

NFSS 1st Qtr 1994 Board Meeting "By Mail" - 2/28/94

*Reported by Steve Hoppin
NFSS President*

My sincere thanks to the seventeen of nineteen Board members who participated in the 1st Qtr 1994 Board Meeting "by mail", especially those who took the time to add comments and suggestions.

The Board voted to approve

- a change from abbreviating the National Finch and Soft-bill Society as "NFS" to "NFSS", and a change in the home office to that of editor, Martha Wigmore.
- a change in the club logo (*see announcement of new logo contest elsewhere in this issue*).

New NFSS Conservation Committee

The Board was asked to approve a grant of \$100.00 or less to help fund the Suncoast Avian Society Captive Breeding Consortium. The Consortium was formed recently to work with Red-eared Waxbills and Fire Finches. They are a non-profit organization and are depending upon volunteers and donations to run the Consortium. They are a participant in FINCHSAVE. (In NFSS' fledgling years NFSS did make donations

to the American Federation of Aviculture.)

The Board voted to support the Consortium, but in response to the many good comments received regarding this issue, a new **NFSS Conservation Committee** has been formed to establish a budget, policy and procedures within NFSS for contributing to qualified programs. Before a grant can be made in this instance, NFSS must be financially secure for the year and rules need to be formalized.

The chairperson of this committee is Kris Kroner, and the members include Linda Oja, Steve Hoppin and 2nd V.P. Martha Wigmore. Any suggestions or ideas can be sent directly to Kris Kroner or any committee member (*see page 8 for addresses*).

The following are reports from NFSS Board members and Committees, prepared for the first meeting of this Board. While somewhat lengthy when taken in total, the pieces provide a valuable overview of where NFSS is at today.

Band Secretary - Denise Capazzi

This year Denise certainly has had her hands full! She started out the year with a multitude of orders and by February 17 was requesting permission to already place a second order. The second order was received late and therefore caused numerous orders to be sent out late.

Effective March 18, 1994,
21,170 bands had been sold!!!

Liaison Officer (Affiliations) - Russ Armitage

As of 3/14/94, 36 clubs have affiliated for 1994. One international club has agreed to our terms of trading awards for advertising.

The status of applications for Regional Shows is as follows:

Region 1 - Connecticut Association for Aviculture

Region 2 - Sun Coast Avian Soc.
Sunshine State Cage Bird Society

Region 3 - Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

Central Kentucky Cage Bird Soc.

Region 4 - Fort Worth Bird Club

Region 5 - Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

Region 6 - Golden Gate Avian Soc

1994 Regional show selections will be reported in the July/August 1994 issue of the *Bulletin*.

Regional Vice Presidents

Regional V.P.'s from four regions reported on their activities this year. See the *new* REGION NEWS section in this issue!

FINCHSAVE Committee - Linda Oja

For a FINCHSAVE Progress Report, including detailed participating species and quantities of participants please refer to the Mar/Apr 1994 *Bulletin*.

The FINCHSAVE program has a strong need to add more species to the *European* and *South American* groups.

Two participants have volunteered to conduct a survey among participants to obtain specific information so that we can begin writing

up species management plans for each species. These individuals have already submitted some excellent beginning ideas and samples.

The possibility of a NFSS FINCHSAVE video is being discussed.

MANY THANKS GO OUT TO LINDA AND THE COMMITTEE FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND EFFORTS. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE PROGRESS REPORT IN THE BULLETIN THE COMMITTEES' EFFORTS ARE PAYING OFF.

Treasurer's Report - Miki Sparzak

The full Treasurer's Report is included elsewhere in this issue.

Effective March 21, 1994:

Checking acct.	\$5,810.35
<u>Savings acct.</u>	<u>2,300.00</u>
Total	\$8,110.35

Census - Tom Rood

Responses received for the 1993-94 Census have surpassed last year's responses. Many new names this year from all over the country are included!

Look for the complete 1993-94 NFSS Census with Tom's comments elsewhere in this issue.

FINCHSHOP - Pat and Mary Krichten

Pat and Mary took over FINCHSHOP in March of 1993. Since that time sales of show cage plans (the sets of three), Gouldian pins, Zebra pins, *The NFSS Handbook*, NFSS name badges, and back issues of *The NFSS Bulletin* have been the best sellers.

FINCHSHOP is now also handling the orders and sales of the NFSS video, *The Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction*.

