



Journal of the

National Finch and Softbill Society

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PHOTO BY SCOTT GOLDEN

PEALES PARROT FINCH (*ERYTHRURA PEALLI*)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



NOVEMBER 15 TO 17 IS THE NATIONAL Cage Bird Show in St. Louis, Missouri and the site of the NFSS fourth quarter Board of Directors meeting. With Gerta Noble's (NFSS Journal Editor) heroic efforts to return to an on-time publication, most of you will be reading this shortly before the show.

If you've already made plans to attend I look forward to seeing you and encourage you to put both the NFSS Afternoon of Aviculture, Thursday 12N - 5PM (Chouteau Room) and our NFSS fourth quarter General Meeting Friday 12:00 (Souland Room) on your events list. The National is the occasion where the "National" in National Finch and Softbill Society is most descriptive of the participating members and certainly the best opportunity to make and renew acquaintances with NFSS members from around the country. The Afternoon of Aviculture conceived by and managed by Sally Huntington has a well-deserved reputation for providing informative and interesting short programs directed at the small bird breeder. The fourth quarter open meeting of the NFSS Board of Directors is the best time to address your interests, concerns in person to members of the BOD. If you can attend we look forward to seeing you. If you can't meet with us in St. Louis start working toward joining us next year at the NCBS in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

One of my goals in this space is to encourage our members to view the Journal as a place to not only read about finches and softbills, but also as a place where they can personally promote the hobby and share their own experiences by contributing an article.

One of my goals in this space is to encourage our members to view the Journal as a place to not only read about finches and softbills, but also as a place where they can personally promote the hobby and share their own experiences by contributing an article. Four members have articles in this Journal: Tiffany Park on The Wild-type Gouldian Finch, Scott Golden on Painted Firetail Finch and Birds of a Feather Flocking Together (Parrot Finches), Garrie Landry on The Phaeo Zebra Finch, and Cheryl Burns on The Emperor's Birds (Society Finches). It's a larger-than-normal Journal with a color interior. Our plans are to publish three of the six Journal issues in color and Gerta is making plans to get the most out of the color issues. I hope you like the results.

John Wilson
President NFSS

JUST FINCHES and Softbills Magazine



While focusing primarily on Australasia, this magazine incorporates what's happening with finches & softbills from many overseas locations as well, including, South Africa, America, Europe and the U.K.

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A Message from the Editor



EUROPEAN ROBIN



INDIAN RINGNECK PARAKEET

Remember Your Outdoor Birds

As I sit at my computer writing this I am watching a pair of beautiful Goldfinches on my neighbor's feeder, which, by the way, hangs about eight feet outside my computer room window. I never realized the difference there was in these little guys until I started watching them up close. There is at least three pair coming to the feeder, possibly more. I know this because of their coloring: no two are alike. They have a very soft song, pleasant to listen to.

With the year winding down, winter arriving in many parts of the country, and the holidays just around the corner I want to encourage everyone to remember their outdoor birds. They, too, need your help. My friend in England has many feeders in her backyard, including the two shown above, along with water for drinking and bathing. These pictures were taken the winter of 2010 when England received one of the hardest winters they ever had, receiving more snow than they knew what to do with. I'm sure the birds appreciated all her goodies.

AT THIS TIME I WANT TO THANK everyone for the help given to me since I took over as editor. I wondered if I knew what I was doing when I first started but the help I received was unbelievable. I couldn't have done it without all of you. I was amazed at the instant submission of articles, photos, and anything I asked for. It was something I am not accustomed to! The NFSS is a great society.

I especially want to thank John for always being there when I needed him and for allowing me to do my own thing. It's easy to see why the NFSS members elected him as president. As for the others, if I were to mention all their names it would take the rest of this page and I know I would forget someone. Rather than do that, I want to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** to all who were there and helped when I needed them.

Two very important NFSS programs are the **SAVE THE GOULDIAN FUND** (see page 24) and **NFSS FINCH SAVE** program. **NFSS FINCH SAVE** has eight species represented but at this time two captains are needed: one to head up the European Softbills and one to head up the Serinus groups. If you are interested in either participating, chairing or co-chairing one of these groups, please contact Vonda Zwick at 3rdvp@nfss.org.

The NFSS Finch Save program (FSS) was initiated to establish a group of finch and softbill breeders dedicated to producing and maintaining a viable captive-bred population of finches and softbills. Information can be found on pages 25-35 in the Jul/Aug 2012 journal issue. If you do not have that issue and would like a copy of this information, send an e-mail to gertanoble@aol.com and I'll send a copy to you.

If anyone has something to submit, whether it is an article, ad, picture, or whatever, please do. Guidelines for submission can be found at the bottom of page 2.

*Wishing Everybody
Happy Holidays*

Gerta



PAINTED FIRETAIL FINCH

Emblema pictum

by Scott Golden



PHOTO BY SCOTT GOLDEN

PAIR OF PAINTED FIRETAIL FINCHES

WHILE THE PAINTED FIRETAIL (*Emblema pictum*) is a common species of the Estrildid Finch in Australia, it is the only species in the genus *Emblema*.

Sometimes called the Painted Finch, their beauty is shown in the above photo. Both males and females of the species exhibit distinctive white spots on a black background. Males tend to have more red on the face and chest. However, some females may show quite a lot of red markings, making sexing of these birds a bit of a challenge for the uninitiated. Hens always have a black chin, regardless of the degree of red elsewhere.

In Australian aviculture, the Painted is considered to be a beginner's bird. That is very much not the case in the rest of the world, where they can be quite a challenge!



In Australia, the Painted Finch is found in dry areas of grassland, close to a water source. They build their untidy nesting platforms on top of spinifex grass clumps and line the bottoms of their nests with small pebbles. This prevents the still-growing spinifex grass from skewering the developing chicks.

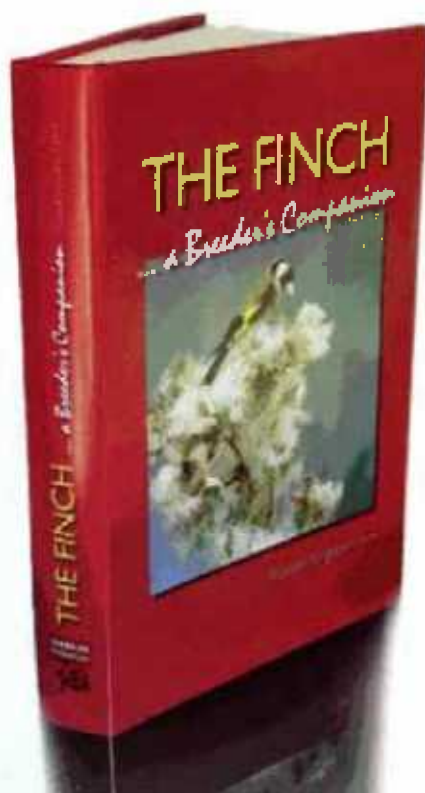
Painted Finches are ground-dwelling finches. In fact, their foot structure is so well adapted to life on the ground that they are virtually unable to grasp the side of a wire cage in captivity. For those lucky enough to raise Painteds in the United States, it is important to keep them away from cold and wet, as their vitality quickly diminishes under such conditions.

They are peaceful birds, showing no aggression towards other finches. Unfortunately, their numbers remain small in the United States. For those of you looking for a challenge and who have the desire to help establish a truly beautiful finch, consider the Painted Finch!



PHOTO BY SCOTT GOLDEN

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BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCKING TOGETHER



PHOTO BY MARK KING

GROUP OF PINTAIL NONPAREIL PARROT FINCHES

CHECK OUT THE FINCH AND SOFTBILL SAVE PARROT FINCH GROUP!
by Scott Golden

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP ESTABLISH one of the most beautiful groups of finches? Check out the Society's NFSS FSS ERYTHRURA PARROT FINCHES group! We are a dedicated group of aviculturalists eager to share our excitement and experience in breeding Parrot Finches. Topics on the Yahoo! discussion group include breeding methodology, diet, genetics and much more. Additionally, the forum allows members who are looking for a hard-to-find species or new bloodlines to locate birds from serious breeders.

What Is a Parrot Finch?

