, serving as a board member or other officer for most. I have been a speaker for many bird clubs and published articles in Bird Talk, Watchbird, and society journals. I show birds in the Parrot and Finch divisions, placing best in division and on top bench several times. I currently serve as Region 4 Vice President for NFSS and keep Conures, Pionus, Caiques, show-quality Society Finches, Cuban Melodious Finches, a Saffron finch, Chinese Button quail and Diamond Doves. I work as a Training and Communications Professional with over 19 years training experience with a specialization in instructional design. I earned a BA in Public Relations from Abilene Christian University with a minor in Spanish. I have built and continue to maintain websites for five bird clubs as well as my own personal websites. I also enjoy photography and doing things in the great outdoors.

DOUG WHITE — REGION 5 VICE PRESIDENT, MOUNTAIN

I am married with three daughters; the oldest two help me with the care of the birds. I am a retired U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer and currently work as a Senior Recruiter for Allstate Insurance. I have owned and bred birds nearly 30 years and currently have zebras, societies, jays, diamond doves, canaries, and cockatiels. I have shown many types of birds and enjoy attending the shows and talking to people about the birds they own. I take time to discuss with the non-NFSS members the benefits of becoming a member of our great organization. I have enjoyed the past several years as your regional V.P. and would very much like to continue in this position.



N.F.S.S. REGIONAL SHOW

**ESSEX-KENT
CAGE BIRD SOCIETY**

**38th Annual Show and Exhibition
September 27, 28 & 29, 2013**

Judge: Kenneth Gunby

**Fogolar Furlan Club, Udine Complex – Upper - elevator
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YELLOW-BREASTED HUNTING CISSA

Family: Corvidae ❖ Sub-family: Corvinae ❖ Tribe: Corvina

by Roland and Ilana Cristo



“**C**ISSAS ARE PERHAPS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL of the whole family” (Delacour²). Of all the birds in the Corvid family, Cissas are perhaps the most sought after in the aviculture.

There are three species of Cissas with 12 sub-species. The Green Magpie (*Cissa Chinensis*), also known as the Long-tailed Hunting Cissa in aviculture, comes from the Malay Peninsula up into Annam (Vietnam) and as far north as China.

Four sub-species are on the mainland with one sub-species, *C.c. minor* coming from the islands of Sumatra to Burma. We have the mainland sub-species, *Cissa c. Klossi*, and *Cissa c. Minor*, the island sub-species, which is smaller than the mainland birds.

The Short-tailed Hunting Cissa (*Cissa Thalassina*) comes from two islands: Java and Corneo. We have a female of the Javan sub-species, *Cissa t. Thalassina*. The Short-tailed has quite a musical song, much like a songbird's. The other species we keep don't seem to.

Three sub-species of the Yellow-breasted Magpie (*Cissa Hypoleuca*) come from Annam (Vietnam), Laos, and Thailand. There are two isolated sub-species in China. The Yellow-breasted have a longer crest and display it far more often than the other species. The species we keep are the nominate *Cissa h. Hypoleuca*.

Cissas are a little larger than the American Blue Jay (13"-14"). They are a beautiful light green color with chestnut red colored wings, a black mask and red – orange beak and feet. The green color seems to fade to a light blue color in captivity if the birds are exposed to too much sunlight and perhaps not given enough carotenoids in the diet. The males seem to turn more bluish than the females. The young we have raised all had bluish or turquoise feathers. Interestingly, Lynn Hall, Fruit Dove breeder and expert, informed me of seeing birds recently caught and entirely blue at bird markets in Singapore. They do seem to spend most of their time in the aviary shelter or in the shade of the plants in the aviary.

The word "hunting" does describe the method the pair uses to capture their prey. Then the prey (usually a feeder mouse) is spotted in the grass; the pair of cissas will stalk it together, (like a brace of dogs), on either side of the aviary until it is cornered. At that point the male will usually make the kill.

Breeding of the Yellow-breasted Hunting Cissa

We received the pair on breeder loan from Gene Fetter. They were together at his aviaries but had never been able to breed them. He believed that it was because he wasn't able to provide them with what they needed in aviary size. They were inside for about 3 months and were moved to a sheltered cage that was outside to get them acclimated to the climate. We live at 1200' elevation and it can get to below freezing at night (15 degrees in 1999).

They were fed "soft food" daily along with 4 pieces of canned dog food and 2 pieces of beef heart. The soft food consisted of Science Diet, Canine Maintenance (small bites); Kaytee Mynah pellets; green Purina Nutra-blend Pigeon pellets, and Mazuri Small Bird Breeder pellets softened with water. This was mixed with defrosted frozen mixed vegetables every other day. Dry food was kept in their cage constantly. The dry mix consisted of Science Diet, Canine Maintenance (small bites); Kaytee Mynah pellets; green Purina Nutra-blend Pigeon pellets and Calf Manna. The female laid an egg on the floor of the cage.

They were moved to an outside aviary, dimensions 3' x 16', planted with podocarpus. A basket nest was placed high in the sheltered area above the door. The basket nest was a decorative plant pot cover lined with rush¹ inside.

The female began to make her nest immediately after being placed in the aviary. The same food mixture was fed. We also fed weanling to half-grown mice once a day.

