

NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY

Journal Volume 24, No. 5 September/October 2007

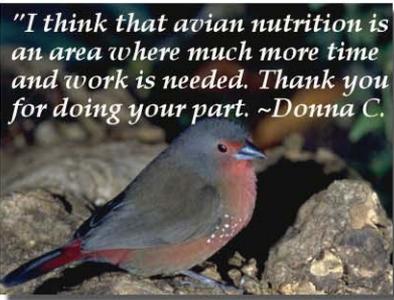




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NFSS Mission Statement

The National Finch & 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.

Journal of the National Finch & Softbill Society

Publisher: The National Finch & Softbill Society - <http://www.nfss.org>

Editor: Katy Dodd

Editorial Policy/Disclaimer: The Journal of the National Finch & Softbill Society is published bi-monthly by NFSS. The following deadlines normally apply to all aspects of the journal:

Deadline for Submissions: 1st day of Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep, Nov. - NFSS members are encouraged to submit articles, drawings, and photographs. NFSS reserves the right to edit and/or reject all editorial, photographic, and advertising materials submitted for publication to the Journal of the National Finch & Softbill Society.

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New memberships and late renewals, (membership has expired) received after the fifteenth of the first month of Journal publication will receive six issues beginning with the following Journal. Cutoff dates are as follows: January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15, September 15, November 15.

Cover Images: Thanks go to Mike Fidler, Marcus Pollard, and Bill Van Patten for submission of the beautiful photo of a wild Lady Gouldian Finch on this month's cover.

Advertising Rates

Inside Covers (color) \$45.00/Issue or \$225.00/Year; Full Page (B&W) 30.00/Issue or \$153.00/Year; Half-Page (B&W) \$20.00/Issue or \$102.00/Year; Quarter-Page (B&W) \$10.00/Issue or \$51.00/Year. Contact Gail Benson, 144 N Clyde Avenue, Palatine, Illinois 60067, Phone: (847) 963-1926, Email: gailsgouldians@comcast.net

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NFSS President's Message

September/October 2007

Tis the Season

For me the AFA convention on August 22nd - 26th, in Los Angeles, started the beginning of the Fall Season -which equals bird shows and bird marts through out the country. I picture all these NFSS member cars packed with show cages traveling along the highways to the show halls. I hope you have lined up your local show to attend. You will find a listing of your shows in the back of this Journal.

This year, representing NFSS at the AFA convention, I presented a power-point program: Hand-Rearing Foreign Finches, of which the digest version is in this Journal. During the AFA awards evening, I had the honor of accepting the "2006 US First Breeding, AFA AVY Award" for NFSS 2nd VP Harry Bryant. He was the first person in the US to breed the Brown Twinspot Finch, *clytospiza monteiri*.

I would be delighted to meet you at NCBS, and to see what birds you are showing, working with or would like to own. This year we are lucky to have the National Cage Bird Show so centrally located in Denver, whether you driving or flying. It is at the Holiday Inn at the Airport for easy travel.

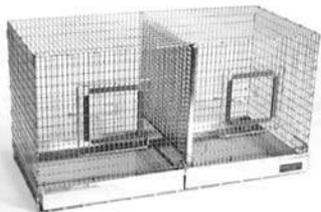
The change of elected officers always brings positive creative ideas to NFSS. With Elections happening shortly, we are at that point now and need everyone's energy to vote.

Those who wish to be NFSS officers must be prepared to give daily energy toward meeting the wishes and requests of our members, that's you. We appreciate your membership and hope that you will continue to support the NFSS by sending in your vote.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Sally Huntington". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page.

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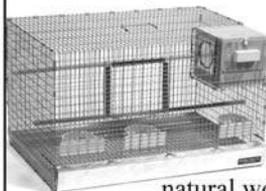


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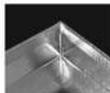
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Saving the Wild Gouldian

by Bill Van Patten and Marcus Pollard

The loss of any species in the wild is a tragedy. As a breeder of Lady Gouldian Finches, I guess my familiarity with their beauty and grace has made their potential loss in nature all the more compelling to me. But what could I do to help, living here in the United States? I found the answer in December of 2006. Quite by accident, during a search on the internet, I stumbled upon a website called Save the Gouldian Fund, managed by Mike and Elisabeth Fidler, along with Australian Zoologist and Aviculturist, Marcus Pollard. I knew immediately I had found a quality organization. I was familiar with Mike Fidler based on his book, *The Gouldian Finch* (co-authored with Stewart Evans). I consider the book a definitive source of information, written by deeply com-

mitted individuals with a true compassion for this species.

As I searched their website for information on how to participate, I was amazed that their Donor lists and links had very few names from the United States. I saw this as a two fold opportunity to participate. First, a donation was in order. Secondly, communication about this wonderful organization to my customers and other breeders here in the United States. In that way, my donation could hopefully be made larger. I have since evolved the two into an ongoing commitment to donate a portion of my sales to the Save the Gouldian Fund, while all the time communicating their message to my customers through a direct link from my website to theirs.

Another wonderful benefit that comes with participation in the Fund is the opportunity to "learn" while at the



Gouldian Habitat at Fitroy Bluff

same time helping. It is very exciting to associate yourself with the folks at Save the Gouldian Fund, knowing that you can only become better at caring for your own birds by helping the Fund. And even though the Gouldian is apparently considered safe from going extinct due to domestic breeding in world aviculture, there will be something gone terribly wrong if we lose them in nature. Their rapid demise is shocking. But it is wonderful that there is a dedicated team at the location, trying to understand what has gone wrong and how to repair the damage before it is too late. We must maintain the habitat where they once flourished so we can continue to learn how to care for them domestically. If their natural habitat is damaged to the point where they can no longer exist, the original "blueprint" of their prosperity will be lost forever.

Upon contacting Save the Gouldian Fund, I received an almost immediate response from Marcus Pollard. Marcus is a founding member, and currently serves as Communications Officer for the Fund. I have asked Marcus to share a few words about the fund, and he has most graciously agreed to tell us more...

Firstly, let me thank both the NFSS and Bill for the opportunity to present a little about the Save the Gouldian Fund (STGF) to your American audience.

So please bear with me while I take you for a wander through the hectic time that has been the formation of the STGF.

I was asked by Mike and Elisabeth Fidler in 2005 whether I would be



Gouldian Drinking at Officers Waterhole (Mornington Sanctuary)

interested in helping form this body and to assist them in the daunting task of raising funds for research into the reasons for the decline of this iconic finch species and to help with its restoration in the wild. Sitting in the middle of the Kimberley region of Western Australia in 29 degree sunshine watching Australian finches of all species flitting around, I was eager to "do my bit" for this worthy cause.

The results of my research that followed painted a very sad picture indeed for many of the grain-eating birds of the Kimberley area. Decades of poorly managed fire regimes which were aimed at simply producing green biomass to feed cattle with no thought to seed production for avian species, combined with the stocking rates for cattle in the 1970's which increased the number of cattle per hectare, resulted in a massive decrease in the



Left: Dr. Sarah Pryke and Marcus Pollard **Right:** Mike Fidler

available seed stocks throughout the region.