Parrot Finches are a group of Estrildid finches belonging to the genus *Erythrura*. They are found in Southeast Asia, New Guinea, Northern Australia and many islands scattered throughout the South Pacific.

There are 12 species of Parrot Finches:

- **Tawny-breasted Parrot Finch** or Green-tailed Parrot Finch, *Erythrura hyperythra*
- **Pin-tailed Parrot Finch**, *Erythrura prasina*
- **Green-faced Parrot Finch**, *Erythrura viridifacies*
- **Tricolored Parrot Finch** or Three-coloured Parrot Finch, *Erythrura tricolor*
- **Blue-faced Parrot Finch**, *Erythrura trichroa*
- **Red-eared Parrot Finch** or Mount Katanglad Parrot Finch, *Erythrura coloria*
- **Papuan Parrot Finch**, *Erythrura papuana*
- **Red-throated Parrot Finch**, *Erythrura psittacea*
- **Red-headed Parrot Finch**, *Erythrura cyaneovirens*
- **Fiji Parrot Finch**, *Erythrura (cyaneovirens) pealii*
- **Royal Parrot Finch**, *Erythrura (cyaneovirens) regia*
- **Pink-billed Parrot Finch**, *Erythrura kleinschmidti*

Of these species, only a few are secure in their status in the wild. These include the Red-throated Parrot Finch, which is protected on its native island of New Caledonia and the Blue-faced Parrot Finch, which has a very wide geographical distribution across much of Australasia.

THREATS TO PARROT FINCHES IN THE WORLD

Many species and subspecies are isolated to only one island. The Pink-billed Parrot Finch is found along only a few heavily forested rivers in Fiji. Numerous expeditions were sent to locate the birds over the last several decades, with no success. It was feared they may already be extinct. However, recent sightings of this species attest to the bird's continued, yet tenuous existence.

Many face threats, such as environmental destruction or competition from introduced species or rodents. The isolated island populations of many species make them particularly prone to extinction.

Parrot Finches are some of the most brightly colored of all Estrildid finches (see next page). Most species have a base color of green, with blue or red facial markings. They mostly inhabit areas along forest edges, where they feed upon seeding grasses or bamboo.



PHOTO BY SCOTT GOLDEN

GROUP OF ESTRILDID FINCHES

For one species, the Pin-tailed Parrot Finch, its acquired diet of rice has made it a target for destruction in much of its range in Southeast Asia. It once was found widely and in great numbers. However, campaigns to poison these birds or to destroy nesting sites have led to a very marked decrease in this specie's range and numbers over the years. Clearly, with the multiple threats facing this genus of finches, efforts should be made to further their existence in captivity

PARROT FINCHES IN U.S. AVICULTURE

Of the 12 species of Parrot Finches in the world, only one species, the Red-throated (*Erythrura psittacea*) is approaching establishment in the United States. A second species, the Blue-faced, is present in significant numbers. However, if it were not for the regular importation of European-bred birds, even this species would be very difficult to find in the United States. There are a few dedicated hobbyists in our group who have committed themselves to raising the Peales or Fiji Parrot Finch as well as the Forbes or Tricolor Parrot Finch. Due to their efforts, the numbers of these birds has risen dramatically in the United States in recent years. Of the remaining species, very few, if any, birds exist in the United States.



PHOTO BY SCOTT GOLDEN

TWO-DAY OLD PEALES FINCHES

Despite their extreme beauty and relative ease in propagation, much work needs to be done if these beautiful finches are to be established in North America. As part of the effort to establish many species, NFSS began the Finch and Softbill Save (FSS) program a number of years ago.

In the spring of 2010, a number of species-specific groups were established to further the exchange of information between enthusiasts who shared an interest in common species. As moderator of the NFSS FSS Parrot Finch group (*Erythrura*), I invite you to join us! You can either send me an e-mail at

scottgoldensd@hotmail.com

or go to ***<http://groups.yahoo.com/>*** and search *NFSS-FSS-Erythrura-Parrot-Finches*. Send me a request you would like to join our friendly group. Once I have verified your NFSS membership, you are on your way to exchanging ideas and birds with fellow Parrot Finch fanciers.

In addition to the Parrot Finch group, a number of other species-specific groups were established to link together breeders of the same species. Again, go to the above NFSS website and search for the groups listed on the following page.

OTHER FSS SPECIES-SPECIFIC GROUPS

- NFSS-FSS Serinus—Group
- NFSS-FSS European—Softbills
- NFSS-FSS Uraeginthus—Blue and Purple Waxbills
- NFSS-FSS pynonotus—Bulbuls
- NFSS-FSS Colidae—Mousebirds
- NFSS-FSS Carduelis cucullat—Red Siskins
- NFSS-FSS Amandava—Strawberrires/Goldbreasts



PHOTO BY SCOTT GOLDEN

GROUP OF HEAVILY PIED SEAGREEN FINCHES

Flock together with like-minded individuals and make a difference in establishing many species of finch and softbills.



About the author . . .

Scott Golden has been raising birds for almost 40 years. His passion for finches and Parrot Finches, in particular, has spanned two decades. Scott moved to Oregon two years ago, after 20 years in Southern California. In the time since his arrival in the Pacific Northwest, he has completed an indoor bird room and 17 outdoor flights. When not taking care of his flock, he keeps himself busy hugging trees!



The Wild-type Gouldian Finch

Nature's Natural Jewels

by Tiffany Park

THE GOULDIAN FINCH HAS BEEN captivating the attention of aviculturists since first discovered by John Gould in Australia in 1844 (Wikipedia). There is no denying the exquisite contrast between the remarkable colors these birds possess in their natural form. A brilliant green back and wings, coupled with a striking turquoise rump and bright buttercup-yellow belly with a purple breast befitting of royalty. If that wasn't enough, they naturally exist in the wild in three head color variations: red, black, and yellow (often called "orange" due to the fact it generally appears Orange in color), the head color of the males again being outlined by a brilliantly contrasting turquoise band.

Of course, there is much truth to the subtle beauty of so-called "plain" colored finches such as Chocolate Self Societies and Grey Singers, but it can be difficult to overlook a bird so vibrantly colored. Often times the lines between the colors being so crisp to where it looks as if the bird has literally had these colors painted onto it by hand!

In captivity, typically speaking there is no concern over a shortage or rarity among the head color variations available. Though, speaking from experience, sometimes it can be difficult to come across certain variations depending on the region in which you're located! Being in the Northeast, I can say it has always been challenging to find quality Yellow-headed Gouldians, but it could be the opposite where you live!

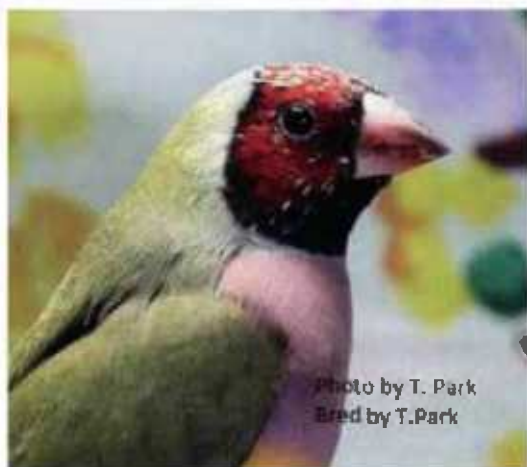
I have attempted to recognize breeders and owners. If I do not recall or know the name, it has been left out, and for that, I apologize to the breeder for being unable to give credit where credit is due.

Red-headed Gouldians

I feel the most popular head color in aviculture is the red-headed (RH) variety. Red is "dominant" to the other two head colors, meaning that if it is present, it is visually expressed. The males have a bright red mask that ranges in color from crimson to crisp candy apple red. The chin and underlining cheek areas in males are jet black, which thins as it arches up around the mask into an almost invisible pinstripe outline framed by that turquoise band discussed earlier.



