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National Finch & Softbill Society

Volume 22, No. 2

March/April, 2005



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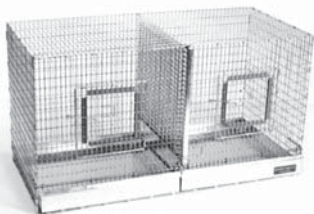
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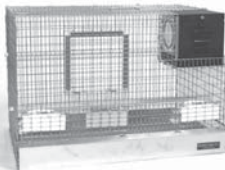
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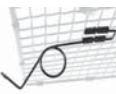
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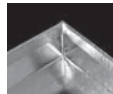
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The National Finch and Softbill Society is dedicated to the introduction of the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhance the knowledge of our members in keeping and care of these birds, encourage breeding programs, and cooperate with organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

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On the Cover

This issue's cover is a beautiful photo of three-week old baby Java Sparrows (also known as Java Rice Birds) taken by NFSS Region Two VP Ron Castaner.

Photo Courtesy © Ron Castaner

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Some of you may have noticed a new name on our masthead this issue. I am now serving as the NFSS editor for the time being. On behalf of the NFSS, I would like to personally thank Martie Lauster, who as editor of the NFSS Bulletin for the past two years, has done such an outstanding job with the NFSS Journal. Her hard work and dedication are obvious to all of those who have enjoyed watching our publication grow into the first class professional publication that it is today.

We are now looking for a dedicated individual to now fill the position of NFSS Editor. Anyone interested in this position should contact Harry Bryant at 37212 Butternut Ridge, Elyria, Ohio 44035; Email: utuweb@aol.com

It is also with regret that I must announce the resignation of our current Membership Director, Ms. Linda Hughes. The demands on her professional position have increased to the point that she felt she could no adequately serve NFSS.

Robert Mehl, our excellent FinchSave Director, has now been appointed to fill the membership Director's position in addition to his own. Please note that all membership applications and renewals should be sent to his attention at: 11108 Hollowbrook Rd; Owings Mills, Md 21117-1379, (phone) (410) 581-7955; Email: Robert.Mehl@verizon.net

As we now begin our 21st year, I ask each of you that you consider sharing your knowledge and experience with others by submitting an article for publication in our Journal. The growth of NFSS over the past 20 years has been nothing short of spectacular and owes a great deal to our membership contributions.

On page 59-60 of this issue, you will find the listing of our various officers and department members. If you have any questions or suggestions on ways to improve the NFSS, please contact the appropriate officer or member.

Remember, the Journal is your magazine and the "mouth" of the NFSS, so please let me know what you think of it, especially changes that you would like to see, the types of articles that you would like to read, and sections that you would like to add.

The NFSS continues to respond to the changing needs of Aviculture by providing a place for its members to exchange ideas (the NFSS Forum), and providing timely and informative information through its website (www.nfss.org) and bi-monthly Journal.

Until next issue

Harry Bryant
NFSS 2nd VP & Editor
email: utuweb@aol.com



NFSS President's Message March, 2005

Some changes, a lot of BIG thanks and with change comes new opportunities

Martie Lauster has retired from Editor and Executive Secretary. Martie's diligence and industry over the past three years on the NFSS Journal has given us what she promised to deliver when she began this project - a superior publication. She sought out the authors, gave guidance on the articles and insisted the photos be

'grabbers'. Her work contributed to the NFSS Journals now being respected world wide.

Harry Bryant, 2nd VP publications has added the editorial responsibilities, (along with all his other responsibilities which included over-seeing the 1st quarter board meeting) until we have a new editor. If you are interested in being the editor of this prestigious publication and can work with the Quark program, a curious and involved membership, a bevy of devoted contributors, dedicated advertisers and an ever-changing avian world, contact Harry and take the reigns for a test drive

Meanwhile, Jim Heffernan has assumed the Executive Secretary (Pro Tem.) duties. Region 1 VP, Robert Fairchild, has resigned and Shelley Ortman is now Region 1 VP Pro Tem.

Elections for all the NFSS Board of Directors will take place September. This is a great opportunity to can be a part of continuing to building of NFSS. If your interested in being part of NFSS contact Raspberry at: Raspberry@europa.com

A personal note: Thanks to all for your cards, gifts, letters and calls of encouragement I received as I recovered from bilateral knee replacement. I am at about 80% now, and looking forward to the year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Sally Huntington".

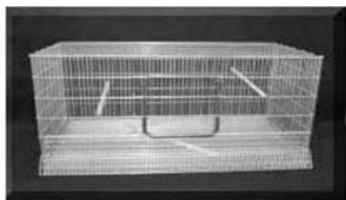
Sally Huntington, President, National Finch & Softbill Society

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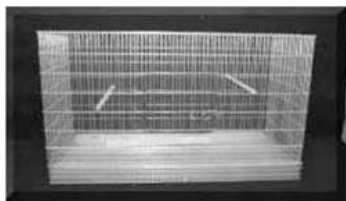
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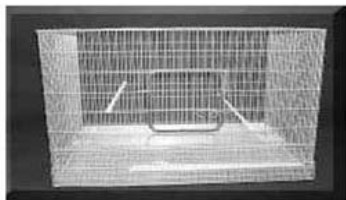
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Breeding for Quality: Understanding the Normal Distribution

by Michael Marcotrigiano,
NFSS Science Editor

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In order to improve the quality of your birds through breeding it is necessary to understand what is meant by a *normal distribution*. When an entire population of a given species is measured for a quantitatively inherited trait (e.g. body size), the measured values within that population will be distributed in a certain pattern. When these values are displayed graphically, the result is a symmetric bell-shaped curve which exemplifies a normal distribution.

Figure 1 below is a hypothetical example of a normal distribution for adult body weights of a wild population of zebra finches. The horizontal axis represents the value of measurement (in this example, weight in grams) and the vertical axis the frequency of birds in that weight class. Note that most observations are near the average 15.5g and very few observations are near the either end of the curve (e.g. 13.0 or 18.00 grams). It is a biological and statistical fact that, in populations that have not been manipulated, the

vast majority of quantitative traits are distributed normally.

Why such a curve exists becomes evident when we study the genes that control the given trait. It is important to realize that individual genes behave in the familiar Mendelian segregation ratios that were discussed in previous installments of this series. Yet, because the trait is regulated by so many genes, a continuum, rather than discrete categories, results when one looks at that trait across a very large population.

Let's begin by looking at a trait such as bird size. If a trait such as bird size was simply inherited (e.g. AA = big, Aa = medium, aa = small) it would be very easy to develop a flock of big birds since there would be only 3 possible categories of young (Figure 2a). What if it took 2 genes being homozygous and dominant to attain the biggest size, but each dominant gene did help increase size? (Figure 2b). That means that the AABB birds would

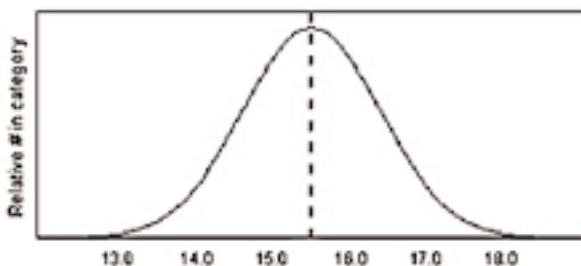


Figure 1. Distribution of zebra finches by weight in grams

be the biggest, *AABb* or *AaBB* not quite as big, and so on. The *aabb* birds would be the smallest. With two genes controlling size there are nine possibilities for the offspring and only the first is the biggest possible bird (*AABB*, *AABb*, *AAbb*, *AaBB*, *AaBb*, *Aabb*, *aaBB*, *aaBb*, and *aabb*). This does not mean that one of nine birds will be *AABB* because the frequency of *AABB* will be low (if you remember your Punnett square diagrams). Inside each bar in Figure 2 is the relative frequency of each genotype in a large population. The bar

the trait there are 59,049 possible genotypes. If 10 genes must be homozygous dominant to achieve the maximum sized bird, you would need to produce about 60,000 offspring to isolate the largest possible specimen of that species. The truth is that we do not know how many genes influence size but judging from data of large populations it is certainly more than a few.

Note in Figure 2 that as we move from one gene (Fig. 2a) to two genes (Fig. 2b) we start to see the



Figure 2. The distribution of classes in a population as influenced by the number of genes that influence the trait

heights also represent the relative frequency. Note that we assume here that *A* and *B* have the same effect on size.

By now, you should see where I am heading. Traits such as bird size, roundness of head, breast width, size of the eyes, quality of the feathers, etc. are each controlled by many genes. The general formula for how many possible genetic combinations exist is 3^n where n is the number of genes that influence the trait. This means that if 2 genes influence a trait there are 3^2 or 9 possible genotypes for the offspring (Fig. 2b). If 5 genes influence that trait there are 243 possible genotypes and if 10 genes control

development of a bell curve. As the number of genes that control a trait increase, the distribution better fits a bell curve. Also, as the number of genes that regulate a trait increase, birds that fall into the categories at either end of the curve (i.e. the biggest or smallest birds) become relatively less frequent. A human size curve would show the same thing. We see very few 4 foot 5 inch or 7 foot 11 inch humans that do not have some genetic defect that caused the extreme. Human height, like bird size, is controlled by a large number of genes and fits a normal distribution.

It is important to realize that

not all the traits must be physical. Even some behavioral traits may be impacted by a multitude of genes. It is likely that genetics plays some role in the willingness to breed in captivity, the ability to remain calm in a show cage, etc. but there are other non-genetic factors that also contribute to behavior.

A point worth mentioning is that the expression of some single gene traits, although controlled by a single mutation, can be impacted by a multitude of other genes which interact with the single gene of interest. For an example, I will use the pearl mutation of society finch. The extent of silvering on the bird is very variable. In Japan, the mutation birds are graded, "A" for best, "B" for next best, etc. Simply owning a pearl mutation bird will not guarantee that you obtain high contrast birds with lots of silver in the wings and head.

Since there is no way of determining if a normal bird "has what it takes" to enhance the pearl expression in future generations, it is often a long struggle to improve pearl color by randomly mating pearls to normal birds. Another example of a single gene that is likely influenced by other genes is the dilute gene(s) in society finches where a range of color depth within a population is possible for a given single mutation (e.g. dark fawn, medium dark, etc.).

In this article you have become familiar with how genes that regulate quantitative traits are distributed within a randomly mated population. In my next installment of the *Breeding for Quality* series I will discuss how one can achieve overall improvement of your flock by using selection pressure to manipulate quantitatively inherited traits.

NFSS member and Journal Science Editor, Michael Marcotrigiano (www.exoticfinches.com) breeds and exhibits show-quality Society Finches and a limited number of Zebra Finches. He is a faculty member in Biological Sciences and the Botanic Garden Director at Smith College in Massachusetts.

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The Peales Parrot Finch

By: William Wasserman

I have never understood why I am drawn to the more exotic species. I could have specialized in Gouldian's or even Zebra mutations, but no, I had to pick something more elusive. Peales parrot finches are practically impossible to find. And even if I did manage to find a few, they were most likely old, or sick. I found a person who had a few pair but wouldn't ship to me because "Peales don't ship well" (in his opinion). The most recent disappointment was this fall. I sent a check to someone in Florida to purchase 3 males that he had. At the time the weather in New York was still around 65 to 70 degrees. When it was time to ship, the weather turned too cold. The deal was put off, and the check returned. Thanks to my friend, Floyd Barnett, my first pair was obtained.

At first glance they were beautiful! It didn't take long for me to realize that they were worth all the effort! As soon as they came out of quarantine, I placed them into a 36" x 20" x 20" cage with a small 5" x 5" nest box mounted outside the cage. Within a few days they were inspecting the nest box. The male was seen taking coconut fibers into the nest for about 4 days. I checked the nest box to see what was going on. To my surprise, they built a domed shape nest which was totally closed at the top. It was only a day later that the first egg was laid.

The next few weeks were full of anxiety! I was tossing around the idea of removing the eggs for fostering. I had a virgin pair of male Society's ready to take over. But the Peales were sitting



Peales Parrot Finch (Photo by W. Wasserman)

tight. So the decision was made to let them raise their clutch. Under similar circumstances, say with Gouldian's, I would do the same thing. But with a bird this rare was I better off fostering?

The big day finally arrived. Twelve days of incubation and the first egg has hatched! The chick was larger than a Gouldian chick after hatching. It has phosphorescent nodes at the corners of the mouth, a very bald body, and a very full crop. This was too cool! Not wanting to disturb the nest too often, I didn't check it again until the end of the week (about 6 days later). Yes! Yes! I could hardly contain my excitement. All four eggs have hatched.

For the next several weeks the parents were very busy. Feeding the young was instantly a full time job. They consumed large amounts of wax worms, meal worms and soft food. During all of this feeding, the male found time to repair the nest. With all that traffic going in and out of the nest, repairs were needed daily. On the twelfth day one of the babies fell out of the nest. It seemed to be healthy, so I placed it back in. This happened a few more times over the next few weeks. I have since found that a larger nest box is more suited and prevents the chicks from being knocked out.

One morning (twenty-two days after hatching) there was a sound of urgency coming from the bird room. The parent

Peales were all excited. One of the baby's was sitting on a perch outside the nest. Covered in new green feathers and sitting there with mom. Within a few days they all left the nest.

As with most parrot finches, young Peales' chicks are eating seed and soft food within a few days. The parents fed them for only a few days. By day 4 I didn't see them beg or get offered food by either parent. It's possible they did while I wasn't present. By the eighth day the parents started chasing them. Sure enough, the female already laid her next clutch and wanted to start incubating them. The chicks were removed and placed into a separate cage. They weaned just thirty days after hatching.

It seems that rarity in a finch isn't necessarily caused by its difficulty to breed. Sometimes they're just not available. Obtaining them is what is difficult!

Just in case you thought this was all a fairy tale. The next clutch was a disaster. There were a total four eggs laid. Three of which turned out to be fertile. All the subsequent events happened like clock work. Three chicks hatched on the twelfth day of incubation.

