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SEPTEMBER 1984 Vol. 1 Number 3

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AFA Delegate						Nancy A. Reed
Editor						William G. Parlee
Publicity						Russell Armitage

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Little by little we at the National Finch Society are trying to meet the needs of our members. We receive many notes and letters requesting information on back issues of NFS, breeders lists and many other types of information. Many of these letters we can not answer directly at this time. However, we do hear you and we will try to furnish you with the information in some manner. All points brought up by the membership are covered at each Board meeting and the minutes are printed in each bulletin, here you may find your answer. In this issue we have addressed ourselves to the matter of a Bird Census and Breeder List. (elsewhere in this bulletin). You will find Finch band infromation in the minutes printed herein.

The meeting came to order at 2 pm. at the home of Kelly Dahill and Jerry D'Agata in Windsor, Ct. The day was a beautiful one, the meeting was held on the patio so we could all enjoy the fresh early fall air.

Present were Parlee, Decoteau, Dahill, D'Agata, Reed, Patterson and Ed and Tina Raymond, Northeast Regional Coordinator. The minutes and treasurers reports were read from the previous meeting and accepted as published in the NFS Bulletin.

The first order of business was a discussion on our Membership drive and the successes we have experienced. We now have members from 27 states. Val Clear's article in ACBM was discussed and the impact it has had on our membership drive, it has indeed brought in members from throughout the US. A review of applications for membership has revealed great wants from our new members. Bill pointed out that we must address these wants. Where a substancial number of people request the same desire, NFS should attempt to meet that challenge. Items of smaller scope may be channeled back to parties with lists of others interested in the same area. Possibly a small committeecould be started by those interested whereas participation from the home office may be to time consuming.

A discussion was held regarding Delegate responsibilities and the completion of delegate packets for distribution. Samples of the delegate packets were passed out for all board members.

A discussion regarding the National Show was held, Bill pointed out that the catalogs and trophies for the show were completed as well as the plaques for all affiliated shows. Show catalogs will be mailed with the October NFS Bulletins.

The Banquet was discussed. Jerry brought out the fact that we are endeavoring to make this a gracious event, with the presentation of awards a fine sit down, served dinner and speakers from NFS. AFA and ACS.

A complete discussion was held on our back bench stewarding of our national show led by Tony Patterson. Tony presented plans for the new judges benches that will allow the back-stewarding method. It was pointed out that the benches

will be lighted. The judging bench will be 16 feet long and will be three tiered.

Head steward Russ Armitage will hold classes on proper stewarding proceedures. Tina Raymond is completing the Secretaries books for the show.

A clearification was made as to Judging responsibilities. W. Parlee will be judging Australian, Societies, Europeans, Mules and Hybrids. A. Decoteau will be judging Africans, Indo-Pacifics, So.Americans, softbills and Displays and All Pairs. The Best in show judging will be accomplished by both judges.

Al gave a Judges Panel report. Val Clear has been accepted as a three star judge of NFS by a unanimous vote of the Board. Phillip Shaw from Missouri was discussed regarding the panel of judges, Al was asked to clearify some of the paperwork involved. Al also pointed out that we have had a great deal of interest shown in the Judges Panel and that he would be sending applications to several interested parties in the near future. It was pointed out that all parties must meet the requirments as set forth by the society at the November 1983 meeting. The first written test for judges will be given by Dr. Decoteau at the National Show in E. Hartford on October 27th.

In regard to our National General Membership meetings, it was decided that our first Annual meeting would be at 9am at the National Finch Show in E. Hartford, Ct. Our next National meeting would be at the AFA convention in August of 1985 in San Francisco and another meeting in Chicago at the National Cage Bird Show that following November. Judges tests would be administered at all these times.

Following a short break the subject of Standards for the Zebra Finch and Society Finch was covered. We recieved several notes and letters from the membership on this matter all of these were aired. When all was said and done the board decided to adopt the Standard for the Zebra that is presently in use in Europe with a few exceptions. The NFS standard would assign point values to the standard and would include mutations not in the European Standard. This was approved by a unanimous vote of those present. Authorization was given to the Judges Panel to adopt the point standard and to write in the needed mutations.

