

NFS BOARD MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 15, 1987

The March 15th Board meeting was held in the home of Nancy Reed in Windsor, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. The roll call showed Pamela Liddy, Nancy Reed, Roger O'Connell, Al Decoteau, Brenda Geesey, Russ Armitage, Chris Voronovitch, Tony Patterson, Bill Parlee and several guests in attendance.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.F.A. REPORT. This report was given by Brenda Geesey, our new AFA delegate. NFS is an "A" organization and is entitled to two delegates. The other NFS delegate to AFA is Bill Parlee.

Brenda gave an in-depth report on the summer meeting at Los Angeles. She stated that AFA will be undergoing a home office restructuring and reorganization. It is hoped that the results will better serve the affiliated clubs and members. Joe McLaughlin has offered to serve as Executive Director or managing director to oversee this operation.

Brenda also spoke on the new AFA slide programs that will be available and the Jean Delecour symposium that was held in conjunction with the meeting.

Bill Parlee briefly spoke about the AFA summer convention in Seattle. He thought that no NFS member would want to miss this event. He said that the Seattle area is a good one if you wish to plan a vacation around the convention. The Seattle site will be the location of the summer Board Meeting of NFS. Further information is available in this issue of the Bulletin.

AFFILIATED CLUBS REPORT. Pamela Liddy reported that presently we had received twenty four renewals. The Board suggested we send out reminders to the other thirteen clubs due, if they have not renewed by March 31, 1987. Pam also announced six new clubs affiliating this year. Our new Affiliates are: The Mid-Tennessee Cage Bird Club, The Mid-Michigan Bird Club, The Peninsula Cage Bird Society, The Rochester Bird Club, The Colorado Cage Bird Association, and the Mid-America Cage Bird Society.

Pam pointed out that if all renewal come in, we will have 43 Affiliated clubs and 4 international Affiliates. She also stated that we had had requests for regional show status for all regions for the 1987 show season.

BYLAWS REPORT. President Parlee read the proposed By-law amendments and

changes to the Board. These changes were previously discussed to facilitate the operation of the Society and to effect necessary changes to carry through previous votes by the Board. They were published in the Jan/Feb issue of the Bulletin.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE. Pam Liddy stated that a ballot for acceptance of the bylaw changes and election of Brenda Geesey to fill the position of second Vice President was included in the Jan/Feb issue of the Bulletin. She said she would call for an "Emergency" meeting as defined in the Bylaws to count the ballots, as our next Board meeting is not until August.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE. The Education Committee is please to see that so many clubs availed themselves of NFS programs this year. Bill Parlee stated that a third program should be available for next fall.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE. Bill Parlee announced that the Bulletin is still running a few weeks late, but was improving.

The rest of the discussion evolved around the handbook. The Board discussed the content of the publication. The following will be the content of the Handbook: listings of officers, members, and affiliates, State of the Society Report, complete approved species Standards, listing of Panel Judges, Points Schedule with complete member points listings, best original articles from NFS Bulletins, NFS foras, "Finchsave" and other topics of interest, and advertising. A complete Judges Handbook will also be contained within the handbook.

The Board also approved funds for a full color cover and a set a five dollar cover price for the Annual Handbook. All Judges will receive a copy of the Handbook at no charge as they already pay a separate fee that includes a handbook.

REPORT ON "FINCHSAVE". Bill Parlee gave a progress report on the Breeding Specialist program; "Finchsave". He stated that formulation of the Committee had been completed. The Committee persons are Hal Koontz, Jerry Jennings, Nora Kopecky, Val Clear and himself. Hal has asked Bill to send out the first round of questions to all the committeemen. This process will continue until all committeemen have resolved all the formulation problems of the program. Bill stated that the goal of the committee was to have a finalized program to be presented at the AFA convention in Seattle this August.

Bill again suggested that any member who has suggestions for the program should contact Hal Koontz the Committee Chairman at 2604 Auburn Court, Bakersfield, CA 93306.

JUDGES PANEL REPORT. Al Decoteau gave a detailed report on the present status of all involved in the Apprentice program.

Al also read a letter from a Judge that had been removed from the Panel, requesting reinstatement. Once again there was a long discussion on this subject. The general consensus on the matter was to, because of the fine qualifications of the judge involved, and because the infractions originally causing removal were only procedural, that said judge be voted upon for reinstatement for the 1988 show season.

Al also read a letter of complaint from a participant in the Panhandle Avicultural Society Show. This is the first official complaint received by the Board regarding the judging of any NFS show. The letter pointed out several complaints regarding the judging of the show. The Board considers complaints against Panel judgments very seriously and asked Al to complete a full investigation into the subject.

Another alleged transgression by a judge was discussed by the Board. The Board reaffirmed that all complaints against NFS judges must be submitted in writing before any disposition can be made by the Board. Bill Parlee stated that he asked the complainant in this matter to send a written complaint to the Board last November but that has not as yet been done.