During the second week of develop-

ment, I found one of the chicks dead on the bottom of the cage. Its crop was empty but the chick looked perfect for a lifeless corps. I felt sick! I knew something was wrong with the remaining two chicks. It became obvious at the time they should have been leaving the nest. I could see them perching at the nest opening for days but never leaving the entrance to the box. On the twenty third day of chick development I found one of the remaining chicks dead in the nest and the other only minutes away from the same fate. Once again, empty crops and in perfect condition. They starved to death, or so it seemed.

At this point I made a decision which I found necessary in order to ensure a future generation. Now instead of allowing the Peales to raise their own young, I am fostering the eggs to Society finches. Something I wouldn't normally do. But if I'm going to succeed, I am going to have to think outside the box...

Diet: Finch seed mix, greens, millet sprays, soaked seed, meal worms, wax worms, commercial egg food, commercial dried insect food, fruit, oyster shell, cuttle bone, health grit, vitamins.

NFSS member William Wasserman has been keeping birds over 25 years. He currently has Gouldians, Shaft-Tails, Blue Faced Parrot Finches, Red Throated Parrot Finches, as well as Forbes and Peales. He is searching for more bloodlines of Peales Parrot Finches. You can reach William at wwasserman2@optonline.net and he also has a website at <http://www.eclecticden.com/>



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Breeding the Blue-black Grassquit or Jacarini Finch (*Volatina jacarini*)

by: Robert Mehl

About sixth months ago, I got a pair of blue-black grassquits (Jacarini's) from an importer. I was intrigued by them as the male resembled a bird I had many years ago but impossible to find nowadays the Senegal combassou. The Senegal combassou is a native of Africa where the blue-black grassquit is a neo-tropic finch found in the lowlands of Mexico, Central America and South America to Chile and Northern Argentina. It has also been reported on the island of Grenada. I have always been partial to blue birds. One only really notices the blue on a blue-black grassquit in natural light. I had just completed my outdoor aviaries and I was doing what every relatively new finch person does, that being the Noah's Arc approach. Adding a pair of every bird I laid your eye's on.



Jacarini Finch Nest (Photo by Robert Mehl)

So there was my pair, well I hoped so. The male had colored out but not knowing the age of the "hen" I was unsure if I would get a latten surprise when "she" started to change to "he" colors. The blue-black grassquit is in the group of finches where the male

has nuptial colors. Having nuptial colors means the male and female look similar in the non-breeding or winter seasons but the male changes color and usually quite significantly during breeding time. Before coloring both sexes look like a smaller version of our native sparrow. The one-distict difference would be the eyes have a thin yellow ring. When the male matures and is ready to breed he turns a dark blue to almost black, hence the name blue-black grassquit. The female is always brownish with black streaks along the wing feathers. A tiny active bird at adult age it is no longer than 4-1/2 inches.

The summer months came and went and not even an interest in nesting did I see. Living in the mid-Atlantic region, and not wanting to make my bird acclimate to freezing temperature, (more like, no way am I going out at six in the morning in teen temperatures to feed and water the birds), I moved the flock inside.

I have a bird room that has cages but since I had installed a screen door and was having a seed moth problem I also decided to have some free flying birds. The Jacarini's have a personality that scream "I won't like being in a cage". I had also attended a bird picnic and noticed the cutest nest in a Norfolk Island Pine in the host's bird room that had free flying birds as well. When I inquired whose nest it was, I was told the Jacarini's and that they had successful reared a clutch. So with these two thoughts in mind I decided to give them a try free flying.

Jacarini Finch Nest (Photo by Robert Mehl)



Not long after they were let free, a tiny open nest out of coconut fibers appeared in a Fichus tree. Never saw any eggs for several weeks so I decided to use the nest as a display during a lesson at the elementary school where I worked. Several weeks later another nest took form in the Norfolk Island Pine I had brought into the bird room two weeks prior. This time two light blue speckled eggs were noted. Having mostly raised Australian finches up to this point, I was intrigued by the eggs being anything but white. I later learned after my olive finches laid similar color eggs than many of the neo-tropic birds eggs are speckled and blue tinted.

On Christmas day, the first one hatched. I was really surprised as the hen who did all the sitting was not on the nest much and was very skittish



Jacarini Finch baby (Photo by Robert Mehl)

and would fly away every time. I entered the room. Next day hatched number two. Both chicks were dark with few feathers. The first thing I noticed is that they begged entirely different than the finches I was use to. They would lie in the nest looking dead but when the tree got bumped up shot two little heads with mouths wide open. For the size of the chick they had rather large mouths. In time, I came to understand why, as I watched I noted that the parents feed them mealworms but would squeeze the insides of the worm into the chicks' mouth and discard the casings. I thought that blue-capped waxbills went through a lot of mealworms when raising young but the Jacarini's had them beat. The blue-capped waxbills preferred the smaller size mealworms where the Jacarini's sought out the larger ones.



Jacarini Hen on Nest (Photo by Robert Mehl)

Eleven days later, two chicks with almost no tail feathers are out of the nest and all over the room. If you have ever taken a group of children anywhere you know the constant head count routine. Well for the next several days, I would count to two every time I enter the bird room. The only way I could find them is to be still and listen and then watch the parents as they went to them and feed them. The chicks and mostly the male were in constant contact peeping to each other. While the male was busy tending to the little ones, mom and he also built a new

nest. This time they were back in the ficus tree. Three eggs this time but only one hatched.

Jacarini Hen (Photo by Robert Mehl)



The success with these birds beaked my interest and the Olive finches that I was given as a gift at the Nationals were not far behind in building and laying. The story line with them did not have as great an ending with them hatching two and abandoning them at day 8. I have since acquired several other finches from Central and South America and await some new experiences. The Crimson-bellied Seed eater is another bird with blue coloring and the Parrot-billed Seed eater has the

most unusual beak for such a little bird. I would love to add the Black-and-White Seed eater and the Crimson-throated Seed eater but like the Jacarini's the young males and hens look alike. Besides the need for live food, these finches are not particular hard to care for. They are social and I have not seen any signs of aggression beyond nest protection when the chicks are in the nest. If you ever want to try a different species of finches, I highly recommend the Jacarini's or their native companions the seed eaters.

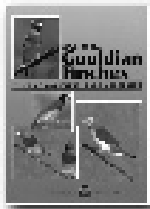


Jacarini Cock (Photo by Ron Castaner)

NFSS FinchShop Manager and Acting Membership Director, Robert Mehl breeds and exhibits a wide variety of finches, currently concentrating on Neo-Tropic Finches and waxbills. Currently the School Nurse at New Town Elementary in Owings Mills, Maryland.

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AFA IN BRIEF - February 2005

Carol Brasaemle, Editor

AFA's 31st ANNUAL CONVENTION AUGUST 3-6, 2005 - MIAMI, FLORIDA!

AFA's 31st annual Convention will be held at The New Radisson Hotel Miami. Great speakers, a trip to Parrot Jungle's breeding facility, great raffles and plenty of camaraderie await you in one of the world's most exciting cities.

Miami is America's most exotic city Americans can visit without a passport. Newsweek called the city "America's Casablanca," and it may be right. In addition to populations from Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and of course Cuba, there are also representatives from China, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malaysia, Russia, and Sweden — all speaking a veritable Babel of tongues and Miami is home to 118 nationalities and, it now celebrates this cultural diversity through languages, festivals, world-beat music, and a wealth of fantastic restaurants. Our hotel is near the water, near Parrot Jungle, near the action, and only a short trip to the Keys, in case you wish to have a few days of sun and sand before or after the Convention!

Please visit our website www.afabirds.org to take advantage of our online registration. It has never been easier. It is a secure site with the ability to use your credit card or to print out and mail the registration form to the AFA office. "Early Bird" registration ends June 25th and you don't want to miss that deadline. Something new this year, there is an "Early Bird" registration for DELEGATES. The website and AFA in Brief will have a detailed list of speakers, schedules and events as they become available.

Reservations: Call (800) 333-3333 or the Hotel direct (305) 374-0000 for reservations. Be sure to mention the American Federation of Aviculture to ensure the discounted rates.

Transportation: There is an airport shuttle and it is the responsibility of each attendee to make arrangements for transportation from the airport to the hotel. If you are driving, AFA has arranged discounted parking rates of \$9, per day.

Schedule

Wednesday, August 3rd: HOD Meeting, Exhibits, and Tour of "Last Chance Farm," Parrot Jungle's breeding facility.

Thursday, August 4th: General Sessions, Exhibits, and Specialty Meetings.

Friday, August 5th: General Sessions, Exhibits, and Specialty Meetings.

Saturday, August 6th: General Sessions, Exhibits, Reception, Silent Auction and Banquet.

For more Convention information, please contact the AFA, P.O. Box 159, Rossville, TN 38066 E-mail: ConventionCentral@idealbirds.com or visit the AFA website: www.AFABirds.org Phone: (901) 853-6079 - Fax: (901) 853-8452

ASK THE EXPERTS!

Have a question? Need an answer? Want some advice? Ask the experts!

We are inviting AFA members to submit questions about ANY aspect of aviculture to our panel of experts.

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With the likes of Rick Jordan, Barbara Heidenreich, Mattie Sue Athan and many more, the answers to your questions can be found in the upcoming issues of the AFA Watchbird, in our Ask The Experts column.

ANNOUNCING AFA PHOTO GALLERY!

The American Federation of Aviculture has added another page to the website called the AFA Photo Gallery.

The purpose of this page is to highlight AFA members and affiliated clubs through pictures. The first two events that are highlighted are the Peru trip (originally the Educational Retreat) by a number of AFA members and also the South East Wildlife Exposition, where AFA had a booth. If you click on the picture or the title, the page will expand to a number of pictures and description of the events.

Would you like to see your club's event highlighted here as well? All you have to do is send one photo at a time (we don't want to clog up

anyone's email with large files) to photos@afabirds.org and a description of the event including date, place, club/event, participants, and permission to use the photo on the website. All photos must be at least 640 x 480 pixels. Although we cannot guarantee that all

photos will be used, we will include as many as we can. So what are you waiting for? Send along those photos of your bird fair or special speaker, and don't forget to show off your AFA table at your event as well!



American Federation of Aviculture

Serving Aviculture since 1974

The American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) is a non profit, 501C 3 educational organization established in 1974 whose purpose is to represent all aspects of aviculture and to educate the public about keeping and breeding birds in captivity.

AFA's primary goals are the education and dissemination of information related to aviculture among pet owners, hobbyists, avicultural societies, zoos, veterinarians, research institutions, the pet industry and government officials. In addition, AFA is concerned about the welfare and humane care of all birds and promotes the establishment of high standards of avian care both in the United States and abroad.

The AFA supports your rights to acquire, keep, breed and sell birds in a responsible manner. The organization monitors proposed laws and regulations at the state, federal and international level that effect your future as an aviculturist and the well being of birds.

The AFA is primarily a volunteer organization. Our efforts to ensure the future growth and development of aviculture are totally dependent upon people like YOU joining and supporting AFA. The AFA believes that aviculture is a valuable conservation tool and that the care and breeding of birds in captivity is an exciting and fulfilling endeavor.

AFA offers many different services to its members because AFA has so many different types of members.

Membership Services and Benefits include:

- **AFA Watchbird Journal** - the official publication of the AFA, filled with articles covering topics such as: avian health, nutrition, housing and care, breeding, species profile, conservation, legislative updates and more!
- **Classifieds** - nationwide ads for exotic birds, bird related supplies and bird events in each issue of the AFA Watchbird Journal.
- **Traceable AFA Logo Bands** - both open and closed bands available from Canary to Macaw.
- **National Conventions** - combining both fun and education, featuring world-renowned speakers, the latest and newest bird products, exciting behind the scene tours and YOU, the member, making AFA's Convention the MAJOR bird event of the year.
- **Legislative Information and Updates** - provided on laws and regulation that impact avicultural activities.
- **AFA Exotic Bird Registry** - one of the only nonprofit registries for exotic birds in the world.

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Revised March 2002

The Cape Dove (*Oena capensis*)

By: Harry Bryant

The Cape Dove (*Oena capensis*), also known as the small approximately 9 inches in length), beautiful Cape dove from Africa is a quiet and peaceful aviary bird. While they can be kept with any finches or softbills that are not aggressive, they can be intolerant of other doves and should be kept one pair per cage or aviary (unless kept in a very large aviary).

The Cape Dove is often thought of as a South African species but is also found in West and East Africa and areas bordering the Red Sea.

The male has a large facial patch covering the forehead, side of the face and throat area. The beak is bi-colored with a purplish-orange base and yellow tip. The rest of the coloring is mainly brownish-gray and silvery-gray with the underparts shading to whitish on the abdomen. There is a beautiful metallic blue-green spot on the wings. The lower back and rump is marked with a whitish band bordered with darker and contrasting bands. The flights are reddish-brown showing a pleasant dash of color while the bird is flying. The underside of the tail is quite dark adding a further contrast.

The female is mostly a dull brown-grey by comparison with a shorter tail and no black on the face. Most females also have the metallic blue-green spot on the wings.

Cape Doves are from tropical areas where there is little temperature variation. Even though they experience wet and dry seasons, the temperature seldom falls below 50° F. Therefore, Cape doves should be kept indoors except in very warm climates.

The male will court and display (on the ground) before the hen by dancing around her, tail extended straight up and softly cooing the whole time.



Male Cape Dove
(Photo by Harry Bryant)

Hardy and easy to feed, they breed freely in aviaries. The female will build a flimsy nest (with the material being provided by the male) in a basket, in a hanging plant basket, on a ledge or on a wire platform, if provided. The nest is often used for several consecutive broods.

Both parents take turns sitting on the one or two cream colored eggs tightly, which hatch in 13-14 days. The young are very well taken care of from the time they hatch until the time they leave the nest. The chicks will be very sensitive to cool temperatures for the first few days after leaving the nest so they may need to be provided with some additional warmth.

The Cape Dove can usually be found on the ground among the grass and shrubs searching for seed or scratching the soil for insects, grubs and green food.