Board Minutes Cont.

It is also pointed out that the judging standard of the National Finch Society does not recognize pairs being shown except in the pair division of any show. Pairs means just that, hen and cock of the species. On non-demorphic or or questionable pairings the decision to accept is left to the judge, the benefit of the doubt will always go to the exhibitor unless to the judge it is obviously not a true pairing.

A standard for the Bengalese or Society Finch was also voted on and accepted. The final standard is close to both the proposed standard printed in the NFS July issue and one fashioned after the European standard that was submitted to us by Val Clear. For those familiar with the European Standard, NFS's standard differs in that only individual birds will be exhibited, the European standard allows only 10 points for tail, whereas NFS will allow 15 points due to the problem some American breeders have with "sky tail" (a tail that rises upward from the back line) It was felt that to encourage breeders to breed this fault "out", a higher penalty in judging would help this end. Also the Europeans use the term Position and allow 15 points for a 45 degree Position. We feel the word Stance should be used and should count only 10 points. Stance would include position on the perch, personality and demeanor. Color and Markings shall mean how well the bird conforms to the type shown

The board wishes to specifically thank Dr. Val Clear for his letters and participation in the Standards development and his gracious willingness to accept the final decision of the Judges Panel. The standards discussion ended with a decision to publish the finalized standards adopted by the Society in the October issue.

Championship Exhibitor points were discussed. Any member of NFS may submit pionts to the Secretary for Championship Exhibitor status. Rules adopted: You must be a member of NFS at the time of the show involved. Points must be verifiable with the show secretary involved. The judge must submit a list of the show winners, section and division, to the NFS Home office. There will be two types of shows, a Major Show (show with at least 76 finches shown) and a Minor Show (show with 75 or less finches shown. Points for 1st in Continued on page 25

THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP ROSTER - 1984

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John & Shirley Flaherty 9115 Fryland Road Orlando, FL 32817

More NFS member listing will be in the next bulletin.

There are two distinct kinds of Whydah in Africa: one is clossed as COLIUSPASSER which nests similar to the Weavers and does build a woven nest. The other is the extremely interesting VIDUINE. The Viduines are distinguished by being brood parasitic; they lay their eggs in other birds nests in the manner of allowing the foster parents to raise their young.

You might recall learning the way the Cuckoo does the same thing. Unlike the Cuckoo, however the female whydah does not remove an egg before laying her own, and neither does the newly-hatched whydah eject its nest mates. Instead it successfully passes for one of the family. It is then reared exactly like one of the waxbills that were its foster parents.

Young whydahs spend their entire fledgling youth with the waxbills, but as soon as it leaves the nest, it joins groups of whydahs. There are nine species of Viduine Whydahs but we know the Paradise and the Combassou the best. These are readily imported.

These whydahs are easy to maintain with the new finch mixtures of today in addition to the mealworms one must offer. One must keep them in an aviary so the tails will not become damaged.

Breeding is difficult unless the host species is maintained in the same aviary, but it can be accomplished.

Apparently, the female whydah comes into condition for egg laying when it sees the host waxbill preparing her nest. Ovulation takes place when the waxbills start mating. Paradise Whydahs are considered to be mild mannered and easy to maintain. They can be distinguished from all other whydahs by the shape of the central tail feathers which are graduated, they get narrower towards the end. They parasitize the Melba Finch. They have been bred in captivity in Europe.

The broad tailed Golden Naped Whydah is a large and beautiful bird and can currently be seen in my aviaries. They also parasitize the Melba Finch, but also parasitize the Yellow Winged Pytilia, alos a resident of Oak Leaf Aviaries.

Whydahs Cont.

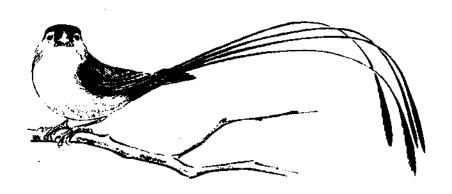
The Pintailed Whydah is beautiful and characteristic in that it parasitizes all of the following birds: the St. Helena, the Red Eared, the Orange Cheeked and the Rosy Rumped Waxbills.