After a few days she started to lay. The first clutch of 3 eggs was infertile. They were removed at 15 days. To our surprise, she immediately laid again. Our other pairs have never laid so soon after an unsuccessful nest. Mealworms were also added to their diet. They seemed to eat both the mealworms and mice with relish. At the onset of the first egg of the second clutch, mice² were added on a daily basis. The mice were live and placed in a porcelain mixing bowl partially sunk in the ground. The sides of the bowl are smooth so the mice couldn't jump or climb out.

In four (4) days time she laid 4 eggs. The male kept vigil guard. She set tight unless someone went into the aviary to drop mice in their feeding bowl. The male sounded an alarm or became aggressive and she left the nest temporarily always going to the ground. (The Long-tailed Cissa always went to a high perch). About two (2) days prior to the eggs hatching, the male became even bolder and more aggressive hitting me on the head as I fed mice in the mornings.



In about 18 days the first egg hatched showing a completely naked, sightless and helpless chick. The next day, 2 chicks hatched, one in the morning and one in the late afternoon. The fourth chick hatched the next day. The parents fed the chicks mealworms and mice the first 3-4 days after hatching. After 3-4 days the parents stopped feeding mealworms. After 5-6 days, the numbers of mice given the parents were increased to 3-4 per feeding and served 2-3 times per day. It appeared that all parts of the mice were either fed or eaten by the parents. Remnants of the mice could not be found.

The babies had pinfeathers at approximately 11 days. Their eyes opened at 12 days. At approximately 12-14 days old, the parents were given 15-20 mice per day and served 4 times per day.

The parents stopped eating soft food, dog food and beef heart for a while. It was quite hazardous serving the pair. The female would leave the nest calling and complaining and the male would scold and dive at the person entering the aviary. The offering of food meant nothing to him. He even drew blood from my ear.

The babies grew quickly and the food offered increased also. At 20 days one baby started to perch on the edge of the nest. The rest perched shortly after, about 2-3 days. One baby left the nest at this time also.

At about 25 days the chicks were standing on the perches away from the nest. They would be found on the ground and were able to hop and scramble up the perches to the highest perching “branch” and nest. During this entire time they were always fed soft food, canned dog food and beef heart. At about 24 days old the soft food mix, canned dog food and beef heart started to disappear. I never actually saw the chicks eat the food but the amount was increased and it always seemed as though less was left. They also started to eat the dry mix as more of that disappeared also.

The amount of mice served was decreased and the amount of canned dog food, beef heart and soft food was increased. At 29 days the chicks were increasing their activity and would fly to the “outside” perches and hop along the branches and perches. They started to call and scold like the parents and fully display their crest feathers. At 31 days their landings were much more accurate. Soft food consumption increased along with canned dog food and beef heart. What I didn’t mention before was that occasionally powdered calcium was sprinkled on their soft food and beef heart.

They are still not the same color as the parents but they haven’t gone through their first adult molt yet. They appear to be a blue-gray color instead of the lime and light olive green of the parents. Their beaks are also grayish in color and their feet are a fleshy pink color instead of the adult orange color.

Corvids (crows, magpies, jays) comprise a family of more than 100 species. They are distributed worldwide except in the Polar Region. My fascination with corvids began at the age of 12 when I helped my brother hand-raise 20+ native magpies and some crows.

I have found this family of birds to be extremely intelligent. “Of all birds, Corvids have the largest cerebral hemispheres, relative to their body size. Under operant conditioning methods, crows have been found to be superior in intelligence to all other avian species tested.” (Plasse, Angell) Through the years, I have found the corvid family is far more intelligent than any of the birds I have worked with, including any psittacine.

Ilana’s fascination with Corvids began in 1964 when she hand-raised an Eastern Blue Jay. It proved to be an intelligent, mischievous clown. It kept itself busy and amused by causing chaos and teasing all the other birds in the house. It was very bold and always stole objects from pockets and various places in the house to hide them somewhere else. This is a natural behavior but none the less frustrating and comical.

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¹ Rush – Juncos, “rushes somewhat resemble grasses; leaflike stems are round” Sunset Western Garden book.

They grow in bogs or wet areas; due to cylindrical blades seem to make a very neat nest material.

² The mice seemed to keep the male busy throughout the day. He would kill the mice and store them in a larder- like manner for later consumption or feeding.

Historically, one of the problems with raising these kinds of birds in captivity has been that the males would eat the eggs or young. We have used this method with the Cissas and Red – billed Magpies and we believe it works to keep the male busy. We have never had a problem with predation of the nest by the males.





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The Magnificent Bali Mynah

Leucopsar rothschildi

BY DICK SCHROEDER



THE BALI MYNAH IS KNOWN by a number of common names: Bali starling, Rothschild's starling, Rothschild's Mynah, and Jalak Bali in the native Indonesian language. It was nearly known by another name: **extinct!**

The Bali mynah was discovered in 1910 and named for the British ornithologist, Lord Rothschild. It is endemic only to Bali where its original range covered most of the island. By the 1980s it was confined to West Bali National Park with a population of around 350 birds. In the 1990s 400 captive-bred birds were released into the National Park, mostly raised in U.S. zoos. By 2005 there were less than 10 birds left in the wild, the result of poaching. They are a status symbol in Indonesia, with individuals selling for as much as \$2000 each, more than much of the population earns in a year. Also in the 1990s a captive breeding facility was set up in nearby Java with plans to release birds produced into the West Bali National Park. The plans all came to a halt in 1999 when armed gun men raided the breeding facility and removed every bird. It is interesting to note that the day before the raid the facility was visited by high ranking Java military personnel, coincidence? Some think not.