A good basic diet in captivity consists of mixed millets, a few oats, proso millet and some plain canary seed, and some occasional green food. (I furnish an extra dish with a little wild bird seed, in addition to the other food above.)



CITES: It's All Good!

by: Shelley Ortman

Selling your Lavender Finches? I hope you have the proper permits, and they must be close-banded. You KNOW they are CITES listed, don't you?" I read with interest as what began online as a simple ad to sell birds became an angry tirade. "Why don't you leave keeping and breeding endangered birds to people who know what they're doing!" The bird owner retreated stung, resigned from the Yahoo group and waited in dread for the Feds to come and "git" her.

Although I knew that some of the more commonly kept cage birds are CITES listed, I too was completely ignorant of the ramifications of the CITES list. Ignorant, unenlightened and oblivious. And as I learned, the online cranky disparager had a few things to learn as well.

CITES. What the heck is it? How did it come about? Who belongs? Who polices it? How did all my favorite finches get on it? And exactly which finches and softbills are on it? I had many more questions than I had knowledge of Cites, so I went on a quest for information.

CITES stands for "Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora". And it is international. It turns out that in the 1950's and early 60's there were very few if any laws regarding catching, keeping and selling wild things all over the world. And it wasn't necessarily deep concern for species in danger of being extirpated that brought about the whole regulation business, but rather a concern that natural resources may be "fished out" so to speak and some

countries would lose a good source of income. Well, I personally don't care what the original motives were. Keeping animals and plants from becoming extinct is a good thing, Right? So anyway, I guess the whole idea of an international agreement regulating trade of wild animals and plants got kicked around for a while until March 3, 1973 in Washington D.C. Eighty countries got together and created CITES. It didn't go into effect until July 1, 1975. Cites started with 80 countries, but now there are 166 countries that participate in CITES, plus some other countries that have their own wildlife trade permits and rules that CITES considers comparable. As CITES likes to note, "No species has become extinct because of trade since CITES went into effect" (What is CITES?). And that's worth braggin about!

So how does it work? CITES has three appendices (lists). List one has the most endangered species with the most import and export restrictions. List three has the least restrictions. Here's the exact wording:

Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.

Appendix III contains species in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade (How Does CITES

Work?).

So how does an animal go about getting CITES listed? List three is simple. A CITES Party just has to request that a species native to that country is listed in III. That Party now has CITES help in controlling trade in that species (Vickery 2). Any species? That's right. Houseflies come to mind. Rats, crabgrass, liver flukes....Good thing the CITES people are a lot more serious than I am, aye? To get any species of plant or animal on Lists I and II is a bit more complicated. First you have to be a CITES Party. You have specialized plant and animal committees that study the species in question, and draft resolutions to bring to the CITES Convention. You have a bunch of technical support and data to support your request.

At the last CITES Convention in Thailand 2004, the USA submitted the following species for trade protection. We want to add to list II: Asian Turtles, Asian Yews, Humphead Wrasse, and Painted Bunting. We want to remove from list II: Bobcat and Peachfaced Lovebirds. And we want to remove Bald Eagles from List I and add to List II. To change, add or subtract any of these proposals, you need 2/3 of the CITES Party countries to vote to approve the proposal (Vickery 2).

I took a close look at the proposal on Painted Buntings. Wouldn't I just LOVE to have a pair of those lovelies in my aviary! Well, it aint gonna happen! Painted Buntings breed in the southern US and in Mexico and although it is common in some areas, it has been rapidly declining throughout some of its range. The proposal states that 50% of the population has been lost in the last 30 years. This is attributed to habitat loss, brood parasitism, and desirability as cage birds. The proposal claims that mostly males are caught in high numbers for their color and song. Between

1979 and 2000, Mexico authorized the trapping of a minimum of 100,000 birds. Because males are taken more frequently than females, the wild population structure and dynamics are affected. OUCH! All these facts and figures are explained with graphs and charts and even a copy of a letter from a bird dealer requesting large quantities of those lovely birds from a trapper. The proposal also includes a lengthy list of references from which the data and information was compiled (Amendments to Appendices I II and III).

So now we have a bunch of species listed in Appendices I, II and III. So what? CITES agreements are legally binding, but there are no international CITES police. Right? Here's how it works. If you become a CITES Party, you agree to appoint a management authority and a scientific authority in your country and create legislation to make sure everyone follows CITES regulations. Here in the good ol' USA our management authority is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Do we have legislation? Ohhhhhh BOY! The really cool (ugh) thing about CITES is that we can create legislation to follow CITES regulations, OR we can make even more regulations. Even cooler, here in the US, the states have the right to create their own import/export regulations and make it even more regulated (How Does It Work?! That's right, we have a triple-layer-cake of import/export regulations just to make it harder, and create more paperwork for those of us who just have to have those CITES species. Now is the time to repeat that CITES mantra: NO SPECIES HAS BECOME EXTINCT BECAUSE OF TRADE SINCE CITES WENT INTO EFFECT.

Here are a few highlites of Federal Legislation to control trade in international species. The first really important piece of legislation is the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Does that date

ring a bell? That's no coincidence...right after the first CITES Conference held in Washington D.C. in 1973, we took two previously weak domestic endangered species laws, combined, strengthened them, and made this new legislation apply directly to CITES and the agreements requiring regulation of trade imports and export of endangered species both domestic and foreign. The Endangered Species Act has been amended significantly several times in the ensuing decades, updated most recently in 1996 (The Endangered Species Act 1973).

Next we have the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981. This is the legislation that explains what can happen to you if you decide to break the law. Not good. If you choose to violate any US or International laws regarding selling wildlife or wildlife parts, it is considered a misdemeanor if less than \$350 is involved and a felony if more than \$350 is involved. The sanctions include up to \$100,000 fines for individual misdemeanors, \$200,000 for organizations. For felony convictions the fine for individuals is up to \$250,000 and up to \$500,000 for organizations. But, you can get a reward for providing information leading to an arrest. Enforcers carry firearms, conduct warrantless searches, seize evidence, issue subpoenas and warrants, and search vessels upon arrival or departure from the US (Digest of Federal Resource Laws of Interest to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

A very important piece of legislation is the Wild Bird Conservation Act. This became effective on October 23, 1992 and the final rule was released Jan. 24, 1996. The amazing thing about this law is that it actually lifts former import restrictions on CITES birds. This law lets us import birds provided the exporting countries meet the requirements of CITES, that the species being exported

is both biologically sustainable, and that the importation of species is non-detrimental to the species survival in the wild. Imported CITES birds must also comply with the Endangered Species Act, and the Migratory Bird Act. We can now import CITES birds (with the proper permits) for scientific research, zoological breeding or display, pet owners and captive breeding programs. Plus there's a whole list of birds that are approved for import to the USA without a permit as they are considered to be completely captive bred species. These include most of the Australian finches kept as cage birds and many common, smaller hookbills. In the future, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will also approve a list of certain species from approved foreign captive breeding facilities and certain wild caught species from countries with approved management plans (Wild Bird Conservation Act Final Rule Summary).

I already mentioned the (Neotropical) Migratory Bird Conservation Act. This law has the purpose of perpetuating healthy populations of migratory neotropical birds, supporting conservation initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean and putting forth money to make it all happen. All this to the tune of \$5 million per year from 2001 through 2005. (Neotropical Migratory Bird Act) YEOW! Well think of it as just a few of those high priced toilet seats found on military aircraft.

So do you think that's all the laws there are? Ha! There are a zillion of them: treaties, administrative laws, executive orders, interstate compacts and memorandums of agreement (Digest of Federal Resource Laws of Interest to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Plus each individual state can make additional laws. If you want to know what your own state is up to, go to your Department of Environmental Protection, or whatever your state calls

it and snoop around on the website for a while. Some states have very little regard for wildlife trade, and others have ridiculously overly-restrictive laws. (Just my opinion).

So let's get back to that cranky online defender of the Lavender finch and its status as a CITES listed bird. Well it is listed on CITES Appendix III. Remember III? That's the one that requires no data whatsoever indicating it is endangered, just that the listing country wants help in regulating exports of that species. Here are some cage

birds listed in CITES appendices:

Do you notice something here? Is there a reason that Ghana is responsible for virtually every species listed on Appendices III? Ghana became a party country of CITES on February 12, 1976 and it seems as if they chose to list each and every bird species occurring naturally within their borders. As has been said before, this is within their rights. Has listing these species helped to safeguard their sustainability within the natural environment? Ghana was the first sub-Saharan country to gain its

CITES APPENDICES

CITES I:

- *Carduelis cucullata*, Red siskin

CITES II:

- *Carduelis yarrellii*, Yellow-faced siskin
- *Amandava Formosa*, Green avadavat
- *Padda oryzivora*, Java Rice sparrow
- *Poephila cincta cincta*, Parson finch

CITES III:

- *Serinus canicapillus* (Ghana) West African Seedeater
- *Serinus leucopygius* (Ghana) White-rumped seedeater
- *Serinus mozambicus* (Ghana) Yellow-fronted canary
- *Amadina fasciata* (Ghana) Cut-throat finch
- *Amandava subflava* (Ghana) Orange-breasted waxbill
- *Estrilda astrild* (Ghana) common waxbill
- *Estrilda caerulescens* (Ghana) Lavender waxbill
- *Estrilda melpoda* (Ghana) Orange-cheeked waxbill
- *Estrilda troglodytes* (Ghana) Black-rumped waxbill
- *Lagonosticta rara* (Ghana) Black-bellied firefinch
- *Lagonosticta rubricata* (Ghana) African firefinch
- *Lagonosticta rufopicta* (Ghana) Bar-breasted firefinch
- *Lagonosticta senegala* (Ghana) Red-billed firefinch
- *Lagonosticta vinacea* (Ghana) Black-faced firefinch
- *Lonchura bicolor* (Ghana) Black and white Munia
- *Lonchura cantans* (Ghana) African silverbill
- *Lonchura cucullata* (Ghana) Bronze Mannikin
- *Lonchura fringilloides* (Ghana) Magpie Munia
- *Mandingoa nitidula* (Ghana) Green-backed Twinspot
- *Nesocharis capitata* (Ghana) Grey-headed oliveback
- *Nigrita bicolor* (Ghana) Chestnut-breasted negrofinch
- *Nigrita canicapilla* (Ghana) Grey-crowned negrofinch
- *Nigrita fusconota* (Ghana) White-breasted negrofinch
- *Nigrita luteifrons* (Ghana) Pale-fronted negrofinch
- *Ortygospiza ricollis* (Ghana) African quailfinch
- *Parmoptila rubrifrons* (Ghana) Jameson's antpecker
- *Pyrenestes ostrinus* (Ghana) Black-bellied seedcracker
- *Pytilia Phoenixoptera* (Ghana) Red-winged Pytilia
- *Spermophaga haematina* (Ghana) Western Bluebill
- *Uraeginthus bengalus* (Ghana) Red-cheeked Condon Bleu

(Appendices I II III) (Erritzoe 134-144)

independence in colonial Africa in 1957, and then endured a long series of political and military coups. It has been more stable since the early 1990's. A stable political system and workable economy are often indicators of stability for wildlife, as well as for people. Tragically, the people of Ghana suffer the prolonged slow burn of HIV as it smolders throughout the African continent. Ghana's domestic economy revolves around subsistence farming, but endures recurrent prolonged droughts, problems with deforestation, overgrazing and soil erosion. The wildlife in turn suffer from poaching and habitat destruction. I repeat: Has listing all of their native birds on Appendices III helped to safeguard them within the natural environment? I can only hope so, but with a skeptical heart. Ghana also suffers widespread crime and corruption, and is considered a major hub

for the illicit drug trade (The World Factbook). I suspect protecting native bird species is not at the top of the Ghanaian list of priorities.

So my frightened Lavender selling friend seems to have actually been ok as far as selling her finches, and our cranky online disparager perhaps a tad over-zealous in his pursuit of CITES righteousness. However, it would probably be a wise idea to keep bills-of-sale for any birds you purchase that are listed on CITES, and keep careful records of the birds you breed and sell. Also, we should all become familiar with our state laws regulating keeping and breeding exotic wildlife. I would hate to lose any more online friends due to fear of the CITES Convention. After all, it really is all good!

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Editor's note: There may be varying opinions on the subject of CITES and on Legislation in general. The NFSS has not endorsed any position on this subject and this article reflects the opinion of its author only.

Introduction to the Proposed Revision of the NFSS Bylaws.

by Ginny Allen

Chairperson, Bylaws Revision Committee

One of the responsibilities of the NFSS Board of Directors is to review the NFSS Bylaws periodically and make any necessary revisions in them. Our present Bylaws were reviewed and revised over ten years ago. Since then, computer technology has been introduced on a wide scale and changes in procedures were dictated. The process of revising the NFSS Bylaws began three years ago. Suggestions were made and a committee was formed to not rewrite the bylaws, but to update them. The present bylaws dictate the procedure which requires that they be published in our publication so the entire membership may review them. A final draft of the proposed bylaws will then be published again and the entire membership will be asked to vote for their adoption. Please read through these carefully and make any suggestions to NFSS President Sally Huntington.

Proposed Revision to the National Finch and Softbill Bylaws

proposed additions/revisions are in ***bold italics***.

PREAMBLE TO BYLAWS: The National Finch and Softbill Society is dedicated to the introduction of the enjoyment of keeping and breeding Finches and Softbills to all interested parties, enhance the knowledge of our members in keeping and care of these birds, encourage breeding programs, and cooperate with organizations for the preservation of aviculture in this country.

ARTICLE 1: NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be known as the National Finch and Softbill Society. It shall also be known in a more casual manner as "NFSS", hereafter known as the Society.

ARTICLE 2: STATUS

The National Finch and Softbill Society, is a nonprofit organization as described in section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE 3: HOME OFFICE

The principal office of the Society shall be specified by the Board of Directors and so publicized in the Society ***Journal***. This address will be the official address for communicating with the Society and thus shall remain as static as possible.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Paragraph One

The dues for membership in the Society shall be determined 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 a NFSS publication; however, dual members will count as two individual votes in regard to Society elections or other business.