Mike and Elisabeth Fidler hail from England and have been involved with the Gouldian for over 27 years, and they now call Australia home. Much of their time and financial outlay has been in the Australian Wildlife Conservancies (AWC) property at Mornington Sanctuary. This property was established with the aim of creating a sanctuary amid the cattle belt to investigate the reasons for the decline of the Gouldian in the wild. With the removal of the cattle and the adoption of a more controlled, natural fire regime throughout the property, the increase in Gouldians over the past 2 years has been encouraging indeed.

The AWC holds a regular Gouldian count every September which is staffed by volunteers from all over the globe.

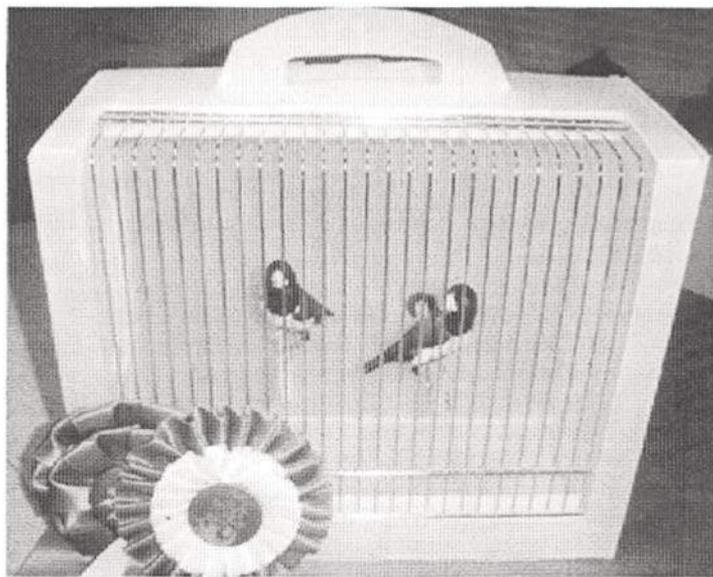
AWC appointed Dr. Sarah Legge as the chief scientific officer for Mornington, and in collaboration with Dr. Steve Murphy, they have set about unraveling the riddle of the decline of this species.

The first donation from the STGF to the AWC research efforts was of an all-terrain eight wheeled Argo vehicle which would allow the researchers to follow the Gouldians through both the wet and dry seasons. Following this, we now provide a half-time salary for a Gouldian research assistant so that when Dr. Legge's duties take her elsewhere there is always someone on hand to continue the task of gathering data on the Gouldian project.

Not content with simply funding many facets of the wild research, Mike and Elisabeth also turned their home in New South Wales, Australia into a research station for Dr. Sarah Pryke of

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Gouldian Nest Tree at Mornington Sanctuary

Macquarie University, who is working on the Gouldian in captivity and studying the social hierarchies within Gouldian populations. Dr. Pryke is also working on dietary studies which, it is hoped, will lead to the establishment of the first finch diet actually based on research into what finches really eat! The Research Centre now contains around 700 normal Gouldians. Many of Dr. Pryke's recent articles can be found on our website at www.savethegouldian.org in our "News" section.

Dr. Pryke has never been one to simply stay put, so she has established yet another research site in the Wyndham region of Western Australia where the wild Gouldians still drop into the local caravan park from time to time! In order to support her research, the STGF donated a Toyota Hilux fully kitted 4WD to get her and her researchers

around the harsh countryside. It is envisaged that this site will provide another excellent stream of information about the wild Gouldian to complement the work being undertaken at Mornington Sanctuary. Two sites are definitely better than one!

At the time of writing we are also involved with a community project in the Wyndham area which is about to lead to further huge gains for Gouldian research. But more of that as it evolves!

As you can see, we have been very busy raising funds and making contributions for a worthy cause. Fortunately for us, the feeling among avicultural societies around the world has been such that we are able to continue to make a difference. People from Malta,



Gouldian Habitat at Mt. Brennan



Gouldian Research Facility at New South Wales

Denmark, Germany, Italy and Sweden have made contributions in a host of ways. From direct donations to writing articles, running raffles, and in sup-

port of our first two Open Days, they have shown that bird people world wide care about the long term prospect of the wild Gouldian.

Save the Gouldian Fund's ongoing contributions supporting these many research activities will not only benefit the wild Gouldian Finch, but all of the granivorous birds of the Kimberley region. How can you help? Obviously any donation is gratefully appreciated. But just as important are offers to help us carry our message into the world wide community, and in particular in the United States. Website links to the Fund, postings on internet e-groups, chat rooms, and blogs, or any other method that you have expertise in are all ways that you can make a huge difference. Such have been the efforts of Bill, who has not only generously donated directly, but has also taken our Fund to the world on our behalf.

Should you wish to find out more or contact me directly, my email address is Marcus_Pollard@hotmail.com, or write to Save the Gouldian Fund, P.O. Box 147, Cooranbong, NSW 2265, Australia. I look forward to hearing from our American counterparts.

Biography Information on the Authors:

Marcus Pollard holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology, and has kept and bred finches and parrots for 35 years. In addition to his work with the Save the Gouldian Fund, he is also involved with the captive breeding of the endangered Australian Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). While conducting frequent lectures throughout Australian avicultural clubs and societies, and writing for all 4 of the avicultural magazines in Australia, he still finds time to provide for the needs of over 500 aviary finches in his care.

Bill Van Patten holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business, with undergraduate course work in Biology, Microbiology, Chemistry, and Physics. He has kept and bred small hookbills and finches for 30 years. Bill lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he operates a commercial aviary specializing in the breeding of Lady Gouldian Finches.

Bill can be reached by email at Bill@FabulousFinch.com.

Volunteer Opportunities!!!

Interested in volunteering to help your NFSS?

NFSS has no paid staff, and we can always use the skills and efforts of our members to accomplish the goals of the Society.

If you have some time to give for anything from stuffing envelopes to computer programming, we want to hear from you!

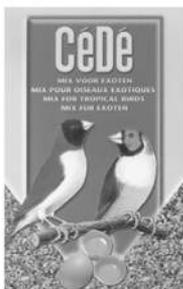
Please contact NFSS Volunteer Program coordinator, Tom Keegan at 617-653-0664 (Eastern daytime only please) or thomkeegan@aol.com for more information.

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Hand-Rearing Foreign Finches

By Sally Huntington, NFSS President

Introduction:

Finches: They are small (average 5 inches) seed eating, perching birds, with small voices or songs, with unique and interesting colors. They can be kept in small enclosures in pairs, and there are thousands to choose from. . . .and they're inexpensive! – What's not to love? Well, they use to be inexpensive. In the 1980s a wide selection of foreign finches were common and made inexpensive pets in pet stores. Then along came

Cites, conservation awareness and things changed. For example: Gold breasted waxbills cost \$29 pair in 1980. Now they are \$150, if you can find them.