Fisher's Whydah, also called the Strawstailed Whydah, is the rarest of the whydahs imported. It has four long central tail feathers which are straw colored. It's host is equally rare and beautiful; it is the rare and costly Purple Grenadier. The male Fischer has the ability to mock the song of the Purple Grenadier, thereby allowing his mate to come by and deposit her egg.

The Queen Whydah, which closely resembles the Fischers uses as its host the Violet Eared Waxbill and the Cordon Bleu.

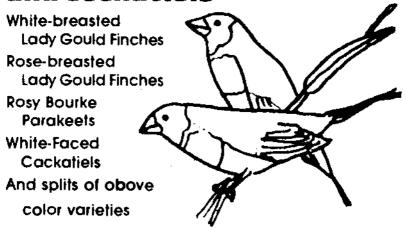
The Combassou which is surprisingly a whydah is also called the Steel or Indigo Finch. To date, researchers have been unable to pinpoint the identity of its host, but it is thought to be the Rosy Rumped Waxbills.

What an exciting venture for someone to attempt to breed the host and the parasite. It has apparently not been accomplished in the United States.



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The National Finch Society

NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY - Affiliated Organizations:

The Connecticut Association for Aviculture, Inc. delegate; Jerry D'Agata, Windsor, Ct 203-688-9403

The New Hampshire Avicultural Society, Inc. delegate; Larry Brandt, E. Kingston, NH

The Boston Society for Aviculture, Inc. Roger O'Connell, Waltham, MA

The Massachusetts Cage Bird Association, Inc. delegate; Shirley Eaton, Cumberland, RI

The LongIsland CAgebird Associeation, Inc. delegate: Gabe Dillon

The Central Penna Cage Bird Association, Inc. delgate; William Lumley

The Astoria Bird Club, Inc delgate; Alex Grivas

The Maryland Cage Bird Society, Inc.

delegate: Dallas Johnson

The Western New England Cage Bird Society

delegate; Bill Pattison

For information on the benefits of NFS Affilitation Contact: NFS at the address on inside front cover.







The National Finch Society

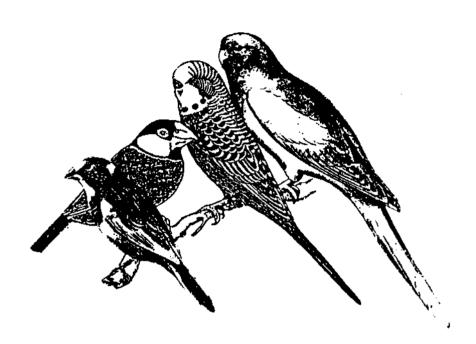
COMING SOON IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NFS BULLETIN:

Question and Answer Column
by Terry Dunham
Know Your Softbills
by Phillip Shaw
Cage Vs. Aviary Breeding

by Terry Dunham

also other important articles by Dr. Val Clear and other known finch and sofbill writers.

ARMY'S AVIARY



BREEDER DF BUDGIES, FINCHES, AND REDRUMP PARAKEETS

RUSS A. ARMITAGE, JR. 345 BDSTDN ROAD MIDDLETDWN, CT (2D3) 34B-5875 My experience with the Owl finch started about six or seven years ago. As I recall my first experiences were not pleasant ones. I purchased three pair from a breeder in California and had the shipped to Connecticut by air.

I was delighted indeed to have my first Owl finches. They looked quite well except that they appeared to be somewhat stressed from the flight. As soon as I got them unpacked I put them in Herbst double breeders and got them plenty of water and seed. The seed I spred on the floor of the cages so they would not have to search out the seed.

By the next morning they looked great and were quite active bouncing about the cage. When I started out with a new bird I generally had to experiment as there were few finch fanciers around here, at least that I knew of. Considering this I placed different types of nests in each cage. By the way I neglected to tell you that I paid \$115 per pair including freight for my new beauties.