Paragraph Three

Junior membership will be available at a reduced rate determined by the Board 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 end.

Paragraph Five

Membership in the Society is a privilege. Any member who misrepresents the Society, holds Society property without authorization, or in any way is injurious to this Society as defined as, but not limited to, violating the bylaws or making a flagrant action against the good of the Society, may lose his/her privileges of membership, and receive a prorated refund of his/her unused dues. In order to cause action under this paragraph, a member must file a deposit of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) with the Society Treasurer, along with papers, which shall 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/her deposit back. If a claim is unfounded, the deposit shall be forfeited by the claimant.

ARTICLE 5: TERM OF OFFICE, ELECTIONS, OFFICERS

TERM OF OFFICE

Paragraph One.

All officers are elected by the membership of the Society ***and shall serve for a period of two years.*** (revision)

Each officer elected will have one vote. If a board member has assumed two positions, he/she may exercise only one vote.

Appointed Manager positions, and other non-voting positions in service of the Society are created or eliminated as needed by an action of the Board. ***The outgoing President of the Society shall be a non-voting member of the board for the following term.*** (addition)

ELECTION

Paragraph Two

Elections will be held every two years, with the results announced at the annual membership meeting or as maybe occasioned by death or removal of an office (note paragraph 5 below). A ballot, either separate or included in the official **journal** of the Society, shall be mailed at least sixty (60) days prior to elections. A majority of the ballots counted on the day of the annual general membership meeting shall determine the outcome of the vote. A postmark as it pertains to this paragraph may be considered an official US bulk mailing receipt.

Paragraph Three

The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the 2nd Quarter board meeting 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 by August 1st. A write-in space must be allowed for each office on the ballot. ***Nominees must be at least 18 years of age when nominated and a current member of the Society. This nominating committee is responsible for producing the ballot and sending it to the NFSS President and the editor of the NFSS Journal for printing and mailing.*** (addition)

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. Such appointee cannot be an elected officer of the Society.

Paragraph Five

In the event an Officer, either elected or appointed, dies, resigns, or is removed, the Board may appoint a Pro Tem **Officer**. If less than 180 days remain until the next regularly scheduled election the Pro Tem **Officer** will serve until that time. If more than 180 days remain until the next regularly scheduled election, the Pro Tem **Officer** will serve until a special election is held (not to exceed 180 days).

ELECTED OFFICERS

(This section has been revised extensively and includes specific duties of each officer. Both Finchshop Director and Membership Director are now elected officers.)

Paragraph Six

President - The President of NFSS shall preside over all Board of Directors meetings, annual membership meetings, and attend to the day to day operations of the Society. **He/she** shall abide by the bylaws of the Society, and

coordinate and delegate the activities of the other officers of NFSS.

Paragraph Seven

First Vice-President (**Education**) - 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 fulfill his/her term. The First Vice-President **coordinates** the activities of, and is responsible for all Regional Vice-Presidents and **will coordinate the educational programs of the Society. The First Vice-President also approves any checks made payable to the President.** (revision and addition)

Paragraph Eight

Second Vice-President (**Publications**) - Shall be second in **succession to fill the position of President.** The Second Vice-President shall chair the publishing committee **and is responsible for all publications produced by the Society both in print and electronic media. This officer also supervises the NFSS website.** (addition)

Paragraph Nine

Third Vice-President (**NFSS Finch/Softbill Save-FSS**) - **The Finch and Softbill Save Director coordinates the activities of the NFSS Captive Breeding Program. He/she complies and assists in publishing the yearly census as well as collecting data, maintaining records and producing the FSS Newsletter for FSS participants.** (addition)

Paragraph Ten

Fourth Vice-President (**Judges Panel/Standards/Research**) - This officer must be a NFSS Panel Judge as he/she will serve as the Judges Panel Director. **He/she** shall also chair the Research and Standards Committee and be in charge of Specie Classifications, **be responsible for shows or exhibitions of the Society and maintain the records points earned by members and birds from these exhibitions. In addition, the Fourth Vice-President represents the NFSS as liaison with both the National Cage Bird Show Board and the Great American Cage Bird Show.** (revision and addition)

Paragraph Eleven (previously Paragraph Twelve)

Executive Secretary - **This officer takes minutes during all board meetings, including those conducted electronically on the internet.** The Executive Secretary, or designated representative, will have available at each meeting the most recent issue of Robert's Rules of Order. He/she shall maintain an archive of all minutes and the Society's official documents and assist other board members with correspondence as necessary. (addition and revision)

Paragraph Twelve

Treasurer - The calendar year for the Society shall be from January 1st to December 31st. The Treasurer shall prepare and submit to the Board at the 4th Quarter Board meeting, a budget ***to be approved by the Board***, indicating proposed income and expenditures for the upcoming year. He/she is responsible for establishing and maintaining Society financial accounts and filing tax returns. All funds, records, receipts, and expenditures for the previous year or shorter period upon relief of the Treasurer, will be reviewed by two members of the Board of Directors, not to include the current Treasurer, as appointed by the Board of Directors. The results of the review will be included with the annual budget or ***presented*** to the Board upon relief of the Treasurer. (revision)

Paragraph Thirteen (previously Paragraph Eleven)

Membership Director - Shall be responsible for receipt and processing of new and renewal membership in the Society and for the maintenance of the NFSS Membership ***confidentiality***. (revision)

Paragraph Fourteen

Liaison/Awards Director - ***Shall be responsible for club affiliations, selection of clubs hosting Regional Shows and for the processing of awards for NFSS sanctioned shows and annual awards for the Society.*** (addition and revision)

Paragraph Fifteen

Band Secretary - ***Shall be responsible for the ordering and issuance of official numbered closed bands in accordance with the policy of the Society, and maintaining the NFSS Band Secretary's permanent band records.*** (This position was previously called Leg Band Secretary. The duties were revised.)

Paragraph Sixteen

Finchshop Director – Shall be responsible for the inventory and sales of merchandise offered to the general public. He/she must receive and process customer orders, order from vendors, and work with the NFSS Journal editor and the webmaster to update the FinchShop Catalog as needed. New products must also be sought and recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. (addition)

Paragraph Seventeen

Regional Vice-Presidents - Shall be responsible for encouraging membership and club affiliation in the Society within the region in which he/she resides. Regional Vice Presidents are responsible to the First Vice-President and will serve as part of the Education Committee. Regional Vice Presidents are encouraged to attend the Regional Show of their area and hold at least one membership meeting annually within their region. (revised)

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Paragraph Eighteen (Previously under the publishing committee)

NFSS JOURNAL Editor (responsible to the Second Vice-President and the President). He/she is responsible for all activities related to the production of the bi-monthly NFSS JOURNAL. These include procuring articles and photographs, maintaining communication with all NFSS Board members to insure accuracy of NFSS information and forms to be included in each issue, create/edit each NFSS JOURNAL issue, deliver it to the printer in a timely manner and approve payment of printer invoice for each issue. In addition, the supervision of the Advertising and Promotion Manager is the responsibility of the NFSS JOURNAL Editor. (addition)

Paragraph Nineteen

NFSS Website Manager (responsible to the Second Vice-President) He/she is responsible for maintaining and updating the NFSS website. (addition)

Paragraph Twenty

Advertising and Promotion Manager (responsible to the NFSS JOURNAL editor and the Second Vice-President). This officer shall design and arrange for ads to be placed in major show catalogs throughout the year and promote, determine prices, design, format, and arrange for payment for ads placed in the NFSS JOURNAL. In addition, this person cooperates with Regional Vice-Presidents in promoting Regional Shows. (addition)

Paragraph Twenty-one

Moderator of NFSS Finch/Softbill Forum (responsible to the President). Acts as moderator of the NFSS Listserve, determines eligibility and approves subscribers in conjunction with the membership director. He/she writes and distributes list rules, and enforces a civil forum through thoughtful correspondence with subscribers and unsubscription of those whose contributions prevent a civil forum. (addition)

Paragraph Twenty-two

Legislative Liaison (responsible to the President) Shall be responsible for the interrelationships between NFSS and other national and local avicultural organizations, investigate and report to the NFSS Board any current or proposed legislation that would affect bird owners/breeders and notify the membership of any bird related developments within other organizations through the NFSS JOURNAL and electronic media. (addition)

Paragraph Twenty-three

American Federation of Aviculture Representative (responsible to the President) Shall be responsible for keeping the NFSS membership informed as to activities of the AFA through the NFSS JOURNAL and electronic media. (addition)

Paragraph Twenty-four

HONORARY Officers

The Board of Directors, may, by a majority vote, create a non-voting Board position to recognize a member's outstanding contribution to the Society.

ARTICLE 6: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Previously, there were four paragraphs. They were expanded to five so Emergency Board Meetings would be separated from the original third paragraph.)

Paragraph One

The Board of Directors shall consist of all elected and appointed officers of the Society.

Paragraph Two

The Board of Directors has the sole authority to conduct the business of the Society. ***The regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held either in person, by mail, or electronically via email on a quarterly basis as designated by the Board of Directors.*** The quarters shall be Calendar quarters beginning with the January-March quarter. The 4th Quarter Board Meeting will be held prior to the annual membership meeting. The Board of Directors may not occasion a meeting without first sending a notice to all board members. Such a notice must be sent by mail or email at least ten days prior to said meeting. *(revised)*

Paragraph Three

Quorum: If 50% of the Board is in attendance, a director's vote received by mail or email prior to the vote, shall be valid. If 50% of the Board members are not in attendance, motions, discussions, 2nds, proposals, etc. ***may take place but a vote may not be taken.*** The agenda for Board meetings by mail or email shall be distributed to all Board members in advance of each Board meeting by mail or ***email***, and interested Board members may submit written discussions of an agenda item to the President who will forward them to the Executive Secretary. Within 30 days of this Board meeting, the Executive Secretary will send an agenda, with discussions attached, to each member of the Board for a vote. *(revised)*

Paragraph Four

Emergency Board Meetings: These may take place ***without written notice*** when four members of the Board and the President or next officer in

line of ascension deem it necessary. A quorum of 50% of the Board is required to hold an Emergency Board meeting. During an emergency meeting of the Board, no action may be taken on the removal of an officer or on an amendment to these bylaws. (*addition*)

Paragraph Five

Any officer of the Society found by the Board to be injurious to the Society, as defined in, but not limited to, the Membership Article 4 Paragraph 5, may be removed from office by a two thirds vote of all directors. A written complain against said officer must be signed by at least two Board members and must be received by the President by certified mail only in order to be considered by the whole Board.

ARTICLE 7: COMMITTEES

Paragraph One

The President or Board of Directors may form a committee for the purpose of carrying out the goals and administration of the Society. Standing Committees may include, but are not limited to the following:

Paragraph Two

Show Committee: The Show Committee, chaired by the Fourth Vice-President, shall be responsible for all activities required to achieve the Society's participation in National level exhibitions.

Paragraph Three

Publishing Committee: The Publishing Committee, chaired by the Second Vice-President, shall be responsible for all publications of this Society. It shall produce and edit a ***bi-monthly NFSS JOURNAL*** and any other publications deemed necessary for the membership of the Society by the Board of Directors. (*revision*)

Paragraph Four

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 Five

Education Committee: This committee will assist its chairman, the First Vice-President, in developing educational programs for the members of this Society. The membership of this Committee shall include the Regional Vice Presidents.

Paragraph Six

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

Paragraph Seven

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, who is a current member of the Society, and nomination by at least two members of the Judges Panel. Nomination to the Judges Panel may not take place until the potential judge has completed testing and apprenticeship 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. This will consist of a majority vote of the Board after review of all paperwork in the apprentice process excluding the test taken.

A Panel judge may be either sanctioned or removed from the Judges Panel as recommended by the director of the Judges Panel and approved by the majority of the Board in accord with the most current NFSS Judges Handbook procedures.

Paragraph Eight

FINCH/SOFTBILL SAVE (FSS) Committee: The **FINCH/SOFTBILL SAVE** Committee shall assist the Director of the program. It shall consist of Society members designated by the Director. This Committee shall help develop and preserve policy in regard to this nationwide multi-species captive breeding program. The Committee may request funds for the administration of the **FINCH/SOFTBILL SAVE** program only. All funds used for the program must be authorized by the Board of Directors. All data, statistics, and information collected for this program will remain the sole property of the Society.

ARTICLE 8 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Paragraph One

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

Paragraph Two

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

Paragraph Three

The annual membership meeting of the Society shall consist of, but is not limited to, a State of the Society report given by the President, an annual Treasurer's report which includes a summary of the proposed budget for the next year and a summary of the review of the current year funds, awards presentation, election of officers (every odd numbered year), etc., and a longer

more casual discussion period when members may make their views known to the Board of Directors.

Paragraph Four

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 9: DISSOLUTION

Paragraph One

Should it become necessary to dissolve the Society all properties of the Society shall be sold or auctioned off, as determined by the Board of Directors. After all debts of the Society have been fully paid, the remaining monies of the Society shall be given to a non-profit avicultural organization as determined by the Board of Directors.

Paragraph Two

No part of the net earnings or the Treasury of the Society shall accrue to the benefit of or be distributed to members, officers, or other private persons upon dissolution.

ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Paragraph One

Amendments to the bylaws must be sponsored by at least two members of the Society and received by the President by certified mail ***only***. (*addition*)

Paragraph Two

Amendments to the bylaws must be published in a newsletter of the Society at least 30 days prior to the vote, and tabulated at the next Board of Directors meetings. Any amendment to the bylaws 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, or at an emergency Board meeting called for this purpose.

Paragraph Three

Urgent actions may be considered by the Board of Directors for earlier disposition. Such actions shall not constitute a change of bylaws in regard to paragraph 2 of Article 10.

ARTICLE 11: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

All matters of business of the Society shall be conducted in parliamentary authority of Robert's Rules of Order (most recent edition).