Why hand feed?

Any way that you can save a finch, common, unusual or rare, from death is worth a try. For example if a week old chick has fallen or been tossed out of the nest, or has been abandoned and chilled there will be 100% loss. If you intervene, hand rear, there is fifty - fifty chance of survival. So it is worth a try, and some finches make adorable, loving, affectionate pets!



Why hand feed?

Be aware though, hand rearing can be a time-consuming, often exasperating and unrewarding experience when the chicks do not make it.

What works: Warmth, Hydration and Feeding

WARMTH

Equipment;

- commercial pet-type heating pad
- reptile rock
- iron powered instant heat packet
- ceramic bowl
- facial tissues
- thermometer
- laser Thermometer
- dark covered container - slightly ventilated
- warm friend

Warmth is crucial, without the warmth the chick's body stops functioning and food in the crop and digestive track will spoil. Warm the chick before you do anything else.

Chicks which feel cold to the touch need to be warmed initially in your hand and moved to a warm place, around 90-95 degrees Fahrenheit. A ceramic dish sitting on top of pet type heating pad, reptile rock, or instant heat packet, can accomplish this. A ceramic bowl helps to maintain the

heat. Use a size that closely replicates the chick's nest size. Place two to three facial tissues inside for cleanliness, and when the inside of the bowl reaches 90- 95 f place chick inside the tissue lined dish. For newly hatched chicks, and chicks up to 10 days old a covered container which has slight ventilation that has enough room to hold the heat source and the bowl helps emulate a dark nest for the chick. If there is only one chick a 'warm friend' such as a zebra or society finch close to same age and/or size is some of the best help you can get. Zebras and society finches are quick to beg which can help stimulate a more wary chick and the body warmth from the warm friend also helps regulate the nest temperature.

HYDRATION

Equipment;

- bottled water, Energy or Pedialite warmed to 80%
- small glass or plastic eyedroppers or pipettes

Only after a chilled chick has been warm for an hour, begin to hydrate the chick and flush out food in the bird's system by feeding Pedialite, commercial bird hydrate product or bottled water. Warm the liquid to 80 degrees Fahrenheit, Using a small

1. WARMTH NEVER FEED A COLD CHICK

*COLD CHICKS BODY SHUTS
DOWN

*FOOD IN CROP AND GUT
WILL SPOIL

eyedropper (small pipettes for wax-bills) feed very sparingly so as not to aspirate the chick. Lightly tapping the side of the chick's beak will usually illicit a begging response. The use of an eyedropper or a pipette gives a better feel if there is any resistance from the chick to help prevent aspiration. The chick needs to learn to drink from the dropper. When the chick begs, place the dropper inside its mouth and release just one or two drops for the chick to adapt to the new 'beak'.

Do not force the water into the chick. Continue with hydration procedure until the chicks droppings are clear, usual just a couple of feedings.

FEEDING

Equipment;

- commercial hand rearing food
- bottled water
- electric cup warmer
- ceramic mug
- small dishes that barely fit in the ceramic cup
- small glass or plastic eyedroppers
- gram scale
- chart for weight gain or loss

Before feeding the chick formula, weigh the chick on a gram scale, weighing a couple times a day assess its rate of growth. It is much easier and safer to feed a chick that begs. Again by lightly tapping the side of

the chicks beak will illicit a begging response and the use of an eyedropper or pipette give a better feel if there is any resistance from the chick to help prevent aspiration. The chick may have already learned to drink from the dropper. When the chick begs, place the dropper inside chicks mouth and release just one or two drops of the formula for the chick to adapt to the new consistency.

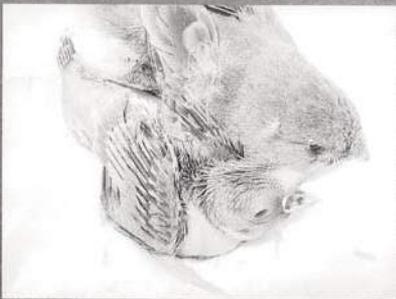
Mix a commercial hand rearing in small amounts, (1-2 tps) following the directions on the package. Make the consistency watery for very young chicks a few days old or any chick new to the hand-reared process. Increase viscosity over a week's time

period progressing toward the consistency of a thick soup that would easily drip off a spoon.

When hand-feeding the chick do not over feed. The crop should not fill larger then half the size of the chick's head. Feed the chick about every two hours allowing the chick's crop to empty after each feeding. The use of an electric cup warmer helps keep the formula warm in between feedings. Fill the ceramic mug 2/3rds full with water, and float the small dish of formula in the water to maintain the formula's temperature (about 80 degrees Fahrenheit.) The formula is usually good for a few hours. Wash the eyedropper out

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

1/2 Head side for each side of the crop



thoroughly between feedings.

Weaning

Finches usually fledge between 19-28 days, and wean 14-16 days later. Hand reared finches take longer to wean, but they eventually will.

PROBLEMS

Weight loss: This can be caused by incorrect diet or feeding schedule. Ensure that food is fresh and the crop is emptying between feedings. If a sour crop is suspected or the crop is not emptying go back to the hydration procedure mentioned earlier to flush the system.

Pasty droppings: Droppings not

formed and/or sticking to the chicks vent are the result of a bacteria infection. Clean the droppings off the vent with warm water. Follow with a few drops hypochlorite bleach directly on the vent for no longer than 5 seconds and rinse thoroughly with warm water.

Crop spasms: The crop will appear to move back and forth in a rolling motion and may appear to show some redness. This may be caused by a sour crop, the beginning of an infection or pH imbalance. Go back and repeat the hydration step, for at least 2 feedings. Sometimes a couple of drops Bird Care Company's Potent brew on the of the feeding utensil, will solve it also.

REMEMBER-

IF YOU ARE DOING THINGS
DIFFERENTLY BUT HAVE SUCCESS
IN REARING THESE LITTLE GUYS-

DON'T STOP- YOUR METHODS
ARE ALSO CORRECT!



Remember if you are doing things differently but have success in rearing these little guys- don't stop - your method is also correct.

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Montane Zosterops

By Vince and Andrew Moase

Montane Zosterops (*Zosterops polio-gaster*) are a group of eight White-eyes that used to be classified with the West African Senegal White-eye (*Zosterops senegalensis*) but they are sufficiently different that scientists have now moved them into a group of their own.

Most noticeable by their larger size and huge eye-rings, these species come from the mountain slopes of East Africa where each species has a very localized range, some as small as 25 miles squared.