Advertising Manager - Lynda Bakula

Effective mid-March, Miki Sparzak has turned over the position of NFSS Advertising Manager to Lynda Bakula. Miki has done a very fine job and is warmly thanked for her service to NFSS in this area.

Standards Committee - Dr. Al Decoteau

Currently the Fire Finch Standard and the Cherry Finch Standard are completed.

The Society Finch revision, the Pekin Robin Standard, the Star Finch Standard and the Mynah Standard are in progress.

There are currently no tabled Standards.

The subject came up to have one general standard, but maintain those Standards already approved.

Judges Panel - Dr. Al Decoteau

There are currently no apprentices. No one has applied as of March 1, 1994 to take the apprentice test. As you know, the test can only be given at GABS or the National. See the complete details of the NFSS Apprentice Judge program in this issue.

- 1994 Kaytee Great American Bird Show, Des Moines, Iowa - NFSS judge is Martha Wigmore.
- 1994 National Cage Bird Show, Manchester, New Hamp-

shire - NFSS judge is Daren Decoteau.

Points Director - Dr. Al Decoteau

A complete listing of 1993 NFSS Champion Exhibitors and Birds is included in the Jan/Feb 1994 issue of the *Bulletin*.

Membership Committee - Lynda Bakula

Effective March 8, 1994 NFSS membership is totaling near 820 members.

Membership information requests continue to come in. Of the 57 inquiries this year, 27, or about 50%, have sent in memberships.

Education Committee - Martha Wigmore

NFSS' educational activities are among the most creative undertakings members can take on for the Society. Members interested in serving on the Education Committee, for the year or for a particular project, should contact Martha. Your ideas are welcome!

Current education offerings:

Print:

- *The NFSS Bulletin* (bi-monthly)
- *The NFSS Handbook*

Non-print:

- *The Wonderful World of Finches and Softbills: An Introduction Video*

There are currently no back-orders, and new ordering procedures are in place to ensure prompt delivery.

- **Display Boards**

The two large format educational display boards on Finches and Softbills, prepared in 1991 are available to affiliated clubs for use at their shows and other special events. UPS shipping to and from NFSS is paid for by NFSS. Those interested in using the boards should contact FINCHSHOP. The Boards will undergo minor refurbishing this spring.

Publication Committee - Martha Wigmore

The Publication Committee presently consists of Martha Wigmore, chairman and Lynda Bakula who recently took over from Miki Spartzak the position of Advertising Manager for the *Bulletin*.

The NFSS Bulletin: The publication date for each issue has been pushed forward so that the issues will be mailed during the first weeks of the cover date (i.e. May-June is mailed during the first of second week of May). The new schedule will be fully implemented with the May-June 1994 issue.

The *Bulletin* does *not* have a backlog of articles to publish in future issues. **Submissions from the membership are *always* needed.**

Through the efforts of Lynda Bakula, a special effort was made with the Jan-Feb 1994 *Bulletin* to encourage renewals of memberships which expired during the last four months of 1993. Many renewals have been received and continue to come in. Just over 800 copies of the

Mar-Apr 1994 *Bulletin* were mailed to members, down from 960 in Jan-Feb 1994 (which included over 200 memberships past due). Current printing costs for the *Bulletin* are running about the same as in 1993.

The NFSS Handbook: First published in June 1992, it will be updated in the summer of 1994. Watch the *Bulletin* for further information.

Membership Brochure: A new NFSS brochure is available from Regional V.P.'s.

We are currently looking for individuals who would like to serve as Contributing or Consulting Editors, artists and writers for the *Bulletin*. Members who would like to serve in these or other capacities on the Publication Committee should contact Martha. *Your ideas and assistance are welcome!*



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**Is First Class Mailing of
The NFSS Bulletin For You?**

For most of our members the *Bulletin* is mailed at bulk (3rd class) rate. Because of this, it is hard to determine when you will receive *your* copy. The copies are all mailed on the same day, but each Post Office that handles your mail from the NFSS Home Office to your address may hold up bulk mail on any given day for other items it is handling.

With each issue the editor sends herself a copy at bulk rate, to test the waters. Her own copy has taken from one to three weeks. That's quite a round trip!

For your information, the mailing dates for the last two issues were:

**February 12th for Jan-Feb '94
March 19th for Mar-Apr '94**

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