Dear Friends and Board Members

Below is an article from our local paper in Miami on the aviary I help design for the kids, which they built themselves. I would like to apologize to Sally Huntington as my name appear as the NFSS President, also the names of the finch donors were unfortunately left out. A thank note was sent out to all of those who gave finches to the project. I was able to get the finches for them at no cost to the School. You should have seen their faces and smiles from the kids, parents and School teachers, was worth every minute of my time. I wanted to share it with you, was a great success.

Sincerely,
Ron Castaner

FOR THE BIRDS!

by DOUG HEETDERKS, WorldWonder Program Director




Meander down the main walkway of the elementary campus and you might possibly hear children discussing how Orange Weavers build their nests, why the Lady Gouldians look like God painted them with a paintbrush, or why the sexes of the Diamond Firetails are difficult to distinguish. You might wonder what is going on. The Wings of Westminster Aviary has arrived! Thanks to efforts of many, the WorldWonder program has now added a large outdoor aviary just outside the chickee hut.

The Aviary will continue to nudge our students' natural interest in God's incredible creation by discovering the wonder and beauty of birds. Students will observe the finches and discover the importance of the song, unique foraging techniques, amazing nest designs, and rearing of young of each of the many varieties of finches.



The Wings of Westminster Aviary is hard to pass without stopping to take a look. Come, study and observe, and discover another one of God's amazing wonders on the Westminster campus!

Thanks to WCS Art Teacher Anne Heetderks for designing and building the aviary and to the 2003-2004 Elementary Student Council for providing the necessary financial support. Special thanks also go to Ron Castaner, president of the National Finch and Softbill Society for gathering a beautiful collection of exotic finches from breeders in California, Texas, Virginia and Florida at no cost to the school. 

or praiseworthy—think about such things." PHILIPPIANS 4:8b

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Torben & Jurgen Hoeveler, Germany, many finch and softbill wins



Michel Veya, Switzerland, three gold and two bronze medals at 2004 World Show (colour canaries)



Michael Sesterhenn, Germany's number one in zebra finches



Schiller and Lautenslager. Germany's champion Budgerigar 2003



Jurgen De Vires and Wilfried Meier, Germany. Various posture canary wins



Celebrating one Belgian club's *twelve* gold medals at the 2004 World Show

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1st Quarter, 2005 NFSS Board Meeting

The 1st quarter NFSS Board Meeting began online February 1, 2005. During the meeting there was a lively discussion of numerous topics ranging from the disparity in population between the 8 different regions that make up the NFSS. The disparity ranges from 214 in Region 1 to 14 in Region 8. Further discussion will surely follow in upcoming meetings. Robert Mehl, acting Membership Director, opened discussion on the topic of expired memberships and that the current system allows a 60-day "grace" period resulting in an extra copy of the NFSS Journal being sent to those members whose membership has expired. This topic remains in the discussion phase. Robert discussed the work he has done to contact members of the NFSS whose memberships have expired, to encourage them to renew their membership, and if not, to hear from them firsthand the reasons for not wishing to renew their memberships. Robert also apprised the Board of changes he has made to the NFSS online Forum, including adding the NFSS logo and adding polls, which are designed to offer members an opportunity to voice their opinions. Great job, Robert!

Further discussion centered on advertisement in the NFSS Journal. It was brought to our attention that some members have complained about the number of advertisements within the Journal and would prefer having more finch/softbill articles. If any member of the NFSS wishes to submit articles to be considered for publication in the NFSS Journal, please contact Harry Bryant, Acting Editor. The NFSS would appreciate firsthand accounts of members' breeding and exhibiting efforts. Harry Bryant oversaw the Board meeting, acting for our President, Sally Huntington, who is recovering from sur-

geries. The Board eagerly waits her return and wishes her a full recovery. The following are the motions made, seconded, and voted on during the 1st quarter Board meeting:

Motion 2005-01: Motion by Robert Mehl: "I make a motion....naming Shelley Ortman as Region 1 Vice President Pro-tem. The motion was seconded by Armando Lee.
YES - 12, NO - 0, Motion passed.

Motion 2005-02: Patrick Vance motioned that the Board accept Jim Heffernan as Executive Secretary Pro-tem. Seconded by Raspberry.
YES - 11, NO - 1, Motion passed.

Motion 2005-03: Mark Phelps motioned "that we table the decision of what to do with the budget overage until next quarter to allow time to fully discuss this issue." Motion seconded by Darla Dandre.
YES - 12, NO - 0 Motion passed.

Motion 2005-04: Darla Dandre motioned that the NFSS Youth Director would publish a separate NFSS Youth Journal. This motion would remove the pages within the NFSS Journal that pertain to the youth of the NFSS and publish a separate journal for said youth. Motion was seconded by Robert Mehl.
YES - 5, NO - 6, Motion did not pass.

Motion 2005-05: Martha Wigmore made the motion "the recent decision by the NFSS Board to limit changes to "The NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards" (Motion 2004-12) will be modified to restrict changes to the NFSS Show Classifications ONLY to once every two years during the third quarter of "odd" years after careful

research, discussion and approval. No specific timetable will be applied to any other proposed changes to the "Handbook". Motion seconded by Raspberry.

YES - 6, NO - 5, Motion passed.

**1st Quarter – 2005
NFSS Officer's Reports**

First Vice President's Report

Region 1 V.P., Chris Fairchild resigned. Shelley Ortman was nominated and accepted to fill the position. Please join us welcoming Shelley as the new Region 1 VP - ProTem.

Now NFSS has a forum dedicated to the youth. NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups is the brain-child of Mr. Raspberry our Region 6 Vice President, it is up an running thanks to our internet wizard Mr. John Wilson. Moderators for this group are Raspberry, John Wilson and Armando J. Lee. Please have your kids visit NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups.com where they can chat, ask questions, and exchange ideas about the wonderful world of finches and softbills.

Respectfully submitted.
Armando J. Lee, NFSS 1st Vice President

NFSS 2nd Vice President's Report
(Publications/Website/Acting Editor)

Due to the resignation of the Editor in January, I have assumed the editor's duties until a replacement can be found. The publishing software has been received and installed, and I am now working on the next issue of the Journal.

I have also been appointed by the NFSS President to handle and moderate the first quarter NFSS board meeting while she recovers from her recent surgery.

The NFSS website is also being reviewed, updated and optimized.

Respectively submitted,
Harry Bryant, NFSS 2nd Vice President

NFSS Third Vice President's Report
(Finch/Softbill Save Program & Census Manager)

We now have 42 members, several of which have not renewed their bi-annual dues, but I will continue to include them in mailings for a bit longer in hopes of enticing them to continue with their participation. Very few members sent in their annual breeding reports that coincided with the annual census. One member continues to support us financially by sending in his membership fee but not including any registered species in the program. I am way behind in publishing the FSS Newsletter and will attempt to get one out to the members ASAP. There have been several recent snail mail inquiries about the FSS program.

2004 NFSS Annual Census

The deadline for reporting birds to be included in the census is fast approaching with about a week left. I am continuing to receive a report or two every week or so. I will wait at least a week after the deadline for any late mailed ones that might be coming in before making the final tabulations. At this time, we have had 116 participants with a total of 11,603 birds reported. Of these, 744 are Softbills and the remainder 10, 859 Finches. The species with the largest numbers reported are Gouldians (2336) and Societies (2257) a close second. This makes the average participant keeping 100 birds. The total is a slight increase over last years census total. I do not know the number of participants in last year's census. Excel spreadsheets have been complet-

ed and are awaiting the final tabulations in order to make the graphs for reporting the results. The formatting size of the Journal pages are a bit small to adequately visualize the census graphs and I am contemplating compiling a separate 5 page report to send, but I need some feedback from folks before a decision is made. Later down the road, I am thinking of publishing graphs comparing this year's and last year's species totals. If it is continued for several census years, it will give us a better understanding of the 'real situation' from year to year to continue in these comparisons.

Humbly submitted,
Randy Taylor, NFSS 3rd VP (FSS
Director/Census Manager)

NFSS Fourth Vice President's Report (Judges Panel/Standards/Research)

NFSS Judges Panel

NFSS currently has 24 panel judges. Annual judges fees are outstanding for about half of the group as we approach the yearly deadline of March 1st. Most current affiliates have already hired their judges for this year's shows. We continue to invite members to the NFSS Apprentice Judge program.

Standards

Society Finch Standard Revision - Committee co-chair Clarence Culwell reports that the original committee members hope to pull together their draft for submission to the NFSS Board shortly. Much excellent work has gone into this revision!

General Standard - Once again, the proposed General Standard is going to the membership for their input and comment. This latest version incorporates last minute input from the NFSS Board of Directors.

Zebra Finch Classifications - Several NFSS members will be contacted this spring to share their recommendations about NFSS' Zebra Finch Classifications.

Awards at Your Shows

Special thanks to NFSS Awards Director Darla Dandre for the lower prices and great availability of awards for our affiliates and members. Awards do make it FUN!

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Wigmore, NFSS Fourth Vice President

FinchShop Report

The FinchShop will soon be offering Finch and Softbill Mouse Pads. Select one of the pre-designed ones for \$7.50 or submit a photo of one of your birds for a custom designed \$10. Visit the FinchShop online for selections and ordering information. The finch nets that are currently for sale will come in two designs. The new one has a slightly longer plastic handle and a longer net. The cost is the same as the current net \$8.

For a limited time only until supplies are gone the Judge handbook can be ordered for \$8.20 plus \$3.85. Order online or via mail but please release this is a limited time offer once the current printed supply is gone the price will return to \$15 plus postage. So hurry you don't want to miss out on this good buy.

To those that have made purchases through the FinchShop your support of NFSS is greatly appreciated.

Membership Report

On January 1, 2005, I assumed the

duties of Membership Director. I have set a goal to have membership package out to members within 72 hours of receiving them. Remember that N.F.S.S. now offers multiple year memberships to make it easier on our members.

Total membership is up 4% from this time last year. Members seem to be slow in renewing and there are many with lapsed memberships. Remember your benefits technically end on the last day of your membership. This includes the privileges to participate on the forum. N.F.S.S. does provide a 30 grace period before removing members from the Forum. To assist members in knowing when they are due to expire that journal label will now include this information

If at any time you have questions or concerns please contact Robert Mehl at nfssmembership@verizon.net.

Current Membership Figures:

- Total single – 702
(includes one of each dual)
- Total Dual Memberships – 98
- Total Affiliate Memberships - 11
- Total: 811

1st Quarter Treasurer's Report

Our financial position going into 2005, still looks strong. The profit that we are showing at this point is a little misleading as we have two invoices for the last two Journals, totaling \$6,758.33, that are currently unpaid pending verification of the amounts and approvals. Once these are approved and paid, we will (finally) be current with our Journal printer. On a positive note, the major purchase of closed bands for 2005 (\$4,654.46) has already been paid and is included in the figures shown below.

In English...we owe a chunk of change

to the Journal printer, but all the money brought in by band sales goes right in our pockets.

Treasurer's Report for the period 1/1/05 to 2/21/05:

- Total Cash In Accounts - \$26,099.30
- Income - \$10,417.95 (projected
Income for the year - \$52,270.00)
- Expenses - \$6,397.76 (projected
Expenses for the year - \$49,897.00)
- Total Gain/Profit - \$4,020.19 (projected
Gain/Profit for the year - \$2,373.00)

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Phelps, NFSS Treasurer

NFSS Band Secretary Report

Estimated Band Sales as of 2/22/05:

Dec - 15 Pay Pal, 29 Mail-in
Total sales -- \$1,390.15

Jan - 81 Pay Pal, 41 Mail-in
Total sales -- \$1,432.50

Feb - 28 Pay Pal, 22 Mail-in
Total sales -- \$1,178.00

More split plastic bands are on order! I would like to thank you to our ordering members for their patience & understanding when experiencing a glitch for band ordering. NFSS has worked out a Quality Control. I can now monitor all orders for bands inside the system.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Hansen, NFSS Band Secretary

NFSS Awards Manager Report

The following is the Quarterly Report for the NFSS Awards Department for 2/2005.

The Awards Department posts the following inventory for the start of the 2005 show season:

- 8 - Basic Rosette Sets (1st thru 10th + 1st unflighted)
- 3 - Unflighted Add on sets (2nd & 3rd place unflighted)
- 8 - Novice Rosettes
- 9 - Youth Awards
- 29 - Judges Special Rosettes
- 19 - "loose rosettes" (to be recycled)
- 11 - "loose plaques" (to be recycled)

The Awards Department posts the following Sales as of 2/21/05.

- 2 - Best Finch or Softbill in Show Plaques
- 1 - 2nd Best Finch or Softbill in Show Plaque
- 2 - Best Finch in Show Plaques
- 1 - Best Softbill in Show Plaque
- 5 - Basic Rosette Sets
- 2 - Novice Rosettes
- 1 - Youth Rosette
- 4 - Judges Special Rosettes

NEW for 2005 are the NFSS Section Rosettes and NFSS Class Ribbons. NFSS Section Rosettes can be purchased for \$1.25 each and Class Ribbons are sold in packs of 25 (all the same) for \$7.50/pack. Both the rosettes and ribbons have the NFSS 10 finches logo on them. Both the section awards and ribbons will be custom ordered from our manufacturer on a per order basis - no inventory will be carried on these items which means that there will be no initial cost to purchase stock.

The NFSS Awards Department has had a total income of \$304.00 as of 2/21/2005 and total purchases and

expenses of \$0.00 as of 2/21/2005.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darla Dandre, NFSS Awards Manager

NFSS Affiliations Department Report

The NFSS Affiliations Department created, printed and mailed out 60 Re-affiliation kits (2005 Affiliation & Awards Catalogs) to NFSS Clubs that were affiliated in 2004 and 2003 but had not renewed in 2004.

The NFSS Affiliations Department was contacted by three brand new clubs that wished to affiliate with NFSS and Affiliation/Awards catalogs were sent to those clubs as well.

The NFSS Affiliations Department compiled a list of local bird clubs from around the country from the listing on the Bird Talk Magazine website and sent them a letter of introduction and an application to affiliate and individual membership applications for any interested parties within their local club. I "cold e-mailed" over 95 local clubs, "cold mailed" over 90 more clubs and "cold phone called" over 35 more.

