

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY INC.

SEPTEMBER  
OCTOBER

1985





# The National Finch Society

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## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1 9 8 5

### Volume 2 Number 5

#### Officers

President	William G. Parlee
1st Vice President	Dr. A. E. Decoteau
2nd Vice President	Kelly S. Dahill
Treasurer	Russ Armitage Jr.
Corres. Secretary	Jerry D'Agata

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Show Chairman	Tony M. Patterson
Site Chairman	Richard Sharp
Editor	William G. Parlee
Affiliations	Nancy A. Reed
Band Secretary	Russ Armitage Jr.
AFA Delegates	Jerry D'Agata William G. Parlee

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Because of our bulk mailing of Bulletins, it is difficult to predict exactly when a member will receive the Bulletin. We hope you will all receive this one before our Harrisburg show. We also hope you will all attend and exhibit your finches. We have two of the country's finest judges judging the show. Don't hesitate to take your other birds as well, as our host clubs will have an excellent all bird show, which should be one of the best shows of the year. See page 11 for additional details on the Show. We at NFS thank Dick Sharp and all the N.C.B.A. and C.P.C.B.S. workers who have helped to make this one of the year's greatest avicultural events. See you all at the show and best of luck to all NFS members. Don't forget our Annual meeting to be held Friday, Oct. 4, 1985 at 8:30 p.m., and our hospitality room at the Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, PA. on the eve of the National Finch Society Show.

## BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 1985

The meeting came to order at 4:30 p.m., on Sunday, September 8, 1985. Present were: Bill Parlee, Al Decoteau, Russ Armitage, Nancy Reed, Tony Patterson, Pam Liddy and two guests. After the roll call was taken, it was announced that a quorum was present.

The first order of business was a proposal by President Parlee that a new format for presenting business at Board meetings be adopted. The new format calls for a roll call of those present, reports of all Standing Committees, and reports of Presidential Committees. The committee reports are to be followed by a Secretary's report, Treasurer's report, old and new business. Bill suggested that this new format would allow the Board to complete the Society's business in the most efficient manner.

The show report was read. All business regarding the NFS National Show has been completed. Judges, reservations, catalog and trophy procurement have been completed. The show catalogs were mailed on Sept. 4, 1985. It was announced that the Annual Meeting of the Society would be held at the Holiday Inn on Friday evening at 8:30 p.m., following the evening registration of birds. The NFS will have a hospitality room for all NFS members, host club members, and guests. The location of the hospitality room will be posted in the hotel lobby. The room will be open on Friday evening from 9:30 to 11 p.m.

Bill gave the Publishing Committee's report. He stated that the July/August Bulletin, the Judges Handbook and the Show Catalog had all been printed and mailed. Bill commented that we are now doing all publications on computer and that Nancy Reed had volunteered to proof all printed material. It is the committee's hope that these new preparational techniques will resolve our problem of misspellings and typos, and make our materials more professional. Bill reported that the Sept/Oct issue of the bulletin should be in the mail by Sept. 15th.

The Research Committee had no report. The Standards Committee report was given by Dr. Decoteau. He stated that Dr. Val Clear had volunteered to head a committee to develop a Standard of Perfection for the Lady Gouldian and its mutations. Cecil Gunby, Roger O'Connell and Hal Koontz agreed to participate on the committee. Al also announced a new committee formed by Bill Parlee to establish a Standard for the Green Singing Finch and the Cordon Bleu. Dr. Decoteau said he would be following these committees closely and would ask for a progress report at the next National meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

The Judges Panel Committee report was also given by Al Decoteau. He listed all the apprentices and their present standings. The Judges test was given to four people at the San Francisco meeting and two of the four taking the test passed. A discussion followed regarding our "grandfather

clause": the accepting of judges outside of the continent, and in areas like California where apprenticing would cause an extreme hardship. The board gave Dr. Decoteau some leeway in this area. It was pointed out that we must protect the integrity of the Panel.

There was no report from the Education Committee. The President's Committees' reports were then given. The Membership report was given by Russ Armitage. Russ stated that we had picked up 28 new members since the last meeting. Membership renewals are progressing about as expected. Russ also reported that we have three new affiliations: The Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Georgia Cage Bird and The Kansas City Avicultural Society.

Russ Armitage gave the Band Secretary's report, stating that we had reordered 1985 bands in the middle of the summer and now had passed the break-even point for all 1985 bands. Russ pointed out that we would not be receiving many more 1985 orders, although there is a sufficient band inventory to handle any additional orders. The 1986 bands are about to be ordered and would be mailed to members starting December 26, 1985. Russ suggested that members get their orders in early, as we expect a heavy Dec. 26th mailing.

Nancy Reed gave the election committee report. She read the nominations for all offices. The election ballot will go out with the Sept/Oct issue of the Bulletin and should be mailed back to Pam Liddy, 245 Draper St., Springfield, MA 01108, no later than October 31, 1985. Pam Liddy was selected by the Board to replace Nancy Reed as Club Liaison officer effective at the beginning of the year.

Bill gave the bylaws committee report. All corrections in the bylaws have been made, and the final approved copy of the bylaws will be published in the Sept/Oct issue of the bulletin. The bylaw committee was then disbanded.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. Russ gave the Treasurer's report. The balance after expenses of \$3,006.17 since the last meeting was \$1,075.61. Russ stated that the affiliated clubs' show plaques and the show catalog accounted for the unusually large expense amount. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The next order of business was old business. Al Decoteau gave a report on the San Francisco NFS meeting. He told us that the meeting was well attended and active. A complete discussion of that meeting followed. The continuing problem of show cages was again discussed. Bill suggested that we get blueprints done, and select a builder for the cages on the East and West coasts so as to limit freight costs. A letter from the Eagles of Sacramento was read to the Directors, and will be considered further.

Under new business, Bill Parlee commented on our affiliation program. The Board feels that the expense to the Society is too great, costing us more than each affiliate's dues. After some discussion, Bill suggested a multilevel affiliation plan which he thought could have far-reaching benefits for the Society. The plan was adopted for 1986 and is as follows.

Three affiliation plans would be available to bird clubs. For small clubs or those that do not have a show, NFS would offer for a \$30.00 fee, a plaque for a breeder award or distinguished service award ("whatever" the club designates), plus all the other affiliation benefits. For clubs wishing show affiliations, two levels would be available. For a \$40 fee the club would receive a Best in Show plaque and rosettes for the top three finches. For a \$60 fee the club would receive plaques for the top three finches and rosettes for the top six finches. Bill suggested that this would encourage more clubs to affiliate. With these choices NFS could customize benefits to individual club's needs.

Also under new business, the National Cage Bird Show in San Antonio was discussed. Bill pointed out that he would be traveling to the show on Society business: to man a booth to promote the Society, to meet with National Cage Bird Show directors regarding the possibility of NFS affiliation with the NCBS, and to host a hospitality room for NFS members. Other NFS Directors scheduled to attend the NCBS are: Al Decoteau, Russ Armitage, and Nancy Reed.

Letters from O. David DeWald, Rick Hooper, and Darel Cavender were read and discussed.

A very lengthy and productive meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m..

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FUTURE 1985 NFS MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

October 5, 1985 - NATIONAL FINCH SHOW and ANNUAL MEETING: HOLIDAY INN,  
HARRISBURG, PA - Bill Parlee, President

October 26, 1985 - GOLD COAST SHOW, Palm Beach Ocean Hotel, Palm Beach,  
Florida - Al Decoteau, 1st Vice-President

November 2, 1985 - GULF COAST SHOW - Fort Myers, Florida  
Al Decoteau, 1st Vice-President

November 15-17, 1985 - THE NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW, San Antonio, Texas  
Bill Parlee, President

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY OFFICIAL BALLOT

Please indicate your choice for each office (one only) by a check after the name, or fill in the write-in space with your choice.

For President. . . . . William Parlee \_\_\_\_\_

For First Vice-President . . . . . Al Decoteau \_\_\_\_\_

For Second Vice-President. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kelly S. Dahill \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gerald D'Agata \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nancy A. Reed \_\_\_\_\_

For Treasurer. . . . . Russell Armitage \_\_\_\_\_

For Corresponding Secretary. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roger O'Connell \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kenneth Akey \_\_\_\_\_

For Recording Secretary. . . . . Christine Varonovitch \_\_\_\_\_

For Regional Vice President \_\_\_\_\_  
 Region one (Middle Atlantic North) . . . . . Russell Armitage \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Hodges \_\_\_\_\_

Region two (Middle Atlantic South) . . . . . Karl Kline \_\_\_\_\_

Region three (Middle Central). . . . . Jon Hoffman \_\_\_\_\_

Region four (Mid-West) . . . . . Paul Williams \_\_\_\_\_

Region five (Western States) . . . . . Martha Wigmore \_\_\_\_\_

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A Ballot has been inserted in this Bulletin  
 for your convenience, with mailing instructions.