I fed a good mix of millets and canary with thistle and millet sprays. I offered greens and Petamine. I was sure I was doing just fine.

After five or six days past the birds began to look a little lethargic and to make a long story short they were all dead within two weeks. I felt I had done everything possible to take good care of my charges and assumed that the birds must have been shipped in poor condition or with a non apparent illness in their system.

A few months past and I was offered another opportunity to purchase two pairs of Owls. I did so and asked if they should be given any special care once I recieved them, I was told no. Again long story short, they all died.

I decided I was just not meant to keep the "Owl". Every chance I would get I would tell my story of my attempt to keep Owl finches in the hope that someone would let me in on the secret of keeping them.

OWLS Cont.

One night at a local bird club I was speaking with a friend of mine who was a Pigeon breeder. I told him my story. He said "that's simple to resolve, just put clorox in the drinking water when the birds arrive". I thought my friend had lost all his marbles. A week or so past and while talking to another friend I mentioned this incredable story about the bleach in the drinking water. She told me she had heard of this being done tefore and heard it was quite successful. Oh boy! Should I get more owls and try it.

Again a few months had past and again the opportunity to acquire Owls presented itself. I said okay and had two more pairs shipped. Once they arrived I was sorry. The bird looked poorly. I immediately set up the cages as before and put one drop of bleach in the drinking water of each bird. The next day the birds looked alittle better. I changed the water and repeated the treatment of one drop of bleach, I did this for three days. Within a week or so the birds looked fine and stayed that way. I then took the opportunity to call my friend and thank him for his help in keeping my Owl Finches alive. I also told him that I initially thought he was crazy.

Now that the simple process of keeping my birds alive was accomplished I could get on with trying to breed my Owls. It was not difficult as within a few weeks of arrival they began to mate. As I mentioned before I offered all types of nests, they prefered to canary type of wicker nest.

The nest was placed near the top of the cage right next to a wooden box that hung from the outside of the cage. They ignored the wood box completely. I put strips of old blue jeans at the bottom as I did with my Zebras. They shredded them and losely scattered them about the bottom of the nest.



OWLS Cont.

Another week past and the first egg appeared, after six days I had four small white eggs or I guess I should say they had four white eggs. At this point with all I had been through I thought the eggs were mine!

Eleven days later the first egg hatched and again at the end of six days all the eggs were hatched. The parents were very devoted but seemed quite nervous whenever I was present. Noticing this I tended to keep my distance whenever possible. During this period the birds eat more millet spray and petamine then they had previously. I'm not sure but I think it was the second or third day after all the eggs were hatched, I decided I would give them some baby Meal worms, they went wild and began devouring them and immediately going into the nest to feed the babies. When I would offer the meal worms the parent didn't seem to mind my presence at all, and seemed to look forward to seeing me in the morning with my offering of baby Meal worms.

In a few short weeks the babies (three of them, one died at four days old) were out of the nest and spent most of the day at the bottom of the cage. Owls when first out of the nest are dull or plain at best and really don't achieve the striking appearance owls are known for until the first moult.

During the next two years I raised 18 Owl or Bicheno Finches as they are know in Europe. I hope this article will help someone, somewhere who may be experiencing the same difficulties I experienced.

Editor's Note:

Bleach in minute amounts in the drinking water of newly arrived birds cleanse the bacterial system of of the newly arrived bird. This allows the bird to set up a new bacterial system based on the drinking water in a different part of the country that may be substancially different in its' qualities. This may not be proper with many birds and may be dangerous to the health of any bird. Caution is advised in the use of this practice.

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THE OFFICAL ZEBRA FINCH STANOARO as adopted by THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY. September 1984.



CONOITION: 20 points. The condition of the Zebra is of paramount importance. The bird must be in top show condition; Immaculate with no soiled or frayed feathers. There must not be pin feathers. Missing toes, nails or damaged or missing feathers are show faults and will be deducted point count heavily.