The most commonly used English names and scientific names are shown below:

Heuglin's White-breasted White-eye

(*Z. p. polio-gaster*)

Kikuyu White-eye (Montane White-eye) (*Z. p. kikuyuensis*)

Broad-ringed White-eye (Kilimanjaro green White-eye) (*Z. p. eurycricotus*)

Kaffa Green White-eye

(*Z. p. kaffensis*)

Kulal White-eye (*Z. p. kulalensis*)

Tanzanian Golden White-eye

(*Z. p. mbuluensis*)

South Pare White-eye (*Z. p. winifredae*)

Taita White-eye (*Z. p. silvanus*)

My experience with these Montane species is limited to the Broad-ringed White-eye and the Tanzanian Golden



White-eye. I had ordered ten birds that an importer was advertising as Kikuyu Zosterops. When the birds arrived they were mostly green and lacked the yellow forehead and throat that I had seen in Kikuyu Zosterops in the mid-1980s. I searched the books and the Internet and came to the conclusion the birds I had were Broad-ringed White-eyes. It appears the Kikuyu was the first species of Montane Zosterops imported with any regularity and people associated the broad eye-ring with the name Kikuyu. So as soon as the importers received a

broad-ringed species they would advertise them as Kikuyu because that is the species that the general public knew. This practice is still current today.

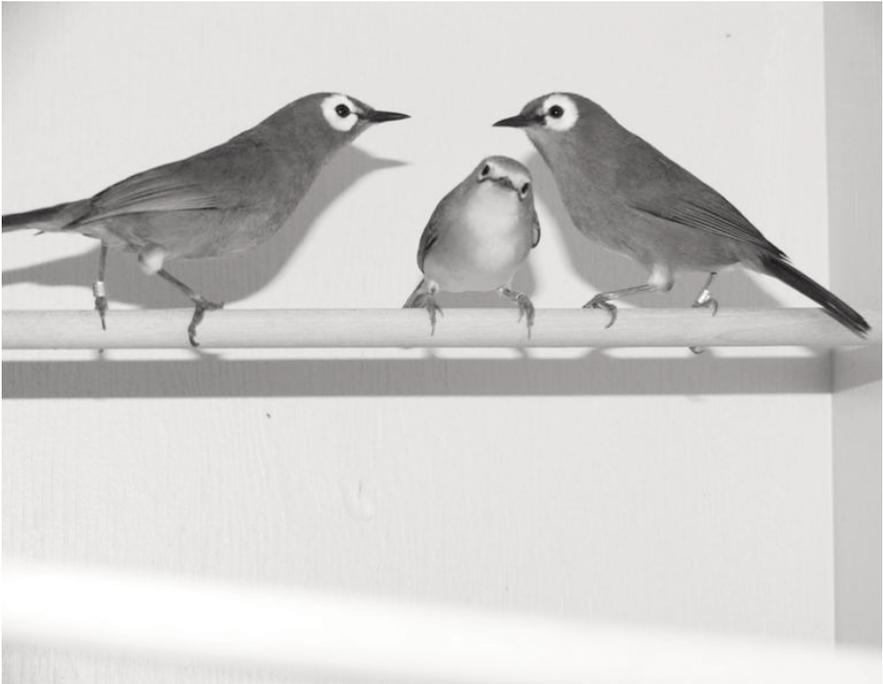
I have visually sexed Chestnut-flanked Zosterops in the past as the females have a paler iris, but generally speaking visually sexing Zosterops is a very frustrating task so I had them DNA-sexed – ten males, zero females – this was going to make breeding them somewhat of a challenge!! I believe this species is migratory, moving up and down the mountain as the seasons change. The males move into the breeding range to establish a territory and the females arrive a couple of weeks later. Unfortunately in this case the trappers arrived before the females did and I got ten males.

Zosterops use their eye-rings in their courtship display so a dominant male will pluck the eye-rings of his subordinates to make them less appealing to a female (much the same way a male Parrot-finch or Cuban finch will pluck the throat feathers of a rival).

In September 2004 I received another phone call from the same importer who excitedly told me he had eight White-eyes “as big as Pekin Robins”. He said he had never seen this species before

but he knew they were not Kikuyu White-eyes as he had imported those in the past. I already had three species of Zosterops and needed more like I needed a hole in the head but I asked about sexing them and was told, “No problem, you can visually sex them as the females have smaller eye-rings” - *remember back to the previous paragraph where I mentioned a male would pluck the eye-rings on other males!* I ordered 6 birds and when they arrived three birds had huge eye-rings and three had smaller eye-rings. I had all the birds DNA-sexed and had 4.2 (4 males and 2 females). These should prove easier to breed than the Broad-ringed, at least I had some females!! (Provided a bird has not been plucked there is no difference in the size of the eye-rings in males and females).

I set about identifying the new species, asked on the Internet groups if anyone was able to identify species of Zosterops - no volunteers!! I checked the Internet and found nothing. Literally there was nothing on Zosterops poliogaster, it was at this time I discovered they used to be included with *Z. senegalensis*. This helped to find some general information but species identification was still challenging as the same picture on different web sites would be identified as both a Kikuyu White-eye and a Broad-ringed White-eye. I contacted bird importers in



Canada, USA, England and Belgium to try and get some help identifying them. Not one of them was interested in helping. I even emailed a bird exporter from Tanzania and received no reply. I think the reason was that quite simply nobody knew. Dealers had been advertising any broad-ringed species as Kikuyus for so many years that as far as the importers are concerned this is what they all are. I was fortunate to make contact with Alice Maurisot in France and between us we started a methodical search to isolate the species. Alice had pictures of all the poliogaster Zosterops, except Mbuluensis. A few days later she emailed me a picture of Mbuluensis that

she had found on the 'net and it conclusively identified my new birds as Tanzanian Golden White-eyes.

The two pairs were housed together but made no attempt to breed. The following Spring one pair was moved into a flight with Pekin Robins and the second pair was housed with Turquoise Tanagers. All flights are fed through a small feeder door at a height of around four feet so I do not have to enter the flights to feed each day. Like most softbill species the Zosterops are not shy when it comes to nesting, in fact the Zosterops in with the Tanagers quickly built a nest in one of the food pots on the feeding tray. These

birds had a planted flight that was approximately seven feet high, seven feet deep and three feet wide and they built their nest on the feeding tray!! I destroyed this nest three times before they caught on and moved it into the fork of a weeping fig. This plant was about three feet from the door and the nest was about four feet off the ground so I could easily observe the birds when feeding each day. I had provided the birds with coconut fiber, sisal, burlap and moss as nesting material but the only material they have ever used is the coconut fiber.

The birds shared incubation duties, the male would leave the nest if I was feeding them but the female sat tight. After

ten days the birds were still incubating so I started to increase the amount of live food, a week later there was no sign of any chicks so I checked the nest and the eggs were infertile. This pair are devoted to each other, they have had several nests of eggs and I have yet to get a fertile egg from them. The pair in with the Pekin Robins has made no attempt to breed.