The National Finch Society



1986 BANDS  
FOR SHIPMENT ON  
DEC. 26, 1985

1986 CLOSED ALUMINUM LEG BANDS

THE STANDARD NFS LEG BANDS FOR MEMBERS ONLY  
Bands are available in standard NFS color of the year only

Size	for	Cost
A	smaller Nuthatches, and Owl Finches	MAY BE ORDERED IN LOTS OF 10 BANDS AT \$1.25 PER LOT
B	Cordon Bleu, Firefinch, and Lavender Finch	
C	Zebra Finch, Gouldians, Stars, Heck's Grass Finch, Cutthroats, Parrot Finches, etc.	
D	Chestnut Breasted, Yellow Rumped, Pectoralis	
E	Society Finches, Nuns, Firetails, Diamonds	
G	Larger Nuthatches and Canaries	
J	Yorkshires, Norwich, Pekin Robins, etc.	
K	Java Rice Birds, Indian Shama, etc.	
L	Quail, Doves, and other softbills	

NFS bands may be ordered in lots of 10 bands, consecutively numbered at 1.25 per each lot. \$1.00 shipping and handling should be included with each order, whether 10 or 100 bands are being ordered. Bands will be shipped within 30 days of receipt of your order, although most orders will be shipped the same week as received. There is no color choice. The standard NFS color of the year will be used. Each band will have stamped: "NFS", the band size code, year and number. All numbers will be recorded by the NFS band secretary for permanent record.

IQ: NFS BAND SECRETARY, C/O Russ Armitage, 345 Boston Road, Middletown, CT. 06457. Payable to NFS. Please send me the following bands. (Use multiples of 10 only.)

A  B  C  D  E  G  J  K  L

Total number of 10 units ( ) x 1.25 per unit + 1.00 shipping = ( )

ORDER YOUR 1986 NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY BANDS TODAY !!!



# The National Finch Society

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$15 / / Dual \$20 / / Junior 7.50 / /

Dual Membership is two individuals residing at the same address (one bulletin). Juniors are under 16.

Club affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been involved in finches \_\_\_\_\_.

How many species have you bred? \_\_\_\_\_.

Briefly describe your interest in joining the National Finch Society and what you hope to get out of your membership.

Send you app and fee to Russell Armitage Jr. Treas.  
345 Boston Road  
Middletown, CT 06457

529 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, Ct 06108



**KAYTEE**

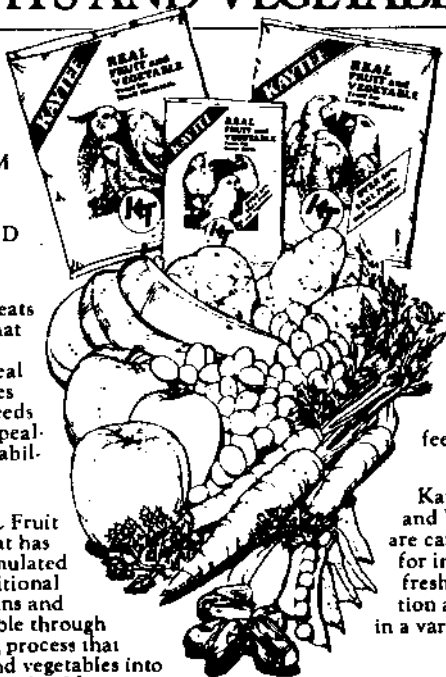
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## THE KAYTEE AWARD

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Through the generosity of the Kaytee Products company, The National Finch Society will be offering the coveted Kaytee Award for best bird in show at our National Finch Society National Show. This beautiful award will be offered only to NFS members.

## DIETARY COMMENTS. . by Bill Parlee

Writing an article on finch diets is like trying to explain Abner Doubleday's game of baseball to someone who has never heard of the game. It is not like writing on good nutrition for a Cockatiel: they're all the same. Diets for finches are as varied as are the species of finches in aviculture.

We will deal here with only the seed-eating species.

Let me start by saying that I base my suggestions on my own experience over the years; what has worked for me, as well as other successful diets that have come to my attention by way of other aviculturists. Please do not believe everything you read. My pet peeve is the author who uses opinion and represents it as fact. What works for me may not necessarily work well for you, or may have to be modified to suit the tastes of your birds. Through my business and associations with fellow aviculturists, I have come across dozens of ideas on nutrition. This article is a short summary of those ideas, of which several will probably work well for you.

Let's assume you have purchased a wild-caught finch at your local pet shop. In recognizing a good basic diet for the bird, one must be familiar with its geographic origin. For instance, if your finch comes from the dry plains of Australia or Africa, its diet will be different than the species from the tropical jungles of South America, etc.. Finches will generally only eat what they are familiar with. Before you purchase the finch in question, look up in a good finch book (Bates and Busenbark's "Finches and Softbilled Birds") about the finch and his habitat. Knowing this information, and by following what the bird has been fed at the pet shop, you should at least be able to provide a suitable initial diet for your bird.

The family that your finch belongs to is also going to play a part in the diet. Waxbills for instance will eat more Senegal millet and less white millet than in comparison to grass finches of which the opposite is true.

A staple diet for most finches would include: white millet, yellow millet, red millet, canary seeds and thistle seed (niger). This gives us a point at which to start to build upon a dietary program for our finches.

Thus in order to develop a dietary program for our finches, we must have a basic diet, know and understand their geographic origin, and understand the function of foods. Not being a scientist, I will make this brief. All foods have a function in the nutrition of your finch. Contained in all foods are chemical forms that have common properties called food elements. These elements include Proteins, Carbohydrates, and Fats. Each of these elements is needed by your finch for proper health and vitality.

Remember, your bird is what he eats. The percentages of proteins, carbohydrates, and fats are expressed in your bird's diet. The foods offered will increase or decrease these essential elements to fit your bird's energy cycle. An energy cycle is best explained by the needs of your bird at different times during his life span. Young active birds and breeding birds require certain percentages of the basic elements, whereas older or less active birds will require a different mix of those percentages.

## THE FOOD ELEMENTS

Protein is the most important element of nutrition and the most difficult to explain. It is also the element that is most likely to be deficient in your finch's diet. Some of the signs of protein a deficient bird is poor feathering, beak and skin problems, and low hatchability of eggs.

Proteins are composed of amino acids. Some of the amino acids cannot be manufactured by your bird and must be supplemented in the diet. When referring to amino acids, you have probably heard the term "essential amino acids". This term refers to the basic need of your bird to have proteins in sufficient quantities to be used by the body when needed, for muscle growth, regeneration of body tissue and the like. Proteins are stored better by the body than the other elements but are more difficult to obtain in common seed diets. You have a baby in the nest, he is growing at a slow rate, and after six or seven weeks you realize that the finch is not as large as he should be. Chances are that the parents, particularly the mother was suffering from a protein deficiency and the foods fed at rearing time produced a baby that was protein deficient as well. To keep your bird from having protein deficiencies, feed seeds that are high in protein, such as canary seed, hemp and thistle. Protein supplementation will also be needed in the form of vitamins which we will discuss later.

Carbohydrates and fat are much alike. Both produce heat and energy. Fats however, are sources of some essential fatty acids which aid in the absorption of some vitamins and minerals. When a bird is obese we call him fat. Actually this is good terminology as excess foods are generally stored in the body as fats. Birds only require a minimal amount of fat in their diets, most particularly the inactive or older bird. However those seeds with the higher oil content, such as hulled oats and hemp, are valuable in the colder months to help retain heat in the body.

## VITAMINS AND MINERALS

We all know that vitamins and minerals are important to proper nutrition in all animals. With birds these essential nutrients take on added importance as our birds are limited to what we offer them in their daily diet. In the wild, birds would naturally forage for their fare and satisfy these nutritional requirements from the abundance of nutrients

available to them, especially minerals. We can't always be sure we are providing all the necessary elements of a healthy diet, so the solution becomes supplemented vitamins and minerals.

Vitamins may be supplemented in many ways. There are vitaminized seeds, powdered vitamins, and liquefied supplements. I prefer powdered vitamins, primarily because of the ease in usage as well as storage. When using powdered vitamins, the way we administer them is important. Firstly, are they water soluble or not? If so they can be used in the drinking water; if not, they must be applied to a food stuff to which they will adhere, such as greens, corn kernels, or mash foods (for feeding babies). Never sprinkle powdered vitamins on seeds, as most will be wasted. Powdered vitamins also are available for specific uses: fertility, feathering and the like. I use Nekton products from Germany, as they are readily available and offer a wide array of supplements.

Some symptoms of vitamin and mineral deficiencies are: generally weak or lethargic birds, poor feather quality, nails and beaks that grow abnormally, small clutches of eggs, soft eggs, low hatchability of eggs, respiratory problems and eye infections. In summary then, supplement your finch's diet with a quality vitamin and mineral supplement. The greatest percentage of good health is good nutrition.