CONFORMATION: 50 points. Broken down as follows.

HEAD ANO BODY: 25 points. The head should be nicely rounded and not flat (snaky). The beak should be compact and bold. The body should represent the Zebra as a full and robust bird. The bird should not appear thin or snaky. The bird should however not be to full in the lower chest area so as to give the appearance of a lumped chest.

WINGS: 15 points. The wings should be carried

evenly, should not droop and cover the flanking. They should blend into the back smoothly and meet at the root of the tail. They must not be crossed at the root.

TAIL: 10 points. The tail shall be carried to follow the back line and must not droop or

to follow the back line and must not droop or carried high. The tail should be compact but not short for the body.

STANCE: 10 points: The Zebra should have a proud stance on the perch, holding the chest well off the perch. The bird should be relatively calm on the perch and should exhibit a bright personality.

MARKINGS AND COLORATION: 20 points. Cocks: The Chest barring must be distinct with not less than 1/8" wideness of complete eveness. The side flanking should be dramatic and decorated with clearly distinct round white spots. The beak must be coral red with feet and legs of deep pink. All other markings where applicable must be clear and distinct.

The hen bird will be less cheek patch, chest barring and side flanks. The beak will be more pale. Any cock markings on a hen are show faults. Color and Mutation Standards:

Normal Cock: Eyes should be dark and beak bright coral red. Chest bar must be jet black and the breast and

Fawn Cock:

throat area evenly zebra striped. The tear markings should be black and distinct. The flanking should be of rich reddish brown with clear white spots. The cheek patch should be distinct and of rich dark orange. underparts will be white with fawnish shading about the

vent and thighs. Normal Hen: Same as for the cock except no cheek patches or flanking. Beak will be more pale. A slightly lighter shade of normal gray is acceptable. White Cock and Hen: Eyes dark and beak red, hens beak to be more pale. Pure white all over. Any hazing will be faulted.

Eyes dark, beak red. Feet and legs deep pink. Deep fawn coloration on the head, neck and wings. throat and upper chest to be light fawn. Zebra marking as in the normal. Tear drop, cheek patches, tail and flankings as in the normal cock. Fawn Hen: Same shade of fawn as in the cock, otherwise

normal hen properties. Silver Cock: The tail should be dark with with white barring. The overall color should be silvery grey with no fawn hazing. Tear and chest bar should be of same coloration with all other properties being more pale

and less distinct than in the normal cock. Silver Hen: Same as other hens but silver gray in color. Cream Fawn Cock: Same as Normal Cock except all shades from deep cream to pale cream. Tear markings should match Chest bar and tail will be cream as in body with white barring. Cheek patch more pale than in normal. Cream Hen: as in other hens except for cream coloration. Pied Cock: As in Normal Cock except for ideally 50%

Normal gray and 50% white. Symmetry of markings will be more important than the percentage of color mix. Complete absence of cock markings will be faulted. Pied Hen: As in other hens except for pied markings as in Pied Cock.

Chestnut Flanked Cock: All markings as in Normal Cock except for ideally pure white in place or Normal Gray. Tear marking and chest bar same shade. Cheek patch may be cream and tail gray with white barring. Flanks must be rich and distinct.

Chestnut Flanked Hen: As in other hens except white, slight head markings are acceptable.

Penquin Cock: As in normal cock except upperparts from beak to vent will be pure white without a trace of barring.

The head, neck and wings will be light even silver gray.

The flights, secondaries and coverts will be edged with a

more pale shade of gray giving a laced appearance.
Penquin hen: As in other hens but cheek patches will be white. There must be no barring on the chest.

Florida Blue Cock: As in the Normal Cock except overall appearance of steel gray where the Normal would be gray Tail will be of lighter coloration than Normal Cock.