My experience with the Bali mynahs dates to 1982 when, after a visit to the Los Angeles Zoo and spending most of a day observing these beautiful birds, I contacted the bird curator at the time, Mike Cunningham, and asked what it would take to get my hands on some. He said that he did have surplus but I would need state and federal permits before he could transfer any to me. State permits were required because the only legal starling (besides the European) were the Indian Hill mynahs; any of the others required an injurious species permit. After a couple of hearings, and some help from AFA members writing letters, I was granted the state permit, the Federal CBW(Captive Bred Wildlife) permit followed, necessary when shipping birds across state lines and only to another permit holder.

I was given two pairs by the LA Zoo, which might seem like a big deal, but I was able to purchase surplus from other zoos around the country for around \$50 each at the time. I first bred them in 1984 and have had them in my collection since that time, though today it is only a single male.

I found them to be not difficult to breed, much easier than the Indian Hill mynahs that I also had. They were not disturbed as much with people around as were the Hill mynahs. Many of my early breeding successes were in mixed species aviaries. They shared the space with such species as turacos, woodpeckers, barbets, and usually some type of plovers on the ground. Nest boxes were a little deeper than a cockatiel box. The birds build their own nests with sticks, twigs and weeds from the aviary. 2-3 eggs are laid and incubation lasts fourteen days. Most all of my chicks were parent raised, I only hand fed at times when a chick came out of the nest too early or a parent was somehow injured or not feeding.

One large concern with the Bali mynahs is the diet. They are highly susceptible to hemochromatosis or iron storage disease, so the diet must be as low in iron as possible. That is pretty easy these days with the commercial low iron softbill diets, but more difficult back in the 80's. Fruit and insects makes up most of the diet and live food is essential when they are feeding chicks.

As you recall when we last left the wild population it was down to less than 10 members, where do they stand today? Much better I'm happy to say since a group called FNPF (Friends of the National Park Foundation) stepped in to help. The director is a veterinarian and Bali breeder named Dr. Bayu Wirayudha. He, along with volunteers has set up the Nusa Penida Bird Sanctuary on Nusa Penida Island, about 9 miles off the Bali coast.

It also takes in the smaller islands of Nusa Ceningan and Nusa Lembongan. The reason this is working so well is they have eliminated poaching by having all of the members of all 41 villages on these islands agree to making the protection of birds part of their “awig awig” or traditional regulations, part of the spiritual rules.

FNPF released 64 captive raised birds in 2006/2007 and those were up to 100 by 2009 and they have spread to all three of the islands. In November of 2011 10 more birds were released, donated by USFWS and in December of 2012 6 more were released on Lembongan by FNPF. Most all of the FNPF releases were bred by the most experienced Bali breeder in Indonesia, Mr. Soehana Otojoe, who has raised over 850 of them since the 1980s in Badung, W. Java.

FNPF plans to release 10 birds every year sourced from different breeders to maintain genetic diversity. The problem facing anyone in the U.S. who wants to work with these beautiful birds is the entire U.S. zoo population is under the control of the studbook keeper and she is the one person that can place any surplus birds, unfortunately she doesn't believe anyone in the private sector should be able to possess this endangered species. Until something happens to her or she changes her mind we would be breeders are pretty much out of luck.



I have a good friend and ex-Bali Mynah breeder, Brad Box, who will be volunteering in Bali this spring with the FNPF to show them how to best take care of the captive birds and to assist in setting up a captive breeding facility in Bali.

You may view his adventures at Balimynafoundation.org

**BALI MYNAH PHOTOS BY
DICK SCHROEDER**

About the Author

Dick Schroeder lives in Escondido, California. His avicultural adventures began in the 1970s in Los Angeles and like many of us he started with finches, soon moved to lovebirds, then it was all downhill from there. Known early in the hobby for his work with lorries, sometimes referred to as “softbilled parrots”, it was only natural that he progress into the world of real softbills. Over the years Dick has bred numerous species of birds including such rarities as the Red-vented cockatoo, numerous Amazons and African Greys, as well as macaws and cockatoos. He received the AFA first breeding award for the Fairy Lorikeet in 1989. During this period he also raised numerous Bali mynahs, double-eyed fig parrots, and Philippine hanging parrots.

Dick has written Avicultural articles for numerous publications over the past nearly 50 years. This includes over 20 years of a monthly column for Bird Talk. Others include Watchbird, Bird World, Birds USA, and the ASA Bulletin. His involvement with bird clubs began early on as well. He served various positions in the South Bay Bird Club, Long Beach Bird Breeders, and nearly every position in ASA including two terms as president. He is very proud of his Avicultural Lifetime Excellence Award presented by ASA in 2009 as well as his Honorary Lifetime Membership awarded in 1993 by ASA. He was a founding member of the International Softbill Society, a director for the American Lory Society, a MAP board member and is currently a professional level member of the ZAA (Zoological Association of America).