An interesting observation about Montane White-eyes that I have not seen written anywhere is that both the Broad-ringed and the Golden appear to have a nuptial plumage and an eclipse plumage. They go in and out of colour, much the same way as a Strawberry finch or a whydah does. In the breeding





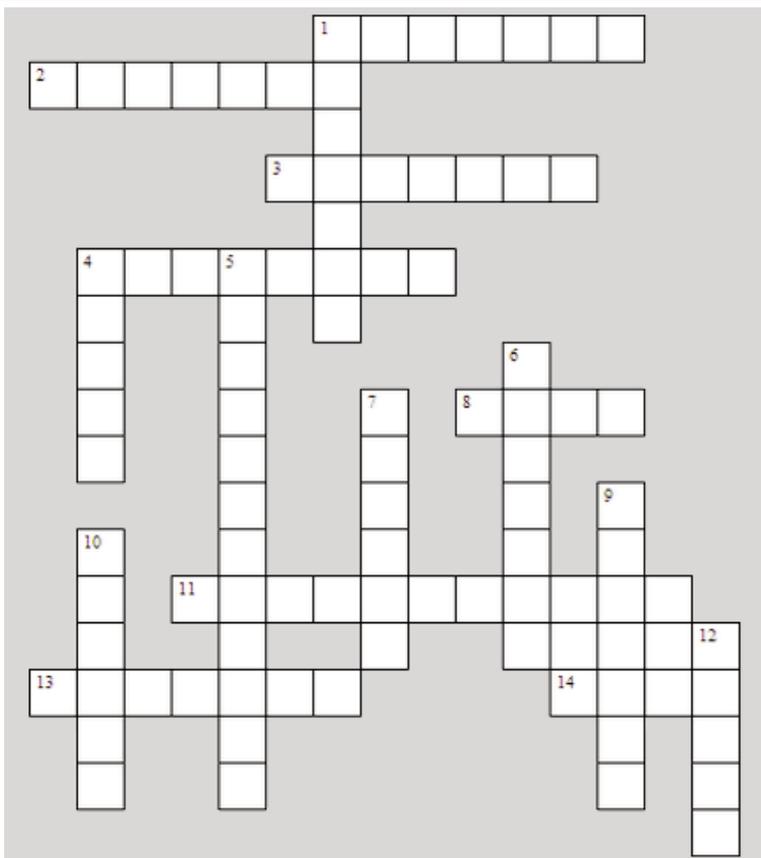
Tanzanian Golden White-eye Head detail

season the Broad-ringed is green and the Golden is greenish-orange. Outside of the breeding season the plumage of both species becomes quite grey.

If you read a dozen articles on White-eyes you will have a dozen different diets. I have heard everything from a mixture of ground white millet and dandelion leaves to a concoction that would take a catering staff of dozens to prepare. My birds get a selection of diced fruits mixed with a crumbled pound cake, soaked Pretty Bird Softbill pellets and a variety of insects (mealworms, wax worms, fruit flies, small crickets etc). Universal food and eggfood are

offered intermittently to give them some variety. A nectar powder is sprinkled on their food. I have found that if it is offered separately as a solution the birds will drink nectar to the exclusion of all other foods and their health soon suffers.

Zosterops are an easy softbill to keep but can prove a challenge to breed. Even if not breeding they will soon steal the heart of their fortunate owner as they are serenaded by their delicate song and entertained by their acrobatic flight skills.



ACROSS

- 1 Dietary supplement that is increased during breeding season
- 2 If your birds are indoors you must provide D3 along with this supplement
- 3 The Green ___ is the most successful captive bred toucan species
- 4 Largest Species of Mousebird
- 8 The combination of two different species
- 11 Not a hookbill despite it's name and brilliant colors
- 13 Nickname derived from the shiny red color of the beak
- 14 The most common livefood for small finches and softbills

DOWN

- 1 A Jewel of the Dove Family
- 4 An Asian thrush with a beautiful voice
- 5 Size Proportion and Substance of a bird are categorized in show judging as ___
- 6 Copper based red pigment found only in Touracos
- 7 Another name for the Cutthroat Finch
- 9 Fosterparent to many species of finch
- 10 A building where birds are kept
- 12 A good way to meet local bird hobbyists and breeders

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM NFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2007 ELECTION BALLOTS HAVE BEEN MAILED

Ballots for the election of NFSS officers for the 2008-2009 term have been mailed to all NFSS members. Please note that, to be counted in the election, your dues must be up-to-date and your membership number must be written on your ballot in the space provided. Dual members can cast two votes (one per membership number).

If you haven't received a ballot, or if you encounter any problems with your ballot, please contact the chair of the election committee, Executive Secretary Rebecca Mikel at (269) 641-7209 or spkennel@aol.com

Remember, your ballot must be postmarked by
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Have a Question?

The NFSS Education Committee, consisting of 1st VP Bob Peers and the regional VPs will run a Q&A column dedicated to answering member's bird husbandry questions. Members are encouraged to write or email their regional VP or the 1st VP with non-emergency questions they would like answered. The Education Committee and expert consultants will attempt to answer every question and will select one or two questions to publish in each journal.

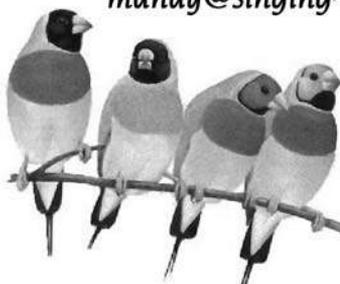
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Note: Events may be held in states other than the home state of the club

ALABAMA

Central Alabama Avicultural Society, Inc.

Delegate: Margie Lanier
 Club Email: claude707@cs.com
 Club website: www.caasociety.com
 Show/Expo: show and fair Sept 1-2 2007
 Location: Quality Inn and Suites, 2705 East South Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36116
 Judge: Miki Sparzak, Conrad Meinert
 Information contact: Ted Sexton, tedsexton@bellsouth.net, 256-892-3072
 Other Divisions: Cockatiels, Parrots

CALIFORNIA

Central California Cage Bird Club

Delegate: Chryse Seeman
 Club Email: zbirds@hotmail.com
 Club website: www.geocities.com/cccbc1
 Show/Expo: Show Oct. 27, 2007
 Location: SOS Club, 819 Sunset Ave, Modesto, Ca
 Judge: TBA
 Information contact: Ben Jones/Chryse Seeman, NJones7110@aol.com
 Other Divisions: Type & Colorbred Canaries, Singer Canaries

Finch Society of San Diego

Delegate: Sally Huntington
 Club website: www.sandiegofinchsociety.com

Show/Expo: Bird Show Nov. 2-3, 2007
 Location: Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort 1131 Back Bay Dr. Newport Beach, CA 92660
 Judge: Brian Mandarich
 Information contact: Sally Huntington sallych@san.rr.com
 Other Divisions: Border & Fife judged by Gabe Dillon / Gloster judged by Patrick Varian / Yorkshire, Norwich, Hartz & ColumbuFancy judged by Raquel King / Colorbred Lipochrome judged by Jose Zelada / Colorbred Melanin & Melanin-New Color judged by Geoff Walker