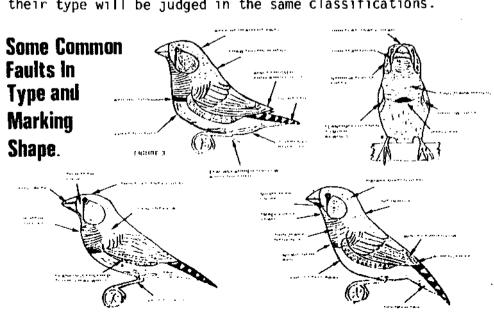
Tail will be of lighter coloration than Normal Cock.
Florida Blue Hen: As in other hens except for coloration as in cock, may be more dilute.

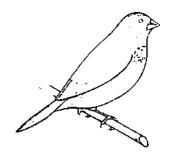
Black Breasted Cock: As in Normal Cock except ideally from the chest bar upward to the beak will be of black coloration. Some Zebra barring will be appearant but will be broken. Tear markings will be deep black and may blend into black of throat. The overall coloration may be a more charcoal gray.

Black Breasted Hen: As in other hens except for broken pattern in the Zebra striping of the throat and chest. A more pale gray or blotchly black may appear on the chest.

Crested Zebras: Must be true to type and the ideal is a full crest of even and neat appearance.

The NFS recognizes that the Silver and Cream mutations appear in dominant and recessive factors. These mutations within their type will be judged in the same classifications.





THE OFFICAL STANDARD THE SOCIETY FINCH (Bangalese) as adopted by

THE NATIONAL FINCH SOCIETY

September 1984

CONFORMATION: 50 points. Broken down as follows.

Head and Body: 20 points. Nicely rounded neck, head round from top of beak to the nape of the neck, the neck should be short and the back of neck should flow smoothly from the head to the back. A nipped neck is faulted. The beak should be in proportion to the head. Eyes should be set well back from the beak. The back should be slightly rounded and the bird should be sleek without undue fatness.

Tail: 15 points. The tail should be 1½", clean and should follow the back line off the body. There should be no missing feathers. Wings: 15 points. The wings should be compact,

tips to meet at the root of the tail. There should be no missing feathers.

CONDITION: 20 points. Missing toes, nails or feathers will be faulted. Nails should be of proper length. Eyes should be bright. Feathers should have shine.

Eyes should be bright. Feathers should have shine Feathers may not be ragged or frayed.

COLOR AND MARKINGS: 20 points.

Self: Self birds are chocolate, fawn or white. In the case of chocolate and fawn the Society must show the self color on the head and wings and at least half way down the chest. These self colors should be rich and there should be no white feathers in these areas. Ideally there should be no white feathers present around the base of the beak. White selfs should be solid white without "dusting" or any colored feathers. Pied: (chocolate & White - Fawn and White) These birds should show approximately 50° self color and 50° White. Symmetry of markings should be present.

There are both strong colored pieds and so called dilutes. The dilute birds show a more pastel self color.

Cresteds: Under color and marking points the crest is considered. The crest should far forward on the head, large and as close to a single crest as possible.

STANCE OR POSITION: 10 points.

The Society should stand proud on the perch at a 45 degree angle. Birds that roost will be faulted. The Society should have a bright personality and should not be unduly nervous.







The National Finch Society

PANEL OF JUDGES

*** William G. Parlee, 529 Burnside Avenue, E. Hartford, CT 06108

*** Or. A. E. Decoteau, Groton Road
Dunstable, MA 01827

*** Val Clear, 1001 Martin Orive Anderson. IN 46012

 Kelly S. Oahill, 109 Seymour Street, Windsor, CT 06095

* = NFS apprentice Judge

** = Judge with considerable experience although not accredited with NFS. Accreditation applied for.

*** = A fully accredited judge with the National

Finch Society.

Judges of the National Finch Society must charge for reasonable expenses. Fees are between the judge and the show involved. For more information on the Judges Panel: Write to:Dr. Decoteau.

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MULES-HYBRID MULES

INTERESTED IN FINE SDNG, BEAUTY AND LONG LIFE? TRY A HYBRID OR MULE, I BREED ALL TYPES.