## AVIARY MANAGEMENT AND NUTRITION

In presenting our seeds and seed mixes, there are two schools of thought. One tells us to feed each seed separately, and the other tells us to combine our basic seeds into a mix. I personally go with the combination presentation. There are other food stuffs that must given separately, and by combining our seeds our finches are more likely to get most of what they need at one cup.

My seed mix for Australian Finches is (in volume) 50% white and yellow millet, 20% red or Senegal millet, 20% canary seed, the remaining 10% is composed of hulled oats, hemp, and thistle seed in equal quantities. For African species, particularly Waxbills, I reduce the white and yellow millet to 35% and increase the red millet to 35%, the other quantities stay the same.

I feed my finches twice daily. In the early morning I replace the seed in cups and top off the seed in my gravity feeders. Most of my feeders are of the gravity type. The afternoon feeding is simply a topping off effort and a check of water bottles and tubes.

I also top off a separate dish of conditioning food, made up of powdered egg, toast, thistle, ground seed meats and anise. This blend of similar blends are found in the commercially available brands; Kellogg Petamine and Kaytee Trill. Once weekly I dump all conditioning foods and clean the

cups for another week's use. All water receptacles are cleaned daily and bleached weekly.

Another important part of my diet is millet sprays (seed heads) - the sprays are rich in protein as the red millet has the highest protein of all the millets. These sprays can be grown in your home garden, purchased in small bags at your local pet shop or ordered from a national distributor of millet sprays such as Norshore, Kaytee, or Carlson.

In whatever seeds you use, freshness is a most important factor. Never use preboxed seeds. These boxes may be very old and the seeds may actually be dead and of no nutritional value. Find a pet shop in your area that packages seed on a daily basis. If you have any question as to whether the seeds you are using are fresh, simply plant some of them in a shallow container and see if they sprout. Fresh seeds will usually sprout in two or three days. These sprouted seeds may be fed to your birds. Some birds relish freshly sprouted seeds and watch for you to place them in the cage.

Generally speaking, if you only have several finches, it is probably a good idea to purchase only small amounts of seed at a time, so as to assure freshness. Whether you purchase small or large amounts of seed, be sure you store them in a cool dry place. Seeds stored in warm places have a tendency to get "webby", and those stored in dampness get moldy. Small amounts of seed may be stored in the refrigerator. Never store seed in the freezer as this will kill the seed and upon thawing will dry out completely and lose their nutritional value.

Many birds will quite readily take greens. This is good, as greens offer much nutrition, especially minerals. I use the small "leftover center of the bunch" from collard heads. I say leftover, as I use the large outer leaves for my Cockatiels. Spinach, Kale and Swiss Chard are also good greens. Remember the greener the green, the more nutritious. In New England, during the spring and fall, Chickweed flourishes. Chickweed is harvested and washed and is a favorite of all my finches. Whatever type of greens you use, be sure they are washed first to remove any chemicals with are associated with their growth or sprayed on as a preservative by your local grocer.

I find that most of my finches do not particularly take to fruits, but I do feed apples and sliced grapes occasionally. Other veggies that make excellent supplements are; carrots, broccoli, radishes, and tomatoes.

Plenty of clean water is essential. Finches, compared to other birds in aviculture, consume large amounts of water. Fresh water should not be a problem to you, but clean water that stays clean can be a bit tricky. As I mentioned before, I use only tube waterers and bottles. This prevents the birds from drinking water that has been soiled from seeds and droppings.

As we have already discussed, finches drink large quantities of water, so it is an excellent avenue of vitamin and mineral supplementation. I alternate my vitamins - one day vitamins the next clear water. I also shake vitamins from a salt shaker onto fresh corn on the cob which I place in the cage daily. In winter, corn on the cob is an excellent source of carbohydrates.

A mineral block or cuttlebone should always be present on the cage. Cuttlebone is the most ready source of calcium for the production of eggs available to your birds.

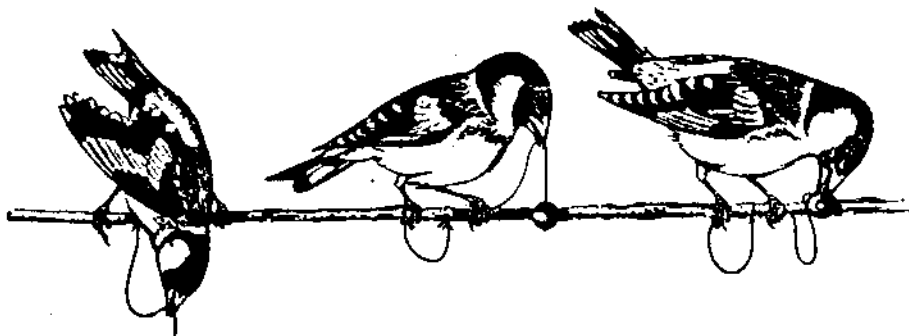
Iodine is necessary in the diet for proper thyroid gland function. Some birds are iodine deficient. Just to be sure this does not become a problem, it is best to use a commercial iodine supplement in the drinking water once weekly. A salt spool may be hung in the cage or flight. The occasional use of the spool by your birds will enable the osmotic relationship of body tissue and fluids to take place.

Gravel, grit, and charcoal are added to the diet by most finch fanciers. My own personal belief is that the standard grade #2 of aquarium gravel is fine for the loosening of impacted crops and the grinding of seed. I use charcoal only when suspecting sour crop, as the continual use of charcoal can be harmful. Charcoal can actually absorb vitamins A, B12, and K.

Halved hard-boiled eggs can occasionally be offered during the breeding season as they are relished by most finches and are an excellent source of protein.

#### SUMMARY

You will get out of your birds only what you put into them. Good nutrition is the single most important entity that you can provide for your birds. Healthy birds will be more alert, will look better, and will breed more readily and successfully. You will also prepare your bird to be more disease resistant. Many finches require live feeding. This has been omitted from this article and is covered by an article in this issue by Terry Dunham entitled "LIVE FOODS: to feed or not to feed."



NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY NATIONAL SHOW  
OCT. 5, 1985

# Holiday Inn

Holiday Inn Center City • Harrisburg

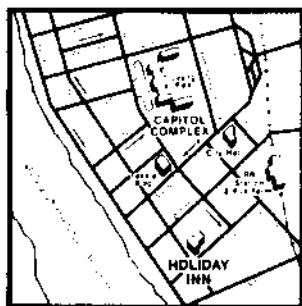
Second and Chestnut Streets  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101  
(717) 234-5021

## RESERVATIONS AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1. Be sure to make your room reservations as soon as possible. Call the Harrisburg Holiday Inn Central at area code 717-234-5021. Tell the clerk that you want Bird Show Rates; single, one bed one person \$50, double, one bed, two persons \$55, or triple, two beds, three persons at \$60. Give them your arrival date and departure date.
2. We are sure you will all want to attend the gala awards banquet. In order to do so please have your banquet reservations made by September 25th. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Your check, should be made out to C.P.C.B.S., and mailed A.S.A.P. to:  
Dick Sharp, 2928 N. Wind Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21234.
3. NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting will be held at the Harrisburg Holiday Inn Central at 8:30 pm. on Friday, Oct. 4, 1985. See main lobby directory for location of meeting.
4. MEET THE OFFICERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF NFS. The NFS will be sponsoring a hospitality room after the National meeting. Refreshments and snacks will be served. Let's show 'em - finch people do it better!
5. REGISTRATION OF BIRDS - Friday, 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Saturday, 8 to 10 am.
6. JUDGING will start at 10 am. Saturday, October 5, 1985. Remember, to compete for the beautiful Kaytee Best in Show Award, you must be a NFS member prior to commencement of judging. Membership applications will be available at the registration desk.
7. GALA AWARDS BANQUET - Will be held at 7 pm at the Holiday Inn Central.

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### DIRECTIONS \* \* \*



FROM N. ENG: Take I-84 west to Scranton, PA. Take I-81 south. Exit 25 to I-83 south. 1st exit 30 to 22-west (Walnut St.) Follow to fork, bear right onto State St., bear left off Mea. Bridge to Walnut St. 3rd left is 3rd St. Follow to Chestnut, right, one block to Hol. Inn.

FROM SO. JERSEY-DEL. AREA: Take PA Tpke west to Harrisburg. Exit 19, take I-283 & I-83 to exit 23 Second St., follow to Chestnut St.

FROM WEST: Take PA Tpke to Harrisburg. Exit 18 to I-83 north to exit 23, Second St., follow to Chestnut St.



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**Author Of**

Handbook of Amazons  
Handbook of Cockatoos  
Handbook of Macaws  
Exhibition of Birds

**AL DECOTEAU**

**FINCHES - SEEDEATERS - SOFBILLS**

**MEMBER AND PANEL JUDGE OF**



**The National Finch Society**



## TO PROMOTE FINCHES. . . . just an idea

by Tom Rood

Upon receiving and reading the last copy of the National Finch Society bulletin, I noticed all of the affiliated clubs holding shows this year. Of course, these clubs will receive the coveted NFS plaques to present to the winners. My concern is the numerous smaller clubs who probably will not be able to affiliate with the National Finch Society for a number of reasons. However, these clubs have NFS members showing and promoting the exhibition of finches. Is there something that the National Finch Society can do for these members in the way of promotional awards. I believe the answer is YES!