Santa Clara Valley Canary & Exotic Bird Club

Delegate: Shanna Dollarhide
 Club Email: scvcebc@yahoo.com
 Club website: www.geocities.com/scvcebc
 Show/Expo: Show Dec. 1, 2007
 Location: Centennial Hall 22292 Foothill Blvd, Hayward, CA
 Judge: TBA
 Information contact: Shanna Dollarhide, Shanna@coloronthewing.com

West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show

Delegate: Raspberry
 Email: Raspberry@iinet.com
 Show/Expo: Show July 27–28, 2007
 Location: La Quinta Inn Downtown 200 Jibboom St., Sacramento, CA. 95814

Judge: Paul Williams
 Information contact: Raspberry,
 Raspberry@iinet.com

FLORIDA

Aviary and Cage Bird Society of South Florida

Delegate: Marcia David
 Club Email: marbilld@comcast.net
 Club website: <http://www.feathers.org>
 Show/Expo: Meetings 2nd Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM
 Location: Flamingo Gardens, Davie, FL

Suncoast Avian Society

Delegate: Mari Howard
 Club Email:
 whoward7@tampabay.rr.com
 Club website:
www.suncoastaviansociety.org
 Show/Expo: show Aug. 4, 2007
 Location: St Petersburg Coliseum, 535 4th Ave N., St Petersburg, FL 34695
 Judge: Marion Spartzak
 Information contact: Mari Howard,
 whoward7@tampabay.rr.com, 727-726-6864
 Other Divisions: ACS, ABS, SPBE

Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club

Delegate: Timothy McCormick, email:
 donglo57@bellsouth.net
 Club Email: jim.dwyer@netzero.net
 Club website:
 Show/Expo: meetings 4th Sunday 2pm
 Location: Port Salerno Civic Center,
 4710 SE Anchor Ave, Stuart FL
 Judge: TBA
 Information contact: TBA

Tri-State Avian Society

Delegate: Christine Maples
 Club Email: Christine@maplerun.net
 Club website: Tristateaviansociety.org
 Show/Expo: Show May 19-20 2007
 Location: North Florida Fairgrounds,

441 Paul Russell Rd, Tallahassee FL 32301

Judge: TBA

Information contact: Christine Maples,
 Christine@maplerun.net, 850-562-2800
 Other Divisions:

GEORGIA

Georgia Cage Bird Society

Delegate: Cecil Gunby
 Club Email: CJN@earthling.net
 Club website: www.gacagebird.com
 Show/Expo: Bird Show Nov. 3, 2007
 Location: Jim Miller Park 2245 Callaway Rd. Marietta, GA 30068
 Judge: Thomas Carvana

Southeast Bird Fanciers

Delegate: Ginney Allen, (334) 749-7168, email: gndallen@bellsouth.net
 Club Email:none
 Club website:
members.tripod.com/sebfg/sebf.htm
 Show/Expo: Bird Fair 3/3, 6/5, 9/8 12/8 2007
 Location: Atlanta Farmers Market
 Judge: TBA

ILLINOIS

Finch & Softbill Breeders & Exhibitors

Delegate: Bob Peers, email:
 r.peers@comcast.net
 Club Email: same as above
 Club website:
 Show/Expo: TBD
 Location: TBD
 Judge: TBD
 Information contact: TBD

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

Delegate: Julia Howeward
 Club Email: info@gccbc.org
 Club website: www.gccbc.org
 Show/Expo: Annual Show Nov. 3, 2007

Location: Waterford 933 Riverside Dr.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Judge: J. Weisenfeld

Information contact: Robert Ziegler
ziegliorexotics@hotmail.com

National Institute for Red Orange Canaries & Other Cage Birds

Delegate: Steve Hopman

Club Email: Birdhop@aol.com

Club website:

Show/Expo: NIROC 2007 Show and
Fair Nov. 24, 2007

Location: Quality Inn - Waterford Ba
933 S. Riverside Dr. Elmhurst Ill,
60126

Judge: Charlie Anchor

Other Divisions: Canaries and Finches

INDIANA

Michiana Bird Society

Delegate: Betty Gillespie

Club Email: lollidaig@verizon.net

Club website:

www.michianabirdsociety.com

Show/Expo: TBD

Location: TBD

Judge: TBD

Information contact: TBD

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Club Email: tequilatequila@yahoo.com

Club website:

Show/Expo:

Location:

Judge:

Canadian Finch and Softbill Society

Delegate: Vince Moase

Club Email: vmoase@rogers.com

Club website:

Show/Expo: Show Nov. 10-11, 2007

Location: Brampton Fair Grounds
12942 Hearlake Rd. Brampton, Ontario

Judge: Dr. Hans Classen, Germany

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

Delegate: Alfred & Julianne Mion

Club Email:julianne@mnsi.net

Club website: www.essexkentcbs.com

Show/Expo: TBA

Location: TBA

Judge: TBA

Information contact: Alfred Mion,
julianne@mnsi.net

IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society

Delegate: John Thielking

Club Email: Thielking@iowalink.com

Club website: www.MACBS.org

Show/Expo: 10/6-7 Hosting GABS,
3/25 Bird Exhibit, 5/20 Bird Carnival,
8/26 Feather Fair

Location: Airport Holiday Inn, 61111
Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA 50321

Judge: Dr Al Decoteau & Martha
Wigmore

Information contact: John Thielking,
515-278-9159,

Thielking@Iowalink.com

Other Divisions: 10/6 Colorbred &
Type Canaries, Budgies, hookbills, love-
birds, 10/7 Hookbills, Cockatiels,
Lovebirds

Great American Bird Show

Delegate: Marion Sparzak

Club Email: sandhillxotics@aol.com

Club website:

greatamericanbirdshow.org

Show/Expo: Annual Show Oct. 6-7,
2007

Location: Airport Holiday Inn, 61111
Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA 50321

Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau & Martha
Wigmore

Other Divisions: 10/6 Colorbred &
Type Canaries, Budgies, hookbills, love-
birds, 10/7 Hookbills, Cockatiels,

Lovebirds

LOUISIANA

Cajun Canary and Finch Club, Inc.

Delegate: Irwin Bourgeois

Club Email: Ggaynut@aol.com

Club website:

Show/Expo:

Location:

Judge:

Information contact:

Gulf Coast Bird Club Inc.