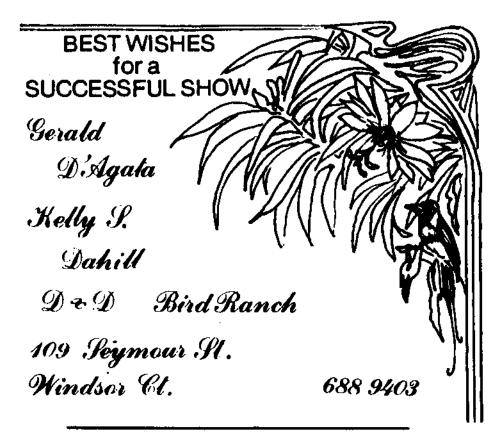
STRAIGHT

CLEAR RED FACTORS, BRONZE, ETC. BORDERS, ROLLERS, NORWICH, YORKSHIRES, STANDARD AND DILUTE LIZARDS.

CANARIES SDLO - FINCHES SOLD OR TRAOED.









WISHES Nancy A. Reed Windsor, Ct. 06095

203 688 4069

Board Minutes Cont.

Points awarded for each win are shown in the chart to the right. To qualify for Champion status all points must fall in the same calender year and under at least two different judges. The points needed to apply to the secretary is 50. All championship Exhibitors will be published in the January issue of the NFS Bulletin.

Championship points MAJOR SHOW MINOR SHOW

Sec.Win 2pts. 1pt. 3rd Div. 6pts. 3pts.

2nd Div. 8pts. 4pts. 1st Div. 10pts. 5pts.

In all Finch Shows Sec. becomes Divison and Div. becomes Show as in the National Finch Show.

New Delegates for the AFA were appointed by the board and they are Jerry D'Agata and William Parlee thus relieving Nancy Reed from this position.

After a lengthly discussion the Board agreed to fully investigate the possibility of Finch banding with identifiable or traceable bands. It was noted that Red Bird Products cannot manufacture these for us. If banding can be obtained it will not be a requirement of the National Finch Society.

The meeting was ajourned at 6pm. Minutes transcribed from tape.







The National Finch Society 1984 Affiliated Show Dates

October 6, 19B4 - The Boston Cage Bird Society Show Auburn, Mass. Judge: William Parlee October 13, 1984 - The New Hampshire Cage Bird Show Nashua, New Hamp. Judge: William Parlee October 20, The Massachusetts Cage Bird Assoc. Show Brocton, Mass. Judge: William Parlee

October 27, 1984 - The National Finch Show E. Hartford, CT. Judges: A.Decoteau, W. Parlee November 3, 1984 - The Astoria Bird Club Show

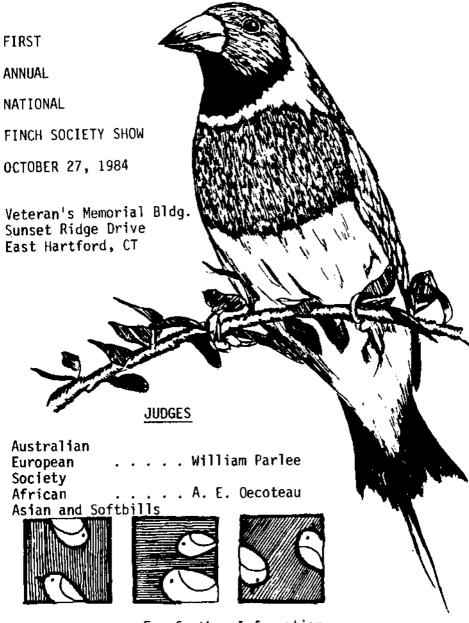
Astoria, New York, Judge: Manuel Popa November 24, 1984 - Long Island Cage Bird Show Hempstead, New York, Judge: Tony DiSanto December 1, 1984 - Western New England Show

W. Sprinfield, Mass. Judge: William Parlee The Central Penna Show and The Baltimore show were canceled.

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The phone number is the only way a breeder will be able to contact another breeder. If the breeder involved wishes to give address etc., he may do so at his option.

DON'T MISS IT!



For further Information contact
Kelly Oahill, 109 Seymour St, Windsor,Ct
06095