To date, The NFSS Affiliations Department has received 20 Total Affiliations for the 2005 calendar year. 15 from 2004, 3 new clubs, 1 from 2003 and 1 from the cold calls.

The Affiliations Department has deposited \$475.00 in affiliation fees and has had \$150.00 in expenditures and expenses so far for the year 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darla Dandre, NFSS Affiliations Manager



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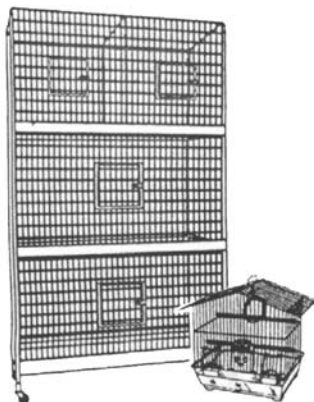
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Youth and Aviculture

Answers to Last Issue's Crossword, "Bird Bones"

Across		Down	
2. humorous		1. thoracic	
5. tarsometatarsals		3. manus	
11. radius		4. keel	
13. fibula		6. synsacrum	
15. carpometacarpus		7. scapula	
19. furcula		8. phalanges	
		9. tibiotarsus	
		10. femur	
		14. ulna	
		16. phalange	
		17. pyfostyle	
		18. cervical	

NFSS now has a new forum dedicated to the youth. NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups is the brain-child of Mr. Raspberry, Region 6 VP, and our internet wizard Mr. John Wilson. Moderators for this group are Raspberry, John Wilson and Armando J. Lee. Please have your kids visit NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups.com where they can chat, ask questions, and exchange ideas about the wonderful world of finches and softbills.

NFSS welcomes any and all submissions for the Youth and Aviculture page. Please send your artwork, photos, jokes, riddles and any ideas to the

NFSS Journal Youth Editor: Raspberry, Youth Edito
 NFSS Journal, 535 SE 16th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214
 (raspberry@europa.com)
 or the NFSS Youth Forum (NFSS4KIDS@yahoogroups.com)

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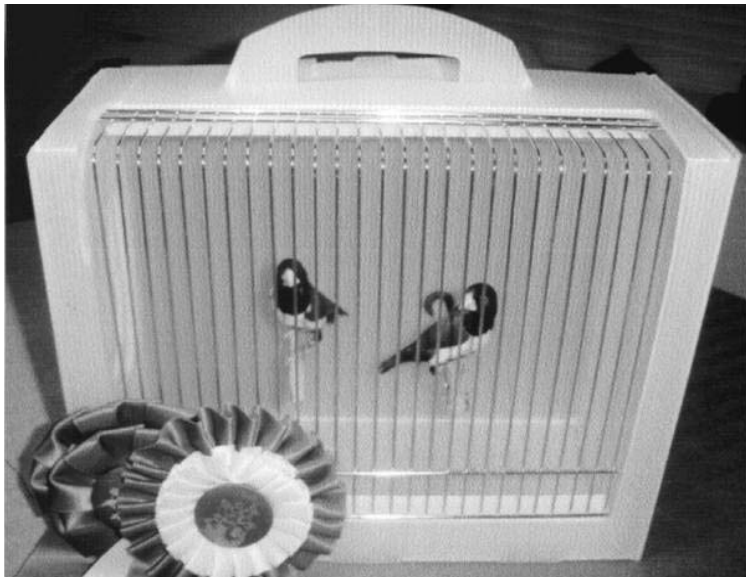
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European Goldfinch	\$150

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Zebra, Blackcheek	\$40
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Sorry, no Gouldians at this time.	

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Showing is Sharing

News from NFSS
Judges Panel Director
Martha Wigmore

NFSS Judges Panel

NFSS currently has 24 panel judges. Judges are reminded to submit all reports and dues/fees in a timely manner. Most affiliates have already hired their judges for this year's shows. It looks to be another strong year for shows as our hobby continues to rebound from the challenging 1990's.

Apprentice Applicants Needed!

You are invited to apply to the NFSS Apprentice Judge program. Its one of the best in aviculture! Order your copy of "The NFSS Judges Handbook and Official Standards" and read all about the program. Then give me a holler!

Proposed Revision of the General Standard Published Here for Your Review

The "Draft" General Standard, beautifully prepared first by Jon Hoffman in June 1992, has never been formally adopted by NFSS, although it is widely referenced by breeders and judges. This latest version incorporates last minute input from the NFSS Board of Directors and is published in this issue for your review and any questions or comments you would like to make. Following this comment period and a review of any resulting changes, the proposal will go the NFSS Board for formal adoption as an NFSS Official Standard. Your thoughts are welcome!

Standards

Society Finch Standard Revision -

Committee co-chair Clarence Culwell reports that the original committee members hope to pull together their draft for submission to the NFSS Board shortly. Much excellent work has gone into this revision! Thank you to everyone involved!!

Zebra Finch Classifications -

Several NFSS members will be contacted this spring to share their recommendations about NFSS' Zebra Finch Classifications.

During the 1st Qtr 2005 NFSS Board meeting, the NFSS Board agreed to accept changes to the "NFSS Judges Handbook" as needed, except classifications, which may only be changed in odd-numbered years. This reverses a position taken during the 4th Qtr 2004 Board meeting. Thank you to the Board for this change, which will allow NFSS judges and members to better keep in tune with our evolving finch and softbill hobby.

Awards at Your Shows

NFSS has SOOOO many inexpensive awards available to you and your clubs to support all levels of interest in our hobby! Please contact NFSS Awards Director Darla Dandre! Only the best - for the best!!

Thank YOU for sharing at the shows!

THE NFSS OFFICIAL STANDARDS**General Standard for
Finches and Softbills****Proposed
General Standard
For
Finches &
Softbills**

Proposed by Jon Hoffman for the National Finch and Softbill Society
June 1992 with revisions March 2003 and March 2004 (in CAPS)

Any comments should be sent to:

Ms. Martha Wigmore

NFSS Judges Panel Director

18913 Boston Street

Elk River, MN 55330

email: newdlwig@mindspring.com

This is a draft proposal for a General Standard for finches and softbills, suggested for use whenever there is no specific standard applicable to a particular bird. It is published here for the purpose of encouraging NFSS members and judges to reference it and submit comments and suggestions for revisions before a final version is brought before the NFSS Board of Directors for approval. Any comments should be sent to Martha Wigmore, NFSS Judges Panel Director.

CONFORMATION.....	50 POINTS
Head and Body.....	30 pts
Wings.....	10 pts
Tail.....	10 pts
CONDITION.....	20 POINTS
COLOR AND MARKINGS.....	15 POINTS
DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION.....	15 POINTS

CONFORMATION (50 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Head and Body: 30 points.

Conformation includes many inherited characteristics such as size, proportion and substance. Because these characteristics can be vital in a captive-breeding program, conformation is the single most important consideration in judging finches and softbills.

A show bird should be the appropriate size for its kind. Bigger is not necessarily better. Many waxbills, for example, should be dainty and diminutive in

appearance. Size should be within normal parameters for the species or sub-species, not undersized or oversized.

All finches and softbills need good substance, the relationship of a bird's musculature and bulk to its bone structure and overall length. Proportion and overall balance are of prime importance, the look of the whole bird outweighing the sum of the individual characteristics. All proportions should be appropriate to the species or sub-species.

The head must be in proportion to the body, of the appropriate shape and contour. Eyes should also be of the correct size and shape, placed in proper relationship to the overall shape of the head. The beak should be in the proper proportion to the head as well, and there must be no imperfection or deformity.

Feet and legs should be strong and clean, with no growths or abnormalities. Legs of most birds will be parallel or will extend out from the body at a slight angle. All toes and toenails should be present, and nails should be of the proper length. A missing nail is counted as a minor fault, as it will not ordinarily impair normal breeding. A missing toe is more serious and will rate a heavier deduction.

Wings: 10 points.

Wing carriage must be given appropriate weight, as it largely determines the nature of the back line. Most finches and softbills should carry their wings tightly against the body; the wings will lie flat along the back. Some of the more robustly-built birds, like barbets, hold the wings close to, but not directly against, the body, causing the wings to lie slightly above the line of the back, rump and tail. The back should be full and smooth, with no lumpiness or hunched look. The line of the back should run in a straight line or gentle curve down to the rump and tail.

The wings in repose will not normally cross at the tips except momentarily. Wings should lie neatly together, and there should be no drooping or holding of the wings unnaturally away from the body, except in the display behavior.

Tail: 10 points.

In most species, the tail will continue the line of the back. In any case, the tail should be held at the correct angle. The tail should also be of appropriate length, width and shape, as well as being in proper proportion to the overall balance of the bird.

CONDITION (20 POINTS)

Condition includes the general health and grooming of the bird, and it is of invaluable importance to the enhancement of a bird's appearance. The condition and texture of the feathers is of prime importance. All feathers should be present and undamaged. Any sign of trimming of tail or wing feathers for

evenness will be penalized. While visible pin-feathers are undesirable, this will not ordinarily be faulted as heavily as will missing or damaged feathers. The feathers of the head and body should lie smoothly in most species; feathers should be clean and free of all foreign matter, "lumps", fraying or any roughness not normal to the species or sub-species.

Some birds (most waxbills, Gouldians, parson finches, etc.) normally keep their own plumage in good condition, and such birds will be judged very rigorously on condition. Other birds, such as European goldfinches, parrot finches and owl finches are rarely seen in perfect condition on the show bench and will be especially impressive if they appear in excellent plumage. BIRDS WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY THAT HAVE ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF PERFECTION MAY TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER SIMILAR BIRDS WITH A LESSER DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY, WHEN ALL OTHER ATTRIBUTES ARE CONSIDERED EQUAL.

Due consideration is to be given to the different feather textures normal to different species or sub-species. Coarse-feathered birds (barbets, etc.) or normally loose-feathered birds (goldfinches, etc.,) are not expected to have the tight, flat-lying feathers one sees in green singing finches and fire finches. The nuptial plumage of certain weavers is of a crushed-velvet texture, and there are other configurations and textures in the feathers of other birds. Each should be judged according to the type of feathers desirable in its species or sub-species. Nor should the erecting or ruffling of feathers in display be mistaken for poor condition.

Eyes should be bright and clear, without any discharge or abnormality. The beak must be clean, with no excessive scaling. Hairline cracks in the beak are counted as minor faults.

Legs and feet must be neat and clean. Nails and beaks must be of proper length and shape. The bird's overall impression should indicate excellent health and care.

COLOR AND MARKINGS (15 POINTS)

Color is given special significance in judging finches and softbills, as color is a kind of hallmark among many species.

While color expectations will vary considerably - depending on the species, sub-species or mutation - judges will look for (a) color appropriate to the species, sub-species or mutation; (b) depth and evenness of color; (c) evenness of color suffusions or gradations; (d) color unsullied by inappropriate suffusions, "tarnish", blotching or markings.

IN PIED MUTATIONS, A HIGH DEGREE OF PIED MARKINGS IS MOST DESIRABLE. A BIRD WHERE MARKINGS ARE SYMMETRICALLY PLEAS-

ING WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER A BIRD OF UNEQUAL MARKINGS WHEN THE PERCENTAGE OF PIED MARKINGS TO GROUND COLOR IS EQUAL. In sexually dimorphic birds, pied markings should not completely obscure the color patterns that distinguish gender.

No preference is given to male or female color patterns in sexually dimorphic birds, nor - in birds which have light or dark factors - to one color factor over another. No bird is penalized for being what it is. BUT ALL OTHER ATTRIBUTES BEING EQUAL, A BIRD IN FULL COLOR, OR NUPTIAL PLUMAGE, WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER A BIRD THAT IS IN ECLIPSE PLUMAGE.

DEPORTMENT AND PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)

Distributed as follows:

Deportment: 10 points.

This refers to the bird's stance and behavior on the show bench. Good deportment causes a bird to stand at the proper angle, grip the perch firmly, avoid "hunching" over, and to hold its head and tail in proper relationship to the body. Stance should be erect and confident.

The bird should seem comfortable in the show cage. Behavior should be appropriate to the bird's kind. The bird should perch, without attempting to hide, flee or cling to the bars of the cage, unless its natural behavior is to do so (i.e. the Mousebirds). The bird should show itself to advantage, projecting an air of alert confidence and behavior normal to its kind.

Presentation: 5 points.

Presentation refers to the show cage and the overall "finish" of the entry. NFSS does not require the use of a standard show cage, but it is highly recommended. The cage should be of a size and shape that allows and encourages the bird to perch and display. The construction must admit enough light to permit a thorough evaluation of the bird, and the judge should be able to view the bird from above, as well as in profile.

Perches should be fastened firmly, and they must be of a thickness appropriate for the bird's feet. In cages with more than one perch, placement should permit easy and natural movement from one perch to the other. Placement of perches must also permit the bird to stand erect without any rubbing of head or feathers against the cage walls or wires.

The cage should be large enough to permit some natural movement but small enough to provide the bird with a sense of security. The cage will, ideally, allow the judge to focus attention on the bird, with no distractions. Box cages must be painted black on the outside and white, off-white or powder blue on the interior.

No swings, toys, ornaments or other distinguishing marks will be permitted. The use of ornately constructed cages is to be discouraged. Cages with flat tops are preferred.

The cage floor may be covered with seed, plain white or brown paper, ground corncob litter, pellets or other substrate appropriate to the bird.

All entries must be provided with appropriate food and water. Failure to do so, or the use of any cage that poses a danger to the bird, will be grounds for disqualification. Showing any bird in an inhumane manner will result in mandatory disqualification of the entry.

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Announcing the "Bill Parlee Award for Best Finch in Show"

by Martha Wigmore

NFSS President Sally Huntington announced at the 2004 NFSS Annual General Meeting in Lansing, Michigan, the creation of the "Bill Parlee Award for Best Finch in Show." This award is to be given to the best finch at the NFSS Annual National Show and recognizes in one small way the enormous contributions to our Society from William G. Parlee, NFSS founding member and President Emeritus.