Al asked the Board to reaffirm the duties of a Panel Judge. Reaffirmed were that a judge must competently represent the Society, must send in timely show reports, apprentice reports, pay his judges listing fees in a timely manner, and attend at least one judges clinic each year.

The Board also reaffirmed the Societies position on hybridization of Finches. The NFS strongly discourages the Hybridization of finches other than the traditional Siskin/Goldfinch crosses which produce mules, for the purpose of song. Panel Judges should point this position out to participants of shows whenever appropriate. The Board discussed possible interference by local show officials on this subject. It was stated that when a club hires a NFS Panel Judge it can not ask for that judge to act contrary to NFS Policy.

LEG BAND REPORT. Roger O'Connell, leg band Secretary reported that the program was functioning well. He stated that he has already had to reorder two different sizes. Last year the total number of bands sold for the entire year was 5,600. Already this year the Society has sold 7,430 leg bands.

Roger also requests that members sending in orders for leg bands should be sure to send the requested postage and handling costs as indicated on the order form. This will save NFS the postage and time in writing back to collect these fees.

Because of how fast bands are selling, Roger requests you anticipate your needs and request bands early enough to allow time for shipping. We keep only about one hundred bands of the less popular sizes in stock. If we are out of stock on the size band you need, waiting time can be as much as

one month, whereas the normal shipping time is 10 days to 2 weeks.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT. Russ Armitage reported that as of March 12, 1987 we have 417 paid members, 38 affiliated clubs and 4 international exchanges. Russ also stated that we are starting to reuse old vacant numbers, so that our membership numbers will not reflect an untrue actual membership.

The vacant numbers within the first 100 charter members will not be reused.

PROMOTIONS AND PRODUCTS. The Promotion and Products committee has selected the Lady Gouldian for our 1987 T-shirt design. The five color shirts will be available for the AFA convention in Seattle. The committee also reminds us that we still have a few of the 1986 Zebra shirts left. They are only available in small and medium, as the large and extra large sizes have been sold out.

RESEARCH AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE. Al Decoteau reported the following Standards committees: (1) Java Rice Bird, members are; Cecil Gunby, Dan Outz, and Jon Hoffman. (2) Diamond Sparrow, members are Brenda Geesey, Kelly Dahill, and Jerry D'Agata. (3) Shafttail, members are Brenda Geesey, Cecil Gunby, and Harold Harnish. Any members wishing to participate in these committees please contact Al Decoteau or someone on the committee of interest.

SHOWS REPORT. We have received requests from all Regions for Regional Show status this year. Region 1, New Hampshire Avicultural Society. Region 2, Georgia Cage Bird Club. Region 3, Central Ohio Cage Bird. Region 4, Oklahoma Cage Bird Club. Region 5, Colorado Cage Bird. Region 6, Golden Gate Avian Society.

The Great American Bird Show will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on October 2-4, 1987. GABS is being sponsored this year by Nature's Window, a Georgia based custom aviary builder. The show is being held at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza. The Board selected Panel Judge William Parlee to Judge the Finch and Softbill Division of the show.

The National Cage Bird Show will be the site of the NFS National show. This year's show is being hosted by the Central Ohio Cage Bird Club and is being held at the Fairgrounds in Columbus. The Board selected George Warren of England to be the Panel Judge for this event.

It is suggested that those interested in going to this show make arrangements early as the show is not in a hotel. The Fairgrounds is located close to several hotels. We will publish more information as it becomes available to us.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board voted to accept the bylaws as proposed and will await the vote of the membership.

The Board voted to charge a \$5 fee for the yearly Handbook.

The Board reinstated a judge previously dropped from the panel as of January 1, 1988.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved the requests for Regional Show Status as listed in the shows report.

The Board approved an April 1, 1987 deadline for receipt of Judges fees.

The Board approved by a 6 to 5 vote to have a modest \$5 participation fee for the "FINCHSAVE" program. Also passed unanimously were the fund drive, the ad campaign and to provide funds from the NFS treasury.

1987 additions to the Dove and Softbill classifications were passed.

The Board voted to take an even stronger position against hybridization.

The Board voted to print the annual treasurer's report in the Bulletin.

The Board voted to accept a three year phase-in for specific show cage colors. They are Black for exterior of all cages. Powder Blue or White for interior colors.

The Board chose to endorse Bob Williams of Delaware to be our official show cage manufacturer. He will have to build cages to specifications and will purchase and ad in the bulletin and Handbook for each year he is endorsed.

The Board voted to increase the Regional Vice Presidents budget from \$50 to \$100 per year as needed. All receipts, as now, will have to be forwarded to the treasurer for reimbursement.

The Board considered offering first class delivery of the Bulletin for an additional fee. The matter was tabled until we can see how the computer can handle this problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Minutes are transcribed from notes and recordings. Respectfully submitted, Chris Voronovitch, Secretary.

AN INTERIM BOARD MEETING WAS HELD ON APRIL 21, 1987 for the purpose of counting ballots. Six members were present, both items were approved.