Dick moved from Los Angeles to Fallbrook in 1991 where he ran his bird feed business (Cuttlebone Plus) in San Marcos, until his retirement in 2008. His current avian collection includes a number of hornbill species, still a few lorries, shama thrushes, kookaburras and various other softbills. Only one pair of birds eats seeds, his African Greys that he keeps around for their sound effects. He currently resides in SW Escondido with his wife Rikki.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following is taken from an article in the May/June 2013 issue of the NFSS Journal: ***Breed and Release vs. Save the Wild Gouldian***, reinforcing what Dick Schroeder has written in this article.

“The Rothschild’s (Bali) Mynah is another example of high endeavor and high cost with questionable results. In 1990 there were only 15 Mynahs left in the wild. A breed-and-release program was implemented which at its peak managed to get the wild population up to a maximum of 50 birds. By 2011 this mainland population was back down to six. The point we are trying to make is that there is no point in breeding and releasing birds back into a habitat or environment which is not able to sustain them. It is an expensive waste of time and effort as well as being potentially cruel. “Releasing Gouldian Finches into a habitat which will not support them will not work. The conservation programs that have worked are where wild-caught species are trans-located into a suitable habitat. Example: The Rothschild’s Mynah program failed to work on mainland Bali, however a small number were trans-located to a suitable, predator-free offshore island where the population has now increased to 130 birds.”

Determining Sex of Young Canaries®

by Dean Kurdi

The Canary Man



ALL PHOTOS BY OWNER AND BREEDER, DEAN KURDI

Many canary breeders wonder why their canaries produce more females than males or the opposite, more males than females.

I discovered this could be accomplished by controlling the type of light used in the breeding aviary. In the wild I learned the sun controls the bird's sex before it hatches, depending on where the parents build their nest, meaning the amount of sunlight CRI (color rendering index) and the sun heat K (Kelvin) the eggs receive from the natural sunlight.

If the nest is built in a location that receives 75 percent or more sunlight and 25 percent or less shade during the daytime hours there is a bigger chance most of the young hatched will be males.

If the nest is built in a location that receives 25 percent or less sunlight and 75% or more shade, there is a bigger chance the young hatched will be females.

If the nest is built where it receives 50 percent shade and 50 percent sunlight, chances are the sex of the young will be equal (50-50 males and females).

The sun is a combination of bright light and radiant heat. We receive the sunlight and heat in a different amount every minute, hour, day, month, and season. When the direct solar radiation is not blocked by clouds it is experienced as *sunshine* (full-spectrum light).

When I understood the sun CRI and K, I decided to experiment using this method on my canaries, using the following types of lights to prove it right.

- Type A: full-spectrum fluorescent light that produces 98 CRI and 6500 K.
- Type B: medium-spectrum fluorescent light producing 91 CRI and 5000 K
- Type C: low-spectrum fluorescent light, black-color fluorescent light

I experienced this method on my canaries and proved it right through 2008, 2009, and 2010. When I provided their aviary with a different type of lights for each year, each type produced a different amount of CRI and K. The results were as follows.

2008 The aviary was provided with Type A fluorescent light that produced the maximum (highest) amount.

Result: In one breeding season, 34 pair of canaries produced 306 males and 102 females.

2009 The aviary was provided with Type B fluorescent light to produce a medium amount of CRI and K to produce almost equally males and females.

Result: In one breeding season, 34 pair of canaries produced 203 males and 198 females.

2010 In the third year I provided their aviary with Type C black fluorescent light that produced a minimum (low) amount of CRI and K to produce more females than males.

Result: In one breeding season, 34 breeding pair produced 311 females and 106 males.

The type of lights mentioned above are not the reason for controlling the canary's molting and breeding time. Lighting is very important for a canary's need and they are very sensitive to it as well. The amount of light canaries receive will control their sleep, rest, molting, and breeding time.

Light entering a canary's eyes will affect the testosterone hormones in their body and the brain area responsible for singing. The more hours of light they receive, the more their hormones are increased.

In nature, light changes over the course of the year; the amount of light received each day will differ from one day to the other, regardless of where you live. For example, if you live in the United States and your friend lives in a different country, it does not mean your canaries and his canaries will breed and molt at the same time.

For instance, on July 1, 2011 the length of daylight in Louisville, Kentucky, was 14 hours, 42 minutes (breeding season). On April 1, 2011 the length of daylight in Amman, Jordan (middle east), was 14 hours, 41 minutes (breeding season).

If your canaries are depending on the natural sunlight they will be in a breeding condition when the length of daylight in your area reaches almost the longest hours of daylight. They will start molting when the daylight reaches the shortest amount of daylight hours.

If your canaries are depending on artificial light, you must monitor the length of the natural daylight in your area for each month to match it with your canaries lighting system to provide them with the correct time for their breeding and molting seasons. If you do not, you will experience many breeding and molting complications.

You can determine the length of the daylight where you live in various ways, such as reading sunrise and sunset times in the newspaper or on TV or googling it. However, in the other hand, I believe there is a relationship between the canary's breeding and molting season related to nature. When the color of the leaves starts to change from green to orange, yellow or red this is the beginning of the molting season, then when the leaves start falling down, this is when canaries go through a heavy molting. When the trees are coming into leaf (buds are popping out of the tree branches), prepare yourself to breed your canaries.

There are some areas where breeders change the breeding cycle of their canaries. For instance, some breeders in Florida breed during the normal molting cycle by using artificial light to avoid breeding their canaries during the hot days or to have new young ready for sale.