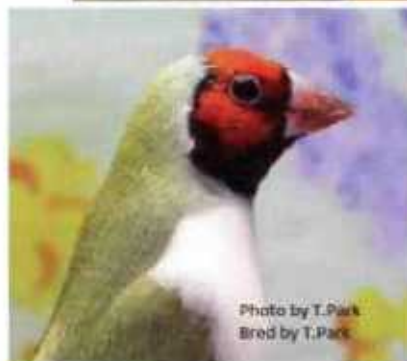
RH females vary between having a similarly bright mask or a so-called "dirty" mask which is blotchy in color. I have absolutely no idea what causes some hens to be brightly colored while others maintain a blotched colored head. Some theories have to do with mis-matched head color breeding. Others suggest mixing the head colors *improves* the color of the mask. So, six of one, half-dozen of another it seems. In addition to a slight difference or vibrancy in the color of the mask, the hens will also have tell-tale indicators around their mask indicating their sex. The pinstripe black around the mask is thicker, outlining the mask almost entirely, and the black outline extends above the chin into the lores (the area around the mandibles) and above the nares (nostrils). For example, see the following photo (excuse the pin feathers).



In terms of the breeding mis-matched head colors or whatever else could impact the degree of color displayed in a hen's mask (this goes for both RH and YH hens). For example, take the three sister hens shown here and on the following page are clutch mates from the same parents: a RH/OH Purple/White Blue male bred by Winnie McAlpin, and a RH Lilac/White Normal hen bred by myself. Two show nearly perfect masks, one shows a blotched mask, but all display acceptable conformation and disposition despite the seemingly "flawed" mask of one hen.



Hen #1



Hen #2



Hen #3

Black-headed Gouldians

The BH Gouldians are the next most popular. Black is pure recessive to red, but like red, it is located on the sex chromosome. Females only need to carry one copy to visually express it, males must carry two copies in order to be visually black-headed.

The only way to produce a BH male is if both parents carry the black-head allele. BH hens always inherit the black head from their father, but BH males must inherit it from both their mother *and* father. BH males will produce 100% visual BH hens as it is the only color daughters can inherit. The head color of both sexes is void of any color except the black. New breeders often find it difficult to sex these birds due to similarity in masks but the tell-tale sign is still the turquoise band surrounding the mask which generally sticks out on a male and is more subdued on a hen. Males also have a much brighter belly and brighter chest color than the hens.



BH PB normal male

BH PB normal hen, end of 1st adult molt

Yellow-headed Gouldians

I find YH Gouldians (normal with purple breast) the most difficult to come by where I live in Maryland. My best guess is most people are more attracted to red and black head colors, but perhaps it is because there are too few breeders in the area to have high numbers available. Regardless, I think they deserve the same attention as RH and BH colors.

YH is recessive to both red and black. It is an "autosomal" recessive head color which means both sexes can carry it and be "split" and produce YH offspring without you knowing they were carrying the gene.

The head color of a YH male is the same as a red male except the color is changed from red to a color varying from pumpkin-orange to tangerine in some cases and to bright yellow-orange in others. I firmly believe the vibrancy of the orange is directly linked to breast color but we can discuss that in the mutations article coming out in the 2013 March/April issue, so stay tuned! 😊



YH PB Normal Pair (hen on left)

On the following page you will see two examples of “bright” YH males, which is likely influenced by breast color: One is a Lilac breast, the other a White breast.



Photo by T.Park
Owned by Carol Page



Photo by T.Park
Bred by Kim Sasala

YH Lilac-breasted Male

YH White-breasted Male

Again, with the hens the coloration can fluctuate from a good full mask to a “dirty” mask and it’s a crap-shoot as to what causes this blotched color phenomenon. I have found the tricks for identifying a YH hen are the same as those used for RH hens; the darker lines surrounding the mask, extending around the lores and nares, etc. One significant thing I have noticed is the seeming difficulty in some when it comes to determining whether the hen is a RH or YH. A trick I’ve learned and followed over the years is this: a bird with a yellow beak is a YH. A bird with a red beak is a RH.



Photo by T. Park
Acquired by Jorge Valera



Photo by T. Park

A YH hen compared to a "dirty" YH hen

Genetic Yellow/Visually BH Gouldians

Due to its inheritance and complicated metabolic pathways which I won't get into now, genetically YH birds that do not have a "red" head allele will appear visually black-headed and display their "true colors" by the color displayed on the beak. These birds are termed Black-headed Yellow-tipped Beak (BH YTB). Genetically speaking, this means they are recessive for a yellow head but because the yellow head color requires the presence of at least one red head color allele they cannot express it.



Photo by T. Park
Bred by T. Park

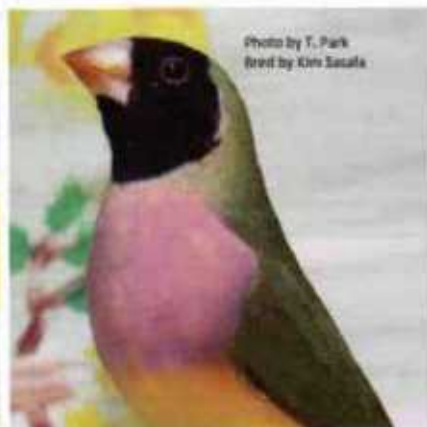


Photo by T. Park
Bred by Kim Sasaka

BH (YTB) Male (Lilac Breast)

BH (YTB) Hen

About the author . . .

Tiffany Park is a graduate of Florida State University with a degree in Biological Sciences. She is a breeder and exhibitor of Gouldian Finches, Owl Finches, Blue-faced Parrot Finches, and Self Society Finches. She has been breeding Gouldians for six years and exhibiting for four years. She currently lives in Bethesda, Md. For more information, you can visit her website at www.gouldiansgalore.com

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Size D (2.73mm): Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Gouldian Finch, Chestnut-breasted, most Mannikins, most Parrot Finches, Pintailed Nonpareil, most Twinspots, American Zebra Finch, Peales Parrot Finch
Size 2 (2.89mm): Black-crested Finch, Diamond Sparrow, European Greenfinch, Golden Song Sparrow, Nuns, Peter's Twinspot, Siskins, Spice Finch, European Goldfinch, European Zebra
Visit our site for availability of plastic colors and aluminum sizes at www.NFSS.org

Size G (3.20mm): Magpie Mannikins, 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, Mousebird, small Doves, Quail
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The Gouldian Fund was established in 2005 to promote awareness and to fund valuable research into the decline of the Lady Gouldian Finch. Now considered *endangered* in the wild, recent estimates suggest there are fewer than 2,500 Gouldians remaining. A precious life is waiting and we ask you to please make your donation to **SAVE THE GOULDIAN FUND**, a non-profit charity. Dollar-for-dollar, NFSS will match your donation—up to \$10; however, you can donate without limit. All donations are used for research and conservation management, thus helping the Fund continue its important conservation efforts. For additional information, please go to their website, www.savethegouldian.org.



The Emperor's Birds

By Cheryl Burns



© 2012 Cheryl Burns

AMERICAN SELF CHOCOLATE SOCIETY FINCH

THE SOCIETY FINCH IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR birds in aviculture. This little bird can be found in nearly every country in the world. It has names such as Society, Bengalese, or Japanese Mövchen. However, this common little bird has a not-so-common history.

The Society Finch is a domesticated form of the *lonchura striata* or White-rumped Munia. It is now called *lonchura striata domestica* or *lonchura domestica*. Over the years, many scholars have suggested that the Society Finch is the result of hybridization of the White-rumped Munia and the Indian Silverbill. More recent studies and tests have shown that the Society Finch is not a hybrid but a domesticated form of the *lonchura striata*.

HISTORY

Even though it is often referred to as Bengalese, the *lonchura striata domestica* is not found in Bengal. Historically the word Bengali was used to refer to small exotic finches and this could be the source of the name. The wild form of the bird is found primarily in Southeast Asia and Southern China. Most accounts recognize that the Chinese were the first to keep these birds in captivity. Some historical information indicates that the Society Finch was kept 300 to 400 years ago by people in China and Southeast Asia regions. By all accounts, the Society Finch is undeniably one of the world's first captive birds.

The Japanese brought them back to their homeland from China in the early 1700s. Within about 50 years, the Society Finch was kept throughout Japan. The Japanese aviculturists are credited with the domestication of the Society Finch, the development of many color mutations and the eventual introduction to European aviculturists.