Upon receiving a special clock in honor of the occasion from NFSS at the General Meeting, held at NCBS on November 18, 2004, Bill Parlee commented, "We already have the 'Dr. Val Clear Award for Best Softbill,' and to be included with the likes of Val Clear deeply honors and humbles me. I thank all those involved."

Long ago, in a small state far, far away from Colorado, Nancy Reed wrote in the charter bulletin (April 1984) of the newly formed National Finch Society (mailed from East Hartford, CT), "Here we are, a small nucleus of workers with a cause and a dream. We've taken the first step." In that same issue, NFSS President and Editor William G. Parlee proclaimed the promise of the new Society, "For years I have listened to people say 'Why not.' Well, now there is a National Finch Society. What it will be is what you will make it. If you have always wanted one, now is your chance to jump on the bandwagon and make your Society a great success."

Few avicultural societies have experienced the expert leadership that

Bill provided "his" fledgling organization, the first truly national finch society here in America. In back issues of "The NFS Bulletin," Bill's comments to the organization and the detailed write-ups of the group's early discussions reveal that no one had a better sense of the rightness of the creation of NFS, of the perfect timing of NFS' formation and of its enduring obligation to our hobby in America. Bill recognized NFSS' importance and potential, and devoted himself to it. Without Bill's leadership, NFSS would not have fulfilled the dream and promise of its founders.

Generous with his thanks, a genius with his trust, wise in his involvement and guidance. Bill attracted the most talented and dedicated hobbyists to work by his side. He led his co-volunteers to understand that he was honored to be in their company, that he valued their uniqueness and contributions.

Always a professional, Bill was and is unstintingly respectful, although not immune to laughing at someone's foible or follies. His professionalism, experience within the hobby and gracious nature made him a highly effective contributor on the national avicultural scene in the 1980's, when his gifts were particularly needed. He'll concede a point, respectful of the right of the majority or of a convincing argument. But he's not hesitant to let escape a private "I told you so" down the road, turning on you his quiet grin...or was that a smirk....

Throughout aviculture, Bill Parlee has long been recognized as an

expert. His timeless contribution to NFSS includes numerous, entertaining articles about our birds and their care, and invaluable work on NFSS judging procedures and standards. Much of the best of "The NFSS Judges Handbook" is still Bill's work. Bill has a terrific sense of what brought the finch and softbill hobby to this point, and also of what human obstacles might get in its way. The lead line in one of his articles, "Dietary Comments," from 1985 pulls us in – "Writing an article on finch diets is like trying to explain Abner Doubleday's game of baseball to somebody who has never heard of it."

But for me, perhaps Bill's most treasured gift might be the sense of magic and wonderment he expresses when he's with the birds. In this way, NFSS was especially blessed during Bill's years as an NFSS Panel Judge. Bill's awe at the mystery of our hobby

was shared through his childlike wonder around the birds and in his joy in the company of others who share his interest.

Even as he claims his senior-moments, he never ages! Bill Parlee is both father-like and childlike with us. With a glance of his eyes that reveal his undeniable wit and show his delight in seeing us, those eyes that also reveal his perceptiveness, he strengthens and buoys us for the journey ahead.

Bill Parlee - a man who keeps his promises, at least the one that he made when he stepped down from his role as NFSS President at the end of 1989, after six tremendously intense years of service to NFSS. He promised then not to 'disappear.' Fortunately, Bill hasn't!

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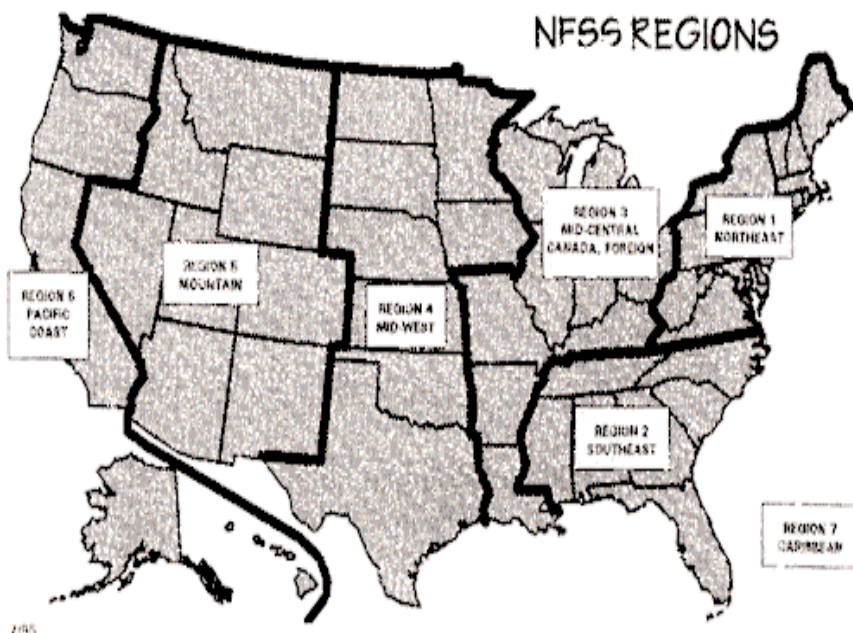
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NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

For more information on affiliating your club with NFSS, Please contact:

Darla Dandre,
NFSS Affiliated Clubs Liaison,
PO Box 4092, Joliet, IL 60434
Dbirdranch@aol.com – 815-729-9789

or fill out the 2005 Affiliation Agreement located in the Journal
or on the NFSS website - <http://www.nfss.org/>



REGIONAL CLUBS

Southeast Bird Fanciers (SE U.S.)

Contact: Ginny Allen (334) 749-7168 - gndallen@earthlink.net

Meetings: 1st Sat. in Mar, Jun, Sep, and 2nd Sat. in Dec. at the Atlanta Farmers Market

Website: <http://members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebf.htm>

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

CANADA

Cage Bird Society of Hamilton (Hamilton, Ontario)

Delegate: Peter Webb, (905) 385-4706, E-mail:PD4PINS@msn.com

Meeting time/location: Last Sunday of the month excluding July & August. Valley Park Community Center, 970 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek, ONT

Show: Bird Show (and monthly meeting) - October 28-30, 2005 (Show: Saturday, October 29, 2005)
Judge: Alfred Mion

Location: Valley Park Community Center, 970 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek, ONT

Information Contact: Peter Webb, (905) 385-4706, E-mail:PD4PINS@msn.com

The Durham Avicultural Society (Ontario, CANADA)

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month, Rotary Park Pavilion, Ajax, Ontario CANADA Contact:

Jacquie Blackburn, Sect., 416-282-5997 or Jacquies.parrots@sympatico.ca

Club e-mail address: secretary@birdclub.ca; Club web site: www.birdclub.ca

Bird Show: 9/17 & 18/2005 Judge: Vince Moase

Pickering Recreational Complex, Valley Farm Road, Pickering, Ontario, CANADA

Show Manager: Marianne Orlecki, 905-623-4642 or xtreme_babe2002@yahoo.com

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society (Windsor, Ontario)

Meetings: Monthly – Members Homes - Contact: Julianne & Alfred Mion, 519-948-6398 or julianne@mnsi.net - Club web site: www.essexkentcbs.com

Bird Show: 10/14-16/2005 Judge: Patrick Vance

Fogolar Furlan, Udine Building, 1800 E.C. Row, North Service Road, Windsor

Show Manager: Alfred Mion, 519-948-6398 or julianne@mnsi.net

CALIFORNIA

Central California Avian Society (Fresno, CA)

Delegate: E. Gabriel Guillen, (559) 252-2447, Email: el.viejo7@sbc.com

Club Email: hisbirds@sierratel.com - Club Web Address: http://www.ccasbirds.org/

Fair and Events: BIRD MART - June 5, 2005 - Location: Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno, CA

-Information Contact: Beth Marhenke (559) 226-4377

Fair and Events: BIRD MART - November 6, 2005 -Location: Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno, CA

-Information Contact: Beth Marhenke (559) 226-4377

FLORIDA

Exotic Bird Club of Florida (Palm Bay, FL)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month at 1275 Culver Rd., Palm Bay, FL 32905

Contact: Ginny Heptig, 321-952-9780 or YngAtHrt@aol.com

Club Web Site: http://exoticbirdclubofflorida.homestead.com/index.html.

Bird Show: 8-6-2005, Judge: Jerri Wiesenfeld, Palm Bay Senior Ctr., 1275 Culver Rd, Palm Bay

Show Manager: Jim McNamara , 321-723-7739 or jimmc_33m@yahoo.com

Sun Coast Avian Society (Clearwater, FL)

Meetings: 1st Sun of the month at Leisure World Mobile Home Park, Clearwater, FL

Contact: Joe Ventimiglia 727-392-9391

Club e-mail address: whoward7@tampabay.rr.com Club Web Site: www.suncoastaviansociety.org

Bird Show: 8-6-2005, Judge: Conrad Meinert, St. Petersburg Coliseum, 535 4th Ave, North, St.

Petersburg, FL 33701, Show Manager: Mari Howard, 727-726-6864 or howard7@tampabay.rr.com

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

Tri-State Avian Society (Tallahassee, FL)

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of the month, Leon County Agri Extension Office, 615 Paul Russell Road, Tallahassee, Florida, Contact: Christine Maples, 850-562-2800 or christine@maplerun.net
 Event: Spring Bird Fair - 5/14 & 15/2005, North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee, FL
 Contact: Barry Lester- barryl7523@comcast.net

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club (Elmhurst, IL)

Meetings: 3rd Friday of the Month at the American Legion Hall, Butterfield Road, Elmhurst. No meeting in November - Contact: Robert Wild, 630-985-4416 or r.wild@comcast.com
 Club e-mail address: president@gccbc.org; Club web address: www.gccbc.org
 Events: Chicagoland Pet Expo: 3-18/20/2005, Arlington Hts Racecourse, Contact: Nancy Carlson 708-301-4607
 Events: Spring Bird Fair: 4-30-2005, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Bldgs A & B, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL 60187; For more info call: 630-927-1152
 Event: SPBE Sanctioned Hookbill Show 3-19-05, Arlington Heights Racecourse, Contact: Shar Toby, sharlant2000@yahoo.com
 Bird Show: 11-5-2005, Judge: TBA; Park Plaza Hotel - 847-364-7600, 75 W. Algonquin Rd, Arlington Hgts, IL ; For more information contact: www.gccbc.org

Illini Bird Fanciers (Springfield, IL)

Meetings: 4th Sun of Each Month, 1236 N. Oaklane Road #200, Springfield, IL 62707
 Contact: Jodiith Wilson, 217-492-1510 or balu6960@sbcglobal.net
 Club e-mail address: illinibirdfanciers@yahoo.com
 Bird Show: 6-18-05 Judge: Conrad Meinert; 20th Annual Bird Show & Fair, Signature Inn, 3090 Stevens Dr. Spfld, IL 62703 - Show Manager: Jody Wilson, 217-492-1510 or balu6960@sbcglobal.net

TASC – The Avicultural Society of Chicagoland (Downers Grove, IL)

Meetings: 4th Friday of the Month at Prarieview Elementary School, 699 Plainfield Rd., Downers Grove, IL Contact: Jason Crean, 630-985-8130 or tascchicago@aol.com
 Club e-mail: tascchicago@aol.com
 Club website: www.tasc-chicago.org, Events: Chicagoland Pet Expo: 3-18/20-2005, Arlington Heights Racecourse - Contact: Jason Crean, tascchicago@aol.com
 Events: Mega Bird Fair - 05-21-2005, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL., Contact: Jason Crean tascchicago@aol.com

Local Clubs...

**If you have not affiliated yet, you must send
 in your forms before 4/25/05 in order to
 make it into the May/June Journal!**

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society (Des Moines, IA)

Meetings: 4th Sun of the Month at the Des Moines Botanical Ctr., 909 Robert D Ray Dr.

Contact: John Thielking, 515-278-9159 or thielking@iowalink.com

Club Website: www.midamericacagebirdsociety.org

Bird Show: 10-1-2005 - Judge: Dale Laird; Best Western Des Moines North, 5055 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131 - Show Manager: John Thielking, 515-278-9159 or thielking@iowalink.co

KANSAS

Midwest Zebra & Society Finch Club (Shawnee, KS)

Contact: Charlie Anchor 847-515-1090

Bird Show: 7/22 & 7/23/2005

Judges: Robert Varga (Zebra Finches), Martha Wigmore (Society Finches)

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers, Inc. (Baltimore, MD)

Meetings: Towson Public Library Contact: Robert Mehl, 210-581-7955 or Robertmehl@verizon.net

Club email: baltimorebirdfanciers@verizon.net

Club website: <http://www.baltimorebirdfancier.org>

Bird Show: 5/21/05 Judge: Miki Sparsak

Spring Fair & Finch Division Show Location: Tall Cedars Hall, Parkville, MD 21234

Show Manager: Robert Mehl 210-581-7955 or Robertmehl@verizon.net

Maryland All Canary Club (Parkville, MD)

Contact: Mary Ellen Schott, 410-668-7483

MISSOURI

The Gateway Parrot Club (*High Ridge, MO*)

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of each month at 2 PM at the Humane Society of Missouri Pet Training

Center Bldg, 1201 Macklind, St. Louis, MO, Contact: Christine Kincaid, 636-343-8097

parrotsx10@aol.com

Club e-mail: introfish@aol.com

website: www.gatewayparrotclub.org

Events: All American Hookbill Fair- Aug, 2005; Greensfielder Recreation Complex at Queeny Pk., 550 Weidman Road, Ballwin, MO 63021

Zebra Finch & Society Finch Specialty Show

Monticello United Methodist Church, 23860 W. 75th Street (1 block west of Hwy 7 on 75th Street) Lenexa/Shawnee, Kansas (a southwestern suburb of Kansas City, MO)

Show Manager: Charlie Anchor 847-515-1090 or Jamie Jackson 913-268-3209 or

Martha Wigmore-newdlwig@mindspring.com

Accommodations: Drury Inn, Ph: 913-236-9200, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Merriam, KS, 66202 (just 10 min from Show Hall)