I would like to present an idea to the National Finch Society that may help promote the exhibition of finches at various shows across the country, and at the same time give the exhibitors an opportunity to win an award or two sponsored by the National Finch Society. While this idea may stir some more interest in the breeding and exhibiting of finches, it may also add a few dedicated finch breeders to the NFS membership roster. Actually, the idea I am presenting is not new to cage bird shows. Many canary clubs, such as the International Gloster Breeder's Assn., The Old Varieties Canary Club, The Fife Fancy Canary Club, and several others use this awards program with many local clubs each year. If you've ever seen the winners of their special awards, you know that the awards are quite prized and the winners are quite proud to take them home.

The above named clubs have a Special Rosette program in which rosettes are sent to any local club that requests them. Usually there must be a member of the specialty club active in the local club that is putting on the show. However, it is not necessary that the winner of the special rosettes be members of the specialty club. (Usually after winning the award, the winner joins the club!). Of course, each specialty club may have different rules or guidelines governing the awarding of the rosettes. I will use the IGBA as an example. Each year the IGBA sends out numerous purple and white rosettes to various clubs to be given to the Best Consort and Best Corona in the show. I happened to win a couple of these a few years ago as a Gloster breeder, and still regard them as prized possessions.

Would it be possible for the National Finch Society to do the same thing? Special rosettes could be made up carrying the club name, etc. The word "Special" could be imprinted on the rosettes. This would not confuse them with affiliated awards. Should a member wish to award these rosettes at a local show, a nominal fee (i.e. 2 for \$5.00) could be paid to the NFS to cover the cost and postage. The rosettes could then be awarded by the local club as they see fit: most popular, most competitive breed, or even to some of the less popular breeds in order to promote their exhibition.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If either NFS members around the country are interested in a program such as this, write to the home office and let us know.

## LIVE FOODS: To feed or not to feed.

by Terry Dunham

Years ago we had a pair of Violet-Eared Waxbills in a small outdoor flight. They hadn't bred for a year, so when a friend offered to collect termites for them from woods near his home, I accepted. I had corresponded with several Australian breeders and know they made frequent forays to collect termites to feed their birds. I figured it was worth a try.

My young friend found rotted logs infested with termite larvae, and shoveled them into garbage bags. We fed some frozen, others live, to the Waxbills. In less than a week, the hen started laying. I moved the eggs to Society Finches, which raised three babies.

They didn't lay again until months later -- the next time I fed them termites. And again more, months later, under the same circumstances. But only then.

\* \* \* \* \*

Are live foods necessary? When? And if so, what kinds? Or are there substitute foods that will do just as much? Our experiment with Violet-Eared Waxbills seems to offer compelling evidence that live food is essential. But that's not necessarily true. Consider these points:

\* Different kinds of birds have different dietary needs. Some only eat seeds, others fruit, others only live foods, and others combinations of two or more. You must learn about these needs from good books on the market that describe birds' behavior in the wild.

\* Birds are driven to nesting behavior by both nutritional requirements and behavioral or instinctive needs. They must be well-nourished, but you may be able to alter their instinctive need, particularly with continued generations of captive breeding.

In Australia, Grassfinches begin breeding after the first spring rains: plants begin to grow, and by the time they sprout seedheads those sidewalks provide important food for youngsters in nests. But it would be a mistake to assume from that, that you must feed young Grassfinches seedheads to meet their nutritional needs.

\* There are major differences between captive-reared birds and wild-caught stock. That's why it's so important to know as much as you can about the origins of the birds you buy. The wild-caught birds may require live foods as much for instinctive needs as for dietary necessity.

Captive-reared stock is much less likely to require live food.

We and friends in the Suncoast Avian Society have foster-raised Peter Twinspots, Purple Grenadiers, Violet-Eared Waxbills and Cordon Bleus under Society Finches with no live-food, but with plentiful feeding of egg food. A good eggfood mix is clearly a nutritionally adequate substitute for the protein these birds may need in order to grow at the proper rate.

It comes down to this:

If you're dealing with wild-caught stock, live foods may be an important stimulus to breeding (and to feeding young) even if the birds' nutritional needs could be met in other ways. If you're attempting to breed from captive-reared stock; on the other hand, that consideration may be far less important.

But why take chances? If you have birds that in the wild feed their young live food, it can't hurt to try as many kinds of live foods as you can offer, just as it may be prudent to mist them periodically with water, simulating spring rains and hopefully stimulating the same breeding response.

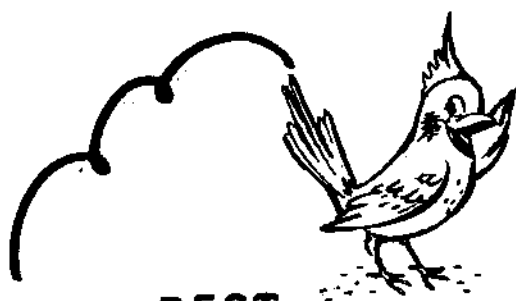
Mealworms are the most readily available live food. Once you've bought your initial supply you can, if you wish, raise your own at home in a covered dishpan, with potato slices in bran meal as the foundation for their growth. Many other types of live foods have also recently become commercially available.

Experiment, remembering that the nutritive value may be similar but your birds may instinctively prefer one type over another. Remember that it may take some time for your birds to learn to eat a newly offered food. The best ways to get them to eat any new food is to put them in with one or more other birds already accustomed to that food, or to mix the new food with one the birds are already accustomed to.

Be selective in offering bugs collected in the wild, since some may be toxic, others rendered toxic by chemicals -- and others may later be found swarming around the woodwork of your home!

Even if you're feeding live foods, I strongly advocate that you feed an eggfood mix, too. In another article I'll tell you how we prepare ours.

(Article copyrighted by Terry Dunham, PO Box 7870, St. Petersburg, FL 33734)



**BEST**

**WISHES**

*Nancy A. Reed*

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THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY

PANEL OF JUDGES

1985

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MARCO ARIOA, 10480 S.W. 62nd, Miami, FL 33173

DR. VAL CLEAR, 1001 Martin Dr., Anderson, IN 46012

CLARENCE CULMELL, 913 Lydick Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 67114

KELLY S. DAHILL, 109 Sycamore St., Windsor, CT 06095

DR. AL E. DECOTEAU, Groton Road, Dunstable, MA 01827

DAREN DECOTEAU, Groton Road, Dunstable, MA 01827

JUANITA McLAIN, 2410 Madrid Ave., Safety Harbor, FL 33572

COMRAD MEINERT, RR 3, Box 392, Marsaw, IN 46580

MILLIAM G. PARLEE, 529 Burnside Ave., East Hartford, CT 06108

PHILLIP SHAM, 3667 East 9th St., Kansas City, MO 64124

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MINI ARTICLE PURSUIT CONTEST: 1st prize-\$100  
2nd prize-\$50  
3rd prize-\$25.

PURPOSE: FOR FUN! To utilize some of NFS's competitive spirit other than on the show bench. To promote interest. To encourage more articles for the NFS bulletin. To educate.

## RULES:

1. No past or present NFS Board Member, Panel Judge, or family member thereof will be eligible.
2. Deadline: Entries will be postmarked no later than DEC. 31, 1985.
3. Winners will be announced in the MARCH/APRIL '86 NFS BULLETIN.
4. In case of tie(s): Entry with earliest postmark will take precedence.
5. PURSUIT ITEMS may be duplicated and therefore points would be multiplied (example: 1 article = 100 points; 3 articles = 300 points), EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFIED ONE ITEM ONLY.
6. All entries become property of NFS, and will not be returned, including photos.
7. The G.N.F.S.C. is open to all '85 paid members (except as noted in rule #1).

All "ITEMS" requested are within any member's realm of ingenuity. Points have been figured according to degree of difficulty. All entries should be sent no later than DEC. 31, 1985 to:

Nancy A. Reed -NFS  
109 Stage Coach Rd.  
Windsor, CT. 06095

## THE G.N.F.P.C. PURSUIT ITEMS

1. Any 1st Place "Best Finch/Softbill in Show" show tag (please write in name of show on tag).....25
2. The above signed with the Judge's autograph (initials don't count).....10
3. Any 1985 National Finch Society (Harrisburg, PA.) show tag.....5
4. One original copy of the National (Harrisburg, PA.) Meeting agenda (available at meeting).....15
5. #4 above signed in RED INK by any NFS Board Officer.....10
6. Recruit a member.....10  
(Have the new member credit you on the application and send to NFS. Also include new member's name in your contest entry.)
7. Any original article(s) for NFS Bulletin (500 word minime and approved by the editor). Submitted between Aug.1 and Dec.31).....100
8. Above including printable photography.....10  
illustration.....15

### MINI ARTICLE PURSUIT CONTEST

- Best article submitted.....\$100 plus extra 100  
2nd award.....\$50 plus extra..50  
3rd award.....\$25 plus extra..25
9. Original Finch artwork (5"X8") approved by editor.....15
  10. Original Finch photo (slide) approved by editor.....10  
(The bird must be predominant in frame.)
  11. Screened print 5"x8" of above (100 line screen).....20
  12. A good Finch/Softbill cartoon accepted for publication.....25
  13. One 1985 NFS Finch band (whole).....5
  14. An original copy of the Silver Anniversary issue of the Zebra Finch Society of England's publication (This will be returned, if requested.).....50
  15. A copy of any Zebra Finch Society of America Bulletin.....25

### THE G.N.F.P.C. PURSUIT QUESTIONS

In answering, list # of question followed by answer.