Why the Japanese would bring back a fairly common-looking brown bird on the long trip from China is unknown. Some historical accounts refer to the Society Finch as the Emperor's Birds because they were kept by the emperors in China. This would imply that there was something special about the birds and raises the question as to whether or not the Chinese had already developed the white birds and marked white (pied) colors. It would make sense that the Japanese would go to the trouble to transport something that was treasured by the Chinese Emperors; white birds were considered very special. This is only one of many unsolved questions concerning the history of the Society Finch.

No matter which color the first birds were, history shows that Japanese aviculturists fell in love with the society and selectively bred them to eventually develop the colors of fawn, chocolate and white, fawn and white, and the solid white bird. The Japanese admiration for the Society Finch is still strong today.

The first documented Society Finches in Europe were two white societies purchased by the Zoological Society in London in October 1860. Germany received the first Japanese birds in 1872. The Society Finch became quite popular and soon spread throughout Europe. It initially was recognized for its lovely color mutations and later as an excellent foster parent.

Danish aviculturists worked with the white and pied Societies to breed the single-colored Societies that resembled the wild form of the bird. After selectively breeding for the solid colors, the Danish then developed a dark brown and a reddish-brown color. The solid color or self birds soon became quite popular and remain so in modern aviculture although they can sometimes be difficult to find.

The self birds became extremely popular in the Netherlands. These breeders used the White-headed and Black-headed Nuns to develop the black-brown or Euro chocolate and the red-brown varieties. These birds have extremely dark color and defined chest markings. However, due to the hybridization, the production rate and fertility of these birds is lower. The work of these breeders strongly influences many of the Society Finches we keep today.

Breeders around the world continue to breed for new colors and varieties of Societies. In addition to a large variety of colors, the birds are now available in crested and frilled varieties. Recently a photo of a solid-black Society was posted on a Facebook Society Finch page.

This solid-black Society was supposedly bred in Japan by hybridizing with a Black-headed Nun. Time will tell if the color can be reproduced and if it can produce offspring. Unfortunately, many breeders are not bothered by hybridizing the Society and sometimes odd birds will pop up in a clutch of chicks.



TRUE LOVE IS HOLDING FEET

AMERICAN SELF CHOCOLATE MALE AND CREAMINO HEN

HUSBANDRY AND BREEDING

While the history of the Society Finch may be complex, it is an excellent aviary bird with few special needs. Many people get involved in aviculture through Society Finches because they are affordable and easy to keep. Society Finches are quite happy in most situations.

- They can be kept in smaller cages than many types of finches and do not require any special diet. They normally breed easily and are good parents. A good set-up for one pair of Society Finches is a 24"x 16"x16" cage. Larger cages are better if space is available. Select wide cage styles rather than tall to allow birds to fly across the cage for exercise. Perches can be made of dowel rods or branches. Some silk plant greenery usually is appreciated. Swings and small toys are greatly loved.

Breeding pairs do best if kept in separate cages. However, in some instances you can allow a pair of Societies to breed in a mixed-species cage. In this situation be sure there are sufficient nest boxes available to all pairs and the other species are not closely related in order to avoid hybrids. Societies are naturally very nosy and can disturb their neighbors. I have successfully allowed two pairs of societies to breed in a shared cage, but both pairs had raised several clutches of chicks together and were very bonded. The chicks in this situation will sometimes switch nest boxes when they are fledging but the second pair of Societies seemed to accept the intruders without any hostility.

A common finch nest box works well for Societies and will be adopted usually the first day it is provided. Societies are not particular about their nest boxes and can adopt a variety of things as nests if they are determined to breed. They will make a nest out of natural materials if provided but it may be rather flimsy.



CREAMINO SOCIETY



AMERICAN SELF CHOCOLATE



Always provide Society Finches with plenty of water as they love to bathe. A good setup is to provide a waterer and a small flat bowl of water for baths. This bowl will need to be changed each day. Societies who have access to bath water will use it several times a day, even into the early evening. The birds get so enthusiastic they will splash water all over everything and anything within a couple of feet of the cage.

Their diet should be a constant supply of a quality finch seed mix supplemented with additional daily foods. Many finch breeders provide fresh foods daily such as bird bread, veggies, fruit, egg, and greens. My finch diet is similar to my parrot diet. The birds get a daily rotation of soaked seed, fruits and veggies, bird bread, millet, mixed vegetables, and pasta (frozen style), as well as scrambled eggs for pairs with chicks. Our birds also have bowls of dried egg food and calcium supplement. Chickweed, dandelion and grasses also are good for their diet as long as they have not been treated with any chemicals. Some societies enjoy mealworms but most societies are not interested in live food.

Society Finches are normally quite healthy if given a good diet and don't require many medications. I keep styptic powder, an antibiotic, and a homeopathic treatment for ill birds on hand.

Sometimes Society Finches are blamed for carrying diseases. I think this is misplaced blame and is more the fault of breeders not buying quality birds, not following proper quarantine procedures, and/or poor husbandry practices. These three factors are critical to good success in keeping birds.

PERSONALITY

The Society Finch is very social and friendly. As the birds learn a daily routine, they will greet their caretakers at the food bowl each day. If the food is delayed, a strong look and flicking of the tail will shout out as a reminder that something is not as it should be. Societies are fairly calm and don't usually mind busy-bodies checking their nests or babies.

Societies are quite happy in groups and will all line up on perches together or stack up inside a nest box. They can be seen sitting close to each other grooming and preening. Sometimes they simply sit close to each other and cuddle. I have even noticed them holding feet. (See picture on page 27.) As long as the cage isn't over-crowded, Societies usually won't pick on each other or even other species. Occasionally the dark-colored birds may pick on the light-colored birds. This usually is in young birds and can be remedied by housing like colors together.

Society Finches are greatly valued for their ability to foster and feed the babies of other finch species. Setting up a foster pair initially can be a bit of a challenge, but once a pair or trio of Societies has successfully fostered chicks, they normally continue to do so. Many Society fosters are not pairs but two or three males which prevents having Society offspring interfering with the foster chicks. Many ideas for fostering are available from breeders as well as articles on the Internet.

A hand-fed Society Finch is extremely charming. I have found the chicks can be left with the parents until they are nearly feathered out before taking them from the parents to hand-feed. They easily adapt to hand-feeding formula and adopt humans as one of their flock. It will not be easy to find a hand-fed Society because the time investment is not worth the price the market will bear for a hand-fed bird. Most hand-fed Societies are the result of a favor from the breeder to a friend.

A couple of hand-fed Societies can be kept together in a cage and will remain tame. They love to spend time with their people much like a pet parrot but they don't tend to be as loud or destroy as much furniture as the larger birds. I am certain they are smart enough to be trained. They also can learn to mimic to some degree. One hand-fed Society learned to mimic the natural call of my Half-moon Conures and another perfectly mimics a little whistle sound we do make for the birds.

VARIETIES AND SHOWING

The variety of colors in the Society Finch tends to be one of the biggest attractions for keeping this species. In their early captivity, most birds were brown, fawn, chocolate and white, fawn and white, or white. Over the years skilled aviculturists developed new colors and varieties.

Today, the Society can be found in the following colors and varieties:

- Chocolate, Chestnut, and Fawn
- Dilutes or pastels of Chocolate, Chestnut, and Fawn
- Black, Chestnut, and Fawn Grey
- Dilutes of the Black, Chestnut, and Fawn Grey
- Clear Wings in all colors
- Cream Ino, Grey Ino, and Albino
- White
- Marked White (pied) in all colors
- Crested in all colors and marked white
- Several types of frills in all colors

The Society Finch section is one of the largest at competition bird shows. Show clubs all over the world establish the standards for conformation and color for the Society Finch. Anyone wanting to show Society Finches should contact the show club in their area of the world to learn about the standards used. In the United States, the National Finch and Softbill Society keeps the standards for showing. The NFSS recognizes most of the colors mentioned in this paper in their shows.

CONCLUSION

In an article clipping with no date or publication noted, circa the 1990s, Simon Spavin notes that Society Finches are often only valued for their foster parent abilities and were sometimes considered a “joke” bird. Mr. Spavin continues to comment on the difficulty of breeding show-quality societies and that the species deserves much more respect due to all of its positive qualities.