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society (Manchester, NH)

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month in Villa Crest Retirement Center

Contact: Ray Schwartz, 603-362-6106 or Prismsdad@aol.com

Club e-mail: editor@boaf.com; Club website: www.boaf.com

Event: Spring Mart & Expo, Center of New Hampshire Radisson Hotel, Contact: Ray Schwartz at Prismsdad@aol.com

Bird Show: 10-29-05 - Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau, Center of New Hampshire Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03103, Show Manager: Katy Secor 978-251-3653, email:

KatyS@netway.com

NEW YORK

Empire Finch & Canary Club (West Hampstead, NY)

Meetings: First Thursday of the Month – 8 PM at Averill Blvd Park, Elmont, NY

Contact: John Lund 516-564-4692

Bird Show: 11-12-05 - 5th Annual Empire Finch & Canary Club Show, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 200 Hempstead Avenue, Rockville Center, NY, Judge: Laura Tinke, Show Manager: Gabe Dillon 516-593-2841

New York Finch & Type Canary Club (New York, NY)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month except July & August - Contact: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899 or barstand@aaahawk.com

Club Web Site: www.newyorkfinch.com

Bird Show: 6-12-05; Judge: TBD

Annual Feather Show, for Birds Bred and Banded in 2005, Meeting Hall - Averill Blvd Park, Elmont, NY, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Show Manager: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899 or barstand@aaahawk.com

Bird Show: 10-15-05 Judge: Bob Vargo Non-NFSS

Annual Bird Show, St. Jude School in Gyne Hall, 1677 Canarsie Road, 9401 Seaview Ave. (same building), Brooklyn, NY - Show Manager: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899 or barstand@aaahawk.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Cage Bird Society (Raleigh, NC)

Contact: April Blazich (919) 851-8079, aprilb@bellsouth.net

Meetings: 3rd Sun of ea. month, Glen Eden, Pilot Park, Glen Eden Dr., Raleigh

Website: www.rdcbs.org

PUERTO RICO

Asociacion De Criadores de Finches Del Este (Cagues, PR)

Meetings: First Sun of the Month, Contact: Victor Cordero, 787-893-7723 or denise805@hotmail.com

The Summer National Bird Show - Puerto Rico 6/24-26/05 Judge: Clarence Culwell

Chancha Raul Papaleo in Cagues, Puerto Rico

The Winter National Bird Show - Puerto Rico: 11/4-6/05 - Judge: Cecil Gunby

Chancha Raul Papaleo in Cagues, Puerto Rico

NFSS Affiliated Clubs/Events**TENNESSEE****Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club (Nashville, TN)**

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM, Donelson Senior Center, Donelson, TN
Contact: Wilma Crawford, 615-890-6906 or tnma2@comcast.net
Event: Spring Fair- April 16th & 17th 2005, Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN - For more information contact: Bob Bryant at lbryant@vci.net or 270-825-3628
Event: Fall Fair & Show - October 8th & 9th 2005, TN State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN, For more information contact Wilma Crawford at: tnma2@comcast.net or 615-890-6906
Bird Show: 10-8-2005 - Judge: Jerri Wiesenfeld
TN St. Fairgrounds, Wilson Dr., Nashville, TN. - Show Mgr.: Wilma Crawford, nma2@comcast.net

Southeast TN Avicultural Society (Niota, TN)

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month, 2 pm, Niota Elementary School; Contact: Janet Burrell, (423) 472-1306 or jab2202@aol.com - Fall Fair & Annual Show: 10-22-05 - Judge: TBA; Niota Elementary School, Niota, TN ; Show Manager: Theresa Burnette, 423-337-4597 or tjburn2000@yahoo.com

Tennessee Valley Exotic Bird Club (Knoxville, TN)

Delegate - Lisa Murphy; (423) 263-0483; E-mail - wlmurphy@usit.net
Meeting time/location: First Tuesday of the Month, Church of Good Samaritan
Event: BIRD SHOW AND FAIR - May 14, 2005
-Judge: Annette Howard -Location: Knoxville Expo Center - 5441 Clinton Hwy, Knoxville, TN
-Information Contact: Lisa Murphy; (423) 263-0483; E-mail - wlmurphy@usit.net

TEXAS**Fort Worth Bird Club (Fort Worth, TX)**

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month, Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, (Azalea Room)
Contact: Clarence Culwell , 817-220-5568 or COculwell@myfam.com
Show: 9-24-05 - Judge: Laura Bewley - Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main, Grapevine, TX 76051 - Show Manager: Jerry Cason, 817-237-5867 or Jerrycason@mindspring.com

VIRGINIA**Peninsula Cage Bird Society, Inc. (Hampton, VA)**

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of the month at 2 PM, Thomas Nelson Community College, Moore Hall,
Contact: Bea Rogers 757-484-6001 - Club e-mail: dwilson786@aol.com; Club website: www.vapeninsulacagedbirdsociety.org - Events: Spring Bird Mart – Fall Bird Mart – Annual Bird Clubs of Virginia Convention – see web site for info

WISCONSIN**Central WI Cage & Wild Bird Connection (Pittsville, WI)**

Meetings: First Saturday of the month in alternating members homes
Contact: Carolyn Belisle, 608-427-6674 or secretarybirdwi@yahoo.com
Club email: secretarybirdwi@yahoo.com; Club website: <http://www.cwwcbc.us/bc>
Events: All Bird Fair - 5-21-2005, Marshfield Fairgrounds, Marshfield, WI.
Contact: Marlene Minor at minor@tds.net
Bird Show: 7-2-2005 Judge: Martha Wigmore; In partnership with WCBC,
TBA ,Oshkosh, WI , Contact: Dave Bluma DavidBluma@aol.com or Marlene Minor - mminor@tds.net

2005 AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

NFSS



The basic affiliation fee is \$25.00.

Club Name: _____

Club City/St: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Club affiliation entitles your organization to receive all NFSS publications and to exercise the privileges of the Society. These include, but are not limited to:

- **NFSS Journal** --- Our newly formatted bi-monthly publication connects you with other finch and softbill enthusiasts around the world. It includes articles on breeding, housing, diet, management, products, specific species, and experiences of other aviculturists.
- **www.nfss.org** --- Visit our ever-expanding website for the latest information on NFSS activities, officers, affiliated clubs and their websites, 2004 affiliated shows and events, archives, advertisements and Avicultural links.
- **Finchshop** --- Looking for an unusual gift? Finchshop is our department store. Items and order forms are available in the NFSS Journal and on the website - www.nfss.org
- **Finch Save** --- The goal of this restructured member participation group is to establish and maintain all finch and softbill species in American aviculture.
- **Census** --- The annual NFSS Census can connect you with other breeders for the purpose of exchanging breeding stock.
- **Affiliated Shows and Events** --- are advertised in the NFSS Journal and on the website.
- **NFSS Panel Judges** --- are available for shows. Awards with the NFSS Logo--- (plaques and rosettes) are available at new reduced prices.
- **Annual Achievement Awards** --- are presented at the National Cage Bird Show.

Once we receive your application and fee, we will list your organization among the affiliated clubs in the NFSS Journal and on the NFSS website. Please write, email or phone me for an Affiliation Application and Awards Catalog!

Send your check for \$25.00
made payable to NFSS to:

Darla Dandre
NFSS Affiliations & Awards Manager
PO Box 4092, Joliet, IL 60434
Phone: 815-729-9789
E-Mail: Dbirdranch@aol.com

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Show Location: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail or web site: _____

Show Manager: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

NFSS Club Delegate: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

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Split Plastic Band Choices: Red, Dk Green, Lt Green, White, Pink, Black, Purple, Yellow, Orange, Dk Blue, Lt Blue **MINIMUM ORDER \$5.00**

SPLIT PLASTIC BANDS - \$1.50 PER STRING OF 10 BANDS

INDICATE QUANTITY BELOW AND COLOR

XF	XCS	XCL	XB	X3	SUBTOTAL

NFSS MEMBERS ONLY *Closed traceable aluminum bands available in only the NFSS color of the year. Aluminum bands are engraved with initials NFS, Size Code, Year, and Number. There is no choice of number. All aluminum bands are recorded for permanent reference. Bands are ordered in strings of 10, same size. New members may order before receiving their membership number. Write "New" for an NFSS Member #. Orders are processed weekly as received. Please, no mail requiring signatures.*

The banding and marking of wild birds is very tightly regulated by the Federal government. It is illegal to use ANY band on a bird that is released to the wild except a Federal band issued by US Fish and Wildlife.

ALUMINUM BANDS - \$3.25 PER STRING OF 10 BANDS

INDICATE QUANTITY BELOW

A	B	C	D	E	G	J	K	L	M	R	S	T	SUBTOTAL

If you choose not to include this sum, NFSS will NOT be responsible for replacements.

POSTAL INSURANCE

Under \$50.00 - \$1.30

\$50.00 to \$100.00 - \$2.20

Over \$100.00 - \$3.20 _____

HANDLING FEE \$2.00 _____

PLASTIC & ALUMINUM SUBTOTAL _____

TOTAL _____

BANDS FOR YEAR: _____ **NFSS MEMBER #:** _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PAYMENT PAYABLE TO NFSS

MAIL TO: Paula Hansen, 2234 Juneau Ct. S., Salem, OR 97302

The National Finch and Softbill Society Guide to Ordering NFSS Closed Leg Bands

- Size A: Gold-breasted Waxbill, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Owl (Bicheno) Finch, Quail Finch, Red-eared Waxbill, Strawberry Finch, and other small waxbills.
- Size B: Black-cheeked Waxbill, Cordon Bleu, Cuban Melodious Finch, Fire Finch, Olive Finch, Rufous-backed Mannikin, Timor Zebra, Peales Parrot Finch.
- Size C: B&W Mannikin, Violet Eared & Blue-capped Waxbills, Purple Grenadier, Bronze-winged Mannikin, Cherry Finch, Green Singing Finch, Grey Singing Finch, Heck's Shaftail, Lavender Finch, Painted Finch, Pileated Finch, Pytilias, Red-headed & Forbes (Blue-Breasted) Parrot Finches, Shaftail Finch, Silverbills, Star Finch, Red Siskin, Society (Bengalese) Finch, Standard Zebra.
- Size D: Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Lady Gouldian Finch, Chestnut-breasted & most smaller mannikins, most other Parrot finches, Pictorella Finch, Pintailed Nonpareil, most Twinspots, Yellow-rumped Finch.
- Size E: Black-crested Finch, Diamond sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Siskins, Spice Finch, European Goldfinch, European Zebra.
- Size G: Magpie Mannikin, Siberian Goldfinch, most larger mannikins, small tanagers.
- Size J: Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias, most small softbills.
- Size K: Java Rice Birds, Red-crested Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Shama Thrush
- Size L: Diamond Dove, Mousebirds, other small doves, quail, softbills.
- Size M: Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah, large Sunbirds, Superb Starlings.
- Size R: Green/Purple Starlings.
- Size S: Indian Hill Mynah, Java Mynah, Ring-necked Dove, Toucanettes, White-tailed Jay.
- Size T: Small Hornbills, Plush-capped Jay, small Toucans, small Touracos.

Banding instructions included with each order.

Guide to Ordering Open Plastic Leg Bands

- Size XF: Cordon Bleu, Fire, Orange-Cheeked, Red-Eared, Lavender, Blue Capped Waxbills, Owl, Cherry, Green & Grey Singers, Painted, Hecks & Masked Grassfinch, Gouldian, Most Parrot Finches, Zebra, Bengalese (Society), Stars.
- Size XCS: Nuns, Cutthroats, Diamond Firetails (Diamond Sparrows), most Twinspots, Siskins, (Canaries - Gloster, Fife, Miniature & Fancy).
- Size XCL: Red Faced Pytilia, Pekin Robin, (Canaries - Roller, Borders, Lizard, Norwich, Yorkshire, Red Factor).
- Size XB: Indian Shama, Diamond Dove, Chinese Painted (Button) Quail, Budgies, Grass Parakeets.
- Size X3: Lovebirds, Rosellas, Many Softbills.

NFSS FinchShop

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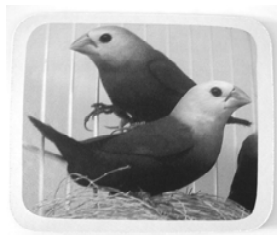
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RH Parrot Finch



White-headed Nun



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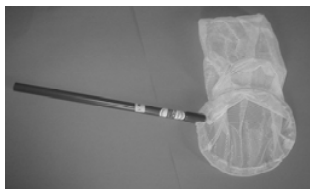
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**NFSS***the National Finch
and Softbill Society***FinchShop Order Form**

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Address: _____

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Item (specify size /color if applicable)**Price**

Shipping/Handling:

Orders \$ 0.01 to \$9.99 - add \$3.85

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Total Enclosed:

Mail completed form with your **check payable to NFSS** to:**Robert Mehl**

NFSS Finch Shop Manager

11108 Hollowbrook Road

Owings Mills, MD 21117-1379

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED RATES: \$4.00/Issue (Up to four lines of text). Free Classifieds to NFSS Finch/Softbill Save Program Members. All ads are also posted on the NFSS website (www.nfss.org) at no extra charge. Contact Brenda Josselet, PMB 279, 6705 Hwy 290 W, Suite 502, Austin, TX 78735. (512) 288-0891 bjosselet@austin.rr.com.

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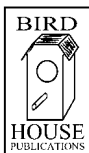
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City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

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New Member? _____ Renewal (List NFSS #) _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Membership Dues (Select One)

	Single	Dual	Foreign	Junior
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3 Years:	\$85 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$99 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$99 <input type="checkbox"/>	
5 Years:	\$140 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Life:	\$1500 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1740 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1740 <input type="checkbox"/>	

Mail Application
and Check
Payable to NFSS:

Robert Mehl
11108 Hollow-
brook Rd.
Owings Mills,
MD 21117-1379



NFSS FINCH/SOFTBILL SAVE Information/Application Request

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

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