

=====

NFS NEWS & NOTES

=====

The second annual Board of Directors meeting was held in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, after the New England Finch Fanciers all day All Bird Symposium. I assume the NEFF group will make this an annual event. It was a BIG success! Good speakers, good conversation, pleasant facility and the New England weather that time of year is just right.

Nine of the nineteen Directors and one guest attended. Russ's treasurers report was clear and concise, as usual. We have \$ 9327 and some change in the bank. As of 6/15/90 we had 699 members. Russ requested, and the Board agreed, to add a \$10 charge to any "bounced" checks and to require that they be replaced by a money order.

Some members have suggested modifications in the proposed Lavender and Diamond Sparrow standards. The Board discussed both and will send them back to committee, with recommendations for revisions, based on input from members. If you have a comment, contact Dr. Decoteau and he'll relay your message to the appropriate committee. The Star Finch committee, headed by Bill Parlee, needs some assistance and some suggestions from members. Contact Bill about that. Marty von Raesfeld and I are the first two members of the Pekin Robin Standard committee and Roddy Gabel and Jeff Brissette are working on the Fire Finch standard. Volunteers are needed and welcome on both teams.

Dr. Decoteau was out of state and I read his report. NFS now has 30 judges. As of June 16th only two have still failed to send in their reports. For 1990, we have 51 shows where NFS Panel Judges will officiate. We expect that 1990 will be the year that we have our first NFS Champion Bird. The points accumulate for the birds on the same schedule as they do for the exhibitors and each bird must acquire 50 points to become an NFS Champion Bird. Points for birds will carry over from year to year. NFS closed banded birds are the only ones eligible and the band may be from any year. The NFS closed traceable band information, including the year, size code and number MUST be entered on the show entry form and recorded on the report form for the bird to receive credit. For those who show closed banded birds, BE SURE TO CHECK ON THIS! If the information is not correct and not complete, you may not get the proper credit.

We have a new apprentice. John Bennett, from Canada, is now on the NFS roster of apprentices along with Russ Armitage Jr., Jeff Brissette, Sarah Goodrich, Dennis Lewis and Roger O'Connell. Welcome aboard John.

Jon Hoffman's report on the Handbook revisions was next. His work is going well and he presented the idea of incorporating some of the valuable old articles from early issues of the Bulletin into the Handbook. The Board agreed and thanked him for the editing he has done. The next BIG step will be to have someone type up the revisions. That work has been started but is not progressing very well. We need a speedy typist for this work, NOT ME!

The Board voted that I could spend \$1200 for the new T-shirt. I actually spent \$1222.12. I guess they'll just dock my pay. The shirts are good heavy weight 100% cotton and the logo looks GOOD! For sale from FINCHSHOP after August 12th. \$15 each. No size "smalls", but this time we do have a few extra, extra large sizes. 100% cotton might shrink a little.

Al will be taking over the Points Director's job, as originally specified in the Bylaws. His report on Exhibitors Point standings should be ready for publication in the September/October issue. He has worked out an efficient system that should get us fast reports this show season.

Due to the press of business Bill felt that he had to resign as the Promotions Officer. The Board agreed to accept Bill's resignation from this position, with regret, but we know we can count on him to advise us in his capacity as President Emeritus.

The Board accepted Miki Sparzak's offer to be the NFS Advertising Manager. She has already sent out over 20 letters soliciting (sounds funny doesn't it?) ads. Nice work Miki, thanks for the help.

Tom Rood designed a nifty new brochure and Bruce cut and pasted it. Kris Kroner is photocopying it and distributing it to all Regional Vice Presidents. DELEGATES! Contact your Regional V.P. for copies to hand out at all bird events. This should increase NFS' visibility in the bird world.

Leg band sales continue to go very well, thanks to Denise's good records and attention to details. We're now showing a profit of \$140.96.

Jerry's FINCHSHOP report shows an inventory of over \$1500 at this time. This includes back issue Bulletins, mugs, pins, T-shirts, etc. Sales are good on most items and we have adjusted prices throughout the year to make sure that we're "in the black". He'll be ready to ship the new T-shirts as soon as he returns from the AFA Convention. Send in your order now.

We have 64 affiliated clubs, four "stateside" and four foreign clubs. Our backlog of awards is caught up and Chris Veronovitch says the 1990 awards are ordered and will arrive soon. She will be working with Al to get the 1989 Championship Exhibitor and Exhibitor Excellence awards ready for Atlanta. You should be getting ready for Atlanta too! This will be a BIGGIE! See the ad in this issue and call for reservations TODAY!!

The Board decided to advertise NFS in all "newsstand" type bird magazines; to order new Judges report forms and stationery; to investigate the cost of advertising our Eric Peake print in magazines; to order any foreign bird journals and magazines that will permit us to reprint articles; to accept prepaid classified ads only, from members and non-members and to investigate the price of re-designing the pin from a Zebra into a Gouldian.

Quite a bit was accomplished and even more was discussed. Lots of good humor and bright ideas. All Board meetings are open to all members. Plan to attend and contribute to the fund of ideas. The Annual general meeting will be in Atlanta, at the National, as usual, Hope we see you there.

Next Board meeting, August 9, 1990, at the AFA Convention.

This report is from Denise's notes by The Editor.