Unfortunately, by doing this, these breeders are going against nature and the success is not as good. For example some or most of the eggs appear to be unfertilized. In most cases, the hen will lay fewer eggs. There also could be aggression, where males will destroy the nest, eat the newly laid eggs, and have frequent fights with females. The young's size may be smaller than average and the young's color may appear lighter than the parents color.

A good example would be the tomato. When a tomato is grown outdoors during the summer "growing season", it has an excellent taste. However, if that same tomato is grown in a green house off the growing season, it will have no taste as a natural tomato.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dean Kurdi, known to many as "The Canary Man", lives with his family in Louisville, Kentucky, where he breeds American Singer and Kurdsville canaries. He has a Degree of Musicology and is about to start school to become a veterinarian. His love for canaries began at the age of 10 years old when he picked up the hobby from his grandfather. He worked many years to collect a good line of breeding canaries offering good feather, size, color, offspring production, health, and song. Dean invites everyone to visit his website at www.canaryscience.com. and to join his forum at finchforum.canaryscience.com. Feel free to e-mail him at canarylovekurdi@hotmail.com, or call (502) 855-0323.



Recovering the Endangered Red Siskin

NOTE: unless otherwise indicated, field work photos were taken by GONZALO MEDINA, JHONATHAN MIRANDA, ALEJANDRO MORENO AND SAMUEL TORO.



**RED SISKIN PAIR CONFISCATED BY AUTHORITIES
HOUSED AT PARQUE ZOOLOGICO Y BOTANICO BARARIDA
PHOTO CREDIT: LEONEL OVALLE MOLEIRO**

Authors

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THE RED SISKIN, *SPORAGRA (CARDUELIS) CUCULLATA*, is endemic to northern South America and highly endangered as a result of intense trapping for the cage bird trade. Despite decades of legal protection, trapping is still a major concern due to inadequate enforcement and a lucrative black market.

Saving the Red Siskin is a big challenge that will require better protection through close monitoring, stronger enforcement and more education as well as supplementation of wild populations through *ex situ* breeding and reintroduction. Fortunately, the plight of this charismatic species is increasingly well publicized and much native habitat remains, which is capable of supporting recovery.

This article provides an update on the international effort to conserve the Red Siskin that includes lead partners from the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Parque Zoológico y Botánico Bararida, and the Venezuelan conservation NGO PROVITA, as well as universities, businesses, NFSS, community-based organizations, and other NGOs.

A central component of the Red Siskin Recovery Project has been the application of conservation genetics to inform strategy and management. Previous research (Rodriguez-Clark et al., 2011) examined genetic diversity of mitochondrial DNA among Red Siskins with different geographic origins using traditional DNA sequencing methods (Sanger sequencing and amplified fragment length polymorphisms).

Results show substantial differentiation between Red Siskins in Guyana and Venezuela, which suggests they should be managed as distinct conservation units that should not be used to supplement each other. Current research is focused on refining estimates of genetic diversity and developing genomic markers (ultra-conserved elements, microsatellites, single nucleotide polymorphisms) for management of an *ex situ* captive breeding program through the use of next-generation DNA sequencing (NGS) technologies.



WILD RED SISKIN IN VENEZUELA

NGS has dramatically transformed molecular genetics in recent years. Unlike traditional methods that are generally limited to sequencing only a tiny fraction of the genome, typically a few genes or small regions of DNA from one or few chromosomes or mitochondrial DNA, NGS enables sequencing of very large amounts of DNA quickly and at low cost. This approach is much more analytically powerful than pre-NGS methods.

Key objectives of the conservation genomics program are to maintain the full range of natural genetic diversity and avoid inbreeding, which can undermine the viability of restored wild populations. Another priority is to preserve the genetic identity of the species by carefully selecting only genetically pure Red Siskins for breeding.

This is a dominant concern for this project because Red Siskins have been intentionally hybridized for decades, particularly with canaries. If these hybrids escape or are released into wild populations, they can compromise genetic integrity and even reduce population viability. Therefore, any birds considered for inclusion in a breeding program will be screened via genomic assay to exclude those with hybrid ancestry.

One source for breeding birds may be wild birds confiscated by authorities from trappers. These birds may possess local adaptations that are important for successful recovery in the wild, and may have lower risk of hybrid ancestry or inbreeding; however, confiscations have been infrequent. Therefore, captive birds held by private breeders may also be a valuable source for founders.

A promising site for the breeding program is Parque Zoológico y Botánico Bararida, located in the city of Barquisimeto in Lara state, Venezuela. The Red Siskin is the state bird in Lara and Bararida has a government mandate to conserve the species. Bararida also has a history of success in *ex situ* breeding and a vibrant conservation education program built around the Red Siskin. Currently, they have two pairs of red siskins that were confiscated from trappers; however, existing facilities are inadequate to support a full scale *ex-situ* conservation program.



FIELD RESEARCHERS SEARCHING FOR RED SISKINS AND RECORDING VOCALIZATION

An architectural firm based in Boston, Ruhl Walker, has offered *pro bono* services to design a new Red Siskin Conservation Breeding and Education Center in collaboration with Venezuelan architects. Ruhl Walker has a reputation for generous support of conservation programs, including the recently completed and award-winning Hawai'i wildlife center, a rescue and rehabilitation facility for endangered native species.