1. Volume 1,#1 of the NFS Bulletin was printed under what monthly heading and year?.....20
2. Name the first President of NFS?.....1
3. In what bulletin was the first NFS Zebra Standard presented?.....10
4. What was the first mutation of the Zebra Finch to appear in the US?10
5. Who has NFS membership #100?.....20

6. How many mutations of the Society Finch are recognized by WFS?.....15
7. What was the total entry at the 1st WFS National Show?.....20
8. What is the only finch that is well known by three different names?..25
9. What finch is a member of the Whydah family but is normally not considered a part of that family?.....10
10. When a finch can be sexed by coloration, we call this difference: \_\_\_\_\_?.....10
11. Finches that change coloration at different times during the year have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ plumage.....10
12. Who judged the Finch Division at the 1984 Gold Coast Exotic Cage Bird Show in Florida?.....10
13. Who wrote the first article presenting WFS to a nation-wide audience?.....10
14. What item in a finch's diet, if withheld, will prove fatal fastest?..5

### THE G.N.E.P.C. PURSUIT POLL

We encourage members to respond to this segment even if you are not interested in the basic contest. It will offer some feedback on members' interests, and ideas for WFS improvement. In answering, list the # of question followed by your answer. Responses will be used for a future article.

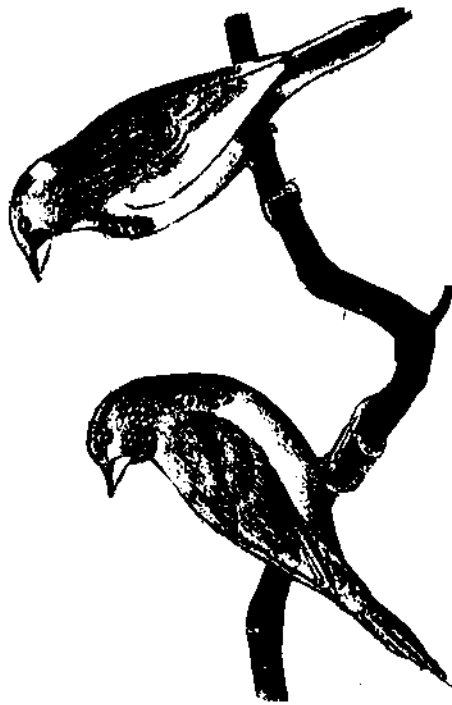
If answered in full by a GNFCP contestant, points credited.....50

1. What is your favorite species?
2. What is your favorite mutation?
3. If you have a pet finch/softbill that is named, what is the name?
4. What topic are you most interested in reading about in your WFS Bulletins (genetics, human interest, nutrition, etc.)?
5. How long have you been an WFS member?
6. What constructive criticism can you offer to improve WFS?
7. What finches have you successfully bred?  
(Not including Zebras, Societies, or Gouldians.)
8. Have you ever won a Best in Show with a finch or softbill?  
Show: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Species: \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many finches/softbills do you have at the moment?
10. What brand name vitamin(s) do you use?
11. What greens, veggies, fruits do you feed?
12. What brand name(s) do you use for seed?
13. What is your favorite finch book?
14. If you keep your birds indoors, what is the minimum temperature you allow?
15. When it becomes necessary to "dispose" of a bird for humane reasons, what is your method?
16. Do you have any question(s) that you would like to hear membership responses on?



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## EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH

by Nancy Hicks

(This article reprinted by exchange agreement with the Finch Society of San Diego)

I remember a visit to a friend's aviary several years ago and seeing the Goldfinch for the first time. I was thinking it was so beautiful and rare in captivity that I would never have a chance to own a pair.

These birds are about 5" in length with a bright red mask; with black on top of head, nape of the neck and base of the beak. Throat and breast are white. The back is brown, the wings are black and yellow. The flight feathers are white. The tail is black with white markings. The female is similar, but the folds of the wings are a brownish black instead of deep black like the male.

In May, 1982 I sent off for six pairs from out of state: four pairs for myself, and two pairs for a friend. Upon arrival they looked pretty bad, and soon after we discovered they all had scaly mites. Their feet became paddad so badly it took several months of treatment and a lot of patience before they recovered. I used Scales, mineral oil and Campho Phenique in liquid and ointment form in treating this.

In January, 1983 I put two pairs in an aviary which is 13'X6'X6', constructed of welded wire, and sits on our patio with a cement bottom. Various potted plants including Indian Laurel, Asparagus Fern, and Lantana were placed in the cage. They share this aviary with pairs of Goldbreasts, African Fires, Owl Finch, Red Headed Parrot Finch, Cordon Bleu, Green Twin Spots, Black Cheeks, Lavers and Strawberrys.

Nesting began in early May, 1983. I spotted a nest being built in a wire cylinder filled with pine. It was an open nest built with small pieces of dried grass and lined with sisal cord. Three eggs were laid, and only two hatched. Both parents shared the incubation and feeding of the young. The babies fledged on May 30th.



A male European Goldfinch forages for thistle seeds.

I feed Topper seed, pound cake, romaine lettuce, oranges, mealworms, spray millet, peanut butter, and have a feeder with thistle seed which I think is essential for Goldfinches during breeding. Their favorite treat seems to be oranges. They eat mealworms, but not in great quantity like some of the other finches.

My aviaries all have water misters during the hot summer months and they all enjoy the water. They bathe as often as canaries do. I would not recommend European Goldfinches for their singing ability, however, some books compare their song to that of canaries.

In my opinion, the European Goldfinch would make an outstanding addition to any aviary. They seem to be very congenial with different types of birds and are an enjoyment to watch. They are extremely acrobatic and love to hang upside down a lot. They are very curious and always have to investigate anything new. They are colorful and add a lot to my aviary.

#### NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS, WE WELCOME YOU!!

222	Hooper, Richard	-	Santa Monica, CA 90404
223	Boling, Daniel O.	-	Anchorage, AK 99516
224	Capps, Charles E.	-	Interlachen, MI 49643
225	Bould, Randy	-	Washington, DC 20009
226	Emde, George, J.	-	De Land, FL 32720
227	Filip, Ronald	-	Palos Hills, IL 60465
228	Van Fleteren, Thomas	-	Mount Clemens, MI 48044
229	Van Fleteren, Anna	-	Mount Clemens, MI 48044
230	Goodrich, Chuck	-	Austin, TX 78750
231	Goodrich, Sarah	-	Austin, TX 78750
232	Franker, Annabelle	-	Boca Raton, FL 33431
233	Edwards, Judy	-	Modesto, CA 95351
234	Clary, David A.	-	Tampa, FL 33614
236	Gabel, Roddy	-	Silver Spring, MD 20910
237	Stanger, Terry	-	Tarzana, CA 91356
238	Wallen, Gary M.	-	Los Angeles, CA 90046
239	Garsee, Sharon	-	North Highlands, CA 95660
240	Runge, Mrs. DeLyle	-	St. Petersburg, FL 33712
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## THE NATIONAL CAGE BIRD SHOW - 1985

The NCBS's 37th annual exhibition will be held in San Antonio, TX., Nov. 16-18, at the Tropicana Hotel, 110 Lexington. For information contact: Harold Sodemann, Rt. 5, Paola, KS 66071. Phone (913) 294-4431. Catalog is available for \$2.00.

This annual "show of shows" is an event that is considered the ultimate experience in cage-bird exhibitions in the U.S. A decade ago the emphasis was 90% on canaries. Hookbills and Foreign Birds (finches and softbills) were given two all-inclusive divisions and judged by one judge. Recognition was minimal due to small entries and interest then---basically a "sideshow". Classifications were ultra abbreviated.

With the more recent upswing of interest in parrot-type birds, Cockatiels and Love Birds were given individual Divisional status, with specific recognition to their respective national organizations. These affiliations with the NCBS have proved tremendously successful, benefiting "The National" as well as each specialty club. Entries and interest have skyrocketed through the incorporation of more extensive classifications and a judge nominated by the supporting specialty club. This is not to say there have not been problems inherent with this new concept, but time and experience have helped in solving problems that were unforeseen in earlier years.