I have to agree that the Society Finch is an overlooked treasure in aviculture. Those who have come to love the Society will agree that it is truly a crown jewel and the ancient title of **EMPEROR’S BIRD** is quite appropriate to describe its rightful status.

REFERENCES

This paper was derived from the following references:

The Bengalese Finch, published by the National Bengalese Fanciers Association in 2002 from the original Dutch version

National Bengalese Fanciers Association website, U.K., Webmaster Jim Warburton Sr. <http://www.nbfa.co.uk>

Society Finches by Mervin F. Roberts

The Bengalese Finch by James Buchan

Towards a Cultural History of the Bengalese Finch, a paper written by Ingvar Svanberg, Department of Eurasian Studies, Uppsala University, Box 514, SE-751 20, Uppsala Sweden, March 2008

About the author . . .

Cheryl Burns lives in Keller, Texas. She earned her B.A. from Abilene Christian University. She has been a pet bird owner and hobby breeder for over 20 years and has served as a board member or other officer in numerous avicultural organizations. She has had articles published in many publications, including Bird Talk and Watchbird. She shows in parrot and finch divisions, placing best in division on top bench and best in show in parrots and finches several times. Cheryl earned the NFSS Champion Exhibitor Award in 2009 and 2010, and currently serves as NFSS Region 4 Vice President. She keeps Conures, Pionus, Caiques, show-quality Society Finches, Cuban Melodious Finches, Honey Creepers, and Saffron Finches.

WHITE-CRESTED SOCIETY FINCH

Below and on the following page are two pictures of White-crested Society Finches. These birds are owned by Yukiko Sugawara of Japan who was happy to share them with us.

Photos following the White-crested Society photos are owned by Paul Kearval of Sydney, Australia.

NFSS thanks Yukiko and Paul for sharing these photos of their birds.

A TRIO OF WHITE-CRESTED SOCIETY FINCHES



PHOTO BY YUKIKO SUGAWARA OF JAPAN



WHITE-CRESTED SOCIETY FINCH

PHOTO BY YUKIKO SUGAWARA OF JAPAN



DILUTE CHOCOLATE

PHOTO BY PAUL KEARVAL—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



GINGER SELF COCK

PHOTO BY PAUL KEARVAL—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

GINGER IS KNOWN AS FAWN IN THE UNITED STATES



PIED

PHOTO BY PAUL KEARVAL—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



SILVER

PHOTO BY PAUL KEARVAL—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



RED BROWN CHESTNUT

PHOTO BY PAUL KEARVAL—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



DILUTE GINGER

PHOTO BY PAUL KEARVAL—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

GINGER IS KNOWN AS FAWN IN THE UNITED STATES



GINGER SELF COCK

PHOTO BY PAUL KEARVAL—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

- ✓ Open Mouth Breathing
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- ✓ Clicking
- ✓ Sneezing
- ✓ Coughing
- ✓ Nasal Discharge
- ✓ Tail-bobbing
- ✓ Excessive Beak Wiping



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THE PHAEO ZEBRA FINCH

BY GARRIE LANDRY

As I thought about writing this article on the Phaeo Zebra finch, I realized it would be unfair to the reader if I did not discuss in detail the history behind this often sought-after variety of Zebra, and tell the entire story as I know it. Furthermore, since the Phaeo Zebra is a combination of two mutations, any thorough writing would have to include information about the two varieties used to produce a Phaeo. To exclude that information would simply not provide an accurate picture of this unique combination.



It is my understanding that the name "Phaeo" is short for the pigment pheomelanin. It was believed the combination of Isabel and Black-breasted (BB) would show the most pheomelanin with the absence of eumelanin in the Zebra. This was not the case as the discovery of the Orange-breasted (OB) mutation allowed for even more orange color to be expressed in the birds (personal communication with Roy Beckham).

The first mention of the Phaeo Zebra in the United States appears in the October/November 1978 issue of *The Watchbird* magazine. While I no longer have that issue for reference, I can still visualize the image used in the article and recall some of the details about this exciting "new" Zebra Finch.

I do remember that part of the excitement about the Phaeo Zebra Finch was that it was envisioned before it was ever produced. In other words, breeders in Europe working with the Black-breasted Zebra and European Isabel Zebra predicted what the combination of these two mutations would look like before it was produced. Sometimes these predictions come true and sometimes they do not. Other predictions about Zebra Finch combos have been made but never realized. Fortunately the Phaeo Zebra was not one of those, for it came true.

First, let us take a look at the Black-breasted Zebra, which appears to have originated in Germany in the mid-1960s. For no apparent reason, its spread outside Europe was slow. It did not reach England until 1975, and it was not until 1982 that it reached the United States when I imported the very first ones from Germany.



Black-breasted Zebra males differ from the normal wild type in several ways. The orange cheek patches are considerably larger. A good specimen will have cheek patches that extend to the back of the head and above the eyes. The flanking is quite variable, but distinct from that of wild types. Flank color and markings can vary from nearly white with very little chestnut red, to chestnut red with elongated white markings instead of the typical round dots. The desired flanking of a Black-breasted should consist of chestnut-red feathers with elongated white markings. The tear drop mark is absent; instead, there is a prominent black mark along the beak. A Black-breasted male's throat area from below the beak to the breast bar is often heavily streaked with white. Well-marked Black-breasted males should have an exceptionally large, thickened black breast bar.

Often, however, the breast bar may have large white spotting, and occasionally more white than black, resembling the breast of another Australian finch, the *Pictorella*. Male Black-breasted Zebras also have prominent red lacing in the secondary flight feathers. This red lacing can be found in other red mutations and even in normal wild-type Zebras, but it can be very pronounced in the Black-breasted, especially on the males with exceptionally large cheek patches. Another prominent feature of the Black-breasted is the complete lack of normal tail barring. The tail coverts of Black-breasted Zebras are buff-colored with no barring and sometimes with a prominent black feather shaft in both males and females.

The Black-breasted female is equally distinct. Such females lack the tear drop mark, and have cream to buff cheeks and throat. The upper and lower breast completely lacks any black. Often it is a uniform gray or buff. The lower abdomen, vent, and rump are rich creamy buff. The cheek and breast markings of some Black-breasted females, often dilute mutations, can be so light as to appear white; these birds could be mistaken by some for Penguin Zebras.

The Black-breasted mutation is recessive. However, birds which carry the gene for Black-breasted often show characteristics of the mutation which distinguishes them from normal birds. These features are sometimes easy to observe in heterozygous (split) birds. For example, split males may have cheek patches that extend slightly beyond that of a typical wild type. Also, the flanking may have oddly shaped dots. The tear drop mark on splits often is only partially visible. These "sub-normal" features can be found in varying degrees, some of them present, others absent, but there is one feature common to all splits, male and female. Splits for Black-breasted show abnormally barred tail coverts. In other words, the prominent white bars found on a typical zebra's tail are no longer separate but interconnected. These differences in tail coverts of splits are highly variable but the presence of even a single feather with abnormal barring is sufficient to indicate the bird is heterozygous for the Black-breasted gene. Pairing the two splits produces normal birds and Black-breasted, with an expected ratio of 3:1.

In breeding this mutation I have found that no two full-blooded Black-breasted Zebras are necessarily identical. Often there appears to be an inverse correlation between the size of the cheek patches and the size of the breast bar.

I have noticed that males which show large breast bars often have smaller cheek patches and those with large cheek patches show near-normal size breast bars. This presents a serious challenge for breeders to produce a bird with the best combination of all traits. The ideal Black-breasted with all of the distinctive markings in the proper proportion is not easy to achieve. Many young must be produced before the desired features all appear on one bird. Fortunately, they are prolific breeders. The Black-breasted is considered by many Zebra Finch breeders to be among the most attractive of all mutations. A good exhibition bird is truly spectacular and highly prized.

In the first paragraph on page 39 I mentioned that European breeders predicted the Phaeo Zebra as the result of crossing the Black-breasted X European Isabel. Here in the United States we know that the Florida Fancy Zebra is indeed a different form (allele) of the same mutation that is European Isabel. They are for all practical purposes identical in appearances but differ in their method of inheritance. Isabel is recessive whereas Florida Fancy is co-dominant. A Grey Isabel looks exactly like a single-factor Florida Fancy (often called Florida Silver) and a Fawn Isabel looks identical to a double-factor Florida Fancy.