In addition to making progress on developing a captive breeding program, the Red Siskin Recovery Project has also been exploring reintroduction strategies. One possibility is based on the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's "Bird Friendly" coffee certification program. This program marries economic development with conservation by providing market incentives for farmers to adopt agricultural practices that improve habitat and support biodiversity.



CAPTURED RED SISKIN BEING RELEASED FROM MIST NET

This approach has been successful at increasing revenues and species diversity in Latin America but has not yet been tailored for recovery of an endangered species. The Red Siskin provides an excellent candidate for this approach because it is known to feed and nest in coffee farms and there are large plantations within the historic range of the species with conservation-friendly management.

Another important element of the recovery effort is field research. In Venezuela, field researchers are conducting surveys to collect blood samples for conservation genomics and to better understand population distribution, breeding ecology, and potential reintroduction sites and strategies. A recently awarded grant from Scion Natural Science Association will enable field research to continue throughout the breeding season this year. In Guyana, a local conservation NGO recently received a grant from BP Conservation Leadership Programme to continue surveys and monitoring of Red Siskins and provide conservation education to villages in remote areas.

This commitment to education also extends to project partners in Venezuela and the United States. Bararida has an innovative education campaign with diverse elements including visits to schools, and on-site programs that aim to create “green citizens” who are knowledgeable advocates on conservation issues. Smithsonian partners are working to produce a television program about the Red Siskin Recovery Project, and web-based education resources are planned for the future. Project members have also been providing field and laboratory research training and other significant professional development opportunities to promising young conservationists from South America.



RED SISKIN MARKED WITH LEG BANDS FOR FUTURE IDENTIFICATION



COLLECTING MORPHOMETRIC DATA

Finally, this summer the Recovery Project will host multiple meetings of scientists, passerine breeders, architects, and other experts. Meeting objectives are to develop *ex situ* breeding strategies, start designing the breeding and education center, and draft a comprehensive conservation management plan. This plan will help support fundraising to sustain progress and guide the conservation effort through recovery.

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PHOTO BY PAULA HANSEN

IMMATURE MALE MOLTING INTO ADULT



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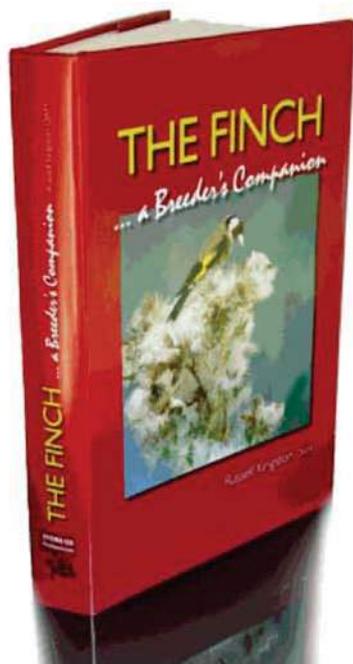
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RED SISKIN NESTLINGS

EDITOR'S NOTE: I would like to thank Brian Coyle for submitting this excellent, informative article for publication in the NFSS Journal. I especially appreciate Brian helping me get it ready for our readers.



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www.savethegouldian.org.

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Central California Cage Bird Club REGION 5 SHOW HOST
http://www.mycbc.org Meetings—3rd Sunday at Mancini Hall Modesto, 718 Tuolumne Blvd., Stanislaus CA 95351. **Contact**—Janna Place: 209-862-3792.

Finch Society of San Diego *http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com*
Meetings—4th Sunday, 2-4 p.m. 12/20 at Poway Elks Club, 13219 Poway Road, Poway CA 92064. **Contact**—Sally Huntington: 5634 Carnegie St., San Diego, CA 92122; 858-452-9423; *sdfinchsociety@gmail.com*

West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show
Meetings—No club meetings, show committee meeting in July. **Contact**—Sally Huntington, 5634 Carnegie St., San Diego, CA 92122. 858-452-9423.

COLORADO

Mountain States Avian Society
Meetings—2nd Saturday, 1 p.m. at Animal Central, 8308 Church Ranch Blvd., Westminster CO 80021. **Contact**—Gary Morgan, 15341 Kingston St., Brighton CO 80602; 303-659-9554; *burdmn@aol.com*. **NFSS Delegate:** Jesse Avila, 7910 Greenland Road, Franktown CO 80116; 303-664-0399, *pjbavila@aol.com*

FLORIDA

Suncoast Canary and Finch Club REGION 2 SHOW HOST
Meetings—Wednesday, 7 p.m. **Contact**—Alexander Villarreal, 1419 Collingswood Blvd., Port Charlotte FL 33948; *vetagator@yahoo.com*. **Show Date:** 10-18 thru 10-20 2013.

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club *http://www.gccbc.org*
Meetings—3rd Friday, except November and December, at Yorkfield Civic Center, 15W354 Lexington St., Elmhurst IL 60126. **Contact**—Robert Wild, 305 Grosvenor Ct., Bolingbrook IL 60440; 630-980-4416. *wild@comcast.net*, *secretary@gccbc.org*

Illini Bird Fanciers Inc. *www.illinibirdfanciers.com*
P.O. Box 13006, Springfield IL 62791, Contact: **Contact**—Karen Williams, 217-391-4648.