The National Cage Bird Show has shown interest in The National Finch Society. The '85 NCBS catalog will feature the first extensive Foreign classifications ever listed: our NFS official classifications!

Officers of NFS will be attending this year's TX. show. We will have an NFS booth there to promote our society. We shall be meeting with NCBS Board members to discuss affiliation, possibly for 1986. We feel that our society has advanced to the status that joining the NCBS might be the appropriate progression for both organizations.

The National Cage Bird Show is held in a different area of the country each year on the fourth weekend in Nov.. The 1986 show will be held in St. Louis, Missouri; 1987 projected for Columbus, Ohio; 1988 in San Diego, CA. The St. Louis location should prove ideally situated as a "within the realm of possibility" for attendance for our membership.

We do have four members presently serving on the NCBS Board of Directors (16 persons total): Al Decoteau, Charlie Anchor, Paul Williams (all NFS Panel Judges), and Ray Johnson. Our interests are well represented.

We encourage thoughts from membership. Address your views to:

Nancy A. Reed  
109 Stage Coach Rd.  
Windsor, CT 06095

# THE INDIAN SPICE BIRD

by Dr. Val Clear

This article appeared in the January 1975 issue of "The American Cage Bird Magazine". References to prices and quarantine regulations reflect the situation in the early '70's. All other information is as appropriate today as when Dr. Clear authored the article.

\*\*\*\*\*

Occasionally one sees this species offered as the Nutmeg Finch (*Munia punctulata*). It comes from India and Ceylon, and even with current Department of Agriculture quarantine regulations, some newly imported birds are on the market.

Because these birds were so inexpensive and so sturdy, the variety stores used to stock them every fall in large numbers. They frequently came in with what were called Painted Finches, which were usually Strawberry Finches dyed brilliant colors. But sometimes the Painted Finches were really Spice Birds that had been dipped. Although the Strawberry or the Spice are both attractive birds in their normal coloring, one has to wonder how the unsuspecting purchaser felt a few months later when his brilliant bird suddenly became quite brown after the first moult.

A species could hardly be more amiable than this one. I have never seen any attempt to scrap, and the birds are always so affectionate that the owner never need fear putting them with other birds, even smaller--- although there are not very many species that are smaller. The Spice Bird mixes well with anything that will mix, and is adaptable to almost any condition under which birds can live.

As with most birds, they do better in a larger cage or a flight, but they can be kept in good health for years even in a singer canary cage. They can be bred in a cage, although they do better in a planted aviary.

The crown, back and mantle are a chocolate brown with occasional lighter feathers scattered about. The face is a deeper brown, and the wings and tail have a reddish cast. The breast is a delightful lacing of white feathers with the outer edges outlined in a very deep brown. The beak is a shiny black.

Sexing the Spice Bird is difficult in the case of the female. Not so with the male; he sings frequently and can be picked out of the crowd very easily. If one has several Spice Birds in a cage, the males can be eliminated, and presumably what are left will be females, but this is, of course, no certain way to go about it. Whenever I have a problem of this kind I put different color celluloid bands on the birds and keep a card handy on which to jot the colors of the ones that are definitely male. I have found that it pays to stay at it until I have seen the same bird

singing two or three times, to avoid any mistakes as the birds fly around in front of me. After observing them for a period of time you ought to have identified all the definite males. In many cases they will have sorted themselves into pairs and by watching carefully these can be grouped together.

The menu for Spice Birds could hardly be simpler. Their main item is canary seed, with the occasional addition of white and yellow millet. They eat a lot of grit and cuttlefish bone when available. They enjoy as treats: seeding grasses, light green food, and an occasional mealworm. Spray millet is a delight.

As with other Asian species, the song is a ludicrous performance in which the male sticks out his chest like a Pouter Pigeon, extends his neck like a giraffe, and warbles. The sound is not unlike a muffled gargle, but the hen seems to enjoy it.

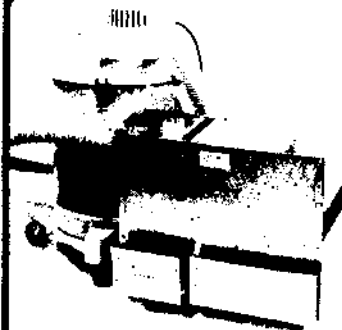
The nest is large and conical when built in a bush, but the birds will take to an open fronted nest box. A convenient size is six inches by eight inches wide. The materials are hay, fine rootlets, moss, feathers, and burlap lengths. Eggs are plain white and take fourteen days incubation, four or five being the usual number.

While there are babies it is a good idea to offer bread moistened with milk, soaked canary seed, and live food if available. When the babies come out of the nest they are plain brown, darker on the top. After the first moult they look like the parents, of course; and the process starts over again.

Of all the more common exotic cage-birds, the Spice Bird is an easy one to keep, subject to relatively few ailments, and completely peaceful with other birds. It is a pretty thing, and a good bird for someone to start with if interested in learning something about the keeping of exotic cage-birds. Although few are now being imported, they are being bred in limited numbers in this country. Cage or aviary-bred specimens would be preferable to wild, imported ones, but in either case I would expect the retail price to run pretty high--up to \$40 per pair, perhaps. That is a lot to pay for birds that sold for two dollars each in the dime store three years ago!

If we are going to develop domestic stock of these and other "common" species, we will need to set out diligently to breed them. Eventually the prices might come down, but not by far, if ever. The restrictions being finalized by the Department of the Interior will make the present quarantine restrictions look like open doors, I fear, and as time moves on I think all but the completely domesticated species will be banned from importation. If you have a chance to get a pair of Spice Birds or similar species, take it.

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# Nutritional

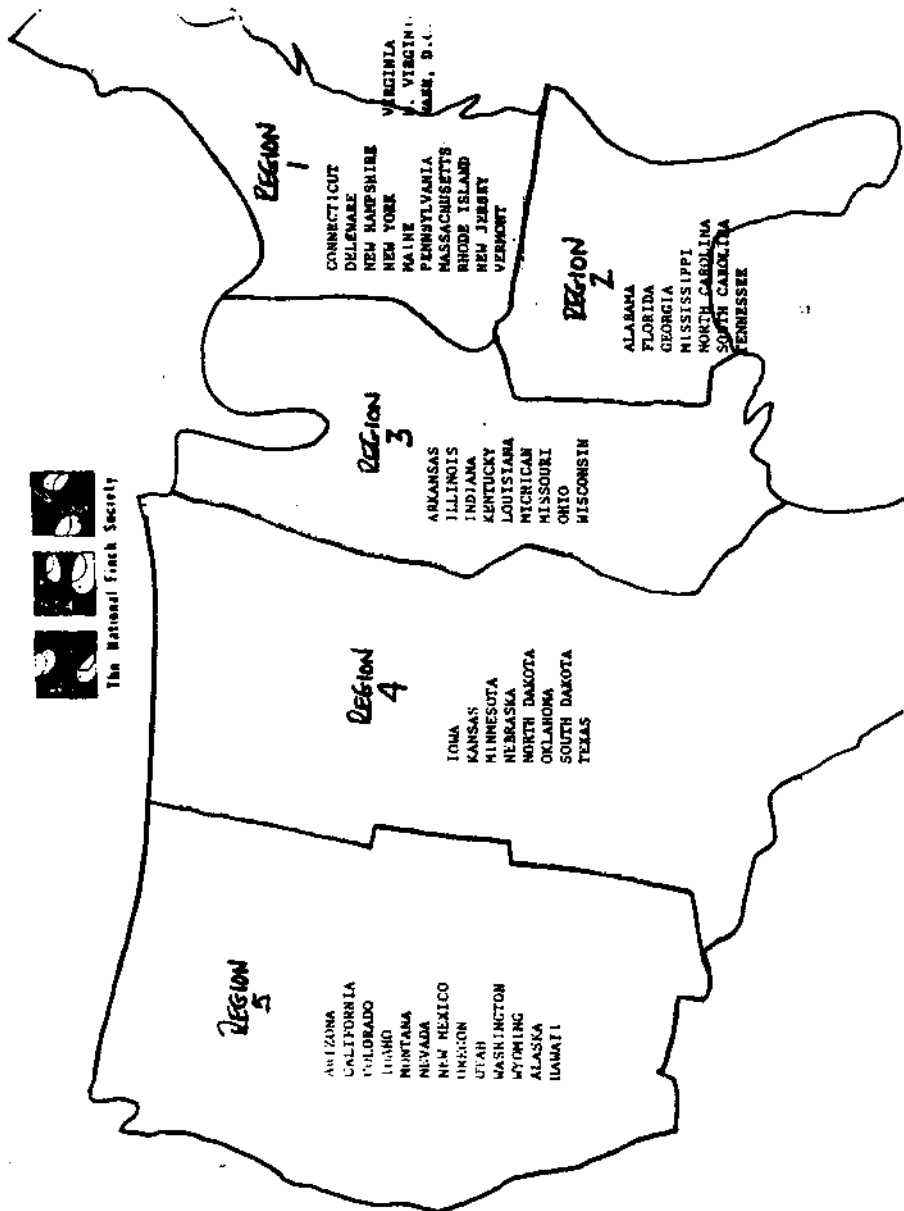
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The National Finch Society



## FILLING OUT A SHOW TAG

### FRONT SIDE OF SHOW TAG

Number of birds in class goes in this square. This is the responsibility of the Chief Steward.