Because of their striking similarity, this was also predicted before it was documented. I will use the Florida Fancy in my discussion about the Phaeo Zebra, even though the first Phaeos in Europe were made with Isabel while the first Phaeos in the United States were made with Florida Fancy. Both types of Phaeos are identical in appearance.

For a very long time the origin of the Florida Fancy Zebra was an enigma to most of the Zebra community. Its name suggests that it originated in the state of Florida. Oddly enough, there is good evidence to support that this mutation appeared in more than one location in the United States at approximately the same time in the early 1970s. It was not until after 1973 that I learned of Hazel Kipp of Tarpon Springs, Florida. She had a new variety of Zebra which she was marketing under the name of Florida Fancy. I corresponded with and spoke with Hazel on a couple occasions about the origin of her Florida Fancies. Unfortunately, Hazel did not have a grasp of genetics, for she assumed her birds were the result of crossing Chestnut-flanked White X White Zebras. The description of her birds matched what I had obtained from a breeder located near me in Louisiana.

I subsequently purchased birds from Hazel. They were identical to my birds in every aspect. I later learned that breeders in Texas had independently produced their own similar Zebras. It appears the origin of the Florida Fancy might not have been a single occurrence, but rather it happened more than once in several places within a short time span

These are truly pretty Zebras. The perfect Florida Fancy has a near-ivory white upper body (head, back, wings, etc.), a white breast with no hint of any markings, and rich buff underparts from the breast bar region down to the vent. Cheek patches and flanking in males are equally vivid in color as that of any normal Grey Zebra. This feature makes the Florida Fancy Zebra striking. Females have the same upper body plumage color less the orange male markings. The most notable feature of the Florida Fancy is that it completely lacks any black or grey pigment.

The first Florida Fancies observed were produced from a strain of very light Silver Zebras. The Florida Fancy is a co-dominant mutation. When crossing Florida Fancy with Grey or Fawn Zebra, 100% of the offspring will be various shades of Silver. These "Florida Silvers" carry one gene for Florida Fancy and another gene for either Grey or Fawn, and the Florida Fancy gene is expressed as a single gene (co-dominant) causing the birds to appear silver instead of the Florida Fancy white color. Initially these birds were called Silver Isabel. This is no longer considered correct since they are quite different from European Isabel. Furthermore, ONLY these Florida Silvers are capable of producing the light version Florida Fancy. Neither Greys nor Fawns obtained from a Florida Fancy cross are capable of producing the desirable light form of Florida Fancy.

Florida Fancy Zebras are not difficult to breed up in size. Their co-dominant inheritance helps considerably. After only a couple of crosses with large birds, Florida Fancies will emerge with better size. Perfection of this takes longer but initial size increase seems to be forthcoming rather quickly.

It is erroneous to assume Isabel/Florida Fancies have no breast bar. You cannot see the breast bar because there is no black pigment present, but nevertheless the bar is present. How do we know this? When Florida Fancies are crossed with Orange-breasted Zebras, the second generation offspring will produce a combination of the two mutations and those Florida Fancies will display a prominent orange breast bar.

The orange pigment in Florida Fancy is not suppressed, only the black (melanistic) pigments are. It is this feature that the Europeans realized would allow for some very interesting combinations of Isabel (Florida Fancy) with Orange-breasted, Black-breasted, and Black-faced. Even though Isabel/Florida Fancies cannot produce black pigment, they can adopt the pattern and position of these black pigmented areas from other mutations; when Isabel/Florida Fancy is combined with Orange-breasted, Black-breasted and/or Orange-faced these patterns manifest themselves in the form of orange pigment, thereby producing an array of incredibly beautiful Zebras which show extensive orange pigmentation in a near-white bird.

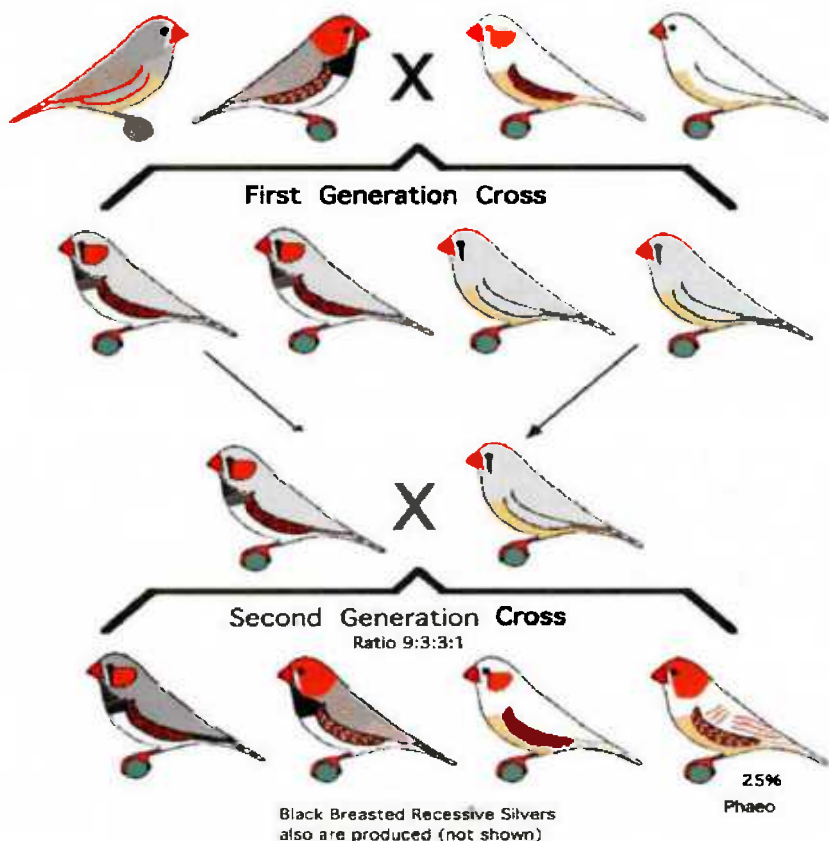
The Phaeo Zebra was the first of these realizations. Crossing the Black-breasted with the Florida Fancy produces Florida Silvers that carry the gene for Black-breasted and for Florida Fancy. Interbreeding these produces the Phaeo, a Florida Fancy-like bird that displays all of the desirable additional orange pigment of the Black-breasted, with none of the black pigment. The effect is a Florida Fancy male with considerably larger orange cheeks, prominent orange lacing on the secondary wing feathers and the flanking pattern of a Black-breasted. Some have described the Phaeo as a Florida Fancy on steroids. Essentially all of the desirable color features of the Florida Fancy are enhanced and exaggerated by the addition of the Black-breasted gene. Phaeo hens are distinguishable from Florida Fancy hens, only by the absence of tail barring on the tail coverts. Phaeo hens have rich buff tail coverts devoid of any barring. This can be a challenge for some to recognize but once you see a Phaeo hen, the difference becomes obvious.

Breeding a good Phaeo does present some serious challenges. Keep in mind that a Phaeo is essentially a Black-breasted Florida Fancy. Remember that Black-breasted Zebras are highly variable. Males can have large cheek patches or near-normal-size patches, large thick black breast bars, or very little black and mostly white spots in the breast bar. An array of different attributes working together are needed to make a good Black-breasted Zebra and similarly these same features can make or break a desirable Phaeo. Ideally, large orange cheeks are of greatest importance in producing the best quality Phaeo, and the size of the breast bar is of little or no importance. Since the two traits are often inversely proportional, one should devote the attention of Black-breasted Zebras that display the largest possible cheek patches.

Producing a good Phaeo will require considerable effort. To begin with, finding the most desirable Black-breasted Zebras to use in this effort will be no easy task. Ideally one will want large, robust Florida Fancies, and Black-breasted Zebras with as much orange displayed as possible. With these two birds, the task of crossing them to produce F1 splits will begin the process of producing a Phaeo Zebra. Then lots of patience as you continue to produce young in hopes of seeing the prize, a stunning marked Phaeo Zebra. Best of luck.

About the author . . .