INDIANA

Hoosier Bird Buddies Bird Club *http://home.mchsi.com/~tmaldrich/*
Meetings—1:30 p.m. at upper classroom, Diehm Museum, 600 Franke Park Dr., Fort Wayne, Indiana, near the Children's Zoo; 1st Sunday, unless holiday; if holiday, meet 2nd Sunday. Summer picnic and December party held at member's homes. **President:** Eric M. Clark, 260-452-7828; *eclark1@orkin.com*. **Secretary:** Theresa Etzler, *theresa.j.etzler@gmail.com*

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Mid America Cage Bird Society <http://www.macbs.org>
Meetings—4th Sunday, 2-5 p.m. at Des Moines Botanical Center, Swartz Room, 909 Robert D Ray Dr, Polk IA 50316. **Exceptions**—fairs held 3/24/13, 9/8/13 at IA State Fairground Walnut Center, E. 30th St. and University, Des Moines IA 50317 **President**—John Thielking, 8209 Twana Dr., Urbandale IA 50322-1522; 239-851-8132.
Thielking@lowalink.com

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers <http://www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org>
Meetings—3rd Sunday, 2 p.m. at Towson Library, 320 York Road, Baltimore MD 21204-5179. **Contact**—Christine Roberts, 11 Prettyboy Garth, Parkton MD 21120; 410-343-1807, *compteacher@yahoo.com*. NFSS Delegate: Ray Reter, 10310-L Malcolm Cir., Cockeysville MD 21030.

MICHIGAN

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders of Michigan **Region 3 Show Host**
<http://www.scfbmichigan.com/> **Meetings**—3rd Saturday of month, location varies.
Contact—Kristen Reeves, 248-543-8903, *Kristen.reeves@sbcglobal.net*

MISSOURI

Gateway Parrot Club <http://www.gatewayparrotclub.org>
Meetings—3rd Sunday, 2 p.m. at Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, St. Louis MO 63122. **Exceptions**—no meetings June 10, Sept 19, Dec. 9 (second Sunday), and August. **Contact**—Christine A. Kinkade, 2412 Angela Dr., High Ridge MO 63049; 636-343-8097, *President@GatewayParrotClub.org*

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society <http://www.gkcas.org>
Meetings: 2nd Sunday at Coronation of Our Lady Church, 13000 Bennington, Grandview MO 64030. **Contact**—Clay Behrman, 3523 NE 49th St., Kansas City MO 64119; 816-217-7263, *birdman79@live.com*. NFSS Delegate: Anthony Day, 800 S. Butler Lane, Independence, MO 64056; 816-252-1120. *dayforthebirds@aol.com*.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society <http://www.boaf.com>
Meetings: 2nd Monday. **Contact**—Ray Schwartz, 19 Olde Common Dr., Atkinson NH 03811; 603-362-6106; *President@BOAF.com*

NEW YORK

Colorbred Canary Club of New York
Meetings—1st Sunday each month, except July and August. **Contact**—Jose Zelada, 20 N. Goodwin Ave., Elmsford NY 10523; 914-345-5707.
Club Address—96-06 73rd, Corona, NY 11368.

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NEW YORK

Kings County Canary Club

Contact—Kathleen Guise Schaefer, 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn NY 11229; 718-332-3413, kanarykate@aol.com. **Meetings:** 3rd Sunday, 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn NY 11229.

New York Finch and Type Canary Club

Meetings: 1-4 p.m., 2nd Sunday, except July and August. **Contact**—Stan Kulak, 17 Pembroke Loop, Staten Island NY 10309; 718-967-6899, barstand@verizon.net.

PUERTO RICO

Asociacion de Criadores de Finces Inc.

Juan Alicea, 12203 Urb Serenna, Los Prados, Apt. L -302, Caguas PR 00727; 787-479-7405. juanalicea@yahoo.com. **Meetings:** 7 p.m., Tuesday, Las Catalina's Mall, Food Court Area. Juanalicea@yahoo.com

Puerto Rico Zebra Finch Club

<http://www.przfc.com>

Meetings—Wednesday, Caquas in Plaza Centro Mall Caguas, Caguas PR. **Contact**—Gene Perez Forte, Jardines Arecibo Q59, Arecibo PR 00612. **President**—Jorge Mojica, Urb Lomas Del Sol, 175 Calle Acuاريو, Gurabo PR 00778-8930; 787-550-3163. puchosbirds@yahoo.com.

TEXAS

Fort Worth Bird Club

REGION 4 SHOW HOST

Meetings—2 p.m., 2nd Sunday at Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, 3220 University Dr. (north of I-30 in Fort Worth). <http://www.fwbc.org>

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association <http://www.texasbirdbreeders.org>

Contact—Clarence Culwell, 4211 Kelly Elliott Road, Arlington TX 76016-4607; 817-220-5568. coculwell@verizon.net. Club meetings by conference call. TBA

CANADA

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

REGION 1 SHOW HOST

<http://www.essexkentcbs.com> Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 519-948-6398, julianne@mnsi.net. **Annual Shows:** June 23 and September 27-29, 2013. See Club Events, starting below.

NFSS IS PROUD TO AFFILIATE WITH THE FOLLOWING

American Federation of Aviculture

P.O. Box 91717, Austin, TX 78709; www.afabirds.org

Avicultural Society of America

Contact—Steve Duncan, P.O. Box 3161, San Dimas CA 91773. Founded in 1927, this is the oldest aviculture society in the United States.

