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NFS NEWS & NOTES

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This spring the NFS Board of Directors conducted it's first "Board Meeting By Mail". The idea was very successful and was very well liked by the majority of Board members. The basic purpose was to insure that each Board Member has an equal voice in the decisions made that will influence the organization. Now that our 18 Board Members are all scattered across the country from Connecticut to Florida and California travel to meetings is very difficult.

Five major decisions were reached.

First and foremost in my mind...the Board voted to make our founder and first president, William G. Parlee a lifetime member of the National Finch and Softbill Society and to give him a permanent seat on the Board of Directors and to excuse him from all further payment of dues.

Second we decided to create a new Board level position of Awards Director to handle the nearly 1900 awards the NFS gives out each year.

Third we decided to place Christine Voronovitch in this position. With her cheerful consent I am pleased to add !

Fourth we created a committee headed by Rick Szlachta with Denise Capazzi and Cecil Gunby to study the sizes of bands we offer and the species we recommend that they be used on. This was in response to some questions and complaints about some sizes not being appropriate for some species. This committee will give it's preliminary report in the June 16th Board meeting in Sturbridge, Mass. and it's final report in the August Board meeting held in conjunction with the AFA annual Convention in Arlington, Virginia.

Fifth the Board voted to change the "Home Office" address of the National Finch and Softbill Society to 125 W. Jackson St., York, PA, 17403-2265.

Committee and directors reports indicated that as of March 15, 1990 our balance in account was \$ 7834.15. As of March 20, 1990 we had sold 13,940 1990 bands and were showing a profit as of that date of about \$182.

The Lavender Waxbill Standard and the Diamond Sparrow Standard have been submitted by those committees for publication. There was no report yet from the Star Finch Committee. The proposed revisions on the Society Standard (involving the Dilute and the Chestnut) which were tabled for further study in November of 1988 have made no reported progress and so are dismissed from study at this time. The next two standards to be worked on will be the Pekin Robin (Marty von Raesfeld will chair that committee) and the other will be the Fire Finch Committee. Please, if you would like a lively learning experience and you have any interest in these species, get in touch with Dr. Decoteau. He is looking for volunteers.

We have five people in the apprentice judges program. Russell Armitage, Jr., Jeff Brissette, Sarah Goodrich, Dennis Lewis and Roger

O'Connell. None have passed the written test yet. Jeff has apprenticed once.

The balance in the two Bulletin accounts, (one checking and one USPS postal account) totaled \$ 846 as of March 15th. Each issue averages about \$ 900 including the printing, first class and foreign and bulk mail. Russ moves money into those accounts as it is needed to cover each issue.

We are sold out of the original version of the NFS Handbook. Jon Hoffman volunteered to edit it, removing outdated items and cleaning up the grammar and punctuation and so forth. That work is progressing nicely and several of us are beginning the lengthy job of typing it up fresh and new.

The status of birds competing for Championship points will be reported in this issue and the show reports, in their entirety, will appear in the July/August issue.

The first of the Eric Peake prints have been delivered and more are available from the FINCHSHOP. This is a unique, first time opportunity for NFS members to have an Eric Peake rendition of the Diamond Sparrows, signed and numbered by the artist.

We have finished artwork ready to go to the manufacturer for the NFS 1990 T-shirt! We are using Harold Harnish's drawing of a Shafttail that appears on the Shafttail Standard, enlarged, surrounded by the words "THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY". The shirts will first be available at the AFA's annual Convention, then through Regional VP's and on the show circuit and then through FINCHSHOP. We are hoping to get a new 1990 version of our very popular pin too. Not sure about that one yet though. Our first pin sold very well and made a nice profit for the Society. We hope to do as well with another version this year, probably a Gouldian Finch.

Show cage plan prices will have to be raised. We have sold out of the original stock and now prices for reproductions are higher.

We will be subscribing to various foreign journals in the upcoming year, particularly those that have a wealth of finch and Softbill articles and will permit us to reprint them. We will be listing the Society in the popular "newstand" bird magazines and we will (very soon) be distributing a tri-fold brochure to your regional vice-presidents that promotes the NFS. Tom Rood designed this brochure and we will be making copies of it available to all Regional VP's to circulate among all delegates.

If you have ideas on ways to promote the Society, get in touch with your Regional Vice President. If you have questions or issues that you would like the Board to consider, notify your Regional Vice President in time for the Board meetings in June or August. NFS wants to hear from YOU !

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TO GET INVOLVED IN THE WORK ON THE TWO NEW STANDARDS CONTACT:

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