Garrie Landry, a native of Louisiana, has been an instructor of Botany at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for the last 30 years. His avicultural interest began in high school. Garrie has always had a passion for finches, especially Zebras, Societies, and Javas. He also breeds several species of rare doves. In 1980 he named his aviary **ARCADIANA AVIARIES** after the region of Louisiana where he grew up and has continuously kept a large collection of birds. Garrie owns the website Zebrafinch.com and currently is editor of the American Dove Assn. publication, the **DOVELINE**. He and his wife, Lynn, reside in their home town of Franklin, Louisiana.





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FROM THE EDITOR: Please reply to all correspondence received with requests for information. If your club information is not in the journal or is incomplete, ask your contact person if they received an e-mail and if they answered it. I cannot publish what I do not have.

CALIFORNIA

Central California Cage Bird Club

<http://www.myccbc.org>

Meetings—3rd Sunday at Mancini Hall Modesto, 718 Tuolumne Blvd., Stanislaus CA 95351. Contact—Janna Place: 209-862-3792.

Finch Society of Sandiego

<http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com>

Meetings—4th Sunday, 2-4 p.m. 12/20 at Poway Elks Club, 13219 Poway Road, Poway CA 92064. Contact—Sally Huntington: 5634 Carnegie St., San Diego, CA 92122; 858-452-9423; sdfinchsociety@gmail.com

West Coast Zebra and Society Finch Show

Meetings—No club meetings, show committee meeting in July. Contact—Richard Renshaw: 247 Grandridge Ct., Ventura CA 93003; 805-644-4156; rrenshaw@yahoo.com

COLORADO

Mountain States Avian Society

www.msasbirds.org

Meetings—2nd Saturday, 1 p.m. at Animal Central, 8308 Church Ranch Blvd., Westminster CO 80021. **Contact**—Gary Morgan, 15341 Kingston St., Brighton CO 80602; 303-659-9554; burdmn@aol.com. **NFSS Delegate**: Jesse Avila, 7910 Greenland Road, Franktown CO 80116; 303-664-0399, pjbavila@aol.com

FLORIDA

Colorbred Canary Club of Miami

www.colorbredcanaryclubofmiami.webs.com

Contacts—Nora Trincado, P.O. Box 441261, Miami FL 33144-1261; 305-720-4798, threefox21@aol.com—Armondo Lee, 2825 SW 36 Terrace Cape FL; 239-462-2998. ALEE21@comcast.net

Suncoast Canary and Finch Club

Meetings—Wednesday, 7 p.m. **Contact**—Alexander Villarreal, 1419 Collinswood Blvd., Port Charlotte FL; vetagator@yahoo.com

Treasure Coast Exotic Bird Club

Meetings—4th Sunday, 1 p.m., at Port Salerno Civic Center, 4950 Anchor Ave, Stuart FL. **Contact**—Tim McCormick, 1425 SE Appomattox Terr., Port Salerno FL. <http://www.tcexoticbirdclub.com>

Tri-State Avian Society

<http://www.tristateaviansociety.org>

Quarterly Meetings—held at Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church, 4738 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee FL. **Contact**—Barry Laster, 10508 Lake Lamonia Dr., Tallahassee FL 32312; 850-364-4666; barryL7523@comcast.net

ILLINOIS

Finch and Softbill Breeders and Exhibitors Club

Meetings: 2nd Thursday. **President**: Bob Peers, 525 W 61st St, Apt. D, Westmont IL 60559; 630-740-7389. R.peers@comcast.net. **NFSS Delegate**: Gail Benson, 44 N Clyde Ave, Palatine IL 60067-0912; gailsouldians@comcast.net.

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

<http://www.gccbc.org>

REGION 3 SHOW HOST

Meetings—3rd Friday, except November and December, at Yorkfield Civic Center, 15W354 Lexington St., Elmhurst IL 60126. **Contact**—Robert Wild, 305 Grosvenor Ct., Bolingbrook IL 60440; 630-980-4416. wild@comcast.net, secretary@gccbc.org

Heart of Illinois Bird Club

<http://www.hoibirdclub.org>

Meetings—3rd Sunday, 2 p.m. (unless holiday), at Avanti's Dome, 3401 Griffin Ave., Pekin IL 61554. **Contact**—Jody Lewis, 309-647-9984, balu716@yahoo.com

Illini Bird Fanciers Inc.

www.illinibirdfanciers.com

P.O. Box 13006, Springfield IL 62791, **Contact**: **Contact**—Karen Williams, 217-391-4648.

National Institute of Red Orange Canaries (NIROC)

<http://www.niroc.org>

Meetings—4th Friday, 7 p.m., at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1101 Manchester Ave., Westchester IL 60154. No meetings—August, November. **President**—Joaquin Torres. 312-259-2779, jtorres@sbcglobal.net. **Contact**—Joel Wojtowicz, 708-352-9319, cwojto8877@aol.com

IOWA

Mid America Cage Bird Society

<http://www.MACBS.org>

Meetings—4th Sunday, 2-5 p.m., at Des Moines Botanical Center, Swartz Room, 909 Robert D Ray Dr, Polk IA 50316. **Exceptions**—fairs are held in March, May, and August; **No Meetings**—November, December. Holiday party, 1st Sunday of December. Check calendar for dates and times. **President**—John Thielking, 8209 Twana Dr., Urbandale IA 50322-1522; 239-851-8132. Thielking@iowalink.com

KENTUCKY

Bluegrass Bird Breeders

Contact—Josh Perkins, 2631 Zoneton Road, Shepherdsville KY 40165; 270-234-4176, perkinstiels@yahoo.com. **NFSS Delegate**—Christine Orowitz, 1776 Walter Boone Road, Rineyville KY 40162. chrisbirdsntthings@gmail.com

MARYLAND

Baltimore Bird Fanciers

<http://www.baltimorebirdfanciers.org>

REGION 1 SHOW HOST

Meetings—3rd Sunday, 2 p.m., Towson Library, 320 York Road, Baltimore MD 21204-5179. **Contact**—Christine Roberts, 11 Prettyboy Garth, Parkton MD 21120; 410-343-1807, compteacher@yahoo.com. **NFSS Delegate**: Ray Reter, 10310-L Malcolm Cir., Cockeysville MD 21030.

MICHIGAN

Society of Canary and Finch Breeders of Michigan

<http://www.scfbmichigan.com/>

Contact: Kristen Reeves, 248-543-8903, Kristen.reeves@sbcglobal.net

MISSOURI

Gateway Parrot Club

<http://www.gatewayparrotclub.org>

Meetings—3rd Sunday, 2 p.m., at Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, St. Louis MO 63122. **Exceptions**—no meetings June 10, Sept 19, Dec. 9 (second Sunday), and August. **Contact**—Christine A. Kinkade, 2412 Angela Dr., High Ridge MO 63049; 636-343-8097, President@GatewayParrotClub.org

Greater Kansas City Avicultural Society

<http://www.gkcas.org>

Clay Behrman, 3523 NE 49th St., Kansas City MO 64119; 816-217-7263, birdman79@live.com. **NFSS Delegate**: Anthony Day, 1608 S Crane, Independence MO 64055; 816-252-1120. dayforthebirds@aol.com. **Meetings**: 2nd Sunday, Coronation of Our Lady Church, 13000 Bennington, Grandview MO 64030.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Birds of a Feather Avicultural Society

<http://www.boaf.com>

Ray Schwartz, 19 Olde Common Dr., Atkinson NH 03811; 603-362-6106; President@BOAF.com. **Contact**: member.support@BOAF.com. **Meetings**: 2nd Monday.

NEW YORK

Colorbred Canary Club of New York

Meetings: 1st Sunday each month, except July and August. **Contact:** Jose Zelada, 20 N. Goodwin Ave. Elmsford NY 10523; 914-345-5707.

Club Address: 96-06 73rd, Corona, NY 11368.

Kings County Canary Club

Kathleen Guise Schaefer, 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn NY 11229; 718-332-3413,

kanarykate@aol.com. **Meetings:** 3rd Sunday, 5 Frank Ct., Brooklyn NY 11229.