<http://www.asabirds.org/home.html>

National Animal Interest Alliance www.naiaonline

NFSS AFFILIATED CLUB EVENTS

JULY 13, 2013

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, 19677 E. Jackson Dr., Independence, MO 64056. **Fair**

Manager: Maria Michel, 916-803-1874, maria-michel@live.com

JULY 26-27, 2013

<http://www.efinch.com/show/>

West Coast Zebra and Finch Show

Annual Show: LaQuinta Inn Downtown, 200 Jibboom St., Sacramento, CA 95814.

Judge: Ken Rampersaud. **Show Manager:** Richard Renshaw and Roy Beckham.

rrenshaw@yahoo.com 805-644-4156.

AUGUST 24-25, 2013

Gateway Parrot Club

<http://www.gatewayparrotclub.org>

Fair: 9 a.m., Machinist Hall Dist. 9 Bldg., 12365 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton

MO 63044. **Contact:** Christine Kinkade, 636-343-8097.

Boardmember2@gatewayparrotclub.org;

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2013

Mountain States Avian Society

Location: Adams County Regional Park, 9755 Henderson Road, Brighton CO 80601

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

New York Finch and Type Canary Club

Fair Location: St. Jude School, 1696 Canarsie Road, Brooklyn, NY 11236.

Contact: Stan Kulak

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2013

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

Annual Show, Canaries and Hookbills: Fogolar Furlan Club, 1800 Ecrow, N: Spruce Road, Windsor, Ontario, Canada. **Show Manager:** Dave Sylvester,

519-727-3766; d.sylvestr@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

Fort Worth Bird Club • P.O. Box 1712 • Keller, TX 76244

Show: judge, TBA. **Location:** Azle Community Center, 404 N. Main St., Azle, TX 76020.

Show Manager: Jerry Cason, 817-220-5867. jerrycason@mindspring.com

OCTOBER 12, 2013

Suncoast Canary and Finch Club

Location: Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda FL

OCTOBER 12-13, 2013

Kings County Canary Club

Show Location: St. Jude's Hall, 1677 Canarsie Road, Brooklyn NY 11236.

Show Manager: Dan Griffin/Kathy Guise, 718-332-3413; Canarykate@aol.com

OCTOBER 19, 2013

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders

Show Location: Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia MI 48150

NFSS AFFILIATED CLUB EVENTS

OCTOBER 19, 2013

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

Annual Show: Coronation of Our Lady Church, 13000 Bennington, Grandview, MO.

Judge: Annette Howard. **Show Manager:** Anthony Day.

OCTOBER 26, 2013

Central California Cage Bird Club

Regional Show-Fair: MRPS Social Hall, 133 N. Grant, Manteca CA 95669.

Show Manager: Jane Perez, 209-245-3582; janep.plymouth@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2013

Asociacion de Criadores de Finces Del Este

SHOW Location: Alturas de Villa Del Rey Ballroom, Calle Francia,

Caguas PR 00727. **Show Manager:** Juan Alicea, 787-479-7405;

juanalicea@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER 2, 2013

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

Location: Weitendorf Agriculture Center, 17840 Laraway Road, Joliet IL 60452.

Show Manager: Robert Wild, 630 985-4416; r.wild@comcast.net

NOVEMBER 2, 2013

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers

FAIR AND SHOW. Judge: TBA. **Location:** Mayborn Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd St., Temple, TX 76501. **Show Manager:** Clarence Culwell.

Other Divisions: Tiels, Budgies, Parrots, Canaries.

NOVEMBER 3, 2013

Hoosier Bird Buddies

FAIR. Location: Allen County Fairgrounds, 2720 Carroll Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Variety of vendors, food, large raffle table, door prize. **Fair or Vendor Information:** Diana Fair, 260-482-3845.

DECEMBER 1, 2013

Finch Society of San Diego County - <http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com>

Contact: Maureen Shanahan, P.O. Box 1297, Fall Brook, CA 92088.

sdfinchsociety@gmail.com **FAIR:** Holiday Craft Fair and Bird Mart. **Location:** Poway Elks Club, 3219 Poway Road, Poway, CA 92064. **Contact:** Antonio Rodrigues, 914-512-0632, antonio979@aol.com

EARLY DECEMBER

Puerto Rico Zebra Finch Club

SHOW. Judge: Laura Watkins. **Location:** Coliseo Manel Petaca Iquim, Arecibo, PR 00612.

Fair Manager: Ramon Hernandez, 787-633-1215. Watch the journal and the NFSS website for show dates.

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1238 Vermont St.
San Francisco, CA 94110 - 3531

The EuroCage™ is based on a design used by many European bird breeders. The cages can be used singly or in stacks of three high, covering an entire wall or room. The cages are light, sturdy, have powder-coated fronts and durable white plastic sides. These opaque sides are an important part of successful breeding; they separate the pairs so they can hear each other without seeing each other. Each unit can be equipped with a fluorescent light to show their best advantage. Nestboxes can be placed on a platform inside the cages which assures that banks of cages can be neatly fitted together. The design of the cage allows for maximum hygiene with minimum effort, and the high quality aluminum tubing is designed for a lifetime investment. Any questions...

Call **1.800.456.6780**

We cage 'em, You raise 'em™



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