Cage number goes on this line and it should be large, use a large marker so exhibitors can see from their seats. Show Committee's responsibility.

Exhibitor is to write class number on this line.

Exhibitor is to write section number on this line.

Name of division Cockatiel, Canary, Budgie, etc. should be written in this space by Exhibitor.

Exhibitor should put their complete name and address on these lines.

Exhibitor is to write the complete description of the bird here.

Exhibitor is to write the complete band number in this space.

○	□ IN CLASS
CAGE NO. _____	
CLASS NO. _____	
SECTION NO. _____	
DIVISION	
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	
.....	
DESCRIPTION	
BAND NO.	

### AWARDS

IN CLASS	
IN SECTION	
IN DIVISION	
IN SHOW	
JUDGE'S REMARKS	

### BACK SIDE OF SHOW TAG

The responsibility for the back side of the show tag belongs to the judge.

The judge should write in this space how a bird placed in the class.

In the next space should be how the bird placed in section.

The third space is for how the bird placed in division.

The fourth space is for how the bird placed in Show.

This last space is for the judge's remarks.

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NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY AFFILIATED CLUBS AND SHOWS

THE ASTORIA BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Alex Grivas

Show date: November 2, 1985 - Judge: Tom Corouana\*

THE BALTIMORE BIRD FANCIERS

Delegate: Brenda Geesey

Show date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Rody Gabel\*

THE BOSTON SOCIETY FOR AVICULTURE INC.

Delegate: Roger O'Connell

Show Date: A show is not planned for this year.

THE CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Delegate: William T. Lumley

Show date: October 5, 1985 - The National Finch Show

THE GREATER CHICAGO CAGE BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Charles Anchor

Show date: November 1,2,3, 1985 - Judge: Paul Williams

THE CLEVELAND CANARY AND CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Delegate: Louis Di Santo

Show date: October 13, 1985 - Judge: to be announced.

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR AVICULTURE INC.

Delegate: Jerry D'Agata - Place: Vet's Memorial Bldg., E.Hartford.

Show date: October 26, 1985 - Judge: Kelly S. Cahill

THE GEORGIA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

Delegate: Cecil Gunby - Place: Ramada Central, Atlanta, GA.

Show date: November, 2, 1985 - Judge: Conrad Meinert

THE GOLD COAST EXOTIC CAGE BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Karl Kline - Place: PB Ocean Hotel, PB, FL.

Show date: October 26, 1985 - Judge: A.E. Decoteau

THE GULF COAST BIRD CLUB

Delegate: Richard Nuench

Show date: November 2, 1985 - Judge: Robert Black\*

THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AVICULTURAL SOCIETY

Delegate: Andrea Shaw - Place: Granview, MO.

Show date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Earl Courts\*

- THE GULF SOUTH CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION  
 Delegate: Evon Krause  
 Show date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Dr. Val Clear
- THE MARYLAND CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION  
 Delegate: Dallas Johnson  
 Show date: October 5, 1985 - The National Finch Show
- THE MASSACHUSETTS CAGE BIRD ASSOCIATION INC.  
 Delegate: Shirley Eaton  
 Show date: October 19, 1985 - Judge: Kelly S. Oahill
- THE GREATER MIAMI AVICULTURAL SOCIETY  
 Delegate: Hector Ugalde  
 Show date: October 5, 1985 - Judge: George Warren
- THE MID-WEST CANARY AND CAGE BIRD CLUB  
 Delegate: Nary Kaszyca  
 Show date: November 9, 10, 1985 - Judge: to be announced
- THE NEW HAMPSHIRE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY  
 Delegate: F. Lawrence Brandt  
 Show date: October 12, 1985 - Judge: Oaren Decoteau
- THE GREATER OMAHA CAGE BIRD CLUB  
 Delegate: Nary Eichelberger - Place: Ramada Inn, Omaha, NE  
 Show date: November 8, 9, 1985 - Judge: Carence Culwell
- THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOCIETY OF AVICULTURE  
 Delegate: Martha Nigmore  
 Show date: October 26, 1985 - Judge: Charles Anchor
- THE WESTERN NEW ENGLAND CAGE BIRD SOCIETY  
 Delegate: William Pattison  
 Show date: November 16, 1985 - Judge: William G. Parlee
- THE WISCONSIN CAGE BIRD CLUB  
 Delegate: Nary Zuideama - Place: DePere, Wisc.  
 Show date: August 23, 24, 1985 - Judge: A. E. Decoteau
- \* Not NFS Panel Judges - No NFS show points.

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## NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY BY-LAWS

Adopted by the Board of Directors on Sunday, September 8, 1985 and replaces those adopted on November 10, 1983. These by-laws have been approved by the membership subject to spelling and correction of typographical errors. These by-laws are on file with the Secretary of States office in Hartford, Connecticut.

### ARTICLE 1 - NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be known as the National Finch Society, Inc. It shall also be known in a more casual manner as "NFS".

### ARTICLE 2 - STATUS

The National Finch Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Connecticut. All necessary data is on file at the Secretary of State's office, Arch Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06105.

### ARTICLE 3 - HOME OFFICE

The principle office of the society shall be 529 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford, CT 06108, or other address as the Board of Directors may from time to time select.

### ARTICLE 4 - PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

Recognizing a lack of organization amongst exhibitors and breeders of Finches and Softbilled birds, and in view of the increased interest in them, we propose to: encourage breeding programs, enhance the knowledge of our members in the keeping and care of these birds, cooperate with organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country, and introduce the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties.

### ARTICLE 5 - CALENDAR YEAR

The calendar year of this society shall be January 1, through December 31.

### ARTICLE 6 - OFFICERS

#### PARAGRAPH ONE.

President: The President of the society shall preside over all Board of Directors meetings of this society. The President shall also preside at the National annual meeting. The President shall attend to the day-to-day operations of the society, shall abide by the by-laws of the society, and shall coordinate and delegate the activities of other officers of this society.

#### PARAGRAPH TWO.

First Vice-President: Shall fill the position of the President in absentia. Shall be first in succession to fill the position of the President should the President be unable to fill his term. The First Vice-President shall coordinate the activities of, and be responsible for, all Regional Vice-Presidents. Only a Panel Judge may serve as First Vice-President, as he also serves as chairman of the Judges Panel.

#### PARAGRAPH THREE.

Second Vice-President: Shall be second in line to the Presidency and first in line to succeed the First Vice-President (if the Second

Vice-President is not a Panel Judge, he shall serve until a special election can be held to fill the First Vice-Presidency). The Second Vice-President shall be responsible for the National Show of the society and shall participate in all committees of this society. The Second Vice-President shall also chair the Education Committee and coordinate the educational programs of the society.

#### PARAGRAPH FOUR

Corresponding Secretary: Shall be responsible for all correspondence of the society. The Corresponding Secretary shall also serve as the Membership Chairman for the society.

#### PARAGRAPH FIVE

Recording Secretary: Shall be responsible for the minutes of all Board of Directors meetings of the society. Will further direct the recording of all minutes of special or national membership meetings that may be called from time to time. Will present to the President or Bulletin Editor a copy of all meeting minutes of this society.

#### PARAGRAPH SIX

Treasurer: Shall be responsible for the collection and keeping of all society funds and assessments. Shall maintain a bank account, and deposit said funds in the account under the name of the National Finch Society, Inc.. All funds, with the exception of operating funds, are to be kept in a savings account. The Treasurer will pay with society funds, kept in a checking account, all debts incurred by the society at the directions of the Board of Directors. Society funds shall be used for society business only. The Treasurer shall also serve as the Band Secretary.

#### PARAGRAPH SEVEN

Chief Liaison Officer: Shall be responsible for the interrelationships between "NFS" and other national and local avicultural organizations. He or she will also assist Regional Vice-Presidents with club affiliations. The office of Liaison is an appointed office by the Board of Directors.

#### PARAGRAPH EIGHT

Regional Vice-President: Shall be responsible for encouraging membership and club affiliation in the National Finch Society within a given region. Regional Vice-Presidents are responsible to the First Vice-President. Regional Vice-Presidents are to encourage at least one membership meeting within their regions annually.

### ARTICLE 7 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PARAGRAPH ONE

The Board of Directors shall consist of all elected and appointed officers of the society. The Board may at its pleasure ask a past Director to serve a term of one year only, on the present Board for the purposes of smooth and orderly transition of society business.