New York Finch and Type Canary Club

Stan Kulak, 17 Pembroke Loop, Staten Island NY 10309; 718-967-6899,

barstand@verizon.net. **Meetings:** 1-4 p.m., 2nd Sunday, except July and August.

OREGON

Columbia Canary Club

http://www.columbiacanaryclub.com.

REGION 5 SHOW HOST

Contact: KJ and Linda K. Brown, 3258 Oakcrest Dr. NW, Salem OR 97304; 503-341-8823.

jeeperspeepers55@yahoo.com. **Meetings:** 2 p.m., 2nd Sunday, Milwaukie Grange Hall, 12015 SE 22nd Ave., Milwaukie OR.

PENNSYLVANIA

Chester County Bird Club Inc.

Doris Rickards, 10 Beth Lane, Malvern PA 19355; *Rickards@quixnet.net*

PUERTO RICO

Asociacion de Criadores de Finces Inc.

REGION 2 SHOW HOST

Meetings: 7 p.m., Tuesday, Las Catalina's Mall, Food Court Area. **Contact:** Juan Alicea,

Mans de Cuidad Jardin Bairoa, 566 Calle La Mancha, Caguas PR 00727; 787-479-7405.

juanalicea@yahoo.com

Puerto Rico Zebra Finch Club

http://www.przfc.com

Meetings: Wednesday, Caquas in Plaza Centro Mall Caguas, Caguas PR. **Contact:** Gene

Perez Forte, Jardines Arecibo Q59, Arecibo PR 00612. **President:** Jorge Mojica, Urb

Lomas Del Sol, 175 Calle Acuario, Gurabo PR 00778-8930; 787-550-3163.

puchosbirds@yahoo.com.

RHODE ISLAND

Northeast Bird Group

http://www.northeastbirdgroup.com

Donna Rosciti, P.O. Box 50, North Scituate RI 02857; 401-641-0994, *donna@rosciti.com*

TENNESSEE

Heart of Tennessee Aviculture Society *http://www.heartoftnavculturesociety.com*

Lisa Murphy, 918 Georgia Ave, Etowah TN 37331. 423-263-0483; *wlmurphy@usit.net*.

Meetings: 6 p.m., every 4th Friday, 1954 S. Church St., Murfreesboro, TN. 37130.

TEXAS

Alamo Exhibition Bird Club

Contact: Judy Morris, 912 Bass Lake Road, Traverse City MI 49685; 231-342-3545.

Meetings: 2 p.m., 4th Sunday each month, Kirby Senior Center, 3211 Allen Sheppard, SE San Antonio TX.

Fort Worth Bird Club

Meetings: 2 p.m., 2nd Sunday, Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, 3220 University Dr. (north of I-30 in Fort Worth). <http://www.fwbc.org>

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association

<http://www.texasbirdbreeders.org>

REGION 4 SHOW HOST

Contact: Clarence Culwell, 4211 Kelly Elliott Road, Arlington TX 76016-4607; 817-220-5568. coculwell@verizon.net.

Canary and Finch Society

<http://canaryfinchsociety.tripod.com>

Contact: Helen Jones, 348 Magnolia Dr., Huffman TX 77336. Meetings: 2 p.m., 2nd Sunday each month, Alameda United Methodist Church, 14310 Alameda Road, just off Sam Houston Tollway

VIRGINIA

Peninsula Caged Bird Society

<http://www.vapcbs.com>

Contact: Nancy Butterfield, 101 Brook Run, Yorktown VA 23693; 757-223-9440, novabfield@gmail.com. Meetings: 3rd Sunday each month, 2:30-5:00 p.m., Columbian Center, 12742 Nettles Dr., Newport News VA 23606.

WASHINGTON

Cascade Canary Breeders Association

<http://www.cascadecanary.com>

Brian Johansson 208 155th PL SE, Mill Creek WA 98012; 425-743-5025, coleenandersen@gmail.com. Meetings: 1 p.m., 3rd Sunday, 145 NE Gilmon Blvd., Issagna WA 95027. Exception: no meetings on holidays.

NATIONAL AFFILIATED CLUBS

American Dove Association

President: James Keil, <http://www.doveline.com>. Jeff Downing, P.O. Box 4256, Frederick MD 21705

American Federation of Aviculture

P.O. Box 9171, Austin, TX 78709; www.afabirds.org

Avicultural Society of America

Steve Duncan, P.O. Box 3161, San Dimas CA 91773. Founded in 1927, this is the oldest aviculture society in the United States. <http://www.asabirds.org/home.html>

National Animal Interest Alliance

www.naiaonline

NFSS INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATED CLUBS

CANADA

Durham Aviculture Society of Ontario

P.O. Box 4, Pickering, ON L1V 2R2. Meetings: 7:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday (no meetings in July or August), Rotary Park Pavilion, South Side of Lake, 151 Driveway West, Ajax ON.
(If the entrance is dark, it is across from house #150.)

Essex-Kent Cage Bird Society

<http://www.essexkentcbs.com>

Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 519-948-6398, julianne@mmsi.net,

UNITED KINGDOM

Foreign Bird League

<http://www.foreignbirdleague.com>

Bryan Reed, 4 St Andrews Drive, Tivdale, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 1PR.

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NOVEMBER 15-17, 2012

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Millennium Hotel, 200 S. 4th St., St. Louis MO 63102

314-241-9500. Show Contact: www.ncbs.org

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NOVEMBER 3, 2012

Astoria Bird Club

Annual Show. Location: St. Jude's Hall, 1677 Canarsie Road, Brooklyn NY 11236; 718-763-6300. Show Contact: Nick Halkias, 718-297-1497. Judges: Lipochrome—Joe Mannino • Melanin—Bob Garguillo • Gloster/Norwich—Carol Casper • Type—Tom Caruana • Finches/Softbills—Chris Taylor.

NOVEMBER 3, 2012

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club

<http://www.gccbc.org>

Greater Chicago Cage Bird Club Show (Region 3 Regional Show): Location: Weitendorf Agricultural Center, 17840 Laraway Road, Joliet IL 60433.

NOVEMBER 3, 2012

Southeast Massachusetts Canary Club

Annual Show. Location: Elks Lodge, 4500 N. Main St., Fall River MA 02722; 508-672-0011. Show Contact: Eduardo Estrella, 509-678-5464. Judges: TBA.

NOVEMBER 3, 2012

Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Assn.

<http://www.texasbirdbreeders.org>

Annual Show, 9 a.m. Location: Mayborn Convention Center, Temple TX. Open to public, 9 a.m. Judging starts, 10 a.m. Show Contact: Clarence Culwell, 817-220-5568.

NOVEMBER 3-4, 2012

Columbia Canary Club

<http://www.columbiacanaryclub.com>

November 3-4, 2012: 43rd Annual Canary and Finch Show. Location: Red Lion at the Quay Hotel, 100 Columbia St., Vancouver WA 98660. Show Co-chairs: Faye Silverstein, 503-788-3753 and Hector Diaz, 505-659-6119, diazf47@msn.com

NOVEMBER 3-4, 2012

Asociacion De Criadores de Fines Inc.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Asociacion-de-Criadores-de-Finches/170742106273049>

Winter Show. Location: Ball Room Center, Alturas De Villas Del Rey Francia St., Caguas, P.R. Hwy. 52, Exit #21. Judge: Ken Gunby. Only the following finch species allowed for competition: Zebra, Society, Lady Gouldian, Cutthroat, Cordon Bleu, Green Singer, and Brazilian-crested Cardinal. FREE Entrance.

DECEMBER 2, 2012

Finch Society of San Diego County

<http://www.finchsocietyofsandiego.com>

Holiday Bird Mart and Craft Fair. Contact club for information.

DECEMBER 8, 2012

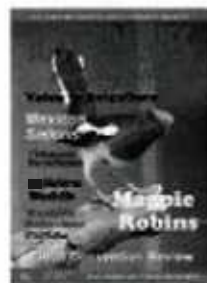
Peninsula Caged Bird Society

<http://www.vapcbs.com>

Annual Bird Mart. Location: Columbian Center, 12742 Nettles Dr., Newport News VA 23606. Contact: Nancy Butterfield, 101 Brook Run, Yorktown, VA 23693; 757-223-9440, navabfield@gmail.com



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