Delegate: Terry Perez

Club Email: tbirds@mobitel.com

Club Website:

Show/Expo: Show Mar. 3-4, 2007

Location: Evergreen Cajun Center,
4694 West Main Houmay, La

Judge: Laura Bewley & Dr Al

Decoteau

Information contact: Terry Perez,

tbirds@mobitel.com, 985-665-3902

Other Divisions: Cockatiel

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers

Delegate: Robert Mehl

Club Email: Robert.Mehl@verizon.net

Club website:

www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org

Show/Expo: Spring Mart and Finch

Show May 19, 2007

Location: Tall Cedars Hall Parkville,
MD

Judge: Laura Tinker

Maryland All Canary Club

Delegate: Robert Mehl

Club Email: Canarylady7@earthlink.net

Club website:

Show/Expo: Show Oct. 6, 2007

Location: Clarion Hotel, Aberdeen
1004 Beards Hill Rd., Aberdeen MD,
21001

Judge:

Information contact: Judith Minter
(President)

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Cage Bird Association

Delegate: Regina McCarthy

Club Email: rmcc29@comcast.net

Club website: www.masscagebird.org

Show/Expo: Oct. 20, 2007

Location: Silver City Canine Training
Center Tauton, Mass

Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau

Information Contact: Jim McCarthy

Other Divisions: Border & Fife,

Gloster & Misc Type, Color Bred, Pet
Birds

MICHIGAN

Great Lakes Zebra and Society Finch Club

Delegate: Rebecca Mikel

Club Email: spkennel@aol.com

Club website: greatlakeszebra&soci-
etyfinchclub.com

Show/Expo: Specialty Show Aug 25,
2007

Location: Livonia, MI

Judge: Martha Wigmore & Clarence
Culwell

Information contact: Rebecca Mikel

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders

Delegate: Jim Heffernan

Club Email: tielnmore@aol.com

Club website: www.societyofca-
naryandfinchbreedersofmichigan.com

Show/Expo: show 10/20-21, Fair 5/19

Location:

Judge: Patrick Vance

MINNESOTA

Canary Club of Minnesota

Delegate: Jeanne Murphy, 651-459-
5787, pinataminiatures@yahoo.com

Club Email: none
 Club website: canaryclub.su.com
 Show/Expo: show Nov 4, 2007
 Location: River Heights Motel, 1020
 US Hwy 10, Prescott, WI 54021
 Judge: Martha Wigmore
 Information contact: Darlene Witt,
 Jeanne Murphy. 715-265-7008
 Other Divisions: Canaries

MISSOURI

Gateway Parrot Club

Delegate: Christine Kinkade
 Club Email: president@gatewayparrot-
 club.com
 Club website:
 www.gatewayparrotclub.org
 Show/Expo:
 Location:
 Judge:
 Information contact:

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

Delegate: Anthony Day
 Club Email: Dayforthebirds@aol.com
 Club website: gkcas.net
 Show/Expo: Annual All Bird Show
 Oct. 20, 2007
 Location: Coronation of Our Lady
 Church 13000 Bennington, Grandview,
 MO 64030
 Judge: Miki Spartzak
 Information contact: Anthony Day,
 dayforthebirds@aol.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society

Delegate: Ray Schwartz, 603-362-6106,
 email:Prismsdad@aol.com
 Club Email: member-
 support@BOAF.com
 Club website: www.boaf.com
 Show/Expo: Fall Show and Mart
 10/27/07

Location: Wayfarer Convention Center
 121 South River Rd Bedford, NH
 03110-6732
 Judge: Dr. Al Decoteau
 Information contact: Ray Schwartz,
 603-362-6106, Prismsdad@aol.com
 Other Divisions:
 Show/Expo: Winter Mart 3/4/07
 Location: Wayfarer Convention Center
 121 South River Rd Bedford, NH
 03110-6732
 Information contact: Wick Goss,
 603-463-3738
 Show/Expo: Spring Mart 5/20/07
 Location: Wayfarer Convention Center
 121 South River Rd Bedford, NH
 03110-6732
 Information contact: Wick Goss,
 603-463-3738

NEW YORK

Astoria Bird Club

Delegate: Dan Griffin
 Club Email: astoriabirdclub@opto
 nline.net
 Club website:
 Show/Expo: Show Nov. 3, 2007
 Location: St. Jude's School 9401
 Seaview Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Judge: Colorbred Lipochrome, Ms.
 Bonnie Cain/ Colorbred Melanin, Mrs.
 Generosa Lopez/ Glosters, Mr. &
 Mrs. Eli Cardona/ Yorkshires, Borders,
 Norwich & Any Old Variety, Mr.
 Winfield Checkley/ Foreign & Exotic
 Finches Mr. Manuel Popa
 Information contact: Dan Griffin, asto
 riabirdclub@optonline.net, 917-741-
 3124

Empire Finch & Canary Club

Delegate: John Lund, (516) 564-4692,
 email: IRMANPEREZ@aol.com
 Club Email:none
 Club website: none
 Show/Expo: Nov 10, 2007

Location: St. Marks Methodist Church,
200 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Center,
NY

Judge: TBA

Information contact: Gabe Dillon,
(516) 593-2841

Other Divisions: Colorbred, Type, and
Gloster Canaries

New York Finch & Type Canary Club

Delegate: Stan Kulak, 718-967-6899,
barstand@aaahawk.com

Club Email: barstand@aaahawk.com

Club Web Address: www.newyork-
finch.com

Show/Expo: 10/20/07

Location: TBA

Judge: TBA

Information: Stan Kulak Email: bar-
stand@aaahawk.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh-Durham Cage Bird Society

Delegate: April Blazich

Club Email: RDCBS.org

Club website: www.RDCBS.org

Show/Expo: show 5/26

Location: NC State Fairgrounds, Kerr-
Scott Building Gate 11, 1025 Blue
Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607

Judge: Cecil Gunby

Information contact: Jim Dvorak,
919-266-4935, dvoraknc@netzero.com

Other Divisions: NCS, ALBS, SPBE,
IPS

OREGON

Eastside Finch Connection

Delegate: KJ and Linda Brown, 503-
266-7606, JeepersPeepers55@aol.com

Club Email: none

Club website:

Show/Expo: Finch Show Nov 10-11
2007

Location: Gresham National Guard

Armory, 500 NE Division St, Gresham,
OR

Judge: Clarence Culwell

Information contact: Linda Brown,
503-266-7606,

JeepersPeepers55@aol.com

Other Divisions: Type and Colorbred
Canary

PENNSYLVANIA

Chester County Bird Club

Delegate: Doris Rickards

Club Email: Info@ccbirdclub.com

Club website:

http://www.ccbirdclub.com

Show/Expo date: November 10th,
2007 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Church Farm School, 1001
East Lincoln Highway, Exton, PA

Judge: Miki Spartzak

Information contact: Kristy Garcia
610-323-4632 or kristygarcia@com-
cast.net

TENNESSEE

Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club

Delegate: Ninez Giles, 615-297-2281,
nineze@juno.com

Club Email: lbryant@vci.net

Club website: www.middleten-
nesseecagebirdclub.com

Show/Expo: Club Fair, Show, and Sale
October 13, 2007

Location: Tennessee State Fairgrounds,
Annex Bldg, Nashville Tn,

Judge: Cecil Gunby

Information contact: Ed Phillips,
eddiestoo@yahoo.com, 615-848-2582

Other Divisions: NAPS, NCS, NCA

SE Tennessee Aviculture Society

Delegate: Susan Murphy

Club Email: suern0909@bellsouth.net

Club website: www.stasbirdclub.com

Show/Expo: show 9/22-23

Location: George R. Stuart School,

Keith St & 20th St NW, Cleveland, TN
37312

Judge: TBA

Information contact: Lisa Murphy,
423-263-0483, wlmurphy@usit.net

Other Divisions: NCS, NAPS

TEXAS

Canary and Finch Society

Delegate: Helen Jones

Club Email:

Club website:

Show/Expo:

Location:

Judge:

Information contact:

Fort Worth Bird Club

Delegate: Clarence Culwell, email:
coculwell@myfam.com

Club Email: same as above

Club website: www.fwbc.org

Show/Expo: Show September 29, 2007

Location: Grapevine Convention
Center 1202 South Main, Grapevine
TX

Judge: Clarence Culwell

Information contact: Jerry Cason, jer-
rycason@mindspring.com, 817-237-
5867

Texas Bird Breeders

Delegate: Clarence Culwell, email:

COculwell@myfam.com

Club Email:

Club website:

www.texasbirdbreeders.org

Show/Expo: Show November 3, 2007

Location: Mayborn Convention Center,
Temple TX

Judge: Cecil Gunby

Information contact: Clarence Culwell,
COculwell@myfam.com

Other Divisions: Budgies, Cockatiels,
Canaries, Parrots, Lovebirds

WASHINGTON

Cascade Canary Breeders Association

Delegate: Janel Johnson

Club Email: Katbird57@aol.com

Club website:

Show/Expo: show 11/24-25

Location: Evergreen State Fairgrounds,
Monroe, WA

Judge: TBA

Information contact: Janel Johnson,
Katbird57@aol.com

Other Divisions: Type and Colorbred
Canary

WISCONSIN

Central Wisconsin Cage and Wild Bird Connection

Delegate: Marlene Minor

Club Email:

Club website: www.cwwcbc.us/bc

Show/Expo: Bird and Garden Fair
May 19, 2007

Location: Marshfield Fairgrounds

Information contact: Marlene Minor
bookbug48@yahoo.com

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Name: _____

Dual Membership 2nd Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

	Single	Dual or Foreign	Junior	
1 Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership
3 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$99		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal - NFSS# _____
5 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165		
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Lisa Murphy
 918 Georgia Ave.
 Etowah, Tennessee 37331
 wlmurphy@us.it.net

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 Cut off dates: January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15, September 15, November 15.

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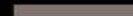
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PRO - Amendment Argument

Personally, I cannot see why not anyone would want to support this amendment. The voting results are already shown in the minutes. This amendment only requires the showing of how each officer voted on each motion (for, against or abstain). The position of some Board members who fail to support this amendment, runs counter to their role as members of a representative body which is supposedly accountable to its membership.

99% of all of the Board's activities involve the normal business of running the NFSS. The other 1%, which might involve a specific member or officer, can be handled in an "Executive session," which would allow a "confidential" vote that would not be required to be reported in the minutes.

With our membership scattered worldwide, very few members ever get to meet their officers personally. This amendment will provide our membership with more information on officers who were previously just a "name" to them, and allow them to make better decision at election time. In addition, it will allow our membership to be aware of their board members voting records, ask them questions (difficult to do when you do not know how they voted), and will promote accountability.

Some of our members have complained in the past about the "secretive" manner in which the NFSS has operated lately. As a current officer, I do not believe this was the "intent" of the NFSS, and was mainly due to mainly due to "poor communication" with our membership. This proposed amendment to the bylaws would certainly help to increase the appearance of "openness" and an increased communication that has been sorely lacking in the past.

Harry Bryant
NFSS 2nd VP

CON - Amendment Argument

The proposed amendment has been presented by its sponsors as promoting an accountability they claim is lacking on the board. I believe the reality is that it will promote divisions on the board while contributing little to the members understanding of the boards deliberations and the reasons for their decisions. Deliberations and votes of the board, (outside of executive session) are not secret. Any member with questions about an item in the minutes or any other NFSS business is free to inquire of any board member, their views on the topics, the vote tally and break down including individual votes on any motions.

Robert's Rules of Order under which the board meetings are held, specifies reporting individual votes in the minutes only when a roll call vote is taken, (section 48 pg's. 451-452). The minutes are intended to convey to the membership what the Board of Directors has done, not what was said, (paragraph 25 pg.451).

Publication of the individual votes may result in some board members abstaining or voting with a majority rather than voting their conscience on contested topics. It will advertise the divisions at the expense of clearly stating the majority's decision.

The fact that this amendment is opposed by a majority of the Board is in my view not an attempt to avoid accountability but expresses a reasoned conclusion that when the deliberations are over and the votes counted the board should stand united in support of its decisions.

I urge you to vote no, not because I have something to hide but because I believe as Robert's rules suggest that the minutes should reflect our decisions not our divisions and that a no vote is in the best interest of the NFSS.

John Wilson

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO NFSS BYLAWS

The following proposal was made on January 22, 2007 under the provisions of Article 10 of the NFSS Bylaws, by 2nd Vice-President, Harry Bryant, and Region 6 Vice-President, Raspberry. As required by Article 10 of the NFSS Bylaws, this proposal is now being presented to the membership for a vote.

Shall the NFSS revise Article 6 (Board of Directors) by adding a new paragraph (Paragraph 6) reading:

Paragraph 6 (new)

“Minutes of the quarterly board meetings will be kept by the Executive Secretary, who will submit a summary of said minutes to the Board for approval. Upon approval, that summary will be published in the NFSS Journal and on the NFSS website. Such summary will include the voting results for each item voted on, and will list each officer’s name and how they voted on each motion”.

Please Vote only once on this measure.

THE NATIONAL FINCH AND SOFTBILL SOCIETY
Bylaw Amendment Proposal Ballot

Check One Option

- I am an NFSS Member
- I am part of an NFSS Dual Membership
- I am an NFSS Affiliate

_____NFSS Membership Number or Club Name

This must be completed or the ballot will not be counted

Dual members will each have one (1) vote and may photocopy this form in order to provide their ballot

-
- I am in favor of the proposed Amendment Changes
 - I am not in favor of the proposed Amendment Changes
-

Ballots must be postmarked by November 1, 2007

**MAIL BALLOTS TO: Attention: NFSS Bylaw Amendment
Advantage Booking and Professional Services, Inc.
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Size G (3.20mm): Magpie Mannikin, Siberian Goldfinch, small tanagers.

Size J (3.4mm): Pekin Robin, Silver-eared Mesias, small softbills.

Size K (3.50mm): Java Rice Birds, Red-crested Cardinal, Saffron Finch, Shama Thrush

Size L (4.30mm): Diamond Dove, Mousebirds, small doves, quail.

Size M (4.40mm): Leaf Birds, Pagoda Mynah, Superb Starlings.

Size R (7.10mm): Green and Purple Starlings.

Size S (7.60mm): Indian Hill Mynah, Java Mynah, Ring-necked Dove, Toucanettes, White-tailed Jay.

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