#### PARAGRAPH TWO

All matters of business of the society shall be conducted by the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis, on the first Sunday of each quarter, or at an alternate time, occasioned by a National Holiday or other necessity. Emergency meetings may be held at any time deemed necessary by at least four Board members.

### PARAGRAPH THREE

Any elected or appointed officer of the society found by the Board to be injurious to the society, may be removed from office by a two thirds vote of all directors. To be injurious to the society, a violation of the by-laws or a flagrant action against the good of the society must have taken place. A written complaint against said officer must be signed by at least two Board members and must be received by the Corresponding Secretary by certified mail in order to be considered by the whole Board.

### PARAGRAPH FOUR

The Board of Directors may not occasion a meeting without first sending a notice to all Board members. Such notice must be postmarked at least ten days prior to said meeting. Emergency meeting may take place when four members of the Board deem it necessary, without written notice. During an emergency meeting of the Board, no action may be taken on the removal of an officer or on an amendment to these by-laws.

### ARTICLE 8 - COMMITTEES

#### PARAGRAPH ONE

The President or Board of Directors may form a committee for the purpose of carrying out the goals and administration of this society, without amendment.

#### PARAGRAPH TWO

Membership Committee: The Membership Committee shall conduct the membership affairs of the society, and shall from time to time conduct drives to increase the membership of the society. It shall promote the society at any event held nationally or locally in the avicultural field unless such promotion should be contrary to the sponsoring organization's policy. The Membership Committee shall be chaired by the the Corresponding Secretary.

#### PARAGRAPH THREE

Show Committee: The Show Committee, chaired by the Second Vice-President shall be responsible for the annual show of the society. It shall be responsible for the day-to-day activities required to achieve said exhibition, and shall be immediately responsible to the Board of Directors.

#### PARAGRAPH FOUR

Publishing Committee: The Publishing Committee shall be responsible for all publications of this society. It shall produce and edit a bi-monthly bulletin for the membership of the society. It shall produce a catalog for the National Show of the society, and any other publications as directed by the Board of Directors.

#### PARAGRAPH FIVE

Research Committee: Shall conduct research on a given subject at the pleasure of the Board of Directors, and will assist members of the society with matters of avicultural interest.

#### PARAGRAPH SIX

Education Committee: This committee will assist its chairman, the Second Vice-President, in developing educational programs for the members of this society.

## PARAGRAPH SEVEN

Standards Committee: The Standards Committee shall work with the Judges Panel and other interested parties in an ongoing effort to establish Standards of Perfection for individual species.

## PARAGRAPH EIGHT

Judges Panel: Shall consist of all approved judges in accordance with the standards set forth by the society. The procedure for nominating a judge for the Judges Panel shall consist of a written application by the potential judge, and nomination by at least two members of the Judges Panel. Nomination by the Judges Panel may not take place until the potential judge has completed apprenticeship and testing under the formula as then required by the Board of Directors of the society. Final approval of a new judge shall be by the Board of Directors with a majority vote of the Board.

## PARAGRAPH NINE:

Apprentice Judge: An Apprentice Judge is a member of the society who has applied to the chairman of the Judges Panel for the apprenticeship program. A copy of the requirements and program are found in the NFS Judges Panel Handbook.

## ARTICLE 9 - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

### PARAGRAPH ONE

The dues for membership in the National Finch Society shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

### PARAGRAPH TWO

Membership is available to single members as well as dual members. Dual means any two individuals residing at the same address. Any dual membership will receive only one copy of any NFS publication; however, dual members will count as two individual votes in regard to NFS elections or other business.

### PARAGRAPH THREE

Junior membership will be available at a reduced rate to any applicant under the age of sixteen.

### PARAGRAPH FOUR

If a member's dues remain unpaid for a period exceeding sixty days beyond written or published notice, said member's privileges shall be suspended.

### PARAGRAPH FIVE

Membership in the National Finch Society is a privilege. Any member who misrepresents the society, holds society property without authorization, or in other ways is injurious to this society as defined in, but not limited to, Article 7, Paragraph 3, may lose his privileges of membership, and receive a prorated refund of his unused dues. In order to cause action under this paragraph, a member must file a deposit of twenty-five dollars with the society Treasurer, along with papers which support a claim against a member of this society. Such claim shall be taken up by the Board of Directors. If the claim is ruled legitimate and results in the removal of a member, the claimant will receive his deposit back. If a claim is unfounded, the deposit shall be forfeited by the claimant.



## ARTICLE 10 - ELECTIONS

### PARAGRAPH ONE

Members elected to hold office in the society shall serve for a period of two years.

### PARAGRAPH TWO

Elections will be held every two years, or as may be occasioned by death or removal of an officer. A ballot, either separate or included in the official bulletin of the society, shall be postmarked at least sixty days prior to the election. A majority of the ballots counted shall determine the outcome of the vote.

### PARAGRAPH THREE

The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee, consisting of at least three members, who must produce a slate of officers for the election. The committee shall produce at least one name, and not more than three names for each office. A write-in space must be allowed for each office on the ballot.

### PARAGRAPH FOUR

All elections of this society shall be by secret ballot only. Ballots will be counted by an appointee of the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Such appointee cannot be an elected officer of the society.

## PARAGRAPH 11 - QUORUM

### PARAGRAPH ONE

The Board of Directors, having sole authority to conduct the business of the society, shall decide matters by a simple majority of those present at a Board meeting. A director's votes received by mail shall be considered as if the Board member were present.

### PARAGRAPH TWO

At least four members of the Board must be present in order for the Board to conduct business at a meeting.

### PARAGRAPH THREE

General membership votes on matters of the society are only considered for the election of officers, or as otherwise set forth by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE 12 - MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

### PARAGRAPH ONE

The society shall have an annual meeting held in conjunction with the National Show of the society.

### PARAGRAPH TWO

The annual meeting of the society shall consist of a State of the Society report given by the President, an annual Treasurer's report, and a more casual discussion period when members may make their views known to the Board of Directors.

### PARAGRAPH THREE

Regional meetings may be held at the direction of the Regional Vice-Presidents. Business is not conducted at regional meetings. These meetings are for the general membership of the society and are primarily to discuss ideas which may be presented to the Board of Directors. These meetings may also sponsor educational programs for the membership.

ARTICLE 13 - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

PARAGRAPH ONE

Amendments to the by-laws must be sponsored by at least two members of the society and received by the Corresponding Secretary by certified mail.

PARAGRAPH TWO

Amendments to the by-laws must be published in a newsletter of the society at least 30 days prior to the next Board of Directors meeting. Any general change in the by-laws must be approved by ballot of the general membership.

PARAGRAPH THREE

Urgent actions may be considered by the Board of directors for earlier disposition. Such actions shall not constitute a change of the by-laws in regard to paragraph two of this article.

PARAGRAPH FOUR

Any amendment to the by-laws of this society must be approved by two thirds of those responding. Any such ballot may only be opened at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 14 - ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The by-laws hereby set forth in Articles 1 through 14 shall be considered the articles of incorporation of the National Finch Society, Inc., and may not be changed in any way, subject to the terms of Article 13 paragraphs 1 through 4, as included herein.

ADVERTISE WITH THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY BULLETIN

DISPLAY RATES:

Full Page 8"x5"	\$ 25
Full Page one full year (6 issues)	\$100
Half Page 4"x5"	\$ 15
Half Page one full year (6 issues)	\$ 60

CLASSIFIED RATES:

Rate is 15¢ per word. Name must appear in ad. Initials and figures count as words. Multiply words times 15¢ =

Mail checks and ads to 529 Burnside, E.Hartford, CT 06108  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY.

# DON'T MISS IT!



The National Finch Society

1985 NATIONAL FINCH SHOW

OCTOBER 5, 1985

HARRISBURG, PENNA

JUDGES: JUANITA MC LAIN AND CONRAD MEINART

LOCATION: The Holiday Inn, Second and Chestnut St. Harrisburg, PA. When you make room reservations be sure to tell the Inn that you want the special Bird Show rates.

BANQUET INFORMATION: We are sure you will want to attend the banquet we will share with our host clubs. The big National Finch Society awards will be presented at this gala event. The cost is \$15.00 per person and must be sent to Dick Sharp, 2928 N. Wind Road, Baltimore, MD 21234. He must have your reservation no later than Sept. 15, 1985.

DO IT NOW! Send in your banquet reservations and your room reservations now, so that you won't miss out. This is the Finch event of the year.

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HOLIDAY INN - ROOM RESERVATIONS 1-717-234-5021

or write: Holiday Inn, 2nd & Chestnut St., Harrisburg, PA.  
17101 - Be sure to ask for Bird Show Rates.

- \_\_\_ single occupancy; one bed, one person \$50  
\_\_\_ double occupancy; one bed, two persons \$55  
\_\_\_ triple occupancy; two bed, three persons \$60

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_

Check out is 12 Noon. Rooms are held until 6pm unless guaranteed by prepayment or credit card number with expiration date. Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Party Name \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_